

Fountain may spout again in Towson Estates

BY LONI INGRAHAM

If Campus Hills is known for its landscaped median strip and Rodgers Forge for its red brick row houses, then Towson Estates should be known for its 30 or so fountains.

But it isn't, because the stone bases of the now defunct fountains are obscured from the street behind bushes on private property, buried beneath a street or hidden under the leaves.

Now, maybe Towson Estates will get its just due, thanks to a

\$300 grant from the Baltimore County Historical Trust.

The Towson Estates Association plans to use the money to restore the stonework surrounding the one fountain on public property. It sits in the county right-of-way on the side of the hill beside Old Joppa Road near Joppa Road, on the county right-of-way on "The Island," as neighbors call it — the green space between Joppa and Old Joppa Roads where neighbors gather for community events.

The 64-year-old fountain sym-

bolizes that which makes the Towson Estates enclave of 65 homes unique, according to architect Tom King, who wrote the grant application when he was vice president of the association.

"The structure is significant in that it supports the sense of community and identity of its immediate neighborhood," King says.

Towson Estates was built by Henry Mylander as a rental community around 1929. Many employees of the Eudowood Sanitarium, which was situated across Joppa Road on what is now Tow-

son Marketplace property, lived there.

It had its own stop on the Ma & Pa Railroad near what is now Goucher Boulevard, and its fountains were tended by groundskeepers and fed by a water tower or tank.

The water lines to the fountains were abandoned when the county brought public water and sewer to the area, King says, and it would be financially impractical at this point to restore the flow of water. "Ultimately, we would like to do that," he says.

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For now, the association will settle for stabilizing the stone work and preventing further deterioration. The work will probably be contracted out next spring, according to King.

Judith Kremen, executive director of the county historical trust, believes the grant is money well-spent.

The trust is a nonprofit organization committed to preserving the unique architectural heritage of the county. For 11 years, grants have been given to individuals and organizations to assist them in

restoring, repairing, maintaining or otherwise improving historic properties.

They also are given to enhance or promote the interests of historic preservation and to further historic research.

"Towson Estates did a lot of research before they came to us," Kremen says. "They went back and found out who had worked on the fountain and when it was built, and they interviewed long-term residents, so when they came to us, they knew everything there was to know."



STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID HOBBY.

Tom King watches his son, Eric, 2, explore the Towson Estates fountain which is to be renovated. King secured a \$300 grant from Baltimore County Historical Trust to make the repairs.