

Published
Since 1983

Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

Fall 2022

All Aboard for the Kensington Train Show!!

Saturday and Sunday, **September 10 and 11, 2022**

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day

Kensington Town Hall

3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, Maryland 20895



A Lifetime in Scouting — Troop 439 and John Scheirer

by Antoinette Kranenburg

Citizenship and service to others — those are the basics of Scouting to John Scheirer, the retired Scoutmaster of Boy Scouts of America Troop 439.

The Scheirers lived in the Homewood neighborhood for forty years and raised their two sons there. Before moving to Aberdeen, Maryland, during the 2020 covid pandemic lockdown, John Scheirer spoke about the importance of Scouting and how it shaped his life.

As a child growing up in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Scheirer was in Scouting for ten years. He started as a Cub Scout and made it all the way to Eagle Scout. Along the way he learned the Morse Code, a requirement for the first rank: Scout First Class.

In graduate school Scheirer wanted to get back into Scouting. “How about helping me?” he was asked, “All you do is make phone calls.” Scheirer smiles knowingly.

In 1970 when his number came up first in the draft lottery, Scheirer enlisted in the Navy. When the Navy learned that Scheirer knew Morse Code, he was sent to communication school. Afterward he listened to Vietnam’s communications.

— *Continued on page 2*

Inside this issue: Train Show details...Opera in the Circle...Brisket ROOT & Flavor...
Kensington 8K...Paint the Town Art Show...and more.

THE DITTO GROUP
experience • knowledge • community

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—John Scheirer continued

When Scheirer came to Washington, DC in 1975, Troop 1946 at National Presbyterian Church became his first troop. Richard Bienvenue was his mentor. - “the best troop leader I have known.”

Scheirer took forty Scouts to camp Goshen by himself. It worked because of the excellent training he had received. After three years as assistant, Scheirer became Scoutmaster himself.

Once his two sons, born in 1982 and 1984, were old enough for Cub Scouts, John Scheirer became Cubmaster of Pack 478, which was then based at Oakland Terrace Elementary School.

Scouting is tremendous training, Training in first aid comes first, even for Cub Scouts. In the National Capital Area Council, a Cub Scout saved his mom when she was choking on a pill and couldn't breathe. He saved his mom's life with the Heimlich maneuver he had just learned in Cub Scouts!

Scheirer can see the impact of Scouting on his sons. “Scouting challenges you to try and allows you to fail safely. Getting your buddies to do what you need them to do takes leadership skills and builds confidence. When things don't work out, you learn to ask, ‘why do you think that didn't work?’ instead of yelling.”

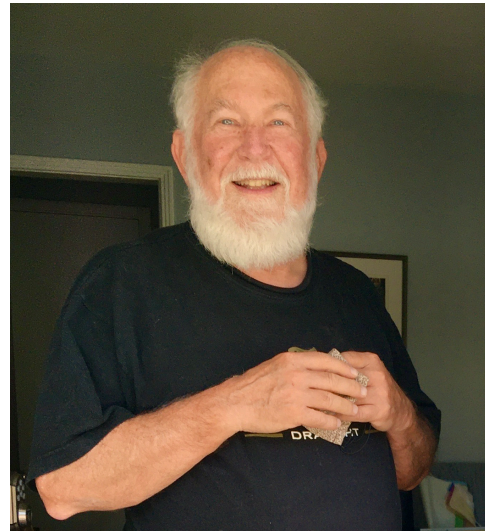
One year the Troop had planned a rafting trip on the Shenandoah. As they biked down to Luray it started raining. Then it poured. The river was too high for rafting. The river rose so much the Scouts camped on picnic tables next to the river. “They talked about that experience forever!” says Scheirer, “You learn that you survive.”

Most recently John Scheirer served as the long-time Scoutmaster of Boy Scouts of America Troop 439, which was formed by the United Methodist Men of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in 1951. The United Methodist Men now also sponsor Pack 478.

The National Capital Area Council counts 50,000 adult leaders, all volunteers. These days Scouting is colored, and youth protective training is a top priority. There are repeated trainings and continuous updating.

Pack 478 and Pack 460 are part of Troop 439. Older boys join the troop at age 11. Troop 439 is an active troop with camping trips, weekend hiking, long distance cycling. By age 14 they need something else – night adventure, caving, rock-climbing, white-water rafting.

To earn the rank of Eagle a Scout completes a community service project. Planning is key says Scheirer, along with being able to adapt, to take leadership of the project effectively, and to tell adults what to do. Nationally only two to three percent of Scouts make Eagle Scout. Troop 439 has two to five Eagle Scouts every year!



John Scheirer, long-time Troop 439 Scoutmaster

Countless young people and parents in the Kensington community are the better for John Scheirer's service to the community and Scouting.

Be sure to visit www.kensington439.mytroop.us. and for more information contact Scoutmaster Tucker Echols at scoutmaster439md@gmail.com.



Troop 439 Scouts at the Train Show Hot Dog stand in 2021

Kensington Train Show details:

The weekend following Labor Day the National Capital Trackers will fill the Town Hall auditorium with multiple layouts of electric trains. They keep the trains running all day past small towns and depots, through tunnels, and over bridges, blowing their whistle.

There is something about trains in action that captures the imagination and puts a smile on your face!

- The ***Orleans Express Band*** performs on Saturday, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- ***Matthew Dodd*** entertains on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with old time railroad songs and stories

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$2 for children and \$15 for a family.

This terrific event benefits the ***Noyes Children's Library Foundation*** and the ***Kensington Historical Society***. Please visit www.noyeslibraryfoundation.org, www.kensingtonhistory.org for information

The Kensington Train Show is sponsored by Gary and Diana Ditto and the Town of Kensington.

Opera in the Circle

Sunday, September 18, 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Warner Circle Park

10231 Carol Place, Kensington, MD 20895

Join the Friends of Warner Circle for an evening of opera in the park! Bring your friends and family and don't forget your chairs, blankets, and picnics. The FREE performance starts at 5 p.m.



Brisket ROOT & Flavor

Food Truck Hours: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

University W Blvd and Lexington St, Kensington

(240) 383-5452



For excellent tacos, sandwiches, burritos, empanadas, check out the bright yellow food truck at the corner of University and Lexington Street in Kensington. The Dittos especially love the the brisket and tacos. "Everything is fresh which adds to the robust flavor."

Kensington 8K 2022

Saturday, September 24

7:45—9:30 a.m.

The 29th annual Kensington 8K Race is a true community event. Parents and children cheer each other on and welcome the visitors running through beautiful Old Town and Rock Creek Park. The 2 Mile Challenge and 1K Fun Run are perfect for families and younger runners.

This year the start and finish line are both next to Town Hall on Armory Avenue. The post-race festival is held at Reinhard Park. The event benefits four local schools in Kensington and Bethesda.

For more information, to register, and to volunteer go to www.kensington8k.org.

QUESTION: Would you like to receive the Ditto Group's newsletter by email? Please email your request to gary@thedittogroup.com.

Coming Up in Kensington:

Sept. 3 to 5 — Paint the Town Labor Day Art Show

Sept. 3 to 5 — Ray Ruskin, Paintings of Our Community

Sept. 5 — Labor Day Parade and Festival 2022

Sept. 10 & 11 — The Kensington Train Show

Sept. 18 — Opera in the Circle

Sept. 24 — Kensington 8K Race

Oct. 2 — Fitness Festival 2022

2022 Paint the Town Art Show

September 3—5, 2022

Kensington Town Hall/Armory

3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895

The three-day Paint the Town Labor Day Show & Sale is one of the longest-running and largest art shows in the region, with hundreds of works by 175 local artists, all members of the Montgomery Art Association (MAA). All works are for sale.

The Artist Marketplace will have small works, prints and notecards for purchase. A portion of sales proceeds supports MAA's arts mission.

Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For details of the Plein Air Competition and art demonstrations visit www.montgomeryart.org

How does the lively buoyancy of children, turn into the stressed and achy stiffness of adults? We are getting in our own way and don't realize it!

Curious? Schedule a **complimentary twenty-minute sample Alexander Technique session** to experience how you might benefit. Limited openings are available .To schedule please email ak@KensingtonAlexander.com,



Love & Respect

Paintings of Our
Community
by Ray Ruskin

September 3–5, 2022

Saturday (noon–5:00 pm)

Sunday (noon–5:00 pm)

Labor Day (9:30 am–5:30 pm)

Fellowship Hall
St. Paul's UMC
10401 Armory Ave.
Kensington, MD 20895

Gary and Diana Ditto's Newsletter welcomes ideas and news from community members. We are grateful to John Scheirer. The editor is Antoinette Kranenburg of Kensington.



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* = We represented the purchaser

The Ditto Group Real Estate Activity



9541 E. Bexhill Dr
Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
Sold - \$1,995,000



9600 E. Bexhill Dr
Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
Sold - \$1,150,000



9910 Old Spring Rd
Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
Active - \$1,149,000



3620 Saul Rd *
Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
Sold - \$1,100,000



2907 Woodstock Ave
Silver Spring/Forest Glen Park
Sold - \$935,000



47 Hamilton St NW *
Washington DC/Petworth
Sold - \$825,000



3918 Spruell Dr
Kensington/Rock Creek Palisades
Sold - \$740,000



11200 Mitscher St
Kensington/Rock Creek Palisades
Under Contract - \$679,000



4111 Byrd Ct
Kensington/Rock Creek Palisades
Sold - \$650,000