

Nepal Educational and Cultural Center (NECC)

Press Release

NECC Management Committee is pleased to share the major milestones that we, as a greater community achieved together in a long community journey toward building our own community center in the Greater Washington Metropolitan area. NECC recently paid off second mortgage of \$150,000.00 for new property in Beallsville, MD with phenomenal community support to make 'community dream come true' which was envisioned by our senior predecessors in the 1980's. While our predecessors deserve kudos, our thanks to all generous donors as well as creditors for their incredible support toward this great community cause will never be enough. NECC management team is overwhelmed and encouraged by this kind of phenomenal community response. With this second mortgage pay off, it leaves 58% of total mortgage due to our lender which is to be paid in 30 year term.

In an arduous journey began by our predecessors, five acres land was purchased in Solomon Island, MD in the 1980's to address the need of community center for our Nepali community. As majority of Nepali community are settled around the metropolitan area, our predecessors then came to the realization that Solomon Island was not a strategically fit location and new property was purchased in Fairfax, VA in the late 1980's. Due to regulatory hurdles, our community was compelled to sell off Fairfax property too. Then, Lanham property was purchased in 1996. On September 30, 2000, the Pashupati Buddha Temple was inaugurated in Lanham, MD. That was major milestone to our predecessors in the long journey toward fulfilling cultural and religious rituals in our own community center. Since the inauguration in the year 2000, we have full time **Pundit** for our all rituals performing needs to date. As our predecessors long strived to achieve this goal, we owe and are indebted to them.

Since the year 2000, our community in this area has grown exponentially and continues to grow. As current Lanham facility is not being able to accommodate this growth, it was time for us to explore other options considering the limitation community is facing in this facility. Subsequently, NECC-VAC (Vitalization Action Committee) was formed in July 2007 under the chairmanship of then ANS President Prem Sangraula and other ANS incumbent executives and launched massive fund raise campaign together. By June 2009, NECC-VAC raised \$122,428.00 (One hundred twenty two thousand four hundred twenty eight). In July 2009, new NECC management committee has been formed. To date, total donation received by NECC (including previous VAC) is \$136,682.00 and loan received through promissory note is \$215,000.00. The original mortgage amount for new property was \$409,000 (out of total price \$700,000.00). The monthly mortgage is \$3,180.09 and it is being paid since November 2008.

NECC Management committee is working hard with the list of priorities. Barn remodeling is in full swing with the greater community collaboration to make community hall. America-Nepal Society contributed to construct the wooden stage and celebrated Dashain 2066 in the barn (turned to be community hall). Gaithersburg community has already committed for flooring with wood and work is scheduled to be completed in 2nd week of November. Our sincere thanks to Gaithersburg Nepali community for their generous thoughts and hard work. NECC management is also working on the logistic with priority to remodel the Gazebo so existing Pashupati and Buddha Mandhir can be relocated from Lanham facility. This major task will be done in the earliest possible time.

We request all the community members to bear with us during this transition and we look forward to celebrate together!

Sincerely,
Management Committee
Nepal Education & Cultural Center