



The Village Crier

Newsletter of

THE ANNAPOLIS VILLAGERS



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

APRIL - MAY, 1997

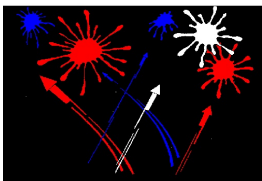
MEMBERS MEETING MAY 13, 1997

The next meeting of *The Annapolis Villagers* will be 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, 1997. The meeting will be held at The *American Legion, Post 175*, Severna Park, MD. Directions to the meeting are on page 8.

Following the brief business portion of the meeting, Kay Hoyle and Dixie Boucher, Main Street Corner Shop, Laurel, MD will discuss collecting Department 56 from a dealers perspective and answer questions from the membership after their presentation. Our display contest will follow the presentation and discussion.

ITS A GRAND OLD PATRIOTIC DISPLAY CONTEST

All members are invited to enter the Villagers' display contest at our May meeting. The theme will be *Patriotic Displays*. Now, just because Memorial Day is coming up does not mean that is the only holiday you can do a display about. There are plenty of patriotic holidays to draw inspiration from --Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Labor Day, Arbor Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day — but your display does not have to relate to a particular holiday, it only has to depict a *Patriotic Theme*.



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, i.e. Canadian themes can be used just as any US theme, British theme for Dickens Village, or Swiss, German, Austrian or Italian for any Alpine Villagers. (See *Bob Villager's column on page 6 for cross-villaging ideas*)

North Pole collectors, you may not know it, the day after Christmas is a national holiday at the North Pole! Just kidding but you can get creative. The North Pole is *INTERNATIONAL*. Even Snowbabies and Snowbunnies, Merry Makers etc can creatively celebrate a patriotic holiday. Do not overlook ideas for patriotic centerpieces or other presentations, as well.

The only restrictions are that the displays do 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.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS

In accordance with our by laws, the Vice President and Treasurer will be elected for two year terms in odd numbered years. We will be forming a Nominating Committee for these offices at the May 13 meeting. Elections will be held in July and those elected will take office in September.

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee but are unable to attend the May meeting, please contact Bill Murphy at (410) 757-4582

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President:	Bill Murphy (410)757-4582
Vice President:	John Ehrenreich (410)647-1680 JonAE@AOL.COM
Treasurer:	Peter Baer (410)867-0086 Peter.Baer@mail.house.gov
Secretary:	Trudi Baer (410)867-0086
Membership:	Pat Fisher (410)268-8178
Past President:	Sharri Ogle (410)268-5069
By Laws:	Kate Eustice (301)552-1858
Communications:	Pat Ehrenreich (410)647-1680 NEWS56@AOL.COM
Finance:	Ruth Baldwin (410)923-3239
Hospitality:	Dean Stevenson (410)923-2755
NCC Rep:	Bob Keefer (410)987-1179
NCC Rep:	Gerry Zimmer (410)239-1124
Photographer/Historian:	Janice Zimmer (410)239-1124 MDLUVU2@aol.com
Promotions:	Bernice Smith (410)268-7158
Telephone Tree:	Jeannette Grebowsky (301)464-2357
Ways & Means:	John Dietz (410)757-1136
Wish List:	Jeanette Grebowsky (301)464-2357

THE PRES SAYS.....

It would be difficult to write this column without reviewing the recent *Mid Atlantic Village Gathering* in Williamsburg, Virginia. The Gathering was a success thanks to a lot of hard work by the Gathering committees and, of course, volunteers. I was extremely proud of the part *The Annapolis Villagers* played in this event. Our members used their excellent artistic talents to create outstanding displays for the Raffle, individually for the Display Contests and capped it all off by winning the Grab Bag Display Contest. (See related article on page 3)

The sale of our Gathering merchandise and club pins was fantastic. We quickly sold out of the 1997 limited edition hats just as we had anticipated. The club pins were a "hot" item at the club activity center. We also presented several of the notable guests with a club pin. To name just a few, Jeanne Marie Dickens, Judith Price and Melinda Seegars of D56, and Roger Bain could be seen wearing Annapolis Villager pins during the Gathering.

Throughout the weekend, it was not hard to see why many people around the country feel that the Mid Atlantic Village Gathering is one of the premier Gatherings. Even the rain on Friday and then the power outage on Sunday morning could not discount the good time had by all.

For those that might be interested, check out page 7 of *The Village Crier* for Gathering mementoes that are still available at Gathering prices to members at the May meeting. By now, all sponsoring dealers have received their signs from the Mid Atlantic Gathering and should have them on display in their stores. Be sure to thank these dealers and talk up our club and the Gathering when you visit. I look forward to visiting a gathering where I will have a chance to browse and attend seminars instead of working but, I thoroughly enjoyed all the experiences of being a part of the Mid Atlantic Village Gathering.

We are now approaching the spring weather and have planned a Sunday Brunch in June. Details about the Brunch and several other activities in the planning stages can be found on page 4 of *The Crier*. On a serious note, we have elections for Vice President and Treasurer coming up. If you are interested in an office or would like to work on a standing committee, do not hesitate to let your feelings be known. And, last but not least, we encourage all members to sign up for our May display contest.

See you at the meeting, Bill Murphy

GIVING IN THE SPIRIT

The Ad Hoc Charities Committee presented recommendations at the April Board meeting for the Villagers to make donations to *The Hospice of the Chesapeake's Bereavement Camp for Young Children (Camp NABE)* and *YWCA House of Ruth*. The Board voted to accept both recommendations equally. In a separate motion, the Board further agreed to make donations to the recommended charities once a year. The motions will be presented at the May members meeting for final approval.

CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER AND HISTORIAN

At the April Board meeting, Bill Murphy appointed Janice Zimmer Club Photographer and Historian. Janice will be assembling an album of photographs of club functions and Gatherings from over the years. If you have any photographs, information or items that you would like to share with the club, see Janice at the May meeting or contact her at MDLUVU2@aol.com or (410) 239-1124.

MARCH MEETING

Wine and Cheese Party a Success!

After a brief business meeting in March, the Villagers enjoyed a Wine and Cheese Tasting Party. We want to thank Don MacMurray of *Port Tack Ltd.*, Arnold for serving as our wine guide for the evening. The Villagers provided delicious cheese, crackers and condiments from Bay Hills Deli, Arnold. We also had a pre-Mid Atlantic Gathering look at our club's beautiful raffle displays created by Peter & Trudi Baer and Gerry & Janice Zimmer. We want to thank *Russ Country Gardens*, Taylorsville, *Christmas Goose*, Queenstown and *Carrie's Collectibles*, Crofton for contributing to the displays.

MID ATLANTIC VILLAGE GATHERING

The last time any army "invaded" the Williamsburg was during the battle for the city in the War Between the States. However, in 1994, 1995 and 1997 an "army" of Department 56 collectors made friendly invasions into Williamsburg to attend the Mid Atlantic Village Gathering. The March 13, 14, 15, 1997 Gathering was the biggest to date at Williamsburg with over 2000 collectors. Collectors from all over the country and Canada gathered. It was also an opportunity for *The Annapolis Villagers* to catch up with some of our out of town members like Tom Gates and his wife, Nellie, of Decatur, AL and Anne Falkenhof, and of Lake Wales, FL.

Collectors had lots to keep them busy during the three days with the Seminars, Scavenger Hunt, the Show and Sell, the Swap and Sell and other Gathering Events. *The Annapolis Villagers* were everywhere as volunteers and we still could have used more help from our members--it was that large a crowd.

All members of the Villagers can be proud of the New England and North Pole displays made for the Gathering raffle by members Trudi and Peter Baer and Janice and Gerry Zimmer. The New England Village display was won by our own, Jo Ann Bissett. Speaking of winners, *Annapolis Villagers* won first or second place prizes in all three categories of the display contest which was open to anyone attending the Gathering. Many beautiful displays were entered. Trudi Baer won First Place in the *House Category*, Anne Graff won Second Place in the *Figurines Category* and Peter Baer won Second Place in the *Container Category*. Pictures will be available at the meeting.

The Annapolis Villagers also led the *Parade of Clubs* into the tent for Friday evenings festivities. Everyone admired our beautiful new banner made by Lynne Murphy. The entertainers

for the evening were from the *Pennsylvania Renaissance Festival* who had performed in the *Charles Dickens Victorian Christmas* attended by Villagers last December.

The Saturday evening *Grab Bag Display Contest* between the three member clubs was a success. Each club had to field a team of members for the contest. The teams were all given the same gift wrapped box. The task was to make a display from all the items in the box within 45 minutes. The members of our team were Trudi Baer, Janice Zimmer, Jeanette Grebowsky and John and Pat Ehrenreich. Once the teams opened their box, they each found the same items: a Snow Village Starter set, trees, and some landscaping items and tools. After that it was a real challenge. There were toy soldiers, finger puppets, fire works, Christmas items, etc.--a truly bizarre collection of items. Our team representatives were slow to start but soon were busy, sawing, gluing, and building a one of a kind display. It was amazing to see. Even though each club started with all of the same items, the results were three distinctly different and creative displays. *The Annapolis Villagers* were victorious and won First Place! Pictures will be available at the May meeting.

Peter and Jeanne George did an fine job as the Master and Mistress of Ceremonies. Judith Price and Melinda Seegars represented Department 56 at the Gathering. Jeanne Marie Dickens was also a featured guest. All of the seminars were packed with collectors. New faces giving seminars included Roger Bain, Patsy Fryburger, Allen Black, Sandra Beckwith, and Frank Wilson.

The closing ceremonies at the Breakfast, were not without their own drama--an unexpected power outage. However, that could not stop those in attendance from having a good time in candle light as well.

In appreciation for the 1997 Mid Atlantic Gathering, Jeanne Marie Dickens presented the three member clubs with a signed D56 Signature Series Crown and Cricket.

VILLAGERS' LEARN DISPLAY TECHNIQUES

The rain did not stop fourteen Villagers from making the trek to Occoquan, VA for classes at *The Golden Goose* by Carl and Rita Carter. While the weather did not cooperate, it was an exciting day for the Villagers who attended the classes. The Carter's presented instruction on making ponds and streams with hot melted wax. It was a hands on experience and each Villager made their own scenic pond or stream display. While

the Carter's led the class, each person designed their own layout. This class is specifically for beginners and, it was amazing to see each participant create their own beautiful, unique display in less than three hours time. All that was left for the participants to do was to complete the landscaping of their display creation at home.

Display Class(Continued)

Throughout the class, the Carter's showed us that no display experience is necessary to successfully participate in the class. The result will be an attractive pond or stream that you will enjoy for years. Each person who took the class will bring their display to the May meeting for everyone to see.

Our group was so excited about their success that all fourteen requested John Ehrenreich to schedule the intermediate class, Waterfalls. If anyone is interested in taking the Ponds and Streams class, please contact John Ehrenreich regarding date and time. Class size is limited to 7 persons per session. Depending on the Villagers interest, a morning and/or afternoon class can be scheduled for Ponds and Streams. If you are interested, please contact John Ehrenreich, (410)647-1680 or E-mail JonAE@aol.com.

VILLAGER'S PLAN SUNDAY BRUNCH JUNE 22, 1997

The Villagers will hold a Sunday Brunch, 10:00 a.m. to ??? on June 22 at the Fleet Reserve Club, Compromise Street on the Annapolis Harbor. All members are encouraged to attend. We had a great time last year watching the boats go by and enjoying each others company in a very relaxed atmosphere. The cost is \$8 including tax and tip for any item on the menu, coffee, tea and juice. Call Bill Murphy, (410) 757-4582 or John Ehrenreich, (410) 647-1680 by June 15, 1997 to reserve seating.

UPCOMING VILLAGER EVENTS

In light of the many successful Villager member events, we have several more in the planning stages:

Picnic/Cookout: We are looking into a location and a July date for this event. With the number of members, we now have outgrown having this event at a member's home. Some of the suggestions were to hold this event at The Broadneck Elks, Naval Academy Picnic Area, American Legion Post 175 Field. Suggested activities for this event include horse shoes, badminton, volley ball, lawn darts. And, how about an egg toss?

Club Trip: We are in the early planning stages of looking into another trip for the summer or fall.

Activities: In addition to several activities throughout the year, it is not early to consider what you, the membership, would like as an activity during the holiday season. Some of the suggestions include a returning to the Mount Hope Winery for *A Charles Dickens Victorian Christmas* or a group outing to a local dinner theater.

Meetings: We are now planning programs for members meetings. Topics already planned include insuring your collection and display demonstrations.

Got an idea for an activity or event or if you would like to help with any event, please contact John Ehrenreich (410)647-1680.

D56 Trivia: For all Heritage Village and Snowbaby collectors that are out there looking for those retired pieces and think you have it rough, how many Snow Village pieces are retired?

Answer on Page 8

NEWS FROM DEPARTMENT 56 NEW RELEASES ARRIVING AT STORES

Dealers locally and around the country have more and more D56 boxes to unpack lately! The new releases announced for 1997 are arriving in stores. The early arrivals of NP Rt.1 Home of Mr. and Mrs. Claus and DV Melancholy Tavern are being joined by DV Quilly's Antiques, NEV Bob White Cottage, AV Danube Music and CIC Cafe Caprice to name a few. Snow Villagers have the most to be happy about. Rosita's, Secret Garden Florist, High School, Ski Lodge, Rockabilly Records and Tree House are now arriving in stores. The most talked about and anticipated introduction, SV Harley Davidson Shop, has not been spotted yet. Snowbabies are arriving too. So, call your dealer to find out what is available.

D56 MID YEAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Just when you thought that you could save enough for all the new 1997 introductions, news comes that D56 will announce Mid Year Introductions May 16 at the Stationery Show for dealers in New York City. There has been speculation among collectors if D56 will also introduce a new village as the Disney Parks Village was retired last year. Since D56 announced Snowbunny introductions and retirements in the Spring last year, the same is expected this year. We have heard, too, that D56 will explain the stamps they have been giving away at some events and introduce a passport for the stamps. For the rest of the story, we all know...we have to wait

and see!

On May 16, D56 will also have the mid year introductions and other announcements on their internet web site, <http://www.department56.com>. If you do not have access to a computer and/or the Internet, call Pat Ehrenreich at (410) 647-1680 in the evening of May 16 for the announcements.

1997 Homes for the Holidays and Village Retirement Day

D56 recently announced that the *1997 Homes for the Holidays Event* at participating dealers will be held November 1 thru November 9. Retirements for the villages will be announced on Friday, November 7.

Snowbaby's Own Event and Retirement Day Planned

For Snowbaby collectors, D56 is planning a dealer event and promotion December 5 - December 7, 1997. For the first time, Snowbabies will have their own retirement day, December 5.

Snow Village Limited Edition Available Only to GCC Dealers

D56 has announced a 20th Anniversary Snow Village Limited Edition, Main Street Gift Shop, for 1997. This limited edition will only be available to GCC (Gift Creation Concepts) dealers during the 1997 Homes for the Holidays Event. The Main Street Gift Shop will not be numbered but it will be limited to the year of production. It will be personalized with two brass plates and will sell for approximately \$50.00.

D56 SAYS SEE YOU IN COURT

According to *On Time*, D56's marketing newsletter for dealers (April/May 97, Volume 2, Issue 4), the company is increasing its priority to stop authorized dealers from transshipping D56 products to unauthorized dealers and illegal importers. Transshipping occurs when an authorized dealer sells D56 to unauthorized dealers and importers for resale. Remember D56 at Sam's Club last year?

Since D56 began taking action, the company has successfully terminated numerous authorized dealers around the country who were found using these practices. D56 has begun several federal lawsuits against violators as it steps up its aggressive efforts.

D56 says "We are serious about protecting our legal right to deal exclusively with retailers who uphold the high standards that customers expect from Department 56 dealers".

D 56 MAKES A HOUSE FOR HEINZ COMPANY

D56 recently made a very special house for the H. J. Heinz Company. Heinz commissioned D56 to make the house, modeled after the original Heinz homestead, to commemorate the company's founding. Only 11,000 Heinz Houses were made by D56 for Heinz stockholders, executives, and employees.

We contacted D56 Consumer Services to inquire if the Heinz House would be available through D56 dealers. We were told that all of the Heinz Houses were the property of the Heinz Company and would not be marketed by D56. The exclusiveness of this house is very similar to the Bachman Squash Cart and the John Deere Water Tower. We shared this information with the Black Eyed Susan 56ers and, we want to thank Rose Anne Pindell, President, Black Eyed Susans, for subsequently letting us know that remaining Heinz House can be purchased by the general public directly from H. J. Heinz.

We contacted Heinz last week and learned that a few thousand are still available for sale to the general public. If you would like a Heinz House, we suggest that you order it as soon as possible. The cost is \$28.00 and there is no tax or shipping. Make out your check or money order to H. J. Heinz Corporation and mail to:

Heinz House Offer
c/o Direct Mail Order
930 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15122

include a note with your name, address and that your remittance is for the porcelain Heinz House made for the company by Department 56. While the Heinz House is not Department 56 Village specific, it does fit in nicely with NEV or in its own display. The house also comes with a limited edition (not numbered) stamp on the bottom.

WHAT DO YOU GIVE SOMEONE WHO HAS EVERYTHING?

You might want to consider a new D56 very limited edition: *Time for Santa*. Here are some facts: *Time for Santa* is a six foot full body Santa in a red union suit and suspenders. Only 50 are available and each is numbered and signed. The price of *Time for Santa* is \$1500.00.

If you think we are pulling your leg, call your dealer and ask for Item #46210. We are sure that you will make your dealer smile and their cash register sing. For a sneak peak: Check the back cover of D56's Spring Quarterly.

WELCOME!

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

Galen & Karen Crawford, Millersville
 Ina & David Devine, Bowie
 Bernie & Penny Dvorak, Towson
 Carol Powers & George Schneider, Crofton
 Jo Ann & Michael Rich, Linthicum
 Lajauna Smouse, Severn

THIS OLD VILLAGE

By
 Bob Villager

What an exciting time we had in Williamsburg. It has been said elsewhere, but it can not be said often enough:

The Annapolis Villagers are creative people!

We hope many members will participate in the May Patriotic Display Contest. There are so many possibilities such as cook outs, barbecues, parades to incorporate with any village. You can even "Americanize" Dickens Village, or just about any village, by using some of the cottages in a "suburbs USA setting". You can use houses or accessories from more than one village as well.

Don't forget the contest is not limited to villages either--you may use any item made by D56 to make your display. The possibilities not only include village displays but centerpiece and table top designs as well. Finally, as long as you have at least one D56 house, accessory or product in your display, you can use any non-D56 items to enhance your design.

Village Mountain Centerpiece

According to the latest issue of D56's *On Time* marketing news, the Village Mountain Center (Item#52643) and Village LED Light Bulb (Item #92447) are packaged and sold separately, not together.

As the Tree Turns

New member Bernie Dvorak wants to share this tip with the Villagers. If you have the D56 lighted rotating tree and it stops turning, take the tree off the base and spray the gear with graphite. Your tree will now rotate smoothly. A tip of the hat

to Bernie!

Taking a Shine to Snow Village

If you are not a Snow Village collector, we think you should check out the *Tree House* anyway. It is a wonderful accessory. Interestingly, the paint is not as shiny as SV houses and other accessories. We believe that the Tree House will find its way into the Heritage Villages as well.

NP Accessory Alert

Be careful checking and handling the new NP Holiday Deliveries accessory. The Santa can come unglued from the bicycle seat. Its nothing that a little of your own glue won't cure.

Filling Your Village Books Are In

We want to thank everyone who ordered Allen Black's book, *Filling Your Village*. By purchasing 15 books in bulk at the Gathering, we saved shipping and handling and earned 3 copies of the book for the club. Allen thanked us at Williamsburg and told us we earned the title of most books ordered by a club!

Well, that is it for yours truly, *Bob Villager*, this month. If you have questions, display tips or alerts, please send them to Patricia Ehrenreich, Editor, *The Village Crier*, P. O. Box 1404, Annapolis, MD 21404 or email News56@aol.com

PRIZES, PRIZES, and ... MORE PRIZES!		
Winners	Prizes	Contributors
MARCH MEMBERS' MEETING		
Charlotte Klinken	One Year Subscription to <i>The Village Chronicle</i>	Peter & Jeanne George, Publishers
Hilda Rapp	National Geographic featuring Dickens' England	Bob & Ann Keefer
Bill Murphy	Boulevard Lights	Christmas Goose, Queenstown, MD
John Dietz & Bill Corse	Dept. 56 Quarterly	The Penn Den, Bowie, MD
Ann Keefer & Ruth Baldwin	New Miniature D56 Bear Pins with Flag	Christmas Goose, Queenstown, MD
<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 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 The Annapolis Villagers.</p>		

THE LURE OF IT ALL

By
Pat Ehrenreich

Remember that day when you first saw a Department 56 lighted house. It does not matter where you saw it only that you thought to yourself "Oh that would be nice for under the Christmas tree or on the mantel." Or perhaps, you thought how much it reminded you of the Christmas garden you had as a child and now, "The kids will like this!" After seeing the display model, you probably did not even take your selection out of the box for a close look for such strange sounding things like firing cracks, factory flaws or chips. Who knew???? Happily, you got it home, took it out of the box and set it out. Soon, it was if this one little house was calling out to you. It seemed to be so forlorn all by itself. You immediately thought

how much you liked this little house and just a few more would even look better.

To your dismay, when you go back to the store, all the little houses are gone until next Christmas season! One day while shopping, you see a store who sell houses just like yours all year round! And, there are enough houses to make a whole village with little accessories to match too! This store even has neat little displays and does lay away! But, the real kicker is finding out the company who makes your village also makes other villages. Oh my, you like one or two of these other villages as much as your own little village. So you say to yourself, "Well, I will just buy only one or two things that I really like from those other villages".

Soon, you find out these little houses and accessories are "retired" by the company every few years. Of course, the ones you really liked the best are retired now. It is to much to think that you will never have a complete village. However, you are pleasantly surprised when you find someone who has the retired pieces you want and sells them to you for the bargain price of several hundred dollars. You feel so lucky now that you buy more and more little houses and accessories as soon as they are issued so you will not have to pay more when they retire. This is a good thing as now you want everything in all of the villages you collect! Your dealer and all of the staff know you by name. They are so helpful to call you every time a new shipment arrives. Before you know it, you have so many little houses and accessories that you can not wait for the kids to move out to claim their rooms for storage.

Now for the "Enlightenment Period". You discover *The Greenbook Guide* for retired items, join a club, subscribe to *The Quarterly* and other magazines, go to Gatherings, etc. You learn display making. You "help" relatives, friends and neighbors start collecting D56 villages. Now, everyone knows just what to get your for Christmas and any other presents during the year. Oh yes, that little display under the tree has grown, so after making village displays in several rooms, you are now building display tables over furniture you have no where to move any more. Finally, with much friendship, camaraderie and support, you realize that you do not have to have it all! You have it together and under control.

All is well UNTIL you see a new Department 56 item from a village you do not collect. It is so neat looking. You begin to think, with a little imagination, I can make a cute little display with just that one nice house. I am not interested in anything else from that village. I have enough villages already.....

Oh, yes, we have heard this one before, so maybe

Department 56's corporate slogan should be: "Bet you can't buy just one!"

Happy Collecting!

THE MARKET PLACE

Unless otherwise noted, call Bill Murphy (410) 757-4582 for these items.

CLUB BADGES — Green & White badges containing Club Name, Logo and Your Name. \$4.25.

CLUB PINS — Specially designed club pin feature club logo. \$5.00 for first pin to club member, \$7.00 for additional pins or for non-members. Add \$1.00 S&H if required to mail. Contact Peter Baer at (410)867-0086, E-Mail Peter.Baer@mail.house.gov

CLUB SHIRTS — Club Shirts, with embroidered Club logo, are available in a variety of colors in S, to XL at \$20.00 and \$22.00 for XXL. Non Members may order shirts at \$25 and \$27 respectively. Add \$5.00 S&H per shirt for orders that are to be mailed.

MID ATLANTIC VILLAGE GATHERING MEMORABILIA

1997 Event Pin — \$6.00

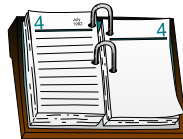
1997 Event Piece - The Arbor — \$15.00

Set of Three Christmas Tree Ornaments with 1994, '95, & '97 Logos. \$45.00 per set of 3.

- May 16** *Department 56 Mid Year Announcements.*
- Jun. 9** *Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting, 7:00 p. m.*
- Jun. 22** *Summer Sunday Brunch, Fleet Reserve Club, Annapolis. See page 4 for details.*
- 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. Call 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.
- Nov. 1 - 9** Dept. 56 1997 Home for the Holidays Event
- Nov. 7** Dept.56 Village Retirements Announced
- Dec. 5 - 7** Dept. 56 Snowbaby Event
- Dec. 5** D56 Snowbaby Retirements Announced
- 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 info.

Trivia Answer: Snow Village, the oldest D56 village, has celebrated its 20th anniversary and, there are 164 retired lit houses. This is more than all of the retired houses in the seven Heritage Villages combined!

CALENDAR



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

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.

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 Station..

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.

FROM THE EDITOR.....We hope you enjoyed this edition of *The Village Crier*.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our May meeting and at future events starting with the June Sunday Brunch.

Happy Collecting!
Pat Ehrenreich

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

The Village Crier
c/o Patricia Ehrenreich, Editor
Post Office Box 2083
Annapolis MD 21404

NOW YOU CAN REACH THE VILLAGE CRIER
ON LINE EMAIL: news56@aol.com with questions, comments, articles, etc.

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.

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

ICHABOD CRANE'S COTTAGE

Accessories

BACHMAN'S SQUASH CART

Snowbabies

CAN I OPEN IT NOW

Trade wanted

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

THE ANNAPOLIS VILLAGER'S WISH LIST