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Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

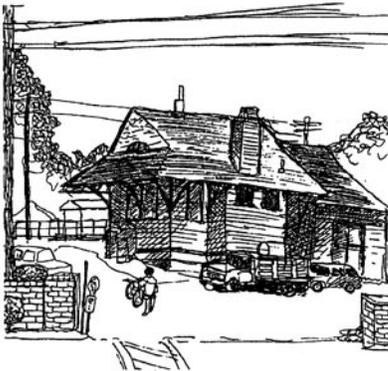
Summer 2010

The Story of the Kensington Train Station

Before the Civil War, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company decided to build a "metropolitan branch." The new branch would go from the city of Washington across the Maryland farmland to Point of Rocks, Maryland, near the Potomac River and some 40 miles away to the northwest of Washington.

The planners decided on a total of 20 stops — one of them to be where the railroad would cross the road called the Bethesda-Bladensburg Road. That stop is now known as the Kensington Train Station on Howard Avenue in Old Town, Kensington.

Construction on the new rail line started in 1866. By 1873, more than 42 miles of track were in place. Passenger service began when a train made its first run through the county on May 25, 1873.



A local newspaper commented:

"Well, the Metropolitan Branch Railroad is at last completed and the regular passenger trains have commenced running. Many... assembled at the depot to witness the iron-horse as he went dashing by.... The great work has been accomplished, and our people may bid farewell to slow coaches and muddy roads — they can now go to Washington in 45 minutes at a cost of 60 cents."

— continued on page 2

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Kensington Train Station —continued

Like trains today, the trains of that early era offered passengers some choices of tickets and rates. A ticket for the 11-mile trip from Knowles Station to downtown Washington cost 35 cents. Or you could buy an excursion ticket, a monthly ticket, a school ticket, a quarterly ticket, or a family ticket.

The railroad's timetable urged people to come live in what is now the Kensington area. The land, the author said, has "almost perfect natural drainage, abounds in springs of purest water, is traversed by smooth and well-kept wagon roads, and has adequate train facilities."

The writer went on to advise city commuters to build homes here in "a refuge where the exhausted energies revive under the quiet but potent stimulus of verdant lawn, shaded paths, and the cooling breeze that comes laden with the perfume of the flower-decked fields and bears healing balm from the pine woods upon its wings."

The railroad tracks crossed farmland owned by Daniel Brown, George Duvall, George Knowles, and Alfred Ray. "Knowles Station," as the area around what is now Kensington became known, was subdivided and various parcels were sold after the deaths of George Knowles and his wife Luraner. The farmland began a conversion to a small community. The lots were desirable due to their closeness to the railway and the improved public road.

By 1880, twelve trains made the run each day. And people were building homes on the Knowles farm near the train station, then called Knowles Station. The growing settlement soon had two stores, a post office, and a blacksmith shop. By 1880, Knowles Station had a population of 70. The present station, built of wood with "high Victorian" gables, was built in 1891. It is still used by commuters today.

The beautiful homes built during that era still stand today, showing the response to the timetable writer's words and to the attractiveness of the area. The town grew and was named after the famous Kensington Gardens of England.

Kensington's train station is the second oldest B&O station still in active use in Montgomery County. MARC rail took over service of the old B&O in 1974. Ten of the original 20 remaining Montgomery County stations still operate today. With commuters still using trains to get to work, the old Kensington train station is a daily reminder of Kensington's rich history.

(Editor's note: Our thanks to the Kensington Historical Society for the information for this article.)

Kensington Farmer's Market
every Saturday from 8 a.m. to Noon
in the Kensington Train Station Lot.



The Kensington Labor Day Parade

Monday, September 6

Celebrate Labor Day and see your neighbors at the 43rd annual Kensington Labor Day Parade.



The parade features horseback and circus groups, marching bands, dancers, community leaders, floats, and groups from local schools, congregations, and other organizations. It is a beloved Kensington community highlight.

The parade is followed by a festival with food, exhibits, musicians, and more, all through the day in Kensington along Antique Row. Stop by The Ditto Group booth and say hello to Gary and Diana Ditto, Sam Hoxie, and JT Burton.

The 2010 Kensington 8K Race, 2 Mile Challenge, and 1K Fun Run

Saturday, September 25, 2010



An annual Kensington tradition since 1993, the Kensington 8K, 2 Mile Challenge, and 1K Fun Run has something for everyone.

The 8K is a challenging race combining long hills and flats. It's a great training run for the experienced runner, a touchstone event for the intermediate and weekly runner.

The 2-mile and 1K fun runs are non-competitive events that families and younger runners really enjoy.

This race has a unique small-town feel. It winds through beautiful Rock Creek Park and historic Old Town Kensington. It has become known as the "muffin race" due to the wide variety of muffins available at the post-race party.

Proceeds this year will support three public schools: Kensington Parkwood Elementary, North Bethesda Middle School, and Walter Johnson High School.

Register on-line and find out more at www.kensington8k.org.

Volunteer to be a course marshal; contact Jenny Smith at jenny.kensington@verizon.net

Volunteers are also needed for other jobs with varying time commitments. Sign up and earn some fun student service learning (SSL) hours! To find out more, please contact Beth Seabreeze at jakechasemom@msn.com

KENSINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANTIQUÉ ROW SHOW

Date To Be Announced

Wonder no more about the value of your treasured antique or curious dust collector. You can better understand its value at The Kensington Historical Society Antique Row Show. On a fall date to be announced, experts from Kensington's Antique Row will be available to share their knowledge and experience with you.

This is a twist on the previous KHS "Road Shows." This KHS event will take place along the sidewalks and among the shops on Kensington's Antique Row.

Bring your antique, and for a small donation to KHS you will likely discover more than you knew about the value of your antique.

No antiques? Then just mingle, eavesdrop on the discussions, ask questions, and enjoy the snacks and stay for the fabulous prize drawing. Look for more details on the KHS web site www.kensingtonhistory.org or contact KHS via e-mail at info@kensingtonhistory.org



Cool Down with a PEP 'Hot Topic'

Facing a parenting challenge? Cool things down this summer at a parenting "Hot Topic." The Parent Encouragement Program, in Kensington, offers one-evening workshops on these topics and many more: Motivating Children, Backtalk, Internet Safety, Power Struggles, Sibling Rivalry, Step-parenting, Teen Driving, Parenting Preschoolers.

For a complete summer schedule, call PEP at 301-929-8824 or visit www.PEPparent.org

Cedar Lane Stage Presents Its Annual Summer Sampler of One-Act Plays Seven Plays Each Evening



Performances July 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25 at 8 p.m.
Tickets at the door: \$5 each. Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, Maryland.

The Test by Paula J. Caplan. *Bailing Out* by Arthur M. Jolly. *The Good Son* by Barbara Lhota. *Text Misdirected* by Nina Mansfield. *Family Investment* by Robin Pond. *Autumn Leaves* by Joseph P. Ritz. *The Cap* by Francesca Sanders. For more information, visit www.cedarlanestage.org

ADULT LITERACY TUTORS NEEDED

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County will hold an information session for volunteers interested in helping adults learn to read, write, or speak English on Wednesday, July 28 at 10:30 a.m. at the Rockville Library. After completing the orientation, volunteers can select a two-part training session that fits their schedules. No foreign language skills are necessary. Tutors work one-on-one or with small groups, and typically meet with students in libraries or community centers at mutually convenient times. For complete details, call 301-610-0030, mail info@literacycouncilmcmd.org, or visit www.literacycouncilmcmd.org.

New E-Mail Updates from Gary Ditto—

Sign up for either or both of these updates:

- Our Monthly Sold Reports for 20895, 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.

Enjoy the Free Concerts!

The Kensington Historical Society again this year presents their Saturday morning free concert series, from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Howard Avenue Park across from the Farmer's Market at the Train Station.

July 24— *Rita Clarke and the Naturals* ~ Rhythm & Blues

July 31— *Ellen Cherry* ~ Spunky Pop

August 7 — *2nd Story Band* ~ Folk, Blues, Alternative & World Beat

August 14 — *KenGar Baptist Choir*

August 21 — *Scott Stancill & Cindy Stock* ~ Acoustic Guitar & Violin Duo playing Popular and Celtic music

August 28 — *Snakehead Run* ~ Acoustic Blues for the Soul

September 4 — *Banjo Man Frank Cassel* ~ Folk, Bluegrass, & Original Music for all ages

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

www.thedittogroup.com

Gary Ditto's Newsletter welcomes ideas and news items from community members. The editor is Antoinette Kranenburg of Kensington, assisted by Cherry Wunderlich. The drawing of the Kensington Train Station is by Sara Phang.

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10415 Hebard St., Kensington
Kensington Estates
\$735,000



9305 W. Parkhill Dr., Bethesda
Locust Hill Estates
\$695,000



11232 Waycross Way, Kensington
White Flint Park
\$674,900



9847 Campbell Dr., Kensington
Rock Creek Hills II
\$660,000



2 Campbell Crt., Kensington
Rock Creek Hills II
\$659,000



5021 White Flint Dr., Kensington
White Flint Park
\$619,000



9304 Chanute Dr., Bethesda
Parkview
\$579,000



4213 Anthony St., Kensington
Kensington Estates
\$479,000



11120 Woodson Ave., Kensington
Rock Creek Palisades
\$444,000



3816 Lawrence Ave., Kensington
North Kensington
\$429,000



3709 Nimitz Road, Kensington
North Kensington
\$389,000



10112 Tobacco Leaf La., Gaith.
The Plantations
\$385,000



3109 Plyers Mill Rd., Kensington
Oakland Terrace
\$349,000



10201 Grant Ave., Silver Spring
Capitol View Park
\$329,000

Street Address	Town/Neighborhood	List Price
9506 E. Stanhope Road	Kensington/Rock Creek Hills	\$945,000
4100 Culver Street	Kensington/Byeforde	\$739,900
10007 Connecticut Avenue	Kensington/Chevy Chase View	\$619,000
4222 Warner Street	Kensington/Kensington Terrace	\$599,000
10123 Cedar Lane	Kensington/Chevy Chase View	(as is) \$550,000
2127 Clark Place	Silver Spring/Belvedere Glen	\$489,000
10703 Brunswick Avenue	Kensington/Kensington Heights	\$409,000
70 Rhode Island Ave. # 502, NW	Washington DC/Bloomingdale	\$359,900
13531 Spinning Wheel Drive	Germantown/Waters Landing	\$345,000

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