

The Village Crier

Newsletter of
The Annapolis Villagers



December, 2004 – January, 2005

Volume 13, Number 1

Next Meeting

JANUARY 11, 2005

Following the meeting, conclude this year's House Tours at the Ehrenreich's Open House.

CALLING ALL VILLAGERS

LET THE HOUSE TOURS 2005 BEGIN!

The Villagers will be hosting our annual holiday house tours of members' homes on January 7-9, 2005. The house tours are always one of our most anticipated club events. Please show your appreciation to this year's participants by visiting the houses on the tour. Tours will be conducted:

- Friday: 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday: 2:00 to 7:30 p.m.

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

The schedule, directions and maps have already been sent out in a separate mailing. If you have not received the tour information yet, or if have any questions, please contact Bob Eustice at (301) 552-1858 or kateeustice@hotmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOMESTEAD GARDENS' DISPLAY CONTEST WINNERS

This year Homestead Gardens received 35 entries to their Department 56 Display Contest. Among the winners were Annapolis Villagers' Dick Baker, 1st Place, Bernie Dvorak, 2nd Place, and Pat & John Ehrenreich, Honorable Mention. You can view these winning displays during the Annapolis Villagers House Tour 2005.

TRIVIA

In November, 2004 Dept. 56 had a special introduction of a numbered Limited Edition, *Santa's Toy Company* to launch the 15th Anniversary of the North Pole Series. During the 15 year history of North Pole, how many other numbered Limited Editions has Dept. 56 released for this village series?

Ans. On page 5

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Volunteers

Vacant

The Prez Says ...

Another active year has flown by for the Annapolis Villagers. I want to thank everyone for your assistance and participation during 2004. We had several activity changes this year and would like to hear from you, not only on what you liked or didn't enjoy, but also any suggestions you have for the upcoming year. At the February Board meeting, we will be planning activities for 2005. Please give your suggestions to Barbara Schubring for any activities you would like and make suggestions to Stella Angelucci for any speakers or topics you'd be interested in at our meetings. Their e-mail addresses and phone numbers are listed in the newsletter.

Although you are reading this in January, I'm writing it in the middle of the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season. I hope everyone enjoyed crafting the most creative and beautiful villages and decorations ever and the Holiday Season was truly wonderful for you.

I want to thank each of you who either brought Christmas tree ornaments to our November meeting or mailed them if you were unable to be at the meeting. We received some beautiful and darling ornaments. I hope this can be an annual affair so we can replace the worn and broken ornaments on the trees we decorate at The Ronald McDonald House and The Hospice of the Chesapeake.

So many activities have occurred since our last meeting, I want to take a few minutes to thank those responsible. First I want to thank Marsha Voigt, who did a great job as chairperson of our annual display contest, and all those who entered displays. We saw new heights in creativity this year, I think in a large part, due to Marsha's suggestion that we have an award for the most original display.

Thank you to Trudi Baer and her committee for decorating The Ronald McDonald House and to Dean Stevenson and her committee for decorating The Hospice of the Chesapeake. Both facilities looked absolutely beautiful when we finished. This is what the Holidays are about when you can bring a little happiness to those less fortunate than ourselves.

As always, Ruth Baldwin and Dean outdid themselves as chairpersons of our Christmas Party. I don't think many of us have any idea how much planning and work goes into this party and how many elves they have helping them. Stella and Julius did a great job decorating the tables to help make this such a festive affair. We do have good cooks in this club, don't we? We also had a serious note to the Christmas Party. The Annapolis Villagers presented a check for \$2000 to Mr. Erwin Abrams for the Hospice of the Chesapeake and a check for \$500 to Dan McDonald, Commander of the Legion Post 175. Thank you to all who made this party so nice for everyone.

As you know, the Annapolis Villagers have always been a major participant in the MAVG and, once again, we need your help for the 2005 gathering in April. I'm asking everyone, who plans to attend, to volunteer an hour or two of your time to make this endeavor a success.

As I wish each of you a healthy, happy New Year, I strongly encourage everyone to visit the homes that will be open for your enjoyment during our House Tours in January.

K ate

November Meeting Highlights

During a brief meeting, a motion was made and approved to donate \$500 to the American Legion Post 175 to show our appreciation for the use of their facility. Following the meeting, the annual display contest was held. Look for details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Winners of the door prizes were as follows:

- Julius Angelucci - Two Turtle Doves
- Georgina Shultz - The Christmas Arbor
- Ed Butkiewicz - Painting Our Own Village Sign

Barbara Schubring won the 50/50 raffle.

Christmas Party Winners

We were all winners at the Christmas Party with all the good food and fun we had, but we also had some special winners.

Door prize winners were:

- Ruth Baldwin – Master Gardeners
- Bernie Dvorak - 12 Days of Christmas ornament

Table decoration winners were:

- Georgina Shultz
- David Devine
- Kim Cranford (Betty Skipper’s daughter)
- Allen Stam
- Jennifer Collinson
- Jim Underwood

The winner of the raffle for the Dickens’ Village Commemorative 20th Anniversary Scarf was:

- Ileen Watson.

Congratulations to all.

Thank You to American Legion Post 175

By Kate Eustice

To show our appreciation to the American Legion Post 175 for use of their facility, I presented a check for \$500 to Dan McDonald, Post Commander, at the Christmas Party. Mr. McDonald thanked the Villagers and said the donation would be used to support the Legion’s charities. He also gave a brief overview of the charities and community activities that the Legion supports. He noted that the Legion was happy with their relationship with the Annapolis Villagers.



Kate Eustice presenting the club’s donation to Dan McDonald

Annual Christmas Party

By Dean Stevenson

Another successful Christmas party was attended by forty-four of our members. We were fortunate to also have Mr. Erwin Abrams from Hospice of the Chesapeake with us for dinner. He spoke of the wonderful new things that have happened at Hospice this year and how much he appreciated our check to the Hospice. Hospice has moved their main office to a new General’s Hwy. location and has gotten the building permit for the Hospice that will be in the Shady Side area. It will have 8 beds instead of 6. We were all so pleased that this endeavor is finally under way.

Dan McDonald, Commander of American Legion Post 175, also joined us to receive a donation. He spoke of the wonderful things they do with it. For those of you not familiar with the Legion’s good works, they give college scholarships, help the needy with Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and have several families they give holiday gift baskets. Our club should feel proud that we are able to help both wonderful organizations to make peoples’ lives a little easier and better in their time of need.

I want to thank Ruth Baldwin for coordinating the food, buying the paper goods, the condiments and little special items that fill in and make a dinner so nice. Stella & Julius Angelucci did a lovely job on the table decorations. Thanks to John Ehrenreich for doing our program and the Pictures with Santa. We have so many talented people in our club. There were so many that helped with the setup and cleanup that I am afraid I will miss someone so I would just like to say thank you for all who helped and also for all those of you that participated in the Pictures with Santa, and playing the wheels. I really hope everyone had a nice time and that they were able to enjoy the fellowship of the other members once again during this busy time year.



Mr. Abrams receiving donation from Bernie Dvorak

VILLAGERS' DISPLAY CONTEST WINNERS

There were seven entries for the Annapolis Villagers Annual Display Contest. Winning 1st Place and \$75.00 was Pat Ehrenreich's unusual Halloween Display in a coffin. The coffin, as well as the ghost and tombstone, was constructed from styrofoam. Ina Devine took 2nd Place and \$50.00 with her Halloween Accessory display. Ina's display was also the club's entry in the Golden Goose's Display Contest that Ina volunteered to do for the club. 3rd place and \$25.00 went to John Ehrenreich for his New England Village display. John's display also won for Most Original Display, taking another \$25.00. Selection for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners were by weighted ballot of the members present. Most Original was determined by selected judges.

Pat Ehrenreich's winning display. You can view all of the Display Contest entries on the e-Crier pages.



Welcome New Members...

Kay T. Hoyle of New Carrollton, MD

Hospice Decorating

By Dean Stevenson

Thanks so much to the following people for helping to decorate the Hospice:

Bob & Kate Eustice, Jeannette Grebowsky, Ruth Baldwin, Bill Roberts, Pat & John Ehrenreich, Marge & Barry Ebersberger, and John Stevenson.

Thanks also to those who brought their basket or donated decorations or refreshments:

Ileen & Terry Watson, Pete & Trudi Baer, Bernie & Penny Dvorak, Barry & Marge Ebersberger, John & Pat Ehrenreich

With the wonderful help of these good people, we once again brought the Christmas Spirit to the Hospice and a little joy to their hearts we hope.

We will be taking down the decorations on Tuesday, January 4th at 6pm. Call me if you are able to help with the take down at 410-923-2755.

Kate, Jeannette and Bob at work at the Hospice



A "VILLAGER'S" LAMENT

T'was the week after new years, and all through the house

The mountain of clutter distresses my spouse.

The village displays are in need of repair

Our open house visitors soon will be here

Now Christmas is over, my money is spent,

My get up and go, has got up and went.

My firm resolution once more to the end

Is to put up these villages, never again.

The grandkids are nestled all snug in our beds
While memories of Christmas, still dance in their heads

And Mama in her blue jeans, she's starting to snap
While furiously cleaning and hiding this crap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter

I knew in my head I had no gray matter

Our guests were arriving too soon, hide the trash!

I flew up the stairs and got dressed in a flash

The smile on our guests as they entered each room

Give our spirits a lift and dispenses the gloom

And what to their wondering eyes do they see

But the village displays done magnificently!

Their eyes how they twinkle their dimples so merry

Leads one to believe these were built by a fairy

And so once again as the evening draws near

We give thanks for our friends coming over this year

And so soon it is over, and this I might add

What a marvelous time, every one of us had

We waved from the door as they drove out of sight

Happy New Year to all, and to all... good night

And now that it's done we swear never again

Will we go through this hassle and gut wrenching

pain.

But somehow we know that when autumn's in sight

We'll be "villaging up", late into the night!

Bernie Dvorak
Annapolis Villagers

TRIVIA Answer

Dept. 56 has released three other numbered Limited Editions for the North Pole Series. They were *Toot's Model Train Mfg.* item 56728 in 2000, *Starlight Dance Hall*, item 56742 in 2001 and *Lucky's Pony Ride*, item 56776 in 2004.

Volunteers Needed For 2005 MAVG

The 2005 Mid-Atlantic Village Gathering (MAVG) will be held on April 8, 9 & 10 at the Hyatt Regency in Reston, VA. As previous MAVG's, this event is again hosted for collectors by three collector clubs:

- Annapolis Villagers
- National Capital Area Village Collectors Club (NCAVCC)
- Dept. 56 Villagers of Southeastern VA (SEVA)

The gathering would not be possible without the help of the volunteers from the host clubs. Volunteers are urgently needed to support the various activities including the seminars, display contest, marketplace, hospitality suite and information booth. Our volunteer support will be greatly appreciated. We must remember that all proceeds received beyond that which is necessary to cover expenses is provided to the host clubs for their charitable donations. The Annapolis Villagers' share from the 2003 MAVG was over \$4,000.

Marsha Voigt is the coordinator for the Annapolis Villagers volunteers for the 2005 MAVG.

Marsha can be contacted at (301) 345-7631 or MVoigt@opener.net. Sign-up sheets will be available at the January and March meetings.

Mid-Atlantic Village Gathering (MAVG)

The 7th Mid-Atlantic Village Gathering will be held Apr. 8-10, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency in Reston, VA. With the theme "Magic Moments". It's not too early to think about attending the MAVG next spring.

You'll find that the MAVG will include some favorite events like the Market Place (formerly the Swap & Sell, Show & Sell), Make & Take displays, Round Robin, and lots of seminars featuring new speakers. Whether you are a serious collector or merely one who dabbles with Dept. 56, this gathering will have something for you!

If you are looking for rare retired pieces, or some interesting items to accessorize your displays, you will certainly be able to find them in the Market Place. Ticket information will be mailed to club members and previous attendees. The Hotel is now taking reservations. If you would prefer, visit the gathering's website at www.mavg.org. for more information which will be updated as new information becomes available. You may e-mail Trudi Baer at Baers4D56@comcast.net.

D56 Dealer Open Houses

By Bob Eustice

This fall, we attended open houses for the following dealers:

- The Golden Goose in Occoquan, VA
- Russ Country Gardens in Taylorsville, MD
- Homestead Gardens in Davidsonville, MD

The dealer village displays that we observed were very beautiful & creative. We handed out club and MAVG info and took names of folks who indicated an interest to learn more about the club. As a follow up, Membership Services will be sending out complimentary newsletters and further information.

Based on the attendance at these events, it is encouraging to note that there appears to be a renewed interest in purchasing/collecting D56 houses and accessories. We hope you will shop and support all of the dealers who support our club at one time or another.

NO MORE CORDS!!!

When Dept. 56 announced their new 2005 Introductions in December, they also announced their newest innovation, "Long Life Cordless Lighted Buildings. D56 Sales Rep, Cathy Kramer was very helpful in providing information about the new lights.

There will be 6 buildings that will have the cordless system under the heading of Decorating Sets. They will be "Christmas Treasures" in CIC, "St. Stephen's Church" in DV, "Mrs. Claus' Hand Knit Christmas Stockings" & "Krinkles Christmas Ornament Design Studio" in NP and "Thanksgiving At Grandmother's House" & "St. Nick's Toy Land" in SV.

These are not going to be the usual battery operated lights but a new lighting system. The system consist of a self contained module that will fit under the building. The module will control LED lights with the lights having a 10,000 hour life and the batteries lasting 200+ hrs if used approximately 4 hrs per day. The module will also contain an on/off switch and a built in 9 hr. timer that will automatically turn off the unit if left on that long. The new lighting system is intended for lighting buildings that are in hard to access locations such as on dinning room tables or mantles. The system can be removed entirely and standard lighting used if desired.

D56 will demonstrate the new lighting system at MAVG.

D56 New Releases

by John Ehrenreich

On Dec. 15, Dept. 56 announced their 2005 introductions. There were many surprises in the announced list. Some of these are in the category of "why?", like why does the Christmas in the City need another Italian restaurant, "Gardens of Santorini" making this the third Italian restaurant in this village series? Or you may question D56's historical accuracy with the introduction of "J. Horsley Christmas Cards" for Dickens' Village. Christmas Cards were relatively new in Dickens Victorian England and very unlikely to be purchased in a Christmas Card shop.

Among some of the other surprises, there is a new series called Cross Product Carnival. So far it consists of "The Red Ruby Carousel", The Golden Vine Ferris Wheel" and the "Twirling Tea Cups" plus two accessories. These look like they can be a collectible of themselves or added to any of the other villages, which probably led to the name Cross Product Carnival. While CIC collectors may not want another Italian restaurant, they may look forward to having the "Golden Gate Bridge", assuming they have room for it.

The villages continue with licensed products with more Coca-Cola, Disney and M&M items in North Pole, the Ed Sullivan Theater in Christmas in the City and a Budweiser Brewery and the Budweiser Clydesdales in Snow Village. One of the more interesting licensed items is the "Krinkles Christmas Ornament Design Studio" for North Pole with a "Krinkles For Sale" accessory. Krinkles are a D56 product line of ornaments. Now that is cross marketing!

A few more of the new introductions have to come under

the heading of "What was D56 Thinking?" First among these is the new "Tower Bridge Of London", item #56.58721. Last year, D56 released a numbered Limited Edition "Tower Bridge Of London", item # 56.58705. The size of both bridges are the same and I could not tell any differences from the photos. At \$135, the new bridge is \$30 less than the Limited Edition version.

Along the same line are the Anniversary buildings announced for North Pole. In the last newsletter, we reported that D56 was releasing 5 buildings, to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the North Pole Series. Each building will have a letter that when put together will spell SANTA. It was also reported that the 1st building "S", will be a numbered Limited Edition, "Santa's Toy Company". This item had a gold roof but would be replaced in the regular releases with another "Santa's Toy Company" that will not be a LE and will have a different color roof. The surprise is in the 2nd building. This is the "A" building, called "Alfie's Toy School For Elves—Special Edition, item # 56.56894. It was to be available from the D56 web site and not from any dealer. In the new releases you will find another Alfie called "Alfie's Toy School for Elves—Second Release". It has a different item number, #5656781 and actually looks different than the original. By the way, the other three buildings that complete the spelling of SANTA are "Nettie's Mistletoe Manor", "Tinker's Caboose Café" and "Art's Hobbies & Crafts". Or, is that seven buildings that spell SASANTA?

You can check out the complete list of the new releases at the D 56 web site, www.department56.com.

CALENDAR

2005

January

Jan 8-9 Annapolis Villagers Annual House Tours. Details in the Newsletter.

Jan 11 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting. Following the meeting will be an open house at the Ehrenreich's.

February

Feb 8 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting.

March

Mar 8 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting.

April

Apr 8-10 Mid-Atlantic Village

Gathering. Reston, VA. Seventh gathering hosted by the Annapolis Villagers, et al. Details are in the Newsletter and at www.MAVG.org.

Apr 12 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting.

May

May 10 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting.

June

Jun 14 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting.

July

Jul 12 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting.

Jul 14-17 Region VIII Gathering, Austin, TX at the Omni Austin

Hotel Southpark. E-mail Jackie Pool at jpool@austincc.edu for more info.

August

Aug 5-7 Southern Regional Gathering, Deerfield Beach, FL at the Hilton Hotel. Visit their web site at www.SRG2005.com for more info.

Aug 9 Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting.

September

Sep 13 Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting.

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



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 (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 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 JonAE@aol.com or call me at (410) 647-1680.

John Ehrenreich



NEWS DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE CRIER FEBRUARY 25, 2005

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

The Village Crier
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One of Bernie's display seminars at Valley View Farms.



The Villagers at Legion for the 2004 Xmas Party and Charity presentations





KRAMER COLLECTION FOR SALE

SNOW VILLAGE

SKATING RINK DUCK POND 1978	500
VILLAGE CHURCH 5026-1	150
GOTHIC CHURCH 5028-8	125
DEPOT W/TRAIN 5051-2	80
SAINT JAMES CHURCH 5068-7	75
DINER 5078-4	300
LIGHTHOUSE 5030-0	350
COLONIAL CHURCH 5119-5	40
NORTH CREEK 5120-9	40
PRAIRIE HOUSE 5156-0	40
AIRPORT 5439-9	30
JOHN DEER WATER TOWER	350
WATER TOWER 5133-0	50

PLUS ALL OTHER ACCE SNOW VILLAGE

NEW ENGLAND

NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE ORIGINAL S/7	600
SMYTH WOOLEN MILL	500

ALL OTHERS + ACCESS. 50% OFF

ALPINE VILLAGE

ALPINE S/5	100
JOSEF ENGEL	350

ALL OTHERS +ACCESS

CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY -

- Complete Collection

SUTTON PLACE 2 EA	500
CATHEDRAL	150
PALACE THEATRE	400
DOROTHYS	150
ST. MARKS	1000

NORTH POLE

SANTAS WORKSHP	200
ALL OTHERS	
ALL OTHERS	

DICKENS LTD EDITION PLATES 2 SET

DICKENS VILLAGE

THE ORIGINAL SHOPS OF DV S/7	1000
CROWNTREE	150
CANDLE SHOP	125
GREEN GROCER	125
GOLDEN SWAN	100
SMITHY	125
BUTCHER	75
JONES	150
DICKENS VILLAGE CHURCH 3 COLORS	
WHITE	175
YELLOW	125
TAN	100
DICKENS COTTAGES 6518-8	500
THATCHED	100
STONE	200
TUDOR	150
VILLAGE MILL 6519-6	2500
CHRISTMAS CAROL S/3	75
NORMAN CHURCH	1250
DICKENS LANE S/3	300
BLYTHE POND 6508-0	150
BY THE POND	80
CHADBURY STATION 6528	175
BARLEY BREE 5900-5	150
OLD CURIOSITY 3	20
KENILWORTH CASTLE	350
BRICK ABBEY	150
CHESTERTON MANOR	750
PUBLIC HOUSE	300
COBBLESTONE SHOPS	150
GREEN GATE COTTAGE	150
RUTH MARION	150
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CROWN CRICKET	100
PIED BULL 2	100
GADS HILL	100
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DEDLOCK 2	100
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