

The Brookeville Times

April, 2006

Former Town Commissioner Pam Chandler

We are all deeply saddened by the recent passing of North Street resident Pam Chandler following a long illness. We would like to express our deepest sympathy to her husband, Rich Chandler. Pam served one term as Town Commissioner and was enthusiastic about the town. Pam had a love for horticulture - evident in the plantings and flowers around her house and on North Street. Pam and Suzanne Friis took it upon themselves to beautify the street they lived on. She was also, I'm told, a talented interior designer. For those who attended her viewing and memorial service, it was clear that Pam was an extremely vivacious and full of life person who had an incredible number of friends and admirers. She wrote the following message before she died and requested that it be put in the Town's newsletter:

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who coordinated and prepared food and provided car trips for us during my recent illness.

Pam's brief and simple note written to her neighbors while she knew she had very little time left says much about her life. As I listened to an interview with Art Buchwald tonight on Jim Lehrer's News Hour radio program, I could not help but think of Pam. Buchwald, one of the great journalists and humorists of our time, a columnist I've read and enjoyed for most of my life - an irreplaceable resource, is dying in a hospice with grace, dignity, acceptance and even with humor. He knows pretty much who he is and where he came from. He's even looking forward to a really great memorial service that he and his kids have planned together. I didn't know Pam that well but I would meet her often on my innumerable dog walks up North Street. Most of those walks covered a period of time where Pam was fighting hard against the excruciating illness that would eventually strike her down. She was there always working among her beloved plants, always with a smile, knowing it seems now that this was what was really important and eternal. She seemed to know like Art Buchwald that death is something we all have to face and the best of us do it gently and with love of what and who we leave behind.

Many neighbors have remarked about Pam's enormous courage and grace during her illness - her unflinching spirit. Walter Blank, our schoolhouse restoration contractor, mentioned to me the other day how Pam would frequently talk with him and go out of her way to complement his work. We will all miss Pam.

Richard S. Allan

Brookeville Road and Reddy Branch Improvements Finally Coming. District 2 Councilman Michael Knapp has advised the Town Commissioners that County Highway Services will be "dressing up the shoulders and picking up debris" on Brookeville Road as it intersects with Georgia Avenue (Market Street). Additionally, to help alleviate flooding, they are ordering a box culvert and expect that work to commence this spring/summer. The Town has been seeking to get the intersection cleaned up and redone for several years.

Election in May. A Town Commissioner will be elected on May 9th for a two-year term that will begin in May. Incumbent Town Commissioner Michael Acierno will be seeking reelection. A notice has been mailed out that outlines procedures to follow for residents who may wish to run for the position. Should there be any questions with regard to the election and filing procedures, you may contact Town Clerk, Diane Burr Allan at 301.774.6206.

Thomas Mill Race Site Cleanup Discussions. The Commissioners have been discussing entering into a collaboration with the Montgomery County Conservation Corps that would lead to the clearing and restoration of the Thomas Mill Race on the east side of town. This proposed project would be in part funded by a grant Brookeville received from the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission. We are also hoping to get funding assistance from the Parks Department as well as assistance from WSSC which operates a sewage pumping station near the mill race.