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Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

May 2014

A Milestone on the Road to Rehabilitation of the Historic Brainard Warner Manor



Montgomery Parks and the **Kensington Historical Society** hosted a grand community celebration Saturday May 17, on the grounds at the Historic Brainard Warner Manor. On a perfect spring day, many families and officials enjoyed a brief speaking program followed by music, refreshments, and games.

The reason to celebrate? The rehabilitation of the exterior of the historic home of Brainard Warner and the surrounding park! The first phase of the project is complete and much has been accomplished. The exterior is now again as it was in 1914.

The Parks Department undertook roof repairs, repainting the Manor and Carriage Barn in the original colors, planting and maintaining the grounds, and most striking, the nursing home wings added in the 1960s have been removed and replaced with walls based on 1914 alteration plans for the house.

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- *Celebration continued.*

On the Manor's rehabilitated back porch, Director of Parks Mary Bradford remarked on the very large project. She was joined by Mayor Peter Fosselman; Town Council members Tracey Furman, Darin Bartram, and Paul Sexton; County Council members Nancy Floreen and Roger Berliner; State Senator Rich Madaleno; State Delegates Al Carr, Ana Sol Gutierrez, and Jeff Waldstreicher; and Julia O'Malley, President of the Kensington Historical Society (KHS).

It was a wonderful celebration of the results of years of hard work, planning, and collaboration on the part of many — the Town of Kensington, County Parks, County and State representatives, and the Kensington community. The historic district designation, championed by KHS, was critical to the project, as were the 750 residents who rallied to preserve the estate. Young violinist Zofia Cieslak performed, John Doherty Presented the Parks Department with a poster signed by the attendees, and the children of Brookewood School presented a painting of Warner Manor.

The Noyes Library Foundation organized family friendly games popular in the 1890's. Children played croquet, rolled hoops, held bag races and enjoyed ice cream and popcorn. Refreshments were served, the table set by Sigrid Doherty and Mary Buckingham of KHS with silver and beautiful flowers.

Still to come is the rehabilitation of the interior — preserving the woodwork, fireplace and staircase on the first floor, and reconfiguring the second floor, which was divided into small rooms and bathrooms in the nursing home years.

Plans are for a public exhibit space to highlight the history of the site, a meeting room that will also be available for public use, and offices for the Department of Parks.

The grand Queen Anne house was built in 1891/92 by Brainard Warner, the founder of Kensington, as his summer residence in the country near Washington. He enjoyed entertaining family, friends, and public figures in this beautiful home. The existing barn sheltered carriages.

The front parlor fireplace features the carving of an owl, the twin of the owl over the entrance of the Noyes Library. Brainard Warner, banker and real estate broker, donated land and built the library, named for his friend Crosby Noyes, editor/publisher of the *Washington Evening Star*.

For more about the history of Warner Manor read the KHS newsletter on www.kensingtonhistory.org

The PEP 2014 Can Do Kids Fair

It is surprising what kids can do!

Some 600 people, young and old, gathered at PEP, the Parent Encouragement Program, this spring for the annual Can Do Kids Fair. Adult volunteers introduced vital skills to teens and preteens, who then taught eager 3 to 10 year olds.

Children vacuumed and swept, sewed scarves and buttons, greased bikes, polished shoes, planted potatoes, practiced table setting and manners, learned how to look both ways before crossing a street, did carpentry and more.



Children identified what was wrong with a messy family room or kitchen, made a plan and then worked together to clean up the mess in 5 minutes or less!

It is a Fair like none other. Cheryl Wieker, PEP's director, explains its popularity this way: "The Fair is a unique opportunity for children and parents to learn together the many things children can do, often at a much earlier age than their parents suspect.



PEP (the Parent Encouragement Program) is based in Kensington at 10100 Connecticut Avenue. Visit www.PEPparent.org for details about PEP's highly regarded parenting classes, or call 301-929-8824.

Congratulations to Danila Sheveiko of

Kensington Heights! Ms Sheveiko was awarded the **Wayne Goldstein Award** by the Montgomery County Civic Federation for her outstanding public service to the people of Montgomery County.



Saturday Morning Concerts

Howard Avenue, 10 to 11 a.m.

Enjoy live music outdoors every Saturday 10-11 a.m. starting June 7 through September 27th across from the Farmers' Market at the Train Station. The free outdoor concerts are presented by the Kensington Historical Society. A different band plays each Saturday. The line-up for June is as follows:

June 7 Scrub Pines

June 14 Dixieland Express

June 21 Rita Clarke & the Naturals

June 28 Janine Wilson & Max Evans



For more details please check www.kensingtonhistory.org.

Colleen's BA 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk



Please join the first annual Colleen's BA 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk to benefit the Colleen Mitchel Memorial Fund. The Fund was established in memory of Colleen Mitchel, who was born with liver disease

(biliary atresia or BA) in 1993, had a liver transplant at 7 months old, and died last year at 19 years old from complications due to liver disease, while awaiting another liver transplant.

Proceeds from the event will support biliary atresia (BA) research at the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Liver Center in Baltimore, MD. The run is sponsored by Grace Episcopal Day School, 9411 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington. For details and to register please visit www.colleensba5k.org.

E-Mail Updates from The Ditto Group—

Sign up for either or both of these updates:

- Our Monthly Sold Reports, sent via e-mail
- Our weekly "Open House" e-mail

You choose what to sign up for and you can always unsubscribe. Sign up on our home page:
www.thedittogroup.com.

For dates and news of more events, be sure to visit the Community Activities Calendar on the web site:

www.thedittogroup.com

Gary and Diana Ditto's Newsletter welcomes ideas and news items from community members. The editor is Antoinette Kranenburg of Kensington, assisted by Cherry Wunderlich. Many thanks to Julia O'Malley.

Kensington Arts Theatre Presents

Les Misérables

Kensington Town Hall / Armory
3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895

Epic and uplifting, *Les Misérables* is set during the French Revolution. The musical is a powerful affirmation of the human spirit and a popular masterpiece. Performances continue through Saturday, May 24. For tickets and more information about this and future productions, please visit www.katonline.org.



You are invited!

Join the Kensington Historical Society, a great group dedicated to celebrating, recording, preserving and sharing the history of our community.

For more about the interesting history of Warner Manor see the latest KHS newsletter by Julia O'Malley.

Visit www.kensingtonhistory.org

Vita M. Sims - Recent Landscapes

May 2-31, 2014

The Villages of Rockville,
The National Lutheran Home, Lang Hall
9701 Veirs Dr. Rockville, MD 20850,

Lifelong Kensington resident Vita Sims loves to paint *plein air*. "All your senses come alive with the beauty of nature, when I paint outdoors." Her art show, **Recent Landscapes**, presents 35 selected paintings with scenes of Maine, Virginia, Colorado, and Wyoming. The exhibit is on view through the month of May at the Villages of Rockville.
Phone: 301-424-9560



