

The Brookeville Times

May 2004

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Important dates:

Annual Town Meeting - May 18, 8:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting June 1, 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner's Meetings – June 14, 8:00 p.m..

Annual Town Meeting - May 18, 8:00 p.m.

The Annual Town Meeting has been scheduled at the Brookeville Academy at 8:00 on Tuesday, May 18, 2004. There will be pictures and related information on the Brookeville Schoolhouse restoration, a 2004-2005 Town Budget review, and various updates on various topics of interest to residents. State Delegate from District 14, resident Karen Montgomery and Montgomery Council Member Mike Knapp (District 2) have been invited.

Schoolhouse on North Street and Town Resident Win Preservation Awards

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.'s Annual Historic Preservation Awards Program cited resident Miche Booz, AIA as Outstanding Architect for 2004. Miche also has provided a full range of design and management services to the restoration of the schoolhouse. The Town of Brookeville was cited for its overall efforts to acquire and preserve/restore the schoolhouse on North Street. Carpenter Walter Blank, master mason David Yinger, and Brookeville contractor Buck Bartlett were cited for their invaluable contributions to the project. Interior work as part of the second and final phase of the restoration has recently begun. The awards ceremony and reception were held at the Glen Echo Park's Spanish Ballroom on May 8. The Town has won four awards from MPI, including the County's most prestigious historic preservation award - The Montgomery Prize.

Town's Sad Loss

Juanita (Nita) Archer, a resident who loved her "village" and its rich history, died on April 4, 2004. Nita and her husband, former radio and television NBC personality and performer, Gene Archer, were "pioneers" when they moved from the Manor Club in Rockville with their four boys in tow in 1958 to take on the major job of modernizing (no electricity, no plumbing, and no heating other than fireplaces) while restoring the famous but very rundown historic Madison House in Brookeville. While Gene Archer sang at the Shoreham Hotel's Blue Room and did his famous rendition of the Star Spangled Banner at every Redskins home game from 1938 through 1960 (he was also a member of the Redskins Board of Directors), Nita shouldered much of the hard work of making the house habitable and eventually "stately" while raising her boys. Along the way, Nita and Gene also restored the small stone building next to the Madison House that he saw as a modest retirement place for her later years. Nita was a key player in the Town's 1976 U.S. Bicentennial celebration and helped with the work to get Brookeville listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, a year after her husband died. Following her sale of the Madison House to Rick and Diane Allan in 1980, Nita moved next door to the house she and her husband had already prepared for such an eventuality. There, she continued to contribute through her strong support for efforts by the Town Commissioners a few years later to enact a Historic Preservation Ordinance, acquire and restore the Brookeville Academy, and develop a Town Master Plan sensitive to the unique needs of a small historic community in a sea of development. The Town Commissioners appointed her as Supervisor of Elections in 1984 where she became well known for her simple shoe box ballot box and informal but well run elections. Nita also was active in many organizations, including the Questors and the Wednesday Club. Nita Archer left a valuable legacy to the town - the spirit and will to preserve the historic fabric and settings of our built environment while at the same time living out her life with formidable independence and simple elegance in her modest "village" cottage. Nita's sons have made a number of books on antiques and the War of 1812 as well as a period chair available to the Town. We will all miss you Nita.

Sandy Spring Friends School Students Clean-Up Brighton Dam Road

On April 20, students from Sandy Spring Friends School participated in Earth Stewardship Day, a day dedicated to cleaning up our little part of the planet. All students at SSFS (PK-12) took a break from classes for the day and participated in earth stewardship activities both on campus and in the surrounding communities. Activities included planting gardens and trees, cleaning up trash in the Hawlings and Patuxent Rivers, and picking up trash along roads. Led by resident Bruce Evans, upper school students Auguste Dutcher, Katherine Hofman, Nathan Renner-Johnson, Julia Wilson, Sarah Harshburger, Soyna Keenan, Emma Morehouse, Jill Hayes, and A. Lee Russell picked up trash along Brighton Dam Road just outside Brookeville. Working for a good two hours, the group picked up at least twenty bags of trash and various large car parts. After picking up what they could, the group returned to Bruce's house for lunch, relaxing fun and reflection on the day's activity and caring for the natural beauty of our surroundings. All had a great time and Brighton Dam Road is now a little brighter to travel.

Heritage Days

This year the Town will participate in the County wide Heritage Days, jointly sponsored by the Montgomery County Historical Society and the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County. While the event will include many historic buildings over a two-day weekend on June 26 and 27, Brookeville will participate with its Schoolhouse on Saturday, the 26th from 12:00 to 4:00. While the building may not be completed by that date, there will be photographs of early students and the restoration process, McGuffy Readers, slates for lessons, and other activities. We would like volunteers, including children, to help guide visitors to the school and help at the school. Please call Diane Allan at 301-774-6206 to volunteer

Maryland Hall of Fame for Elected Officials

Town Commissioner and President Rick Allan reaches twenty-one years in elective office this year and his name has been submitted to the Maryland Municipal League for inclusion in the Maryland Hall of Fame for Elected Officials (for service of twenty years or more). He will be formally entered into the Hall at the MML Annual Convention in Ocean City in June. A previous longtime resident and Town Commissioner, Clyde Unglesbee, joined the Hall in 1998

New Planning Commissioner

Fred Teal was appointed to the Planning Commission vacancy created by Debbie Wagner who will be leaving town and relocating. Fred will assume his new duties as "citizen-planner" at the June meeting.

Thank You to Debbie Wagner

Debbie Wagner raised four children with her late husband Bill in Brookeville while residing in the historic former Mrs. Porter's School for Young Ladies on Market Street. That in itself a formidable task, Debbie also served as a Town Commissioner, a member of the Local Advisory Committee that reviewed historic area work permit applications, a participant in the development of the Town's Master Plan, and currently serves as a Planning Commissioner on a very active Planning Commission. Along with Debbie's role in town governance affairs, some of her other talents have been manifested in doing the illustrations of Brookeville historic buildings in the Walking Tour of Historic Brookeville, published in 1994, caring for her horse and a neighbor's sheep herd in addition to her other animals, and the profession of nursing. We thank Debbie for her contributions to Brookeville and wish her the best of luck in the future.

Town Improvements

The Town has a new contractor providing regular maintenance for grassy areas, gutters, and streetscapes for 2004-2005. The State Highway Administration District 3 office at the Town's request recently replaced the old asphalt rolled curbing in front of the Yinger's residence across from Brookeville Road with new concrete curbs. SHA also repaired and reopened a damaged and clogged culvert at the Reddy Branch bridge with a new concrete-faced culvert. The Town contracted with ArborCare to remove two large but deteriorating maple trees on Market Street that had been dropping large branches onto the street and wires for several years. Pepco took down the parts of the tree above its wires. The Brookeville Academy has had the wood floors refinished and the first floor has been painted. The second floor and part of the exterior will be painted later this spring.

Advertisements

Need Your windows cleaned? Call Saul Derr at 410-501-0218, He has done many homes in town including the Brookeville Academy (later this month). Excellent work at very reasonable prices.