

# THE BARNESVILLE TIDBIT



Lillard's Corner under construction

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## TOWN EVENTS

All events at the Town Hall are canceled until further notice. Virtual town meetings have been successfully conducted since April. Town meetings usually are held the third Monday of the month (4th Monday if 3rd Monday falls on holiday). Check the website for more complete information. Contact [clerk.bmd@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.bmd@gmail.com) for zoom information.

**Discussion with  
Councilmember Craig Rice:  
November 12 at 6pm.**

**Master Plan Public Hearing:  
November 14 at 10am**

**Town Meeting: November 16  
at 7:30.**

**Town Meeting: December 21  
at 7:30**

**Virtual Holiday Party:** While we will not be holding our annual holiday event at the town hall, please stay tuned and visit the town's website ([www.barnesvillemd.org](http://www.barnesvillemd.org)) later in the month to know all the fun stuff the town has planned.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

If you are interested in joining any of the committees, please contact the town clerk at [clerk.bmd@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.bmd@gmail.com)

**Beautification Committee:** The Beautification Committee consists of Lisa Hilton (Chair), Jane Thompson, and Jan Lillard Burdette. They have done a wonderful job in keeping the town hall and sign boxes looking gorgeous. Many thanks to Lisa for cleaning the fences at town hall. The Committee has been involved with the planning of Lillard's Corner.

**Sustainable Barnesville** (formerly the Green Team) is cochaired by Joyce Bailey and Audrey Morris with Lauren Greenberger, Julie Evans, Jane Thompson, Veronica O'Connor, Anne Sturm, Linda Pepe, Tina Brown, Julie Soper, Deb Dresser, and Carole Bewley as members.

It has been another busy month for Sustainable Barnesville. We support the efforts of the town, led by Audrey Morris, to develop a park in the center of town. In addition to discussions about landscaping, hardscape, planting schedules, etc, we were fortunate to be joined by Monocacy Elementary second grader, Abby Stumpf, who is serving as our liaison between her second-grade class at Monocacy Elementary and Sustainable Barnesville. Abby has been updating her classmates about the town's vision for the park and progress and this captured the imagination of the students and their teacher.

They even drew up a list of 20 questions about the park for us to answer. One question they had was is it possible to walk to the park from the school, further evidence of how important it is for us to get sidewalks for our town.

We have begun the process of applying for official certification of Sustainable Barnesville by Sustainable Maryland. In 2019 we initiated the certification process with a town proclamation. Since then we have worked to improve life in our town and the surrounding areas by hosting local hikes and speakers, promoting Tree Montgomery and our Adopt a Tree outreach last spring. We are in the process of documenting all these activities and we hope to submit our application sometime in early 2021. The Sustainable Barnesville Team has been very active with its Plant an Extra Row Campaign. For more information about this project, see page 6.

**Event Committee:** The Event Committee, chaired by Cherry Barr and consisting of Holly Larisch, Tina Brown, Clare Smith, and Darina Callear, organized several virtual events. The Barnesville Speaker Series kicked off its calendar with a discussion of Hope and Justice with Dr. Eben Kirksey, an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Deakin University and the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton NJ. Reverend Howard (Chuck) Copeland, a minister at the Hosanna Worship Center in Poolesville, spoke about the Black Communities surrounding Barnesville. Senator Brian Feldman answered the town's questions about police reform and environmental concerns. Ana Bracic discussed her book, *Breaking the Exclusion Cycle*, a study of the Roma culture in Slovenia. The town's attention turned to helping prevent stormwater runoff with guidance provided by Ann English, head of the Rainscapes Program in Montgomery County. The last of our series for this year is scheduled for November 12 at 6pm with a discussion and question period with Craig Rice, our council member.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont'd)

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**Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission consists of Woody Bailey (Chair), Meg Menke, Judy Stone, Cynthia Jennings Field, and Mildred Callear. The Planning Commission revised the Draft Master Plan following the public review meeting held July 18, 2020. During the last two months, new sections were added covering climate change and housing. The Final Draft Master Plan and a list of changes and updates have been posted to the Town's website. The final public hearing on the Plan is scheduled for November 14, 2020. The meeting will be held online and everyone is encouraged to attend. After the November hearing, the final draft of the Master Plan will be submitted to the Town Commissioners for their review, public hearing and acceptance.

In other business, building permits were requested and approved for a solar array and a shed.

**Traffic Committee:** The Traffic Committee, chaired by Jim Brown, consists of William Price, Cherry Barr, Jaime Field, Cynthia Jennings Field, Jane Thompson, Tina Brown, Steve Findlay, and Monica Garrett. Streethawk continues to issue tickets to speeders and stop-sign runners. The Committee followed up on getting speed cameras near the MARC train station and having the town declared a J-Brake free zone. The SHA recently denied our request to restrict J-Braking.



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Hard to believe that Halloween is behind us and Thanksgiving is around the corner. We will be rounding out 2020 before we know it and when we look back to the start of the year, it will be remarkable how different our world has become. Yet, Barnesville has not only survived but has thrived. We haven't been able to be together physically since March but thanks to the efforts of so many in our community, we have managed to stay healthy and to strengthen connections to each other and to our community. Holly Larisch and the Events committee have organized a full slate of speakers and other virtual gatherings that have educated us and moved us forward on key fronts. For example, we learned more about how we can manage stormwater run-off on our individual properties through the Rainscapes program. We are working with the County, the Chesapeake Bay Trust and St. Mary's Catholic Church to develop a broader strategy for run-off on Barnesville and West Harris Roads that has caused damage to the road surface and to many of our residents' yards, driveways and homes. We managed to meet either virtually or in a socially distanced fashion so that these activities could continue.

### Message from the Mayor (cont'd)

Audrey Morris and Joyce Bailey organized Sustainable Barnesville activities so we could plant extra rows and donate our surplus produce. Likewise, work on the town park, Lillard's Corner, has continued. Audrey made sure we were organized and able to meet all of the conditions for the Project Open Space grant and to select an experienced landscape architect who has been able to press forward on the landscape front. We also have been working with the State Highway Administration, the Montgomery County DOT and the the Tolbert Family, to design an appropriate walkway that will border the park and allow our residents to walk to the post office. All of the work has been done virtually and safely. Indeed, the virtual environment probably allowed us to plan more events than might have been practical in person. It certainly has made it possible for a wide array of residents, neighbors and friends to conveniently join us to hear from historians, diversity experts, authors and our elected representatives. Our State Delegate Brian Feldman spent a couple of hours with us virtually one evening and our County Council Representative Craig Rice will be with us this month.

Halloween is a holiday built around a fun, child-centered, in-person tradition. Replacing that in the virtual world is no easy task, but kudos to one of our Barnesville kids, Abby Stumpf, for giving us a suggestion and strongly recommending that we try! Holly Larisch led the charge, organizing the virtual pumpkin carving contest that allowed us to share the fun of creating a unique jack-o-lantern, photographing it and waiting for the winners' drumroll. And winners we had! See the results for yourself (article in this Tidbit) and start thinking ahead about how we can build on this effort to create a new in-person tradition hopefully next year on Lillard's Corner.

Let me close by sharing what I have been thinking over these past few months about what we are seeing and learning as we chart our path in these unusual times. Our goal remains to keep working on issues that matter to YOU and to make Barnesville the kind of place we are glad to call home. Here is some of what I have observed:

- We want and need connections particularly during this time of greater isolation but we know we have to be careful and do it safely.
- We know there are folks in greater need than us and we want to help them in a concrete way.
- We know this is a time of emotional upheaval as communities are dealing with social and racial injustice and we want to understand and do our part to make change happen.
- We want a safe community that we can enjoy and where we and our kids can walk or drive without fear of injury or worse.
- We want to leave this wonderful corner of the world in better condition than when we first encountered it, enhancing sustainability in every possible way, protecting our natural resources and our wildlife for the next generation; and
- We want to recognize and celebrate the full breadth of our local culture and history.

So, thank you to everyone who helped to work on these issues. As we see the stone walls and benches being built at Lillard's Corner, I can't help but feel that the park will serve as a landmark that will help us achieve these goals: connecting us to history, beauty and each other, promoting environmental stewardship, promoting a safe, walkable community, providing a place for us to gather our extra produce for those who need it next summer, and offering a refuge to contemplate the world we want to see and the efforts we can take together to bring us closer to our goals. Thanks for the help and the inspiration,

Mayor Mildred Callear

## TOWN HIGHLIGHTS

**Sidewalks:** The Commissioners have worked with the landowner and the County in furthering the process of having a sidewalk from the center of town to the post office. A letter from the landowners approving the project has been submitted to the County.

**Transportation:** M-DOT, MTA and MARC have supported the installation and use of speed enforcement measures at the MARC station. The Traffic Committee is following up with the County and Craig Rice's office as to status.

**Crosswalks:** The State Highway Administration (SHA) provided crosswalks across Barnesville Road both at Mrs. Brown's Attic and across from the town hall and across Old Hundred Road for residents walking from the Baptist Church to the Town Hall.

**Traffic Calming:** Streethawk is continuing to patrol on both Barnesville Road and Beallsville Road. Hours were reduced during the Stay-at-Home period; however, additional patrols have been added to address stop-sign runners. As discussed in the Committee section, the town has written a letter against J-Braking, which can cause a loud exhaust noise. The SHA recently denied our request.

**Lillard's Corner:** See story on Page 8 for update.

**Stormwater Management:** The Town was awarded a grant for \$14,960 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the US EPA Region 3, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for funding for a concept design addressing stormwater issues at the intersection of Barnesville Road and West Harris Road. The town selected a contractor through the competitive bid process to develop the concept design. The town held two community meetings in order for the contractor to obtain information as well as share ideas with the community. The next step is for the contractor to provide us with several concept designs for review by the town, St. Mary's and MCDOT. The final concept design will be submitted to the Chesapeake Bay Trust in fulfillment of the grant. The next step in the process will be to develop an engineered drawing of the concept plan and finally determine the best way to fund and implement the design. The stormwater run-off throughout town is significant, covers a large area, and has a number of different causes. The Town is considering starting a Stormwater Management Committee, in keeping with many communities in Maryland, in order to explore the various problem areas and their solutions.



## DULY NOTED

A daughter, Vera Grey Alwon, was born to Garrett Miller (formerly of Barnesville) and Georgia Alwon-Mount. The happy family resides in Oakland, California.

Countryside Artisan Tour:  
December 4,5,6  
10am -5pm



## PLANT AN EXTRA ROW

Now that fall is upon us, our Plant An Extra Row initiative to encourage people to grow and donate extra produce to WUMCO is winding down, although some people are still donating fall greens and lettuce. Thanks to the help of many local vegetable gardeners, we donated 868 lbs by the end of September and this has allowed many area families to add more fresh fruits and vegetables to their dinner table. Please consider joining us this spring and “plant an extra row” as there are many families who are in need of food donations. Meanwhile, WUMCO is still accepting donations so if you have extra produce from your garden or your CSA delivery or if you buy an extra box of apples at one of our local orchards, please consider donating by calling WUMCO at 301-972-8481.

## WUMCO Donations

Hilton Funeral Home will be hosting a Drop Box for WUMCO food donations starting Nov. 1st. The box will be inside the "OFFICE" foyer. We will keep a light on so you can drop off non-perishable foods, anytime day or night. Below is a list of suggested food items:

Canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned meat, peanut butter, jelly, soups, beans, rice, pasta, breakfast grains, boxed milk, cooking oil/spray etc.

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."  
Winston Churchill*

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## A LITTLE FREE LIBRARY FOR BARNESVILLE

Natalie Opincar finished her Girl Scout silver award project by building a little free library for the community of Barnesville located at Saint Mary's Church. Inside there are lots of books that range from picture books for young kids, chapter books for elementary and middle school kids and so much more. Natalie "wanted to give back to Barnesville. The library is open to anyone at any time. It is free but please return the books after finishing them to continue the happiness that comes with reading".



## FALL GARDENING TIP

Make sure your soil has a “coat” for the winter. A cover crop of something like rye and field peas wondrously takes up nutrients in the soil and holds them over the winter so they don’t wash away. Cover crops protect the bare soil from the harsh rains and winds and help to hold the soil in place. In the spring, these cover crops die back, forming a natural mulch that can be easily planted in.

Leaves and grass clipping can also do a great job of protecting the soil and providing nutrients in the spring after they decompose.

## FALL PLANT SWAP

Thanks to Jane Thompson for organizing the Green Team's first ever Fall Plant Swap. The virtual event attracted 7-8 participants who exchanged seedlings and bulbs via email. We look forward to supporting Sugarloaf Citizen Association spring plant swap.

## RAINSCAPES PROGRAM

Many town residents listened to the thorough presentation of the County's Rainscapes program. For those of you who were unable to participate, check out [www.rainscapes.org](http://www.rainscapes.org) for more information on reducing stormwater runoff.

### Desks by Dads by Dalis Davidson:

As the pandemic goes on and on, we all want to volunteer our time to help others. I found an organization that builds desks for kids who have no place to study while they learn virtually from home. **Desks by Dads** is a project started by Jess & Al Berrellez of Germantown to provide free desks to low-income students. I went to one of their weekend builds to learn how to make their desk design and was inspired by the many volunteers who showed up, over 50 of us that day. Lowe’s donated all the lumber and even four employees to help cut and load all the materials. After just an hour my desk was done and I thought that the wonderful community of Barnesville and beyond would be interested in building more desks. So I asked if I could take the rest of the lumber home, enough for 15 more desks. They loaded my truck up and the following week I had 12 people show up in my driveway to build. With the guidance of a couple expert woodworkers (thanks William Price and David Young!), we knocked out 15 desks.

Krista Abbaticchio brought her box truck over and Stuart Legrice, Marion Bona, Krista and myself delivered the desks throughout Montgomery County. To see the kids’ smiles when we gave them their own personal desk was priceless! Many thanks to Dana and Forrest Miller, William Price, Cherry Barr, Bev and Dick Thoms, (and the people mentioned above) and even two of my airbnbers who gave up a hike to help us out. You may help out Desks by Dads by organizing your own group to build desks. Visit their Facebook page Desks by Dads for information. They can accept financial donations for chairs, desk lamps, and room dividers via Venmo at @desksbydads or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/donate/12443114159267203/>



## LILLARD'S CORNER UPDATE

Well, 2020 has been an interesting year in many ways. We had hoped to have the development of the Phase 1 improvements to the park completed by the end of October. But there have been inevitable delays and unusual ones. There have been supply chain delays - fencing materials during the summer and pavers for the plaza this fall.

Permitting and inspection delays were a factor both at Montgomery County (fencing and electric installation) and at Potomac Edison. And just waiting our turn on the schedule for outdoor work was a major factor - everyone is doing exterior projects this year. But the hardscape construction started in mid-October and (weather permitting) should be done before Thanksgiving. Commissioners Morris and Larisch recently went boulder shopping at the stone yard to make sure that the various stones to be used in construction would coordinate with each other. And the plant experts on the town's Beautification and Sustainable Barnesville Committees have been active in choosing the plant materials for the park.

As a reminder, the phase one improvements will include some planting beds around the plaza area.

The contractor will prepare the planting beds and the town will buy the plant materials, but we are expecting to have a volunteer push on a nice day to get the plants in the ground. And once the disruption at the park is completed, the Sustainable Barnesville committee, led by our bird expert Anne Sturm, will put up some bird houses to begin to draw wildlife into the park. Interest in Lillard's Corner is growing. Monocacy Elementary



School second-grader Abby Stumpf is following the progress at the park closely and reporting back to her class on a regular basis. The children are anxious to start using the park as soon as it is ready! As a reminder, the plans for the park can be viewed on the Sustainable Barnesville webpage at:

<https://vmoc99.wixsite.com/sustainabarnseville/projects>

### Pumpkin Decorating Contest

It wasn't quite as exciting as trick-or-treating door-to-door, but we were glad that so many of you took the time to carve some pumpkins and share the amazing results with all of us. Let's hope that next year this time we will be able to display these pumpkins in our new town park and all join together to light them up and admire them on Halloween evening.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dAZAPEP\\_uOHbt67nslHmVybhIPMwvj6r1?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dAZAPEP_uOHbt67nslHmVybhIPMwvj6r1?usp=sharing)

#### Winners

**Age 6 and Under:** Vincent Wagner - Cutest; Ben Kirksey-Demo - Spookiest; Malcolm Slotta - Silliest

**Age 7 - 11:** Abby Stumpf (2 entries) - Silliest; Gwen Slotta - Cutest; James Parsley - Spookiest

**Teens:** Teddy Slotta - Silliest; Andrew Parsley - Spookiest

**18 and Older:** Darina Callear - Silliest; Marina Callear - Cutest; George Burnham - Spookiest

**Family:** Lourdes Alcorta (Lulu); Javier Alcorta (Javi); and Maria Castner Miller - the Silliest

**Parent:** Joanne Parsley - Cutest