



THE VILLAGE CRIER

Newsletter of
The Annapolis Villagers

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**NEXT MEETING:
NOVEMBER 11TH, 2003**

NOV 2003 VOLUME 11, NUMBER 6



TIME: 7pm
HOSTED:
AT THE AMERICAN LEGION, POST 175,
Severna Park in Manhattan Beach

UP, UP AND DISPLAY! November Display Contest!

There is still time to enter our annual display contest. It is a wonderful way to share ideas. To enter, please contact Pat Ehrenreich by 9:00 P. M., Monday, November 10 so we know how many tables to accommodate all of the entries. You can call 410-647-1680 or send an email to pje0308@aol.com

We have great cash prizes:

- First: \$75.00 • Second: \$50.00 • Third: \$35.00

Here are the simple rules:

- Theme: Entrant's choice
- Size: Display must be no larger than 24 inches wide X 24 inches long. There is no restriction on height. You can pack quite a bit into a two foot by two foot or less area so get your creativity caps on and come up with a great display.
- In fairness to all entrants, displays larger than 24 inches X 24 inches will be disqualified so please be sure that your display is no larger than 24 inches X 24 inches before you bring it on November 11.
- Display can be in a container, on a surface, in a wreath, etc. just as long as the length and width of the finished display are no larger than 24 inches X 24 inches.
- One display per member (joint memberships may each enter a display)
- Each display entry must contain one item made by Department 56. It can be a D56 house, accessory, figurine, giftware, or any other item with the Department 56 brand name. Non-Department 56 may be used but the Department 56 made item(s) must be the focal point of the display.
- Entrants are responsible for supplying their own extension cords and set up of their displays.
- Set up time: 6:30 p.m. on November 11.

DIRECTIONS: *From Washington DC:* Take Route 50 East, Exit onto Route 2 North. Follow Rt. 2 N (Ritchie Highway) to Jones Station Road (the next light after College Parkway and there is an Amoco and Crown gas Station), turn right onto Jones Station Rd and make an immediate left onto Manhattan Beach Road behind the Crown Station. Follow Manhattan Beach Road (2/10 of a mile) and make a left into the parking lot of The American Legion. The Entrance to the Banquet Room is on the left hand side towards the rear of the building. *From Baltimore:* Take the 695 Baltimore Beltway to Rt. 2 South, Left on Jones Station Road, and follow from Jones Station Rd as above.

The Village Crier is published bi-monthly and is the official newsletter of The Annapolis Villagers, a collector's club of Department 56[®], Inc. lighted houses and other products. We are not affiliated with Department 56[®], Inc. Opinions expressed are solely those of the authors. Any reproduction, in whole or in part, without expressed permission of The Annapolis Villagers is prohibited. Membership is \$15.00 per person or \$20.00 for two people in the same household sharing membership. Feel free to contact us at: P.O. Box 2083, Annapolis, MD 21404

The President Sez:

As I start to write my first The Prez Sez, it is comforting to note that John, your past President, was also a bit intimidated when he wrote his first column. In looking back, it is Bill Murphy whom I have to thank for beginning this column. Why is it so easy to talk and so difficult to put these same words in writing. First I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our past officers for a job truly well done. A huge thank you to John, Dean, Nancy, and Pete for putting your own individual touch on your position in order to make the club as active and vibrant as it is today. To John, for his inspiring leadership, Dean for her thoroughness in planning and implementing numerous and varied activities, Nancy for her skill at taking detailed minutes, and Pete's significant efforts in overseeing our treasury, maintaining the membership list, and establishing the e-mailing of the newsletter.



What is truly amazing to me, as I look back over the past years, is the variety of activities we've enjoyed. The Board and other club members have persevered in their efforts to offer activities such as the Horse Races at Rosecroft, A Day in Occoquan, The Apple Festival, The Pennsylvania Opry, and a trip to Winterthur. Some of our old favorites that we could not do without include the January House Tours, Brunch at the Fleet Reserve, Christmas in July parties at both the Baer's and Stevenson's, Anniversary Dinner at Timbuktu., Ice Cream Social, Display Contests, decorating The Ronald McDonald House and the house for The Hospice of the Chesapeake, and to end the year, Ye Olde Christmas Party.

We have been extremely fortunate to have several very creative and talented club members who have presented valuable guidance and tips for landscaping displays, cutting and sculpting styrofoam, creating water effects, exhibiting miniature accessories, and making mountains and backdrops.

I'm delighted to welcome Nancy Bowers as our new Vice-President, Marsha Voigt as our new Secretary and Pete Baer as our returning Treasurer. The challenges to us are obvious. As I take over the reins, I know you want me to maintain a club that not only revolves around our interests in collecting and displaying, but also in providing an active social program. I can't do this alone. I need the help of each one of you.

In conclusion, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. The Board of Directors and I look forward to continuing the good work of the past and initiating some new and exciting activities for you in the future. I strongly encourage members to participate in planning and implementing these activities. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me or any Board member. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the November meeting which will feature the display contest, and again in December for decorating the house for the Hospice of the Chesapeake and Ye Olde Christmas Party.

Kate


 NEW BOARD MEMBERS
 by Kate Eustice
 We now have three new Board Members. Two new positions have been created and one vacant position filled.
 John Ehrenreich has consented to continue the work he began as President and that is building stronger relations with our dealers. He will be chairman of Dealer Relations. The Dealer ambassadors will now come under John and he will also collect and send Dealer news to Dawn for inclusion in the Newsletter.
 The Welcoming Committee has been renamed Membership Services with expanded responsibilities. It will continue to be chaired by Sherian Roberts with Bernice Smith and Pat Ehrenreich assisting her. Besides interacting with new members, this committee will also reach out to our current members by sending out membership renewal notices and following up those who have allowed their membership to lapse.
 Bob Eustice has filled the By-Laws position that became vacant when I became President.
 I wish to welcome and thank each of our new Board Members.


BERNIE DVORAK'S MOUNTAIN DISPLAY DEMONSTRATION

Not only did Bernie put on a fantastic and entertaining hands-on demonstration of creating mountains out of 'papier-mache' as the program for the September meeting, but he also showed his unique method of "cutting styrofoam". It was obvious Bernie had put a lot of effort into his presentation. He made a mountain display beforehand so we could see a finished product. This was auctioned off with the receipts designated for charity. Thank you to Marge and Barry Ebersberger for submitting the highest bid. I also understand that thanks go to Dean Stevenson who donated more money to charity by purchasing the unfinished mountain that Bernie and the other club members made. Bernie made the entire presentation so much fun, he had most of the club members "playing" with papier mache'. Besides a BIG thank you to Bernie, I would also like to thank all those who assisted in the clean-up after the presentation.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Many thanks to Ruth Baldwin, who not only fixed ice cream sundaes for our Birthday celebration, but had a beautiful patriotic cake for us to enjoy. A great time was had by all!

HOUSE TOURS 2004
by Bob Eustice

The Villagers will be hosting our annual holiday house tours of members' homes on January 9-11, 2004.

Tours will be conducted:

- Friday: 7-10 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Sunday: 2-8 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, tours will be held the next weekend.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Bob Eustice at (301) 552-1858. You do not need have to have an elaborate display to participate. We have seen many beautiful displays in all sizes and shapes over the years.

We need to have everyone signed up by November 21 in order to allow adequate time to schedule tours by geographic area and prepare directions/maps. A sign up sheet will be available at the September and November members' meetings.

Recap of 11th Anniversary Dinner Banquet

The Villagers' annual banquet was held on September 27, 2003 at Timbuktu. We had a good turnout of 40 but if you could not make it you were missed. It was a relaxed and casual evening of good food and fun. Many thanks go to the Villagers' who worked on the Anniversary Dinner with me. I took the names and payments but kudos for the evening go to several Villagers: the restaurant selection committee with Kate Eustice, Bernice Smith, Barbara Schubring and Ina Devine. At the Banquet, kudos go to Kate for her gracious welcome as our new President, John Dietz for his always beautiful invocation, Ina Devine for yet another year of fabulous center pieces, Marsha Voigt for securing the books Ina needed for the centerpieces, Dean Stevenson for the wonderful array of CD's for the easy listening back round music and last, but not last, to our new Vice President Nancy Bowers for the fabulous Halloween Basket she made for our raffle.

Carrie's Collectibles donated Literary Series houses for the centerpieces and Tom Russ of Russ Country Gardens donated the Fun House Gift Set and Nancy brought it too life with her inventive lighted display in a basket. Door prizes included gift Certificates from Carries' Collectibles and Timbuktu Please stop by Carrie's, Russ, and Timbuktu, let them know you are a Villager and appreciate their support. Door prizes also came from Main Street Corner Shoppe in Laurel. Although Main Street closed, Kay and Dixie generously donated items to the club for our use.

D56 Dealer News



By John Ehrenreich

**NOVEMBER 7, 2003
DEPT. 56 RETIREMENTS
ANNOUNCED**

**BANNERS HALLMARK
Annapolis Mall, MD
Sat. Nov. 8 & Sun. Nov. 9, 2003
410-224-6524**

Sat. Nov. 8 VIP Sale from 6 AM to 9AM. 25% off everything in the store.

Sun. Nov. 9 All collectible Open House from 7 PM to 9 PM. Sale on selected items / Coupons in the store.

**FORGET-ME-NOT FACTORY
RE-SCHEDULES
COCA COLA
FIZZ PARTY CHARITY EVENT**

**Ellicott City, MD
Saturday November 15, 2003**

Interrupted by Hurricane Isabel, this event has been rescheduled by the Forget-Me-Not Factory. Sponsored to benefit the Hospice of Howard Co., the promotion will be held Saturday Nov. 15, 10 AM to 10 PM. 20% of proceeds of D56 Village & Snowbaby products sold this day will be donated to the Hospice. Buyers of a Coca-Cola building will become eligible to win The Dizzy Wizz's Coca-Cola Dream basket which includes: the D56 NP Coca-Cola Fizz Factory building, Coca-Cola Taste Test accessory, set of Coca-Cola lights, retired Coca-Cola deliveryman accessory, Coca-Cola bear ornament by Kurt Adler, and more surprises. Those that buy the Coca-Cola Fizz Factory Building will receive a free Coca-Cola ornament. Refreshments will be provided by the Coca-Cola Co. Call 410-465-7355 for more info.

FIRST EVER D56 IN-STORE SILENT AUCTION Saturday November 8, 2003

Don't miss the D56 in-store silent auction. You can bid on 15 rare, one-of-a-kind items from D56 that range in price, variety, & collectibility. Included are: "Cathedral Church of St. Mark"; 7th Annual Holiday Tour; 6 Ft. Lighted Tree with 500 Ornaments; Complete Disney Parks Village; Snowbaby "A Magical Sleigh Ride with Mickey" signed by the artist; "Mickey's NP Holiday House" with gold ears; "Coca-Cola Fizz Factory" Collector Set; Snowbaby Music Box; 25th Anniversary Celebration Kit; New York! New York! (Times Tower Celebration Kit & Empire State Building); "Home For The Holidays" Special Collector Edition including Coal Car & Ceramic Track; Allison and Duncan Collector Set; Two Special Edition Vans; Christmas Kringles Collection by Patience Brewster; & "Black Cat Diner". Something for everyone!

All bids will be taken in-store at a participating dealer and entered at 1 PM and 3 PM. Participating dealers in our area are listed below. Contact them for more information about the auction, rules, and description of the auction items. Bidders in the silent auction will be entered into a drawing to win a Limited Edition Candle Crown Collection set "Alice In Wonderland" valued at \$4,000.00.

Carries Collectibles Crofton, MD 410-721-4030	Homestead Gardens Davidsonville, MD 410-798-5000	The Christmas Goose Queenstown, MD 800-366-5356
Forget-Me-Not Factory Ellicott City, MD 866-445-4879	Mixed Emotions Rockville, MD 888-765-7673	Valley View Farms Cockeysville, MD 410-527-0700
The Christmas Attic Alexandria, VA 703-548-4267	Russ Country Gardens Westminster, MD 800-371-2385	The Golden Goose Occoquan, VA 703-494-4964

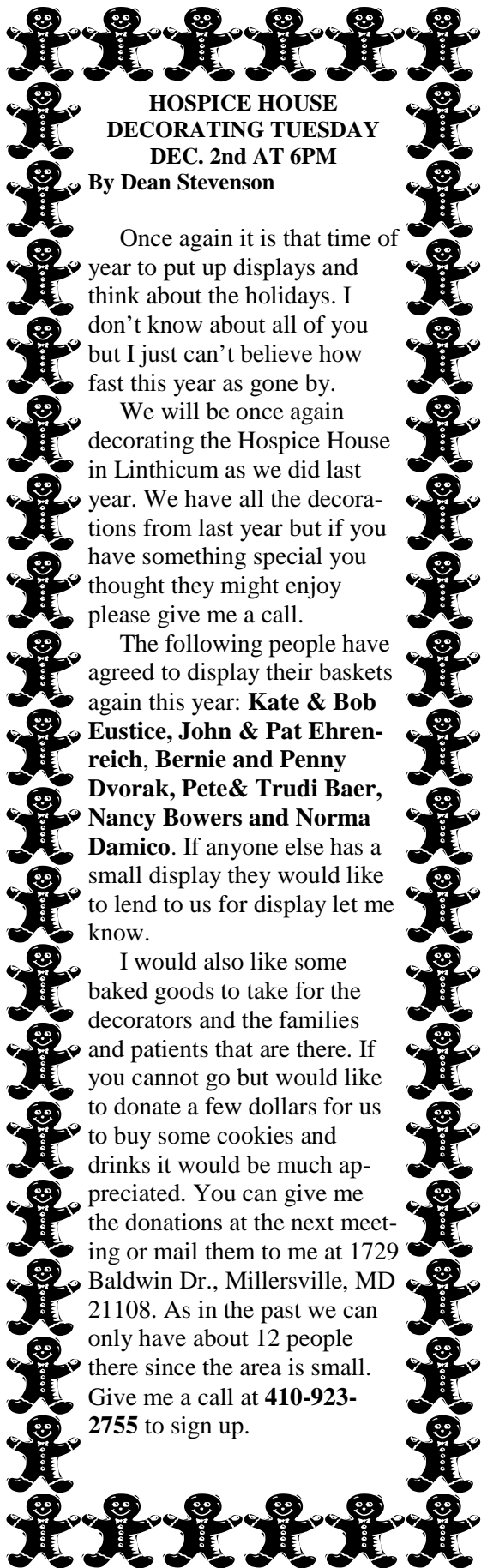
GERALD CHARLES DICKENS AT THE GOLDEN GOOSE Occoquan, VA Sunday November 23, 2003

The great-great grandson of novelist Charles Dickens will visit the Golden Goose. An accomplished actor and producer, he will perform "A Christmas Carol" from the original script used by Charles Dickens on his triumphant American tour in the 1880's and will sign Dickens memento and books which will be available on this day.

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM signing at store
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Performance of
"A Christmas Carol" at Occoquan's Ebenezer Baptist Church
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM signing at store

PAJAMA PARTY AT CARRIE'S COLLECTIBLES Crofton, MD Saturday November 29, 2003

Roll out of bed and join your fellow collectors from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM at Carrie's Collectibles for their Pajama Party. Early risers who plan to come to the store wearing their PJ's should call 410-721-4030 for more details and information.



**HOSPICE HOUSE
DECORATING TUESDAY
DEC. 2nd AT 6PM**

By Dean Stevenson

Once again it is that time of year to put up displays and think about the holidays. I don't know about all of you but I just can't believe how fast this year as gone by.

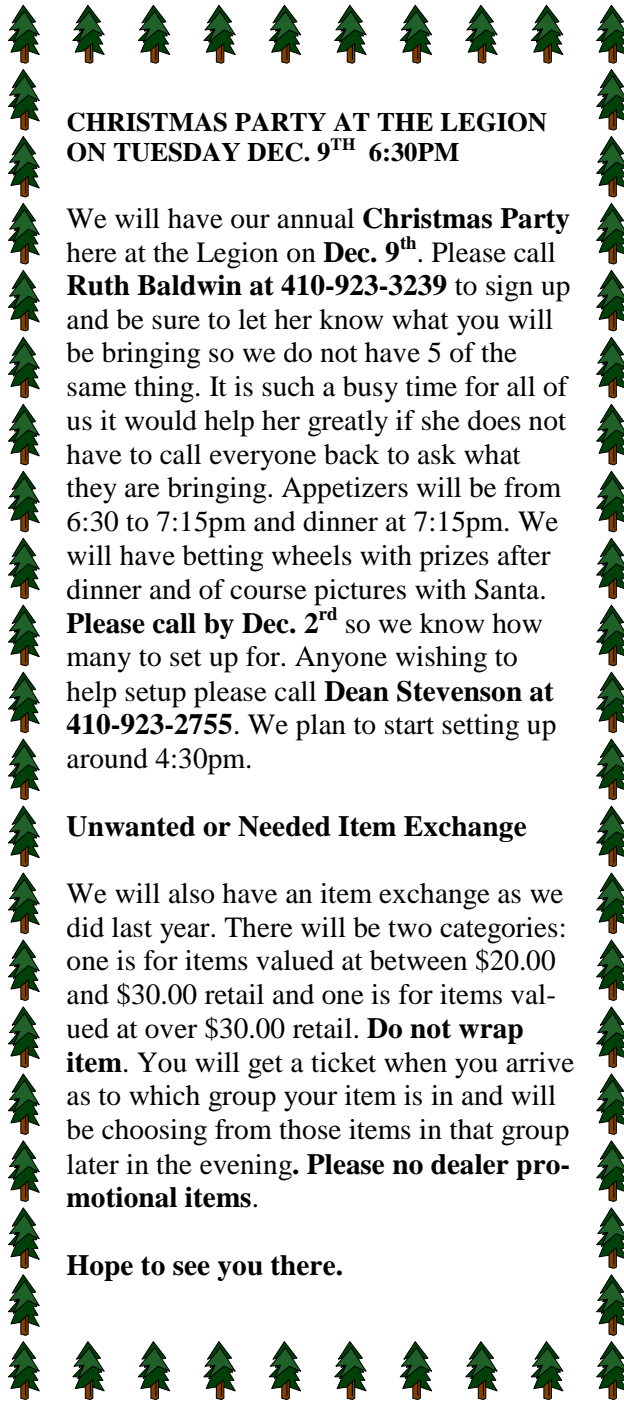
We will be once again decorating the Hospice House in Linthicum as we did last year. We have all the decorations from last year but if you have something special you thought they might enjoy please give me a call.

The following people have agreed to display their baskets again this year: **Kate & Bob Eustice, John & Pat Ehrenreich, Bernie and Penny Dvorak, Pete & Trudi Baer, Nancy Bowers and Norma Damico.** If anyone else has a small display they would like to lend to us for display let me know.

I would also like some baked goods to take for the decorators and the families and patients that are there. If you cannot go but would like to donate a few dollars for us to buy some cookies and drinks it would be much appreciated. You can give me the donations at the next meeting or mail them to me at 1729 Baldwin Dr., Millersville, MD 21108. As in the past we can only have about 12 people there since the area is small. Give me a call at **410-923-2755** to sign up.

DID YOU HEAR?

When D56 opens their new store in Chicago, it will have an **EXCLUSIVE** Historic Landmark CIC House called the Chicago Water Tower. It is supposed to be an early release for next year



**CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE LEGION
ON TUESDAY DEC. 9TH 6:30PM**

We will have our annual **Christmas Party** here at the Legion on **Dec. 9th**. Please call **Ruth Baldwin at 410-923-3239** to sign up and be sure to let her know what you will be bringing so we do not have 5 of the same thing. It is such a busy time for all of us it would help her greatly if she does not have to call everyone back to ask what they are bringing. Appetizers will be from 6:30 to 7:15pm and dinner at 7:15pm. We will have betting wheels with prizes after dinner and of course pictures with Santa. **Please call by Dec. 2nd** so we know how many to set up for. Anyone wishing to help setup please call **Dean Stevenson at 410-923-2755**. We plan to start setting up around 4:30pm.

Unwanted or Needed Item Exchange

We will also have an item exchange as we did last year. There will be two categories: one is for items valued at between \$20.00 and \$30.00 retail and one is for items valued at over \$30.00 retail. **Do not wrap item.** You will get a ticket when you arrive as to which group your item is in and will be choosing from those items in that group later in the evening. **Please no dealer promotional items.**

Hope to see you there.

Golden Gate Gathering



The group that organized this gathering did a wonderful job! The seminars were excellent -- Some highlights were the seminars on low voltage lighting by Frank Biafore (some of his information and tips have been printed in Village Display Tips Vol 2 and Series 3 - more info at www.villagedisplaytips.com), village infrastructure (Vince Aiello made the most wonderful bridges, walls, etc. out of foam board), and Peter George's talk on unusual additions for your village.

The social events were equally good. Richard Tuck, who was a key organizer of the event did a presentation on "It Must Be Magic" - (check out their website -- www.itmustbemagic.com) - another was "Playland Not at the Beach" - a work in progress that includes a hand-carved miniature circus. Richard, Tim, and Frank are amazing people. You really should hear Richard's story if you haven't seen a presentation before.

Do you recognize this Villager?

There were so many prizes, and prizes, and did I say prizes?

There was a marketplace wrought with new ideas, new toys, Show specials that dazzled the eye and drained the wallet! All the vendors are listed on the Golden Gate Gathering Website.

I think these pictures clearly show a good time was had by all who attended!



It's Bernie! Penny! Pete! Trudi!

D56 DOES SPAM!

By Pat E.

"The SPAM Museum" that D56 is doing for Hormel Co., makers of SPAM. As a PROFILE lit building, it will not be available to D56 dealers--it is exclusively available through Hormel.. Here is the link to the Hormel SPAM catalog web page.

<http://www.spamgift.com/store/commerce.cgi>

Click on the Catalog and select the icon for "Misc." It takes awhile to load so be patient. Scroll down to the last item to see the Museum.

#6956 - \$63.25

Dept. 56® SPAM® Museum Collectible. Each piece is part of the Dept. 56® Village Profile Collection. Each building is lighted (bulb included). The collectible measures 8-1/2" x 5-1/2" x 7". Place your order today to insure delivery before Christmas 2003! Orders will begin shipping in November 2003. S&H = \$8.00 per piece

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2003

*OCTOBER 3RD—5TH
VILLAGE HARVEST
FESTIVAL—NY Contact: Diane Epting 518-882-6192*

OCTOBER 5TH—
GOLDEN GOOSE
BYERS CHOICE
EVENT—GUEST AP-
PEARANCE BY THE
BYERS!

*OCTOBER 9TH-
13TH—GOLDEN
GATE GATHERING—
SANFRANCISCO*

*OCTOBER 18TH—
VILLAGE FALL
FLING—LA*

October 14th—Board
Meeting

October 19th—D56
Open House at the
Golden Goose

October 25th—Bus Trip
to Monticello

NOVEMBER 2003

November 7th—
RETIREMENT DAY!

Nov 8th—Silent Auc-
tion (see details inside)

Sat/Sun—Nov 8th &
9th
Holiday Open House at
Carrie's Collectibles

Nov 8-9th—Holiday
Open House at Ban-
ner's Hallmark

Tue—November 11th
AV Members Meeting
and Display Contest

November 15th—Coca
Cola Fizz Party at For-
get Me Not Factory

Sun—Nov 23rd—Byers
Choice Event at Car-
rie's Collectibles

Nov 23—Dickens sign-
ing at Golden Goose

Sat—Nov 29th—Pajama
Party at Carrie's Col-
lectibles!

DECEMBER 2003

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS TO
YOU!**

DECEMBER 2ND—
Hospice House Deco-
rating

DECEMBER 9TH—
AV Christmas Party

DECEMBER 20TH—
Midnite Madness at
Carrie's Collectibles

DECEMBER 26TH—
After Christmas Sale at
the Golden Goose!



(Italics indicate the event is not local)