



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

AUGUST 2012 EDITION Visit us on the web at: www.seatpleasantmd.gov

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Kelly Porter

(At-Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

At-Large Council member

Johnie L. Higgs, Sr.

City Administrator

Vincent E. Jones

Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



MAYOR'S MESSAGE:

These are really exciting times for Seat Pleasant: *A City of Excellence*. We have come a long way although we still have miles to go. The City Council and I have worked diligently and faithfully in the public's best interest to move forward on the multi-million dollar development project on the 5 parcels of contiguous tracks of land on Addison Road. I applaud the City Council in choosing **Kratos Infrastructure, LLC** to serve as our development partner in designing, building and financing the new City Center. This relationship will be based on a P3 (Public, Private, Partnership) model through a Master Lease agreement. The \$50 million dollar design and construction of the entire City Center will be financed by Kratos Infrastructure costing the tax payers of our City nothing.

Yes, real and true development is finally coming to Seat Pleasant. The last time this City had a large scale development project was in the late 1970's when the city worked with Horning Brothers to build the Addison Plaza Shopping Center. Previous administrations have talked about development and made good faith efforts to bring development to the City however to no avail. During my administration God has blessed our collective efforts to bring the City Center project to this stage in the process.

The City Center will be comprised of a new City Hall, Senior Housing, a Community Center, a Recreation Center and a Health and Wellness Center. The City Center is a distributed, integrated, renewable, sustainable infrastructure and power generation development with net-zero carbon emissions. This will be the single-largest green project of its kind in the State and possibly the nation. Through this project we desire to be a cleaner, more efficient and more environmentally sustainable community in the United States.

The City of Seat Pleasant: *A City of Excellence* is becoming recognized locally, regionally and nationally for our progressive and forward thinking endeavors. Since taking office in 2004, many of our residents and citizens have urged me to move this City forward. They have asked for new development, better stores and to find ways to improve the behavioral, physical and environmental health of Seat Pleasant. Many of our citizens who have lived here for 40 or more years wax nostalgic of when they first moved here; but they have been sorely disappointed in how the City has deteriorated over the years. Now, the City Council and I can report that we are on the cusp of real change for the betterment of our city. We are moving toward Excellence!

Before closing, I wish to thank several people for their energy, enthusiasm in helping us in the process. They gave of their personal time to attend meetings, make suggestions, and review design plans. Among these noble residents include: **Amanda Feggans, Jacqui Battle, Eva Stokes, Dorothy Pope, and Michael Scott**. Additionally, I wish to thank Councilmembers **Elenora Simms, Kelly Porter** and former Councilmember **LaTasha Gatling**, and City treasurer **Robert Ashton**. Additionally, I would like to thank the original development contractors Arel Architects, Dewberry and Blaylock Van Ness, LLC for their unwavering support and expertise. Last, let me thank the City Council for their hard work and spirit of cooperation especially Council President, **Kelly Porter**. To God be ALL the glory.

MAYOR EUGENE W. GRANT HONORED BY THE PRINCE GEORGE'S FOUNDATION (PGHCF) AT THE 2012 STRATA AWARDS EVENT NATIONAL HARBOR

Due to his efforts over the years to ensure the City of Seat Pleasant: *A City of Excellence* acquired resources which will improve the health and overall quality of life for City residents, Mayor Eugene W. Grant received an award from the Prince George's Hospital Center Foundation on Friday June 22, 2012 at the Annual Strata Awards Event. Individuals are selected by the Prince Georges Hospital Center Foundation for this prestigious award based on their ability to demonstrate a significant contribution which has resulted in the improvement of the quality of life in Prince George's County.

"The City of Seat Pleasants Council Members are proud to have a Mayor who shares the same passion for improving health care delivery as we do," stated At-Large City Council President Kelly Porter. "Together we will continue to be on the forefront of providing health resources to our residents. The Strata Award is a great honor for our City and speaks to the tremendous efforts we have made in improving the quality of life in *A City of Excellence*" concluded Council President Kelly Porter.



Pictured left: Mayor Eugene W. Grant along with fellow 2012 Strata Awardees Dr. Robert S. Gold from the University of Maryland. President of Prince Georges County Health Center Foundation John O'Brien. Prince Georges County Councilwoman Ingrid Turner, Esq. Mistress of Ceremonies Holly Morris with Fox5 News, Prince Georges County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. Other awardees were the late Lula M. Jenkins daughter Belva Jenkins of J.B. Jenkins Funeral Services., and Pastor John K. Jenkins, Sr., 1st Baptist Church of Glenarden.

Over the years, Mayor Eugene W. Grant has worked diligently to bring partners such as the University of Maryland's Prevention Research Center and School of Public Health into Seat Pleasant's community and better the lives of his residents with free health based events.

"The health of my community, proper access to health information and services is of the utmost importance in my administration," stated Mayor Grant who added, "I was honored to be recognized by our partners at Prince George's Hospital Center for this prestigious award, and I will continue to fight for increased access to health resources and a better quality of life for my community and residents."

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

The City Council has introduced the following legislations in the month of July.

Resolution R-13-01

Resolution of the Council of the City of Seat Pleasant, Maryland Cancelling the August 2012 Meetings

Resolution R-13-02

Resolution of Council of the City of Seat Pleasant, Maryland Approving Certain Project Tracking Forms and Mandating their use in the City of Seat Pleasant

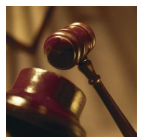
Resolution R-13-03

Resolution of the Council of the City of Seat Pleasant, Maryland Awarding A Contract for the purchase of four Police Department Vehicles and exempting the purchase from the City's Competitive Bidding process

Resolution R-13-04

Resolution to approve the City of Seat Pleasant, application and receipt of financing for a Community Legacy Project

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(CITY CLERK CONT'D.)

through the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Ordinance 0-13-01

FOR the purpose of amending Chapter 16 Parks of the Code of the City of Seat Pleasant Goodwin Park Hours and Rules and Regulations

Copies of this legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at:

City Hall 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743-2125

**CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
ELECTION INFORMATION**

The City of Seat Pleasant Election will be held on **Monday, September 10, 2012, at City Hall.**
The polls will be open from **7:00am - 8:00pm.**

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE:

MAYOR

Eugene W. Grant

COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE:

Johnie L. Higgs, Sr.

Kelly Porter

James Wright

WARD III:

Reveral Yeargin

WARD I:

Denise D. Akers

Elenora Simms

WARD IV:

Gerald Raynor

WARD II:

Aretha Stephenson

WARD V:

Eugene F. Kennedy

Octavius K. Brown

ABSENTEE VOTING:

In accordance with the City of Seat Pleasant City Code Chapter 43 Absentee Voting:

A. A Qualified Voter of the City desiring to vote at any City Election as an Absentee Voter shall make an application to the Board of Elections Supervisors, in writing upon a form prescribed by the Board, for an Absentee Ballot. The application shall contain an affidavit, which need not be under oath but which shall set forth the following information under penalty of perjury:

1. THE VOTER'S NAME AND RESIDENCE ADDRESS, INCLUDING THE STREET NUMBER.
2. THAT THE PERSON IS A QUALIFIED VOTER AT THE RESIDENCE ADDRESS GIVEN.
3. IF THE PERSON VOTED AT THE PRECEDING ELECTION, THE RESIDENCE ADDRESS FROM WHICH THE PERSON VOTED.
4. THE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE BALLOT IS TO BE MAILED, IF DIFFERENT FROM THE RESIDENCE ADDRESS.

B. ALL APPLICATIONS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS SUPERVISORS NO LATER THAN THE DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION. The Board of Elections Supervisors shall thereafter determine whether an applicant has met the requirements for absentee voting. Whenever an applicant has met the requirements for voting in absentia, the Board of Elections Supervisors shall deliver to the applicant an absentee voting ballot which the Board has designated to be the official absentee voting for the city.

If you have questions regarding the upcoming election, please call 301-336-2600 to speak with the City Clerk.



A WORD FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT KELLY PORTER

During these tough economic times, it is especially important to guard yourself against fraud. Below is an excerpt from an article from HUD entitled “Don’t be a victim of Loan Fraud.”

Buying or refinancing your home may be one of the most important and complex financial decisions you’ll make. Many lenders, appraisers and real estate professional stand ready to help you get a nice home and a great loan. However, you need to understand the home –buying process to be a smart consumer. Every year, misinformed homebuyers, often first-time purchasers or seniors become victims of predatory lending or loan fraud. Here are a few tips on being a smart consumer:

1. Before you buy a home, attend a homeownership education course offered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved non-profit counseling agencies.
2. Interview real estate professionals (agents) and ask for and check references before you select one to help you buy a home.
3. Do not let anyone persuade you to make a false statement on your loan application.
4. Do not let anyone convince you to borrow more money than you know you can afford to pay.
5. Never sign a document or documents containing blanks. If information is inserted by someone after you have signed, you may still be bound to the terms of the contract. Insert “N/A” (i.e. not applicable) or cross through any blanks.
6. Read everything carefully and ask questions. Do not sign anything you do not understand. Before signing, have your contract and loan agreement reviewed by an attorney skilled in real estate law, consult with a trusted real estate professional or ask for help from a housing counselor with a HUD approved agency.

Predatory lending is perpetrated by anyone who:

- Sells properties for much more than they are worth
- Encourages borrowers to lie about their income, expenses, or cash available for down payments in order to get a loan
- Knowingly lend more money that a borrower can afford to repay
- Charge high interest rates to borrowers based on their race or national origin and not on their credit history

For more information, you can go to the HUD website at: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD>

A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER ELENORA SIMMS



I am working to organize a Neighborhood Watch in Ward I and I need residents who can be leaders and participants. The purpose of Neighborhood Watch programs are not to spy on residents, reporting on homeowners' association violations or to get revenge on obnoxious neighbors. Neighborhood watch programs that work with local law enforcement agencies were developed to look for signs of trouble, people in need, or criminal activity. If you are interested please contact me at 301-655-6559, or e-mail me at elenora.simms@seatpleasantmd.gov. When you help your neighbors, you help your community.

The storytelling event has been postponed until a later date. Look for details in upcoming newsletters. By the way, we are accepting donations of school supplies for those in need at City Hall.

A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER ARETHA STEPHENSON

Hello to all of our Seat Pleasant residents, visitors and friends to our *City of Excellence*. Whether you are here to live, visit or do business with us we want your experience to be a pleasant and safe one. Everyone would agree that crossing Martin Luther King Highway can be tricky and dangerous. The Prince George’s County Police will be issuing warning tickets in order to beef up its crack down on violators who are jaywalking.

However, as your representative I am asking the State Highway Administration to do its part by providing adequate pedestrian crosswalks, crossing lights and or /signs so that our pedestrians can adhere to these laws in a safe and secure manner when crossing busy highways. Here are a few practice safety tips:



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(A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER STEPHENSON CONTINUED.)

- Look both ways before crossing
- Drivers please remember to yield the right of way to pedestrians
- Pedestrians use common sense when crossing
- Move quickly to your destination and don't play chicken with your life
- Don't abuse your right of way privilege with oncoming traffic
- Driver and pedestrians be courteous to one another when crossing paths.

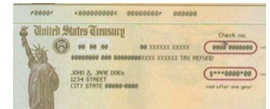
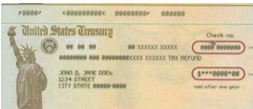
Your opinion counts, so a petition requesting the SHA to install traffic lighting at the corner of Greig Street and Martin Luther King, Highway and the installation of a crosswalk in the 5600 block of Martin Luther King Jr., Highway, Seat Pleasant Maryland 20743 to improve public safety and to increase visibility for both drivers and pedestrians. So please be mindful of the no jaywalking laws that are in place which are intended for your protection. The average costs of fines are \$40 if not adhered to. Contact Council Woman Stephenson at 240-601-1037 for more petition details. Thank you and be safe out there.

**A WORD FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE
REMINDER ABOUT FEDERAL BENEFITS**

Please remember that if you receive Federal Benefit payments, effective March 1, 2013, you will begin to receive your federal payments electronically by direct deposit to a bank account or thru

Go Direct®, Direct Express Debit Card®

For more information call 1-800-333-1795 or visit <http://godirect.org/social-security-federal-benefits-direct-deposit/>



A WORD FROM THE POLICE DPEARTMENT

Below are the crime statistics for the month of June.

MARYLAND ①					
RETURN A - MONTHLY COUNT OF OFFENSES KNOWN TO POLICE					
01723 <small>AGENCY IDENTIFIER</small>	FORWARD BY 7TH DAY AFTER THE END OF EACH MONTH TO : CENTRAL RECORDS DIVISION - UCR SECTION MARYLAND STATE POLICE, PIKESVILLE, MD 21208				
1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES <small>(PART 1 OFFENSES)</small>	2 OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDED AND ATTEMPTS)	3 UNFOUNDED, I.E. FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	4 NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) INCLUDE ATTEMPTS	5 TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS <small>(Includes Column 6)</small>	6 NUMBER OF CLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18
1. Criminal Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
a. Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	11				
b. Manslaughter by negligence	12				
2. Forcible rape Total	0	0	0	0	0
a. Rape by force	21	0	0	0	0
b. Assault to rape attempts	22	0	0	0	0
3. Robbery Total	1	0	1	1	0
a. Firearm	31	0	0	1	0
b. Knife or cutting instrument	32	0	0	0	0
c. Other dangerous weapon	33	0	0	0	0
d. Strong-arm (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	34	1	0	1	0
4. Assault Total	3	0	3	3	0
a. Firearms	41	0	0	0	0
b. Knife or cutting instrument	42	1	0	1	0
c. Other dangerous weapon	43	0	0	0	0
d. Hands, fists, feet, etc. - aggravated	44	2	0	2	0
e. Hands, fists, feet, etc. - simple	45	0	0	0	0
5. Breaking and Entering Total	1	0	1	0	0
a. Forcible entry	51	0	0	0	0
b. Unlawful entry - no force	52	1	0	1	0
c. Attempted forcible entry	53	0	0	0	0
6. Larceny - Theft Total	3	0	3	0	0
<small>(except Motor Vehicle Theft)</small>	60				
7. Motor Vehicle Theft Total	2	0	2	0	0
a. Autos	71	2	0	2	0
b. Trucks and Buses	72	0	0	0	0
c. Other Vehicles	73	0	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	10	0	10	4	0

A WORD FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Listed below are the procedures Code Enforcement follows to address nuisance issues involving a vacant property:

- Inspect the property for violations
- Issue the property owner a notice of violation by notifying the last known owner on record, and/or conduct research for bank owned properties. If the property is bank owned due to foreclosure or abandonment by owner, the notice will go to the bank.
- Depending on the violation the owner will be given reasonable time to abate the violations
- If the violations have not be abated within the time frame that was specified in the notice, than a municipal infraction(ticket)is written to the owner of the property.) Once the municipal infraction is written it gives the home owner 20 days from the time of receipt to either fix the violations or request a court date
- If any of the violations need immediate attention, the City will fix the violation i.e; cutting the grass, boarding the property, if the property is deemed unsafe
- If the violation is unsafe then the code enforcement will issue a work order to the Public Works department for clean-up
- Once the property is safe, twenty days later the paper work will be sent to court
- Once the court date has been sent (which can take up to two months from the time it was sent to court) the Code Enforcement Officer will ask the judge for abatement and fine for the infraction
- If the judge grants abatement, the City will go forward with the clean-up and lien the property for the cost to the City for the work that was done.

Because the vacant properties are not owned by the City, owners must be given a chance to correct violations before the City can take action.

A WORD FROM CPAC SMOKE DETECTORS

One of the most important fire prevention devices for the home is the smoke detector. Did you know that in residential fires fatalities, most of the deaths are caused by fire gases and toxic smoke rather than fire and heat? Studies have shown that when working smoke alarms are present, the chance of dying from a fire is cut in half. Here are four quick tips for keeping safe:

1. Install smoke detectors and reduce your family's risk. Experts say that you may cut your risk of dying in a home fire in half simply by having a smoke alarm installed.
2. Keep them working regularly. Check them frequently and make sure they are actually working.
3. There's safety in numbers – don't just get one! Install at least one detector on each floor of your house or residence and outside all sleeping areas.
4. Practice a fire escape plan. We often omit this vital step. Make sure you and your family have a plan for getting out of your house or apartment in an emergency.

Seat Pleasant is extremely fortunate to have our very own volunteer fire department but did you know that we are under threat to have it taken away from us??? We can't let that happen!!! Citizens who are interested in the campaign to save the fire house can contact Mayor Grant for petitions and information at 301-336-2600 and Fire Chief Kevin Brunner at 301-883-7708.

Help us help you. If there's anything you'd like CPAC to discuss with the Seat Pleasant Police Department or Fire Department, please email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com. Let's keep Seat Pleasant safe!



A WORD FROM PUBLIC WORKS



Public Works will be notifying residents regarding the new street sweeper schedule. This will be done by Wards, starting with 1 and 2. The street sweeping schedule will be effective August 7, 2012 or later depending on the time that it takes to complete the installation of the new signs. Tuesdays sweeping will be done on the left side of the street and will require no parking on that side from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Fridays sweeping will be done on the right side of the street and will require no parking on that side from 9:00am - 3:00pm.

PEPCO ADDISON ROAD AND SEAT PLEASANT DRIVE UPDATE

Pepco recently gave an update regarding the work being done on Addison Road as well as Seat Pleasant Drive. The work done on Addison Road is to repair a failed underground cable. The work will continue for another 8 to 10 weeks. The work zone is in the south bound lanes just north of Central Avenue, in front of the firehouse. Two lanes are closed and one lane is open each way.

Pepco is also in the process of replacing poles and wires on the north side of Seat Pleasant Drive and other areas in Seat Pleasant. In order to ensure safety during this work, lane closures will be necessary until work is complete. Complete road closures are very brief to move equipment. On the west end, the road is one lane each way, making necessary flagging operations with alternating traffic. Please keep this information in mind as you travel through the City.

CDCFC CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAM

The Seventh Councilmanic District Fund Committee (CDCFC) was chosen for the 7th year in a row to participate in the Seafarers Yacht Club Summer Youth Program from July 9th-13th. The CDCFC is a charitable, non-profit organization whose mission is to assist in the general welfare of less fortunate families, primarily within the 7th Councilmanic District of Prince George's County, MD. This District includes Seat Pleasant. The Seafarers Yacht Club provides instructions in swimming, fishing, first aid, boating safety, navigation, and information on aquatic career opportunities for children between the ages of 8-12. The children left daily from the Seat Pleasant City Hall Parking lot and proceeded to the Annapolis City Dock where they visited the Maritime Museum, the Seafarers Boat Dock, went fishing and swimming and on the last day went on a sailing trip on the renowned *Woodwind*, a 74-foot touring Schooner. This a great opportunity for the youth in our community.



CDCFC 80 AND BEYOND CELEBRATION

On July 15th thirteen founding and faithful members were honored for their work and support for 29 years to the CDCFC. These founding members have reached the golden age of 80 and beyond and were celebrated at a dinner at the Cedar Heights Community Center. Five of these devoted octogenarians reside in Seat Pleasant. Congratulations to Mrs. Amanda Feggans, Mr. Charles Ruffin, Mrs. Fleeta Ruffin, former Mayor Eugene Kennedy, and Mrs. Sarah Green.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

This summer, the City hired 4 young people to participate in the Summer Youth Training Program. Below is the impression of one of the students of her experience thus far:

INTERNSHIP WITH THE CITY OF EXCELLENCE

By; Alexandria Diggs

When I first received the position as a summer intern with the City of Seat Pleasant I was very excited. I didn't know what I was going to be doing, I was just so happy to be working. When I got into the office, everyone I worked with was very kind. I made sure I asked to find out who needed help in the office. In the short amount of time I have worked here I have learned how to use different computer programs and file different documents. I have also learned more about the town I live in. This is a great experience and I know I will continue to learn and experience new things with the City of Excellence.

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SOUTHERN MARYLAND
PERMIT #235

**JOIN US FOR
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012**

**5720 ADDISON ROAD
(SEAT PLEASANT ACTIVITY CENTER REAR)**

6:00 - 8:00 P.M.



**FREE FOOD, FUN AND
ENTERTAINMENT**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 301-499-8700**

**MOVIE NIGHT
IS COMING!**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2012
GOODWIN PARK
8:00 P.M.**



**COME AND SEE THE FILM
PUSS N BOOTS**

**FREE POPCORN WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS AND ENJOY THE
FUN!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 301-336-2600.