



# QUEENSTOWN NEWS

## JUNE 2022

### COMMISSIONER'S CORNER –

- Upgrade work to the Skipjack Cove landing area has been completed and the landing is now open for use. A reminder that you must be a resident or landowner of property within Queenstown town limits and must purchase a landing use permit from the Town Office to use the landing area for parking and launching vessels.
- The Planning Commission granted preliminary site plan approval for an office, with storage bays, on the Kevin Dey property, which fronts Rt. 301 off of Melvin Ave. They reduced the parking requirement of 43 spaces to 23 spaces, as low usage of the property is expected.
- To stay up to date, we welcome you to attend a Town Commissioners and/or Planning Commission meeting, or view meeting minutes posted on our website.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED** – Following introduction, the Commissioners have scheduled public hearings for Ordinances 22-06 and 22-07 for June 22 at 6pm at the Town Office. More information is available on the back of this newsletter.

**ENERGY/WATER BILL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS** – The Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) provides bill assistance to low-income households in the State of Maryland to make their energy/water costs more affordable and to help with the prevention of loss and the restoration of home energy/water service. For more information, please visit <https://dhs.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs>. Customers can also apply for bill assistance at <https://mymdthink.maryland.gov>

**MOSQUITO SPRAYING** – Spraying has started for adult mosquito control services in Queen Anne's County and will occur on average bi-weekly service if weather conditions and mosquito thresholds are met. A friendly reminder: There will be no off-road spraying. The spray drift is approximately 300' feet allowing effective coverage to be accomplished from common roadways and some private driveways. The County does not assign specific nights for spraying. When spraying commences after inclement spraying weather, the next available spray day will start at the house adjacent to the last house sprayed. This will ensure there is no long-term lapse in coverage to any one property.

**DELMARVA POWER SUMMER PREPAREDNESS** – Delmarva Power wishes to encourage residents to assemble an emergency storm kit and prepare a plan for what to do during a power outage or summer storm. Visit [delmarva.com/mobileapp](http://delmarva.com/mobileapp) to download their mobile app for resources to keep customers informed during a storm. More tips, resources and safety information are also available at [delmarva.com](http://delmarva.com). Customers can report downed wire or service issues by calling 1-800-898-8042, by visiting [delmarva.com](http://delmarva.com) or through the mobile app. Customers can also report an outage by texting "Out" to "67972". Customers must first text "ADD OUTAGE" to "67972" to sign up for this service. As temperatures begin to rise, energy usage typically starts to climb as well. Visit [delmarva.com/WaysToSave](http://delmarva.com/WaysToSave) or call 1-800-375-7117 to learn simple tips to better manage energy use and bills.

### UPCOMING SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETINGS

#### Planning Commission:

Wednesday, June 1, 7 pm  
Wednesday, July 6, 7 pm

#### Town Commissioners:

Tuesday, June 7, 5 pm  
Wednesday, June 22, 6 pm

*Dates subject to change.*

More info at: [www.queenstown-md.com/events-meetings/#meetings](http://www.queenstown-md.com/events-meetings/#meetings)

### UPCOMING SCHEDULED RECYCLE DAYS

Wednesday,	June	8
Wednesday,	June	22
Wednesday,	July	7
Wednesday,	July	20

More info at: [www.queenstown-md.com/services/collection-services/](http://www.queenstown-md.com/services/collection-services/)

### TOWN OFFICE & SERVICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

#### Juneteenth – June 20 Independence Day – July 4

Town Office will be closed Mon. June 20 for Juneteenth and Mon. July 4 for Independence Day. Bulk will be one day late for each holiday. Recycling/trash will run one day late each the week of Independence Day.

More info at: [www.queenstown-md.com/events-meetings/#calendar](http://www.queenstown-md.com/events-meetings/#calendar)

**PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED** – Public hearings have been scheduled for the following ordinances for June 22 at 6pm at the Town Office:

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 22-06** – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF QUEENSTOWN TO AMEND THE TOWN'S WATER AND SEWER CHARGES TO INCREASE THE MONTHLY WATER CONSUMPTION RATE AND SEWER CONSUMPTION RATE BY EIGHT PERCENT (8%) PER YEAR FOR THE NEXT FIVE FISCAL YEARS, COMMENCING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JULY 1, 2027.

Costs of water and sewer operations have increased substantially over the past several years. Per Maryland law, the Water & Sewer (Enterprise) Fund must operate independently of the General Fund and cannot be subsidized by the General Fund. For the past three years, the increase to water/sewer consumption rates was 5% per year. Unfortunately, due to increasing water/sewer operation costs, the Town Commissioners have found no alternative but to increase water/sewer rates again this year. The proposed increase is 8% a year for five years. The increase proposed is a start towards meeting the budget deficit shown over the past several years.

The increase is for water and sewer consumption rates only, NOT your entire bill. Here are some examples of the amount to expect your water and sewer bills to increase by the first year:

CURRENT BILL	WOULD INCREASE BY
\$70.00	\$1.60
\$80.00	\$2.40
\$90.00	\$3.20
\$100.00	\$4.00
\$110.00	\$4.80
\$120.00	\$5.60

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 22-07** – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF QUEENSTOWN ADOPTING A GENERAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023 AND ESTABLISHING A CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE OF \$ .2217 PER \$100 OF ASSESSED REAL PROPERTY VALUE AND A TAX RATE OF .55 PER \$100 ON ALL COMMERCIAL OR BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES; AND ALSO ADOPTING AN ENTERPRISE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN'S WATER AND SEWER OPERATIONS, WHICH INCLUDES AN INCREASE TO MONTHLY WATER AND SEWER CONSUMPTION RATES BY EIGHT PERCENT (8%)

In addition to the water/sewer consumption rates mentioned above, we plan to adopt the Constant Yield (CY) real property tax rate of \$0.2217. The CY tax rate is calculated by the Maryland Dept. of Assessments & Taxation for each taxing authority in Maryland. It represents the Real Property Tax Rate for the coming tax year that will generate the same amount of revenue that was generated during the current tax year. As assessments increase, the CY rate decreases, and if assessments decrease, the CY rate increases. Implicit in this concept is that the idea that a tax rate at or below the existing tax rate is a tax increase if it is higher than the CY tax rate. While the CY tax rate of \$0.2217 appears to be a tax increase over the current years rate of \$0.2026, it is not considered so as the assessments are anticipated to be lower this year. While some areas of the budget have increased, most specifically due to additional personnel, as well as increases in utilities, trash/recycling collections, and municipal expenses, we are pleased to be able to set the real property tax rate at the CY rate.

Copies of both ordinances, and the budgets, can be found online at our website [www.queenstown-md.com](http://www.queenstown-md.com) and are available at the Town Office.

# TOUCHSTONES<sup>®</sup>

## DISCUSSION PROJECT

**ALL NEW 2022 Summer Enrichment Workshops!**  
**JULY 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Calvary Methodist Church**  
**7113 Maryland Ave, Queenstown**



### **Exploring the World of Math (9:00 to 10:00 AM)**

Students will explore new and creative approaches to math through discussion activities—no boring multiplication or division or algebra! Have fun and strengthen discussion skills and teamwork, improve your reasoning abilities, and engage in exciting problem-solving. Great for students who enjoy learning with others, riddles, or puzzle-type games! ***This FREE program is for students entering 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades and runs 9:00-10:00 AM Monday to Friday. Limited to 12 participants. FREE***

### **Discovering Art & Writing (10:15 to 11:45 AM)**

Using works of visual art, poetry, and short stories, students will investigate how artists and writers communicate ideas and perspectives. After their discussions, students will practice their own creative writing, drawing, and painting skills. This program is ideal for students interested in exploring artistic expression in many forms! ***This FREE program is for students entering 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades and runs 9:00-10:00 AM Monday to Friday. Limited to 12 participants. FREE***

**Youth may sign up for either or both discussion programs. All new discussion topics and materials this year!**

**TO REGISTER: call Touchstones at (410) 604-3309 or email [sam@touchstones.org](mailto:sam@touchstones.org).** All program materials, a student-created portfolio, paper, pens, and other supplies and are provided at no cost. These programs are funded through charitable contributions received by Touchstones for community programs.

**A parent's/guardian's written permission is required.**

**Trained Touchstones staff run these programs.**

Touchstones is a registered non-profit educational organization with federal TIN 52-2009938.

[www.touchstones.org](http://www.touchstones.org)  
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