

November 2016

Newsletter

Elkridge Heritage Society



Greetings from the Elkridge Heritage Society!

We may have seemed a little quiet these past few months, but big things were going on, and they are finally plain to be seen!

By partnering with Justin Guy from 4th Quarter, and with some generous donations, we are making great strides in some important renovations that will allow The Brumbaugh House to become a cornerstone of the community.

With our input, county planners and entrepreneurs are working toward a revitalization of Elkridge Main Street.

And for the third year in a row, EHS is giving a helping hand to Howard County Preservation by decorating the Fox Room in Belmont for their annual Holiday event.

Read on and find out how your contributions are being used, and how you can participate in the coming months.

What is 4th Quarter?

EHS held an interesting general meeting on September 13th, where we learned about 4th Quarter Partnerships, and how our organizations are helping each other. 4th Quarter is a non-profit organization that partners with Bonnie Branch Middle School and Elkridge Landing Middle School to provide extracurricular activities that promote academic excellence and healthy lifestyle via physical fitness. The focus of the organization is on leadership and character development skills for middle-schoolers. See www.the4thqtr.org/. A nice post under the Howard County School webpage can be found here:

<http://www.hcpss.org/news-posts/2016/09/fourth-quarter-partnership/>

Justin Guy and his friend Mark Covington were inspired by their experience playing football and how it can help encourage focus both on and off the field. Recognizing what an important impact adult mentorship has on middle schoolers, the idea of the 4th Quarter after-school program was born. They have since gathered the support of many volunteers from the community and the school system to grow their organization. Some of our EHS members serve as mentors and volunteers.

Justin expressed the need for a meeting place for his board of directors and other adult volunteers at the same time that the Elkridge Heritage Society was looking for sponsors to renovate our carriage house for use as a community asset. The timing was perfect!

The Carriage House Project

Ever since we renovated the exterior of the Brumbaugh House, we have wanted to renovate the carriage house. However, despite generous donations from our patrons, especially Ed and Fern Hamel, the costs of maintaining the Brumbaugh House grounds and utilities were too excessive for us to manage. However, it was getting to the point where the carriage house would be completely lost if we didn't act soon.



As you can see, on left, the siding was decrepit. Inside, there was some water damage due to structural problems. Due to lack of climate control, there really wasn't much we could use the space for. It was full of stuff donated for a yard sale many years ago.

Despite the sad state, we knew that the carriage house held promise. It is open and spacious inside. One portion is sunken, which could provide useful seating arrangements for presentations. Our meeting area in the Brumbaugh House is restricted in size and shape, and the lack of air conditioning makes it uncomfortable for summer meetings.

In working with Justin Guy from 4th Quarter, it became clear that it was the opportunity that we have been wishing for - young men with strong backs to help with labor, and an excellent community cause that inspired donations of materials. In fact, 4th Quarter became the beneficiary of a deck project courtesy of Lowe's which will go on the side of the carriage house. Early work began, in stripping and scraping some of the siding and fixing leaks. Then the week of October 24th, the contractors arrived to replace damaged siding and paint the refurbished building to match the Brumbaugh House.

The goal is to add heat and air conditioning so that meetings may be held year round in comfort. The lack of plumbing, however, meant that the meeting goers would have to use the Brumbaugh House bathroom, which is easily accessible from an external door without having to open up the rest of the house. However, the bathroom is long overdue for an update. Fortunately, we also received donated supplies and talent to renovate that bathroom in the near future.

In addition to 4th Quarter, we expect to hold EHS meetings there, and it will be available to other organizations for a donation to help with Brumbaugh House property management.

Great progress has been made so far! The color is a perfect match to the Brumbaugh House. We are very excited about this project! To donate to this effort, go to www.elkridgeheritage.org or send email to info@elkridgeheritage.org.



Elkridge Revitalization

We had hoped to have our November general meeting centered around the plans for revitalization of Main Street. However, our meeting night was also election night and after that we will all be in the throes of the holiday season. Our goal is to get Jon Weinstein in to talk to us about the county plans early next year so the community has a good understanding of what the plans are.

Currently, what we know is that John O'Connor, who founded Patuxent Engineering Group, has acquired the old Toomey hardware site, and plans to house his engineering firm there. He is also planning to open a wine bar on Main Street. There are ideas floating around to make Main Street more like Ellicott City, with period street lights and improved sidewalks. Accessibility to lower Elkridge through the tunnel under the railway has been discussed, with added security features to alleviate concerns of neighbors. The future of Elkridge is bright, and the Elkridge Heritage Society is here to help preserve the past.

Belmont Colonial Holiday Celebration

This year will be the third year in a row that the Howard County Conservancy has held a Colonial Holiday Event at Belmont Manor, and once again, the Elkridge Heritage Society is poised to decorate the Fox Room. This is a fun time for us to exercise our creativity, and to fraternize with the other community organizations such as the Elkridge Assembly Room and Grace Episcopal Church. Every year, the event has been deliciously catered, and beautifully festive. Singers and musicians entertain while guests roam about and enjoy the manor in its holiday finery. We hope you will support this noble event. It will be held on November 20th. Ticket prices are \$50 per person (before November 16) and the proceeds support the Howard County Conservancy's environmental education programs at Belmont. Last year's event sold out, so purchase your ticket soon!



What About the Brumbaugh House?

The goal for the Brumbaugh House is to have a rotating display pertinent to the area's heritage and history, and open it up for viewing regularly. We don't want to limit ourselves to artifacts we have on hand, but have other community organizations represented. For example, perhaps we could display items from the Elkridge Volunteer Fire Department or the Elkridge Quilting Guild. These are just a couple ideas.

We want to make some improvements to the inside as well, including new paint and period-appropriate window treatments. We hope to have a "painting party" next spring, and provide other opportunities for community involvement. Some work has already been done in making structural improvements to the porch. Some more work is needed out there too. We are always in need of help with the landscaping.

Once again, to donate to the maintenance and improvements of the Brumbaugh House, property and the Carriage house, go to www.elkridgeheritage.org, or send email to info@elkridgeheritage.org.

We look forward to hosting interesting presentations in our new meeting space next year. We hope you will join us!

Save the Date!

We are planning on a visit to an Elkridge church, to see it in its Christmas finest. The date is December 27, 2016 (Tuesday) at 7pm. If we have not yet visited your church, and you want to share it with us, please email info@elkridgeheritage.org and we will add it to our list of inquiries.

Candlelight Christmas Concert – Free!

Get in the Christmas spirit through the beauty of music. Come hear the St. Augustine Church choir sing your classic and contemporary Christmas favorites, and allow the Handbell Choir to charm you with

festive holiday bell-ringing. This free concert will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 7pm at St. Augustine Church, 5976 Old Washington Road, Elkridge.

Memberships

To join the Elkridge Heritage Society, the annual family dues are \$35.00 and the individual dues are \$25. Any higher donation, of course, will automatically make you a member. Please consider joining. To join, mail your check to

The Elkridge Heritage Society

5825 Main Street

Elkridge MD, 21075

Or visit our website at www.elkridgeheritage.org. Thank you.