

Brookeville Times



“What the Americans lost on the battlefield, they made up for at the negotiating table.”
Donald E. Graves on the Treaty of Ghent

Town Meeting

The Commissioners held a town meeting on Monday Feb 10 to report on preparations for the three events planned for the Brookeville War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration. Sandy Heiler president of the Bicentennial Commission and event planner Lisa Coster of Coster Communications provided information on all aspects of the events planned. An estimated 10,000 visitors are anticipated over the two days which will be recorded by a documentary film crew.

The first events take place earlier in the year. On Saturday, March 29 there will be a History Symposium entitled: "Brookeville and the Burning of Washington: A Tale of Two Capitals". The event will be held at the Performing Arts Center at Sandy Spring Friends School from 9:00 am -3:15 pm. Registration information is available online at: www.uscapitalforaday.org

On Saturday, May 3 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, the town will host a Historic House Tour. A selection of both historic and "new" homes and gardens will be open to the public demonstrating how architecture has evolved through Brookeville's history. Proceeds will go to help fund the Bicentennial celebration. The School House will also be open. No pre-registration will be required. Attendees will purchase tickets in the Academy. Box lunches will be available

Mark Your Calendars

Commissioners Meeting

February 10, 8:00 pm

Planning Commission

February 4, 7:30 pm

History Symposium:

“Brookeville and the Burning of Washington: A Tale of Two Capitals”
 March 29, 2014

Brookeville Historic House Tour

May 3, 2014

All meetings are held in the Brookeville

for purchase in the Academy for an additional charge. Details will follow. Volunteers are needed to be docents at each location.

The main events take place over the Labor Day weekend. They will focus on recreating events in Brookeville in August 1814 and recreating what Brookeville was like at the time. There will also be a 200 year reunion of descendants of people who were in Brookeville for these events. To make the town look and sound as authentic as possible for the video cameras, residents are being asked to minimize the presence of cars, bikes, cell phone ringtones and other evidence of the present. For those who don't have space to park behind their homes places will be available at the end of North St. and behind the church.

Saturday activities will include living historians

re-enacting roles of scientists, engineers, tradesmen, craftsmen, teachers, etc. who lived in Brookeville in August 1814; craft demos, a school room, town tour, archaeological sand pit. Later in the day refugees, military units, gold and silver from commercial banks and the US Senate papers arrive by various conveyances. These are followed by Madison's party, mounted dragoons, a flag ceremony and the main dinner.

Sunday will repeat many of Saturday's activities and include the 200 year family reunion, the arrival of James Monroe, entertainment by the New Old Theatre and more.

Lisa Coster provided updates on provisions for shuttle service, camping in Reddy Park, vendors and road closures. The permit applications for the road closure and use of the Reddy Park have been filed. Whether one or both lanes will be closed has not been determined. There will be three shuttle routes to and from Longwood bringing visitors to town. Shuttles will pick up at Glenmont Metro and Medstar Montgomery on the south side of town and at Camp Bennett on the north side. The Camp Bennett shuttle will also make stops at Oakley Cabin. There will be a welcome/base tent in the Longwood parking lot and a welcome tent at the Yinger's. Camp sites for the President's guard will be located behind the Madison House. Longwood will make the parking lot and restroom facilities available and there will be portable toilets (pretend they are outhouses) in town. There will also be street vendors serving popcorn, ice cream and water.

Salem United Methodist Church will be opening its doors to provide changing areas for the re-enactors, a first aid station and child center. They will also be providing fried chicken, hamburgers and salad.

Grant provided patterns and material are available for those who wish to make their own costumes as well as ready-made costumes for those who don't sew. Grant provided costumes will be donated when the event is over.

Katherine Farquhar provided information for various ways of obtaining period clothing. See her list at:

<http://www.pinterest.com/kwfarq/regency-style-dresses/>

Bruce Evans will begin casting for the documentary in the spring. Audition information will be available soon.

There are many ways to take part in these events. Plans are still underway. For more information on period clothing or to volunteer as a docent, town resident, refugee etc. contact Sandy Heiler at: sheiler07@gmail.com

200 Years Ago

In January of 1814 Madison agreed to peace talks in the city of Ghent in Belgium. His chief negotiators included John Quincy Adams US minister to Russia and Henry Clay a former Senator from Kentucky. They were supported by Albert Gallatin Secretary of the Treasury, James A Bayard of the Federalist Party and Jonathan Russell, Madison's chargé d'affaires in Paris. Hoping only for an ante bellum peace the Senate approved the negotiation team in Feb. 1814.

On February 14, 1814, The USS Constitution Commanded by Captain Charles Stewart captured the merchant ship Lovely Ann off the coast of Barbados. It was being escorted from Bermuda to Surinam by HMS Pictou, a 14-gun schooner. Hours later the Constitution captured Pictou. Captain Stewart kept the Lovely Ann but destroyed Pictou.

America had gained little in nearly two years of fighting. Some of the few victories it could claim were due to the exploits of the USS Constitution. Although these victories had little effect on the war's outcome they served to buoy the confidence and moral of the Americans and dispel the belief that the Royal Navy was indestructible.

Earlier in the war on August 19, 1812 about 400 miles southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia, the Constitution encountered HMS Guerriere. After a fierce exchange of broadsides, grapeshot and musket fire the Guerriere's mizzen mast, fore and main-masts were overboard. The Guerriere's crew including its Captain had sustained heavy injuries. Unable to sail Captain Dacres struck her colors to save his remaining crew. Too badly damaged to salvage, the Guerriere was set alight and the Constitution returned to Boston. It was during this battle that the Constitution earned the nickname "Old Ironsides" when a shot bounced off its side

and a crewman shouted “Huzza, her sides are made of iron!”

Three other British warships, Java, Cayane and Levant were captured or destroyed by the USS Constitution during the war.

About Clean Currents and your Electricity **Fred Teal Jr**

Many of you have seen the signs as you enter town announcing that Brookeville is a Green Power Community. This is an Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) program recognizing towns, communities, businesses and other entities that have switched a significant portion of their electricity use to green power. Since 2012 we have been honored to be the town with the highest percent of renewable energy use in the entire nation.

This honor was the result of many residents and the town itself switching to clean energy provided by Clean Currents but delivered by PEPCO. This became possible in 2012 as a result of deregulation in Maryland which required utilities such as PEPCO and BGE to sell off their power generation plants and purchase power competitively from the marketplace. It also allowed customers to select from a wide range of electricity providers to supply the electricity for their homes and businesses but still use their local utility such as PEPCO to provide and maintain the lines, and provide billing and other services as usual.

On January 31st, Clean Currents notified current users that they had to cease business due to the high spot energy prices they were forced to pay because of the extremely cold weather that has gripped most of the nation this winter. In a second email sent February 7th, Clean Currents notified customers that they had negotiated special reduced rates from Washington Gas Energy Services (WGES) for renewable energy for all Clean Currents users.

The town will take steps to switch to WGES for the Academy and the North Street schoolhouse. The commissioners recommend that you take advantage of this offer by using the links provided by this February 7th email and sign-up with WGES as your new clean energy provider. The link to the sign-up page is:

<http://www.wges.com/cmp/nationalwindpower/index.html>

(Select PEPCO (MD) and choose the option best suited to your needs. Two years at 100% clean energy is recommended.) In addition, WGES has invited any residents who are not previous Clean Currents customers to use this link to sign-up for renewable energy from WGES. The prices offered are substantially lower than those for the general public. Brookeville is a town that honors its historic past but does not live in it.

Announcements

- ✚ **Open Commissioner seat:** The town is seeking qualified residents to run for the open seat that will be left by Michael Acierno when his term expires in May. After 10 years of exemplary service with 6 as president of the Commission Michael will be sorely missed. Interested parties should send a letter of intent to the Clerk at 5 High St. Brookeville MD 20833.
- ✚ **Grants Manager:** The town is seeking a qualified person to manage the grants for the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration. Interested parties should contact the Clerk.
- ✚ **Election Supervisor:** The town is seeking a volunteer to be the supervisor of elections. Interested parties should contact the Clerk.
- ✚ **Olney Help:** Olney help has expressed thanks to the town for donations of food made at the Holiday Party. In 2013 they increased their deliveries to needy families by 26% from the previous year.
- ✚ **Deer Ticks:** Barbara Ray shared the following link for controlling deer ticks and helping to prevent the spread of Lyme disease:

<http://www.ticktubes.com/faq.html>

Memorial

Friends and family gathered to celebrate the life and say farewell to Margaret Van Gelder at the Inn at Brookeville Farms on February 15. Margaret will be missed by all who knew her.

Gardening Tips for January

Contributed by Suzanne Friis

From The Garden Calendar for the Greater Washington Area Produced by Brookside Gardens



Indoor Gardening

Pay attention to the watering needs of houseplants at this time of year. Some plants dry out more quickly due to the dry air in the house while others require less water as they are not actively growing. Water plants when the top of the soil becomes just dry to the touch.

Always plant in pots with drainage holes and apply water so the water flows out through the holes. If plants are sitting in a decorative outer container, do not let water sit in the bottom of the container to be reabsorbed through the soil. Roots that are constantly wet will rot.

Azaleas, poinsettias, kalanchoe, cyclamen, cineraria and other flowering “gift” plants should be enjoyed then discarded as they are difficult to keep healthy indoors and typically cannot be brought back into bloom in the home environment. Azaleas and chrysanthemums purchased for indoor enjoyment are not hardy and cannot be planted outdoors. However, tulips, daffodils and lilies can be planted in the garden once the ground thaws.

Gardenias are a lovely gift plant but difficult to grow long-term as a houseplant. For best results, keep gardenias in a cool, sunny spot away from heat vents. Transfer gardenias to a shady outdoor location in the spring after all danger of frost is past.



Don DeWall snow blowing South St. Feb 13



Lawn Care

Have the pH in the soil tested. If the pH is above 6.4, no limestone is needed for 3 years. If the pH is below 6.4, follow test result recommendations. If you have not applied limestone within 3 years, it is safe to apply 50/lbs of pulverized limestone/1,000 square feet.

Although fall seeding is best, you can spread fescue or bluegrass grass seed between late February and late March. As the seed becomes established, be sure to keep it watered during dry periods through the spring and early summer.



Vegetables

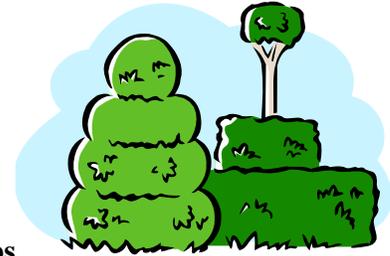
To prevent “bleeding” (the sap running), prune grapes now. They bear fruit on last year’s growth so retain only the branches thicker than a pencil, retaining the branches closest to the main trunk.

When planning and planting your vegetable garden:

1. Run rows north/south.
2. Place perennial crops such as asparagus and rhubarb to one side of the way of seasonal crops.
3. Plant tall crops so they will not shade lower-growing crops
4. Rotate crops to reduce disease problems. Never grow plants in the same “family” in the same place each year (for example: tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and potatoes are related).
5. Add generous amounts of peat moss, rotted leaves, and/or compost to help lighten our heavy clay soils.

Plant peas between late February and early March.

When planting, be sure the soil is not overly wet. Our soil is very clay-like and working the soil when overly wet causes it to compact and become brick-like when it dries out.



Trees and Shrubs

Roses can be transplanted when the temperatures are above freezing.

Physically remove bagworm “bags” from evergreens.

Apply dormant oils to control insect and mite problems. Follow the manufacturer’s recommendations and apply when the temperatures are above freezing for 24 hours. Do not use on sensitive plants such as beech, Douglas-fir and certain maples.

Remove dead and broken branches from trees and shrubs before new growth begins.

Prune summer and fall-flowering trees and shrubs, such as crape myrtle, butterfly-bush, summersweet, common witch hazel and rose-of-Sharon. Do not prune spring flowering plants because you will remove their flower buds.

Maple trees are best pruned in the fall. They will “bleed” sap when pruned in the spring (that’s how we get maple syrup!)

At the end of the month, cut branches from peach, apple, winter jasmine, forsythia and other spring-flowering trees and shrubs to force flowering indoors.

Order mail-order plants by the end of the month.

Salem UMC Community Events

Free and Open to All

*Pre-School Story Time has been cancelled until
further notice*

Salem Book Club

First Thursdays at 7:30 pm
Community Hall

March 6 – Bonhoeffer

by Eric Metaxes (biography)

Who better to face the greatest evil of the 20th Century than a humble man of faith? As Adolf Hitler and the Nazis seduced a nation, bullied a continent, and attempted to exterminate the Jews

of Europe, a small number of dissidents and saboteurs worked to dismantle the Third Reich from the inside. One of these was Dietrich Bonhoeffer—a pastor and author. In this New York Times best-selling biography, Eric Metaxes takes both strands of Bonhoeffer's life—the theologian and the spy—and draws them together to tell a searing story of incredible moral courage in the face of monstrous evil. Metaxes presents the fullest accounting of Bonhoeffer's heart-wrenching decision to leave the safe haven of America to return to Hitler's Germany, and sheds new light on Bonhoeffer's involvement in the famous Valkyrie plot and in "Operation 7," the effort to smuggle Jews into neutral Switzerland.

April 3 – Stalking the Divine

by Kristin Ohlson (non-fiction)

Wandering into a forgotten downtown Cleveland church for a Christmas mass, Kristin Ohlson discovered the Poor Clares -- a tiny, threadbare congregation of cloistered elderly nuns with one mission: to pray day and night (literally 24 hours a day, 7 days a week) for the sorrows of the world. Ohlson -- utterly enchanted by these devoted women -- started to attend church for the first time in many years. So began her three-year dialogue with the Poor Clares, a dialogue that afforded Ohlson a fascinating, unprecedented glimpse into the intensely private nuns and their life in the cloister. Why, she wonders, have these women retreated from the world to joyfully

devote themselves to perpetual adoration? How do they sustain their faith? And what, ultimately, is faith?

As Ohlson -- a long-time skeptic -- opens up to the Poor Clares, she opens herself to the possibility of the sacred. The result is an inspiring personal journey as well as a poignant reflection on the power of the church and faith, no matter what our religion may be.

May 1 – The Explanation for Everything by Lauren Grodstein (fiction)

For college biology professor Andy Waite, Darwinian evolution is the explanation for everything. But the unpredictable force of a charismatic evangelical student—a young woman determined to prove the existence of intelligent design—threatens to undermine more than just his faith in science. As she did in the bestselling novel *A Friend of the Family*, author Lauren Grodstein has written a taut, provocative morality tale centered on one of the most polarizing issues of our time. By dissecting the permeable line between faith and doubt, Grodstein creates a fiercely intelligent story about the lies we tell ourselves, the deceptions we sustain with others, and how violated boundaries—between students and teachers, believers and nonbelievers—can have devastating consequences.

Please note that the Olney Central Mom's Group meets at Salem as does Cub Scout Den 2 from pack 434 and the Wolf Den. Interested people can contact the church if they would like to reach these groups.

Salem: 301-774-7772

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