
HAMPSTEAD NEWSLETTER

Volume 17

November 2016 - February 2017

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ZONING
COMMISSION**
SHARON CALLAHAN,
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VICE-CHAIR
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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

In today's technology-dependent world most news is disseminated by electronic means - whether it's a Facebook post, a website blurb or a brief Tweet, we're used to getting our information in small doses and as quickly as possible. In what it seems to have been a continually changing news environment over the last year, the Town has employed these means as well in order to get our announcements into the community as quickly as possible. Now that we have caught up to the events and can take the 10 days to produce and distribute a newsletter that is still relevant, we are taking this opportunity to summarize the events of the past year and let you know what's coming up in the near future.

First up: Main Street! Our Water Main Replacement Project on Main Street is now complete. The old water pipes were constructed in 1935 and had become prone to frequent breaks and leaks, costing us thousands of dollars in lost water and repairs. During the cold winter months, Public Works often shut off water to large numbers of customers for long periods of time to address these issues. To illustrate the savings in water production of the new pipe, in July 2014 our daily average pumped was 399,000 gallons; today it's 354,000 - a difference of 45,000 gallons a day. The new pipe should not only save money in production but should improve quality and provide a more stable source of water for the next 50+ years.

Now that we have installed the new Water Main, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) can begin their Revitalization project. SHA will be constructing new sidewalks, installing a storm water management system that is required by the State (currently Main Street does not have a system), reconstructing retaining walls, relocating utility poles and underground gas mains, grinding and resurfacing the road, improving pavement markings, crosswalks, upgrading traffic signals and signage and installing lamp posts and landscaping. After we were all critical of SHA's first plan for Maintenance of Traffic and the project's impact on our Town, they listened and came back with an acceptable plan that drew a round of applause at our recent meeting at the Fire Hall. Our thanks goes to SHA for taking a step back and changing the plan to account for the feedback they received. The project is now planned to start this coming Spring and estimated to be completed in the Spring of 2020. We know that there will be times where it may be inconvenient to travel on and go to businesses along Main Street during this project but it is my hope we overcome this temporary obstacle and continue to support all of our businesses who mean so much to our Town. Once SHA is finished, they will turn Main Street over to the Town to maintain and we will then have control over the road and can close portions for special events.

Please keep in mind that the Revitalization Project is a State controlled project but we will publicize further meetings and provide project updates on our website, via email, Facebook and through newsletters. Updates are also provided at Council Meetings, which are on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m., and at Planning & Zoning Commission meetings, which are on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. If you were unable to attend any of the past public meetings at the Fire Department or presentations at Town Hall please visit our website for more details, www.hampsteadmd.gov. A Revitalized Main Street will increase property values, attract more commerce, provide a local hub for activities and improve aesthetics; making our Town an even more enjoyable place to live.

The second topic that has dominated the news in our Town involves the unfortunate

(Continued on page 6)



**Christmas Tree
Lighting
December 2nd
6:15 p.m.
Main Street
Memorial Park**

Hampstead's annual **Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Banner Display** event will be held this year on Friday, **December 2nd** at the Main Street Memorial Park. The event is co-sponsored by the Town and local merchants and is one of Hampstead's best known highlights. The event kicks off at 6:15 p.m. with Cub Scout Pack 791 singing Christmas carols; Spring Garden Elementary School's 5th Grade Instrumental Ensemble will perform at 6:45 p.m. The Mayor and Santa will arrive by fire truck at 7 p.m. and Manchester Valley High School's Choir will perform afterwards while Santa visits with children! Any donations received from pictures with Santa will be given to NESAP for their community assistance program. Please come join the festivities!

TOWN MANAGER'S CORNER*Tammi Ledley*

As Town Manager, I have just completed my second year and wow has it been eventful. I have been so inspired by the strength and passion of the residents and businesses of Hampstead. Even though our fight to save our high school didn't turn out the way we had hoped, the experience did make us a closer family. It was amazing how many people graciously donated time and money – Thank You! But the fight is not over. Please write to your Delegates, County Commissioners, and Senator to ask that North Carroll continue to be available for public use including allowing the North Carroll Rec Center to use the fields and gyms.

The Hampstead Volunteer Fire Company has purchased land at the Black Rock Road and Lower Beckleysville Road circle so that they may build a new fire station. Their social activities hall and carnival grounds will remain on Main Street. For those of you that may not know, the Fire Company is supported almost entirely by donations. Please back your local fire department by either making a donation or attending their fundraisers.

As the Mayor mentioned in his article, Hampstead will begin its Main Street revitalization journey in the spring of 2017. When the project is finished, our Town will be even more fantastic than it is now. Of course, construction may present challenges so we will need to work together, neighbor helping neighbor. The Town is working with a group of volunteers composed of businesses and residents that will be brainstorming ways to help the businesses prosper through the construction and putting these plans into action. Please stay informed by following our Facebook page and website. Always call Town Office if you have any questions or concerns. Most importantly, please SHOP LOCAL!

You can begin by participating in “Shop Small Eight Days a Week”. This promotion begins with Small Business Saturday on November 26th and continues until December 4th. Businesses across our county are participating including twelve small businesses here in Hampstead – Dreamers Travel, JJ Hoffman's Creamery, Towne Pride Interiors, Hampstead Preowned, Morfoot, J&P Italian Restaurant, Hampstead Diner, Snickerdoodles, Hampstead Barber Shop, Shipley's Fine Jewelry, House of Madness, and Genovas to Go. In order to participate, please pick up a passport from one of these businesses or Town Office. When you make a purchase from one of the participating businesses listed on the passport, you will receive a sticker. Participants that have visited 8 different businesses during the promotion can turn in their completed passport to their local library by Wednesday, December 6th. These participants will be entered into a drawing to receive a \$100 gift card. Support small businesses for all that they do for their communities!

***During A Snow Emergency***

The winter season is fast approaching! Please visit www.hampsteadmd.gov for tips on how to prevent your pipes from freezing. Please remember that sidewalks must be cleared of ice and snow accumulations within twenty-four hours for the safety



of pedestrians (including children on their way to the bus stop the next day). Also, please understand when we plow streets clear of snow we try to be sensitive to your freshly-cleared driveway but there are times when blocking is unavoidable. When you clear your driveway, please DO NOT throw the snow into the street. This creates a hazard to drivers. *Note:* If you have a fire hydrant near your house please keep it clear so the Fire Department can quickly access it during an emergency. If the sky looks like snow please park your car in the driveway - this will safeguard your car and make our job of plowing the street faster for you. Parking in cul-de-sacs is prohibited during phase one or greater snow emergencies...and of course please do not park on the side of the street where you see a snowflake sign. Our plows need full access to better clear our Town and ensure the safety of all! *Thank you!*



FROM THE POLICE

KEN MEEKINS, CHIEF OF POLICE



As the holiday season approaches Cpl. Holland is very active in identifying families who might be interested in participating in our Shop With a Cop event. The Hampstead Walmart will be hosting this event on Saturday, December 10th. On Friday, December 2nd we will be having a silent auction near the train garden at the Christmas Farmers' Market during the Hampstead Christmas Tree Lighting. Please come out and join us as we try to raise funds to support Shop With a Cop.

Hampstead Police have also been working with the area schools to observe their safety drills and assist with school events. Our relationship with the school administrators and staff could not be stronger. About 2 years ago I asked the Mayor and Council to allow me to expand our staff by one officer to dedicate personnel to investigations and to our schools. Their support has allowed our police department to maintain a high level of presence within the schools and strengthen our relationship with staff and students. Recently we have stepped up to provide in class presentations dealing with drug education at Shiloh Middle School.

With Winter approaching I would like to ask everyone to work with our Police and Public Works staffs to keep vehicles off of the roads until plowing can be completed. If your vehicles are in the roadway it makes it far more difficult and time consuming to complete that task.

The Police Department has added a new drug/patrol K-9 to replace "Nego". His name is "Stryker". Pfc. Halterman and "Stryker" will be on duty after completing training in Baltimore City. "Nego" is being retired. He was a tremendous asset to the entire county over the past several years.

As many of you know we are in the process of soliciting candidates for Police Chief and we hope to have a new Chief hired in March. I'm sure there will be more information forthcoming on that topic as we get closer to Spring.

On the crime and traffic topics, the crime rate remains very low and is dominated by thefts from unlocked vehicles. You can help by locking your cars and securing your valuables. We have spent a great deal of time and personnel working to make a dent in the escalating opioid problem in our area. Our partners in the criminal justice system and in health care are all dedicated to the treatment of addicts and the prosecutions of those who seek to provide the poisons that addict them. We need everyone's help to make progress in reducing drug overdoses and saving lives. Information is the key to success. Please help! Traffic crashes are concentrated at two locations: Main Street and Rt. 482 at the traffic circle. Excessive speed and distracted driving are the primary causes of those crashes. Slow down and don't text/talk and drive! We want everyone around to enjoy the holiday season.

Thank you all for over 20 years of support!

PLEASE KEEP LEAVES OUT OF OUR STORM DRAINS

If you have a yard full of leaves, PLEASE do not rake or blow them into the street! The Town does not have the budget or the equipment to dispose of leaves pushed out into our streets, and the accumulated leaves then create a driving hazard especially when wet. If the leaves end up clogging our storm drains, we have to subcontract to get them cleaned out or face fines from the State - either way, the costs are then passed on to taxpayers! Thank you.



FROM THE POLICE, cont.

Sector Assignments

The Town of Hampstead is divided into four sectors for the purpose of crime reporting and community policing. Each sector officer is encouraged to engage the community and discuss crime and order maintenance issues with residents. Officer assignments are as follows:



Sector 1 - PFC Seth Wynkoop (Roberts Field, Hampstead Valley and areas south of Houcksville Rd.)



Sector 2 - Pfc. Rob Orem (Small Crossings, Traditional Hampstead between Houcksville Rd. and Fairmount Rd.)



Sector 3 - PFC Jonathan Cranshaw (Shiloh Run, Brandywine Station, Westwood Park and other areas on the west side)



Sector 4 - Pfc. Clint Thorn (Oakmont Green, NC Farms and other areas north of Fairmount Rd.)



Community Outreach / Investigations - Cpl. Christina Holland



K-9 Team - Pfc. Russell Halterman and "Nego" (soon to retire - new K-9 will be "Stryker")



Community Outreach / Administrative Supervisor / Records - Lt. Stacey Gaegler



Patrol Supervisor - Sgt. Bob Swartz

You are encouraged to invite our officers to attend community meetings within their assigned sectors. If you would like them to attend a function or meeting please contact them directly or e-mail me at police@qis.net.

Thank you for your continued support!

Ken Meekins
Chief of Police

2016 HAMPSTEAD FARMERS' MARKET



Hampstead's award-winning Farmers' Market wrapped up its seventh season on Saturday, October 1, with a record 20,000-plus customers --- 3,000 more customers than in 2015! "We averaged over 1,100 customers each Saturday and had 20 new vendors participate this season, with 20 vendors returning from last summer. The average number of vendors per Saturday was 26," said Market Manger Marlene Duff, who manages the Market along with Sharon Callahan.



"Sharon and I were routinely approached by customers throughout the season who expressed their satisfaction with the quality of vendors and products that the Market offered," said Duff. "Many folks commented that the family-friendly atmosphere, the grass field, the musical entertainment, and the children's play area were tremendous features of the Market, in addition to the amazing vendors."

Sharon Callahan added that it takes a tremendous amount of coordination, phone calls, emails, and commitment from just a few volunteers to make the event possible. Callahan and Duff also said that the Market would not happen without the strong support of Hampstead Mayor Chris Nevin, the Hampstead Town Council, the Hampstead Public Works Department, the Hampstead Police Department, and the Hampstead Volunteer Fire Department. "We are truly indebted to each of these professionals," said Sharon and Marlene.

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MAIN STREET SPOTLIGHT

OUR TOWN, OUR MAIN STREET – LET’S SHARE THE TRADITIONS!

SPOTLIGHT on the Main Street Business Scene - by Lorena Vaccare

Linens and Lace Tea Room, 1222 North Main Street

Many people look forward to cooler weather with the anticipation of relishing a warm cup of cider or tea...if you're one of these people, consider taking time out of your busy day to stop in at Linens and Lace Tea Room at 1222 N. Main Street! As many already know, "taking tea" is a lovely experience - a tea room promotes an atmosphere in which we can reacquaint ourselves with family and friends in a restful atmosphere that evokes an age gone by. In a world so full of overbooked calendars and demanding schedules, stepping into Linens and Lace offers a delightful reprieve and a chance to enjoy something delicious. There are over 70 different flavors and types of tea and wine is also on the menu with a nice selection of reds, whites and blends. Serving breakfast, lunch, coffee and drinks, there's bound to be something for everyone. There's a different menu every week, with specialized and gluten-free items. Walk-ins are welcome, and catering is also available (perfect for birthday parties!).



Owner Karen Knoch opened the tea room on Main Street 16 years ago with the aspiration of recreating for others the enjoyment she experienced as a little girl having tea parties with her sister. Hampstead was her first choice because her children went to school here and she wanted to stay local. She loved the "old town feel" and small community, and still does to this day.

After the tea room became successful, Karen decided to expand to the nearby vacant space and 3 years ago branched out to open a gift shop and coffee bar. Her boutique brims with unique gifts and treasures, beautiful jewelry and elegant tea accoutrements, and every two weeks she offers a 20% discount on different items. (For the next 2 weeks the discount is offered on her jewelry items, so hurry in!) Karen's also offering a layaway option during the holiday to make it even more convenient to shop local. Can't find time to stop in during the day? Hours are extended during the holiday season and the shop will be open until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

If you're planning on attending the Christmas Tree Lighting on Main Street the evening of Friday, December 2nd, make sure you stop in at Linens and Lace - Karen will be open until 8:00 p.m. that night and she's giving out free samples of wine cider. Want to have a fuller holiday experience? Consider booking for their annual Christmas tea on December 3 or December 10. (With every reservation made you will receive 10% off in the boutique.)



So come, sit down, relax, and be Karen's guest. Tune out the hustle and bustle of the outside world and indulge in a delightful hour or two...leave feeling restored and refreshed!

For more information or to book reservations, call 410-239-8939. Her website, linenslacetearoomboutique.com, will be up and running in January and of course you can find Linens and Lace Tea Room on Facebook.



Artists Wanted



Are you an artist living in the Hampstead community? Would you like to exhibit your artwork at Town Hall? Artists do not have to be "pros" and the collection of work doesn't have to be large - if you have a collection of 10 to 12 paintings, sketches, photographs...whatever medium your artistic hobby is in...we'd love to host it here at Town Hall. There's no charge to exhibit and we supply the hanging system - all you have to do is call us!

From the Mayor's Desk, cont.

and misguided decision by the Carroll County Board of Education (BOE) to close North Carroll High School. Appellants from Hampstead and Manchester continue to appeal the closure through every possible angle including the initial review by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), then to the State Board of Education and currently the Carroll County Circuit Court. In their 7 to 3 vote to affirm the ALJ's decision and allow the closing, the State Board acknowledged the lack of transparency in this case. We are now waiting on a Hearing Date from the Circuit Court to review the record of the ALJ to determine if her decision was illegal, outside of the scope, inappropriate or unusual in light of the information that was presented to her. As has been stated all along, this is a tough hill to climb and we should still continue to advocate and pursue political avenues on the county and state levels. It is becoming very apparent that the closures did not result in savings, especially on the county level, as they gave additional money to the schools and got stuck with the bill for the maintenance of the closed schools. The BOE also continues to have projects to renovate East Middle and build a new Tech Center at a combined cost well in excess of \$100 million in their Capital Plan while perfectly suitable buildings sit idle. One positive step was accomplished with the outcome of the recent BOE Election. Marsha Herbert and Donna Sivigny will be seated on the BOE in December and we anticipate they will be better advocates for our community while bringing a fresh perspective to the Board. Between the lack of savings, costs to build and election, we should have a more conducive environment for listening to and reviewing additional options.

There has been strong support to the Appeals from students, graduates (near and far), local families and businesses. I want to personally thank everyone who helped us in this uphill battle - whether you contributed your time or your money - you made a difference and we are deeply grateful.

Something from which to take comfort: the Town controls the use and zoning of the high school property so any changes would have to be approved by the Town. At this point, no future uses have been identified and no options have been discussed for the property. If any arise in the future, we will let you know and will do our best to ensure the use is one which will benefit the entire community.

The third topic is Development – both commercial and residential. As I am sure you have noticed, the new Fuchs North America spice manufacturing facility on Hampstead Mexico Road is nearing completion. This facility will be state-of-the-art and operational by the end of the year, bringing much-needed jobs and an additional economic vitality to our Town. Fuchs is the largest privately held spice company in the world and they chose our Town because it mirrors their home base in Dissen, Germany – a small town with hard working people. We look forward to having Fuchs join our community.

Hampstead is experiencing some residential growth and will continue to do so in the next several years, bringing new families to our Town. New homes are now being built in Oakmont Overlook (23 single family units off of Greenmount Church Road), Westwood Park (additional condo units between Shiloh and Houcksville Roads) and building will commence within the year in Northside Estates (17 single family units on the east side of Main Street between Evergreen and Fairmount). Additional communities off of Houcksville Road & Upper Beckleysville Roads are in the initial planning stages. Builders can't just come in and start putting stakes in the ground - all developments must be reviewed and approved by the Hampstead Planning and Zoning Commission. The process can take up to a year, with stages involving concept, preliminary and final plans – all reviewed by the Commission, several Carroll County Government agencies, the State, and most importantly, you (all public hearings are advertised and properties are posted with a public hearing notification sign). Once final approval is issued, a builder is then able to start the land improvements needed for the project before obtaining a building permit for each dwelling constructed. The earliest we might see dirt moving is the Spring of 2019 at the Houcksville project with the Upper Beckleysville project some time later. The project currently being built on Houcksville is in the county, will contain 27 single family homes and is not part of Town planning. The build out of these communities obviously depends on market demand but will take several years and we now have the infrastructure in place to support this planned growth. With rankings such as "Best Place to Raise Children in Maryland" and "Safest Place to Live in Maryland" our Town is a very desirable community in which to live and raise a family. No matter how much we may grow, we will always retain our close-knit community feel and our small-town charm!

In the next issue we will give you an update on everything discussed above and hopefully introduce you to our new Police Chief. After 21 years of service to our Town and 45 years in law enforcement, Ken Meekins is retiring on May 1st. Ken is a trusted advisor and great friend who has had a significant positive impact on all of us who have had the pleasure to work with him. The Awards we have received and the special-small town feel we all enjoy are a testament to his service. He will be missed by all.



Farmers' Market, cont.

Hampstead Farmers' Market fun will continue in December with a two-date Christmas Market. The Fourth Annual Christmas Market, sponsored by the Hampstead Train Station, will be held on Friday, December 2 from 4 pm to 8 pm, and Saturday, December 3 from 10 am to 3 pm. Once again, the Christmas Market will be located at 1216 Main Street, directly across the street from the War Memorial Plaza.

You won't miss it, with brightly decorated windows and two large yellow Farmers' Market banners displayed. Over a dozen Hampstead Farmers' Market vendors will be on hand with lots of delicious treats and great gift-giving items, including olive oils, soaps, wine, baked goods, crocheted items, pork, lamb, jewelry, and artisan breads. There will be food for purchase prepared by Chef Ryder Seeds, a window train display, raffle tickets for a train set to benefit the Hampstead Train Station, and an auction sponsored by the Hampstead Police Department to benefit the "Shop With A Cop" program. This will be a great way to get into the holiday spirit and visit with friends and neighbors!

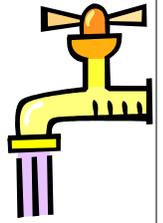


Important Updates from the Town

The Town posts important updates and emergency notices through the following communication channels: on its website, hampsteadmd.gov (go to the "News and Announcements" section), its Facebook page ("like" our page - Town of Hampstead, Maryland - and you'll automatically receive our notifications), and Carroll / Comcast Cable Channel 23. If you'd like to receive email updates, please send your email address to us at Hampstead@carr.org.

Avoid Burst Pipes!

With freezing temperatures here, make sure you've disconnected your garden hose from your outside faucet to prevent that pipe from bursting. If your house has pipes that are prone to freezing, you may want to consider leaving a faucet on a very slow cold water drip during the night in order to keep the pipes from bursting.



Bulk Trash Days for 2017 are March 18th, July 15th, and October 21st! Please refrain from putting bulk items out with your regular trash - our trash collector will not pick them up except on the designated Bulk Trash dates.



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 2 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony - 6:15 PM - Main Street
- 2 Farmers' Market Christmas Market - 4-8 PM - Main Street
- 3 Farmers' Market Christmas Market - 10 AM-3 PM - Main Street
- 10 9th Annual "Shop With A Cop"
- 13 Town Council Meeting - 7:30 PM - Town Hall**
- 23 Town Office Closing at 2:00 PM
- 26 Town Office Closed - Christmas Holiday Observance
- 28 Planning & Zoning Comm Meeting - 7:00 PM -Town Hall

JANUARY

- 2 Town Office Closed - New Year's Day Observance
- 9 & 16 Christmas Tree Pick Up
- 10 Town Council Meeting - 7:30 PM - Town Hall**
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Town Office Closed

FEBRUARY

- 14 Town Council Meeting - 7:30 PM - Town Hall**
- 20 Presidents' Day - Town Office Closed
- 22 Planning & Zoning Comm Meeting - 7:00 PM -Town Hall

Scholarships Available

The Town will award two \$1,000 scholarships in May 2017. Applicants must live inside Town limits, have acceptance into a college or university, and have good scholastic standing, with a "B" average or better. Eligibility requirements and applications are available at www.hampsteadmd.gov, the Town Office and Manchester Valley High School Guidance Office. Don't miss this opportunity! (All applications must be received by April 30, 2017.)

DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR DOG LICENSE Your dog license expires on ***December 31, 2016***. Beginning ***March 1, 2017***, a \$5.00 late penalty will be assessed. You will need your dog's rabies certificate, which will include the rabies tag number and revaccination date. If the dog has been altered, you will need to show proof. You may purchase your dog license at the Town Office or at True Value beginning December 1st.



Hampstead Volunteer Fire Company



The Fire Company is planning to move to a new location at the corner of Black Rock Road and Lower Beckleysville! The new facility will enable them to better serve our community.

For those newer to our Town, you should know that The Hampstead Volunteer Fire Company is an independent entity and not part of Town government. It relies on your generous financial contributions as well as County and Town funding to meet its operating needs. Please keep this in mind the next time you receive an envelope asking for donations to the Fire Department. Your donations go a long way to keeping our community safe!



*Don't be a target for thieves!
Lock and secure your vehicles!*

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