

The Brookeville Times

May/June, 2003

Established 1794

Mark Your Calendars

Important Dates:

Planning Commission - June 3, 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner's Meetings - June 9, 8:00 p.m.

All meetings are held at the Brookeville Academy.

Election

With a good turnout despite an uncontested election, Bob Heritage was elected to another term as Town Commissioner under the Town's new annual staggered election format. Bob previously has served many terms as a Commissioner and he has also served as the Town's Clerk-Treasurer. Bob's "voluntarism" has been an important asset to the community.

Looking to the Future

The Commissioners strongly encourage residents who would like to become more involved in what goes on in town to consider serving in the future as a commissioner or member of the Planning Commission. The best way to find out what doing the Town's business is all about is to attend monthly meetings of the commissioners and/or the Planning Commission. The meetings can be interesting, they are open, and can be a first step in gaining a feel for what goes on in doing the public's business. Volunteering is crucial to the existence and vitality of our system of local government. It can be very rewarding and it won't take as much time as you might suspect. Think about it.

May Town Meeting

This year's annual meeting was reasonably well attended and residents who showed up heard new State Delegate (and resident) Karen Montgomery (District 14) report on her experience in the General Assembly and what it meant for the Town. Karen's interesting remarks were followed by Montgomery County Councilman Mike Knapp's (District 2) update on this year's difficult budget situation. Both Karen and Mike also discussed the budget scenario as it impacts on the Brookeville Bypass. Following their reports and a question and answer period, Rick Allan, the President of the Commissioners, presented the proposed Town Budget for FY 2003-2004. A summary is attached to this newsletter for your information. Copies of the draft budget are available upon request as will the final adopted budget when it is approved in June.

Rental Policies at the Brookeville Academy

Recently we had a weekend high school graduation party that resulted in a number of noise complaints by Academy neighbors (there was a live band). The police were called after several requests to tone down the music met no response from the renter. Not unexpectedly, questions about our rental policies have since been raised. Our overall rental policy approach is that the Academy is a community center that is available for rental for all reasonable uses. The income derived from these rentals helps to pay operating costs and reduce our outstanding building loan. As a public facility we do not discriminate against any organizations or individuals but we do reserve the right to refuse rentals for inappropriate uses. We have not gone out of our way to solicit party business, particularly youth parties, because of the extra wear and tear, potentially higher costs of clean up, and security and safety issues. Because the Academy is located in a residential neighborhood, all prospective renters are told that they must be sensitive to that fact and that all events must terminate by midnight (on weekends). Because the Academy offers an attractive venue of modest size and very modest rental fees, it is enjoying increasing popularity for meetings and celebratory parties, mostly adult, often involving residents themselves. We anticipate this trend continuing. While we believe good judgment and vetting of prospective customers resolves most issues before they happen, we are always fine-tuning and open to input from the community. To date there have been few complaints since the building opened in October 1998 and we hope to keep it that way. Nonetheless we believe it

is appropriate and important to review our user policies from time to time. Let us hear from you should you have any suggestions or comments.

www.townofbrookevillemd.org

Our web site has been redesigned and made easier! Please take a tour and make it one of your "favorites." Thanks go to the creative design ideas and operational input of Miche Booz and Chris Scanlon and Susan Johnson's coordination and liaison with our web designer Michael Reichgut of Solutions Web Design. If you have ideas about what should be added to the site or what could be improved, please let us know.

Schoolhouse Restoration

The almost nonstop rain has delayed our contractor being able to start on installing the standing seam metal roof on the schoolhouse. Otherwise, carpenter Walter Blank continues to work on the inside and has completed all necessary preparations and repairs to roof joists and related parts of the roof structure. The building's four windows are being rebuilt/remade substantially complete the restoration progress. A State Project Open Space grant of \$17,000 and a Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission grant of \$2,000 are also helping to fund the project

Bypass Action Needed

Governor Ehrlich's recent veto of legislation that would have allowed Montgomery County to use a surcharge on car registration in order to make it possible for the County to move forward with essential road and transportation projects also means trouble for the Bypass. The County had been willing to fund design and engineering work on the Bypass - normally done by the State Highway Administration, to keep it moving forward toward future construction funding. Because of SHA cutbacks that funding had been in jeopardy until the County stepped in. Now that the revenue the County was counting on to pay for this work has disappeared, the Bypass may once more be put on ice though the gridlock will continue to get worse. If you want to do something about this unacceptable situation, we urge you to write to the Governor and the Secretary of Transportation to make your views known. Addresses are as follows:

Governor Robert Ehrlich
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Robert L. Flanagan
Secretary of Transportation
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Flags Fly Again

Our American flags are flying again throughout the town. We wanted them up in time for Memorial Day and resident Wayne Harding and Commissioner Les Unglesbee saw to it. We have learned the difficulty of keeping flags flying a this year we are using much heavier and longer screws and special "unfurlers." Other than the Town's three "gateways" where the flags will generally always be installed, our intent is to display the flags during appropriate holidays.

Keeping the Town Attractive

The Town employs a landscape contractor through most of the year to maintain various public spaces, keep sidewalks clear and weed free, gutters clean, gateways tidy, and North Street plantings and right-of-ways orderly, mulched, and weeded. A resident-owned business takes care of the lawns at the Academy and at Brookeville Road. As a result we think the Town's appearance along with the efforts of our residents has significantly improved over the past year. From time to time, abominable weather and other situations can throw maintenance schedules off and things get left undone. We ask that you be patient at those times. Again, we welcome suggestions on ways to further improve or enhance the appearance of our town.

