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Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

Summer 2015

A New Ambulance for Kensington Volunteer Fire Department *Community Support Is Helping It Happen*

In support of the purchase of a new ambulance for the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) Station 5, Mr Wash of Kensington is having Car Wash Service Marathon fundraising event on Saturday and Sunday, July 25 and 26. (See the box on page 2 for details)

The contract is signed and now the \$238,000 ambulance needs to be built and equipped to meet county specifications. The KVFD relies on donations from the community and grants. KVFD President Steve Semler has made it his goal to receive the new ambulance without any debt.

Mr Wash is a third generation family business, which had its start in suburban Maryland in 1958. It has served Kensington in the same location since 1972. "Our Kensington car wash is our longest running facility," said Nathan Harris, Chief Operating Officer of Mr Wash, "We are committed to supporting the town of Kensington and KVFD in acquiring a new state-of-the-art ambulance."

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Looking spic and span --the KVFD fleet in front of the Fire House on Connecticut Avenue in the 1940ies. Photo courtesy of the KVFD and the Kensington Historical Society.

THE DITTO GROUP
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- KVFD Continued

The new ambulance will have full life-support equipment, which will make it possible to start some critical procedures on board, even before arrival at an emergency room. The vehicle will also be heavier duty and more comfortable for patients than the ambulance it will replace.

This year KVFD celebrates the 90th anniversary of its incorporation on January 8, 1925. One of Kensington's oldest and dearest institutions, the fire company was active years before then.

In October 1899, after fire destroyed the Montgomery Press Office and the Town Hall, citizens met and created the Kensington Fire Company. They elected Mr. Leslie Maxson chief and instructed him to organize a fire company right away. Read more of this local history at www.kvfd.org and in the May 2002 issue of this newsletter at www.thedittogroup.com.

KVFD Station 5 on Connecticut Avenue at Plyers Mill Road is the only volunteer fire and rescue service in Montgomery County that owns all of its fire and EMS response apparatus, in its own building at Station 5. It is also the only station that operates 70% of all shifts per week with 100% volunteer staffing of all fire and EMS operations.

Station 5 has the county's only Advanced Life Support Response Vehicle, a specially equipped Suburban with a driver and paramedic, which can respond more quickly than an ambulance. The equipment fleet also includes a \$600,000 new fire engine, a \$1 million new tower fire engine with pneumatic ladder that can extend 10 stories high, a rapid response ambulance, a canteen to support the force with hydration and food, plus four chief and deputy chief emergency response vehicles.

When you see a fire department vehicle marked 705, it tells you it is stationed at Station 5. The number 7 stands for Montgomery County and 05 for Station 5. The KVFD also includes Station 18 in Glenmont, which will be replaced south of Georgia Avenue and Randolph Road; Station 21 at Veirs Mill and Gaynor Roads; and Station 28 at Connecticut Avenue and Bel Pre Road.

The County Council kicked off the fundraising campaign with a \$1,000 check. In March, Blue Dog Boarding and Daycare teamed up with the KVFD to hold a weekend-long Dog Wash and Dry Marathon, donating all the proceeds of their "Bathaton," raising over \$2,600! Local restaurants are donating a percentage of their proceeds.

In the words of KVFD's Fire Chief, Jayme Heflin, a third generation volunteer: "Help us serve you better with a new ambulance by supporting the Mr Wash fundraiser!"

Donations can also be made online at www.kvfd.org and earmarked for the new ambulance.

Ktown Food Truck Night

1st and 3rd Thursdays 5 to 8 p.m.

Armory Avenue

Bring the family for Food Truck Night! Every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 5 - 8 p.m. through October, four or more food trucks bring their delicious fare to Kensington and set up along Armory Avenue, behind the Safeway.

Food Truck Night is sponsored by the Kensington Business District Association. The event started off in May, well received by contented diners, who enjoyed their meals at tables set up in the parking lot in front of JennyCakes Bakery, Gala, and Frankly Pizza at 10417 and 10419 Armory Avenue.

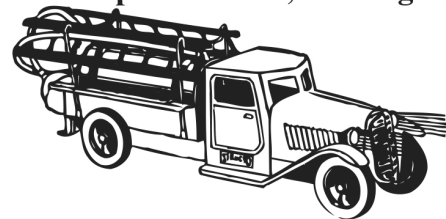


Car Wash Service Marathon Weekend at MR WASH

July 25 - 26 (rain date August 1-2)

8:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

3817 Dupont Avenue, Kensington



Support the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department with purchase of a new \$238,000 ambulance and enjoy the pleasure of a professionally cleaned car. In 1983, MR WASH Car Wash was the first car wash operator in the Washington, D.C.-area to implement an all cloth, soft brushless car wash system.

The fundraiser features 2 services:

- Mr Wash's new "Mr Wash IT" service which features a soft cloth exterior car wash, glass cleaning, hand applied high gloss exterior finish, vacuum car interior, hand applied tire shine and "wheel brite" cleaning. This custom service is only \$45 and half of the proceeds will go to KVFD for the purchase of the new ambulance.

- Mr Wash "Full Service" which includes soft cloth exterior wash, exterior wipe down, interior vacuum, windows washed inside and out. This custom service starts at \$22, and a portion will go to KVFD to support the purchase of the new ambulance.

20th Annual Fourth of July Children's Bike Parade

Decorate your bike, scooter, wagon, or stroller and follow a Kensington Volunteer Fire



Department truck through the streets of Kensington! The bike parade starts at 10 a.m. at St. Paul Park. Please line up by 9:45 if you would like to participate.

SPOTLIGHT ON :

Blue Dog Boarding & Daycare

4101 Howard Avenue

Blue Dog Boarding & Daycare moved from Rockville to Kensington and opened in December at its much larger facility at 4101 Howard Avenue. Services include dog and cat boarding, dog daycare, and dog grooming. Opening hours are 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day. More at www.Dogboarding.net.

Blue Dog partnered with the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department and held a hugely successful fundraising Dog Wash & Dry Marathon in March. All proceeds, well over \$2,000, were donated to the KVFD for the purchase of the new ambulance.



Villages of Kensington Update



The Villages of Kensington (VoK) wanted to start small, with only three Kensington neighborhoods -- Kensington Heights, Rock Creek Hills, and Ken-Gar. In response to strong interest from residents in other 20895 neighborhoods, a meeting will be held in June to discuss adding other 20895 communities with Pazit Aviv, Montgomery County's Villages coordinator, current Steering Committee members, and representatives from at least 3 other Kensington-area communities.

VoK is building a supportive, intergenerational network of neighbors helping neighbors in Kensington. The plan is to provide members of all ages with a variety of services and opportunities for social engagement, by using a combination of volunteer and professional services and referrals. VoK is not open for business yet, but it's getting closer.

Check www.villagesofkensingtonmd.org, the new VoK website, for updates and for the survey about the kinds of help Kensington residents would like to receive or provide, as well as social or educational activities they would enjoy.

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.

Dinosaurs, Reptiles, Magic!

Mark your calendar for three exciting programs for children and families, sponsored by Friends of the Kensington Park Library. All at Kensington Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street.

Dinosaur! – Monday, July 20th, 11 a.m. - noon

Learn how scientists prove the existence of dinosaurs and what we know about their lifestyles. Presented by the Maryland Science Center.

Reptiles Alive! – Wednesday, August 12th, 11 a.m. - noon

A wildly exciting and educational reptile show that introduces awesome reptiles from all over the world.

Shazam Magic – Thursday, August 13th, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The Magic of Peter Woods, whose energy lets him connect with children of all ages and whose polish and showmanship go beyond entertainment.



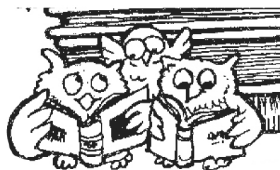
Summer Outdoor Concerts

Saturdays, 10 to 11 a.m.

Howard Avenue Park

The Kensington Historical Society's Free Summer Concert Series is back, bringing live music to Howard Avenue Park, every Saturday from 10 to 11a.m.

The concert series was founded by the late Wat Stewart to bring the community together in a joyful way. Howard Avenue Park is across from the Kensington Farmers' Market at the Train Station. The concerts continue through September 26th and feature a different group each week. Check www.kensingtonhistory.org or the Kensington Historical Society Facebook page for the featured musicians.



Read-a-thon Raises Funds for

Noyes Renovation

Congratulations to the young readers who participated in the Pennies-a-Page Read-a-thon. Together they read more than 15,000 pages and collected more than \$1,000 from their sponsors, for the *Make MORE Noyes Campaign!* The readers celebrated with other friends of Noyes at a family dance party at Kensington Town Hall on April 25.

You are invited to name the carved wise owl, who has lived over the library doorway for 122 years. While Noyes Library was given a fresh coat of paint recently, Kensington artist Gloria Capron gave the owl a bright new feather coat. At www.noyeslibraryfoundation.org you can suggest a name for the owl.

The Noyes Children's Library Foundation is an all-volunteer nonprofit that works to support Noyes. It launched the *Make MORE Noyes Campaign* to fund a major renovation of the library, and make it accessible to those with physical disabilities. To get involved as a volunteer and to join the Board visit www.noyeslibraryfoundation.org.



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4312 Glenridge Street
 Kensington/CH CH View
 FOR SALE - \$ 895,000



4300 Dunnel Lane
 Kensington/Rck Crk Highlands
 UNDER CONTRACT - \$ 795,000



9604 Cable Drive
 Kensington/Rock Crk Highlands
 FOR SALE - \$ 795,000



4502 Franklin Street
 Kensington/Parkwood
 FOR SALE - \$ 714,000



3309 Geiger Avenue
 Kensington/Kensington View
 FOR SALE - \$ 709,900



10217 Menlo Avenue
 Silver Spring/Cap View Park
 FOR SALE - \$ 675,000



10110 Parkwood Drive
 Bethesda/Parkwood
 UNDER CONTRACT - \$ 665,000



3417 Oberon Street
 Kensington/Kensington
 FOR SALE - \$ 539,000



11100 Kensington Blvd
 Kensington/North Kensington
 FOR SALE - \$ 419,000



3906 Lawrence Avenue
 Kensington/Rck Crk Palisades
 FOR SALE - \$ 349,000



3009 Jennings Road
 Kensington/Oakland Terrace
 FOR SALE - \$ 307,000



3333 University Blvd # 1106
 Kensington/The Waterford
 FOR SALE - \$ 159,000



4106 Knowles Avenue
 Kensington/Warners Add
 SOLD in JUNE - \$ 539,000



2504 Jennings Road
 Silver Spring/Stephen Knolls
 SOLD FOR BUYER
 JUNE - \$ 450,000