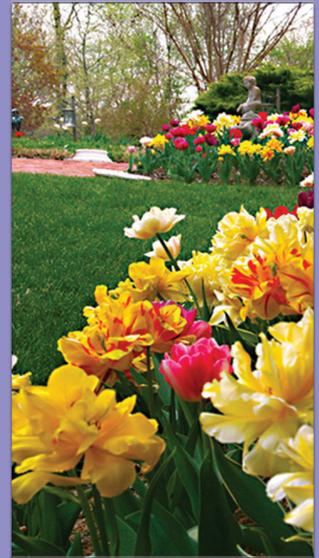


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Preserving Gaithersburg's History

A Portal from the Past to the Future

by Jennifer Armour, Planning & Code Administration

Municipal planning and code departments are responsible for things that many people don't stop to consider. Where can I put my fence and how high can it be? Is that new construction of a building safe? What will Gaithersburg look like in ten years and beyond? These are some of the many issues the Gaithersburg Planning and Code Administration addresses daily. The goal is to keep Gaithersburg safe, to keep Gaithersburg beautiful, and to provide assistance to residents and visitors when it comes to our community's built environment.

Among the Planning and Code Administration's charges is the preservation and enhancement of Gaithersburg's historic assets, both commercial and residential.

Historic resources are preserved for their association with historic events, people and design. Preservation is also good for the environment. "Preservation is important to Gaithersburg as it helps us remember and celebrate our past, but it is also a remarkably effective method of sustainability," says John Schlichting, Director of Gaithersburg's Planning and Code Administration. "Restoration and redevelopment consumes less energy than demolition and new construction while recovering the worth of past energy investments."

Gaithersburg's Historic Resources

There are two residential historic districts and 20 indi-

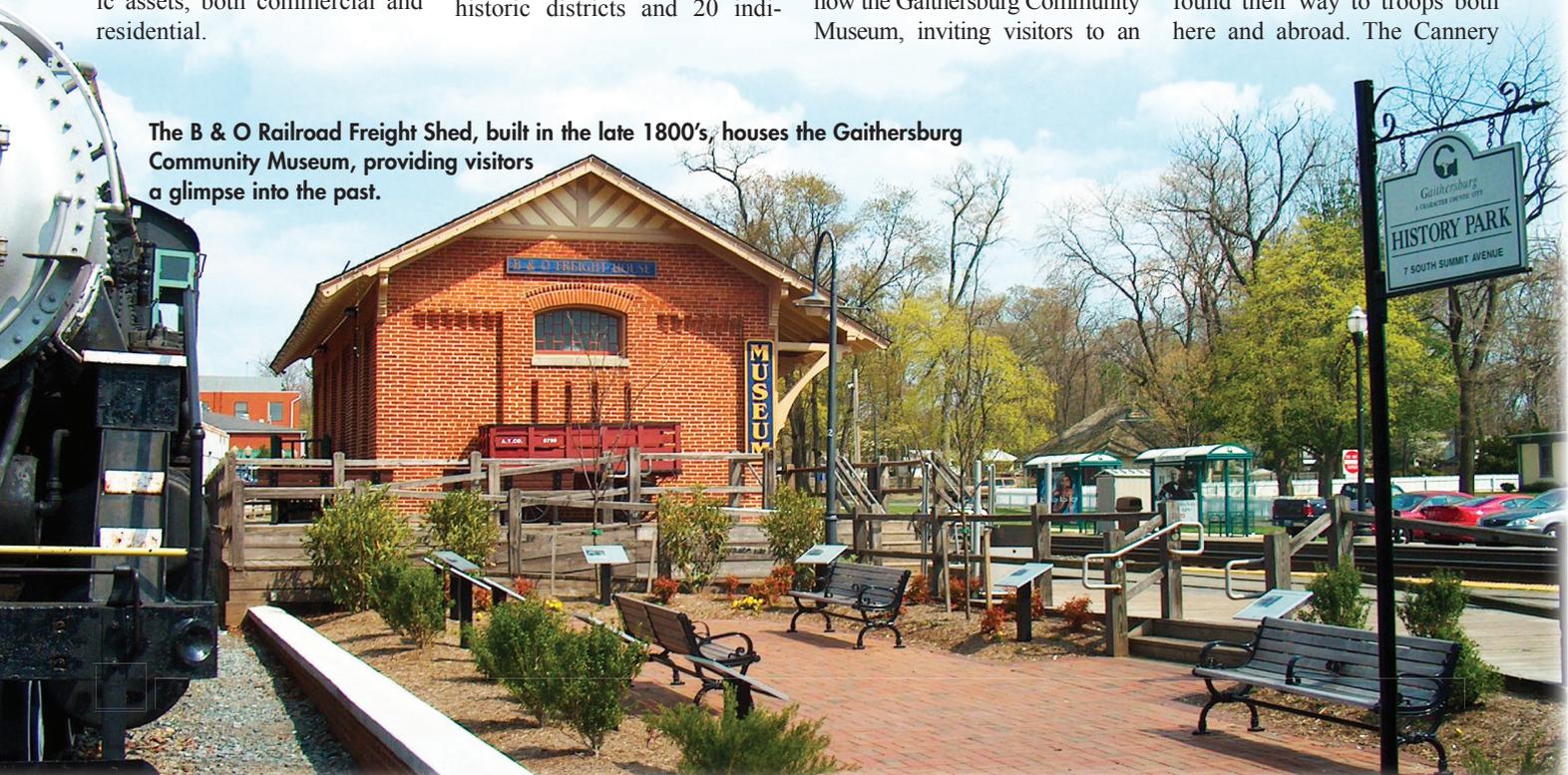
vidually designated sites in the City, for a total of approximately 100 locally designated historic resources. One of the most well-known is the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Station and Freight Shed, located in the heart of Olde Towne. The train station was built in 1884 upon construction of the rail line that connected Washington, D.C. and Gaithersburg. The railroad station is one of the oldest standing commercial buildings in the City and is still in use today, serving as a coffee shop and a MARC train ticket office for local commuters.

The adjacent Freight Shed, which served as a storage facility during the railroad's construction, is also a historic building. It is now the Gaithersburg Community Museum, inviting visitors to an

up-close look at what life was like in years gone by. The Museum includes rotating exhibits and a replica bank, school and merchant store. Just outside in History Park rests a locomotive, caboose and passenger rail car. In addition to local designation, the Station and Freight Shed are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The facility is available to rent for special occasions; educational tours can be arranged upon request.

Another era-defining historic site is the 1917 Thomas Cannery Building. Located at 3 East Diamond Avenue, the Thomas Cannery prospered during World War II, when its canned goods found their way to troops both here and abroad. The Cannery

The B & O Railroad Freight Shed, built in the late 1800's, houses the Gaithersburg Community Museum, providing visitors a glimpse into the past.





Located on East Diamond Avenue near Chestnut Street, the Thomas Cannery is among the 100 locally designated historic resources in Gaithersburg.

provided employment for local residents and a place for farmers to have their crops canned and shipped. After an economic recession and a fire that engulfed the building, the Cannery closed in 1963; it has since been revitalized as modern office and retail space.

The two residential historic districts are Brookes, Russell and Walker to the east of Route 355 and Chestnut/Meem to the west. The homes are made up of eclectic styles standing two and three stories, built with aesthetic details. Examples include small Cape Cods, Foursquares and Bungalows. They were built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to accommodate Gaithersburg's booming population that came after construction of the railroad.

Permits for Historic District Properties

For many residents in Gaithersburg, permits for minor home improvements and modifications generally require an approval letter from a homeowner's association, detailed plans and a completed application. The plan is then reviewed by Planning and Code Administration staff, and permits can be processed in as little as a week, depending on the volume of requests. However, changes to a designated historic resource require a more careful review to maintain historicity.

If the interior changes are considered cosmetic in nature, no permit is needed. If changes are being proposed to the exterior or the environmental setting, a

Historic Work Area Permit is required. Once the homeowner submits plans, the City's Historic District Liaison conducts a preliminary review. Each permit and plan for a historic property is then reviewed by the Historic District Commission (HDC) at one of its monthly public meetings.

"It is the HDC's mission to protect our City's historic resources for future generations to enjoy," says Commission member Mary Jo LaFrance. As a longtime resident of Gaithersburg, LaFrance shared her own experience about living in the Chestnut/Meem Historic District. "The Historic District designation offers the neighborhood some protections from over-development and provides quality control features to protect the property and the neighborhood. My husband and I have lived here for more than 30 years. The house has given us years of joy and celebration, and we plan on sharing our big beautiful yard with our grandson as our family expands."

Along with living in a part of history, there are other incentives when it comes to preserving the past. Those occupying a historic property may be eligible for a 25% property tax credit from Montgomery County for home maintenance, repair and restoration work. Alexander and Jacqueline Krakovsky recently purchased a historic building in Kentlands that served as a firehouse in the 1960s. The home required extensive work to convert it into a residence, and

the family utilized historic tax credits to offset the rehabilitation costs. "The process was stressful because a renovation of this magnitude has many moving parts and there are always surprises," Jacqueline Krakovsky says. "The end product is worth it because we feel we have a unique and welcoming house, and we like the charm of living in a community where all the houses are different."

Gaithersburg is a community rich in history, and its historic homes and historic sites are of great value to the City. In the hustle and bustle of life in the 21st century, many of these historic sites serve as a reminder of what the City of Gaithersburg was like more than one hundred years ago. Preserving its history by requiring a preservation review process ensures that future generations will have a piece of history to take along on their journey. 

Gaithersburg's 20 Individually Designated Historic Sites

1.	BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD AND FREIGHT SHED
2.	INTERNATIONAL LATITUDE OBSERVATORY
3.	BELT BUILDING
4.	FULKS HOUSE
5.	Y SITE
6.	EXCHANGE BUILDING
7.	THOMAS CANNERY
8.	TALBOTT HOUSE
9.	AMISS HOUSE
10.	BREWSTER/LIPSCOMB HOUSE
11.	FULKS/HARDING HOUSE
12.	RIDGLEY/ROYER HOUSE
13.	ENGLAND-CROWN FARM
14.	SEVERANCE HOUSE
15.	KENTLANDS FIREHOUSE
16.	TSCHIFFELY – KENT MANSION
17.	TSCHIFFELY – KENT FLOUR MILL
18.	TSCHIFFELY – KENT BARN
19.	TSCHIFFELY – KENT GREEN
20.	TSCHIFFELY – KENT CARRIAGE HOUSE

Purchasing Policy Changes Improve Efficiency



Each year during the Budget Public Forum, a picture of a segmented dollar bill is used to illustrate where the City spends its money: 16% for Public Safety, 21% for Public Works, 14% for Recreation and so on. In the current fiscal year that dollar bill represents a budget of \$68.2 million.

But how are your tax dollars actually spent, and how does the City ensure it's getting the best product or service at the most competitive price when it purchases something?

Procurement policies and procedures may not seem like the most exciting of topics, but

they are the foundation of good governance, playing a crucial role in a municipality's ability to effectively and responsibly provide services and amenities to its residents.

Stephanie Walker, Director of Finance and Administration, joined the City of Gaithersburg in January of 2015, moving to the area from Wisconsin. She was responsible for investment management, financial reporting and budgeting as Chief Financial Officer for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. "I was very impressed with Gaithersburg's financial standing when I was consider-

ing this position," says Walker. "Gaithersburg is a diverse, growing community within a major metropolitan area, and it offers unparalleled services to its residents – with absolutely no debt. There are very few communities that can say that."

Walker was also impressed with the entire Finance team, who took advantage of a time of change to explore processes and procedures. They tapped into Lean process improvement theory to find ways to maximize customer value while minimizing waste and inefficiency.

Expenditures in the City increased by 17% from 2009 to

2015, but the procurement process itself and the staffing to manage it (which at the moment is just one person) have remained constant. "As a team we decided to dedicate a significant amount of time to a project that in the end could increase transparency, decrease staff time, and make the process as efficient as possible for both our internal and external customers," says Walker.

They assembled an interdepartmental working group and brought in the consulting firm of Intersol Lean Advisors, Inc. to assist in a value stream mapping process. A flow chart of all of the current steps was created to

provide a comprehensive picture of the process as it currently exists. That was then overlaid with the “ideal process,” including value added steps that focused on decreasing staff time and speeding up approval time while maintaining the highest financial standards.

“The existing process is simply too cumbersome,” says City Attorney Lynn Board, whose Legal Services Division reviews hundreds of City contracts annually. “Going through this process we’ve been able to identify several areas where we can make gains in productivity.”

Among the recommended improvements are the addition of staff in the Procurement Division, the standardization of boilerplate solicitation documents and contracts, the removal of duplicate approval processes, and the acceptance of electronic signatures. If implemented, it’s

estimated that these improvements could reduce the cycle time for formal solicitations from 190 to 125 days (or about 1,200 man hours), a time savings of about 30%.

“There will be the same level of scrutiny on all City purchases,” says Deputy City Manager Dennis Enslinger. “But through the mapping process we uncovered redundancies and inefficiencies that we can address with staffing reallocation, additional targeted resources and technology.”

At a recent Mayor and City Council Work Session at which the policy and procedure revisions were discussed, competition and transparency were highlighted as priorities. Among the enhancements being considered are the posting of solicitation awards on the City’s website (solicitation documents are already there, but the sub-

sequent award information is not) and internal trainings for staff from all City departments to help them work through the process more efficiently.

In addition to streamlining the procurement process, the Mayor and City Council also considered recommendations to modify the City’s purchasing policies. Increasing the dollar threshold for purchase orders and formal quotes and increasing the dollar threshold requiring Mayor and City Council approval are among the changes. The new purchasing policy was adopted by resolution on March 21, 2016 (see associated chart).

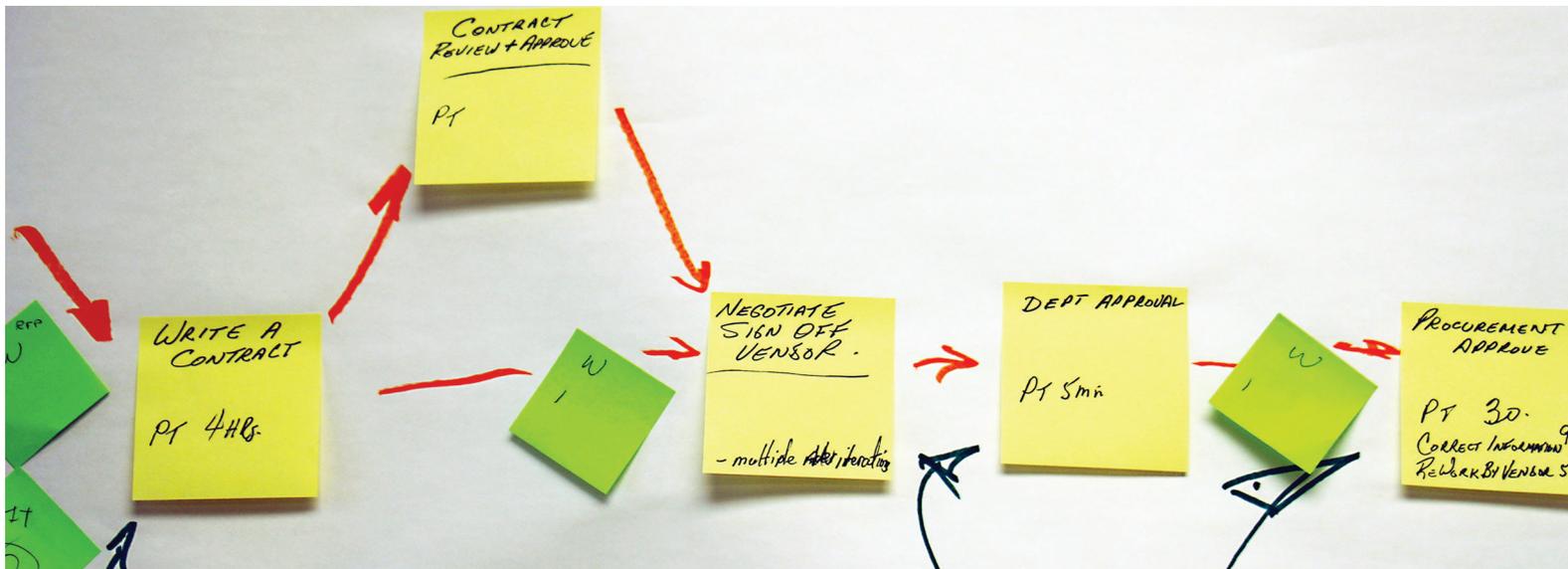
“It’s in the best interest of the public to ensure that the higher dollar value purchases be subject to the most robust review, and that the lower dollar value ones move through our system quickly,” says Walker. “These improvements will help us in-

PROCUREMENT NOTIFICATIONS

Subscribe to the City’s Procurement Opportunities newsletter to receive solicitation notifications as they are released. Click on “Newsletter Sign Up” under online services at www.gaithersburgmd.gov

crease the number of bidders, speed up the approval process, and demonstrate to residents that fiscal responsibility remains our highest priority.”

Purchasing Policy				
Competition	Best Judgment	Quotes	Solicitation	Solicitation
Approval	Department Head	Department Head Procurement Finance Director City Manager	Department Head Procurement Finance Director City Manager	Department Head Procurement Finance Director City Manager Mayor & City Council
Former				
Dollar Range	<\$2,500	Over \$2,500 & Under \$30,000		>=\$30,000
New				
Dollar Range	<\$3,500	Over \$3,500 & Under \$30,000	Over \$30,000 & Under \$100,000	>= \$100,000



Gaithersburg joined the Indian Health Service Headquarters' Employee's Association in hosting a powwow, an all-inclusive social gathering recognizing and celebrating the rich heritage and cultures of American Indians and Alaska Natives.



Celebrating & Connecting a Rich and Diverse Community in Gaithersburg

“The beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people” – Unknown.

More than half of all U.S.-born children have been identified as ethnic or racial minorities since 2011 and the total minority population in this country will have grown to more than 40 percent by 2020. In 2015, WalletHub ranked Gaithersburg #1 nationally for ethno-racial and linguistic diversity. With this national ranking and forecasted growth, the need to continue offering educational, economic,

social, and recreational opportunities that are as inclusive as possible is greater than ever. (See related article on culinary diversity on page 12.)

To meet the needs and concerns of an increasingly diverse community, the Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC) was formed in 1989, charged with helping to enrich the City through the promotion of understanding, respect and appreciation of the

many cultures of Gaithersburg.

“The Multicultural Affairs Committee is instrumental in helping our community gain understanding and respect for the varied cultures that are represented here,” says Senior Program Supervisor and Committee Staff Liaison Andi Rosati. “One of the ways we work on reaching this goal is by exploring and celebrating cultural differences and similarities.”

“Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common. Celebrate it every day.”
– Unknown.

The Committee hosts celebratory events that recognize African American History Month in February, Arab American Heritage Month in April, Asian Pacific History Month in

May, Hispanic Heritage Month in October, and American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month in November. The Mayor and City Council issue official proclamations recognizing these communities for their achievements and contributions.

“Everyone is somehow proud of their heritage and culture,” says Samira Hussein, Chair of the MAC. “These events provide communities the opportunity to show their pride in a positive way.”

The events might feature essay contests, student presentations, art exhibits, food, and music and dance performances representing the culture being highlighted. These educational elements help further understanding. “The belief is that by bringing the community together to celebrate, we can build bridges between cultures and help tear down the walls of hatred and discrimination,” says Rosati. “We benefit by learning and exploring other cultures and hopefully, along the way, dispel any misunderstandings.”

“Being part of this committee gives me and my community a voice,” says Hussein. “When my culture is highlighted positively it adds to the welcoming atmosphere of Gaithersburg and helps eliminate discrimination and misunderstanding of my culture and its customs.”

But how does a government connect with all of its citizenry? To help answer that question, a team of Gaithersburg staff is working to ensure that residents know about and can access the many services and programs offered by the City of Gaithersburg.

“As I began collaborating more frequently with other City departments, I realized that many of us were carrying out similar outreach activities within the same communities,” says Parks, Recreation and Culture Senior Program Supervisor Rachel Tailby. “By joining forces

we can streamline our efforts and provide a more consolidated yet impactful approach to promoting City programs and services.”

The outreach team consists of Tailby and Shadell Canty of the Youth Services Division, Maureen Herndon and Shanthi Srinivasachar of the Community Services Division and Officer Dan Lane of the Police Department.

“We’re strategically designing these outreach events to reach a large number of residents in targeted communities, helping us get the word out about youth, camp and recreation opportunities, community and family support services, vocational and financial empowerment programs, and public safety,” says Community Services Division Manager Maureen Herndon.

“We’re going into specific neighborhoods where we’re seeing that City residents are not actively participating in our programs, talking to them in their own backyard about the variety of City resources and amenities that can enrich their lives,” says Tailby.

The free events will feature recreational, educational and public safety activities and games as well as program information in English and Spanish. The team also hopes to gain insight from the residents so the City can tailor programs and services to meet the community’s needs.

Among the targeted neighborhoods in 2016 are Fireside, Amber Commons, Highlands Square, Jefferson at Orchard Pond, The Eaves, Potomac Oaks, Brighton Village, Westside Drive, Summit Crest, Streamside, Spring Ridge Apartments, The Fields, and Shady Grove Village.

“The opportunities we provide can benefit many of our residents; they just need to know how to take advantage them,” says Gaithersburg Police Community Service Officer Dan Lane. Residents will be able to

tour a police cruiser, see K-9 demonstrations, meet McGruff the Crime Dog, and learn about bike safety and the CHARACTER COUNTS! ethics program, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2016.

The initiative not only connects the City to its residents, it also connects residents to each other. “These events bring people together and assist in building community between neighbors, schools, businesses, and the City,”

says Shadell Canty, Parks, Recreation and Culture Site Leader.

Being part of a community is more than just living in the same place as your neighbors. It’s about getting involved, participating in programs, taking advantage of services, and celebrating and learning about one another. Tailby says, “Getting residents active in the community and our programs not only serves them well individually, but strengthens the City as a whole.”



The Chinese Culture and Community Center Chinese Lilies perform on the Multicultural Stage, featuring music from around the world, at the Celebrate! Gaithersburg street festival.

City Grants

Meet Community Needs in Gaithersburg

Health assistance for uninsured residents. Mentoring programs at City schools. Access to area food banks. In Gaithersburg, grant funds assist in the implementation of a wide variety of community assistance programs.

Many City grants are offered through the Community Services Division, which assists nonprofit organizations, schools, the faith-based community, and other community-based associ-

ations. The Community Advisory and Educational Enrichment Committees review grant proposals and then make funding recommendations to the Mayor and City Council.

“The City proudly funds a variety of assistance programs and services,” says Community Services Division Manager Maureen Herndon. “Nonprofit funding focuses on support in the areas of Food Assistance,

Emergency Assistance, Health Assistance, Mental Health Assistance, Homeless Services, Vocational Services, Summer Youth Employment, and Financial Wellness.”

Examples of these grants in action provide an understanding of the collaborations that help support the City’s most vulnerable residents.

The Gaithersburg Health Care

Network (GHCN) improves patient access to healthcare and provides services to residents without insurance. Through this collaborative, it is projected that 1,600 City residents will receive high quality, comprehensive healthcare services in the current fiscal year.

The lead organization of the GHCN is MobileMed, which operates seven primary care clinics and two specialty clinics



Students from Forest Oak Middle School's Music Department, one of many programs the City helps fund through school grants, performs at the 2015 CHARACTER COUNTS! reception.



Gaithersburg High School students share financial and educational concerns with their peers, school counselors and SIUMC mentors as part of the Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls program.

throughout Montgomery County. A mobile medical van provides local service every Tuesday at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

“MobileMed serves Gaithersburg residents by providing high quality, comprehensive healthcare delivered in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner,” says Linda Madden, Director of Development for MobileMed. Affording patients a full array of primary care services, Mobile Med has served 300 City residents in the first six months of the grant and expects to serve at least 400 more.

“The City grant helps MobileMed continue to provide high quality services, enhance quality improvement measures, increase the number of residents served, and, along with our collaborators, provide comprehensive, wrap-around services to some of the neediest City residents,” says Madden.

Mercy Health Clinic, also part of the GHCN, has served 515 City residents since the beginning of July 2015. “We provide primary and specialty, outpatient medical care to low-income, uninsured County residents, including those living in the City of Gaithersburg,” says Mercy Health Clinic Executive Director Mark Foraker. “In addition to primary care, we offer more than a dozen specialty clinics on-site, provide nutrition education for our patients, and focus on those who have hypertension and diabetes.”

Mercy Health also offers integrated behavioral health services

and links patients with other support services, such as Manna Food Center, one of three programs the City helps fund under the area of Food Assistance. “Without grants or other support funding, we could not provide these value added services that are often essential for a patient’s recovery or management of conditions,” says Foraker.

Funding is also available to schools whose student enrollment is comprised of at least ten percent City residents. City grants help support reading, ESOL, math, language, homework, mentoring, fitness, nutrition, science, music, dance, parent engagement, AP preparatory programs, and much more.

The benefits of school grant programs are limitless. “We have seen many students receive full scholarships to college, become engaged members of the workforce (many within the City), be willing participants in the many opportunities to volunteer for the City, and reach back to help younger students with the knowledge and experience gained as beneficiaries of the City’s grant programs,” says Yvette Monroe, Chair of the Educational Enrichment Committee.

“Guys of Gaithersburg” is a mentoring program that targets African American and Hispanic male students at Gaithersburg Middle School. “We work on grades, character and leadership,” says Michael Ryan, a counselor at Gaithersburg Middle School. “By meeting weekly after school, we create a positive and collegial

atmosphere where our students have the opportunity to talk, hear guest speakers, receive mentoring and tutoring from high school students, and assist in the community.”

“I was amazed by this program when I heard about it the first time two years ago,” says Mason Hardy, a seventh grader at Gaithersburg Middle School. “I have been waiting my turn and now it has finally come. I can be in a great program with great adult leaders that can guide me to do great things.”

For emerging needs, School Opportunity Grants help fill gaps, cover unexpected challenges and support new opportunities.

The “Baskets for Babies” program at Washington Grove Elementary School hopes to close achievement gaps by connecting with families before their children even enter school for the first time. “Our goal is to have our bilingual staff visit the families of every newborn child who will eventually be coming to our school. They hand deliver large baskets filled with books and educational toys that support the development of language,” says Principal Susan Barranger. “We want parents to understand that talking, playing and reading with their baby is vital to the child’s future success in our school.”

Washington Grove Elementary School also receives grant funding for “Come Read with Me!” and “Come Play with Me!” programs that encourage family engagement by providing reading and writing activities that parents

can do with their children, ideas for physical exercise as a family, and free books for them to take home. These programs, along with events such as the Gaithersburg Book Festival, add to Gaithersburg’s growing reputation as a literary community.

The City also assists nonprofit organizations that work within area schools. One such program is “Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls,” run by Soroptimist International of Upper Montgomery County (SIUMC). Operating at Gaithersburg High School since October of 2015, the program helps young women grow up to be strong and successful by providing access to professional role models, career education and financial aid resources. The City’s grant enabled SIUMC to secure staffing, materials and supplies to conduct two seven-week sessions for tenth and eleventh-grade girls this year.

“Gaithersburg High School girls who have participated in the program are prepared to pursue their career goals, feel comfortable creating achievable goals, and have the tools to overcome obstacles to their success,” says Johann Dretchen, SIUMC President.

“Grants to organizations that work with City residents are integral to carrying out our mission,” says Community Services Program Coordinator Lisette Engel. “The additional funding we offer helps our partners provide enhanced services to residents that improve their wellbeing, education and access to initiatives.”



Dining *in* Gaithersburg

A World of Possibilities

Where shall we go for dinner? Not that many years ago the choices for sit down restaurants in Gaithersburg were limited, and that question would most likely have been answered with a drive into Bethesda or DC.

Today there are more than 40 table service restaurants within the incorporated City limits alone. And that doesn't account for the dozens of fast casual places that seem to be popping up daily.

"Restaurants are an important piece of the puzzle," says Gaithersburg's Economic Development Director Tom Lonergan. "When we talk with business owners who are considering a relocation or expansion, nearby

amenities for their employees definitely come into play."

The proliferation of restaurants, many of which are first in the market or first in Montgomery County, is indicative of other recent changes in Gaithersburg. "We've been able to attract these new restaurants because of a growing population, a lower office vacancy rate, and higher occupancy at local hotels," says Lonergan. "Residents, tourists, employees – they're all looking for great food, and now they don't have to go too far to find it."

Several of the new-to-market restaurants are located in Downtown Crown, the burgeoning restaurant, retail and residential neighborhood at Sam Eig High-

way and Fields Road. Coastal Flats, Ted's Bulletin, Old Town Pour House, and Ted's Montana Grill are all new concepts for this area. "Downtown Crown is a unique center with a significant restaurant mix where the restaurants are the anchors of the project," says Greg Goldberg, Eastern Division Vice President and Leasing Director for Retail Properties of America. "The property is unique because it combines the best of a true destination with a local hangout. The restaurants and retailers, along with the surrounding homeowners and community, complement each other, driving additional traffic to Gaithersburg as a whole and this center

in particular, making it an ideal place for people to eat, shop, and live."

The diversity of restaurants in Gaithersburg mirrors the outstanding (and growing) culinary and cultural diversity of the community (see related article on page 8). WalletHub recently ranked Gaithersburg as the #1 city in the nation for ethno-racial and linguistic diversity. Read some of the local menus and you'll be taken on an international expedition of the cuisines of Greece, Iran, Latin American, Morocco, Uzbekistan, the Philippines, Italy, France, Mexico, and more. "I travel quite a bit both for business and for pleasure," says Ken Weiss, member

of the City's Multicultural Affairs Committee. "I think it's wonderful that my wife and I can enjoy the many flavors we experience abroad when we return to this area. Some of these restaurants also represent the dreams of entrepreneurs who have come to America seeking new opportunities. Having them in our community enriches us all."

Expanding from its Silver Spring location, La Casita, featuring Central American cuisine, will soon open at the former Roy's Place location on East Diamond Avenue in Olde Towne. "We chose this location because of the diversity and economic growth of this area and also a strong desire to bring a new dining experience to the people of Gaithersburg," says owner JM Arbaiza.

Some popular restaurants are also capitalizing on this new culinary energy. Longtime restaurant owner Bill Hristopoulos opened Vasilis Mediterranean Grill in the Kentlands 16 years ago. This

neighborhood favorite is about to undergo a complete transformation. Moving to the former Star Diner location at Market Square just two blocks away, Vasilis will go from a 70 seat restaurant (which Bill and his wife Julie live above) to a 120 seat freestanding restaurant, complete with private dining areas and a full bar (the liquor license was under review at the time of this writing). There'll be outdoor seating for about 70 more diners as well. A spring opening is planned.

Recently the City of Gaithersburg launched an interactive tool within its online map gallery to help residents explore all of the local sit down dining options. The map pinpoints locations and provides photos, a general description, and links to restaurant websites. "When we started building this map we were primarily gearing it for out of town visitors who were staying in Gaithersburg," says Sharon Disque, Gaithersburg Business Services Coordinator. "We soon learned that local res-

Fresh, local produce is available at weekly farmers markets in Kentlands and Olde Towne.



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idents were using it to discover new places right in their own backyard."

While there's no shortage of places to dine out, staying home and cooking is always an option. Freshly sourced ingredients from local farmers are available at the year round Saturday Main Street Farmers Market in Kentlands, which is joined by artisans and musicians in the warmer months, and at the Fulks Corner Farmers Market in Olde Towne, open Thursday afternoons May

through mid-November. Aside from fresh produce, you might also find meats, breads, dips and spreads, pickles, baked goods, eggs, honey, jams and jellies, herbs, soaps, and plants and flowers.

Food is no longer just a necessity to fuel the body. Dining is now a form of entertainment. It's socialization. It's experimentation. It's cultural education. And thanks to all the food and restaurant choices now available in Gaithersburg, it's all right here. 🌱



Public Art Creates a Sense of Place in Gaithersburg

She stands about five and a half feet tall (but she's almost always sitting down). She weighs about 250 pounds (but you should never ask someone their weight!). And you'll undoubtedly find her in more selfies than anyone else in Gaithersburg. She's Fridolin, the lovable bronze bear that has occupied a permanent seat on the lakefront plaza at RIO Washingtonian Center for the past 16 years. She's part of the public art project known as *Celebración*, one of 20 installations scattered in neighborhoods and along public streets throughout Gaithersburg.

"Public art, specifically art that engages with the community in an imaginative way, plays such an important role in the overall experience at RIO Washingtonian Center, as well as all of Peterson Companies' retail properties," says Regional Marketing Director Laurie Yankowski. "People of all ages love to stroll the boardwalk after dining, take a ride on the carousel, train and paddleboats, and take in the sounds of a cool band on a warm summer night. Fridolin and Kimo and their adorable story played out on the Lakefront Plaza are superstars of RIO Washingtonian, a truly iconic duo that adds to both the beauty and whimsy of the property."

“Public art helps define a community,” says Shellie Williams, Arts Administrator with the Gaithersburg Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture. “Whether the piece is realistic or abstract, it allows the viewer, the resident, the visitor to identify with the built environment and hopefully evokes an emotional response that helps them feel connected to the broader world.”

Most of the public art installations you’ll find in Gaithersburg are developer-funded. “Through the site plan approval process, there are opportunities for us to incorporate public art in new developments,” says Arts & Events Division Chief Denise Kayser. “An advisory committee works closely with the developer to select pieces that are appropriate to the site, that can withstand the elements (or the constant belly rubbing, as is the case with Fridolin), and that collectively add to the cultural landscape of our community.”



“Box Turtle,” Watkins Mill Town Center

the Activity Center at Bohrer Park and should be in place by late spring. A life-sized sculpture of the former mayor will be perched on the edge of a bench, with an embracing arm that welcomes visitors to sit and

share his hopes and dreams for the community that he loved so much. Montgomery County sculptor Jay Hall Carpenter worked to capture the essence of the former mayor, including his penchant for going sockless.

Mayor Bohrer was a driving force in bringing the CHARACTER COUNTS! ethics program to Gaithersburg in 1996. The dedication of the statue later this spring will also serve as a kick-off to a year’s worth of activities celebrating the 20th anniversary of this community-wide initiative to instill, encourage and model good behavior. Visit the City’s website for program details.

“It is our hope that our public art program adds to a sense of place, and allows people to make memories that will forever be associated with Gaithersburg,” says Kayser. 🐢

SHARE YOUR ART EXPLORATIONS WITH US

You’ll find a list of public art installations on the City’s website at gaithersburgmd.gov.

We invite you to visit one, or visit them all. Take a selfie or just take a photo of the artwork and share it with us using **#GburgArt** on Facebook and Twitter, or e-mail it to us at cityhall@gaitersburgmd.gov. We’ll be posting these images throughout the year, allowing you to become part of the art landscape *inGaithersburg*.

Case in point is the new Box Turtle installation at Watkins Mill Town Center in the Parklands. When the community was being built, several environmental concerns had to be addressed, including the relocation of a large population of box turtles. “Selecting a large bronze turtle as a focal point helps to remind the community of the harmony that needs to exist between man and nature,” says Kayser.

The newest piece in the collection will be a portrait of former Mayor Ed Bohrer. The statue is being installed at



“Journeys of Imagination,” Kentlands

Celebrate Spring & Summer *in* Gaithersburg

Look for weekly farmers markets, outdoor concerts and other events taking place throughout the summer. For a comprehensive list visit gaithersburgmd.gov.

Summer Camp Registration

Ongoing throughout the Spring

Active Aging Expo

Monday, May 2, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Activity Center at Bohrer Park

Miniature Golf Park Opens

Friday, May 6
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

Kentlands Day Celebration

Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Kentlands Main Street

La Milla de Mayo

Saturday, May 7, 5 – 8 p.m.
Olde Towne

Gaithersburg Chorus Spring Concert

Saturday, May 14, 5 p.m.
City Hall Concert Pavilion

Sunday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

Bike to Work Day

Friday, May 20, 7 – 9 a.m.
Great Seneca Hwy. & Orchard Ridge Dr.

Gaithersburg Book Festival

Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
City Hall Grounds

Outdoor Water Park Opens

Saturday, May 28
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

Memorial Day Observance

Monday, May 30, 11 a.m.
Christman Park



Jubilation Day Gospel Celebration

Saturday, June 4, 4 – 8 p.m.
City Hall Concert Pavilion

Celebrate! Gaithersburg in Olde Towne Street Festival

Sunday, June 12, Noon – 5 p.m.
Summit & Diamond Avenues

4th of July Fireworks & Concert

6 – 10:30 p.m.
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

SportsFest

Saturday, July 16, 8:30 – 11 a.m.
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

National Night Out Against Crime

Tuesday, August 2, 6 – 8 p.m.
Various Neighborhoods

Kentlands/Lakelands 5K

Saturday, September 3, 8 a.m.
Market Square

Labor Day Parade

Monday, September 5, 1 p.m.
Olde Towne

Oktoberfest at the Kentlands

Sunday, October 9, Noon – 5 p.m.
Kentlands Downtown & Village Green



It's Summertime Let's Get Outside!

gaithersburgmd.gov • 301-258-6350



There's a lot happening at the City Hall Concert Pavilion

Bring a picnic or get some carryout from one of Olde Towne's unique restaurants and bakeries

Free Concerts

Thursday Morning Kids Concerts

June & July • 10 – 11 a.m.

Thursday Evenings in Olde Towne

June, July, September • 6 – 7:30 p.m.

10th Annual Jubilation Day Gospel Concert

Saturday, June 4 • 4 – 8 p.m.

Fitness

Zumba in the Park

Fridays, May 6 – August 26 • 7 p.m.

Yoga in the Park

Tuesdays, May 3 – July 26 • 7 p.m.



Enjoy the Bounty of Local Farmers

Kentlands Farmers & Artists Market

Open Year Round
Main Street Pavilion
Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Fulks Corner Farmers Market

May 5 – November 17
Fulks Corner & Route 355, Olde Towne
Thursdays, 12:30 – 6 p.m.

Summer Camps

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gaithersburgmd.gov 301-258-6350

City Resources & Facilities

gaithersburgmd.gov

RESOURCES

GAITHERSBURG CITY HALL

31 S. Summit Ave. 20877-2038
301-258-6300
Fax: 301-948-6149
www.gaithersburgmd.gov
cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

301-258-6310
cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov

PLANNING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

301-258-6330
plancode@gaithersburgmd.gov

Animal Control
301-258-6343

Commercial & Residential Inspections Automated Scheduling
301-258-6338

Commercial, Residential & Fire Systems Plan Review
301-258-6330

Environmental Services
301-258-6330

Neighborhood Services
301-258-6340

Passports
301-258-6330

Permits & Licenses
301-258-6330

Planning & Zoning
301-258-6330

Rental Housing & Landlord Tenant Affairs
301-258-6340

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov

Public Information
301-258-6310

Community Services
1 Wells Ave. 20877-2071
301-258-6395

Homeless Services – Wells/Robertson House
1 Wells Ave. 20877-2071
301-258-6390

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

301-258-6320
finance@gaithersburgmd.gov

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

301-258-6325
it@gaithersburgmd.gov

HUMAN RESOURCES

301-258-6327
hr@gaithersburgmd.gov

GAITHERSBURG POLICE

14 Fulks Corner Ave. 20877-2066
Non-emergencies: 301-258-6400
Emergencies: 911
police@gaithersburgmd.gov

PUBLIC WORKS

800 Rabbitt Rd. 20878-1600
301-258-6370
publicworks@gaithersburgmd.gov

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

506 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-2325
301-258-6350
Fax: 301-948-8364
parksrec@gaithersburgmd.gov

FACILITIES

ACTIVITY CENTER AT BOHRER PARK, SUMMIT HALL FARM

506 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-2325
301-258-6350
parksrec@gaithersburgmd.gov

AQUATICS

Gaithersburg Aquatic Center (indoor)
2 Teachers Way 20877-3423
301-258-6345
aquatics@gaithersburgmd.gov

Water Park (outdoor/seasonal)
512 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-2325
301-258-6445
waterpark@gaithersburgmd.gov

ARTS BARN

311 Kent Square Rd. 20878-5727
301-258-6394
artsbarn@gaithersburgmd.gov

BENJAMIN GAITHER CENTER

80A Bureau Dr. 20878-1430
301-258-6380
seniorcenter@gaithersburgmd.gov

CASEY COMMUNITY CENTER

810 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-4102
301-258-6366
caseycomm@gaithersburgmd.gov

COMMUNITY MUSEUM

9 S. Summit Ave. 20877-2071
301-258-6160
parksrec@gaithersburgmd.gov

CONCERT PAVILION AT CITY HALL (Seasonal)

31 S. Summit Ave. 20877-2038
301-258-6350

GAITHERSBURG YOUTH CENTERS

Olde Towne

301 Teachers Way 20877-3422
301-258-6440
yc-oldetowne@gaithersburgmd.gov

Robertson Park

801 Rabbitt Rd. 20878-1657
301-258-6166
yc-robertson@gaithersburgmd.gov

KENTLANDS MANSION

320 Kent Square Rd. 20878-5726
301-258-6425
kentlandsmansion@gaithersburgmd.gov

MINIATURE GOLF COURSE (Seasonal)

514 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-2325
301-258-6420
minigolf@gaithersburgmd.gov

SKATE PARK (Seasonal)

510 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-2325
301-258-6359
skatepark@gaithersburgmd.gov



GburgMD



Many facilities may be rented for meetings & social events. See website for details.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR FUN?

MAY – SEPTEMBER, 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

THE FOREIGNER (Comedy)

presented by Sandy Spring
Theatre Group

MAY 13 – 29

TICKETS: \$20/\$12 (14 & under)

A fishing lodge in rural Georgia provides a needed holiday for Charlie, a painfully shy British gentleman. His plan for solitude goes hilariously awry when he is introduced as an exotic foreigner who doesn't understand English.

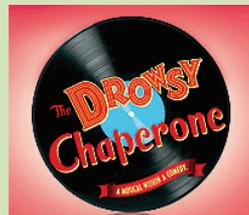


CIRQUE DU DANCE

presented by VF DanceTheater
MAY 6 – 7

TICKETS: \$22/\$12 (10 & under)

Combining the artistry of dance with the zaniness of circus in a rollicking performance featuring clowns, acrobats and contemporary dance. Experience magic in every moment!



THE DROWSY CHAPERONE (Musical)

presented by Damascus
Theatre Company

JUNE 10 – 26

TICKETS: \$22/\$12 (14 & under)

When a theatre fan plays his favorite cast album, the characters come to life in this musical farce. Winner of 5 TONY Awards, the play features show-stopping numbers from the Jazz-age.



IN CONCERT

ROCHELLE RICE – JAZZ

JUNE 4

TICKETS: \$25/\$12 (18 & under)

Rochelle Rice, Best Jazz Vocalist (2013) by Washington City Paper Jazzy Awards, is a dynamic and compelling vocalist and songwriter blending jazz with contemporary folk and soul.

GREASE (Musical)

presented by Wildwood Summer Theatre
JULY 15 – 23

TICKETS: \$22

Welcome to Rydell High, where the T-Birds and Pink Ladies rule the school. Tough guy Danny and good girl Sandy find true love one summer at the beach.



SUMMER CAMP EXTRAVAGANZA

The best in summer art camps are right in your own backyard! Looking for the right arts classes for your budding Monet, Chris Rock, or Julie Andrews? Check out the Arts Barn visual and performing arts summer camps. Taught by professional artists, these camps will be part of terrific summer memories for years to come. Come to the Art Barn, where imagination is unlimited!



NINE (Musical)

presented by Wildwood
Summer Theatre

AUGUST 5 – 14

TICKETS: \$22

Celebrated film director Guido Contini is facing a midlife crisis. Not only is his creativity blocked but now he's entangled in a web of romantic difficulties that will have you laughing out loud. (Adult content. Parents strongly cautioned.)



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1990s **As If**

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