

**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



Please Brake For Ghosts & Goblins!



Welcome to Landings . . .

A monthly newsletter from the Town of Upper Marlboro



A Monthly Newsletter from the Town of Upper Marlboro

October, 2013 vol. 8 no. 9

Town-Wide Yard Sale a Big Success!

On September 28th, The Town of Upper Marlboro joined the ranks of hundreds of other towns and cities by hosting an event to give back to our community. The “Day To Serve” program, which lasted for 15 days, is an annual effort across MD, VA, WVA and DC, to help local groups provide assistance to the elderly and the disabled, help clean the planet, and/or, feed the hungry. For this 2nd Annual Day To Serve event, our Town decided to bring back the popular Town-Wide Yard Sale and make it a food drive too. Residents Travis and Melissa Welch graciously volunteered to organize the event that brought in \$164 in cash donations and over 100 pounds of non-

RAPHAEL TALISMAN / FOR THE GAZETTE



Joseph Hourclé and Marcy August collect donations for the Upper Marlboro Food Bank while bargain hunters browse carloads of treasures for sale at Town Hall.



PHOTO BY SHANNON SONNETT

perishable food items that were donated to the Upper Marlboro Food Bank that afternoon. The Town also offered sellers the option to leave behind what they didn’t sell, so that it could all be donated to the Fuller Center for Housing Thrift Store located in Town at 14940 Main Street—an estimated \$125 worth of goods were donated! Our many thanks to all the volunteers who collectively put in over 70 hours to make this event successful and a lot of fun!

THE BISHOP'S CURSE

The following story was submitted to the Town from Prince George’s Co. Historian Susan Pearl. The 1903 article was written by Susan E. Claggett, writer for the *Baltimore Sunday Herald*, and was originally entitled “Upper Marlboro of Today”.

There is a story told of the great [Methodist] revivalist, Bishop Whitefield, that is interesting in connection with the alleged wickedness of the town. He was holding meetings in the place and the people did not respond as he thought they should, or something else roused his indignation, then his anger. He shook the dust of the village from off his feet and cursed the place in a way that was customary in medieval days. The devil was in Marlborough and would stay there, he said as each of the three exits

of the town was protected by a church of God, he thought there could be no escape for his satanic majesty.

St. Mary’s Catholic Church stood then, as now, on the road crossing the Western Branch and leading into the Forest and toward Annapolis. Trinity Church occupied the site of the Presbyterian church of pioneer days, and was located on the road to Croome and the lower neighborhood, and the Methodist Church South closed the road to Washington. [As long as the churches stood

at the exits of the village, the devil would remain strong in Marlborough.]

There was no escape. But Whitefield overlooked the frailness of the building from which he hurled anathemas against sinning Marlborough. For long it stood, a tottering structure, protesting against the irony of fate, but at last it yielded to the temptations of the devil, and over the ruins of the old frame building its arch enemy sped on his way to Washington, leaving the print of his cloven hoof upon the surrounding community.



ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED

Call Town Hall — (301) 627-6905

Monetary compensation available — 8 to 10 hours avg.

On the Agenda

The Town has filed its application to become a “Sustainable Community”. We will know in a couple months if we were successful. If we become a “Sustainable Community”, new tools will then be available for investing in improvements for the Town. We will hold an open discussion on the goals for the Town.

On January 6, 2014 the Town will hold elections for the Board of Town Commissioners. Please consider running for office. Since 1870, the Town has had a three commissioner form of government. Given the increasing complexity of running a local government and lack of competitive elections, we will be discussing alternatives, or changes, to our current form of government. We also will be swearing-in our Board of Supervisors of Elections—contact us now if you would like to be an election judge on the Board, there is monetary compensation for your time.

Our contract with the County for recycling services is up for renewal on October 31st. We will be discussing renewal and alternatives.

The cost of repaving Marlborough Drive and Marlborough Circle was under the budgeted amount. The Commissioners will be discussing transferring the surplus from that line item to the Public Works Maintenance line item.

The final items on the agenda include the Frederick Douglass High School Homecoming Parade application for Saturday, October 26th, and planning for the Town's Holiday Party.

—Steve Sonnett

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 8th at 7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

“OUR STYLISH KIDS” CONSIGNMENT SALE: Saturday, October 5th, 12 noon—1 pm. at the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department. Fall/Winter SALE 50% OFF! For more info visit: www.facebook.com/OurStylishKids

33RD ANNUAL KINDERFEST: Sunday, October 6th, 12–5:00 p.m. Watkins Regional Park. Entertainment, games & fun activities for pre-school and elementary aged kids. FREE (nominal fee for food). 301 Watkins Park Drive, Call: 301-218-6700.

TOWN MEETING: Tuesday, October 8th, 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public.

XTREME TEENS: OPEN HOUSE: Friday, October 11th, 7–10 pm. Be a part of our new teen program! Food, fun and a performance by a local street dance group. Ages 13-17. Free with valid M-NCPPC youth ID. Upper Marlboro Community Center 5400 Marlboro Race Track Rd. Call: 301-627-2828.

COLUMBUS DAY: Monday, October 14th. Offices will be closed and will reopen on Tuesday at 9:00 am.

TRASH PICK-UP / COLUMBUS DAY: ONLY Residential trash WILL BE picked up on MONDAY October 14th — However, Bulk AND Yard Waste trash will be picked up on TUESDAY, October 15th.

TOWN HISTORICAL COMMITTEE —ARCHIVING SESSION: Saturday, October 19th, 9:00–11:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Visitors welcome to bring items to scan, meeting open to the public.

UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Sunday, October 20th, 2–6:00 p.m. "Honoring Our Past, Strengthening our Future" (1863-2013). Event at: La Fontaine Bleue, 7963 Annapolis Road, Lanham, MD 20706. \$60 per person. Email: JessieFrazier@aol.com for more information.

WORK SESSION: Tuesday, October 22nd, 9:15 a.m. at the Town Hall. Meeting is open to the public.

GREAT JACK O' LANTERN CAMPFIRE: Saturday, October 26th, 7pm at Darnall's Chance. See Illuminated Pumpkins & Roast Marshmallows. Popcorn, cider and prizes. \$3(cash)/person. Rain date: Sunday 6pm. (rain date: Sunday, October 27th–6 pm). Call 301-952-8010 for more information.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL — HOMECOMING PARADE: Saturday, October 26th, 9:30–11:30 a.m. Main Street.

TRINITY CHURCH FISH FRY: Friday, November 1st, 4:00–7:00 p.m. Menu: Fried Whiting, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread, Drink & Dessert. Cost: \$9 Adults, \$8 Seniors & \$5 Children (5 to 12 yrs). Call 301-627-2636 or visit: trinityec@verizon.net for info.

AT THE LIBRARY (Upper Marlboro Branch): EUROFEST: Greece—Opa! Saturday, November 2nd at 11 a.m. Celebrate the beauty, richness and traditions of Greece. Stay for a special story-time and a craft! 14730 Main Street. Call: (301) 627-9330.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS: Sunday, November 3rd at 2 a.m. Turn clocks BACK one hour.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST & SHOW—CONTESTANTS NEEDED !!! : Darnall's Chance House Museum. Both Adult & Child Division entries accepted! Hundreds of \$\$\$ in cash awards to give away! Download entry form at: history.pgiparks.com, or call 301-952-8010 for more information. **Registration deadline: Nov. 8th.** Fee: \$5 per entry. Entries due Nov.24th.



Report 2013 SEPTEMBER

Town Citations: 101 • State Citations: 10

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|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Out-of-Town Incidents: | 4 Warrant |
| 4 Assault | 2 Property Damage |
| 6 Larceny | 3 Theft |
| In-Town Incidents: | 1 Recovered Stolen |
| 1 Trash Dumping * | 2 Vehicle Impound |

All in-Town incidents were in the downtown area and not in the residential areas (except where indicated by an asterisk)

Historical Committee Archiving Session Saturday, October 19th • 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Town and area residents are urged to bring in items of local historical significance to be scanned for the Town's archives. Oral histories can also be conducted or scheduled for a later date. Meeting is open to the public.