

THE VILLAGE CRIER

Newsletter of
The Annapolis Villagers

FEBRUARY, 2002 — MARCH, 2002

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 1



Pat Ehrenreich Retires As Village Crier Editor

Pat Ehrenreich announced her retirement as Editor of The Village Crier at the February 2002 Board Meeting.

Pat has edited the Club's newsletter since 1995. We appreciate and thank her for her time and effort.

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Newsletter Editor Needed

Pat's retirement was effective at the February board meeting. I am Acting Editor for this edition of The Crier. The club is seeking a member to take over this position. If you are interested and have any questions, please call me, John Ehrenreich at 410-647-1680.



LET'S MAKE A DEAL! VILLAGE STYLE

By Dean Stevenson

Our March meeting should be a fun one. We are going to have a short business meeting and then we are going to play Let's Make a Deal.

We are encouraging you to dress up a little with funny hats, shirts etc. There will also be some fun things at the meeting for you to put on.

We will have lots of prizes so it will be worth your while to come out and enjoy the evening.

MEMBERS' MEETING

Our next meeting is Tuesday, 7:00 P.M., March 12, 2002, American Legion, Post 175, Manhattan Beach Road, Severna Park, MD

AGENDA

- Business Meeting
- Lets Make A Deal

Two Great
Villager Events
Coming Up
Soon.

See Page 3.

Check out Page
6 for a list of all
of the activities
planned for
2002.

**OFFICERS &
COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

President	John Ehrenreich (410)647-1680 JonAE@aol.com
Vice-President	Dean Stevenson (410)923-2755 dstevenson@usmax.com
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THE PREZ SAYS.....

This newsletter marks a milestone for the Annapolis Villagers. It is the first newsletter in over seven years that has not been put together and edited by Pat Ehrenreich. When Pat took over the newsletter it was a one pager that had little more information than announcing the next meeting. Over the years we have seen the newsletter grow in content and style to the point of being one of the best D56 club newsletters. When Pat announced her intentions to retire as editor, I think most of us, myself included, were hoping she would reconsider and stay on. That not being the case, I hope you will join me in wishing her well and thanking her for the job excellently well done. In the mean time, I will continue to attempt editing the newsletter until we have a new editor. If you have any interest in assisting the club as editor, please contact me. There are only six newsletters a year and Pat and I can help you get started and provide assistance.

Moving on, we started the year with another outstanding House Tour. For what can be seen and learned on the tour makes the cost of membership a bargain for that event alone. I want to thank Bob Eustice for organizing our tour again as well as thanking our members who opened their homes for us. I also want to thank all of you who visited the open houses. The House Tours have been an annual January club event every year since the club's beginning but in February we had a new activity. Barbara Schubring planned an evening at Rosecrost Race Track and for those that participated, including many who have never been to the races before, it was an outstanding fun evening. This is definitely a must do again.

As you go through the newsletter, you will see many of the activities we have planned for the year. Of course there are annual events planned but you will find that there are also many new activities planned. We hope you will join us and participate in the upcoming meetings and events as that is the best way to show your appreciation for the work done by our members planning and putting on these events for us.

See you at the next meeting,

JoAn

**HERE WE GROW AGAIN!
WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

**BEVERLY RUBAIN of CLINTON, MD
MAGALY LEMING of OWINGS, MD**

MARCH 14-16, 2003

**Mid Atlantic Village Gathering
New location—Reston VA**

Check out the MAVG web site at www.MAVG.org See a slide show of the Hyatt Regency, host hotel for the gathering, as well as a photo recap of the 2001 gathering. More information will be posted on the web site and in this newsletter as it becomes available.

WRAP UP OF RECENT VILLAGER EVENTS

The 2002 House Tours were a great success. We want to thank Bob Eustice for organizing the tour, the 11 families who opened their beautiful homes and all of the members who were able to visit the homes on the tour. All the displays were wonderful and we came away with many great ideas.

Thanks go to everyone who assisted in taking down the Christmas decorations at the Hospice of the Chesapeake.

At the January meeting, the Villagers presented Irwin Abrams, of the Hospice of the Chesapeake a check for \$2500.00 from our efforts at the 2001 Mid-Atlantic Village Gathering in Williamsburg, VA. Mr. Abrams expressed his appreciation to the club for our efforts.

Our night at the Races was a blast. Don't think anyone went home broke but nobody won enough to retire

**CREATE A SPRING DISPLAY
AT THE MAY MEMBERS' MEETING**

By Bob Eustice

Create a small spring cottage and garden display scene at the members' meeting on Tuesday, May 14. Bring any cottage or a similar house from your favorite village collection and a couple of accessory figurines that you would like to create a Spring display with. The club will provide the required landscaping materials and mentors will be available for instruction and guidance. More details will be provided at the March member's meeting.

Some Suggested Candidate houses are:

- CIC** Gardengate House
- Mrs. Stover's Bungalow
- Dickens'** Candies
- Maylie Cotage
- Cobb Cottage
- Browning Cottage
- Crooked Fence Cottage
- McShane Cottage
- Hedgerow Garden Cottage
- Aldeburgh Music Box Shop
- Lilycott Garden Conservatory
- NEV** Ichabod Crane's Cottage
- Bobwhite Cottage
- SV** 2000 Holly Lane
- Hidden Ponds House
- The Brandon Bungalow
- Boulder Springs House
- Carmel Cottage
- Grandma's Cottage
- North Creek Cottage
- Happy Easter House

To help defray the cost of materials, a nominal fee of \$5.00 will be assessed for each display (payable at the May meeting). Please call Bob Eustice at (301) 552-1858 by Tuesday, May 7 if you have any questions or to sign up. A sign up sheet will be available at the March members' meeting. An example display will be exhibited at the March meeting. **Sign up early as registration will be limited to 20**

**ANNAPOLIS VILLAGERS PRESENT
A DAY IN OCCOQUAN**

Saturday, June 22, 2002

By Bob Eustice

Enjoy a day in the authentic and historic riverfront town of Occoquan, Va. Occoquan features more than 100 specialty shops housed in original historic buildings. They offer antiques, crafts and collectibles in the compact four-block historic district. The Golden Goose, a Department 56 Gold Key Dealer, features extensive village displays and carries an array of accessories and landscaping items.

Activities include a relaxing river cruise, walking historic tour, and lunch at one of Occoquans' fine restaurants. Adequate time will be provided for browsing and shopping.

Members will make their own transportation arrangements to Occoquan and we will meet at a designated location. The one-hour river cruise will be limited to 32 guest and the fee will be \$11.00 per person. The fee for the walking historic tour will be \$5.00 per person. The cost for lunch is yet to be determined.

Proposed schedule is as follows:

- 10:30 a.m.** Meet at designated place in Occoquan
- 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.** Walking Historic Tour
- 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Browsing and Shopping
- 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** River Cruise

Please call Barbara Schubring (301)262-5802, or Bob Eustice (301)551-1858 by May 14 to sign up. Sign up sheets will also be available at the March and May members' meeting. Payment must be received by May 14.

NEWS FROM DEPARTMENT 56

Department 56 Announces Retirement Dates for 2002

Department 56 will announce retirements on the following dates:

Snowbunnies: Marcy 22, 2002

Villages: November 1, 2002

Snowbabies: November 15, 2002

2002 Introductions Arriving at Dealers Now

Bright boxes are arriving at D56 dealers all over right now. Three of the new arrivals tie right in to Department 56's new celebration theme for major holidays.

St. Patrick's Day: Mc Guire's Irish Pub

Easter: Happy Easter House, Gift Set of 3

There are also new "Easter Inspirational" items:

House of the Last Supper

Town well & Palm, Trees set of 3

Holy Land Back Drop

The Last Supper, Lighted Scene

Look for lots of cute Snowbunnies, animals and D56 tabletop items also arriving now at your local dealer.

For pictures, visit Department 56 website www.department56.com

More 2002 Introductions

Department 56 May introductions are scheduled to be announced May 8, 2002. Will there be any retirements? When the mid-year announcement was made last year, quite a few village accessories were retired. As Department 56's Ms. Lit Town, Judith Price, likes to say, we will just have to wait and see.

CLUB 56

New Department 56 Dealer Designation

First there were Showcase Dealers, Silver Key Dealers and Gold Key Dealers. Now, a select few—just 125 across the country have been awarded the Club 56 designation. According to Judith Price, of Department 56 "Club 56 stores are being honored for their dedication to all of our product, we felt these large volume, good dealers should be recognized."

Local dealers we know of that earned the Club 56 distinction are Russ Country Gardens, Taylorsville, MD; Christmas Goose, Queenstown, MD; Homestead Gardens, Davidsonville, MD; and Golden Goose, Occoquan, VA. Congratulations!

*****Dealers if your store also earned the Club 56 designation, please let us know so we can inform our members.**

National Council of 56 Clubs (NCC News)

By Bob Keefer

NCC ANNIVERSARY CRUISE

For those of you who wish to try your sea legs, the rates have dropped for the NCC (National Council of Clubs) 10th Anniversary Alaska Cruise from June 29-July 26, 2002. The new rates are as follows:

- Inside stateroom—starting at \$779 per person
- Outside stateroom—starting at \$999 pp
- Balcony stateroom—starting at \$1299 pp
- Mini-suites—starting at \$1529 pp

If you are interested, contact Tim Kearney at Great Escape Tours at 1-877-903-1578 or online at TimD-56er@AOL.com.

Remember, the above prices do NOT include airfare or travel insurance. Tim is working on low airline rates.

DISAPPOINTED IN LAS VEGAS

Ann and I missed the January meeting of the Villagers because we were cruising in Las Vegas. She tried her hand at the slots, while I tried mine at the blackjack tables. Neither of us was very successful. We weren't disappointed, however, because, as our brother-in-law always says, "If you don't have a good time, it's your own fault."

We were disappointed, however, when we visited the new ballyhooed Department 56 Store in the Aladdin casino. I assumed that I would see novel displays, hints of future endeavors, display cases with rare pieces, and some special offers. Sadly, I found none of these.

The displays were neither large nor very original. This deficiency is partly the result of the size of the showroom, which was rather small. Displays had new pieces with a few that recently retired. The store had some retired pieces discounted at 20%, but nothing worth the trouble of carrying or shipping it home. Department 56 can do better than this!

Jack's Umbrella Shop Update

According to the NCC's latest bulletin, the Umbrella Shops are scheduled for arrival after March 1, possibly after April 1. Volunteer shippers are in 5 different locations around the country. 170 clubs submitted orders for the exclusive. As soon as Jack's arrives, the volunteer shippers will fill and get the orders out immediately.

"September 11th Fund" Department 56 Lapel Pin



Department 56 has designed a lapel pin that is being made available to its' employees and the customers of their retail stores. The NCC has been given the opportunity to make this pin available on a first come first serve basis to its' Member Clubs' members. Quantities are very limited. The Annapolis Villagers have obtained a small number of these pins.

All proceeds will go to the "September 11th Fund". Pins are \$2.00 each with the entire \$2.00 going to the fund. The pin bears the Department 56 logo and the stars & stripes of our American flag.

If you would like to have a pin, please see Peter Baer at the March meeting.

Display Tips from Around the Country

These display tips come from the latest National Council of 56 Club Bulletin. They were gathered at the NCC Koffee Klatch at the Texas Round Up 2001.

- If you would like vineyards for Seasons Bay, try making these suggested by Darrell Ingmire of Oklahoma Village Collectors Club, Tulsa Oklahoma:
 - Need: Flat toothpicks; metal vines (Season's Bay); small berries off vines (Michael's); hot glue gun, paint (gray and brown); Styrofoam
 - Instructions:
 - Paint toothpicks
 - Cut metal vines in approximately 3 inch lengths. Place toothpicks in Styrofoam base.
 - Glue vines to top of toothpicks to resemble a long row in the vineyard.
 - Glue individual berries to toothpicks to resemble clusters/bunches of grapes
- This idea for more characters in a display, comes from Linda Robarbs, Spirit of 56 Collectors Club, Arlington Texas:
 - Look at Disney Stores to buy characters from movies or shows to use in your display as costume characters or in Halloween scenes.
- If you are not into sculpting mountains with a hot wire, Barbara Cutler of Houston Texas suggest this technique for mountain making:
 - Crinkle heavy aluminum foil to desired mountain effect. Spray with spray paint, dark, rust red, gray, black, beige) to make rocky mountain effects. When dry, use pins to pin "mountains" to Styrofoam background.
- If you would like to cover electrical cords in display, particularly, street lamps, Barbara Berry of the Spirit of '56 Clubs, Arlington Texas, suggests:
 - Use electrical tape. It will not show after you add snow.
- Got a Crepe Myrtle Tree in your backyard? Jean Trimble suggests:
 - You can use Crepe Myrtle tree branches for small winter trees.
- We thought the funniest suggestion came from Pete Frullo:
 - When buying village houses, don't bring your spouse.

Let's Have Fun in 2002

By Dean Stevenson

During our Board Meeting in February many new things were planned for 2002. We hope you will agree that they will be fun and support your club by joining in. Mark your calendars. Here are the dates that we have so far.

March 12th *Let's Make a Deal* at the general meeting. See page 1.

May 14th *Make and Take* at general meeting Bob Eustice (301-552-1858). See Page 3.

June 22nd *A Day in Occoquan* including lunch, shopping and a boat ride. Barbara Schubring (301-262-5802) and Bob Eustice (301-552-1858)

July 20th *Christmas in July* at the Baers'.

Sept. 10th *Ice Cream Social* after general meeting.

Sept. 21st *Annapolis Villager 10th Anniversary Dinner at Timbuku* Barbara Schubring (301-262-5802)

October *Bus trip to PA* to PA Oprey, dinner and Apple Harvest Festival

Nov. 12th *Display Contest* at general meeting Dean Stevenson (410-923-2755)

Nov. ? *Decorate The Ronald McDonald House*

Dec. 3rd *Decorate Hospice of the Chesapeake*

Dec. 10th *Annapolis Villagers Annual Olde Fashion Christmas Party.*

CALENDAR

2002

- Mar 12 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting featuring LETS MAKE A DEAL! See page 1 for details.
- Apr 9 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting
- Apr 27-28 ~~CANCELLED~~ International Gift & Collectible Expo, Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ.
- May 14 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting. Unique Make 'n' Take. Detail on page 3.
- Jun 22 A Day in Occoquan VA. Details in newsletter, page 3.
- Jun 11 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting.
- Jul 9 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting.
- Jul 20 Christmas In July Party. Hosted by Peter & Trudi Baer.

Details to be announced.

- Aug 13 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting
- Aug 22-25 North Eastern Village Expo. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI. Website: <http://members.home.net.debra561/neexpo2002/neve>
- Sep 10 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting. Ice Cream Social.
- Sep 21 Anniversary Dinner at Timbuktu. Contact Barbara Schubring (301-262-5802).
- Oct 8 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting
- Oct ? AV Bus Trip. Tentative. Apple Harvest Festival, Dinner and PA Oprey. Detail to follow. Contact Barbara Schubring (301-262-5802).
- Nov 12 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting. Display Contest. Contact Dean Stevenson (410-

923-2755).

- Nov ? Ronald McDonald House Decorating.
- Dec 3 Hospice House Decorating. Contact Dean Stevenson (410-923-2755).
- Dec 10 Annual Old Fashion Christmas Party. Details to be announced.

2003

- Mar 14-16 Mid-Atlantic Village Gathering. Hyatt Regency, Reston, VA. Periodic updates in newsletter.

Let us know about Dealer Events, Open Houses, Swap & Sells, Show & Sells, etc. and we will list it

DIRECTIONS

Meetings Held At American Legion Post 175

Unless otherwise noted, all Annapolis Villagers' Membership Meetings and Board Meetings are held at The American Legion, Post 175, Severna Park in Manhattan Beach. Meetings start at 7 P.M.

From Rt. 50, take Rt. 2 North exit. Follow Rt. 2 N (Ritchie Highway) through Arnold. After the traffic light at Rt. 2 and College Parkway, the next light is Jones Station Rd. At the Rt. 2 N and Jones Station Rd intersection (Amoco and Crown gas Stations), turn right onto Jones Station Rd and make an immediate left onto Manhattan Beach Rd which is behind the Crown Station. Follow Manhattan Beach Rd approximately two tenths of a mile. Make a left into the parking lot of The American Legion Post 175. The entrance to the Banquet Room is to the left side of the parking lot in the rear.

From Baltimore Beltway, take Rt. 2 S. Follow Rt. 2 S (Ritchie Highway) through Severna Park. At Jones Station Rd, make a left. From Jones Station Rd., proceed as above.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, WE WILL FOLLOW ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY SCHOOLS.

From the Editor.....

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of The Crier. If you are interested in editing The Village Crier, please see me at the March meeting or call me at 410-647-1680.

John Ehrenreich
Acting Editor, Village Crier

GOT NEWS?



Please email your items of interest to:
jonAE@aol.com

Dated Material:
Members' Meeting March 12, 2002

The
Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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WHAT IS NEW AT DEPARTMENT 56

.....AND MUCH MORE!

SEE YOU AT THE MEMBERS' MEETING