

Postage

Upcoming Events

for more member events and more detail of listed events check out our website at www.WKchamber.org.

**May 11th, 2005
2 PM Central Business District Bi-Monthly Meeting**

at the new Hollywood East Cafe on the Boulevard, 2610 University Blvd (next to Bank of America). The meeting is open to all and is moderated by Corporal Freddy Martinez of the Montgomery County Police. During the meeting we will discuss current crime trends, recent incidents in the Central Business District and current gang situation. Also, there will be other county representatives from various departments to answer questions or direct you to the appropriate department for any concerns you may have.

**May 15th, 2005
THE TASTE OF WHEATON**

For more than 10 years this event has been a must attend for anyone loving diverse and eclectic dining opportunities. This event features samples from dozens of Wheaton's restaurants. With free admission and \$1 samples, Taste of Wheaton is a great family outing or perfect for the adventuresome diner. Festivities take place in Downtown Wheaton at the intersection of Grandview and Enalls Avenues. Free Children's rides, live music and entertainment. The 2005 Taste of Wheaton will be held from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**May 24, 2005
WHEATON TOWN MEETING RESCHEDULED**

At the Gilchrist Center, 11319 Elkin Street, Wheaton, Maryland, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Don't miss Trade Fair showcasing County programs as well as updates by County staff for implementing the Wheaton Public Safety Audit Report and the Wheaton redevelopment efforts to date. For more information on the meeting, please contact the Wheaton Redevelopment Program at 240-777-8121. Additional background information may be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/wheaton.

May 2005

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website: www.WKchamber.org

**WHEATON TOWN MEETING RESCHEDULED
May 24, 2005**

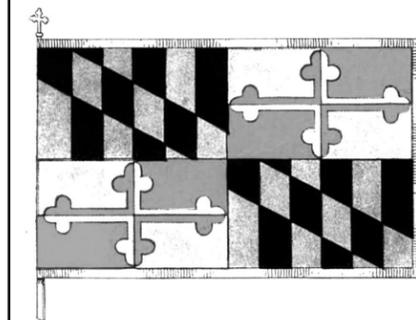
The Town Meeting originally scheduled for February 28, 2005 in Wheaton, has been rescheduled for May 24, 2005. The initial meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Wheaton Redevelopment Program and the Mid-County Regional Services Center will hold the meeting at the Gilchrist Center, 11319 Elkin Street, Wheaton, Maryland, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The meeting will be in two parts. The first part of the event will be a "trade fair" for various county departments, agencies, and project representatives where the public can ask questions and receive information about the redevelopment program, small business improvement programs, permitting process, and other services available to both business and residents.

The second portion of the meeting will be an opportunity for County staff to highlight several of the County Executive's recommendations for implementing the Wheaton Public Safety Audit Report and the Wheaton redevelopment efforts to date. We will continue

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May 25th Wednesday 6:00-8 PM



6:00 Mix&Mingle 6:45 Speaker Presentation
Report from the Maryland 2005 Legislative Session
Del. Carol Petzold
&
Installation of Officers 2005

Brookside Gardens
Where:
Brookside Gardens
In the Fragrance Garden
1800 Glenallan Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902

\$16: members (\$12 in advance)
\$20: non members (\$16 in advance)
For advance registration contact the Chamber office at 301-949-0080

**England Custom Furniture Direct is on a mission:
Make furniture shopping fun again!**

Wheaton, Maryland - April 29, 2005—A new store opened last week in Wheaton —at 10901 Georgia Avenue—that may change how you shop for upholstered furniture. A series of consumer group discussions held in Ohio, Texas and here in the DC area found how unhappy people were with the process of shopping for sofas and other upholstered furniture. But they were very excited about how England Custom Furniture Direct turns that upside down.

The company recently introduced a new theme line, 'Everything about us is comfortable.' "It sums up both what we sell and how we work hard to make



shopping for upholstered furniture a really enjoyable experience," said Tim Aubry, President of Custom Direct, owner and operator of England Custom Furniture Direct stores.

England Custom Furniture Direct presents a unique concept in upholstered furniture shopping. Their store offers about 4-dozen complete room settings, often including sofas, love seats, chairs, custom area rugs and accessories. Then they have a wall display with all

the fabrics available for each piece. Guests choose their favorite frame style and then select a fabric from dozens of options, all of which are made in the USA. Then England custom builds their sofa, sectional, or other upholstered piece at their factory in New Tazewell, Tennessee for guaranteed in-home delivery within 21-days.

In the research among recent buyers of upholstered furniture England affirmed

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**Jubilee Association of Maryland
Roast of Senator P.J. Hogan**



**Thursday, May 12, 2005
starting at 7 PM
at Indian Spring Country Club.**

A number of Senator Hogan's friends and colleagues will be "roasting" him that evening - including Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Senate President Mike Miller, Senator Mac Middleton, Delegate Nancy King, Mr. Chuck Short, Senator Gloria Lawlah, Mr. Bobby Neall, Senator Edward Kasemeyer and Mrs. Diane McComb; the Honorable Douglas M. Duncan will be the Master of Ceremonies. It should be an entertaining and memorable evening!

The Roast will be a fundraiser to support the work of Jubilee. Jubilee Association provides quality community-based residential support to 95 adults with developmental disabilities throughout Montgomery County. Tim Wiens, Executive Director of Jubilee and Wheaton&Kensington Chamber Board Member, invites you to attend this fun-filled event.

For information on attending or sponsoring this event, please contact Wendy at wjolley-kabi@jubileemd.org or 301-949-8628x117.



International Community Building:
Chamber Member Larry White Builds Houses in Africa



Details on Page 3

the VOICE DEADLINE
for the October issue is October 30

The Voice Newsletter is to provide members with useful information. We invite your comments, suggestions and recommendations. If you would like a specific issue addressed, tell us. If you want someone else to be added to our mailing list tell us.

email us at dkenney@wkchamber.org.
Fax hardcopy to the Chamber office at 301-949-0081

Executive Board

- Harold Weinberg, *President*
301-933-6161
Miles Realty Company, Inc.
- Colleen Larkin, *1st Vice-President*
301-493-4200 x218
St. Luke's House, Inc.
- Tim Wiens, *2nd Vice-President*
301-949-8628
Jubilee Assn. Fund
- Marcia Jacques, *Secretary*
301-942-5979
Evergreen School
- nancy Sherwood, *Treasurer*
301-933-1222
Sherwood Associates, Inc.
- Brett Schneider, *Sergeant at Arms*
301-946-6800
Washington Music Center
- Kathleen Thompson,
301-565-8000
Jerry Thompson & Associates

Directors

- Natalie Cantor 240-777-8100
Mid-County Services
- Joe Davis 240-777-8125
Wheaton Redevelopment
- Richard Ehrenreich
301-570-3000
Ehrenreich & Associates, LLC
- Tom Logan 301-946-0600
Logan's Automotive
- Ken Nelson 301-562-5516
*Montgomery College Workforce
Development & Continuing
Education*
- Laura-Leigh Palmer
301-942-1121
asap graphics
- Lynn Raufaste 301-949-2424
Mayor, Town of Kensington
- Ellen Riger 301-946-7141
EllenOriginals
- Karen Sears 301-933-8838
Acorn Self Storage No. 1, LLC
- Cmdr. Patty Walker
240-773-5500
*Montgomery County Police
Department*
- Patrick Weed 301-942-8700
Patrick Realty
- Larry White 301-949-6585
First Baptist Church of Wheaton

Membership & Marketing Coordinator

Donna Kenney 301-949-0080
*Wheaton & Kensington Chamber
of Commerce*

WHEATON TOWN MEETING RESCHEDULED

From page 1

with a presentation by the Redevelopment Director and the co-chairs of the Wheaton Redevelopment Steering Committee (WRSC) describing the WRSC "vision" for the town center area. The Redevelopment Director will discuss the proposed draft amendment to the Wheaton Retail Preservation Overlay Zone; the Maryland Department

Don't miss the "trade fair"!

Various county departments, agencies, and project representatives where the public can ask questions and receive information about the:

- redevelopment program
- small business improvement programs
- permitting process
- and more!

of Transportation's Wheaton Metro Station Area Pedestrian Safety Study and the status of

current projects such as Westfield's expansion, the HOC project and other sites.

For more information on the meeting, please contact: Wheaton Redevelopment Program at 240-777-8121. Additional background information may be found at:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/wheaton

England Custom Furniture Direct *From page 1*

that shoppers view this purchase as a major one. It's an important piece in an important room. Shoppers invest a lot of time and energy to make sure they get it right. It makes for a long and potentially tiresome process. "They visit on average 4-5 furniture stores each, but many visited a dozen or more, before getting serious about making a decision," said Mr. Aubry. "We talked to people who are customers, and we talked to people who never heard of England. What we heard

was deeply gratifying," said Aubry. "Our concept gives them such a wide range of options, they don't need to shop all over town to find exactly what they want." By avoiding the multiple trips and the multiple sales people, a lot of the stress factors can be eliminated.

One past customer said, "Thank you Mr. England", and others echoed the comment when asked what she might say to the President of England Custom Furniture Direct. "When you take away the need to

go all over town in search of the perfect sofa, and add in our emphasis on complete customer satisfaction, a lot of the shopping frustrations melt away," according to Tim Aubry.

The 2nd and newest England Custom Furniture Direct location in Washington DC is in Wheaton, Maryland, at 10901 Georgia Avenue, phone (301) 942-3008. England Custom Furniture Direct's other location in the Washington DC area is located at Kentlands Market Square, 202 Kentlands

Boulevard, in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Other existing stores are in Youngstown, Toledo, and Akron, Ohio, and in Austin, Texas. Multiple other locations are slated to open in 2005 in the Washington DC area.

Custom Direct, LLC is the sole franchisee of England Furniture for its' England Custom Direct Furniture stores. England Custom Furniture Direct offers a variety of styles of upholstered furniture, and a wall of fabrics to choose from. Furniture is custom built by England Furniture given customer's choice of style and fabric, and delivered within 21-days to their home.



March 30th
Monthly Mixer & Dinner Meeting
**WHEATON PUBLIC
SAFETY AUDIT &
2006 COUNTY
BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS**

also discussion of the
**WHEATON RETAIL
OVERLAY
ZONE TEXT
AMENDMENT**

Brookside Gardens To Host A New Spring Performance Series In The Garden

Sponsored by the Friends of Brookside Gardens

Join us for the sounds of music and the splendor of dance surrounded by the beauty of the garden!

Brookside Gardens' new evening performance series is free of charge and no registration is required. All performances are located in the Wedding Gazebo.

Hector Munoz, Harp & Guitar (Spanish & International Music)

Wednesday, June 1, 6:30-8:00pm

Silverwinds Flute Ensemble
Wednesday, June 8, 6:30-8:00pm

Wes Biles Trio, Jazz
Wednesday, June 15, 6:30-8:00pm

Konark Dance School (Performing dances from India)

Wednesday, June 22, 6:30-7:30pm

Brookside Gardens is located at 1800 Glenallan Avenue in Wheaton, MD. Call 301-962-1400 for more information or visit us at www.brooksidegardens.org.



Proposed Cuts, Your Input Required!

Deep cuts in the property tax (\$70 million worth) would knock out any "new" requests. Specifically some of the proposed cuts are:

Police: Gang Prevention unit (\$597,900) which would have at least one officer assigned to each police District); the Chief's new staffing plan which would add **6 additional officers to Wheaton (to form a dedicated CBD unit).**

Park and Planning: **returning trash cans in the parks.**

Housing programs: the Council has already cut the biggest source of affordable housing funds

DED: **Minority/Small business incubator (slated for the Long Branch, Silver Spring or Wheaton communities); minority business advisor (to help expand and strengthen the minority business programs and**

activities in the County); **small business reserve fund (\$310,000)--which is used to help small business, like those in Silver Spring, Wheaton, and Long Branch to expand.**

Montgomery College: **Full funding of budget request to maintain lower tuition rates, etc.**

These are important issues. People should contact the full council and especially the five members of Council who are most interested in making the deepest cuts:

- Nancy Floreen,
- Phil Andrews
- Marilyn Praisner
- Mike Subin
- *Mike Knapp.*

Several of these initiatives we as a Chamber have testified for are in

trouble at the Council-specifically:

- 1.. Trash cans back in the parks
- 2.. Public Safety for Wheaton. includes dedicated CBD police unit (6 officers and a sergeant) and additional members for the Safe Team (red shirts).

Make your voices heard and notify other people as well. In Wheaton, it's urgent for the business community, both Chamber and individual owners, to speak out.

E-mail to:
county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov
or call 240-777-7907.

ALSO, we are trying to organize groups of people around these two issues to attend various Council sessions on Tuesdays in May to vocalize

Chamber Member Builds Houses in Africa

February 23 through March 8th, Chamber Member Larry White (also on the Board and you might know of him as the Chair of the Membership Committee) joined with 13 other people to help construct two houses in Kiisi, Kenya. The project was under the auspices of Habitat for Humanity in Kenya and was sponsored in part by the First Baptist Church of Wheaton, where Larry serves as an associate pastor.

Habitat for Humanity is an international organization that is dedicated to providing low cost housing for the working poor. In Kenya a Habitat home is a three-room structure that provides two bedrooms and a room for the family to gather. It is a simple mud brick structure with a tin roof. There is no kitchen since all cooking is done outdoors and bathroom facilities are also external to the main house. The Habitat home is much more desirable than the dung and mud structures these families currently live in.

While working in Kiisi, the team lived in rather primitive conditions and worked without the benefit of the power tools we are so accustomed to here in the U.S. Nevertheless, significant progress was made on two Kenya homes

the time they were there. The homeowners also worked along side the team.

Larry says, "The most important accomplishment was not the actual construction of the homes, but rather it was the building of the relationships in the community." Their presence strengthens the standing of Habitat for Humanity as an organization. Kiisi is an eight-hour drive from Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, and is rather isolated from the stronger influence of westernization that is found in Nairobi. Many of the people in Kiisi met Americans for the first time as the Habitat team worked in their village.

To see the team live much like they live and to do hard work was something that took them by surprise. The last day that the team was there ended with a party. The village chief and other local leaders honored the team with a celebration that included many speeches expressing deep gratitude. The youth performed songs and dances of the region and everyone enjoyed a feast made from roasted goat.

Larry desires to return next year and to lead a team of folks from Wheaton back and continue to build houses and