

Published  
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# Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

Summer 2022

## Saturday Morning is Market Time in Kensington

By Antoinette Kranenburg

"The lettuce doesn't taste like plastic!" says Sarah Preston. "The flavor takes me back to childhood and the lettuce from my Mom's Victory Garden." Preston is a para-educator and Green School coordinator at Oakland Terrace Elementary School.

"I get every bit of fruit and vegetables for the whole week here" pointing to her full rolling basket. "Everything is organic and humanely raised. It is healthy and worth it." She gets a head of lettuce for each day of the week and more from **Rabbit Hill Farms**, the Hilker family's market stand.

The Kensington Farmers Market is held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and most vendors are year-round. Unlike many farmers markets, the Town does not take a percentage of sales. The market is not-for-profit and held for the community.



John and Katie Hilker—Rabbit Hill Farm

Shirley Watson, the Town's Facilities Manager, manages the market and finds the vendors. There is littler turnover and there are waiting lists for openings. "The market has grown so much the past couple of years" says Watson. "Everyone is so nice and professional." Every vendors has a different specialty and their own loyal customers.

—Continued on page 2

Inside this issue:...Kensington Row Bookshop...the Kensington Train Show...High Flyers! by Ann McCallum Staats...Dehumidifiers...and more.

THE DITTO GROUP  
experience • knowledge • community

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—Farmers Market continued

Dogs are welcome at the market, which is rare according to Watson. The open set-up gives everyone a line of sight, allows for distancing, and keeps it uncrowded and calm enough for dogs.

John Hilker of **Rabbit Hill Farm** is an original vendor, one of two stands when the Kensington Farmers Market opened over twenty years ago. “John is part of this town.” says Watson. “If he is not there, people ask me if he is okay.” That goes both ways. Customers become like friends. If they don’t show the Hilkers wonder if they are alright, especially with the pandemic.

From the time he worked mowing grass as a youngster, Hilker wanted to some acreage of his own. He was looking to buy a piece of property, when he learned of a new market starting in Kensington. That was the start of **Rabbit Hill Farm**.

Soon the Hilkers installed a septic tank and a trailer. “The septic tank cost \$10,000 and our first home \$1,000!” he smiles. Five years later when their oldest was born, a prefab house replaced the trailer.

Rabbit Hill Farm is a family effort. Both sons pitch in. On Fridays, Katie Hilker gets up at midnight to get the orders ready to be loaded onto the truck in time for the two-hour drive from Spring Grove, Pennsylvania, down to Kensington. Their oldest son Sam helps out at the market. By the time they pack up after the market, and get everything unloaded and put away at home, it is 5 o’clock.

**Dimitri Olive Farms** and **The Roaming Stone** joined the market this spring.



Retirement made space for **Dimitri Olive Farms** with unfiltered extra virgin olive oils, various olives, vinegars, tapenades and spreads. The olives are from groves on hillsides just south of Sparta, Greece, that have been in the Dimitri Giannakos family over 200 years. For details, history, and charming family photos visit [www.dimitriolivefarms.com](http://www.dimitriolivefarms.com).



Eduardo Pineda and Todd Tecato — **The Roaming Stone**

**The Roaming Stone** is the new sharpening service. Bring your straight edge and serrated knives, scissors, tools, and blades for professional, on-the-spot sharpening by Pineda and Tecato. Their friend Matt Konkle, a professional chef, created the business when he had tough time getting knives and tools sharpened properly and conveniently. For details visit [www.roamingstone.net](http://www.roamingstone.net).



## The Kensington Historical Society's **Free Summer Concert Series**

Saturdays, 10 to 11 a.m.  
Howard Avenue Park

Congratulations to the Kensington Parkwood Elementary School Choir! **The KP Singers** opened the 2022 concert series.

Blues, folk, jazz, roots rock, swing, bluegrass, Americana, string band — there will be live music to enjoy and get you moving opposite the Farmers Market at the Kensington Train Station. For the schedule of musical acts and address and links for the wonderful concert sponsors visit [www.kensingtonhistory.org](http://www.kensingtonhistory.org).

## Congratulations Class of 2022!



**Gary Ditto on:**

### Dehumidifiers and Humidifiers

My semi-retired HVAC technician, Ken Tindle, informed me that our furnace, at 25 years of age, was old but functioning well (like me.). He explained that he often must replace furnaces at “mid-life” due to the accumulation of rust formed in damp basements. Ken highly recommends running a dehumidifier during the warm months. The dehumidifier will pull two to four gallons of water out of the air per day, which will keep the air dry, and will reduce mold and odors. A dehumidifier can be easily purchased at a hardware store or online for about \$300.00. It is well worth it.

This winter we duly activated our humidifier, but Diana still noticed dry skin and cracked fingernails. After some trial and error, we purchased a new humidifier for \$550.00. Quickly the house seemed warmer. Ken explained that the humidifier was putting moisture back into the air whereas, earlier, the dry forced-air heat was extracting moisture from our bodies. What a wonderful difference! Diana and I love our new humidifier. Contact Ken Tindle at 301-367-2596.

### Kensington Row Bookshop

3786 Howard Ave, Kensington, MD 20895



Elisenda Sole’s Kensington Row Bookshop speaks of creativity and quality, from the excellent selection which appeals to diverse tastes and ages, to the vivid new mural out front. The Bookshop carries quality used, new, and unusual books, as well as posters, cards, journals, ephemera, and some puzzles, games, and literary gifts.

The unique Pauli Bellet Foundation Catalan Library upstairs is dedicated to Catalonia and Catalan authors, mostly in Catalan.

Opening hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 11 to 5, Sunday from 11 to 4, and until 8 on third Thursdays - KTown Food Truck Night.

Ordering online at <https://bookshop.org/shop/KensingtonRowBookshop> supports independent bookshops and is “very efficient” according to a pleased book club member. Make sure Kensington Row Bookshop is at the top of the order page to support this Kensington gem!

### The Kensington Train Show!

Save the dates! September 10 and 11, 2022

This terrific family event benefits the Noyes Library Foundation and the Kensington Historical Society two key volunteer organizations in the community.

Kyle Carmen, now a Capitol Tracker, came to the very first Kensington Train Show in 2011 and every show after that.



### Kensington Inaugural Juneteenth Celebration

Saturday, June 18, 2022, 12 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

St. Paul Park, 10564 St. Paul Street

Family Fun with a purpose, sponsored by the Racial Justice Committee and the Town of Kensington. Bring your lawn chairs! Rain Date: Sunday, June 19, 2022.

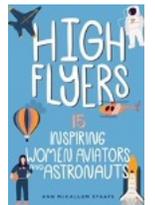
### High Flyers:

#### 15 Inspiring Women Aviators and Astronauts

By Ann McCallum Staats

They did *what*? They went *where*? In this newest title in the “Women of Power” series, Ann McCallum Staats takes you soaring beside Black Hawk helicopter pilot turned politician Tammy Duckworth, hot air balloonist Edgora McEwan, the Coast Guard’s Ronaqua Russell, the first African American female awarded the prestigious Air Medal, and astronauts such as Ellen Ochoa and Karen Nyberg. Ann’s insider’s view of fifteen courageous women leaders, who persevered and endured, insisting on success, is based on personal interviews and extensive research. Ann reveals how each ultimately succeeded in her path to flight.

Ann McCallum Staats spent decades in Kensington, teaching math at North Chevy Chase elementary, then moving onto high school. Retired now, she focuses on family and writing. She believes that dreams are possible—sometimes you have to fly outside the lines!



How does the light and lively bounciness 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 through July. Email Antoinette at [ak@KensingtonAlexander.com](mailto:ak@KensingtonAlexander.com)



Gary and Diana Ditto’s Newsletter welcomes ideas and news from community members. We are grateful to John Hilker and Shirley Watson. 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  
Under Contract - \$1,995,000



**9701 Connecticut Ave**  
Kensington/Larchmont Knolls  
Sold - \$1,350,000



**9910 Old Spring Rd**  
Kensington/Rock Creek Hills  
Active - \$1,250,000



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



**2907 Woodstock Ave**  
Silver Spring/Forest Glen Park  
Active - \$949,000



**9904 Capitol View Ave**  
Silver Spring/Capitol View Park  
Sold - \$810,000



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



**4111 Byrd Ct**  
Kensington/Rock Creek Palisades  
Under Contract - \$670,000



**5225 Pooks Hill Rd 1803N \***  
Bethesda/The Promenade  
Sold - \$139,000