



## A Publication of News and Events



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Design & Layout: Jennifer Shull

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Submissions are welcome & may be dropped off at the Town Hall or sent for: PO Box 162, Trappe MD 21673

Inclusion in the newsletter is determined by space available and relevance to the citizens.

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**Town Meetings and Planning Commission Meetings are open to the public.** Citizens are encouraged to attend to be informed and give input. Meeting agendas are posted outside Town Hall every Friday, and items are added as requested (which can be as late as Wednesday morning) and re-posted with each change. An early agenda is posted on the Town website, but may not always include the latest changes. Stop by the Town Hall on Wednesday evenings and learn first-hand about the many happenings in our town. For more information, call the Town Clerk at 410.443-0087.



- Town Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm
- Planning Commission Meetings are held at least quarterly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm Public Hearings, Public Workshops, Special Appeals Hearings, etc. are scheduled as needed. Check the website for updates [www.trappemd.net](http://www.trappemd.net) or on FACEBOOK.

### Public Hearing and Council Meeting February 1st

A hearing will be held at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1st at the town hall to receive public comment on Ordinance 1-2017 An ordinance to amend Section 14 of the Trappe Town Code titled "Water and Sewer", Table 1 titled "Fees and Charges" to increase the basic monthly water service fee to \$15.00 per month and the basic monthly sewer service fee to \$50.00 per month; to amend Section 14.8 of the Trappe Town code to authorize the Council to establish water and sewer rates for properties located out of town in an amount not to exceed twice the amount charges to users located within the Town; and to amend Section 14.19 of the Town Code to clarify responsibility for maintenance and repairs of water and sewer lines located on private property. A copy of the ordinance is available at the town office or on line at [www.trappemd.net](http://www.trappemd.net). The regular February Council meeting will commence at the conclusion of the public hearing.

### CLOSURES

Mon. Feb. 20th Presidents Day

After hours water/sewer emergency contact 410-476-7462

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Fri 8 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Credit card payments accepted

Notary, Copy & Fax service available for small fee.

Council Meeting Wed. Feb. 1st  
Planning Commission  
Tue. Feb. 21st  
Board of Appeals Hearing  
Thurs. Feb. 16th

### FINANCIAL STATE OF THE TOWN ADDRESS

On Thursday, January 19th the Council of Trappe, along with Town Auditor Roy Geiser of the TGM Group, Engineering Consultant Scott Getchell of GMB, and Town Attorney Brynja Booth, held a meeting to update residents on the financial struggles the town is facing with the enterprise budget. Every community that has an enterprise (water/sewer) fund is required to have that fund be self sustaining. In other words, the expenses to operate the towns two wells ad sewer treatment plant must be paid for by the fees billed to the users. It was stated at the meeting that for at least the last 10 years the enterprise fund has not been paying its way, and that the general fund has been transferring \$200,000.00 a year for the past 4 years to the enterprise fund to make up the shortfall. That's money that could have been used for sidewalks, road improvements and other capital projects not water/sewer related. Changes must be made to the water and sewer rate structure to offset the shortfall. Copies of the meeting handouts are available on the town office counter, or can be emailed or mailed to residents by contacting the town clerk [Clerk@trappemd.net](mailto:Clerk@trappemd.net).





Trappe Volunteer Fire Company  
410-476-3535 Non-emergency  
President Ben Diefenderfer  
Chief Nick Newman

### SOUP DAY

**Monday, February 6th @ 4 pm**

\$6.00 Donation

Homemade Soup, ham biscuit, dessert

Eat in or take out.

To pre-order call Lou Diefenderfer

410-924-1764

### BOARD VACANCY

Volunteers wanted: two vacancies exist on the Town of Trappe Board of Appeals, and one seat on the Election Board is open. The Board of Appeals meets on an as needed basis in the evening to hear requests for variances and special exceptions to the Zoning Ordinance. The Election Board maintains the voter log and runs town elections. Interested persons should submit a letter of interest/qualifications to the Town Clerk, Erin Braband, via email [clerk@trappemd.net](mailto:clerk@trappemd.net) or to the town office PO Box 162, Trappe. Positions will remain open until filled by appointment of the Town Council.

### Nace's Park Update

The contract for improvements to Nace's Park on Main Street was awarded to the low bidder Barker's Landing. This project is using grant funds from the State Community Parks & Playground program and when completed in less than 60 days will be a wonderful memorial to Nathaniel (Nace) Hopkins, and community asset.

The work in progress includes a paved walking path and plaza area complimented with landscaping, benches, drinking fountain and fencing. Want to get involved? There is an opportunity for several benches to be gifted to the park as memorials with a small plaque. Contact Commissioner Rose Potter or the town office for more information.

### POLICE CHIEF'S CORNER



There has been a huge increase in persons stealing items from UNLOCKED vehicles throughout Talbot County and surrounding areas. Keep your vehicles locked at all times to prevent yourself from becoming a victim.

Also, during the past month, there were several residences burglarized in the Trappe and Easton areas, both during the day and nighttime hours. If you see any suspicious vehicles or persons, call 9-1-1 immediately and attempt to get as good a description as possible.

For Police services, except an emergency, call the 24 hour dispatch number, 410-476-5005. In an EMERGENCY, ALL 9-1-1. For confidentiality call me 410-829-0613. As always if you see something say something-don't wait till the next day, or the weekend is over. See it now-report it now!  
Thanks,

George Ball, Chief



Lent Begins  
Ash Wednesday

### St Paul Episcopal Church

Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday

February 28th 5-6:30 p.m.

Pancakes, eggs and meat with coffee/juice

### St Paul Episcopal Church

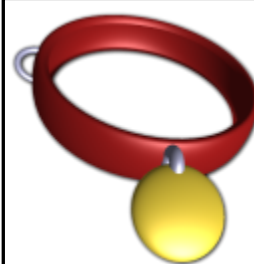
Ash Wednesday Service-March 1st

### Trappe United Methodist Church

Ash Wednesday Service-Undetermined

St. Patrick's Day Dinner-March 17th

5-7 p.m.



### DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE

Make Fido or Tootsie legal-get your dog license tag at the Trappe Town Office. \$5.00 for neutered/spayed dogs. Proof of rabies vaccination required.

Fees collected are split between Talbot County and the Town.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DATE : Meetings of the Planning Commission have been changed to the third Tuesday of every month. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 21st at 7 p.m. A schedule of meeting dates and submittal deadlines is available from the Town Office.

**Community Outreach  
Sheriff Gamble and Addiction**

The volunteer members of the Community Outreach team are concerned about the impact addiction is having on the eastern shore community. Consider the following statistics on Heroin use on the Eastern Shore:

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016 Talbot Co. only</b>
Total Overdoses	<b>152</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>32 (8.3%)</b>
Non-fatal	<b>131</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>6 (7.5%)</b>
Fatal	<b>21</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>6 (14.3%)</b>
NARCAN Administered	<b>NO DATA</b>	<b>218*</b>	<b>DATA UNAVAILABLE</b>

\*Most likely fatal if not administered

Join in the discussion-become educated and aware. No one is immune to this epidemic-how does it begin? What can we do? Talbot County Sheriff Joe Gamble will make a presentation on addiction and the impact on our community. Sheriff Gamble will be joined by other emergency responders to discuss what is happening to our children, families and businesses as a result of addiction. A potluck dinner will proceed the presentation and **EVERYONE is invited.**

**Monday, March 20th 6:00 p.m.  
Trappe Volunteer Firehouse-Powell Avenue  
No reservations needed.**

Sponsored in part by the Talbot County Smoking Cessation Grant program, and the Trappe Community Outreach Team.

**Additional Upcoming Activities of the Trappe Community Outreach Team:**  
April 15th—Easter Parade forms at Veterans Park on Main Street. Dust off your fancy duds, and don an Easter hat. Judging of parade entries and Easter baskets will take place at the park prior to parade. Small entry fees for those entries wishing to be judged but no fee to join the parade for fun. Parade will step off at 11:45 and proceed to Trappe United Methodist Church (TUMC).

April 15th-noon Easter egg hunt for children at TUMC.

Live music on April 29th and family movie in the works-stay tuned for details.

## Interested in Public Office?

In May voters will go to the polls in Trappe to choose three persons to fill the office of Town Councilperson. Open seats will be that of Commissioner Rose Potter who is term limited; Council President Norm Fegel and Commissioner Don English both of whom are eligible to run again. Persons interested in running for these positions must be a resident of the incorporated limits of Trappe for one year prior to the election; a qualified voter in the Town of Trappe, (at least 18 years of age and a US citizen), and file a candidate application with the town clerk. Important deadlines are:

4 p.m. March 21st Last day to file to run as a candidate

4 p.m. April 3rd Last day to register to vote

A primary election will be held on April 11th if seven (7) or more people file to run for office. The general election will be held on Tuesday, May 9th. Elections take place in the Council hearing room at the Town Office. See the Town Clerk, Erin Braband, for election information; or one of the Election Judges Chris Routzahn, Donna Baynard or Carol Lange.

## Capital Projects and Funding Sources

The Town of Trappe has a list of maintenance and capital improvement projects that need attention. Council and staff review projects to determine which are the greatest need; which, if any, are ready to go; and what, if any, monetary match the town is required to contribute by the funding program. Each funding program has different deadlines, different requirements, and different funding cycles. Some offer only low interest or no interest loans, others offer a combination of grant and loan, and a very few offer grants with little or no match from the town. These individual federal and state funding programs look at the town's need, population, and existing debt as well as it's current financial state and solvency in making a decision as to whether to offer a grant, loan, a combination or nothing at all. The programs are competitive and sometimes the application review process can take several months, and in some cases funds aren't made available until the next fiscal year. This makes it especially tough in an emergency or urgent situation. Listed below, in no particular order, are projects each of which are over a million dollars that the town is seeking funding for, and the agency from which funding is being sought:

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. A new well                                    | USDA |
| 2. Pumping station upgrades and maintenance      | USDA |
| 3. Water line replacement on Main Street         | MDE  |
| 4. Sidewalk construction on Rt 565/Old Trappe Rd | SHA  |
| 5. Wastewater treatment plant upgrade            | MDE  |

Residents are encouraged to attend the monthly council meetings the first Wednesday of each month to hear first hand about the projects, ask questions and become informed.

USDA-United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program  
MDE-Maryland Department of Environment  
SHA-State Highway Administration