

**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



TRINITY CHURCH FISH FRY(S)

Fridays— March 8 & March 22

4:00–8:00 p.m.

Thanks For All You Do!



HENRY GRAY

This fall, Public Works crew members Ralph Hall and Henry Gray will have been with the Town for 12 years.

Please join us as we applaud their great work and dedication. We're proud to have them on our team and look forward to the next 12 years!



RALPH HALL

Welcome to Landings . . .

A monthly newsletter from the Town of Upper Marlboro



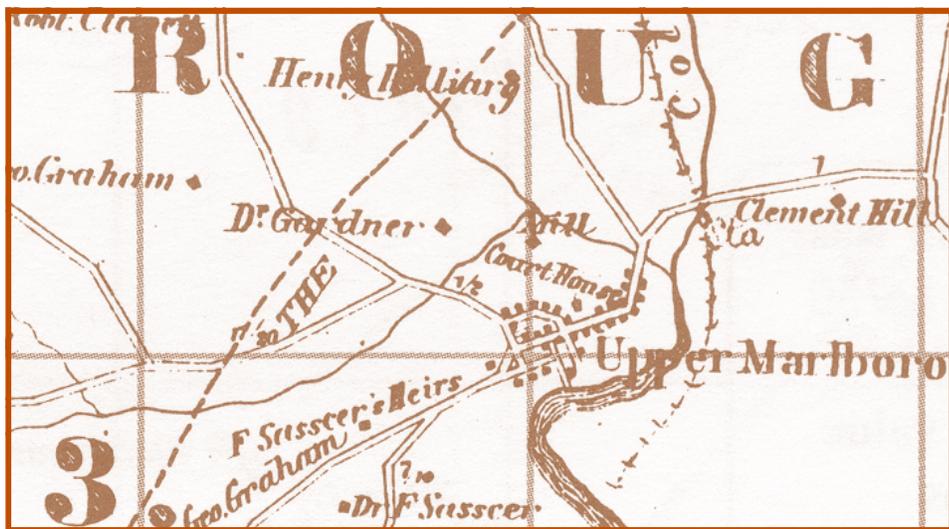
A Monthly Newsletter from the Town of Upper Marlboro

March, 2013 vol. 8 no. 3

“ . . . one of the most exquisite panoramas . . . ”

In 1814, Subaltern G. R. Gleig, of the British Army, wrote, "I have never looked upon a landscape more pleasing or beautiful. The green, gentle hills which on either hand enclosed the village, tufted here and there with magnificent trees, and the village itself straggling and wide, each cottage being far apart from its neighbor and each ornamented with flower beds and shrubberies; these with a lonely stream that wound through the valley formed, as far as my memory can be trusted, one of the most exquisite panoramas on which it has ever been my good fortune to gaze." Even today, when traveling down the rolling hills of Old Crain Highway past Weston and Beacon Hill and into town, it can feel like you're traveling back to an age when farming, tobacco and horseracing ruled the economy, and the Town of Upper Marlboro was a cultural hot spot.

To help make the town's rich history more accessible to the public, the Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee (TUMHC) has created a new website, tumhc.weebly.com. Unveiled on 13 February 2013, the website provides a means for the community to access not only public records related to the Committee and its activities, but also contains links to related and noteworthy websites for the Library of Congress, the PGCHS (Prince George's County Historical Soci-



1861 Martinet Map of Upper Marlboro, courtesy of the PGHS

ety) and of course, our own Darnall's Chance House Museum. Most significant, the website also serves as the repository for all of our digitally archived maps, photographs, and documents of interest. With a special subpage called "Our Town" built to showcase Upper Marlboro's fine architecture by street, interested citizens can view not only photos of homes and office buildings covering an incredible array of architectural styles, but can also access applicable Maryland Historical Trust building surveys with just a click of the mouse. The Committee hopes to create a sizable collection of historical documents and photographs in the future.

Although the website is a work in progress, the Historical Committee believes it is an important step in bringing the landscape so aptly described by Subaltern Gleig in 1814 back to life for our present day residents.

The Committee is always looking for new materials to add to the archives. If you believe you have an item of interest, please contact the TUMHC by filling out a contact form via the website, or feel free to bring any items to the next Archiving Session at the Town Hall on Saturday, 16 March, at 9am. All members of the public are welcome!

—Kate Germano/ Chair, TUMHC

The President's Annual Report

The Town's Charter 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

The Town has withstood the recession, a little battered from the drop in revenues and increased costs, but is still operating in the black. I will recommend to the Board they maintain our current real property tax rate, the lowest in the county, and our current personal property tax rate. Even though many of our historical physical assets have been lost, the Town is still viewed as the historical heart of the greater Upper Marlboro area. Our long term strategy is to build on this base by reinvigorating the Town through increased maintenance and investment in our infrastructure. The main objectives for the upcoming years will be to modernize, maintain and reinvest in the Town.

Year in Review

The Town has been taking steps to promote its historic background and create a favorable opinion of our Town. The new Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee (TUMHC) is hard at work and has created favorable new interest in the Town. Our Town Clerk, David Williams and residents Brian Callicott and Patti Skews are board members of the County-wide Commission established to promote the anniversary of the War of 1812. The Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail runs through the Town stopping at three historical sites, William Beanes gravesite, Trinity Church and Darnall's Chance. The Town has entered into a cooperative agreement with National Park Service (NPS) to promote the anniversary of War of 1812 and the Trail.

Adding to the historical recognition of the Town, The NPS has placed the older residential areas of the town on its *National Register of Historic Places* as an historic district.

Our "Citizens Guide to the Historic Town of Upper Marlboro" designed for our citizens has also helped spread a good word about our town.

For the first time, the Town is in line to be awarded the "Banner Town" designation by the Maryland Municipal League (MML). This designation is given for participating in MML events and promoting municipal government.

Work in Progress

The most important work in progress is the development of a strategic plan for the Town's future. The vehicle we are using is an application to become a "sustainable community". The application asks important questions relating to plans to protect the environment, town infrastructure, quality housing and economic development. If we obtain this status from the state, additional resources would then become available to aid in achieving our goals. A requirement contained in the application is the formation of an ongoing workgroup comprised of a broad spectrum of people in the community. We will soon be seeking volunteers representing the citizens, property owners, business and county elements of the Town.

With the addition of Demetrius Stevenson to our Public

Works Department, we are increasing maintenance of the Town's properties. The old water tower lot has been cleared, dead and dying trees have and are being removed, landscaping and building maintenance is being increased.

Infrastructure improvements that are in the works include the new addition to Town Hall, sidewalk on the south-side of Old Marlboro Pike, repaving of Marlboro Drive, and new Town entrance signs.

There are several other projects in the works as well. Our contract with the County for recycling services has been extended to October 31. The Town pays over \$12,000 each year for this service. Unlike some other places, the Town does not charge an additional residential fee for this service. The problem is that many citizens are not recycling. This means that you through your taxes are paying twice when recycle material is put in household trash collection. It is less expensive and better for the environment to process recyclables than household trash. We are evaluating actions that we can take to increase recycling including making recycling mandatory.

The County has withdrawn its bid solicitation for demolition of the old school on Elm Street. We are currently working with the planning department to get an adaptive re-use evaluation of the old school in the hopes that it could become a useful and positive asset for the Town.

Graduation traffic will soon be upon us again. The Chief has been meeting with the County, State and Park Police to come up with a plan to alleviate the problem.

The Town has joined a consortium to negotiate a renewal of the Town's franchise agreement with Comcast. This is a very long process so we do not anticipate an agreement this year. The Town has asked for a broadcast channel and access to the I-Net. We plan to have our own cable franchise agreement with Comcast and no longer be part of the County's.

Government Operations

Given our political structure, the efficient continuation of our government operations is a concern I have written about in previous annual messages. The last two complete changes in the Board of Commissioners in 2006 and 2008 cost the Town many man-hours "reinventing the wheel". Given the increasing complex nature of running an efficient government, the possibility of losing institutional knowledge in just one election cycle continues to remain a problem.

We have adopted several strategies to address this problem. The first is to write down how we operate into a "how things are done" manual. Second is to ensure our employees are well trained not only for their assigned roles but also have a understanding of the overall operations of the government. This gives us, in times of changing administrations, an active continuation of institutional knowledge. We now have a group of loyal and excellent employees who are serving us.

—Steve Sonnett/ President, Board of Town Commissioners



Report 2013 FEBRUARY

Town Citations: 141 • State Citations: 47

<u>In-Town Incidents:</u>	<u>Out-of-Town Incidents:</u>
1 Property Damage	1 Assault
2 Recovered Property	6 Burglary
1 Vandalism	11 Larceny
1 Warrant	3 Stolen Vehicle
1 Vehicle Impound	3 Robbery
1 D.U.I.	

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

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING — EVENT PLANNING SESSION FOR MARLBOROUGH DAY:

Saturday, March 9th, 10:00–11:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Visitors welcome, meeting open to the public.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: Spring forward! Advance clocks one hour. Sunday, March 10th, 2:00 a.m.

TOWN MEETING: Tuesday, March 12th, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING —

MONTHLY ARCHIVING SESSION: Saturday, March 16th, 9:00–11:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Meeting is open to the public. Visitors encouraged to bring photos to scan.

WORK SESSION: Tuesday, March 26th, 9:15 a.m. at Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public.