

the HYSTERICAL PRESERVATIONIST

Newsletter of the Hyattsville Preservation Association, Inc.
Edited by Sharon Howe Sweeting April Fool's Day, 2004

Happy Birthday Mr. Ambassador

Historic House Tour Meeting, Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Publicity chairwomen **Ann Barrett** will host this important meeting to begin at 7:30 pm. Her wonderful Sears home is located at **6206 43 Street** on the north side of Queensbury Road. Her phone is 301-277-3792. We encourage all house tour participants and volunteers to attend this event. At this point we have about 15 properties representative of most tour years (1980-2004) and we are negotiating for a couple more. As you know, the tour will be held on Sunday, May 16, 2004. To accommodate the number of sites, the Board has voted to extend the tour hours to five. The tour will begin at 12:00 noon (rather than 1:00) and run until 5:00 pm. The cost will also be increased to \$10.00 for advance tickets and \$12.00 on the day of the tour. Advance tickets will be sold at **Franklin's Restaurant and Brewery** beginning on May 1st. Many volunteers are needed for this event so please help if you can or volunteer your friends and neighbors!! We need help with floral arrangements, plaque design and ordering, refreshments for participants on day of the tour, ticket sales assistance on day of tour, homeowner encouragement, house sitting if required, assistance with arrangement of homeowner participation awards, setting up historical displays in City Hall, picnic planning and hosting. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me on 301-927-4514 or Bruce on 301-699-1355. Thank you all very much.

And while we are thanking folks, we wish to express our gratitude to **Barry Wells** who hosted our March 16th meeting at his shop on Baltimore Avenue. If you have not already visited, please do so. He sells many difficult to find products and is very knowledgeable about a wide range of subjects and products. His advice and assistance is invaluable.

Update on Photographic Survey for Historic District expansion: . Led by **Lisa Davidson**, the survey team has completed their work. Composed of veteran and new HPA members, the survey team included **Lisa** and **Chris Davidson**; **Mike Adams** and **Justine Christianson**, **Tom** and **Naomi Behrens**, **Will Parkhurst** and **Andra Damron**. We thank each and every member of this team and will have them describe their efforts in a future publication. This project, financed by HPA, is beneficial to the entire community and enjoys wide-spread support.

Andra Damron is also busy with her team of preservationists in developing a more pro-active stance for HPA. The idea for this team germinated at our February *Taking Stock* meeting and was expanded with the Survey responses requested in our February *Preservation Quarterly*. If you have not returned this survey, we encourage you to do so. A possible mandate for this committee was offered in one survey response: "More sharing of information regarding local preservation issues with membership. Build on great awareness of historic residential architecture (from house tour) to promote preservation of other building types." Many great ideas for meeting topics were also suggested even as many respondents admitted to being too over extended to attend monthly meetings. Another respondent suggested more education for community leaders and elected official related to preservation issues. More liaison between HPA and official City committees is yet another goal. We shall be very busy indeed and I thank all those to took the time to complete the survey and hope it will provide a blueprint for the future.

Preservation Week Reception: Our membership will be receiving invitations to this May 6th reception at historic Montpelier mansion near Laurel. This county-wide function is a pleasurable format for meeting like-minded county residents in other local preservation groups. Montpelier, located at 9401 Muirkirk Road, Laurel vicinity, was built circa 1783. It "is a five-part Georgian mansion with 2-1/2-story hip-roof center block and lower semi-octagonal wings. The interior detail includes particularly fine woodwork and uses agricultural motifs in the cornice moldings. Montpelier was built for Major Thomas Snowden and in the twentieth century was the home of Assistant Secretary of State Breckinridge Long. On the grounds is a rare surviving eighteenth-century summer house, as well as burial sites of Snowden family members." [from: Illustrated Inventory of History Sites, Prince George's County, Maryland.] This is a great opportunity to visit one of our County's many important historical sites.

Lively Arts in Hyattsville:: See the attached flier which appeals to the Irish in me for this important *April 18th* event featuring more HPA members. I think we live in an exceptional community but this is not a new idea.

Lively Arts in Hyattsville presents

Words and Rhythms of Ireland

Sunday, April 18, 2004, 4PM

Join your neighbors for a family afternoon celebration

Chris Griffin will read prose and poetry from great Irish writers. Chris grew up in County Galway, Ireland, and studied at Trinity College and University College, Dublin. He has been living in Hyattsville and teaching at Strayer University for over 20 years. Also reading will be his daughter, Deirdre, a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Stephen Wade and Zan McLeod will provide music. Stephen is a longtime Hyattsville resident, writer, scholar, performer of *Banjo Dancing*, and composer of *Polk County*. Zan is a winner of 4 WAMMIES for Best Celtic Instrumentalist and the Maryland State Arts Council Grant for Composition.

Free Event

The City Municipal Building
4310 Gallatin Street
Hyattsville, Md.

Information and to RSVP please call 301-779-8537

or e-mail: marialisz@verizon.net

Sponsored by:

The City of Hyattsville, The Prince George's Arts Council, PGAC Super Circle
and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

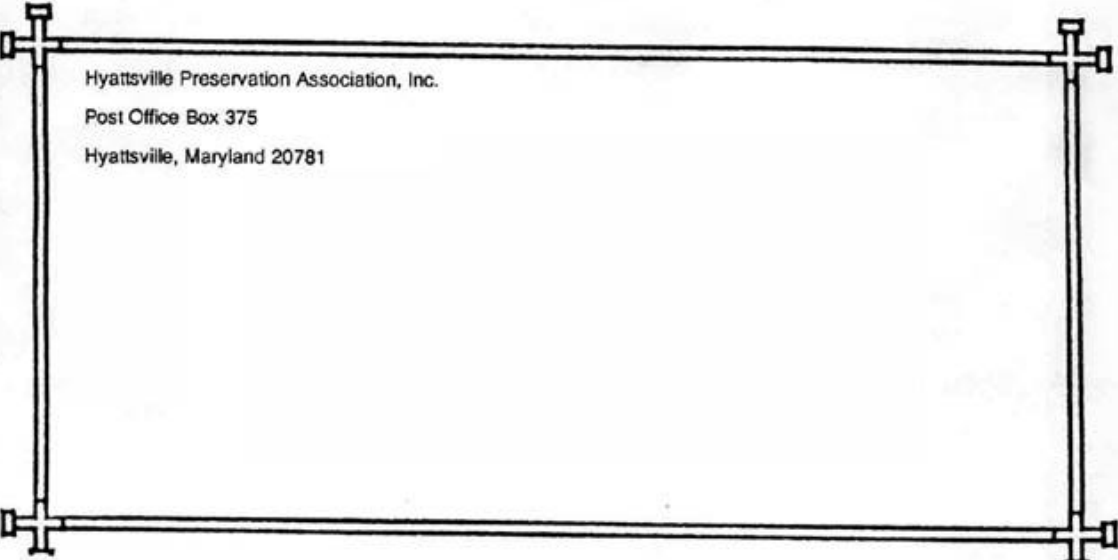
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING and JOINT PUBLIC HEARING with Prince George's County Council and Planning Board for the Preliminary Sector Plan and Proposed Sectional Map Amendment for the Prince George's County Gateway Arts District.

Date: *Tuesday, April 13, 2004, at 7:00 pm*

Location: Council Hearing Room,
First Floor, County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Purpose: To give all interested persons an opportunity to express their views on the land use recommendations and zoning proposals contained in the sector plan and sectional map amendments, respectively. *Copies available from City of Hyattsville.*

Please Be Seated: Furniture from the Permanent Collection. This exhibit at **Riversdale House Museum** in Riverdale Park is excellent. It "highlights the chairs and other seating furniture in the permanent collection of the Riversdale House Museum. The historic furniture on display creates a chronology of styles popular in the early American republic. The exhibit features Calvert family pieces original to the house that illustrate the lifestyle of George and Rosalie at home in Riversdale. *On display from April - November 2004. See their website www.riversdale.org for details. Do not overlook this fabulous facility.*



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