

THE VILLAGE CRIER

The Newsletter of
The Annapolis Villagers



APRIL – MAY, 2006

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 3

RECIPIENTS OF ANNAPOLIS VILLAGER'S CHARITY DONATIONS TO ATTEND THE MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Arden House, Arundel Habitat for Humanity and Maryland Food Bank were recommended by the Charity Committee and approved by the membership to receive the Annapolis Villagers Annual Charity Donation. The following representatives of these organizations will attend the May meeting to receive the club's donations and to present a brief description of their organization's mission.

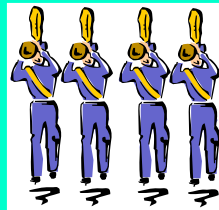
Debbie O'Banon - Director of Asset Development,
Arden House

Leslie P. Merwin - Community Support Manager,
Arundel Habitat for Humanity

Kate McGuire - Director of Development, Maryland
Food Bank

Join us in welcoming these special guests.

Next Meeting
Tuesday May 9, 2006
7:00 PM



EVERYBODY LOVES A PARADE



Join us at the May Membership Meeting as Dick Baker and Pat Ehrenreich demonstrate how to add a parade into your village displays. Included will be ideas on making parade floats and where to find items to incorporate into your parade.

Day Trip to St. Michaels (Stopover at The Christmas Goose) Sunday, May 21



Join the Villagers for an escape to St. Michaels for a day on Sunday, May 21. St. Michaels is a historic and quaint waterfront village on the Eastern Shore, situated on a picturesque peninsula between Tilghman Island, Easton and Oxford. St. Michaels is known for its nationally acclaimed restaurants, unique specialty shops, quaint B&B's and renowned museums and galleries. Activities will include a stop at The Christmas Goose and lunch at one of St. Michaels fine restaurants.

The Christmas Goose: The Christmas Goose is located

in Queenstown, MD along the route to St. Michaels. It is a year-round gift and collectibles shop that features the Department 56 Villages as well as Byers Choice Carolers, Charming tails, Cats Meow, Yankee Candles, Lemax, Harbour Lights and much more.

Lunch: Lunch at the Town Dock Restaurant in a semi-private room. Enjoy a waterfront view of St. Michaels Harbor while you dine. The cost for the banquet lunch will be \$28 inclusive. The menu will offer the following choices:

- Seafood Platter
- Petit Crab Imperial
- Petit Filet Mignon

Continued on Page 4, CARAVAN

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The Prez Says . . .

Yes, spring really is coming and by the time you receive this it should be beautiful outside. Hopefully, just the way we will want it for our spring and summer activities. Before we jump into our upcoming activities, I want to thank Cathy Kramer for her excellent presentation at our March meeting.

We have a full calendar of exciting and entertaining events scheduled with planning still going on for a fall event. The day trip to St. Michaels with a stopover at the Christmas Goose will be held on May 21. This should be a lot of fun with good food and good shopping. The traditional annual brunch at the Fleet Reserve Club will be held on June 11. This has always been a big hit with the Villagers. Thank you to Ileen and Terry Watson who have graciously volunteered to host our annual picnic on July 8. Dean Stevenson will be our chairperson for this event. The May meeting is the only meeting before the picnic, so think about what you would like to sign up to bring. Remember we have our reputation of being excellent cooks to uphold. There are articles elsewhere in the Newsletter regarding each of these events and there will be more information at the May 9 meeting on these events. Remember to bring your checkbooks to the May meeting if you are interested in the St. Michaels Trip and/or the Brunch.

There are many people who work behind the scenes to make our club the lively and vibrant club that it is. Three of these people are John Ehrenreich, who as editor of our newsletter, not only fits all the articles into an attractively formatted newsletter, but also finds interesting trivia and relevant news of D56 to keep us abreast of all the changes affecting our collections. Pete Baer is our e-mail guru who not only sends out the newsletter to all those who receive it by e-mail, but adds fantastic pictures of our events to enhance it. Stella Angelucci reproduces, folds, labels and mails the newsletters that go to our members by regular mail. I do want to take a minute to remind you, if there is any member who receives the newsletter by regular mail who could receive it by e-mail, not only would you save the club money by switching to e-mail, but you would receive a newsletter enhanced by excellent pictures. Many, many thanks to John, Pete and Stella.

Looking forward to seeing you at the May meeting where Dick Baker and Pat Ehrenreich will be our speakers.

Kate

March Meeting Highlights

What a delight to see so many Villagers at our March meeting. There were 35 members present.

After a brief meeting, Cathy Kramer, Department 56 Regional Representative, gave a timely and informative presentation on the acquisition of Lenox and what we may expect to see in our favorite shops as a result. She also described the recent Dept 56 introductions and answered our many questions. Cathy has always been very good to our club and she brought the Lenox "Splendor of Spring" and the "Baltimore Arts Tower (Historical Landmark Series)" to be awarded as door prizes.

The door prize winners were:

- Donna Bullen – *Splendor of Spring (Lenox)*
- Trudi Baer - *The Baltimore Arts Tower (Historic Landmark Series)*
- Larry Voigt – *Back From the Orchard*
- Phillip McCutcheon – *Noel Ornament*
- Dick Baker – *Painting Your Own Village Sign*

The 50/50 raffle winner was James Clarke.

Our Condolences and Deepest Sympathies go to

Sherian & Bill Roberts on the death of Sherian's brother, Stacy Newell and to Stella & Julius Angelucci on the death of Stella's Mom, Georgia

Thank You! Cathy Kramer

A big thank you to Cathy Kramer (Dept 56 Regional Representative) for her recent donation of the Dept 56 "Baltimore Arts Tower (Historical Landmark Series)" and the Lenox "Splendor of Spring" decoration. The delightful pieces were used as door prizes at the March meeting.

HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Maxine Underwood

Volunteers are needed to bring goodies for the Refreshment Table at the May Meeting. Please call Maxine Underwood, your new Hospitality Coordinator, 410-315-8695 for suggestions.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



The following members are celebrating a birthday in May or June. On behalf of the Annapolis Villagers, we wish you *the best* on your special day.

Maxine Underwood	May 29
Terry Watson	May 30
Bernice Smith	Jun 02
Paul Hurlbut	Jun 06
Marjorie Tellis	Jun 09
Jennifer Collinson	Jun 24
Phillip McClutcheon	Jun 24

If your birthday is in May or June and you are not listed, we apologize but we do not have your birthday in our data base. Please notify Pete Baer so the data base can be updated.

SUMMER SUNDAY BRUNCH AT

THE ANNAPLIS FLEET RESERVE CLUB

June 11, 2006

Join us for brunch on the picturesque Ego Alley on the Annapolis docks at the Fleet Reserve Club Sunday, June 11 at 10:00 A.M. This event has been an Annapolis Villagers' annual event for many years.

Cost of the brunch is \$15.00. You can sign up at the May meeting or call Barbara Schubring at 301-262-5802 or email Barbara at Schub@Access4Less.net.

The Fleet is located at 100 Compromise Street, Annapolis, 410 263-4614.

Annual AV Picnic at the Watson's Saturday, July 8th

Our annual picnic will be held this year at Ileen and Terry Watson's. Their home is located in Harwood, Maryland. It is lovely as you may remember from the house tours and has a wonderful yard and pool.

There will be fun and games to play as well as good food and conversation so mark the date. **Time is 3-7pm and you need to call Dean Stevenson at 410-923-2755 to sign up before June 28th.**

Please be sure to bring folding chairs with you.

Directions will be in the next newsletter or can be gotten off the internet. The actual address is 219 South River Clubhouse Rd. Harwood, MD 20776. Their phone the day of the picnic is 301-261-4412.

Don't miss the fun!

Call For Bylaw Changes

At the May membership meeting, there will be a call for proposed changes to the bylaws of the Annapolis Villagers. If you wish to propose changes to the bylaws, please submit them to Bob Eustice prior to the Board meeting on June 13. The proposed changes will be considered at this meeting and recommendations from the Board will be voted upon at the July membership meeting during the annual picnic. For more information, contact Bob at 301-552-1858 or e-mail him at kateeeustice@hotmail.com.

TRIVIA

What is the significance of Pearlized details on the following new releases:

Snow Village - Pearlson's Jewelry

North Pole - Porcelain Building Works

Dickens' Village - Victoria Park Theatre

Christmas In The City - Cathedral of St. Nicholas

New England Village - Christmas Valley Toys & Dolls

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The menu includes freshly baked bread, house salad, dessert and tea & coffee.



Following lunch, you would be on your own to visit the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and/or shops.

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum: The Museum's eighteen-acre campus, with nine exhibit buildings and vistas of the beautiful Miles river, anchors the town of St. Michaels. The complex focuses on the maritime history of the area and the bay. The museum features the world's largest collection of traditional bay boats, a working boat yard, and the 125-year-old Hooper Strait Lighthouse.

The visit to the Museum is optional and tickets can be purchased at the door. The admissions are as follows:

- \$10.00 Adults; \$9.00 Seniors over 62
- Discounts are also available for AAA members

Shopping: St. Michaels features an array of fashionable clothing, antique and artisan shops to suit any ardent collector and a galaxy of specialty food shops. Over 30 specialty and antique shops, boutiques and galleries include:

- *Artiste Locale*
- *Calico Gallery*
- *The Christmas Shop*
- *Galerie Francaise*
- *Sign O' The Whale*
- *St. Michaels Candy & Gifts*

Participants will make own arrangements for transportation to St. Michaels. The driving time is about ½ hour from Annapolis to the Christmas Goose and an additional ½ hour to St. Michaels. The scheduled activities are as follows:

- 10.30 a.m. Meet at the Christmas Goose in Queenstown, MD
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch at Town Dock Restaurant in St. Michaels, MD

Please contact Bob Eustice (301-552-1858) or e-mail at kateeeustice@hotmail.com if you plan to attend. Sign up sheet will also be available at the May 9th membership meeting. Payment must be received no later than this meeting. Further details about the trip including driving directions will be provided at the May meeting.

NCC NEWS
From the NCC Bulletin

NCC KATRINA FUNDRAISER

The NCC is continuing NCC founder, Jack Skeel's idea of raffling off the first seven Dickens houses as a fundraiser for the victims of hurricane Katrina. NCC has added a second place prize of a Jack's Umbrella Shop that was signed by Jack. For each \$10 donation to the Salvation Army's Katrina fund, you will receive one ticket for the drawing to be held by the NCC. Send donations made out to the Salvation Army to:

Randy Miller
22 Samoset Road
Orleans, MA 02653

To quote NCC President, Bob Obenland, "Here is the chance to get the first seven Dickens houses at the best odds you will ever have and help those hit by Katrina".

For more information, see the NCC website www.nec56.com



**VILLAGE D-LIGHTS OFFERS
INCENTIVE FOR
NCC MEMBERSHIPS**

Members of clubs who are NCC members can receive a subscription to Village D-Lights for \$23.00. This is a \$4.00 savings for a one year subscription of six issues.

Village D-Lights is a new village collectors magazine that was started last year. They have picked up where the former Village Chronicle left off.

If you are interested, see John Ehrenreich for a Subscription Offer coupon.



The NCC Bulletin website is <http://www.nec56.com/bulletinsnccclubs/nec05/html>

**NEW WOODLAND SCENICS
PRODUCT FOR USE WITH
STYROFOAM**

By John Ehrenreich

Many of you are familiar with Woodland Scenics products, using the various landscaping materials in your displays. If you use Styrofoam to build your displays, Woodland Scenics has a new product that will be indispensable to anyone using Styrofoam. The product is called Foam Putty and is part of Woodland Scenics Subterrain line.

If you have used Styrofoam for building elevations in your display, you have at one time or another run into problems with cracks or gaps between layers of Styrofoam. You probably covered the cracks and gaps with landscaping material if possible or used products like plaster, joint compound or spackle paste to fill the voids, often with mixed results. You may also have had a need to repair damaged Styrofoam surfaces that you tried to patch with the various filler compounds. The biggest problem with any filling material is that they dry hard, harder than the Styrofoam, shrink when dry, and can not be easily cut, carved or shaped.

The Woodland Scenics' Foam Putty is a non-shrinking, very lightweight filling material with the same characteristics as Styrofoam; making sanding, carving and painting easy! It requires no mixing and dries a bright white color. It is ideal to be used to fill cracks between foam pieces, gaps and holes in the display. It can also be sculpted when wet and sanded or carved with a knife or hot wire cutter when dry.

At about \$7.50 for a 16 oz container, it is more expensive than other fillers but I have found nothing else that compares with it for final results. You can find Foam Putty at most train and hobby shops that carry Woodland Scenics products.

Display Tip Seasons of the Villages

By Pat Ehrenreich

If you put your villages away after the holidays, there is no reason to wait until the 2006 holiday season to bring them back out.

Check what you have for “snowless” houses and create a Spring or Summer vignette. If you like the house and it has snow it, do not let that stop you. The snow can be camouflaged with greenery in many cases. The white bases of the houses can be hidden with mini flowers to form gardens. Then again, perhaps you want to keep cool and don't mind the snow at all. If you are a North Pole collector, you can do a whimsical display of Santa, the Mrs. and the Elves as to what they are doing in the warmer months of the year.

It is very easy create a mini scene with one or more houses and accessories in any type of setting—a flower pot, basket or unique container. You can even utilize your favorite lighted houses around your home as night lights or on book shelves. Remember, even the smallest displays can provide a maximum effect.

If villages delight us at the Christmas holidays, there is no reason that they cannot delight us during the rest of the year. Put your “thinking cap” on and have fun with your villages all through the year.

Display Tip Recycle Village Houses or Accessories

By Pat Ehrenreich

Does this sound familiar? You buy a house or accessory, take it home and put it away. When you are ready to start your Holiday display, you find that you already own it and, perhaps, you find even more duplicates. If it is too late to exchange, recycle by painting the house or accessory.

John and I found that you can successfully paint the porcelain items using water based craft paints. You can also “rename” by making new signage on your computer. The example below is the Dickens' Village Dudley Docker that was repainted black and red and re-flagged.



Another consideration—cross villages. You can successfully mix your villages—even Snow Village with Heritage Village. Try it and see for yourself.

TRIVIA ANSWER

The pearl is the traditional jewel representing 30 years. 2006 is the 30th Anniversary of Department 56 and The Original Snow Village. To celebrate this historic corporate milestone, one building from each village has been designated as a celebration piece. Each of these buildings will be a Special Edition that is Limited to Year 2006 Production. With the exception of the Original Snow Village's Pearlson's Jewelry each of the buildings will have “Pearlized” detail, meaning that elements of each building is painted with a “Pearlized” paint. The exception, Pearlson's Jewelry, will have “genuine fake pearls” embedded into the building.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**ANNIVERSARY DINNER
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 24, 2006
SIR WALTER RALEIGH
INN
GREENBELT, MD**

CALENDAR

2006

May

May 9 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting.

May 19-21 **Le Petites Village D56 Gathering** Plaza Hotel, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. www.lespetitsvillages.com for info.

May 21 **Day Trip** - Caravan to St. Michaels with Stopover at The Christmas (see article in this issue).

June

Jun 11 Annapolis Villagers Annual **Sunday Brunch** (see article in this issue)

Jun 13 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting.

July

Jul 8 Annapolis Villagers Annual **Christmas In July Picnic** at Ileen & Terry Watson's home. Info on page 4 of this issue.

Jul 11 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting.

Jul 14-16 **Spirit of 56 on The Bay Dept 56 Gathering.** Notre Dame Academy Green Bay, WI. For info, call 866-497-8535 or check www.d56gathering.com.

August

Aug 8 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting.

September

Sep 12 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting.

Sep 24 **Annual Annapolis Villagers Anniversary Banquet** At Sir Walter Raleigh Inn in Greenbelt, MD (more info to follow)

October

Oct 10 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting.

November

Nov 14 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting.

Nov 28 **Decorating the Hospice** (details in upcoming newsletter)

December

Dec 12 **Annual Annapolis Villagers Olde Fashion Christmas Party** (note: No Board Meeting this month)

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

DIRECTIONS

Meetings Held At American Legion Post 175

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

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

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

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

From the Editor.....

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

If you have news to share, email me at JEhrenreich@msn.com or call me at (410) 647-1680.

John Ehrenreich

NEWS DEADLINE FOR
THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE VILLAGE CRIER
June 20, 2006

Please send your items of interest so that they are received by the deadline.

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