

The Brookeville Times

Town of Brookeville

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Did You Know?

As a resident of the Town, you may rent the Brookeville Academy for reduced rates. The Town Commissioners established a reduced rental rate for residents as a benefit for residents. The rate is \$100 and residents (as are all renters) are required to also provide a security deposit (refundable) in advance of use of the facility. The special rate is limited to immediate family events and does not apply to family businesses or organizational affiliations.

Schoolhouse Lights On!

There has been much progress since the last report on the Town's project to restore the schoolhouse on North Street. Pepco "ran" wires to the school and Jaffe Electric set the electrical outlets and baseboard heating elements and then switched on the lights. While the lighting fixtures have not yet arrived for installation, final painting of the interior has been completed by Colors Enterprises Ltd. The trim and ceiling have been painted white while the wood walls have been painted a light gray that is very close to the original paint used for the school. Next steps include the

installation of heart-of-pine flooring, final door work, clothing hooks for the cloakroom, a pull-down ladder to the attic space, installation of a potbelly stove, brick walkways, related exterior ground adjustments, gutters and downspouts, and painting of the roof when weather permits.

Bypass Update

\$18 million (estimate) is needed to build the Brookeville Bypass. Project Manager Carmeletta Harris recently reported that given the Federal Highway Administration's signoff (approval) on the proposed route and State Highway Administrator Neil Pedersen's approval of the design, "all" that remains is engineering and final design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction. Harris estimated the engineering and design can go forward for \$2.1 million. The decision to fund this project depends upon the Governor, the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly, and the support of the Montgomery County Council. Bottom line - politics will determine whether the bypass is constructed anytime soon.

Upcoming Events

Commissioner's Meeting
March 14, 8:00 PM

All meetings held at the
Brookeville
Academy

Brookeville Web Site Changes

The Town of Brookeville web site will be getting some changes and additions. A reservation calendar for the Brookeville Academy will allow you to easily check for availability. Additional web site changes will make it easier to follow the status of the Brookeville Bypass. We are also including a section to assist you in writing letters urging county and state officials to fund the building of the bypass. The recent unsuccessful attempt by the State Highway Administration supported by “northern commuters” to install a traffic light at High and Market Streets opens up a new opportunity to lobby for the bypass. The SHA engineer who presented the traffic light proposal agrees that the bypass now remains the only acceptable solution to Brookeville’s growing traffic and safety problems. Check it out at <http://www.townofbrookevillemd.org/>

Town Directory

We are requesting information from residents to be included in a Brookeville Town Directory. Several of you have suggested the usefulness of such a directory. Resident information will be included in an updated version of the “Walking Tour” of Brookeville published in 1994 as part of Brookeville’s 200th anniversary. Just fill out the self-addressed stamped postcard with your name, address, phone number, and email address and drop it in the mail. We will then include your information in the directory. The directory will be designed to be easily updated. We hope to make email another means of enhancing communication between the commissioners and residents. Email will enable us to notify you quickly of upcoming events, town meetings, and issues that concern Brookeville. You may also choose to receive the Brookeville Newsletter via email.

Snow Policies

Now that we have experienced our second snow fall, we thought it useful to review Town snow policies. The Town has a contractor who is responsible for plowing the four streets under Town jurisdiction (Church, North, South, and Water). Market Street (east) is plowed and salted by State/county trucks (through arrangement and practice). The State Highway Administration also of course takes care of High Street and Market Street (west) - Georgia Avenue or Rt. 97. The Town contractor provides services when the snowfall exceeds 4 inches and is instructed to keep plow blades off the gravel to minimize damage to the gravel surfaces while providing appropriate snow removal. It should be kept in mind that Brookeville is a small town with gravel roads and residents should not expect finely scrapped, salted/sanded and dry surfaces. There is some rigor involved in “country living” - that is what many of us have sought in our moves from suburban subdivisions or the city. Those residents who have grown up here know the drill. One does the best one can. Residents and businesses with sidewalk frontage should also be reminded of their responsibility to keep them reasonably passable following snowstorms. While this is often difficult it is about safety and keeping people from having to walk in the streets.

Montgomery Rx Discount Cards

Montgomery County has made available to all residents a prescription discount card called MontgomeryRx. This card can result in discounts that average 20 percent off and as much as 50 percent off the cost of commonly prescribed prescription medications. The card may be used by any county resident regardless of age, income, or existing health insurance. Participating pharmacies (like Giant) and program information are available at www.montgomerycountymd.gov under the MontgomeryRx link or by calling 1-877-321-2652.