

# THE VILLAGE CRIER

Newsletter of  
*The Annapolis Villagers*

December, 1999 - January, 2000

Volume 7, Number 6



*HERE YE!*

*HERE YE!*



*KICK OFF THE NEW  
YEAR  
IN STYLE*

*ANNUAL HOUSE TOURS  
Jan 7-8-9*

**13 Members Homes!**

Fun,  
Prizes,  
Beautiful Displays!  
Who could ask for more?

\*\*\*\*\*Directions and maps were sent to all members earlier this month. If you did not receive a



*Silver bells, silver bells  
It's Christmas time in the City,  
North Pole Village  
Snow Village  
Dickens Village  
New England Village  
Alpine Village  
Disney Parks Village  
Seasons Bay*

*As well as in Frosty Frolic Land for  
the Snowbabies  
And all Through Villagers' Homes  
Decorated beautifully  
with Department 56.*

## MEMBERS' MEETING

**January 11, 2000**

The next members' meeting of the Annapolis Villagers will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 11, 2000 at the American Legion, Post 175, Manhattan Beach Rd, Severna Park. Directions are on page 9.

Our Agenda is:

- ◆ Business Meeting
- ◆ Retirement Contest Winners Announced
- ◆ Presentation of Donations to our 1999 Charities
- ◆ House Tour Drawing
- ◆ How to Make a Display Table Demonstration

## IMPORTANT—PLEASE READ!

*Corrections to Directions for January 9 House Tours and Change for January 11*



**January 9—Ebersberger—Street Address is incorrect.** The correct address is: **3205** Brookmede Road.

**January 9—Dvorak—Directions from the West are incorrect.** The correct directions are: Coming from the West on Baltimore Beltway (Rt. 695) towards Towson, exit onto Cromwell Bridge Road (exit 29). At traffic light at bottom of ramp, turn onto Cromwell Bridge Road. Proceed to **Second** Traffic light and turn left onto Cowpens. Proceed on Cowpens as stated for directions from the East.

**January 11—Due to technical difficulties, John and Pat Ehrenreich were unable to put up their displays this year. Therefore, we will NOT be going to their home after the business portion of the January 11 meeting as previously announced. Instead, John will do a demonstration at the meeting on how to make an easy folding display table. This table is easy to assemble, take down and requires minimum storage space. See Page 2, Prez Sez for more info.**

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**THE PREZ SAYS.....**

Christmas is behind us and I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday. It is a very hectic time for everyone. This year, it was perhaps, more hectic than usual for Pat and I. We were trying to get painting and maintenance done around the house while juggling the demands of increased workloads at our "day jobs", decorating the house, getting our D56 displays up and Villager activities. Something had to give as we were also hosting Christmas dinner for family and then visiting other family members in Pennsylvania.

For the first time, in nine years of collecting, we did not put up our villages. I would be remiss if I did not tell you that both Pat and I had mixed feelings about not putting up our villages. However, with time at a premium, we now know we made the right decision for us. We got the painting and maintenance done (although, as usual, there is more to do), we helped decorate the Ronald McDonald House and we enjoyed the club's Olde Fashioned Christmas Party. (Personally, I think I am little to big to be called an Elf, but if Dean wants to call me a Helper Elf that is okay by me.) Last, but by no means least, we had a great time with our family over the holiday—here and in Pennsylvania. I can tell you that the family, after years of telling us we were crazy to put up so many displays, wanted to know if we were okay when we told them we did not put up even one display this year. Pat now says that we should start putting up our displays for 2000 in the Spring so we will have ample time finish for next year's House Tours.

I know many of you look forward to coming to our home to tour our Villages after the January meeting. Instead, for the January meeting, I am planning to do a demonstration on how to make tables that many of you asked about. .

Now, on to some reflections of the Villagers' successes over the past year—we end the year with our highest membership ever, we maintained a very diverse calendar of events and programs, donated more to charity than every before and last but not least—we made new friends, made old friendships stronger and we are fortunate to have more members involved in club activities.

As we move into the new year, we hope to build on our successes and we can do it with your continued support. Many things are already planned—old favorites and new. Look for a Spring Bus Trip, a new twist on the Display Contest and a possible boat trip on the Severn.

In conclusion, we hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. Pat and I wish everyone a Happy New Year!

*See you at the meeting,  
John*

**D56 recently announced Year  
2000 introductions.**

**See inside for more info.**

**WELCOME  
LITTLEST VILLAGER!**

Congratulations to Dawn and David Zimmerman on the birth of their son, Dane Zimmerman, born in November 1999. Dane already collects Disney Parks Village as does his sister, Dorian, age 3.

Ever the collector, Dawn was doing her retirement day shopping from a hospital

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Cora Lea & Paul Crompton, Crofton, MD  
Delores France, Severn, MD  
JoAnn & Robert Katski, Harwood, MD  
Erika Preston, Baltimore, MD  
Ann & Dick Wall, Ellicott City, MD  
Terry & Ileen Watson, Harwood, MD  
**WE ALSO WELCOME BACK**  
Mary Goffaux, Greenbelt, MD

**NOVEMBER MEMBERS'**

**L & H Miniatures Guests**

After a short business meeting, it was time for our guest speakers. It has been two years since L and H Miniatures visited the Annapolis Villagers. Linda and Howard brought us up to date on their travels around the country. Members who attended delighted in the many new figures and accessories available. The Hoffman's hand cast and paint their beautiful non

*Pictures of recent events and activities will be at the January Members Meeting.*

**VILLAGERS, BLACK EYED SUSANS HELP TOM RUSS AND STAFF DECORATE RONALD MC DONALD HOUSE**

*By Trudi Baer*

Ronald McDonald House is a charity of Dept. 56 as well as a charity of many D56 collector clubs. Ronald McDonald House has been a charity of the Annapolis Villager's, as well as the major charity recipient of the Mid-Atlantic Village Gathering this past year. Our local D56 representative (Cathy Kramer) made arrangements with Tom Russ (Russ Country Gardens) to again recruit volunteers from D56 collector clubs who would like to participate in the annual decorating party at the local Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore. Tom recruited close to 20 volunteers from the Black-Eyed Susan 56ers and the Annapolis Villagers who signed up to travel to Baltimore on Tuesday, November 23rd to decorate the House. Several members of the Annapolis Villagers (Bernice Smith, Norma Damico, Dean Stevenson, Pat Fusco, John & Pat Ehrenreich, Pete and Trudi Baer, Julius Angelucci and his mother-in-law, Toni Ramos, Barry & Marge Ebersberger and Dick & Ann Wall) participated in the day's activities.

These activities included hanging greens, wreaths, garlands, lights as well as putting up and decorating five Christmas trees. Norma Damico spent a great deal of time making her wonderful bows for decorating the trees and other areas. Tom and his assistant, Carol, with the aid of some of the volunteers, built several wonderful North Pole displays that transformed the downstairs into a Christmas Wonderland. That evening a reception was hosted by the Black-Eyed Susans and the Annapolis Villagers for the families and staff who were at the House.

Many of the volunteers who participated this year were left with a very warm and wonderful feeling. Some have already expressed an interest in participating again next year. I hope to see more of you participate next year.

**NOTE: Volunteers are needed on January 5 to take decorations down. If you can help, call Trudi Baer at (410) 867-0086**

**Olde Fashioned Christmas Party Great Success Thanks to Members!**

*By Dean Stevenson*

A wonderful evening of fun and friendship was enjoyed by 68 Villagers on December 14. It seems we grow a little each year and everyone seems to enjoy taking a night off to just visit and relax. After appetizers, John Ehrenreich introduced Herb Stassie, Commander of American Legion Post 175, to the membership. Following the introduction, John presented Herb with a \$400 contribution to the American Legion for use of the Banquet Room for our meetings and activities. John Dietz provided a beautiful invocation prior to dinner. We had a great selection of food and it was all tasty. During the evening we had a visit from Santa, who distributed goodies to all. Four "very good" members received a gold coin from Santa that entitled them to select a door prize from our Prize Wheel. Santa was later available for photos that members could take home in a mounted card. While mentioning the Prize Wheel, we also had a Big Six Wheel. Between the two, we raised over \$300 for our 2000 Charity Fund. All in all, it was a very successful and enjoyable evening.

A BIG THANK YOU to Ruth Baldwin for coordinating the food, and to my elves, Norma Damico, John Dietz, John Ehrenreich, Jack Baldwin, Bernice & Don Smith and my husband, John, for helping to set up and clean up. John Dietz did a great job getting a license and, as always, Lynne Murphy for being our Legion Liaison. Thanks also go to Jack Baldwin, Julius Angelucci, Gerry Zimmer and John Stevenson for running the Wheels of Chance for our Charity Fund.

I have said it before but it can never be said too much, "Without our wonderful volunteers **your** club would not be the same." It is because of everyone of the volunteers that we are able to do. I know it may look as they we pull things off really well and effortlessly at times but that is not the case, believe me. There is always room for one more volunteer and you will be rewarded with friendships and kindness. Get Involved! You don't have to be a Committee

**ANNAPOLIS VILLAGERS  
ANNUAL CHARITY SELECTION**

*By Bernie Dvorak*

As we close one year with contributions from the Annapolis Villagers to your 1999 selected charities, we begin a new year by selecting charities for 2000. All members are encouraged to submit a favorite charity, to whom they would like our club to support in the upcoming year. The charity committee will deliberate during the month of January, and make their recommendations to the club members for a vote in March. Since time is of the essence, it is imperative that your choice be submitted A.S.A.P. in order for it to receive consideration.

E-mail your preference to:

Pendvorak@aol.com

Or complete the following form, (or a separate sheet of paper containing all of the information requested) and mail to:

Bernard Dvorak  
Finance Committee Chairman  
1127 Cowpens Avenue  
Towson, MD 21286-1719

Legal Name OF Charity \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Charities' Goals & Objectives (25 words or less) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I recommend this charity because (Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**WE'RE ON THE MOVE AGAIN!!!  
Annapolis Villagers Invited to Open House**

*By Dean Stevenson*

Dawna & James Wible, owners of St. Mary's Antiques & Gifts and Cecil's Country Store, and Carol Lambeck (formally owner of The Touch), the Dept 56 dealer within the two shops, invited the Annapolis Villagers to an Open House at Cecil's Country Store located in Great Mills, MD on Saturday, February 5th, 2000. The Villagers will caravan by car. Members from points north or east, will meet at Dean Stevenson's house at 10 a.m. where we can arrange car pools. From Dean's House we will proceed to Lowe's Home Center parking lot located in the shopping center on Rt 301, just below Rt. 50 where we will join other members. From there we will caravan to Cecil's Country Store. Carol Lambeck will be our host. It is great that this dealer is leaving their display up for us while giving us an opportunity to gather and relax after a hectic holiday season. There will be fun and prizes along the way. Afterwards we plan to stop and dine at The Roost located in Lexington Park.

If you plan to attend but drive directly to Cecil's Country Store, their address is 20853 Indian Bridge Road, Great Mills, MD. The caravan will arrive at the store about Noon.

Please call me by **January 22nd** to let me know if you are going to join us (either in the caravan or meet us at the store). Dean's address is:

1729 Baldwin Drive  
Millersville, MD 21108  
Phone: 410-923-2755.

**MEMBERS, CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME?**

*By Bernice Smith*

*Ed. Note: At the last Board of Directors meeting, Bernice Smith was unanimously voted as Volunteer Coordinator.*

**If you do not have time to serve on a Committee,  
here is a very easy way to help out your club.**

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time and talents to the Villagers. Our free time is precious and many times we find it impossible to commit to volunteering a large block of our free time. Yet, the more people that volunteer will mean a lesser commitment of time for all the volunteers.

The purpose of my job as Volunteer Coordinator is to develop a list of members who are willing to volunteer for activities/events. When the club is planning an activity or event, I will call members on the list and explain the duties and time involved. Even if you are can volunteer only 15 minutes, that can be very helpful. Please call me at 410- 268-7158 or see me at a meeting to put your name on the list. Thanks!

# D56 DEALER

## BRUNCH AT THE CHRISTMAS ATTIC

Members Ina Devine, Dawn Zimmerman (and little Dane, too!), John and Pat Ehrenreich attended The Christmas Attic's recent holiday brunch for D56 collectors. The brunch was held at a lovely restaurant next door to the shop.

After the delicious brunch, Pat Florio, the D56 Rep in Virginia, spoke about D56 and answered questions. He thanked both collectors and dealers for their patience with D56's computer problems in the past year. Bugs in the new state of the art system created havoc with dealer orders throughout the country. Some dealers received double and triple their orders while others received no shipments. While it was a nightmare, he said that D56 worked very hard to overcome the computer problems. Responding to questions, Mr. Florio said that some of the retirements surprised even the D56 staff, changes in the light cords were made because of UL requirements and collectors can look for more houses with figures inside like the 1999 Gift Sets. He also took notes on suggestions from those in attendance and said he would relay them to D56.

Kay Taylor a member of the staff, gave out suggestions on displaying D56 in vignettes all through the house. There were several flower pot, wreath and basket displays created for the brunch and she explained how simple they were to make. Each attendee received a present of 3 accessory items and a flower pot to make a mini display.

After the brunch, we went to The Christmas Attic. It is a delightful store filled with all things Christmas and lovely D56 displays. We also stopped by A House in the Country also owned by the folks at Christmas Attic to see more home and Christmas items as well as D56 displays. It was a delightful way to visit one of our supporting dealers who have donated prizes to the Villagers.

If you are in Alexandria, do stop in and visit the Christmas Attic and A House in the Country.

## DISCOVER 56 EVENTS

Participating dealers held Discover 56 events throughout the holidays until December 31. From talking to several dealers, it was a great success.

## The Forget Me Knot Factory

A devastating fire on Main Street in Ellicott City recently destroyed six businesses and damaged several others. We were pleased to learn that the Forget Me Knot Factory, one of our newer supporting dealers, was not damaged in the

## CECIL'S STORE

### INVITES VILLAGERS TO OPEN HOUSE

**For details of Villager's Car Caravan  
See Page 4**

## GOLD KEY DEALER OLYMPIC DISPLAY GAMES

### MARCH MEMBERS MEETING Mark Your Calendar Now!

The Annapolis Villagers are planning a very special program for our March meeting. We are inviting the Gold Key dealers that supported us during the last year. They will participate in an unusual display contest and you will have an opportunity to meet and socialize with them afterwards.

## NEW FOR YEAR 2000

### D56 PRODUCT CATALOG

For the first time ever, Department 56 is producing a catalog of ALL 3000 of its products!

## PRIZES, PRIZES, PRIZES

**Thank you supporting dealers for Prizes!**

### NOVEMBER MEETING DOOR PRIZES

**Door Prizes Donated by Carrie's Collectibles,  
Crofton, MD**

D56 Market Day won by Debbie Brown  
D56 Come Into The Inn won by Terry Watson  
D56 Playing in the Snow won by John Stevenson

**Door Prize Donated by St. Mary's Gifts & Antiques,  
California, MD**

D56 Candle Snifter won by Delores France

### OLDE FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARTY DOOR PRIZES

Anne Keefer  
Celeste Tolles  
Kate Eustice

Each of the winners selected a prize of their choice  
from the Prize Wheel

\*\*\*We had many prizes donated by our supporting  
dealers but we do not have a full accounting as we go  
to press. Rather than risk overlooking any of our  
generous dealers, we will have a full list in the next  
edition of The Crier.

### WINNER OF KENSINGTON PALACE RAFFLE

**Norma Damico**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Raffle. Special thanks to Carrie's Collectibles

### DEALER AMBASSADOR NEWS

#### The Christmas Spirit

Member Pat Fusco is our newest dealer Ambassador and she is the contact for  
The Christmas Spirit, Main Street, Annapolis, MD. We also want to thank The

### PRESENTATION AT THE JANUARY 11 MEETING

At our January 11, 2000 meeting, representatives from our 1999 charities will  
be present to accept their donations from The Annapolis Villagers.

*Ronald McDonald House, Hospice of The Chesapeake, Mary's Center*

Without the generosity of our members and supporting dealers,  
we would not be able to make these donations.

**THANK YOU!**

**D56 ANNOUNCES NEW PRODUCTS FOR 2000!**

**Snow Village**

A Home in the Making, s/5	\$ 95.00
Champsfield Stadium, s/24	195.00
Village Bank & Trust	75.00
Holy Spirit Church, s/2	70.00
Grimsly Manor	120.00
Super Suds Laundromat	60.00
Shelly's Diner, s/2	110.00
Cedar Point Cabin	66.00
WSNO Radio	75.00
Lucky Dragon Restaurant	75.00
Last Stop Gas Station, s/2	72.00

**Snow Village Accessories**

The Backyard Patio, s/2	40.00
It's Time for An Icy Treat, s/2	30.00
Welcome to the Congregation	15.00
Santa Comes To Town, 2000	37.50
Limited to Year 2000 Production	
Treats for the Kids, s/3	33.00
Laundry Day	13.00
Before the Big Game, s/2	37.50
Finding the Bird's Song, s/2	25.00
Send in the Clown	13.50
Holy Spirit Baptistry, Music Box	37.50
First Deposit	14.00
Angels in the Snow, s/2	30.00
Santa's Little Helpers	27.50
Is That Frosty?	22.50
On the Way to Ballet Class, s/3	27.50
Gifts on the Go	30.00
The Dragon Parade	35.00
Backwoods Outhouse	20.00

**DICKENS VILLAGE**

Margrove Orangery	98.00
Aldeburgh Music Box	60.00
Old Queensbridge Station, s/2	100.00
McShane Cottage, s/2	55.00
Staghorn Lodge	72.00
Leed's Oyster House	68.00
The China Trader	72.00
The Spider Box Locks	60.00
Wingham Lane Parrot Seller	68.00
The Old Royal Observatory, s/2	95.00
Historic Landmark Series and numbered Limited Edition	
Dickens Village Accessories	
Queens Parliamentary Coach	60.00
Limited to Year 2000 Production	
Members of Parliament, s/2	19.00
King's Road Market Cross	25.00
Meeting Family at the Railroad Station, s/4	32.50
Under the Bumbershoot	20.00
A Treasure from the Sea, s/2	22.50
Fine Asian Antiques, s/2	27.50
Busy Railway Station, s/3	27.50
Locomotive Shed & Water Tower	32.50
12 Days of Dickens Village Sign	20.00

**NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE**

Hale and Hardy House	\$ 60.00
Trinity Ledge	85.00
Harper's Farmhouse	57.00
P. L. Wheeler's Bicycle Shop	57.00
Platt's Candles and Wax	60.00

**New England Village Accessories**

Pennyfarthing Peddling	13.50
Doctor's House Call, s/2	27.50
The Sailor's Knot	27.50
The Woodworker	35.00
Making Christmas Candles, s/2	25.00
Let's Go One More Time, s/3	30.00
Dairy Delivery Sleigh	37.50
Mill Creek Crossing	32.50

**ALPINE VILLAGE**

Glockenspiel	80.00
Sound of Music Wedding Church	60.00

**Alpine Village Accessories**

Sound Music Gazebo Music Box	40.00
Sisters of the Abbey	20.00
Leading the Bavarian Cow	20.00
Alpine Villagers, s/5	32.50

**CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY**

5th Avenue Salon	68.00
The Consulate, s/2	95.00
Limited to Year 2000 Production	
Molly O'Brien's Irish Pub	62.00
Lafayette's Bakery	62.00
Clark Street Automat	68.00

**Christmas in the City Accessories**

Busy City Sidewalks	32.50
Visiting the Nativity, s/3 Lit	37.50
Fresh Flowers for Sale, s/2	30.00
Excellent Taste, s/2	22.00
Picking Out the Christmas Tree, s/3	37.50
All In Together Girls	23.50

**NORTH POLE SERIES**

Elf Mountain Ski Resort	70.00
Peanut Brittle Factory	80.00
Mini Donut Shop (Elf Land)	42.00
Cold Care Clinic (Elf Land)	42.00
Northern Lights Tinsel Mill	55.00
Jack in the Box Plant No. 2	65.00
Limited to Year 2000 Production	

**North Pole Series Accessories**

A Happy Harley Day	17.00
Downhill Daredevils, s/2	16.50
Tangled in Tinsel	25.00
Canine Courier	32.50
Ski Bums	22.50
Check This Out	13.50
Marshmallows Around the Campfire	30.00
S/3, Lit	

**LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

\*\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*\*

Innkeepers Caravansary	\$ 70.00
Nativity, s/2	55.00
Gatekeeper's Dwelling	55.00

**Little Town of Bethlehem Accessories**

Good Shepherd & His Animals, s/6	25.00
Wise Men from the East, s/2	25.00
Town Well and Palm Trees, s/3	45.00
Town Gate, s/2	25.00
Heralding Angels, s/3	20.00

**LITERARY CLASSICS**

Great Gatsby West Egg Mansion	135.00
Set of 4, plus book	

**DISCOVER 56 SPRING PROMOTION**

Aldeburgh Music Box Shop	85.00
Gift Set/3, Numbered Limited Edition	
Parkside Pavilion, Gift Set/9	75.00

**HERITAGE VILLAGE ACCESSORIES**

Dorothy's Skate Rental	35.00
Hear Ye, Hear Ye	13.50
Village Monuments, s/3	25.00
Through the Woods	75.00
Animated Mountain Trail	
Remote Switches	20.00
9" Straight Track, s/4	12.50
18" Radius Curved Track, s/4	12.50
Family Winter Outing, s/3	10.00
Photo With Santa Accessory, s/3	7.50
Elves on Track, s/3	10.00

**SEASONS BAY**

Parkside Pavilion, s/2	65.00
Springlake Station	90.00
Stillwaters Boathouse	70.00
Seasons Bay Spring Accessories	
The Garden Swing	13.00
Arriving At The Station, s/5	32.50
Seasons Bay Summer Accessories	
The Perfect Wedding, Gift Set/7	25.00
plus book	
Gently Down the Stream	25.00
A Grand Day for Fishing	25.00
Lifeguard on Duty	20.00
Seasons Bay Fall Accessories	
An Afternoon Picnic, s/3	18.00
A Bicycle Built for Two	17.50
Rocking Chair Readers	15.00
Seasons Bay Winter Accessories	
A Day of Holiday Shopping, s/3	25.00
The First Snow	15.00
Singing Carols in Town	22.50
Seasons Bay General Accessories	
Seasons Bay Park, s/8	70.00
Amusement Park Carousel	75.00
Sandy Beach	7.50
Andironack Chairs, s/4	10.00
Christmas Garlands & Wreaths, s/14	10.00

## DEPARTMENT 56 NEWS

### D56 Retirements Include Several Surprises

Department 56 announced retirements in USA Today on November 5, 1999. The list included some surprises in all the villages. The Old Curiosity Shop, the oldest lit building in Dickens Village, retired. Some collectors thought that the Curiosity Shop would never retire. The same could be said for The Little Town of Bethlehem Set. The most surprising aspect of the announcement was the retirement of several houses that were introduced this year. We talked to some dealers right after the announcements who had not received their orders for some of the new items. D56 previously announced that while retirements were publicized on November 5, the retired items would not retire until December 31 and dealers still waiting for their orders would be shipped. However, several dealers noted stepped up activity for collectors looking for retirements like CIC Wintergarten Café, NP Marie's Doll Museum. The complete list of retirements is on D56's website: [www.department56.com](http://www.department56.com)

### Commentary—You Snooze You Lose?

*Comment from the Editor:* One of the most interesting aspects of the 1999 retirement announcements was the number of items D56 retired after short production runs. Is this a new trend for Department 56 signaling that collectors must buy it as soon as possible?

### Out With the Old and In With the New

#### D56 Announces New Products for 2000

Check out the new introductions for Year 2000. Get a larger piggy bank or a second job. D56's new introductions for 2000 are exciting. In addition to the regular line, there are more scenes inside lit houses, more items limited to Year of Production and two limited editions for Dickens. We will try to have pictures at our January meeting. In the meantime, you can check out Department 56's website on the Internet to get a view of all the new introductions. Due to lack of space, we were not able to include general village accessories, Snowbabies, Silhouette Treasures, ornaments, etc in The Crier. We will have the complete list at the January meeting. There is something for every one in the Year 2000 introductions.

### D56 Introduces New Village—Little Town of Bethlehem

When D56 announced the retirement of the three piece complete Little Town of Bethlehem set, there was speculation among collectors as to what D56 would do next. We did not have to wait long as among the new Year 2000 introductions is the new Little Town of Bethlehem Village. The just retired Little Town of Bethlehem was a boxed set of three houses plus all the accessories. D56 never introduced additional lit buildings or accessories. For some, it was the perfect little set while others wanted to see it expand. Now, with the introduction of the new Little Town of Bethlehem Village, collectors will purchase lit houses and accessories individually as they do with the other D56 Villages.

The new Little Town of Bethlehem Village has a brand new look. The first introductions make it appear that D56 is ready to go head to head with Fontanini for Nativity collectors. One instantly notices that D56's new Little Town of Bethlehem houses and accessories are Heritage Village sized and are much more detailed. While most collectible shops carry the larger Fontanini sets, they also make a smaller set with 2 1/2 inch accessories. We are sure that it was not lost on D56 that many D56 collectors were already incorporating the smaller Fontanini into the original D56 Little Town of Bethlehem. D56's new village will appeal to those collectors want to stay with a smaller Nativity village and who do not have a large area for display. Yet, how much the D56 Little Town of Bethlehem village will grow is anyone's guess—we will just have to wait and see.

### News Flash! New Profile Series Introduction—The Heinz Hitch

D56 has produced a fourth exclusive Profile Series introduction for H. J. Heinz, Co. The latest introduction is The Heinz Hitch. It is a highly detailed delivery wagon drawn by two black Percheron horses and the wagon is filled with boxes of Heinz products. The Heinz Hitch is only available through H. J. Heinz. More information and a picture will be available at the January meeting.



# CALENDAR

Jan 7-9 Annapolis Villagers House Tour  
 Jan 11 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting, 7: 00 p.m.  
 Feb 5 Annapolis Villagers Car Caravan to Cecil's Country Store in Great Mills, MD followed by lunch at The Roost. See inside for details.  
 Feb 8 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 Mar 14 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting, 7: 00 p.m. Gold Key Olympics Display contest  
 Apr 3 Russ Country Gardens Swap and Sell. For a table or more info, call 800—371-2385.  
 Apr 11 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 May 5-7 PA 5-6000 Gathering. Host Resort & Convention Center Lancaster, PA. Check web site <http://www.pa56000.com> for other info.  
 May 9 Annapolis Villagers Members

Meeting, 7: 00 p.m. Demonstration on Photographing your village.  
 May 13 Annapolis Villagers Bus Trip to Mount Hope Winery, Roaring 20's Play, Christmas Tree Hill and diner. More info to follow in next newsletter.  
 Jun 13 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 Jun ? Annapolis Villagers Sunday Summer Brunch. Annapolis Fleet Reserve Club. More info to follow.  
 Jul 11 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting, 7: 00 p.m. Election of

Let us know about Dealer Events, Open Houses, Swap & Sells, Show & Sells, etc. and we will list them on our calendar.

Officers  
 Jul ? Christmas in July Party. More info to follow.  
 Aug 8 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 Sep 12 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting, 7: 00 p.m.  
 Sep ? Annapolis Villagers Anniversary Dinner. More info to follow.  
 Oct 10 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 Nov 14 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting, 7: 00 p.m.  
 Dec 12 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
 Dec ? Annapolis Villagers 3rd Annual Christmas Party. More info to follow.



**To 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. 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

## From the Editor.....

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of The Crier.

If there is something you would like to see in the newsletter, please do not hesitate to see me at a meeting. You can also email me at [news56@aol.com](mailto:news56@aol.com) or

*Pat Ehrenreich*

### THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE CRIER

Deadline for the next issue of *The Crier* is February 10, 2000. Please send your items of interest so that they are received by the deadline.

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