SPOTLIGHT on the Arts

By Ellie Mencer

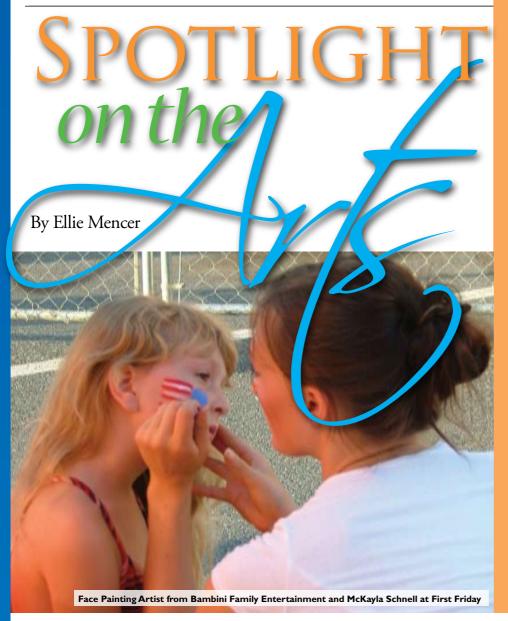Face Painting Artist from Bambini Family Entertainment and McKayla Schnell at First Friday

In a year that carries the bite of economic uncertainty, I believe is a perfect time to celebrate the Arts in Havre de Grace. Some may think the arts are something we celebrate and support when we have 'extra' funds and 'extra' time. But it's actually when we feel the most uneasy that the arts can truly inspire us.

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The Dreamsicles from Texas at First Friday

Larry O'Neal, poet, during First Friday

Jack Foreaker, puppeteer at Seafood Festival

The city of Havre de Grace enjoys a burgeoning art scene. With Gallery 301 at The Picture Show , Gallery Roca, Goldfish Gallery, Riverview Gallery and the White Rabbit Gallery as well as the beautiful art at The Healing Center—World in Light, plus Studio 432 in Perryville, we definitely have an arts community that is stepping out! The variety of works in these galleries is astounding. With their constantly changing exhibits representing local, regional, national and international artists, you are reminded of the wonder of human creativity!

With great expectation the new Arts & Entertainment committee of HdG Main Street has completed an application to have our city designated an Arts & Entertainment District. This designation will give us some of the tools we need to encourage even more artists to live and work here.

Add art boutiques, museum events, the Annual Art Show and you realize how the arts can be an asset to our economy, while subtly adding an energy and a sense of place for residents and visitors in the same way that the trees and trails of parks and the water and sky of our shoreline center us.

Music Fun at the Children's Art Festival

Shakespeare in the Park

Colleen Webster as Georgia O'Keefe

Mix in the drama and spice of the Tidewater Players, or the Shakespeare-in-the-Park program, to experience another wonderful arts venue.

An exciting event this September is the return of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra performing at the HdG High School. Add music in the streets or on the Main Stage during First Friday celebrations, Concerts-in-the-Park, the Blues Festival at Steppingstone, and you begin to realize that there's something for every taste!

We've been motivated by the sidewalk poet, Larry O'Neal, during First Friday. Colleen Webster has performed her one-woman shows at our public library, giving us an intimate portrait of artists Georgia O'Keefe and Frida Kahlo.

Local bookstores offer many titles by area authors to intrigue, inspire and delight us. Add the photographer's eye in gallery exhibits or his/her publications and the creative wealth that lies within our community explodes!

The artists in our community are a vital energy. From the clown to the face painter, carver to the sculptor, landscape artist to the web designer, singer to the speaker, band to the theater group, muralist to the boat builder, writer to the actor, they are the creative force of our community. Celebrate The Arts with us!

For more information and updates — Go to www. HarvedeGrace TheMeetingPlace .com