

## ***Around West County:*** **Passport to Odenton Day celebrates 'Town the Railroad Built'**



 Print story

 Share on Facebook

 Google bookmark

---

Advertisement

By DONNA M. FELLOWS, For The Capital

Published October 10, 2007

Odenton - the Town the Railroad Built - celebrated its history with hundreds of residents and visitors Saturday with "Passport to Odenton Day."

Visitors were provided with a passport and map to visit 10 locations. Each location was assigned a number which was stamped into the visitor's passport. After visiting all sites, the stamped passports were turned in at the firehouse for a grand prize drawing.

Planning for this spectacular event took more than a year with combined efforts by the Odenton Volunteer Fire Company, West County Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Odenton Improvement Association and the Odenton Heritage Society.

Oden Bowie president of the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad, a.k.a Dave Tibbetts, dressed head-to-toe in black including a tall black hat, greeted guests at the Odenton Volunteer Fire Company before making his way around town to see how much Odenton has changed from the 1860s.

Inside the Odenton Fire Hall, more than 30 community and civic organizations were represented, some of which were fundraising, as others had drawings and giveaway items.

"Many people didn't know we even had a Lions Club in west county," said Suzette Kettenhofen. Kids handed out membership information on their organizations and had a chance to win little lions and candy. The West County Lions Club meets from 4 to 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Daily Diner in Odenton.

Odenton Moose Lodge 206 was on hand providing lawn mower race demonstrations in the roped off area of the parking lot at the fire house. They recently performed a week ago Sunday at Blobs Park and raise funds for local charities.

Trinity United Methodist Church was on hand as they recently celebrated their 125th anniversary. On display at their booth were old hymnals dating back to the early 1800s.

Also inside the fire house, fire safety demonstrations for the kids included "Stop, Drop, and Roll." Two beds were aligned near the station doors. At the sound of the smoke alarm, the children had to drop out of bed, crawl on the floor to the mats and roll as they were instructed to cover their faces at the same time.

Outside was a fire demonstration in a closed environment where children were able to see just how fast a fire can spread through a home. A metal trash can, filled with newspaper, with curtains behind it, was ignited. Sprinkler systems detected the smoke and extinguished the fire in less than 45 seconds.

Fort George G. Meade Museum had a display of various animals that were used to assist soldiers during war time.

The Ladies Auxiliary from Odenton Volunteer Fire Company were on hand cooking up hotdogs for the hungry crowd. Food and drinks were provided free of charge.

While munching on lunch, the crowd was entertained by Derek DePaolis' Synergy Odenton Karate with martial arts demonstrations in maneuvers and weapons by four very talented youth.

Synergy Karate teaches *tang soo do* and will be offering adult classes in November.

Following the martial arts demonstration, Melissa Hathway's dance students dressed in red and white outfits, from Arts 'n Motion performed to "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

Melissa recently moved her studio to 8251-B Telegraph Road near the police station.

Guided walking tours began at the Old Citizens State Bank Building beside the MARC train station which was turned into a Civil War encampment. Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Gen. G. Meade Camp No. 5, dressed in vintage clothing, were on hand to answer questions about a typical soldier's life during the Civil War. Tents were set up and a display of items a Civil War soldier carried were also available for viewing. Camp Commander Jeffrey French was dressed as Cpl. Walter Henry French of the 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Company D, Jeffrey's great-great-great grandfather.

They meet four times a year in the upstairs meeting room of the Odenton Historical Society. Their next meeting is Nov. 15.

Paul McCracken from Annandale, Va., was dressed as Abraham Lincoln and gave out round, shiny copper photos of himself to the children who came by to visit.

The Old Bank Building was open for refreshments and also housed exhibits on the local railroad history.

Between guided walks and Civil War camp demonstrations, the re-enactors waved to the trains as they drove by the Odenton Station. Can you imagine the thoughts on the passengers mind that they just drove through a time warp!

Also included in the guided walk was a tour of Epiphany Episcopal Church. Built in 1918, it is the only World War I chapel in the United States, restored to its full beauty in 2004 and houses a museum on the second floor. The Rev. Phebe L. McPherson gave tours of the church and answered questions. The restoration work is absolutely

beautiful with colorful stained glass windows. If you have not had an opportunity to visit an historical site, make plans to attend their Coffee House every Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m. with great jazz.

The Old Masonic Hall is the home of the Odenton Historical Society, where the Great Circle Quilting Club meets every Tuesday to work on quilts for Sarah's House and local hospitals. The entire first floor of the Odenton Historical Society was lined with beautifully colored handmade quilts in a variety of patterns.

State Farm Insurance and other businesses in the 1413 Annapolis Road Plaza provided infant and car seat demonstrations, giveaways and photo opportunities with State Farm's Good Neighbor.

Hearing Solutions had artist Cassy Mahdi providing face painting. Car window VIN etchings were also available.

Special events were also included for the children at West County Library and the Odenton Health Center.

Sam Shepherd of Severna Park began his day on the WB&A Trail at Babbington Green Park and ran into Gen. Meade checking on his troops.

"This is a very nice event for Odenton," said Mr. Shepherd. "I didn't know half of these organizations were here."

The Piney Orchard Community Center is hosting the annual Children's Halloween Party on Oct. 27 with lots of treats, fun and a costume party. Space is limited, so please RSVP by Saturday. For more information, visit [www.pineyorchard.com](http://www.pineyorchard.com).

Come to the Seven Oaks Community Association annual meeting at the Community Center located at 2110 Charter Oaks Blvd. at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 23.

Susan Rapaport, the association's attorney, will be on hand to answer pre-submitted

questions. No questions will be taken from the floor. Please submit your questions at least 10 days in advance in writing or e-mail to [s7oakmgr@verizon.net](mailto:s7oakmgr@verizon.net).

Early next year, a special meeting will be held to elect an all-homeowner Board of Directors. This committee is to be made up of one member of the board and at least two other persons who are not members of the board. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please submit your interest in writing to Dennis Austin at the onsite office located at 2110 Charter Oaks Blvd. by Oct. 17.

*Donna M. Fellows covers Odenton, Piney Orchard and Seven Oaks communities. Contact her with your news at 410-279-1308 or [WestCountyNews@yahoo.com](mailto:WestCountyNews@yahoo.com).*