

The Brookeville Times

March 2010

Comprehensive Plan Hearing

The Brookeville Planning Commission held a meeting February 16th to hear public comments regarding the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Brookeville. The proposed changes include the new elements of a Municipal Growth Element and a Water Resources Element as required by Maryland State Law along with other updates to the current Comprehensive Plan.

The Brookeville Planning Commission will work to incorporate suggestions made by Town Residents as well as to make changes recommended by the State for compliance.

A copy of the proposed plan is available on the Town's website at www.townofbrookevillemd.org under the Government section. A copy is also available for review at the Brookeville academy.

What is a Comprehensive Plan? A document, officially adopted by the local governing body, which spells out the manner in which a municipality, county or sub-area of a county must develop. Municipal comprehensive plans must explain how anticipated growth will impact community facilities and the environment, and identify areas where growth will occur. The plan has legal significance in that zoning, provision of water and sewer, and other local actions and other actions must be consistent with its recommendations. The comprehensive plan may also be known as a "master plan", "master development plan" or "comprehensive master plan".

Dear Neighbor,

I want to thank all of the residents of the Town of Brookeville for banding together during one of the worst winters recorded in history. February's back-to-back blizzards buried the Town under a record of more than 40 inches of snow. It was at times frustrating but we endured the epic snow storms together. I saw neighbors helping neighbors and residents joining together like never before. A special Thank You for the good neighbors that helped the senior residents shovel out after a snowfall.

Town Commissioner Election May 11, 2010

There will be an election on May 11, 2010 for one Town Commissioner for a two-year term beginning in June 2010. The position is currently held by Michael Acierno. Should you be interested in participating in the governance of your town and can commit the requisite time and energy, consider running for this very important position.

A notice has been mailed out to all current Town Residents that outlines procedures to follow for residents who may wish to run for the position. Under the Town charter, every person who (a) is a citizen of the US, (b) is at least 18 years of age, (c) has resided within the Town for at least 30 days preceding any Town election, and (d) is registered to vote in Montgomery County or with the Town of Brookeville is eligible. Every registered voter of the Town shall be entitled to vote at any and all Town elections.

Should there be any questions with regard to the election and filing procedures, you may contact Town Clerk Cate McDonald at
301.570.4465

Green Tips of the Month

Leaves for Neighborhoods

Greening Montgomery County by planting trees

To achieve a number of environmental goals in its ongoing efforts to "green" Montgomery County, the Montgomery County Planning Department has launched a tree planting program to encourage residents to plant trees in their yards. Leaves for Neighborhoods features a coupon valid at participating county nurseries. The \$25 discount off trees worth \$75 or more is intended to increase the county's tree canopy on residential property, which will bring a host of environmental benefits. The coupon is available online and at selected area nurseries, Park and Planning headquarters and county park sites. Reimbursement offer expires May 31, 2010.

Environmental benefits of tree planting

- Trees protect soil and help prevent erosion
- Trees absorb carbon dioxide and improve local air quality
- Trees filter storm water runoff to improve local water quality in streams, rivers and tributaries
- Native trees are drought-tolerant and need less water than non-native trees
- Your actions result in proactive environmental stewardship

Economic benefits of tree planting

- Trees can increase residential property values by as much as 15 percent
- Shade trees can lower energy (heating and air-conditioning) costs by 15-30 percent
- Proper placement of trees on your property can block wind, further increasing energy savings

Keep Brookeville Beautiful

The Town of Brookeville contracts out for seasonal landscaping maintenance. Due to cuts in the Highway User Revenue funds the Town receives, the enormous cost for snow removal this winter, and anticipated cost of road repair the Town of Brookeville is not committing to a landscaping contract this year.

The Brookeville Town Commissioners invite all Residents to participate in a Neighborhood Clean Up Day. The tasks are simple: mulching around the schoolhouse, the walking path between North and Water and the trees along Water St; the area around the two Town signs will need to be weeded, edged and mulch applied; prune bushes that obscure road and town signs or obstruct walkways.

Stay tuned for the Neighborhood Clean Up Day date this Spring.

Neighborhood Clean Up Day: It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know your neighbors and beautify your neighborhood at the same time.





Storm Damage?

If you own a historic home in Montgomery County, you are eligible for local tax credits for snowstorm-related repairs. To qualify, the cost of the repair work must exceed \$1,000. The tax credit, applied toward County real property taxes, will equal 10 percent of documented expenses for exterior maintenance, restoration or preservation work. To learn more, or to download an application form, call 301-563-3400 or visit Montgomery Planning's Web page

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

Encouraging News for our Snow Removal Budget

On February 19th, The President declared a major disaster exists in the State of Maryland and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm and snowstorm during the period of December 18-20, 2009.

Federal funding is available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures in the counties of Baltimore, Caroline, Cecil, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, and Queen Anne's. The Town has submitted our snow removal expenses and hopes to recoup some funds. Current snow removal costs for this winter have far exceeded the Town's budgeted amount.

STREET LIGHTS

If you notice a Pepco street light that is out, please look for a metal strip on the wooden pole that has the pole number and report the location of the street light to the Town Clerk. If the wooden pole does not have a pole number, please report the location of the street light.

The Town also operates several cast iron ornamental street lights and 3 wooden ornamental street lights. These ornamental street lights do not have pole numbers. If you notice an ornamental street light that is out, please report the location to the Town Clerk.

Have an Item for The Brookeville Times?

Let us know!! We want to hear about happenings in the Town of Brookeville. You can submit articles/photos about places you've been, work you've done, new neighbors, weddings, birth announcements, anything of interest to you and your neighbors. Contact the Town Clerk at 301-570-4465 or townofbrookeville@comcast.net

Upcoming Dates

Planning Commission Commissioners Meeting	2Mar 7:30pm
Planning Commission Commissioners Meeting	8Mar 8:00pm
Town Election	6Apr 7:30pm
	12Apr 8:00pm
	11May 4:00pm

All meetings and events are held at the Brookeville Academy and are open to the public.

Town of Brookeville P.O. Box 67 Brookeville, MD 20833

President of Commissioners	Michael Acierno	301.260.2897
Commissioner	Bob Heritage	301.774.0457
Commissioner	Katherine Farquhar	240.753.2121
Treasurer	Susan Johnson	301.924.5979
Town Clerk	Cate McDonald	301.570.9119
Academy Manager	Andrea Scanlon	301.260.0246
Town Office		301.570.4465
Town Fax		301.570.0355
Town E-mail address:	townofbrookeville@comcast.net	
Academy E-mail address:	brookevilleacademy@comcast.net	
Town Website:	www.townofbrookevillemd.org	

Snow Removal Information

The Town of Brookeville contracts with a snow plowing service for North, South, Water and Church Streets. During a snowstorm, no plowing begins until an accumulation of 4 inches of snow has fallen on the streets. The Maryland State Highway Administration clears Georgia Avenue (Maryland Route 97) - the Town's High Street and western Market Street and Montgomery County does the same for eastern Market Street where it switches from Brighton Dam Road.

Those residents and businesses with abutting sidewalks are responsible for clearing their sidewalks, driveways and entrances within 24 hours of the end of a snowstorm. All residents are strongly encouraged to be good neighbors by clearing the sidewalks in front of their homes, as well as assisting those who may not be physically able to do so.