

Town Hall
Upper Marlboro, Maryland



Board of Town Commissioners

Steve Sonnett, President
Joe Hourclé, Jim Storey

THE TOWN HALL IS OPEN WEEKDAYS

Monday–Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Contact Town Hall at:
(office) 301-627-6905
(fax) 301-627-2080

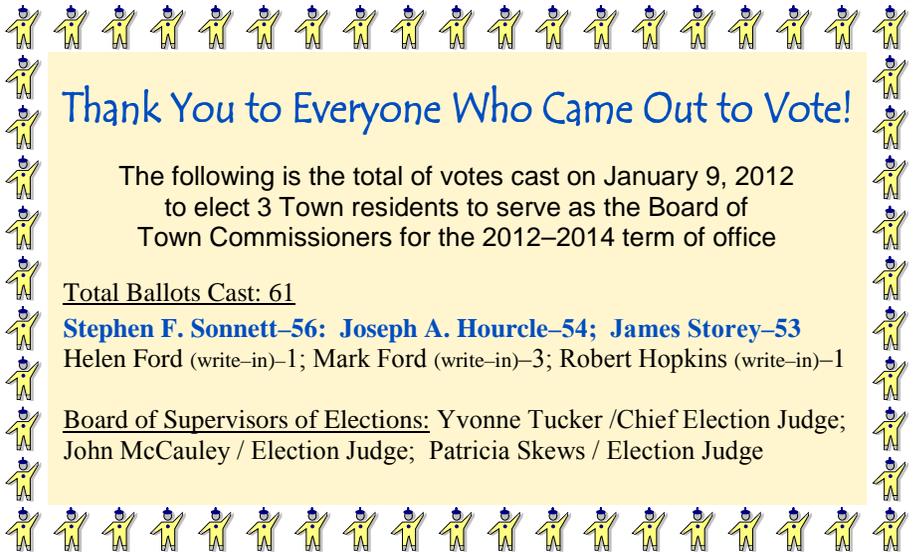
(e-mail) info@uppermarlboromd.gov

(cable channel) Verizon 19

OR VISIT US ONLINE AT:

www.uppermarlboromd.gov

Town of Upper Marlboro
14211 School Lane
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772



Thank You to Everyone Who Came Out to Vote!

The following is the total of votes cast on January 9, 2012
to elect 3 Town residents to serve as the Board of
Town Commissioners for the 2012–2014 term of office

Total Ballots Cast: 61

Stephen F. Sonnett–56; Joseph A. Hourclé–54; James Storey–53

Helen Ford (write-in)–1; Mark Ford (write-in)–3; Robert Hopkins (write-in)–1

Board of Supervisors of Elections: Yvonne Tucker /Chief Election Judge;
John McCauley / Election Judge; Patricia Skews / Election Judge

Welcome to *Landings* . . .

A monthly newsletter from the Town of Upper Marlboro



A Monthly Newsletter from the Town of Upper Marlboro

March, 2012 vol. 7 no. 3

Early Voting! March 24–29 10am–8pm (including Sunday from 12am–6pm)

Upper Marlboro Community Center • 5400 Race Track Road • 301-627-2828

If you choose to vote on election day, you will need to go to your normal voting place

The President's Annual Report – March 2012

Town Charter Section 82-15(c) requires an annual report by the President on "... the condition of municipal affairs and make such recommendations as he deems proper for the public good and welfare of the Town"

Overview

Despite the continuing decrease in inter-government revenues from the State and County (due to their budget problems and declining revenue streams) the Town remains in a strong financial position. Also, our operations continue to improve. Our capital projects have been slow to get started, however, we expect better progress this upcoming year. No change in Town tax rates are planned.

Year in Review

The Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) Audit shows a \$121,741 increase in net assets to \$3,602,868. The unassigned fund balance that is available for spending at our discretion was \$2,979,947, an increase of \$96,834. We anticipate the we will have a budget surplus for FY11.

The Board adopted a revised Procurement Ordinance to conform with changes made to the Town's Charter in 2010. Also, several Resolutions were passed by the Board that included: Adoption of an Employee Handbook; Raising the parking meter rate to \$.75 per hour; Sponsoring the western residential area nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; Support for a review of the proposed County waste transfer station located near Town; Authorization for the Town to join other municipalities in negotia-

tions for renewal of the Comcast Cable Television Franchise agreement; And last, but not least—Objection to the demolition of the historic schools on Elm Street. In February, the Town co-hosted an Informational Meeting on the issue with Historic Preservation Commission staff, County and Court officials and various key stakeholders.

To help reduce costs, a new energy-efficient heat pump and air handler was installed at Town Hall. The Town was awarded a State-administered energy efficiency grant that covers a majority of the cost. In addition, a new door and windows were installed at the Public Works Facility. The Town also implemented new security measures for its computer system by installing an on-site network data storage system that is backed up once a week to an off-site location.

The only damage to Town-owned property during both the earthquake and the flood, was the loss of a police car that got caught in flood waters. The Town surplused one police cruiser and purchased a new one.

Since last year, staffing levels have gone down three full-time employees by one police officer and two Public Works employees. Currently, the Town is planning to replace one Public Works employee.

see '*Annual Report*' on other side

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: Spring forward! Advance clocks one hour. Sunday, March 11th, 2:00 a.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: March 8–11th at the Showplace Arena. Call: 301-952-7900, or visit: www.caasports.com

TOWN MEETING: Tuesday, March 13th, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Residents are encouraged to attend.

TRINITY CHURCH FISH FRY(S): Friday, March 16th and March 30th, 4:00–7:00 p.m.

COLONIAL TAVERN DINNER: Saturday, March 17th, 7–9:00 p.m. at Darnall's Chance House Museum. Enjoy colonial music, food & spirits. Reservations and payment required in advance (\$35 residents). Call: 301-952-8010.

PICCADILLY CIRCUS: Sunday, March 18th at 1:00, 3:30 & 6:00 p.m. at the Showplace Arena. Call: 301-952-7900, or visit: www.TheFunCircus.com

BRITISH INVASION BUS & BOAT TOUR: May 26th 8:00 - 5:00 pm. Bus departs from and returns to Darnall's Chance. Join War of 1812 scholar Dr. Ralph Eshelman on this popular tour along the routes and waterways that the British traveled in 1814. Capacity is limited; Reservations and advance payment required. \$65/person. 301-952-8010.

WORK SESSION: Tuesday, March 27th, 9:15 a.m. at Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public.

42nd Annual Prince George's County Beautification Awards

3 categories of entries!—Residential, Community & Business. Applications are now available at Town Hall. For more information about the program, please contact Donna Pirner at 301-883-5982.

Annual Report

continued from other side

Outlook for Upcoming Year

We have two, somewhat related, major goals for the upcoming year. The first, is for the Town to be designated as a Sustainable Community. We became eligible for this program pursuant to legislation that was passed by the State in 2010. With such a designation, the Town, its businesses and residents, would have the ability to apply for grants and other aid that is not now available.

The application process requires that the Town set forth plans for improving the livability and economic viability of the Town. Whether our application is accepted or not, the application process itself will greatly help us develop a well defined strategic plan for the Town.

The second "related" goal is to begin investing in our infrastructure. For several years, we have budgeted infrastructure improvements, but have been unable to bring them about. This year, we believe we now have the resources to move ahead. We anticipate budgeting for several projects. The most recent survey of Town roads indicates that the road leading into Marlborough Towne is in the worst shape of all the Town-owned roads. We do have plans to seal or repave our portion, and Marlborough Towne is planning to seal and repair their parking lots.

In addition, Town-owned sidewalks need to be examined and repaired, the old water station on School Lane is an eyesore and needs to come down, our parking lot on Church Street is in desperate need of upgrading, and, a design and feasibility study needs to be completed for the new addition to Town Hall. We would greatly appreciate citizen involvement in any or all of these projects. If you have any experience in the areas of building design, streets and sidewalks and construction, please give us a call at Town Hall to find out how you can participate.

Some projects are already underway. The State Highway Administration had submitted to us detailed plans for installing a sidewalk on the south side of Old Marlboro Pike from Spring Branch Drive to Rectory Lane. This will be completely funded by the State and will enable crosswalks to be installed on this dangerous road.

At present, we are still working on the FY2013 Budget, awaiting revenue and expense estimates.

—Stephen F. Sonnett

POLICE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2012

Town Citations: 128 • State Citations: 41

<u>In-Town Incidents:</u>	<u>Out-of-Town Incidents:</u>
1 Larceny	1 Burglary
1 Property Damage	11 Larceny
2 Vandalism	1 Assault
3 Vehicle Impound	1 Robbery
1 Assault	7 Stolen Vehicle

All in-Town incidents were in the downtown area and not in the residential areas.

Did You Know?

Historic 1700s Theatre In Upper Marlborough

On Thursday evening, August 20, 1752, "The Company of Comedians from Annapolis" opened "The New Theatre at Upper Marlborough" on the east side of Elm Street, across the street from the current post office, with performances of *The Beggars' Opera* and *The Lying Valet*.

The first documented instance of a performance with an orchestra accompaniment in American opera happened in this very theatre on Thursday, September 14, 1752. This performance was held exactly two weeks after the August 20th opening. (Note: the British Empire adopted the Gregorian calendar and corrected it by removing 11 days. Wednesday, September 2, 1752 was immediately followed by Thursday, September 14, 1752.)

To attend the theatre was expensive! It cost 7 shillings, 6 pence (7s,6d) for a place in the pit, and 5 shillings (5s) for a place in the gallery. It is hard to compare with today's prices, but in London in 1777 (25 years later), the weekly wage for a journeyman tradesman was between 18 and 22 shillings.

In 1760, the London Company of Comedians played for six weeks, possibly in the same building, which was noted to be a "neat convenient tobacco-house, well fitted up for that purpose."

Whether the same building, or another in Upper Marlborough, a grand assembly room (and ballroom) used for plays, held a grand ball immediately following the week-long horse races, with dancing, nearly all night, to fiddles and clarinet or flute.

—Brian Callicott