



# Landings

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter from the Town of Upper Marlboro

## President's Annual Report

Greetings, I hope this message finds you and your families well! I am excited to write to you in our new and improved Town newsletter. The newsletter is one of many new and exciting changes we are looking to implement to ensure that our Town is moving towards the future. In this Presidential address I'd like to update you on some exciting things that are happening in our Town.

### Small Improvements Can Make a Big Difference

Since becoming President, the Commissioners, Town staff and many residents have been working tirelessly to identify small changes that we can quickly implement to improve the overall look and feel of our Town. While there are several long-term projects that will need to be addressed, there are several small projects that will be addressed within the next three to six months.

**1. Town Website:** By June 31st, the Town will have a new user friendly and interactive website. I have spent some time looking at other municipal websites, and what has struck me the most is how inviting their websites are in comparison to ours. Our Town website, while functional, has not been updated in over 7 years. We live in an age where people do most of their research online. For someone who has never been to our Town and is researching the Town online, our website is the



first representation that they will see, and therefore, it only makes sense to have a website that is aesthetically pleasing, informative, and accurately represents who we are.

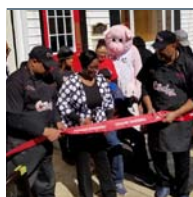
**2. Newsletter:** As you can see, we have revamped our monthly newsletter and hope that you are excited about this new format and receiving it in the mail. We recognize that like many other things, our past newsletter format while functional, needed some improvement. We also recognize that there are many residents in our Town who prefer to receive the newsletter via mail. Soft copy of newsletters will continue to be available on our website and other social media forums and hard copies will always be available at the Town Hall. Please note, newsletters will

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now be issued bi-monthly instead of monthly. With the availability of social media forums and our new website, we will continue to provide regular updates to Town residents in-between newsletters.

**3. Events Committee:** The questions that I hear the most are “Why don’t we have more events in Town?” and, “When is Marlborough Day coming back?” Well, all those things are in the works. We now have an Events Committee that will be responsible for organizing and executing fun, family-friendly events in Town! If you are interested in joining this new Committee, please contact the Town Hall for more information.

**4. Building partnerships across the County:** In my first 2 months in office, I have been sending letters to County Officials, private citizens and businesses, attending meetings that have useful information that we can leverage in the Town, hosting meetings with candidates running for office in the County, hosting meetings with developers interested in doing business in our Town, and meeting with concerned business owners. My goal in each of these meetings has been to build partnerships and relationships where there have been none, but also, to repair relationships that have been strained for one reason or another. These meetings have been positive so far, and I hope to continue dialogue with any organization, entity, office or person who is interested in partnering with the Town on our new path towards the future.

#### **Public Works**

We have appointed a new acting Public Works Superintendent, Mr. Donnell Bond. Mr. Bond and his team will be leading the efforts to implement a new and improved beautification plan for our Town. Our goal is to ensure that our streets are free from trash, that our trees and shrubs are regularly and properly trimmed and pruned and that our Town is immaculate in appearance. Over the next few months you will begin seeing small improvements of our sidewalks, streets and common areas.

#### **Public Safety**

The Commissioners and I have been working closely with the Chief of Police (Colonel Calvin Washington) to identify ways that we can improve police interactions within the community as well as increasing police presence through our neighborhoods; I hope that you have seen an improvement so far. In addition to more policing, we have heard the many concerns about speeding on Town roads. This has been an issue that has plagued our



Town roads for many years. To address this issue, we have begun the process to add both red light and speed camera enforcement throughout the Town’s major speed zones. Our goal is to have (at minimum) red-light cameras enforced by the end of July and speed cameras shortly thereafter.

#### **Economic Development**

I recently attended the Grand Opening of CZigs BBQ in downtown Upper Marlboro! It was wonderful to see so many people walking around Town on a Saturday. It is evident that our Town has so much economic potential. However, to tap into that potential, there must be some economic development above and beyond what we have now. I have had several discussions with several developers all interested in doing business within the Town. We have also begun interviewing economic development experts who are interested in supporting, developing and executing an economic development plan in partnership with the Town. We hope to have an Economic Development expert on board by the end of July to begin moving us forward in our pursuit of further development downtown.

#### **FY18 & FY19 Budgets**

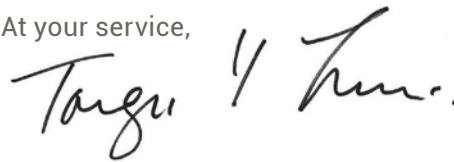
As we plan for the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget cycle, we are aware that the FY18 Budget has some challenges as a result of the State suddenly reducing the amount of income tax revenues that the Town historically received. This is a mistake that the State has made with other municipalities as well. We are fortunate however, that the State has not asked us to pay them back the tax revenues that had been receiving in error (please know that they have asked other municipalities to pay those funds back). We are working with the State Comptroller’s Office to calculate an exact figure on the updated projected Town income Tax revenue in order to prepare the FY19 Town Budget. With this said, we must continue to prepare for the FY19 Budget, and have done our best to forecast the potential gap. To ensure

that we can balance the budget, in the short-term, we will need to reallocate money from our reserve funds to cover this imminent shortfall. Reallocating money from Town reserve funds is a short-term fix and is not something the Town intends to continue in the future; but we must also recognize that our existing tax base is not enough to cover the expenses required to ensure the Town itself continues to exist. To prevent the need for increasing tax rates, The Board has introduced legislation to allow for speed and red-light cameras to be deployed within Town limits in an effort to reduce traffic violations as well as secure long-term revenues. The Town is also researching the possibility of annexing surrounding commercial and (in the future) residential properties in order to expand Town services as well as the tax base. Our hope is that long-term solutions such as revenue from speed and traffic cameras, as well as considering annexation will help ensure that we continue to generate enough revenue to sustain our municipality without having to raise taxes or eventually dissipate our municipality all together.

Please know that my goal is to continue to think of new and innovative ways to bring more revenue into the Town, if you have any ideas, please share them!

As you can see, the Commissioners and I have been busy! I would like to thank Commissioners Linda Pennoyer and Wanda Leonard for their hard work in ensuring the Town residents receive the best possible services. Having only been in office for two months, we recognize that there is still a lot to do and tons more to learn. I want to encourage each of you to participate in our local Town government; ensure that your voice is heard. Your opinions, thoughts and ideas all matter, and collectively are what makes this Town a great place to live, work and play. Many of our Town residents have lived here all their lives, which tells you that there is something special about what we have! Together, let's ensure that we honor our past, but now look to the future for ourselves and the next generation, so that they too can enjoy this wonderful place we all call home; The Town of Upper Marlboro.

At your service,



Tonga Turner  
President & CEO  
Town of Upper Marlboro

## The Public Works Corner

Greetings from the Town of Upper Marlboro Public Works Department! This is Darnell Bond III, your acting superintendent, with a few lawn care tips for the fast-approaching spring season.

1. Dethatch yard with a rake. This essentially means to rake your yard to remove dead or dying grass shoots.
2. Aerate the lawn. Aeration during the growing season loosens compacted soil and allows water and nutrients to be better absorbed by the roots.
3. Seed your lawn. Seeding your lawn will fill in bare spots and begin to nurse a winterized lawn back to life. It is important to know your lawn



- variety before investing your money in pricey seeds or pellets.
4. Water it well. All grass needs water. Depending on the type of turf you have, the amount will vary.
5. Enjoy! You worked hard. Time to play hard. Enjoy time with friends and family in the beautiful yard you have created.

Be on the lookout for the dates of the free mulch giveaway in April by the Maryland Environmental Service, located at:

6550 Maude Savoy Brown Road,  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

Dial 311 (our County Click service) for more info.

## A Message from the Chief

### How to contact your Police Department

I would like to remind our citizens that in the event of an emergency, or in need of a Police Officer for an emergency incident, you need to dial 911. The 911 operator is the only one able to dispatch the on-duty Upper Marlboro Officer and/or County Police to assist.

There are several reasons and advantages for this system. Calling the 911 center in an emergency allows the caller to be recorded thus accurately capturing information that may be needed for future reference. It also affords crucial information on suspects, descriptions, vehicles, activities and destinations of travel to be broadcasted to not just Upper Marlboro Officers, but the County Police Officers as well. Timely reporting and notification to the police is essential in locating suspects and responding to emergencies. The dispatchers are trained to ask callers appropriate questions before providing the information to the responding officers and assign the appropriate number of officers to the call.



Citizens may still directly contact Upper Marlboro Police with administrative, non-emergency matters, or other items you wish to bring to our attention that do not require an immediate response. This can be done by calling the Offices at 301-627-6905, emailing [Cwashington@UpperMarlboroMD.gov](mailto:Cwashington@UpperMarlboroMD.gov), or stopping by the Town Hall during Office Hours. The members of our department look forward to serving each and every one of you with Pride, Professionalism, and Courtesy in everything we do in the community.

## Marlboro VFD is Here to Serve You!



The Marlboro VFD is a volunteer Fire Department that protects the residents of the Upper Marlboro area, Prince George's County and even Anne Arundel Counties. The Department is staffed by volunteer members and career PGFD Firefighters staffing two Fire Engines, a Heavy Rescue Squad, Ambulance, and a Brush Truck.

The Department runs about 4,000 call a year ranging from rural rescue and brush fires to highway rescue, vehicle extrication calls, commercial building fires, and medical calls. Marlboro VFD is always seeking volunteer members, the department is family oriented, with a sense of camaraderie and pride in ownership. Those who are active



fire and EMS members receive free training and equipment along with many other benefits! Join Today!

Twitter @MV\_20\_FD  
"Like" us on Facebook  
Online: [www.Marlbороfire.com](http://www.Marlbороfire.com)

Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department  
14815 Pratt Street  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
Emergency: 911, Non-Emergency: 301-883-7720

## CZigs BBQ Grand Opening!

On Saturday March 3rd, Town President/Mayor Tonga Turner had the pleasure to participate in the Grand Opening of the new CZigs BBQ in Downtown Upper Marlboro.

CZigs BBQ is owned and operated by Charlie Hyatt and George "Zig" Zigler. Combined, they have more than 20 years of catering and restaurant experience. They take pride in providing real wood smoked barbecue, great homemade sides, in a small quaint carry-out restaurant setting. They offer pick-up and delivery (local area only), as well as catering, anyplace, any state. The restaurant is unique because they serve all the meats with a dry rub, to allow you to taste the smoky, moist flavor of the meats. The meats are the main event of your restaurant experience; slow smoked for hours over real wood. In addition, they offer a wide variety of homemade sides

and desserts, 3 different homemade sauces Hot Damn (Spicy), Uncle Charlie's Sauce (Sweet), and Zig's Special Sauce (Tangy) and Zig's Dirty Fries. The key to CZigs BBQ success is providing the customers with top notch customer service, and consistent, quality foods that taste great every time.

When you think BBQ, think CZigs "Where there's smoke, there's ribs!!"

CZigs BBQ  
14710 Main Street  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-7pm,  
Sat 11am-9pm  
[www.czigsbbq.com](http://www.czigsbbq.com)



## Town of Upper Marlboro Code Enforcement:



After this month's windstorm, residents may find themselves with a large amount of firewood this year. Residents are reminded to store wood and logs at least 6 inches above the ground to prevent rot and rodent infestation. It's not recommended to store woodpiles adjacent to your home. Improperly stored wood could lead to wet, unseasoned wood that's prone to decay. Firewood that comes into contact with the ground is exposed to moisture and insects which increases the rate of decay. Over time this wood will become nearly useless.



# Monthly Town Police Report

### For the month of:

February 2018

### Activity Report:

Town Parking Citations: 53  
State Traffic Citations: 9  
Calls for Service: 40

### Incidents Reported within Town:

Domestic 3	Hit and Run accident 1
Missing Person 1	Trespass Complaint 1
Missing Person Located 1	Animal Complaint 1
911 Hang Up 1	Larceny 0
Accident 1	



### Town Refuse Collection Schedule:

Place containers at the curb by 7 a.m. on the day of collection, but, no more than 12 hours prior to the scheduled collection time. Remove empty containers from curb no later than 12 hours after collection.

- Residential Trash — Mondays\***
- Bulk Trash — Mondays\***
- Yard Waste — Mondays\***
- Residential Recycling — Thursdays**

*\* see our Newsletter or Website for Holiday pickup schedules*

### How to Report Problems

The best time to report a missed collection, suspicious activity or any municipal matter, is when it occurs. Resident's issues are most successfully handled during normal business hours. Your elected officials and staff invite you to call with timely issues Monday–Friday from 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. If you have questions on municipal operations or complex issues that require a consultation or documentation, we urge you to contact us during working hours to schedule an appointment.

Questions? call: **301-627-6905**

or email: **Info@UpperMarlboroMD.gov**



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

## Calendar Events

### Liberty Girls:

An American Girl Book Club occurs every week(s) on Saturday effective 3/3/2018 until 3/10/2018 at 10:30 AM.

Saturday, March 3 & 10, 2018, 10:30 am - noon

Join our new revolutionary book club! Each week we will discuss a different Caroline book from the American Girl series with a Prince George's County librarian, make a period craft, and enjoy refreshments. Last session includes a book discussion and tea party. Reservations required.

Cost: Resident: \$30; Non-resident: \$45

Ages: 7- 13

### Lego Day at the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department

Saturday, March 17 at 10 AM - 4 PM

Come join us for LEGO DAY At the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department

March 17th from 10AM to 4PM

Lego day is a fun filled day for the family. There will be Lego displays & "My Own Creations" to see. Also, there will be Lego activities and a Lego play zone and more. The event is free.

### Colonial Tavern Dinner

Saturday, March 17, 2018, 7 - 9 pm

Be our guest as we recreate a mid-18th-century tavern dinner in Upper Marlboro. Enjoy colonial food and spirits. Following dinner, listen to or join in with Ship's Company as they sing sea chanties and tavern songs of the period. Reservations required.

Cost: Resident: \$35; Non-resident: \$45

Ages: 21 and older

### HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING—PLANNING & ARCHIVING SESSION:

Saturday, March 17th, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Visitors welcome and encouraged to bring items of historical significance to be scanned for the Town Archives—meeting is open to the general public.

### TOWN MEETING:

Tuesday, March 13th, 7:30 p.m. Trinity Church Parrish Hall 14515 Church Street • (room 3—downstairs). The meeting is open to the public and time is allotted on the agenda for public participation.

### BOARD of Commissioners REGULAR WORK SESSION:

Tuesday, March 27th, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. The meeting agenda consists of current business items up for Board discussion. Work Sessions are open to public observation only, however, public comment is at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners.

### UPPER MARLBORO CERT MEETING:

Saturday March 10th 9:00 a.m. Dutch Village Farmers Market, 5030 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro, MD. Please come out to support the team and, share your ideas and talents.

## Town Meetings

Agendas can be obtained from our Website: [www.uppermarlboromd.gov](http://www.uppermarlboromd.gov), or at the Town Hall upon request

### March 2018:

(Posted 03/01/2018) \*Subject to Change\*

- Extra Board Work Session — Monday, March 5 at 9:30 a.m.
- CERT Meeting — Saturday, March 10 at 9:00 a.m. Dutch Village Farmers Market, 5030 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro, MD.
- Sustainable Communities Workgroup (SCW) — a new SCW meetings schedule for 2018 is currently in progress.
- Regular Town Meeting —Tuesday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. — Trinity Church Parrish Hall 14515 Church Street • (room 3—downstairs)
- Historical Committee (TUMHC) — "Archiving/Planning Session" —Saturday March 17 starting at 10:00 a.m.
- Regular Board Work Session — Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. — Trinity Church Parrish Hall 14515 Church Street • (room 3—downstairs)

Town of Upper Marlboro Town Hall  
14211 School Lane  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

## Town of Upper Marlboro is on Social Media!

“We want to build strong relationships within our community and businesses.”

We believe that social media can not only help us focus on thriving communication with our residents, but also offer valuable insight on the things that matter to our community. Providing more opportunities for you to connect with us is one of ways we hope to build strong relationships and serve you better.

Be sure to follow us on Twitter and “Like” the Town’s page on Facebook to get up-to-date alerts & information—and, to see what’s happening!

Twitter: @TownUMarlboro

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TownUpperMarlboro/](http://www.facebook.com/TownUpperMarlboro/)



### The Board of Town Commissioners

President Tonga Y. Turner  
[tonga.turner@uppermarlboromd.gov](mailto:tonga.turner@uppermarlboromd.gov)

Commissioner Wanda M. Leonard  
[commissionerpennoyer@uppermarlboromd.gov](mailto:commissionerpennoyer@uppermarlboromd.gov)

Commissioner/Treasurer Linda Pennoyer  
[wleonard@uppermarlboromd.gov](mailto:wleonard@uppermarlboromd.gov)

#### Office Hours

Monday–Friday: 9 am – 5 pm

#### Contact Town Hall

(office) 301-627-6905 (fax) 301-627-2080  
(e-mail) [info@uppermarlboromd.gov](mailto:info@uppermarlboromd.gov)  
(cable access channel) Verizon 19  
(on the web) [www.uppermarlboromd.gov](http://www.uppermarlboromd.gov)

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