



Gary Ditto's Newsletter

Fall 2009

Kensington on Foot

Walking into History

by Antoinette Kranenburg

Much of Kensington still reflects the garden community envisioned by developer Brainard Warner in 1890, when he bought 132 acres of farmland south of the railroad tracks.

Taking a walk in Kensington is a treat. Grand old trees with their moss covered roots, homes with character and quirky beauty, deep mature gardens—there is much to spark your curiosity as you get some fresh air.

Next time you go for a walk, take along “A Walking Tour of Kensington 2009” a handy new pocket-sized guide, published by the Kensington Historical Society. Volunteers hand-delivered the tour guide to Town residents and Society members. The guides are available for \$3 in the Town Hall office and at local businesses including All Things Considered, Kensington Row Bookshop, Johnson's, Sub*Urban, Old Town Market, Kensington Pharmacy, and Hardware City.

Did you know that 10410 Montgomery Avenue was originally built around 1915 to be the McKeever Bakery and home? The McKeever family lived in the south end of the building and sold its ice cream from the storefront. Two inviting display windows and a set of broad steps drew you inside. Students would walk over from the National Seminary for Girls in Forest Glen for some McKeever's Ice Cream. People even rode the trolley over from beyond Kensington—a trolley line ran along Kensington Parkway to Chevy Chase from 1895 to 1933.

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Kensington on Foot— continued

The first tour guide was published in 1994. The focus was on appreciating the architectural character of historic homes. At the time new families moved to the area, leading to a wave of home renovations, explains Julie O'Malley, president of the Kensington Historical Society.

A year of research went into the new edition. Four self-guided tours feature early Kensington homes, businesses, and parks, many of the descriptions accompanied by charming illustrations and historical details. The guide clearly explains the Victorian architectural styles characteristic of Kensington.

New is the history of the settling of Kensington, its earliest business district, and its many parks. An intriguing chronology outlines key events in the town's development, starting with the Joseph's Park Land Patent in 1689. Though the town started laying brick sidewalks in 1898, roads were unpaved until 1930! What is now Antique Row on Howard Avenue was an expansion of the earliest commercial area near St. Paul Street at the railroad.

The increasing pressure of development in the fifties and sixties led to the founding of the Kensington Historical Society by local citizens in 1977. The Society's purposes include safeguarding the heritage of the community; promoting the preservation, protection, and restoration of the built environment; and preserving the open space in the community.

Its efforts led to the 1980 listing of the Historic District on the National Register and designation as a Montgomery County Historic District. The focus is education and research, not to be confused with the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, which reviews permits.

The Society's research library and photo archive are housed at the Town Hall. "Think of us as you sort through things," says Archives Chair Ann Pfautz. Share your personal memories of growing up in Kensington. Newspaper clippings, school photos and yearbooks, and photos are most welcome. If you would like to keep the original, they can be scanned while you wait.

The Society sponsors a Summer Concert series across from the train station Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. through September. KHS volunteers are behind the popular Annual Antiques Road Show~Kensington Style in the Town Hall.

The Society is getting ready to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Kensington Cabin (#22 in the guide). The log cabin was built along Silver Creek in 1934 in a stimulus program at the time. It served generations of children as a community center until 1992. The hope is that it will be reopened before long after restoration and being made handicapped accessible.

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E-mail: info@kensingtonhistory.org

Illustrations by Trammell Maury from A Walking Tour of Kensington 2009. With thanks to Julie O'Malley and Ann Pfautz of the Kensington Historical Society



The Fine Swine

Open on Howard Avenue since late 2007, The Fine Swine offers traditional clothing for the family, gifts, and accessories, as well as customizing, personalizing, and engraving services. The store's logo, a pink pig in top hat and monocle, reflects the whimsical side of the merchandise. Anglophile owner John H. Hickman IV selects unique housewarming and corporate gifts, collegiate items, and some British favorites. Men can find classic clothing for any occasion at The Fine Swine, from weekend and business wear to black tie, including wax cloth Barbour jackets, "indestructible" Bill's Khakis, and custom tweed jackets.

The Fine Swine, 3804 Howard Ave, Kensington, MD 20895. Phone: 240.221.3816. E-mail: fineswine@mac.com
Website: www.thefineswine.com



Kensington Cabin 75th Anniversary

Come celebrate the Kensington Cabin's 75th Anniversary at the Kensington Historical Society meeting Tuesday, November 10, at the Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell St. Join your neighbors for coffee at 7:00 p.m. At 7:30, Mrs. Jamie F. Kuhns, Senior Historian for Montgomery County Parks, will speak about early history. Your cabin photos, memories and great stories are most welcome. Please contact Kensington Historical Society by November 1st so they can be included: info@kensingtonhistory.org or P.O. Box 453, Kensington, MD. 20895.

Honey, I Wrecked the Kids!

The Parent Encouragement Program welcomes Alyson Schafer, parenting expert, psychotherapist, and best-selling author of *Breaking the Good Mom Myth* and *Honey, I Wrecked the Kids*. "Parents are perplexed by this new generation of seemingly 'discipline-resistant' children," says Ms. Schafer. Join her as she presents what "parents everywhere have been waiting for: the blueprint to understanding — and correcting — misbehavior." You'll learn to recognize and reverse the root causes of misbehavior and raise children who are caring, cooperative, and responsible. For parents of children ages 2-12.

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
at The Bullis School, The Blair Family Center for the Arts, Howard Auditorium, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac, MD.

Call PEP for tickets: 301-929-8824, \$25/person, \$45/couple,
www.PEPparent.org



Thank You, Kensington 8K Course Marshals!

We want to send a special thank you to all the volunteer Course Marshals for last month's 15th Annual Kensington 8K Race. We couldn't do it without you and we appreciate your support over the years! Thank you!

Mike Baker
Mark Barnard
Carrie Bazyluk
Paul Beck
Debbie Brletic
Maureen Conley
Jen Cope
Jeff and Althea Day
Cindy and Phil Dellinger
Scott and Sheila Dinn
Chuck Engelhardt
Susan and Sasha Gerech
Julia Gorey
Michele Haggerty
John Holbrooke
Mark Idler
Krauss Family
Amy Lindsey
Judy and Greg Lyons
Carl Mahaney
Dave Marchal
Bill and Trammel Maury
Mike McCurry
Pamela McDermott
Steve and Thomas McHale
Dawn Messier
Dan Murphy
Peg O'Donnell
Stephanie Rigaux
Mark Shepherd
Mike Silverman
Ben Simon
Ann and Sam Statland
Matt Stevens
Steve Stoltz
Lydia Sullivan
Deb Udley
Jim Vaught
Al Veerhoff
Cherry Wunderlich
Sonny Young



Free Pumpkin Coupon

Once again, your child is invited to take this coupon to Hawkins Produce by Halloween, and pick out a free child-size pumpkin. One pumpkin per child, compliments of Gary Ditto. Hawkins Produce is located on Knowles Avenue at Summit in Kensington.



Wayne M. Goldstein Remembered

Montgomery County community activist, landscape designer, and neighbor Wayne Goldstein died suddenly this spring at the age of 56. Typically, he was on his way to attend a county hearing on the expansion of Suburban Hospital. He was a lifelong county resident and an avid gardener, and created a luscious garden at his home in Kensington Heights.

Friends and neighbors gathered June 13 in Kensington Heights Park (corner of McComas Avenue and St. Paul Street) for the fourth annual Kensington Heights Citizens Association picnic and dedicated the park's playground to Wayne M. Goldstein. Wayne was president of the KHCA and started this annual event. Picnic blankets were spread, children climbed the colorful equipment, and neighbors got acquainted and shared memories.

Historic preservation, local environmental issues, speed humps, Inter-County Connector, Sector and Master plans, Clarksburg development—Goldstein cared deeply and worked tirelessly on issues of growth and quality of life in our neighborhoods. He was also President of Montgomery Preservation, Inc., and a columnist for *The Sentinel*.

Donna Savage, KHCA immediate past president, spoke fondly of his ability to disagree without being disagreeable. She said "His delivery methods were often bold and unique, and his testimony and opinions were delivered with kindness, persistence, and the research to back it up."

Because of his lively, playful side, KHCA asked for the playground in the center of the park to be named in his honor. A new sign has already been installed; the official playground naming ceremony will take place this fall.

With thanks to Donna Savage.
KHCA website: www.kensingtonheightsweb.com

New E-Mail Updates from Gary Ditto—

Sign up for either or both of these updates:

- Our Monthly Sold Reports for 20895, sent via e-mail
- Our weekly "Open House" e-mail

You choose what to sign up for and you can always unsubscribe. Sign up on our home page www.garyditto.com.

Gary Ditto's Newsletter welcomes ideas and news items from community members. The writers and editors are from Kensington Communications. Antoinette Kranenburg was the lead writer for this issue.

For dates and news of more events, be sure to visit the *Community Activities Calendar* on the web site:

www.garyditto.com

