



The Village Crier

Newsletter of the

ANNAPOLIS VILLAGERS



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1997

MEMBERS MEETING

MARCH 11, 1997

Take the chill out of Winter ... Come to the Villagers' Wine and Cheese Tasting Party

The next meeting of *The Annapolis Villagers* will be 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 11, 1997. The meeting will be held at The American Legion, Post 175, Severna Park, MD. Directions to the meeting are on page 7.

The Villagers are also hosting a Wine & Cheese tasting party for our members. A variety of wines and cheeses, as well as non alcoholic beverages, will be available. *Port Tack Limited*, Arnold, MD, will be our beverage and cheese guide for the evening. You will also be able to place orders with *Port Tack* for any of the wines sampled.

Peter & Trudi Baer and Gerry & Janice Zimmer will display the two displays they created for the Williamsburg Raffle (see related article on page 3).

THINK SPRING!

We have had a great response to our group classes at *The Golden Goose* in Occoquan, Virginia, on Saturday, April 12, 1997 to learn how to make *Ponds & Streams with Carl and Rita Carter*. Both sessions are completely reserved but if you are still interested, please contact John Ehrenreich, (410)647-1680 or E-mail at JonAE@aol.com. We will maintain a wait list if an opening occurs. If there is enough interest, another class may be scheduled at a later date. Remember, if you have reserved a spot in class, payment of \$25.00 per person is due at the March meeting.

CLUB PINS & SHIRTS ARE IN!

We have all waited patiently, and now the wait is over. The pins and pre-ordered shirts have arrived and will be available at the March meeting. The pins are about 1¼ inches wide. The Villager's logo characters are in black and outlined in gold. Above, between and below the two figures is a red ribbon also outlined in gold and with attractive gold lettering spelling ANNAPOLIS VILLAGERS.

Each member is entitled to purchase one pin at \$5 each. After the first pin, members and non members may purchase pins at the regular price of \$7 each. There will be an additional \$1 charge for shipping and handling of orders to be mailed.

See Peter Baer at the March 11 members meeting to purchase your club pin.

Our shirts contain the same logo as our club pin. The stylish sport shirts are all cotton and available in a wide choice of colors. Cost of the shirts are \$20 to members for sizes small through extra large. Size 2X is \$22. Non members may purchase shirts for \$25 and \$27 respectively. There will be an additional \$5.00 charge for shipping and handling for orders to be mailed.

If you have previously ordered a shirt, you can pay and pick it up at the March 11 meeting.

To order shirts, please contact Bill Murphy, (410)757-4582. If you plan to be at the Williamsburg Gathering and would like a shirt for the Gathering, you must place your order with Bill no later than February 25.

**OFFICERS &
COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

President:	Bill Murphy (410)757-4582
Vice President:	John Ehrenreich (410)647-1680 JonAE@AOL.COM
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NCC Rep:	Gerry Zimmer (410)239-1124
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Wish List:	Jeanette Grebowsky (301)464-2357

THE PRES SAYS.....

Let me begin by thanking everyone who sent me get well wishes during my recent bout with Pneumonia. Due to my illness, I was unable to attend the January 25 House Tour. However, from all that I have heard, it was a great success thanks to Dean Stevenson's coordination and planning.

I would like to apologize for the length of the January meeting. Try as we might to make things brief so time could be spent at John & Pat Ehrenreich's Open House, it just was not in the cards. We have to cover the business of the club and with so many things happening, time is critical when the membership only meets every other month.

The Club Pins have arrived and are available from Pete Baer at the March meeting. Everyone who has seen them has been pleased with the finished product. The Club shirts have also been received and to say the least, are stunning. Those who have signed up for shirts can also pick them up at the meeting. Additional orders will be placed as needed. If you are intending to go to *The Mid Atlantic Village Gathering* in Williamsburg, VA. on March 14 -16, 1997 and would like to have an Annapolis Villagers shirt, I would urge you to call me and place your order as soon as possible.

With the number of new members and visitors who have attended our last two membership meetings, it is not hard for me to realize how confusing things must seem. Well, let me welcome you to *The Annapolis Villagers*, a very active and involved *Department 56* collectors club. I believe you have come to visit or join because you have heard of our active schedule of events and activities. I would encourage you to ask for explanations or background on any topic. We encourage our members to bring ideas forward for future consideration as well as to become a member of one or more of the committees. The officers and Board of Directors meet on the alternate months and bring before the membership their recommendations. Many times, the board has to meet twice in a month to keep up with things. There are not many clubs who keep the active schedule the Villagers have. I will try to keep the meetings interesting and informative as well as attempt to keep them as brief as possible so that more socializing can occur after the business part is over.

Many of the Committee Chair people have requested assistance. If you would like to help in any way, please do not hesitate to let your feelings be known. As the club grows, I would hope we have a larger nucleus of talent to draw from to keep up the activity level you, the members, want. I would also encourage as many members as

possible to attend the Williamsburg Gathering. If not for the weekend, come down to the Gathering for at least Saturday. As members of *The Mid Atlantic Village Gathering for 1997*, I assure you a great time. I look forward to seeing everyone, especially some of our new members, at the next meeting and at Williamsburg,

Bill Murphy

NEW SECRETARY

Prior to our February Board of Directors, Judy Picciotto informed President Bill Murphy that it was necessary for her to resign her position of Secretary for personal reasons. In accordance with our By Laws, Trudi Baer has been appointed Secretary for the completion of Judy's term. Thanks to Judy for serving and success to Trudi as our new Secretary.

D56 Trivia: Christmas in the City is the only village where the buildings have sidewalks. However, which two buildings in CIC do not have sidewalks? **Answer on Page 6**

1997 HOUSE TOURS

Congratulations to Dean Stevenson for putting together a wonderful Open House Tour on Saturday, January 25, 1997. Certainly, the weather cooperated this year. Remember the snow storm last year that forced us to cancel the 1996 tour? This year, members Norma Damico, Shellie Seyer, Sheryl & Tom Dale, and Carol & Bob Emory graciously opened their doors for the Villagers. The turn out was very good and Villagers saw a variety of villages, designs and displays. Both display pros and novices alike came away with some new ideas. We also want to thank Pat and John Ehrenreich for the tour of their home and refreshments after the January 14 meeting.

SPRING DISPLAY CONTEST

Spring is not that far away, so it is not too early to start thinking about entering our Second Annual Spring Display Contest to be held at our May meeting. Last year we had our first display contest ever and it was a success with eleven great entries. This was followed up in the fall contest with 14 even better entries. (Ed. Note: The winners of our Fall Display Contest, Janice & Gerry Zimmer, went on to win First Place, Dickens' Exchange Photo contest in the Snowbaby category with the same display.)

Since May is the month we honor Memorial Day, the theme of our Spring Display Contest will be "Patriotic". Reach back and draw from your past Memorial Day activities for some display ideas. How about a clam bake in a New England Village scene or picnic by the cabin in Snow Village. Certainly Snowbabies can be included, especially with the new release, *It's A Grand Old Flag*. Collectors of Dickens' Village or Alpine Village need not be left out. If you can not use your village in an American patriotic theme, than we will take some liberties and allow entries that maintain a patriotic theme that is appropriate for the village.

The only restrictions are that the displays not exceed 36 inches in either width or depth and that it must be "Patriotic" in nature. Judging will be in two categories with displays up to 15 inches in one category and displays 15 to 36 inches in the other category. Prizes will be awarded to First and Second place winners in each category. If we do not have at least ten entries or at least three entries in each category, the categories will be combined with a single judging for First, Second and Third place winners.

If you are interested in entering our Spring Display Contest please contact John Ehrenreich, (410)647-1680 so that adequate table space is made available. You may also contact

John if you have any questions or need more information.

WELCOME!

Here we GROW again. This month, the Villagers welcome new members:

Dick & Jean Baker of Davidsonville
Barbara & Thomas Hunt of Harwood
John & Patricia Kelley of Glen Burnie
Joy Lindquist of Annapolis
Shellie Seyer of Severn
Karen Shiflett of Rehoboth Beach, Del
Judi Tartar of Beltsville
Linda Wallaesa of Poolesville
Mitzi & Rich Zang of Annapolis

WILLIAMSBURG GATHERING

MARCH 14, 15 & 16 1997

For hotel accommodations, call 1-800-261-9530, ask for Group Reservations for *The Mid-Atlantic Village Gathering*. Do not forget to mention you are a member of *The Annapolis Villagers*.

While it is too late to order event and seminar tickets by mail, tickets will be sold at the door on a first come, first served basis.. If you would like more information about the Gathering, contact Warren and Brenda Montgomery nights or weekends at (757) 867-9710.

VILLAGERS MAKE RAFFLE DISPLAYS FOR WILLIAMSBURG GATHERING

As one of the members of *The Mid Atlantic Gathering, Inc* at Williamsburg, *The Annapolis Villagers* will be making displays to be raffled at the Gathering. Peter & Trudi Baer and Gerry & Janice Zimmer volunteered to make the Villager's displays. We had a choice of two of the following three villages: North Pole, New England Village, and Snow Village. The Gathering group made \$200 available to create each display. The Baers and Zimmers chose North Pole and New England Village. With a lot of imagination, ingenuity and dealer support, they have created two displays that are really beautiful and greatly exceed the \$200 value. *The Annapolis Villagers* would like to thank Peter, Trudi, Gerry and Janice for producing displays that the Villagers can be proud of at Williamsburg. We would further like too thank *Carrie's Collectibles* of Crofton, *Russ Country Gardens & Gifts* of Westminster and *The Christmas Goose* of Queenstown for their support.

PRIZES, PRIZES AND... MORE PRIZES!

WINNER	PRIZE	CONTRIBUTOR
<i>JANUARY MEMBERS' MEETING</i>		
Shellie Seyer	Snow Village Lamps	<i>Annapolis Villagers</i>
Joyce Snyder	D56 Spotlights	<i>Annapolis Villagers</i>
Jeannette Grebowsky	D56 56 Retired Picture Calendar	<i>The Touch, Lexington Park MD</i>
Sheryl Dale	NP <i>I'll Need More Toys</i>	<i>The Christmas Goose, Queenstown MD</i>
<p>We would like to thank Bernice Smith and her committee for gathering prizes from dealers and members who donated prizes as well. We also encourage winners and members to patronize the dealers who support our club with contributions of door prizes, contest and raffle prizes. When visiting, let dealers know you are a member of <i>The Annapolis Villagers</i>.</p>		

NCC HAS A NEW PRESIDENT

We have received notification that Bill and Chris Gorman, Co-Presidents of the *National Council of "56" Clubs* (NCC) have resigned due to increased personal and business commitments. Rebecca Fulton, Vice President, has assumed the office of President. We wish the Gormans and Rebecca Fulton much success in their endeavors.

THIS OLDE VILLAGE

by Bob Villager

Spotlight on Al Black
 Author, *Filling Your Village*

If you are going to Williamsburg and you are interested in learning more about non D56 accessories to enhance your village displays, be sure to catch Al Black's seminar.

Al Black began collecting in 1991 after receiving DV's Ivy Glen Church as a Christmas present. Now, he also collects CIC, NP, Merry Makers and Snowbunnies and is President of the Cincinnati D56 club, *Queen City Villagers*. Al gave a great presentation at PA56000, the 1995 Lancaster show. Since many more Villagers will be at Williamsburg, we asked Al to tell us how *Filling Your Village* came about.

Al's interest in non D56 accessories started when a friend on the Prodigy bulletin board told him about a "naughty dog" with a lifted leg that she added to her village. From that point on, he became hooked on finding non D56 accessories for his village. Whenever he heard about a company, he would write for a catalog or brochure. It was not long before he had over 250 catalogs and brochures. To find the accessories easily, Al

told us he started indexing the brochure and catalog information. As a result of that indexing, Al put together and published the first edition of *Filling Your Village* in 1995.

Al will have the new, third edition of *Filling Your Village* available at the Williamsburg Gathering. In this latest edition, you will find information on over 300 artists and companies, books, magazines, videos and other products. Al also has 350 display tips in the this edition.

Filling Your Village offers collectors and dealers a treasure trove of useful information and ideas. It's never too early to start planning your next village display. Many veteran displayers will tell you they are on the lookout for village items all year around. *Filling Your Village* is a great way to shop right from your home. We will have an advance copy of the third edition of *Filling Your Village* available at the March 11 meeting for your review. Check it out!

The regular price of the third edition of *Filling Your Village* is \$12.95 or \$9.95 for the update. Both prices include shipping. *The Annapolis Villagers* will be placing a group order at Al's special Williamsburg price of \$11.25 for the third edition and \$8.75 for the update. Please contact Pat Ehrenreich at (410) 647-1680 by March 11, 1997 or see her at the members meeting on that date. Payment is due to Pat by March 11 so that we can place the order before the Gathering.

BOB'S HANDY HINTS FOR ATTENDING EVENTS

Whenever you attend a D56 event, do not forget to bring your Return Address Labels. The labels are a great time saver when filling out tickets, raffles or leaving your name and address for more information. If you bring a camera, always check if picture taking is permitted. Bring a pen and note pad to jot down information as you take pictures. These are also

good items to take with you to the Swap and Sell, Show and Sell and Room Hopping. It is easy to forget where you saw something that you want to go back for later. Use the pen and note pad to jot down where you saw it, the item and price. Last but not least ...do not forget to wear comfortable shoes.

SNOWBUNNIES

If you want to shake the winter blahs, check out the new D56 Snowbunnies now at dealers. The limited edition *Tricycle Built for Two* has also arrived at local dealers. The addition of color with bluebirds and trees into the Snowbunny collection is outstanding. Dealers are reporting brisk sales this year as customers add this charming line to their collections.

SNOWBABY SURPRISES! ONCE UPON A TIME

Club member Janice Zimmer, a Snowbaby collector, alerted us to a wonderful Snowbaby surprise--a surprise she says that has been kept very quiet. The new release, *Once Upon a Time*, is being released for a short time with a limited edition print. *Once Upon a Time* is a moving musical piece. The first animated Snowbaby is sitting on a three books, reading *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*. When you wind up the music box, the Snowbaby's head moves to the tune of *When you Wish Upon a Star!* Janice says *Once Upon a Time* is darling. The Snowbaby itself is not a limited edition and will continue to be available after the prints are gone.

We got the rest of the story from Cathy Kramer, D56 area representative. *Once Upon a Time* will be featured in D56's 1997 Mother's Day promotion. Only participating dealers will also have the limited edition Snowbaby print (while their supplies last) as a gift with the purchase of *Once Upon a Time*. The print is a color 24 x 20 color illustration from the *Winter Tales of the Snowbabies* book and is titled *The Snowbabies tumbled and played the long day and gathered stars from the Milky Way*.

If you are interested in obtaining *Once Upon a Time*, Janice suggests contacting your dealer as soon as possible. Although the print will not be signed or numbered, as a limited edition, Janice believes it will be in high demand among collectors.

Thank you Janice Zimmer and Cathy Kramer for sharing information about this exciting new 1997 introduction with *The Annapolis Villagers*.

SURPRISE RETIREMENT! STAR IN A BOX

Last spring, the Snowbaby *Star in a Box* was offered for a very brief time (just a weekend, if we remember correctly) at GCC dealers. Now it appears it was not an early release but an exclusive spring item that will not be going to regular retailers. According to D56 Consumer Services, *Star in a Box* has been retired even though it was not included in the November 8 USA list of 1996 retirements.

We also asked D56 Consumer Services about the status of the other Snowbaby 1996 GCC and May Company (Hecht's) early release, the *Snowbaby Starter Set, set of 9*. We were told that this set has not been retired or changed. However, it does have a new number. The *Snowbaby Starter Set* at GCC dealers and May Company stores is item #7800. The *Snowbaby Starter Set* now available in regular distribution is item # 68817.

1997 VILLAGE INTRODUCTIONS ARRIVING

If you got on a list early for the 1997, DV Signature piece, *Gad's Hill*, it is very likely that you have already or are about to be notified that your dealer has received a shipment. Gold Key D56 have also been shipped NP, *Rt.1, Home of Mr. and Mrs. Claus*. If your dealer is not Gold Key, don't fret. Shipments of Rt.1 should be arriving in a few weeks at other dealers. It will not be long before dealer's displays (and stockrooms) will be filled with the new 1997 introductions

THE ANNAPOLIS VILLAGER'S WISH LIST

Are you looking for that one retired lighted house that eluded you? Perhaps your village has grown to the point that the only way you can add that one new house that is a *must have* is to sell one of your existing pieces. Well, if either of these situations describes you, the Villagers may be able to help. If you are looking for a particular item, or have an item to sell or trade, you can contact Jeannette Grebowsky and let her know of your wish. She also maintains a list of pieces that are "For Sale / Trade" from club members. Jeannette will put you in contact with the perspective buyer or seller. The *Annapolis Villagers* are not involved in the transaction. It is up to the individuals to strike their own bargain. You can contact Jeannette at (301)552-2910.

Club members have the following D56 items for sale or trade:

Dickens Village

CANDLE SHOP (nb)

WALPOLE TAILORS

BOARDING & LODGING SCHOOL #18

New England Village

CRAGGY COVE L/H

ICHABOD CRANE'S COTTAGE

Alpine Village

BAHNHOF

BACHMAN'S SQUASH CART

Snowbabies

Accessories

CAN I OPEN IT NOW

Trade wanted

Your Brick Abbey for DV Postern, Gate House, Dedlock, Pied Bull, Sir John Falstaff

CONGRATULATIONS!

.....Carole and John Dietz on the recent birth of their fifth grandchild, Molly Lynne Mace.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

The responses to the survey we conducted during our membership renewal last October have been tabulated and distributed to the Board of Directors. With about one third of our renewing members responding, the survey was a success and we received a lot of good information.

Overall, the feedback you gave us was very positive. Over the past year and a half, we have introduced a lot of new things. We knew we were doing something right. This was evident as our membership list expands and attendance at meetings has gone up. What we did not know was, with all of the new activity, what was working and what was not. Your feedback will help us make sure we are on the right course. For example, when asked in the survey to rank 13 pre-selected items as to importance to you, you ranked the newsletter, group activities, demonstrations, display techniques and programs, in that order as your five most important items. This corresponded very well with the write-in response for what you thought the club did very well. In order of ranking, these were newsletter, interesting and informative meetings, social events, trips, and activities.

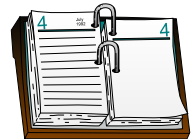
Knowing that we are meeting the expectations of our membership is very gratifying but this does not mean that there isn't room for improvement. There were also many good ideas presented in the survey responses. These will be forwarded to the Board of Directors over the next few months for discussion and formulation of future plans. Thanks to everyone who responded to the survey. It has provided the club with valuable information.

CLUB BADGES ARE AVAILABLE

Club badges are available for all members. The green and white badges contain the club name, logo and your name. The badges, made by a local company for the Villagers, are

available at \$3.25 each. Wearing the badges to Villager meetings and functions, helps everyone to get to know each other. Wearing it to Swap & Sells and Gatherings identifies you as a proud member of *The Annapolis Villagers*. If you would like a club badge, call Bill Murphy at (410)757-4582.

Trivia Answer: The two buildings without sidewalks in CIC are The Variety Store, issued in 1988 and retired in 1990, and City hall, also issued in 1988 and retired in 1991. The Variety Store is from the same mold as the Hometown Drugstore of the short lived Bachman's Hometown Series.

CALENDAR

Let us know about dealer events, swap & sells and open houses, etc and we will list them here.

- Mar. 9** *Russ Country Gardens Spring Swap and Sell*
Taylorsville MD 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at Winfield Fire Hall. Call 1-800-371-2385 for more information and table rental.
- Mar. 11** *Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting*, 7:00 P.M. Wine & Cheese tasting to follow business meeting.
- Mar. 12** *The Village Jesters* present and evening with Jeanne & Peter George, publishers of The Village Chronicle. 7:00 p. m., Redland Middle School, 6505 Muncaster Mill Rd., Rockville. \$3 Admission for non-members of the *Jesters*. RSVP Rich Steffan @ (301)924-3092 or A. Schilling @ (301)977-4049.
- Mar. 14-16** *Mid Atlantic Village Gathering*, Williamsburg, VA, call 1-800-261-9530 for reservations. Event tickets available at the door
- Mar. 15-16** *Greenberg's Train, Dollhouse Miniature & Toy Show*, MD State Fair Grounds, Timonium, MD. **Can be a good place to find non D56 accessories to go in your village.** \$5 admission adults. (410)

795-7447

Apr. 8 *Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting*, 7:00 p.m.

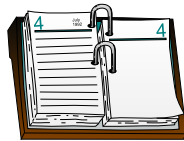
Apr. 11-13 *North Carolina Village Gathering*, North Raleigh Hilton, Raleigh, NC. Contact Jackie Norris for info. (910)822-5434.

Apr. 12 *Making Pond & Streams class*. Special class sessions at Golden Goose in Occoquan, VA.

\$25.00 class fee. Contact John Ehrenreich for details. (410)647-1680, JonAE@AOL.COM

May 13 *Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting*, 7:00 P.M. Guest speakers will be Kay and Dixie of Main Street Corner Shop in Laurel, followed by our Second Annual Spring Display Contest.

CALENDAR (CONTINUED)



May 17 *Department 56 Mid Year Announcements*.

Jun. 9 *Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting*, 7:00 p. m.

Jun. ??? *Summer Sunday Brunch*, Fleet Reserve Club, Annapolis. Date to be announced.

Aug. 15-17 *Bachman's Village Gathering*. Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN. Call 1-800-4-BLOOMS for details. Also, Great Escapes Tours has packages from \$525 / person, double occupancy that include airfare, accommodations, tickets transportation etc. Contact Tim Kearney, (215)245-5262 for details.

Aug. 29- 31 *Southern Regional Gathering*. Renaissance Concourse Hotel. Atlanta, GA. Contact Glenn Baker for details. (770)461-4257.

Oct. 17-19 *Capital Region 56er's Gathering*. (Formally Niagara Falls Gathering) Saratoga, NY. For hotel reservations call (518)584-4550, for other info call Gary at (518)273-2057.

Oct. 19 *Golden Goose Open House*. Occoquan, VA. (703)494-4964 for info.

Dec. 5 - 7 *Great Escapes Tours* of Bensalem, PA presents *A Victorian Christmas with Charles Dickens*. Includes 2 nights accommodations, evening dinner theater presentation of "Broadway Christmas", 2 morning buffet breakfasts, tickets

to *A Victorian Christmas* at Mt. Hope Estate & Winery and open house at *Dutch Indoor Village*. \$299 for 2 nights / 2 people and \$250 for 2 nights / 1 person. Contact Tim Kearney, (215)245-5262 for more info.

IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER...If there is inclement weather on the date of a Villagers meeting, house tour or other club function, we will follow the schools. When schools are closed, we will postpone our activities. Members will be notified of the change. In some cases, it may be necessary to cancel but we will make every effort to reschedule.

DIRECTIONS TO MEETINGS AMERICAN LEGION POST 175



From Rt. 50, take Rt. 2 North Exit. Follow Rt. 2 North (Ritchie Highway) through Arnold.

After the traffic light at Rt. 2 and College Parkway, the next light is Jones Station Road. On your right. you will see an Amoco Gas Station opposite a Crown Gas Stations.

At the intersection of Rt. 2 North and Jones Station Road, turn right onto Jones Station Road and make an immediate left onto Manhattan Beach Road which is between the Crown Gas Station and the wooded area with the Manhattan Beach Community and American Legion Post 175 signs. Follow Manhattan Beach Road approximately two tenths of a mile and make a left into the parking lot of American Legion Post 175. The entrance to the Banquet Room is to the left side of the parking lot in the rear.

From Route 2 South (Ritchie Highway) At Jones Station Road, make a left and make an immediate left onto Manhattan Beach Road. Proceed as above.

Pat Ehrenreich

FROM THE EDITOR.....It has been another busy month for *The Annapolis Villagers* and there is more to come.

If you are not planning to attend the Gathering in Williamsburg on the weekend of March 14,15 and 16, you may be interested in the *Greenberg Train, Dollhouse Miniatures and Toy Show* in Timonium (see the calendar.). Thanks to Al Black's suggestion, we found some great non-D56 items for our village display at a previous show.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the March meeting/Wine and Cheese Tasting.

Happy Collecting!

Deadline of April - May Crier is April 10. Please send your items of interest so that they are received by April 10.

The Village Crier
c/o Patricia Ehrenreich, Editor
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**NOW YOU CAN REACH *THE VILLAGE CRIER*
ON LINE EMAIL: news56@aol.com with questions,
comments, articles, etc.**