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Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

March 2016

"It's About People Looking Out For Each Other"

Meals on Wheels Welcomes Volunteers

by Antoinette Kranenburg

The volunteers for our local Meals on Wheels deliver hot nutritious meals over the lunch hour, to homebound neighbors in our community. Our local Meals on Wheels works out of the kitchen of Temple Emmanuel at 10101 Connecticut Avenue in Kensington and is one of the few to prepare fresh meals.

The cook is the only employee. Everyone else volunteers. Five days a week, Monday through Friday, volunteers help prepare, package, and deliver one hot and one cold meal. Meals include lunch with a hot entrée, vegetable and starch, milk, and a sandwich to eat later, as well as salad, dessert, fruit, and juice.

Our local Meals on Wheels program serves 80 people in the community, who are homebound and unable to stand and cook for themselves.

"It's about people looking out for each other," says Kathy Serabian. Kathy started volunteering 10 years ago. She is now the volunteer chair for Meals on Wheels of Wheaton and Kensington.

Every weekday morning from 9 to 11 a.m., four "packers" help assemble the sandwiches and pack the meals. Then, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., five teams of two volunteers each deliver the food and visit briefly to make sure that the person is okay. For many people, it is the only contact of the day.

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- *Meals on Wheels Continued*

The five routes serve all of Kensington and parts of Wheaton, along Connecticut and Georgia Avenues up to Leisure World.

"It is very satisfying to help someone stay in their own home, and to help their families care for them at home," says Kathy. There is also the wonderful camaraderie among volunteers.

It takes many volunteers to staff the program. Retirement or illness means that new volunteers are needed for a 2-hour commitment. Any amount of time is welcome, once a month or twice a week.

Some have volunteered for 40 years or so, from the time the organization was established here.

"It is one place where people are always glad to see you," says Priscilla Nakamura, who started volunteering in 1975. A friend asked her, and together they recruited neighbors. Her church took on the first and third Thursday of the month. At the time, she worked part time as a nurse, on Thursday and Friday nights from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and every other Monday, but on Thursday mornings she could volunteer, while her children were in school.

Now that she has retired to Riderwood, she volunteers once a month. She likes the people, likes to keep busy, and it is a way to keep in touch with her friends in Kensington.

When she brings the meals, she might take a moment for a brief chat. If no one answers the door, a neighbor may take the meal in, or she may notify the family.

"It is the need," she explains, "not the money." She remembers a lady with 2 broken arms, who could not shop, drive, or cook.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please call 301-942-1111 or email MOWofWheaton@gmail.com.

Spring Mulch Sales

Support your High School Students and get ready for spring:

Albert Einstein High School Booster Club

Place your mulch order at www.aehsboosters.com by Tuesday, March 14 for pick up or delivery on Saturday, March 19th 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Sports Boosters

Go to www.bccmulch.com and place your order by Thursday, March 17th. Pick up your mulch at B-CC on Sunday, March 20th or have it delivered on Saturday or Sunday, March 19th or 20th.

Walter Johnson High School Booster Club

The annual mulch sale takes place in late March or early April. For updates, visit www.wjboosterclub.com or e-mail mulchsale@wjboosterclub.com.



Kensington Celebrates

The International
**DAY
OF THE
BOOK**

**Street Festival
Sunday, April 24, 2016**

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Howard Avenue
Old Town Kensington

Author readings, storytellers, poetry readings, open mic, activities for children and adults. It is Kensington's 11th International Day of the Book street festival!

Meet local authors, book artists, publishers, booksellers, and literary groups. They will show, sell, and discuss their works along Howard Avenue in Old Town Kensington.

The Master of Ceremonies will be *Steve Piacente*, Executive Communication Coach, award-winning author and a former journalist.

Among this year's special guests are:

Michael Dirda, Pulitzer Prize-winning literary journalist and book reviewer for The Washington Post, who will talk about his new book, *Browsings: A Year of Reading, Collecting, and Living with Books*.

Charles McGee, Col. USAF (Ret), who received his silver wings as a single engine pilot on 30 June 1943, graduating at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama, in Class 43-F. A career officer in the United States Air Force for 30 years, he flew a U.S. Air Force record of 409 fighter combat missions in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Peter Cozzens, the author of sixteen critically acclaimed books on the American Civil War and the American West.

Frances Frost, the author of *Life in Spades*, the blog *Just Piddlin'* and an independent publisher

Ray Locker, author of *Nixon's Gamble: How a President's Own Secret Government Destroyed His Administration* and the Washington enterprise editor for USA Today.

There will be children's and young adult authors, a poetry stage, a craft fair, music, demonstrations, family activities, fabulous food!

The Nighthawks and the Rock-a-Sonics will perform.

There will be "food talk" and cooking demonstrations with *Jonathan Bardzik* and other cookbook and culinary authors.

The Sense and Sustainability Green Fair will feature authors of books on gardening, nature, and sustainability.

International Chess Master *Allan Savage* will play six to eight challengers simultaneously.

Check www.dayofthebook.com for updates. □

To participate or become a sponsor contact Elisenda Sola-Sole, Festival Director, at 301-949-9416 or email kensingtonbookfestival16@gmail.com

The British Players present:

Calendar Girls

March 4 – 19, 2016
Kensington Town Hall
3710 Mitchell Street

Calendar Girls is based on the true story of eleven members of the Women's Institute, who posed nude for a calendar to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund. Since Calendar Girls opened in 2009, it has become the fastest selling play in British theatre history.

Performances start March 4th. Performance times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, March 19 and Sundays, March 6 and 13 at 2:00 pm. You can buy your tickets online at www.britishplayers.org.



Baklava Couture

Traditional & modern Greek
Artisan Bakery
10560 Metropolitan Avenue
Kensington

Stop by Baklava Couture's new carry-out kitchen for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert.

This Greek bakery started out by specializing in a variety of baklava sold at area farmer's markets. The menu has evolved to offer a range of classic Greek baked goods, both sweet and savory. Some are based on family recipes, and some have a modern twist.

Talia's Cuzina shares the space, offering made-to-order lunch and dinner items available for carry-out, delivery, and catering.

Open Monday to Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Talia's Cuzina menu begins at 11 a.m.) For more information, go to www.baklavacouture.com.

E-Mail Updates from The Ditto Group—

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- Our Monthly Sold Reports, sent via e-mail
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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.



The PEP "Can Do Kids" Fair

Saturday, March 12, 2016
General public: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
PEP Members: 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

At the Parent Encouragement Program's annual Can Do Kids Fair, the fun is in the work.

Children learn practical new skills and demonstrate the ones they already know — hammering a nail, using a sewing machine, painting, vacuuming, people skills, sewing on a button, making a nutritious snack, and much more.

Families work and learn together. Activities at the fair are geared to children age 3 to 10, with a parent. Middle and high school students can participate as volunteers and earn community service hours.

The fair takes place at the Parent Encouragement Program, located in the Kensington Baptist Church, 10100 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington. Admission is \$15 per person, or \$50 maximum per family. For PEP members, admission is \$13.50 per person, or \$45 maximum per family. There is no charge for children under 3.

The Fair sells out in advance so don't wait! To register or for more information, visit www.PEPparent.com or call 301-929-8824.

3rd Annual Kensington Car Show

April 3, 2016, (Rain date April 10)
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

3794 Howard Avenue Kensington

Automobiles and motorcycles will star at the 3rd Annual Kensington Car Show, from classics to today's custom and sport models. It will be fun for the family, with live music, children's activities, and delicious food.

More at www.kensingtoncarshow.com.



2016 Holy Redeemer Shamrock-n-Roll!

Saturday, March 19th



This year "A Night in New Orleans" is the backdrop to a fun night of fundraising, great food, music, and the always thrilling live auction. Laissez les bons temps rouler! (Let the Good Times Roll!)

The Shamrock-n-Roll is hosted biennially to support Holy Redeemer School at 9715 Summit Avenue, Kensington. For tickets to the event and the raffle go to www.hrcardinals.com/srr.

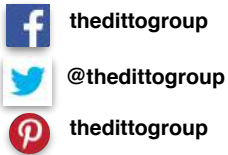


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The Ditto Group Real Estate Activity



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3814 Washington Street
Kensington-Kensington
List Price - \$ 1,195,000



UNDER CONTRACT

4109 Dana Court
Kensington/Byeforde
List Price - \$ 1,050,000



UNDER CONTRACT

4518 Chase Avenue
Bethesda/Westboro
List Price - \$ 1,050,000



UNDER CONTRACT

4013 Glenrose Street
Kensington/Chevy Chase View
FOR SALE - \$ 995,000



4404 Colchester Drive
Kensington/Kensington Estates
FOR SALE - \$ 939,000



3603 Dundee Driveway
Chevy Chase/N Ch Ch-Kenilworth
FOR SALE - \$ 799,900



UNDER CONTRACT

3417 Oberon Street
Kensington/Kensington
List Price - \$ 510,000



3902 Spruell Court
Kensington/Rock Creek Palisades
FOR SALE - \$ 449,000



4104 Mitscher Court
Kensington/Rock Creek Palisades
FOR SALE - \$ 420,000