Have you ever enjoyed one of Abington's Sunday evening summer concerts? On your way out of Town Hall, have you stopped for a moment to look at the town mural mounted above the door? Have you ever stood on the sidelines at the St. Patrick's Day parade to applaud a marching band or a float? Have you ever been given a ticket to the Fuller Art Museum or the Brockton Symphony? If you answer yes to any of these questions, you have already been introduced to the Abington Cultural Council.

In 1971, Jacqueline O'Reilly, an Arts advocate, worked with other lovers of the Arts and with the state legislators to find a way to use some of the profits from a state lottery to offer local funding for the Arts. In 1979, legislation created the Massachusetts Arts Lottery Council. Each town in the state would organize its own volunteer local council to disperse the funds given, and in 1980, the first lottery tickets went on sale. Throughout the 1980's and 1990's legislation was introduced and passed that changed the focus of the Council and that merged it with other programs until the name of the program was changed from the Mass Art Lottery Council to the Mass Cultural Council (MCC) and the Local Cultural Council (LCC).

Today, Massachusetts' LCC is the largest small town cultural funding in the country. Every year it supports thousands of community programs in the arts, the sciences and the humanities. The local councils are made up of town resident volunteers. There are 329 councils serving all 351 towns. These local councils accept grant applications from individuals, schools, and cultural groups. The applications must specify a local venue, and when they do, the Council can authorize grants for school field trips, after school programs, festivals, lectures, theater, dance, music, and even parades. Wherever a community meets, a grant can be used. The amount of money allocated to each town is predicated on population and equalized property income communities with larger allocations. Of course, bigger communities get more money, but greater weight is placed on communities with greater needs. However, a minimum amount is always guaranteed to be sure that smaller communities, like Abington, and more than half the towns in the Commonwealth, receive a good amount.

Very wealthy towns often match the funds given by the state, but that is not true for many of the towns. In addition, as the economy has worsened, state and town funds need to be allocated for other necessary community needs. So often it is the Arts which take the greatest hit when additional funds are needed elsewhere. When that happens, the local councils receive more grant applications from people who want to keep the Arts alive, and who can no longer count on state and federal funding to do so. These reasons explain why local councils need to raise more money on their own in order to award more grants.

So what have we, the Abington Council, contributed to? This year we gave grants to people who gave various presentations in the schools. For instance, one of our grants brought a musical performance to the high school during International week, a museum teacher from Plimoth Plantation who portrayed a resident of the 1627 Plimoth Colony, and an hour presentation about hate and prejudice presented at the Frolio school by a child survivor of the Holocaust. Each year we award money so Jack Bailey can keep his St. Pat's parade a town favorite.

(continued on page 6)
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended by Deborah Grimmett, Abington Public Library Director


The New Yorker came of age as a magazine during the 1940’s. This volume gathers together the best of the decade’s writers, with historical context added by today’s New Yorker contributors. From a piece about then Navy Lieutenant John F. Kennedy by John Hersey, to a 1944 piece by Edmund Wilson asking Why Do People Read Detective Stories? to discussions of fashions and character studies of the more cerebral celebrities of the day, this book captures the prevailing thoughts and opinions of “The Greatest Generation” during the 1940’s.

FACTS ABOUT PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

Gerald R. Ford was the 38th President of the United States (served 1974-1977). His Vice President was Nelson Rockefeller. Jerry Ford’s wife and First Lady was Elizabeth (Betty) Ford. Gerald Ford was born as Leslie Lynch King, Jr., an only child. His parents were divorced; when his mother remarried, he was given his stepfather’s name when he was 2 yrs old and later adopted by him.

President Ford presided over the worst economy in the country in the 4 decades since the Great Depression. He signed the Education for all Handicapped Children Act of 1975, which established Special Education throughout the United States; he signed the Helsinki Accord, marking a move toward détente in the Cold War; he officially ended U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War as North Vietnam conquered South Vietnam; and as most people remember, granted Richard M. Nixon an unconditional pardon in 1974, which meant that Nixon never stood trial for the Watergate scandal. When Ford took the oath of office on August 9, 1974, he declared, “I assume the Presidency under extraordinary circumstances. ... This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts.” It was indeed an unprecedented time. He had been the first Vice President chosen under the terms of the Twenty-fifth Amendment and, in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, was succeeding the first President ever to resign. Some interesting facts about President Ford: He was the only President in history who was not elected President or Vice President by the American people; he was an excellent student and an all-star football player who was being recruited by the Detroit Lions and Green Bay Packers, but instead went to Yale Law School; Ford served in Congress for over 25 years before he became Vice President. He worked as a fashion model in the 40’s to help pay for law school. There were two assassination attempts on President Ford’s life while in office as President, both by women and only days apart in 1975, both in California. President Gerald Ford lived another 30 years after leaving the White House as President and continued to be active in the public eye until his death in 2006 at age 93. He lived long enough to become the longest living President in U.S. history, surpassing Ronald Reagan.

INFORMER NEWS DEADLINE

Place in Newsletter inbox by 10th of previous month (i.e., 10th of Sept. for the October 2014 issue).

HEALTH AND ASSISTANCE

Walk-In Health Screening for Blood Pressure, Sugar Testing, Nutrition and Weight Counseling & Medication Instruction are held at Abington Sr. Ctr., on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month, 9:00 to 12:00 Noon. The Board of Health states the nurse will be available to ALL Abington residents, regardless of age.

Free Hearing Screenings and Hearing Aid Checks are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Senior Center with John Klefeker. Call for appt. 781-982-2145.

SENIOR TRANSPORTATION—CALL 781-982-2145

(24 HOUR ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIRED)

Council on Aging Van is door-to-door service to medical appointments, and other needs, $3 round trip - suggested donation. Call the COA at 781-982-2145 to book rides in advance. Dial-A-BAT vehicles travel a bit further out, to Brockton and the Bridgewater between 9:30 and 4:30 and to Boston Wed. & Fri. BAT rides must be booked thru the COA. Fees vary. Door-to-door-pay driver. Friday Morning Shopping Van. We will be using our trusty van to get you to either the Hanover Mall or another mall. We will pick you up starting at 9:15 or shortly after. We will pick you up at the mall at 12:30 getting you home around 1 or 1:15. Cost for round trip is $3.00. Each week we will alternate between malls.

SENIOR NUTRITION—CALL 781-982-2145

Meals on Wheels delivered to homebound Seniors, lunchtime Mon-Fri, $3.00 per meal. Our wonderful volunteers deliver nutritious meals right to your kitchen table. Although anyone can apply for this service, approval must be given by the recipient’s doctor. In winter months, when there is inclement weather and there is no school that day, there will be no prepared meals delivered.

Senior Lunches: Tuesdays 11:30—cost $4.00. Thursday suggested donation is $3.00. Call the Center at 781-982-2145 to make your reservation by Friday of the previous week.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Wheelchairs, walkers, and other medical equipment are available at the Senior Center. Call 781-982-2145 for availability.

SENIOR COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER

For info regarding classes, dates, times, etc., call 508-521-4008 or by email go to www.seniorcomputerlearningcenter.org.

POET’S CORNER

THE SWING

How do you like to go up in a swing, 
Up in the air so blue?  
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing 
Ever a child can do.

Up in the air and over the wall 
Till I can see so wide, 
Rivers and trees and cattle and all 
Over the countryside.

Till I look down on the garden green, 
Down on the roof so brown— 
Up in the air I go flying again, 
Up in the air and down.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

DON’T GIVE UP

When things go wrong as they sometimes will, 
When the road you’re frudging seems all uphill, 
When funds are low and debts are high, 
When care is pressing you down a bit…

REST if you must, but don’t you quit.
FRIENDS OF ABINGTON SENIORS, INC. MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS

The Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc. would like to thank both past and present members for their support and contributions.

JUNE 2014 started a new membership year with dues of $7.00 payable and good until JUNE 2015. Please make checks payable to:

“Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc.”
and mail to P.O. Box 2035, Abington, MA 02351.

Many thanks to families selecting “Friends of Abington Seniors” for memorial gifts.

Friends of Abington Seniors Membership for 2014-2015: $7.00 per person or $100 for lifetime membership.

Please send donations to this address: P.O. Box 2035, Abington, MA 02351

Name_______________________________________________________________________________________
Address_____________________________________________________________________________________
In Memory Of ________________________________________________________________________________
Send Acknowledgement to ____________________________________________________________________

THE BIRTHDAY GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Do you have a birthday coming? Can’t think of anything you want or need? Suggest a donation in your name to the Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc.

Memberships:
Jaci Mercer
Emelda Slonina
Ruth Bryan
Charles Goulet
June Jackson
Joseph & Patricia Jackman

Jacqueline Whitten
Lydia & Russ DeCoste
William Barry
Marjorie Lescynski
Jaanus & Carol Roht

Barbara & Joseph Pace
Shirley Hill
Marge Roberts
Nancy Holloway
Carole Gillis

Barbara McCarthy
Janice & Bill Cox
Amelia Andrade
Kathleen & Allan Ross
Mary Montgomery

John Osgood
Mary Giniewicz
Imelda Gemmel

Marge Edson by Mary Giniewicz
Helen Farrell, Alice Mahoney, and Stefania Giniewicz by Mary Giniewicz
Hugh Cox by M. Drusilla Cox

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Another reminder that summer is ending – the Community Gardens will have its final sales on Saturday, September 13. This is our last chance this season to stock up on home grown fresh produce. Yummy!

NEW FALL CLASSES AT THE SENIOR COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER

Open House at Abington Senior Center on September 10th, from 10-12

Low cost “hands on” practical computer classes offered for students age 50 and over. Applicants may tour the classroom and learn more details about the classes. The lab has 11 modern PCs with both Windows 7 and the latest Windows 8.1 operating systems. Instructors, coaches and staff are all experienced volunteers and will be on hand

The latest curriculum items include enhanced classes for transitioning to Windows 8.1, Photo Editing with PhotoShop Elements 12, Basics of Kindle, Basics of the iPad and Facebook Basics. Standard courses will continue to be offered, including introductory classes, various office applications, and courses for Genealogy, Digital Cameras, Buying and Selling on the Internet, Copying and Adding Files, All About Windows 7, and more.

For more information, go to the website seniorcomputerlearningcenter.org, or call and leave a message (between 1:00 and 3:00) at 508-521-4008. To register in person: preprinted forms are available outside our lab at the Abington Senior Center. To register by mail, go to the website, click Register at the top and print a registration form. Fill out the form and mail it, with a check made out to SCLC to: Senior Computer Learning Center, c/o Abington Senior Center, 441 Summer Street, Abington, MA 02351

LABOR DAY

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a uniquely American holiday, and it has changed considerably as our times have changed. Beginning with the Eighties, it lost some of the drama and tension it previously expressed, when union labor and its political allies flexed their muscles. But Labor Day is well established as a national holiday. It is observed by all Americans. It still marks the end of summer vacations, the sure sign that it’s time to prepare for school again, and the occasion for family outings of all sorts.

ABOUT THE PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL BUILDING — However you feel about the need for a new school, be sure you inform yourself. There is much information available by leaflet, community TV, and informational meetings. Read, listen, or watch all sides of the proposal, then make your decision, one way or the other, so you can vote intelligently when the Special Town Meeting (Sat. Sept. 27, AHS; 2/3 majority needed for approval) and Ballot Box Election (Sat. Oct. 28, AHS; majority vote needed) take place.
**MCDBG GRANT AWARDED**

The Town of Abington has been notified that it will receive a $780,216 grant from the FY 2014 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program (MCDBG) to continue the Abington-Whitman Housing Rehabilitation Program and to provide funding to the Abington and Whitman food pantries.

The Towns of Abington and Whitman joined in a regional effort, competing with other communities in a highly competitive funding application. Abington is the lead community and will be responsible for managing the grant which will serve residents of both Abington and Whitman. The two towns successfully joined forces for the first time in 2012 to obtain funding for these programs, and this new grant will allow the communities to continue their successful efforts to assist low and moderate income residents of the Towns by assisting homeowners to make repairs to their properties and supporting the Abington and Whitman Food Pantries.

The funding is expected to provide 0% interest deferred payment loans to an estimated 18 homeowners in the two communities. These loans carry no interest, require no payments, and are forgiven after 15 years, allowing low and moderate income homeowners to make repairs they could not otherwise afford, including but not limited to repair or replacement of heating, plumbing, and electrical systems, making handicapped accessibility modifications, repairing siding, removing lead paint hazards, and making energy efficiency improvements. The program is also a vital resource for eligible homeowners needing emergency repairs to address failed heating systems, badly leaking roofs, and other serious health and safety repairs.

The Abington and Whitman food pantries will each receive $36,000. These funds will allow the two food pantries to purchase an additional $72,000 of food to be distributed to residents of the two communities who are struggling, especially in the wake of cuts to federal food assistance through the SNAP program and to fuel assistance programs over the last couple of years.

The grant will continue to be operated from the Community Development Office, located at the Abington Senior Center, 441 Summer Street in Abington. The office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays and residents with questions or who wish to apply for housing rehabilitation assistance may contact program staff on those days by calling 781-982-2145.

**Introducing HATHA YOGA with Joanne** — Wednesdays at 5:30pm beginning October 15th. $5

The slow pace with simple breathing makes for a great place to learn basic yoga poses. Wear something comfortable that will keep your muscles warm during the slower-paced moments in class. Bring a mat, towel, and a water bottle. Questions: Please call 508-208-9963

*Quote from a breakfast spot: Due to budget cuts, the light at the end of the tunnel has been shut off.*
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9:00 Cribbage</td>
<td>10:00 Knitting Group</td>
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<td>LABOR DAY</td>
<td>11:30 Lunch: Hobo Sandwich, Dessert, Beverage</td>
<td>10:00-12:00 Quilting Class</td>
<td>10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne ($4)</td>
<td>9:00 Shopping Van</td>
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<td>5:30-6:30pm Zumba ($4)</td>
<td>10:30-12:00 Chess</td>
<td>11:30 Lunch TBA</td>
<td>11:00 Tai Chi ($5)</td>
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<td>Senior Center</td>
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<td>Free bread distribution at Sr. Ctr. 1st come, 1st serve</td>
<td>Grandparents Day</td>
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<td>Closed</td>
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<td>Newspaper Carrier Day</td>
<td>9/7/1860 Anna Mary Robertson, artist a/k/a (&quot;Grandma Moses&quot;) born</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>9:00-10:00 Beginners Knitting/Crocheting Class ($5)</td>
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<td>11:00 Bingo</td>
<td>11:30 Lunch: Catered Brunch</td>
<td>10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne ($4)</td>
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<td>Full Harvest Moon</td>
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<td>9:00 FOAS Meeting</td>
<td>10:00 Knitting Group</td>
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<td>11:30 Lunch: Macaroni &amp; Cheese, Baked Ham, Carrots, Peas, Dessert, Beverage</td>
<td>10:00-12:00 Quilting Class</td>
<td>10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne ($4)</td>
<td>9:00 Shopping Van</td>
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<td>10:00-12:00 Quilting Class</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>11:30 Lunch: Chicken Tetrazzini w/ Linguini, Salad, Rolls, B-Day Cake, Beverage</td>
<td>10:00-12:00 Quilting Class</td>
<td>10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne ($4)</td>
<td>9:00 Shopping Van</td>
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<td>5:30-6:30pm Zumba ($4)</td>
<td>10:00-11:30 Grief Support Group</td>
<td>11:30 Lunch TBA</td>
<td>11:00 Tai Chi ($5)</td>
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<td>11:30 Lunch: Soup, Turkey &amp; Swiss Sandwich, Crackers, Dessert, Beverage</td>
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<td>11:00 Tai Chi ($5)</td>
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9/28 Ask A Stupid Question Day

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9/28 National Honey Month

Gem: Sapphire

Flower: Aster

Zodiac: Virgo/Libra

Lunch: October 7

Sheppard's Pie, Rolls, Dessert, Beverage
THE ABINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL  (continued from page 1)

We have also honored those town residents who have raised money that promoted Abington community events.

When the town of Abington celebrated its 300th anniversary, the Council wanted to provide a permanent memorial that would celebrate the things that have defined our town. It was with that idea in mind that we designed and created the mural that is mounted in the town hall. Two small panels depict strawberries, a beaver, the shoe industry and the railroad. The larger central panel is of Island Grove pond with its Memorial Bridge and a couple from the early 1900’s enjoying a rowboat ride.

For several years to raise money, the Council organized an antique appraisal service, and this year, on August 3rd, the members held a Car Show in the parking lots of the Abington High School and Town Hall. We invited cars that were old, new, classic and unique, and we awarded trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place as well as for Best of Show. In addition, there were plaques for the oldest car, the newest, the best paint job, the best restoration-in-progress, and for Kids’ Choice. Throughout the day there were raffles, live music and a snack bar operated by the Abington Lions Club.

We are hoping that the town will always support our fund raisers since all profits will be awarded in the form of grants to support local music, arts and school related programs. The people of the town of Abington receive the benefit of all that we do. And as Governor Patrick said about the Cultural Councils, “The arts and culture are an expression of the best of who we are and what we believe in. The work you [LCC] do makes our economy and our culture better.”

So the next time you enjoy a concert, listen to your children excitedly tell you of a group of people who came to their school and taught them really interesting stuff, enjoyed a visit to a museum or a symphony, or had an afternoon’s entertainment at the Senior Center, we would love you to say a silent “thank you” to your local Cultural Council.

SEPTEMBER’S CHUCKLE

A hunting guide told his group, “We’re lost.” “How can we be lost?” one hunter exclaimed. “You said were the best guide in Maine!” “I am, but now we’re in Canada.”

WISH LIST for kitchen: Paper Towels, Aluminum Foil

SEPTEMBER’S PUZZLE

Word Switch: Remove one letter from the first word and place it into the second word to form two new words. You must not change the order of the letters in the words, and you may not use plurals.

1. Sallow — Bail  6. Three — Nice
2. Pitch — Sale  7. Value — Case
3. Pride — Sloe  8. Wheat — Fast
5. Still — Face  10. Metal — Holy

SEPTEMBER’S RECIPE

BBQ Meat Loaf Minis — from Diane Keith

Combine one 6 oz. package of stuffing mix, 1 cup water, and 2 tbsps. hickory smoke-flavored barbecue sauce. Mix in 1 pound ground beef. Place 1/3 cup of mix into each of 12 ungreased muffin cups. Bake at 375, uncovered, for 18-22 minutes, or until thermometer reads 160. Sprinkle tops with 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese. Bake 2-4 minutes longer, or until cheese melts. Serve with additional barbecue sauce. 6 Servings

SEPTEMBER’S RECIPE

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Cash is King November 9: Johnny Cash Tribute Show with band, sounds just like Cash. They perform all the classics. Great meal is included of Prime Rib of Beef or Baked Scrod. $79

Christmas Time at Reagle Players December 6: This show features more than 200 cast members and elaborate holiday themed props and costumes. This is a very popular show and will sell out fast. Don’t miss it. $79

Atlantic City Taj Mahal February 18-20: Great package. $90 slot bonus, 1 show, 3 meals including 1 breakfast. $185

—Contact Rita Webster at 781-924-5531 for information.

COMMUNITY CRAFT FAIR

The annual Craft Fair will be held at the Senior Center on Saturday, October 25, 2014. This is an opportunity to do some early shopping for Christmas presents and holiday decorations. There will be a baked goods table and a hot luncheon featuring our popular corn chowder. Save the date! Also, keep in mind our boutique located in the hall of the Senior Center where a wide variety of our handmade items are for sale, including American Doll clothing for your granddaughter’s favorite dolls.

HELP OUR KIDS!

Trucchis’ Market will once again be providing a carton for the receipt of back-to-school items. Don’t let the lack of a pencil prevent one of Abington’s students from becoming President. Pitch in, if you can.

—Marie Brown
Seniors!
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Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc.
Monthly Meetings at Senior Center
Bingo! Cribbage! Chess!
Knitting, Crochet and Quilting Groups!
Exercise and Computer Classes!
Delicious Luncheons!
Become a Member!
Check out the calendar inside!

Show Your Support
sponsor your local newsletter
Call 800-732-8070
**Line Dance Schedule:** Dancing with Dot Dunham at St. Bridget’s Parish Hall on Friday afternoons, at 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Donation: $3.00. Call 781-293-7727 for more information.

**Support Groups—Open to the Public—No Charge:**
- **Bereavement Group,** Abington, meets once a month at the Library, 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm; Prostate Cancer Support Group, monthly, 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., Brockton Hospital, Assembly Room 2nd floor by café; Grief Support Group, Wed., Sept. 17 for 6 wks, 10:00-11:30am, Abington Sr. Ctr.

**Food Pantry:** St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry is open on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the old Friary Convent at St. Bridgey’s, 781-878-1194.

**Supporters of the Abington Seniors**
- Abington Elderly Services, Inc.
  - Lois Kelley, President; Ann Reilly, Vice President/Van Account Liaison; Mary Graham, Treasurer; Tricia Force; Evelyn Drew; Atty. Edward Reilly
- Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc.
  - Darlean Lewis, President; Larry Keough, Vice-President; Thomas Bates, Treasurer; Lorraine Leventuk, Asst. Treasurer; Peggy Keating, Clerk; Mary Cordeiro, Secretary

**Informer Newsletter Staff:** Marie Brown, Joanne Curtis, Lorraine Leventuk, Betty Slinger, Maureen Wall.

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**Answers to puzzle on page 6:**

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**THE WHITE HOUSE — Facts about its history**

Choosing a City: In the late 1700s, it was decided that our country needed a capital city. Our first president, George Washington, picked a site on the Potomac River, midway between the northern and southern states. This spot would come to be called Washington, District of Columbia. Building the White House: While the city of Washington, D.C. was being developed, the president's house was also getting under way. A contest was held to select a designer for the house. While it is said that our third president, Thomas Jefferson, submitted designs for the house, architect James Hoban won the contest. President George Washington oversaw construction of the White House, but he never lived there! It was our second president, John Adams, elected in 1796, who first lived in the White House. His term was almost over by the time he moved in, and only six rooms had been finished. While James Madison was president, from 1809 to 1817, the United States went to war with England. On August 24, 1814, British soldiers sailed up the Potomac River and set fire to the White House. A summer thunderstorm put out the fire, but only the charred outside walls and the interior brick walls remained. It took three years to rebuild the White House.

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*Some information for various articles was taken from internet sources.*