

Brookeville Times



January

The days are short,
The sun a spark
Hung thin between
The dark and dark.

John Updike

Mark Your Calendars

Planning Commission Meeting

February 3, 7:30 pm

Commissioners Meeting

February 9, 7:30 pm

Announcements

- ✚ **Survey of Residents:** Check your email and mailboxes for a survey. The town will be conducting a survey of residents about the town's priorities for the future.
- ✚ **WSSC Repair on Market St:** WSSC has repaired the leaks on Market St. A valve needed replacing at the north St/Market St. intersection. This should alleviate the icy areas on the street and sidewalks.
- ✚ **Academy Rental for Residents:** Town Residents are entitled to a reduced rental rate for the Brookeville Academy. Contact Andrea Scanlon for more information at: academy@townofbrookevillemd.org



View from 1 North St. Jan. 21, 2015

photo by Katherine Farquhar

Survey of Town Resident Opinions About Brookeville Priorities

In the coming week, you will receive an email from the Town inviting you to participate in a survey about the Town's priorities. We ask that one person reply from each household and we're hoping to have over 40 households respond.

If you don't ordinarily receive the Brookeville Times by email, we will be mailing/delivering the survey to your house as we do the Times.

As Brookeville moves forward in our planning for the After the Bypass years, hearing your opinions about our community's priorities is important. We will share the results of the Survey with you, and discuss these, in March, as we move forward to do our planning for the 2016 fiscal year.

State Legislature Back in Session

The State Legislature is back in session. Senator Karen Montgomery is back in Annapolis during the week but will be home on most weekends. The Town is grateful to Senator Montgomery for the award she presented to the Town Government for the Bicentennial event "in recognition of the incredible support of all aspects of the event of Madison's 200th Anniversary visit to Brookeville Maryland U.S Capital for a Day". The Commissioners gratefully accepted this award in this month's meeting.



Historic Area Work Permits

Planning an exterior building or maintenance project for the spring? Make sure to find out if a Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) is needed and if your project qualifies for the 25% tax credit! Not all projects require HAWPs or qualify for tax credits so it is important to find out **before you start!** The Town of Brookeville and Montgomery County will not issue a building permit within the town limits without a HAWP. For more information about the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), HAWP applications and tax credits go to the following links.

HPC Contact Information:

<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/contact.shtm>

HAWP Application information:

http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/instructions/historic_area_work_permits.shtm

Tax Credit Information:

<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/instructions/taxcredit.shtm>

Happy Birthday President Madison March 16th 2015

Sandy & Duane Heiler have been invited to present a wreath from Brookeville at Montpelier, the Madison estate in Orange, Virginia at the celebration on President Madison's birthday. The event is Monday afternoon, March 16th. Mr. Madison (John Douglas Hall who was with us in Brookeville) will be there as will many dignitaries who come for this annual event.

Several Brookeville Residents/participants from the Bicentennial are planning to go there for the awards ceremony, which will be in the early afternoon. They'll either drive back that night or stay over in Virginia.

Who might like to put on period attire (or not) and drive down together for that commemoration and the reception afterwards? If you'd like to go, please contact Katherine Farquhar.

Town Maintenance

Following up on a decision at last week's Commissioners Meeting, Buck Bartley and Katherine Farquhar met with Richard (Bennie) Bienvenue, Executive Director of Our House (www.our-house.org) this week to discuss an agreement for their Trainees to perform some of the Town maintenance tasks. This will be on a paid

basis (to Our House). Under professional supervision for the trades they're learning, several Trainees will work here every couple of weeks to do tasks like: take down and put up the 15-Star flags; help with repairs to the Schoolhouse, do minor cleanup and repairs on Market Street East, help with occasional repairs for the Academy, etc. You may see their teams in Town from time to time. We learned during the Bicentennial Celebration that their work can make a real difference here in Brookeville. We welcome this arrangement with Our House!

Donation for School House

Two antique school desks have been added to the Schoolhouse classroom! Evan Gunterberg, with mom Cathy, cleaned up the desks (which had been in storage) and came over with grandmother Caroline Hussman to deliver this gift to our Schoolhouse. In recent years, the desks belonged to Jim and Beth Bullard, who lived at Clifton. Located on New Hampshire Avenue, Clifton is one of the oldest homes in Montgomery County! When Jim and Beth moved a few years ago, they gave the desks to Caroline Hussman of Roslyn Farm, on New Hampshire Avenue near the intersection with Brighton Dam Road. She made these part of the lives of her children and grandchildren (including Evan).

So, these desks have had quite a history (and this is only the recent years) before ending up as a most welcome Gift to the Academy. Peek in the windows on the North Street side -- the new desks are right inside the window. They are smaller than some of the others, and will accommodate our youngest students!



MD 97 Brookeville Bypass Partnering Meeting No. 9 – January 20, 2014 Sue Daley and Buck Bartley

Commissioners Sue Daley and Buck Bartley attended the Brookeville Bypass meeting at SHA Headquarters, along with 20+ other representatives from the Highway Administration, MD Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County, and the Corps of Engineers. Project Manager, Huqin (Aimee) Zhang opened the meeting with the announcement of a proposed bypass realignment to avoid wetlands and old growth, heritage trees. The realignment is not final, but the SHA folks favor it, and believe as realigned the project will be more compliant to environmental regulations, and thus ease permit acquisition. Once the alignment is set and accepted by partnering agencies, the design can move forward. According to Ms. Zhang in a recent email, “The design itself will take 2 to 2.5 years, if the coordination with the agencies goes smoothly.” And there’s the problem. Based on the comments from the Park and Planning representatives, like reducing roadway speeds, getting rid of the roundabouts, further presentations to the Planning Board, it became obvious that a significant amount needs to happen before Park and Planning gives their blessings the project. So notions of “smoothly” seemed unlikely.

At this point, the best we can say is that the project remains alive, backed by some very dedicated Highway Administration folks, but that Park and Planning continues to throw up hurdles to clear. Therefore, it is hard to predict when the design phase will begin. We hope the picture will be much clearer by the time of the next SHA meeting on February 24th. Right now the picture is murky; however, the Commissioners are looking into ways to encourage speeding up the Park and Planning research, review and permitting. We will be inviting Town Residents to write letters, attend hearings, and take actions that demonstrate how essential this ByPass is and why it should merit faster processing by Park & Planning.



Tax Brackets, Deductions, and Exemptions for 2015

More than 40 tax provisions, including the tax rate schedules and other tax changes are adjusted for inflation in 2015. Let's take a look at the ones most likely to affect taxpayers like you.

The tax rate of 39.6 percent affects singles whose income exceeds \$413,200 (\$464,850 for married taxpayers filing a joint return), up from \$406,750 and \$457,600, respectively. The other marginal rates--10, 15, 25, 28, 33 and 35 percent--and the related income tax thresholds are described in the revenue procedure.

The standard deduction rises to \$6,300 for singles and married persons filing separate returns and \$12,600 for married couples filing jointly, up from \$6,200 and \$12,400, respectively, for tax year 2014.

The standard deduction for heads of household rises to \$9,250, up from \$9,100.

The limitation for itemized deductions to be claimed on tax year 2015 returns of individuals begins with incomes of \$258,250 or more (\$309,900 for married couples filing jointly).

The personal exemption for tax year 2015 rises to \$4,000, up from the 2014 exemption of \$3,950.

However, the exemption is subject to a phase-out that begins with adjusted gross incomes of \$258,250 (\$309,900 for married couples filing jointly). It phases out completely at \$380,750 (\$432,400 for married couples filing jointly.)

The Alternative Minimum Tax exemption amount for tax year 2015 is \$53,600 (\$83,400, for married couples filing jointly). The 2014 exemption amount was \$52,800 (\$82,100 for married couples filing jointly).

For 2015, the maximum Earned Income Credit amount is \$6,242 for taxpayers filing jointly who have 3 or more qualifying children. This is up from a total of \$6,143 for tax year 2014. The revenue procedure has a table providing maximum credit amounts for other categories, income thresholds and phaseouts. Call us if you have any questions about this.

Estates of decedents who die during 2015 have a basic exclusion amount of \$5,430,000, up from a

total of \$5,340,000 for estates of decedents who died in 2014.

For 2015, the exclusion from tax on a gift to a spouse who is not a U.S. citizen is \$147,000, up from \$145,000 for 2014.

For 2015, the foreign earned income exclusion breaks the six-figure mark, rising to \$100,800, up from \$99,200 for 2014.

The annual exclusion for gifts remains at \$14,000 for 2015. The annual dollar limit on employee

contributions to employer-sponsored healthcare flexible spending arrangements (FSA) rises to \$2,550, up \$50 dollars from the amount for 2014.

Under the small business health care tax credit, the maximum credit is phased out based on the employer's number of full-time equivalent employees in excess of 10 and the employer's average annual wages in excess of \$25,800 for tax year 2015, up from \$25,400 for 2014.

Need help with tax planning in 2015? Give us a call 301-260-8600. We are here to help you!

Salem UMC Community Events

Free and Open to All

Book Discussion - All welcome!

Thursday, Feb. 5, 7:30 pm

Meeting at Suzanne Friis's

17 North Street

We will be discussing "The Silence of Bonaventure Arrow" by Rita Leganski

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 5-7 pm

Eat in or carry out

Freewill donation

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Olney Farmers and Artists Winter Market

Location:
Sandy Spring Museum
17901 Bentley Rd.
Sandy Spring, MD

Day & Hours:
Sunday Jan 11 thru Mar 29, 2015
from 10 am to 2 pm

<http://www.olneyfarmersmarket.org/>
MedStar Montgomery Medical Center Thrift Shop
at the corner of Prince Phillip and Rt. 108.



Tune-n-Forks

Great Cuisine and a Singer on the Scene!
Let us host your next dinner party!
Enjoy a catered, customized meal
&

Entertainment by a
singer-meet-ukulele player duo

Contact us:
Jordan: 240.483.9529 ... outoftheordinary@gmail.com
Sara: 240.328.2958 ... sara.nuttie@gmail.com



Garden
Tour
Be inspired...

May 16, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The **Sandy Spring Museum Garden Club** invites you to immerse yourself in local flora, food and fine art by touring five fabulous gardens located on the North New Hampshire Avenue Corridor. Then, celebrate over wine and hors d'oeuvres at a special sixth garden from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

More information to come

Light Hauling

Debbie Wagner can do light hauling to transfer station. She will take metal items for no charge. dwagner0602@gmail.com

Town of Brookeville Mailing Address
5 High Street, Brookeville, MD 20833
Phone: 301-570-4465 Fax: 301-570-0355

Commissioners commissioners@townofbrookevillemd.org

Buck Bartley 301.252.2058

Suzanne Daley 301.260.1699

Katherine Farquhar 240.753.2121

Town Clerk clerk@townofbrookevillemd.org

Diane Teague

Treasurer treasurer@townofbrookevillemd.org

Susan Johnson

Planning Commission planning.commission@townofbrookevillemd.org

Academy Rentals academy@townofbrookevillemd.org

Andrea Scanlon

www.townofbrookevillemd.org