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## Groundbreaking signals start of \$1.2M renovation of historic Falling Green [by Terri Hogan](#) Staff writer

The Olney Boys and Girls Community Sports Association made history on Dec. 2 at a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of construction and restoration of historic property Falling Green.

“The Herculean task of restoring Falling Green is something that I believe in passionately,” said Del. Anne R. Kaiser (D-Dist. 14) of Burtonsville. “In 2009 and 2011, I proudly sponsored bills that resulted in a total of \$250,000 being appropriated by the state for use on this important project.”

The circa 1770 house, located at 4501 Olney-Laytonsville Road, was home to the Brooke family of Quaker farmers, some of Montgomery County’s most important early settlers.

“Basil Brooke would be proud to see his home, which stands in the center of OBGC’s community park, getting so much attention almost 250 years after it was built,” added Kaiser.

OBGC plans to rehabilitate and renovate the home and use it for its administrative offices and volunteer meeting space.

“Falling Green is such a treasure,” said OBGC’s Executive Director Elisabeth Deal. “It’s exciting to be a part of something that will have a lasting impact on the entire community for generations to come.”

Deal said having OBGC’s offices on site would improve the efficiency of the organization, as well as enhance park security.

Working closely with Maryland Historic Trust and the Historic Preservation Commission, OBGC obtained the necessary approvals for the architectural plan, which was developed by Craig Moloney of CEM Design in Rockville.

Deal said that after an exhaustive process of vetting contractors qualified to do historic renovations, OBGC selected Ashton-based VanRiper Construction.

The project is expected to be completed by fall 2013.

Donations are still needed to help pay for the \$1.2 million project. [Visit fallinggreen.com](http://www.fallinggreen.com) or call 301-570-7049.

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