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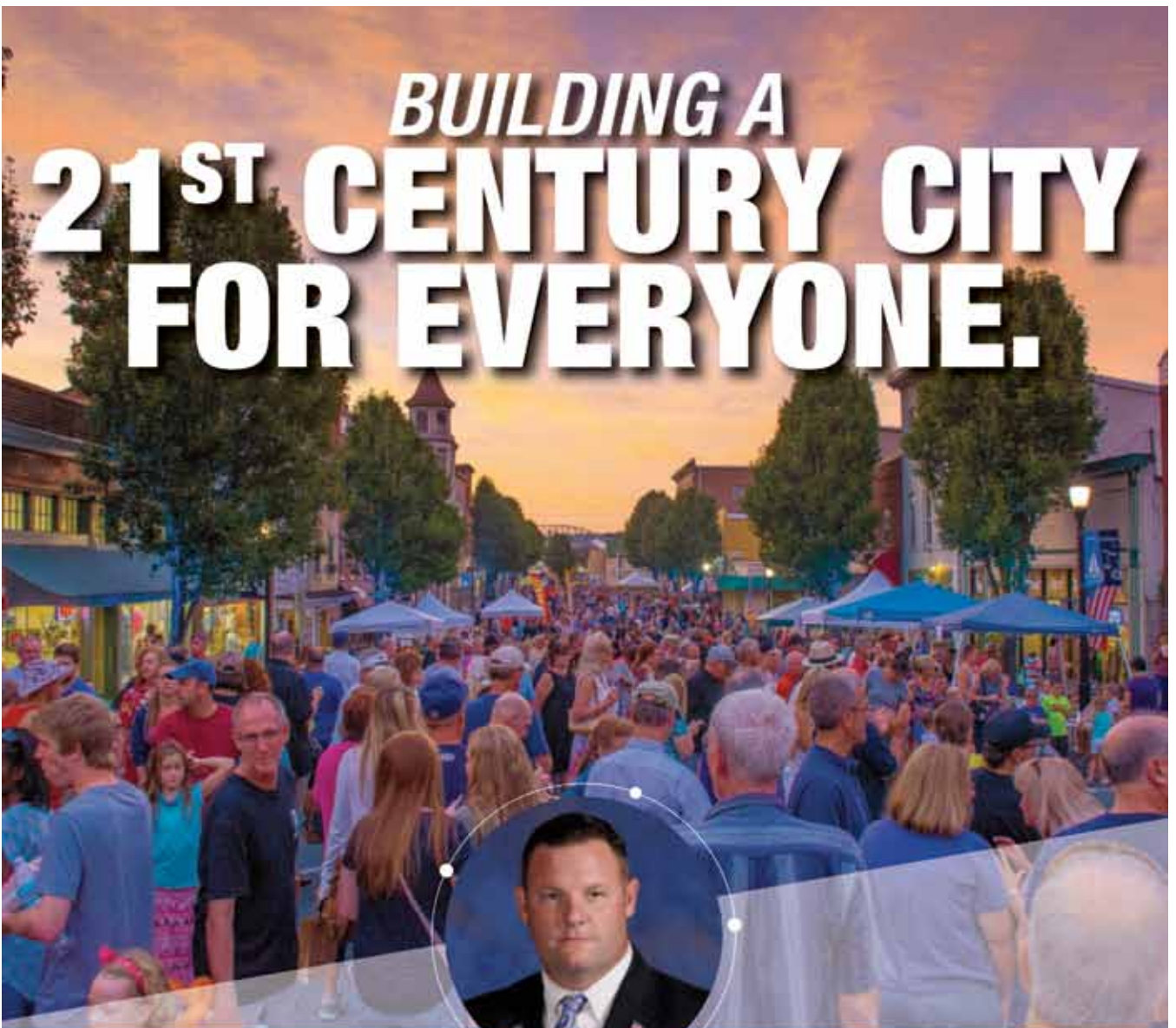
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Mayor City of Havre de Grace

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ON THE COVER

This issue is bursting with photos! The cover is just a teaser for what you'll find throughout the pages. It was a challenging issue with a lot of last-minute changes and additions!

Anne Fullem-Gasdia, the graphic artist 'miracle' behind this publication, is to be commended on not only her amazing talent but on her patience.

I'm pretty certain I've yanked every chain while working this issue. We hope you enjoy it. Let us know. Send us an email, comment on facebook, share a copy with friends, visit the website. And be sure to tell our advertisers you saw their ad in the Havre de Grace Magazine!

Welcome to the neighborhood,

Ellie

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See continued stories on our website:
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Be sure to thank our advertisers.

They're what gives us the space to share stories of our community so that we can say, "Welcome to our neighborhood."

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They began with bake sales, hot dog sales, selling dish cloths and having card parties. Fast forward to 2019 – 70 years later – awarding over \$24,000 in scholarships and community service awards!

Soroptimist Int'l of Havre de Grace Celebrates 70 Years



Soror – meaning sister (*Latin*) • **Optima** – meaning best (*Latin*)
Soroptimist is perhaps best interpreted as ‘the best for women.’



A group of area women numbering 25+ has quietly and tirelessly worked to do ‘the best for women’ in Harford and Cecil Counties for 70 years. A brief list of the accomplishments of Soroptimist International of Havre de Grace includes:

- Awarding scholarships to girls each year based on academic achievement and volunteer and community service. (*over \$18,000 in scholarships and \$6,000 to community service organizations this year alone – 2019*)
- Supporting the National “Live Your Dream” program – given to a woman head of household who is continuing her education in order to improve her life and the lives of her family.
- Contributing to campaigns to End Domestic Violence, an ongoing effort to raise awareness about a little addressed issue.
- Participating in efforts to Stop Trafficking – a worldwide issue
- Offering The Violet Richardson Award, honoring the first president of the organization – a program that recognizes young women ages 14-17 engaged in volunteer activities that help make the community and the world a better place.



Richardson believed in personal responsibility and the motto, “It’s what you do that counts.” She lived her life accordingly, as an active member in her community who was committed to creating opportunities for girls and young women. Soroptimist established this award to honor the memory of this unique woman and her dedication to volunteer action.

Supporting many local groups including:

- Food Pantries
- Homeless Shelters
- School Needs
- Community Projects

Spending countless hours on other boards and committees by members volunteering:

- Relay for Life
- Chamber of Commerce
- Hospitals
- Animal Rescue
- Various churches and museums

Over the years, our local Soroptimist organization has monetarily disbursed over \$700,000 back to our communities!



An Accidental History¹

A single phone call resulted in the unlikely birth of an amazing women’s organization.

In 1921 a paid organizer for Rotary by the name of Stuart Morrow was on a mission to start a Rotary Club in Oakland, California. He contacted A. E. Goddard who operated a business school in Oakland. Mr. Morrow did not realize A. E. Goddard was a woman. But he thought forming a service organization for women would be a good business venture for him.

Ms. Goddard was definitely interested in having a service organization for women in Oakland. Thus the first Soroptimist Club was chartered October 3, 1921 in Oakland, California based on Rotarian principals.

From this (California) chapter a global network of four Federations and dedicated volunteer membership of over 75,000 has been fulfilling its mission of transforming lives through education, empowerment and by enabling opportunities.

This first club with over 80 business and professional women from in and around the city of Oakland met weekly, debating service projects and hearing speakers on various worldwide issues that would broaden members’ horizons. Violet Richardson was their first president.

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Opening this Fall!



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THE EDITOR'S WALK

With so many great stories to tell in a limited space completing this issue was challenging.

“Hands” play an important role in this issue. Strong hands reach out to save a father and son, boat refugees from Vietnam. Helping hands give a scholarship to young women heading to college. Warm hands welcome you to a foreign country and to our neighborhood. Skilled hands create amazing art.

“Bridges” tie past to future, reaching across the Susquehanna River and across the ocean, tying communities together.

If it's true that “a picture is worth a thousand words,” then we've given you a book in this issue. The wonderful photo spread by local photographer, Malgorzata Baker, takes us on an artists' walk through our community.

Approaching my three-quarter century mark, I can't help but pause and consider the whole of a single life. I was given a beautiful gift when I ended up in Havre de Grace back in 1996. Until then, I'd moved and changed jobs on average every three years. Havre de Grace had a magnetic pull that I couldn't resist.

In 1998 through 2008, I published a tourism magazine celebrating our city. In 2008, I sold the magazine. It flourished for another three years. Then in spring 2018, I was asked by several merchants to publish it once again. This issue completes two years. “Why in the world,” you might ask, “Would I take on this task at my age?”

That's easy to answer – to share the richness of our community to residents and visitors alike. In a time when many families are scurrying to put their kids in every activity possible, when experiences are to be counted like jewels in a crown, when we rarely look up from our beeping, chirping, ringing, buzzing phones, I want to disrupt and introduce you to our community.

It's about people – you and me. It's about knowing the shop owners, the restaurant staff, and the local volunteers. It's about sharing stories, learning our history, and being excited with change. It's about honoring those who have been here for generations while enjoying the energy and ideas of new residents and our youth.

It's about sharing our parks and playgrounds, our street festivals and artists. It's about you ... and me ... and all the unique people who make up our community. It's about authentically caring – not by sharing memes – but in sharing real stories.

Take time to truly ‘see’ our residents and businesses for the beautiful people they are. In this season when we celebrate holidays of love, gift-giving, and sharing, take a moment to consider the individuals you meet in your day. Look up. Make contact with another person's eyes. Smile. Listen to understand. Speak with compassion. Celebrate Community!

Ellie

Continued from Page 5

Over the next 5 years, 15 clubs were added along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts.

A similar club was established in Britain and their first project sought to befriend girls who had no mothers and support a local Children's Society to establish an open-air school. They didn't know of those in the U.S.

In 1924 thanks to Suzanne Noel, founder of SI of Paris, lecturing and sharing the Soroptimist concept and messages in Europe, clubs were established. Noel later became the first President of the European Federation.

In 1928 Soroptimist International was created to provide a link between the Foundation of both the American and European Federations. Their website shares more details as to how these women stuck together through WWII furthering international understanding and embarking on many projects to help rescue members threatened by the Nazi regime, donating funds, clothing and more to those in need, and even setting-up a refugee relief committee for people escaping from Europe.

The Soroptimist International Association has been awarded Consultative status with UNESCO, UNICEF and more over the following decades.

SI of Havre de Grace Celebrates 70

From a history created by Jean Royster, June 2005

In November of 1949, the Soroptimist Club of Harford-Cecil Counties was chartered. They were sponsored by the Soroptimist Club of Oxford, PA. The charter was presented to 17 professional business women at a formal banquet held in the main dining room of the Hotel Chesapeake in Havre de Grace.



Charter Officers installed included:

Kathryn Asher, President • Kathryn also served as Board Member – at large for the South Atlantic Region from 1958 to 1960 at which time she was elected Lt. Governor-Elect. She was the only member of our club to serve at the Region Level until 2004 when Christy Rumbaugh was elected to the Board. Kathryn Asher remained a member, until her death in 2005.

Erma McSpadden, Vice President • **Virginia Donovan, Recoding Secretary**
Ruth Bowman, Corresponding Secretary • **Ellen Butler, Treasurer**
Margo Bollinger and **Madelyn Mitchell** were members of the *Board of Directors*. Charter member **Janie Marini** remained active until her death in 2014 just 12 days shy of her 95th birthday.

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SOROPTIMIST CLUB OF HARFORD-CECIL CO

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 27, 1959

This dedicated group of women may seem serious about their mission, but they also have a wonderful sense of fun! In this 1959 photo, they dressed according to the business each of them represented.

1958 was a busy year for the club. They sponsored and chartered a Venture Club, a service club for young women who had graduated high school and held positions with potential qualifications for becoming a Soroptimist.

Miss Jean Stephans was the first president of the Venture Club, later becoming a Soroptimist. You may remember her as Jean Mears. (She remained a faithful supporter until her death in 2013.) The Venture Club has since disbanded.

This same year they sponsored and helped charter the Soroptimist Club of Bel Air. Hanna Hecht, then president, had worked very hard to organize that club.

In 1977 Gunther Hirsch, Mayor of Havre de Grace, approached some of our members, asking us to take over the Havre de Grace Art Show – known to many as “The Million Dollar Mile.” This has grown into their largest fundraiser. Prior to this they raised money by holding bake sales and hot dog sales on the street during Havre de Grace Dollar Days. In the very early days, members sold dish cloths, held card parties, community dinners, and Bingo events. Now they work all year on the

art show with a few smaller fundraisers that may include antique appraisals, fashion shows, raffles, speaker luncheons, etc.

In 1987, under the leadership of Kay Mike, they sponsored and helped charter the Soroptimist International of Elkton. At this time, they changed the club’s name to Soroptimist International of Havre de Grace. The Elkton Club was disbanded after struggling for about 5 years to maintain their membership. Cecil County women are now part of the Havre de Grace Club.

From 17 strong, dedicated, professional women with a vision to do community service in 1949 to 20+ members in 2019 and growing, Soroptimist International of Havre de Grace remains a strong, active group of women dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in our local community and throughout the world.

Compiled by Jean Royster in 2005

The 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Havre de Grace Club has continued their mission to improve the lives of women and girls with programs leading to social and economic empowerment. To provide women and girls the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams is their vision. The club members are committed to community volunteer service to enhance personal leadership development while gaining a sense of fellowship and diversity.

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You may know this organization best through the wonderful Annual Havre de Grace Art Show. This year was the 56th Year for the HdG Art Show, the major fundraiser for the many programs they support. The largest of these programs are the scholarships and awards given each year to local students and young women, as well as the Violet Richardson Award and the Live Your Dream Award.

This year, 2019, the club awarded more than \$18,000 in scholarships and \$6,000 in community service awards. Along with college scholarships, the Live Your Dream Award assists women in Harford and Cecil County who serve as the primary source of financial support for their families. This award provides recognition by giving women the resources to further their education, help offset tuition costs, pay student loans or find reliable childcare. The goal: to help these women worry less about financial matters and focus on educational matters that will help them to Live Their Dream.

In addition, they also present a Kay Mike Award, Elva Boyle Award, Art Award, Photography Award, and the Carolyn & Pete Zinner Award.

In the fall of 2019, a number of women will be installed as new members, adding their enthusiasm, ideas, and energy to the club. Present club members look forward to having them join in their mission of service to improve the lives of women and girls.

If you would like to know more about our local Soroptimist club, it's the perfect time to contact them. You'll be invited to attend a meeting to meet members and learn more:

EMAIL: info@soroptimisthdg.org

WEBSITE: <https://soroptimisthdg.org>

FACEBOOK: [@soroptimisthdg.org](https://www.facebook.com/soroptimisthdg.org)

ART SHOW: <http://www.hdgrtshow.org>

<https://www.liveyourdream.org/>



(1) From www.soroptimistinternational.org/about-us/history/

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Havre de Grace the Meeting Place

CHRISTMAS IN OUR TOWN

Downtown Havre de Grace

Our town for sure is a quaint little one
We do take pains to have much fun.
All through our town a closeness is there
The people here do really and truly care.

The theatre is back and are we glad,
There is love and laughter here to be had.
What's happening to our town is a known fact
We WILL put Havre de Grace back on the map.

Together we're making wreaths and bows galore
And out of nowhere someone yells, "We need more."
Ah, yes, it's sharing and giving and lots of good fun
We've pitched in and given our best - we're #1.

There is so much, so much more to come
When we start hanging wreaths - one by one.
November 29th is an all-day affair
So come one, come all, come out and share.

We hang the wreaths from morning till dusk.
We've just go to finish - it's a must.
On December 3rd if everyone is good and wise,
Santa Claus may appear before our eyes.

On December 12th, at the theatre, is Children's Day.
Just bring a non-perishable item - you don't have to pay.
On December 13th is a Candlelight Tour.
Don't stop here - there is still some more.

It's December 19th and there will be a drawing.
Now get here and register and DO stop stalling.
So come on down and join us here
To help us celebrate the laughter and cheer
Of Christmas In Our Town - Right Here!



Penning by "Charlie" Barker, 11-20-1981
Late wife of Mayor Phil Barker,
who died this year.



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Have You Heard About TWINNING Yet?

We found the following possibilities of this word from definitions.net:

1. **twinning** (*Noun*) action of the verb to twin
2. **twinning** (*Noun*) giving birth to twins
3. **twinning** (*Noun*) the pairing of similar objects (such as towns)
4. **twinning** (*Noun*) the formation of twin crystals
5. **twinning** (*Noun*) the conversion of a road into a dual carriageway
6. **twinning** (*Adjective*) biparous

Maybe you heard that Popsugar's MTWINNING app gave you a different definition. In this case, Twinning was an app that took a selfie (photo of self) and matched it to a celebrity. Later, it turned out that it was leaking everyone's uploaded photos if you knew where to look. But we're not talking about THAT kind of twinning!

There's also evidently a TV series on VH1 titled Twinning! It's a reality competition series in which 12 sets of twins go head to head for a grand prize of \$222,222.22! But that's not it either!

You can use #twinning on Twitter and find nearly every way you might use the word including all that we've listed here!

What we mean when we say, "Twinning," can be found in Best Practice Guidelines for Twinning from TAM (Twinning Association of Mumbles):

"Twinning is the establishment of a special relationship between two communities in different countries ... Twinning should enrich the life of both communities and promote racial and religious tolerance,

international understanding and respect for others ... Twinning should be open to all sectors of the community and seek to include groups that have not previously been involved in twinning, especially disadvantaged groups who generally have less access to international experience ... Ideally, twinning should be a partnership between the local authority and the wider community".

Meet the Stathes

Chris and Debby Stathes visited family in Wales a number of times over the



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years. Recently, while riding area buses, Debby noticed a sign that said “Mumbles is twinned with Hennabont, Brittany in north-western France and Kinsale, Ireland. This started her thinking about the similarities between Havre de Grace and Mumbles.



She contacted TAM (Twinning Association of Mumbles) and shared her idea with Mayor Martin and other city officials. Soon a resolution from the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace to support the social agreement “Twinning with Mumbles, Wales” was passed.

Meet Mumbles...

Mumbles is a town in Wales, which is part of Great Britain. Well, sort of. You might enjoy this most interesting post by visiting this link: <http://www.picturebritain.com/2015/02/england-scotland-and-wales-countries.html>

But apart from some of these confusing details, let’s look at the ways Havre de Grace and Mumbles make a perfect twinning:

- ★ Both have Lighthouses
- ★ Both are surrounded on two sides by water
Mumbles has Swansea Bay and the Bristol Channel
Havre de Grace has the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay

- ★ Both have been harbors for fishing and hubs of transportation
- ★ Both are known for seafood
Cockles and layer bread in Mumbles
Crabs, oysters, rockfish, and duck in Havre de Grace
- ★ Both have traditions of woodcarving
“Lovespoons” in Mumbles
“Duck Decoys” in Havre de Grace
- ★ Havre de Grace has several marinas, a yacht basin and two sailing schools
Mumbles has boating facilities and enthusiasts
- ★ Population
Mumbles about 16,000 – Havre de Grace about 13,000



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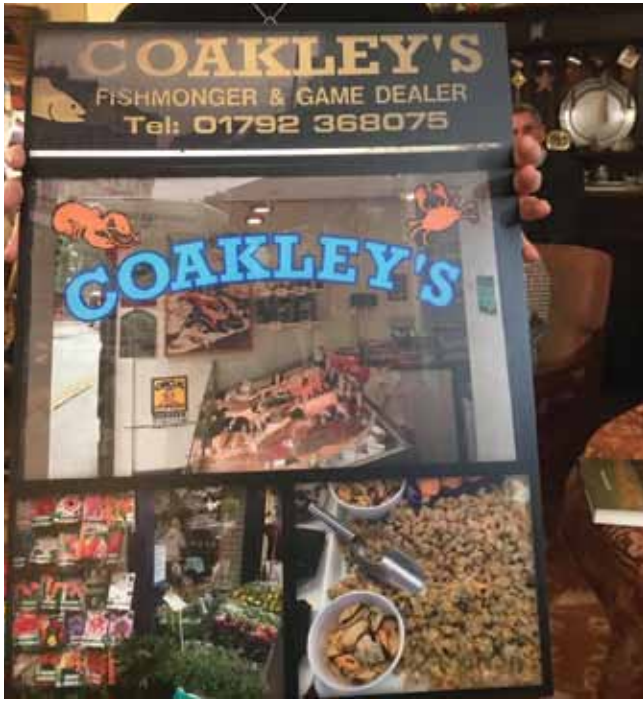
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- ★ Havre de Grace has its newcomers, people who've been here less than a generation, and citizens who can trace their families back generations. Mumbles is similar, Havre de Grace begins in the 18th century, which is yesterday for Mumbles
- ★ Both populations are diverse professionally and economically.
- ★ Both are energized by their citizens to celebrate their identities through fairs, festivals, food, lectures, music. Both are enriched and energized by their volunteers.
- ★ Both have rich histories which attract visitors and new citizens.
- ★ Both have great restaurants and watering holes. Mumbles has Joe's Ice Cream; Havre de Grace has Bomboy's
- ★ Citizens of both Mumbles and Havre de Grace, take pride in their towns and express a desire to share the gifts they have.

Are there differences?

Well, one really obvious difference is that Havre de Grace is relatively flat compared to the very hilly Mumbles!

Decoy Museum, Havre de Grace – Decoys have been a central element of Chesapeake culture for centuries. In the beginning, they were made for one purpose — to lure waterfowl within range of the hunter's shotgun. Decoys were simple, utilitarian representations of ducks and geese rough-hewn from wood. No one considered them art. Today, decoys lure far more people than waterfowl. One is perhaps more likely to find a decoy adorning a collector's mantelpiece than floating in a hunter's rig. Contemporary carvers produce sophisticated works of art with century-old skills that have been passed down from master to apprentice for generations.

Visit their website: decoymuseum.com



The Lovespoon Gallery in Mumbles - The Lovespoon Gallery is used by the finest carvers. Some just bring in their work once or twice a year (or less), but have exquisite pieces. Some carve full time maybe for a while. A few are professional artist/carvers and use The Lovespoon Gallery as their main outlet and contact with the public. These fine carvers are the artists who make The Lovespoon Gallery in Mumbles unique. There is nowhere else that has, exclusively, the work from genuine individual lovespoon carvers. Visit their website: <https://www.welshlovespoon.com>



The Havre de Grace Twinning Association is made up of those who are interested in visiting Mumbles, paying their own way, and eager to stay with host families. In two years, members of TAM will visit Havre de Grace, staying with host families. It's about truly getting to know others by building relationships and learning about each other's communities.

As I prepare this article for press, seventeen Havre de Grace residents are preparing to meet their "Mumbles Twins" during their visit September 5-10, 2019. I encourage you to watch for updates from their FB page @hdgtwinning and reports shared with the City of Havre de Grace. It's sure to be a beautiful adventure! 🌈

TAM is the Twinning Association of Mumbles. The Havre de Grace Twinning Association will be the organization sharing news and travels from this side of the pond!

Photos from FB@hdgtwinning

Photo of Debby Stathes, of the Havre de Grace Twinning Association, discusses the 'Twinning' relationship between Mumbles, Wales, and Havre de Grace, while her husband, Chris, holds a photo of the town's coastline and lighthouse, during the Havre de Grace City Council meeting Monday. (David Anderson/The Aegis / Baltimore Sun Media Group)



Havre de Grace the Meeting Place



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Shopping

Is Unique in Havre de Grace

When we talk about shopping local, I think it's important to highlight those who are artisans and craftsmen and women. The following shops work on premise and sell many of their own products. The nearly lost arts still thrive in our community. As you consider our suggestions for shopping and purchasing holiday gifts, take a few moments to meet the following creatives.



Welcome to Vincenti Decoys!

In 1986 Pat Vincenti left his full time job as a baker to become a full time decoy maker. Soon his wife Jeannie left her job to join him in the decoy business. They have been featured in many publications and Pat's decoys are shipped everywhere! Their shop at 353 Pennington is truly a destination store whether looking for a gift or starting/adding to a collection. The carvings in the store are all American-made of wood, none are resin. They can tell you who made each and every piece from hand-carved Santa Clauses, shorebirds to true antique decoys, and of course a great selection of decoys carved by Patrick Vincenti. One of the few remaining decoy shops, we encourage you to stop in and browse.



Meet Victoria at Bay Breeze Soaps

and you'll soon realize that her creative talents go far beyond making wonderful soaps that smell and look good enough to eat! She comes from a graphic design background, is quite prolific and accomplished in many crafts, and definitely has an eye for beautiful! If you're looking for a unique gift created right here in Havre de Grace, whether for your home, as a gift, or even a "party cake" for a bridal shower, Victoria will have just the perfect soap. Stop in at 463 Franklin Street and fall in love with the smell, the quality, and the art of fine soaps. (SPOILER ALERT: She has a number of other gift ideas, too!)



Havre de Grace the Meeting Place



Stan Bennett of The Picture Show

has honed his skill as a picture framer since working at Goellers Art Emporium in 1976 (McLean, VA) He opened a shop in Bel Air in 1980 and in Havre de Grace in 1984. As a college art student, working as a trim carpenter for a builder, his artistic eye and skilled carpenter hands made him an picture framer extraordinaire. His customers range from government, Army, Cecil County, Harford County and County Sheriff. He has created beautiful shadow boxes for sports and family memorabilia. He had created collages of all types. With over 40 years of experience, Stan's framing will absolutely be perfect for your project. 301 St. John Street

Blue Earth Leather



is a shop of eclectic moods. Some are familiar with the hippie signs in the window and a line of motorcycles that showed up on a February or March Sunday afternoon. Tammy, the owner-artisan, is recognized for her Native American products and her support of Native Americans at many sidewalk shows. In 1989, Tammy worked at the shop to help a friend through some rough times. She remembers

their location in the Mini Mall (Thoro-Fair), which is now the Artists Emporium. In 1992 they moved to the location where Instant Tattoos is now (*214 N. Washington St.*). In August 2017 they moved to their present location at 316 St. John St. Tammy learned the trade of working with leather on-the-job. Never intending to work on leather, she kept watching and learning. It's paid off beautifully. She'll tell you that "using the hammer and tools is very good therapy!" She has repaired old bomber jackets and leather jackets that need zippers or holes repaired, added quality leather handles to that purse you bought online. She can add patches and alter, brighten up that old pair of boots, but doesn't do heels and soles. Motorcyclists love the talents of leather crafting by Tammy. She does a "lot of one-of's..." Stop by and chat to see if she can repair or create your leather needs.



John

Step into Stephens & Stephens Clocks

and meet John Stephens Jr. and crew! With a father who enjoyed clock repair as a hobby, John began tinkering with clocks as a teen in the basement of his parents' home. In 1972, John traveled to Bowman's Technical School in Lancaster to study clockmaking and watchmaking. Four years later, he returned home and opened the doors to the first location of Stephens & Stephens Clocks on Robinhood Road. As his business and reputation grew, John bought and built property on the 400 block of St. John where the business has



Brad

continued successfully for 25 years this October! Charlie Monnin and Brad Fogarty are part of the team offering restoration, repair and refurbishing of your timepiece, balancing one another in their strengths and levels of expertise. Carrying on with the family's passion for timekeeping, John's granddaughter, Chandler, will partner in taking over the business in 2021.

www.clockology.com • www.facebook.com/StephensClocks



Charlie

These five artisans are a wonderful example of the craftsmanship and creativity to be found in our shops and boutiques. It may be hard to believe, but we have 30 shops and boutiques offering a diverse choice of gifts – antiques, books, music, toys, clothes, jewelry, fair trade, art, souvenirs, and so much more.



We have 6 art galleries/studios including Unlimited Art Studio with Shawn Forton that just opened this past August and Mike Lust of Bearwood Designs Studio opening this fall. Add five museum gifts shops to your list where you'll find gifts unique to our area's history and culture.



Have a boater on your list? You will want to visit Tidewater Marina's store or the Havre de Grace Marine Center. They can help fill your order and you'll have a happy boater!

Of course, our eateries, bakeries, candy, wine, coffee, and tea shops offer perfect hostess gifts, trays for your own holiday parties, or take your party to their location! Gift certificates are always welcome from someone's favorite eatery, or introduce them to something new.

There are also a number of services that include hair and nail care, massage and spa treatments, yoga programs, fitness and martial arts classes, plus a number of shops that offer classes. Again, gift certificates are perfect!

The holidays are a festive time in Havre de Grace and will make your shopping fun. Window displays are fabulous! The lighting, decorations, and music throughout downtown add just the right ambience to make purchasing your gifts a delightful experience. The parks and promenade are lighted. Boaters add lights to their masts. The entire community – businesses, museums, churches, and residences – adds porch lights, tree and lawn decorations.

Join us for December's First Friday when our parade presents Santa Claus, our treelights come on, and downtown is a street-filled celebration. The 47th Annual Candlelight Tour, presented by the Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House, is scheduled for December 14th. They New Year's Eve Duck Drop and Fireworks will ring in the New Year. January 2020 we'll celebrate the 2nd Annual Fire & Ice Festival!



Happy Holidays! 



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Are you aware that you just might be witness to historic changes in Havre de Grace? Over the next decade, it's likely that the present Susquehanna River Bridge will be replaced.

Bridges



A Community's Story of Change, Growth, & Vision

Since we may have front row seats, let's look at a timeline of our bridges.

A BRIEF TIMELINE

1838 – P.W. & B Railroad (*Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore*) used a ferry to bring the railroad cars across the Susquehanna River. Following is an excerpt from *Historic Havre de Grace*, a publication published by the Havre de Grace Public Library in October, 1926.



"I remember the first train of cars coming to Havre de Grace. The engine was very odd looking, the boiler stood on end and the smoke stack was on top of that. The engineer stood on an uncovered platform, and the engineer's name was Edward Foard."

From a John L. Johnson (born 1822) from *Historic Havre de Grace*. Another excerpt from the same publication:

"... for many years it was the practice to ferry the trains on the P.W. & B RR across the river. A protracted spell of exceedingly cold weather in the winter of 1852 made this utterly impossible.

... a track was built on the ice and for nearly six weeks, or from January 15 to February 24, this track was in constant use with the

exception of a day or two while it was being moved from its first position to one that was more secure. That it was felt the track was secure is shown by the fact that the United States mail was carried across the river in the way.

... In all 10,000 tons were carried across the river on the ice, and of this amount 4,000 tons were merchandise of various kinds.

... The formation of ice in the river gave employment to many persons. The ice sometimes froze to a depth of eighteen inches and the cutting, storing and shipping of this commodity was carried on extensively. Huge ice houses lined the water front on both sides of the river and on Watson's Island."

"The Cut" was where the train came down St. Clair (now Pennington Ave) from a spur that came off another spur that ran just about where the High School stadium area is. That spur continued out the center of Juniata



through the present-day North Park Trail and on to Conowingo Dam during the dam's construction.

You can see remnants of these spurs in the fields around the high school stadium. Another spur runs to Evonik Corporation crossing Juniata there. If you go out Revolution Street, you'll cross a spur just before the light at Lewis Lane. That spur continues southwest to the main



Today's remnant of train station



line. A spur to the old racetrack at Old Post Road and Old Bay Lane – now the Industrial Park - brought thoroughbreds and passengers during 1912-1950.



courtesy William Schweers

1862 – Construction of masonry and wood begins for the P.W. & B. Railroad Bridge replacing the need for the ferry

1866 – Bridge completed but in July a tornado damaged the wooden components. It was repaired and the first train began service on November 26.

1880 – Between 1866 and 1880, the wooden spans were replaced with iron spans and a draw span was completed.



courtesy William Schweers

1881 – Pennsylvania RR bought P.W.&B RR



1885 – According to the ©Sanborn Insurance Map of 1885, there was a train station located at Union Ave and Warren St (just about where the 7-Eleven is now)

1904 to 1906 – the present RR bridge (we locals call it the Amtrak bridge) was constructed.



1906 – Train station between Adams and Juniata Street completed by J. S. Rogers Company of Stanwick, NJ – closed in 1967. It burned in 1968.

1910 – The old bridge became a vehicular bridge. Called “The Goldmine Bridge” as it was bought by private investors and tolls were collected for their profit.



1923 – The old bridge was taken over by the State of Maryland. With traffic coming to Havre de Grace for the Race Track, the state added an upper deck to the bridge allowing two-way traffic (one way on each deck). It opened on November 29, 1927.

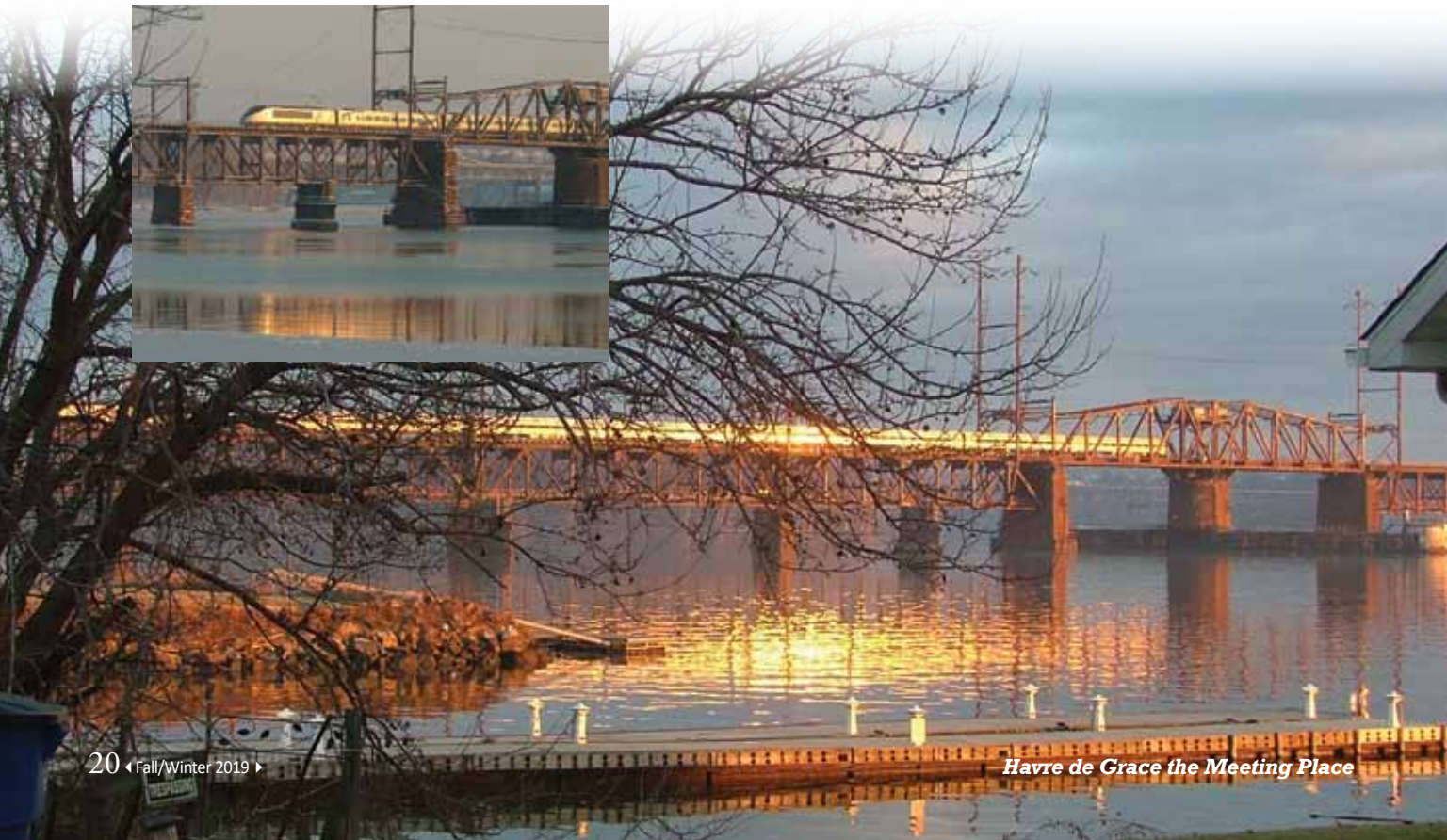




The abandoned piers of the old bridge can be seen when you're standing in David Craig Park.

It was used heavily until 1940, when the Hatem Bridge opened. In 1942-43 the bridge was demolished, piece by piece to answer the need for scrap metal during WWII. The salvage was used to create 60 tanks for the war.

This brings us to our present time and the future of the Susquehanna River Rail Bridge.





Today

The Northeast Corridor (NEC) is one of the busiest, most complex, and economically vital transportation systems in the world connecting eight states and the District of Columbia. As the majority owner of nearly 80% of the NEC, Amtrak not only moves intercity riders, but also provides access and/or operational support to eight commuter lines and six freight operators. Currently more than 260 million passenger trips are made on the NEC per year, a figure that is projected to reach over a half billion by 2040. As the popularity of rail travel soars, Amtrak and our NEC partners are challenged to ensure that the NEC can meet the demand for new capacity on this critical infrastructure asset, portions of which date back a century, and continue to deliver the safe, reliable and convenient service passengers expect from America's Railroad®.

from nec.amtrak.com

If the present rail bridge (*locals call it the Amtrak bridge*) is still operating just fine, why should it be replaced? Great question! There are several reasons. Let me try to outline a few, courtesy of a very educational interview with Volney Ford, chair of the Susquehanna River Rail Bridge Advisory Committee:

- 4 tracks in Perryville must converge to two while crossing the bridge causing quite a bottleneck.
- The present bridge is well over a century old. It has served us well, but needs to be updated to accommodate future transportation loading, frequency and speeds.
- The bridge must accommodate passenger, commuter, and freight trains, all with differing speeds and tempo of operations.
- A slow northbound freight heading up the river ties up all traffic in both directions for a half hour.



- The present bridge has a swing span that must be opened to allow sailboats with higher masts to get through. At present, you must schedule a time. It takes as many as 30 track personnel to undo the track, swing the bridge, wait for boat(s) to go through, then return it all, as quickly as possible. In the meantime, trains are halted or rescheduled. The cost is \$16-17,000 to open the span.
- A mechanical problem during opening and closing of the swing span would create a serious issue for the entire NEC (*North East Corridor*).
- Amtrak is building high-speed trains that will require high speed tracks and bridges all along the NEC.
- This bridge, due to its age and condition, has significant speed restrictions.
- The current bridge is very costly to maintain.

If you visit <https://nec.amtrak.com> you can learn more about the value of this transportation resource, present needs to meet future plans, and other details. I encourage you to do so. We want the best for the communities of Havre de Grace and Perryville, MD while, at the same time, we must be aware of the effect our local bridge has on the entire NEC.



Possibilities

The vision includes Two beautiful parallel fixed bridges, giving us 4 tracks to accommodate today's rail traffic as well as far into the future.

While the design is still in approval mode, Volney Ford, chair of the Susquehanna River Rail Bridge Advisory Board (appointment by then Mayor Dougherty in 2014), shared the Board's concepts with me. The Board is made up of people with expertise from Harford and Cecil Counties and even Richmond, VA. They have worked hard to represent our communities to gain the best solutions and present them to Mayor Bill Martin and City Council of Havre de Grace and Mayor Robert Ashby, Jr. and Commissioners of the Town of Perryville, as well as Harford and Cecil County government.

Since 2014 this Board and Amtrak have had several public forums and received pages of suggestions from many organizations and individuals. From day one their advisories, clearly explaining their recommendations for moving forward, have been offered online.

The resources will be listed at the end of this article. But I'd like to give an overview of the vision they've presented in their findings. In no way is it complete. Please visit the resources for more details.

The vision includes:

- ➔ Two beautiful parallel fixed bridges, giving us 4 tracks to accommodate today's rail traffic as well as far into the future.
- ➔ The bridges will be higher and much quieter, and a long, cable-stayed, fixed span in the middle will result in a channel opening two and a half times wider than it is now.
- ➔ The new bridges will create a beautiful gateway between the river and the bay.

"Closed deck means a solid, flat deck with turned up sides carried on steel beams. The deck is then filled with ballast, which is the stone that's underneath railroad tracks on land. Cross ties are laid in the ballast.

The present bridge is an open deck bridge with very heavy wood ties laid across steel girders. The advantage of closed deck is they can adjust the tracks just like they do on land. It will be surprisingly quiet."

✎ Volney Ford

- ➔ The entry way to the city at the corner of Otsego Street and Union Avenue will change dramatically. With the use of longer spans, moving the abutments back about a half-block inland, the curve of Otsego onto Union will be gently sweeping, offering a "beautiful, gorgeous entrance to downtown."
- ➔ The underside of the bridge will be much higher and with well-spaced piers it will offer a wonderful view of the waterfront.
- ➔ A vertical wall will run along both sides of the elevated tracks from the bridge abutments to the new high school. No longer will we have sloping embankments with all kinds of trash, noxious weeds, and heavy overgrowth. No more ugly chain link fences.

"We're still working out how to handle the two lane tunnels and street overpasses with regard to appearance and preservation. One of the advisories proposes a perfect location for a Marc Station just a block and half from downtown. There's currently enough public and railroad land to have 1-1/2 times as much parking as the Perryville Station.

To accommodate the possibility of a future station, Amtrak plans to spread the tracks in this station area. That way the high-speed train will be well away from the commuter platform."

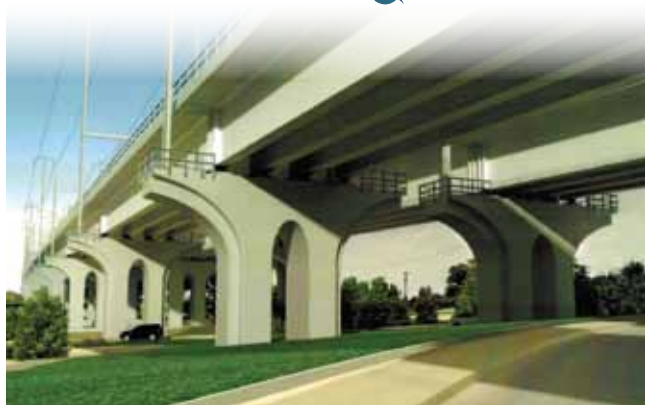
☞ Volney Ford

- ☞ The old piers from the double-decker bridge that are still in the water will be removed. This will clean up the river scape and enhance boater safety.
- ☞ David Craig Park is discussed in another of the advisories. It is proposed to be expanded to include an outdoor bridge history display. A section of the existing bridge will be preserved. Instructional signs will show adults and kids how the 1905 bridge was put together, how the components reacted with each other, and what all those pins, I-bars, and girders did.

"A section is proposed to be brought to ground level where you'll be able to walk up and touch it. It'll be mounted on hidden pins so that it looks like it's floating in mid-air. We'll also want to display the equipment that's inside the little house that's out on the swing bridge. We want to shave off the top two courses of the swing pier and set it in the park with its ring & pinon gear embedded in it. Folks will be able to learn how such a huge bridge span could be turned."

☞ Volney Ford

As you can see, you truly are going to be witness to history. Take photos, enjoy the present. Then watch the amazing transformation. In the meantime, if you're my age (74), I'm hoping to live to see these plans become reality. If you're younger, pay attention. You will be witnessing history in the making!



Resources

History of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company:

With Plan of Organization, Portraits of Officials and Biographical Sketches, Volume I & II

1865 • Publisher: Henry T. Coates & Company

The Story of the Susquehanna's Famed

Double-Decker Crossing

by Erika Quesenbery Sturgill

Nov 30, 2013 • Cecil Whig

www.cecildaily.com/our_cecil/the-story-of-the-susquehanna-s-famed-double-decker-crossin/article_c00a2562-57eb-50f9-b515-fcd99cc53206.html

trn.trains.com/photos-videos/hotspots/2006/07/perryville-and-havre-de-grace-md

delmarvahistory.wordpress.com/2014/11/21/last-train-to-havre-de-grace/

www.facebook.com/pg/delmarvahistory/photos/?tab=album&album_id=766745546730123

The Pennsylvania Railroad Station was built in 1906. The railroad discontinued passenger service to the Havre de Grace in 1967. A blaze destroyed the building in Oct. 1968.

nec.amtrak.com/nec-vision • www.susrailbridge.com/index.html

ADVISORIES by Susquehanna River Rail Advisory Board

havredegracemd.gov/susquehanna-river-rail-advisory-board/

MEMBERS of the Susquehanna River Rail Advisory Board

Volney Ford: *chair of the committee, chair of the Havre de Grace Planning Commission*

Steve Gamatoria: *a long-serving member of the Susquehanna Hose Company, Chief of Staff for the City of Havre de Grace*

Jeff Andrews: *general manager of the Tidewater Marina in Havre de Grace*

Steve Gorski: *a civil engineer with the firm Duffield Associates Inc., which has a branch in Havre de Grace*

Chuck Lilley: *Cecil County resident, a retired maintenance supervisor for the I-95 Millard E. Tydings Memorial Bridge and Route 40 Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge – two highway bridges that also span the river between Havre de Grace and Perryville*

Shawn Oliver: *a marine operations manager with the Vulcan Materials Co., which operates a quarry in Havre de Grace*

Emory Plitt: *retired Harford County Circuit Court Judge, Havre de Grace resident and ail enthusiast*

Ray Ryan: *Perryville Town Commission, an emergency response instructor for Harford County*

Thank you to our "Casual Historian" George Wagner at Bahoukas Antique Mall and Beer MuZeum for the many old photos used throughout the magazine.

Bay Breeze Soap ARTISAN SOAP BATH & BEAUTY BEACH JEWELRY CANDLES
 HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND WEDDING FAVORS SEASIDE PURSES SCENTED WAX BAY DECOR



Open Weekends

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Welcome to Our Neighborhood!

“Change is the only constant.”

↳ Heraclitus, Greek Philosopher

Our individual lives are proof of this as is our community. In those changes, we may be saddened to see something end or to have to let go. But change often give us much to celebrate.

To that end, I'd like to welcome a variety of changes in our community in the past year.

Openings/Re-openings



This year we welcomed Emily Yeatman re-opening **Les Petits Bisous** (delicious French macarons). Photo is previous owner, Wanda Boker, tying Emily's apron!



Two new art galleries have joined our downtown business line-up: Shawn Forton has opened **Unlimited Art Studios** and Mike Lust will have opened **Bearwood Designs** Studio shortly after this magazine is distributed.



Sunrise Rock Shop opened with JoAnn Teel and daughter Michele Connolly.



George Mullin & Dana Rowley bought **Vintage Café**.



Just recently, **Blue Heron Gift Shop** was bought by mother-daughter team, Lisa and Megan Moore. Hmm... seems to be a theme!



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Firsts for Festivals



The first **Fire & Ice Festival** occurred in 2019. It's going to be awesome in 2020.



Love did win with our inaugural **Upper Chesapeake Bay Pride Festival** where joy and acceptance thrived.



The first **Jazz & Blues Fest** was a success that we look forward to next year.



The Youth Commission of the City of Havre de Grace also had their first **Gravity Youth Festival**. We hope they'll continue and make it better and better.

I'm sure I've missed someone. But the point of it all is that – if you think you know everything about Havre de Grace, I guarantee you don't! Stop by.



Anthony Allerton



The Arc.
Northern Chesapeake Region



Joe Harter

Advocate. Educate. Participate.
Empowering people with differing abilities to Live, Work, and Thrive in the community.

We celebrate the inclusion of Joe Harter and Anthony Allerton in this year's **Havre de Grace Art Show**, presented by the Soroptimist International of Havre de Grace, a fine example of empowering individuals with differing abilities.



The **Susquehanna River Run** will have celebrated their 2nd year by the time you read this issue. What a unique race for runners and spectators alike!

A first that is taking place as I write this column: Havre de Grace is **TWINNING with Mumbles, Wales**.



Renovation Changes



The **YARD at Coakley's Pub** opened this summer to a lot of excitement. This fall will be a perfect time to sit outdoors and enjoy your favorite meal and refreshment!

Finally, there is much talk about the renovations of **The State Theater of Havre de Grace**. Rumor has it that they are featured on this year's 47th Annual Candlelight Tour. We've only been able to relish the small changes out front. Some have been allowed to take a peek inside. No matter – we're all excited to have it re-open. If the performances on the stage out front during First Fridays are any example of things to come, well, we're in!

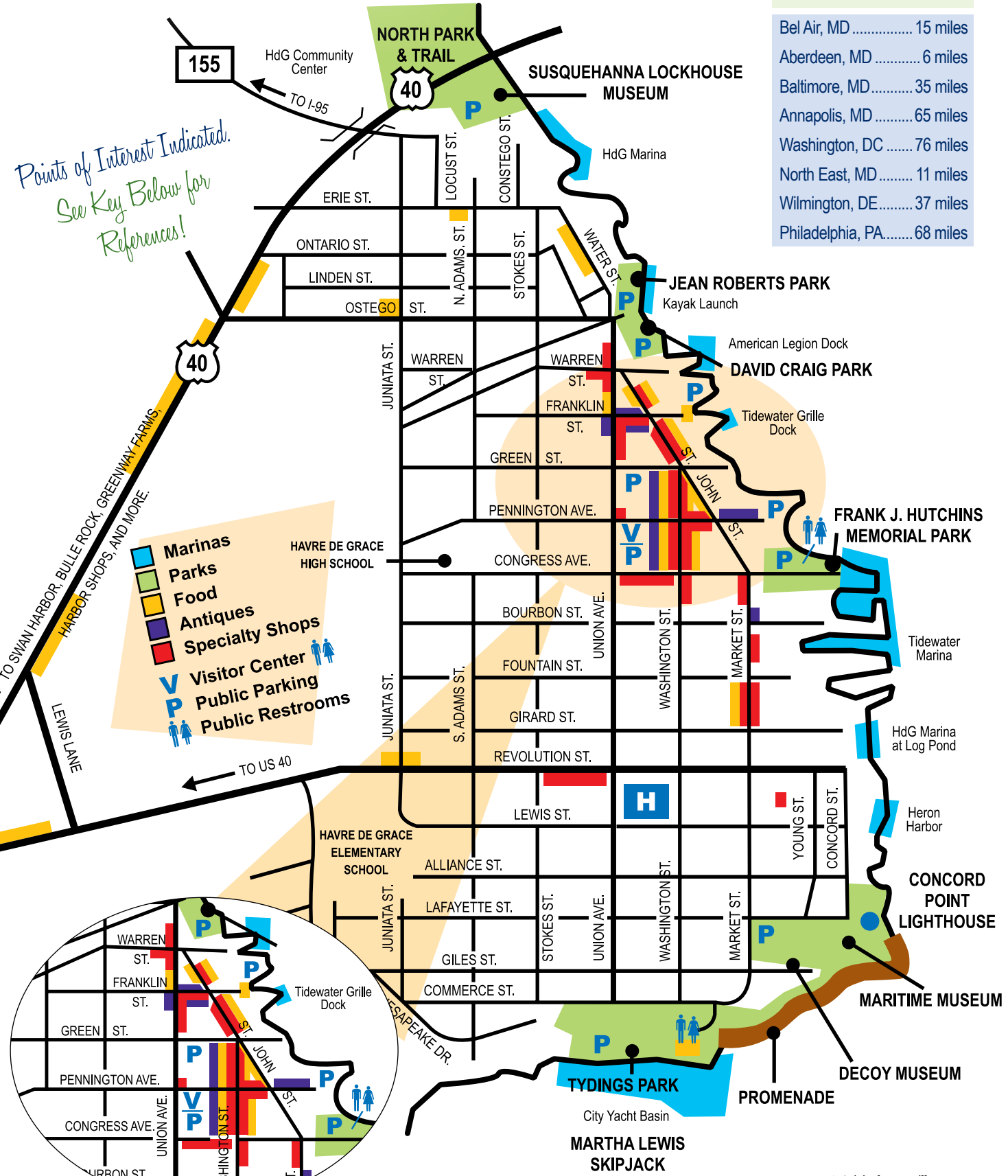


Welcome to the Neighborhood.

Havre de Grace, Maryland is conveniently located only one mile off exit 89 from I-95

Bel Air, MD	15 miles
Aberdeen, MD	6 miles
Baltimore, MD	35 miles
Annapolis, MD	65 miles
Washington, DC	76 miles
North East, MD	11 miles
Wilmington, DE	37 miles
Philadelphia, PA	68 miles

Points of Interest Indicated. See Key Below for References!



Havre de Grace Downtown Area

© 1996. Original Map. Bill Watson
 © 2006. Revised Map. Ellie Mencer
 Havre de Grace Magazine



2019/2020 Fall & Winter events

Throughout the season be sure to visit our museums!

MUSEUMS:

DecoyMuseum.com
410-939-3739
215 Giles St • Open All Year

HdGMaritimeMuseum.org
410-939-4800
100 Lafayette St • April-October

ConcordPointLighthouse.org
410-939-3213
700 Concord St • April-October

theLockhouseMuseum.org
410-939-5780
817 Conestee St • April-October

SteppingstoneMuseum.org
410-939-2299
41 Quaker Bottom Rd • April-October

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A family-friendly, festive celebration on closed downtown streets. Bands performing on every block, café seating at our restaurants, food trucks, merchandise vendors, store specials, kids zone, classic car show, and more. • 5-9:30

October

Bingo

Oct 1 • Tuesday • 5:30-10pm

Jos. L David American Legion Post #47 • 501 St. John St.
Doors Open at 5:30. Early Bird Starts at 6:30pm. Bring non-perishable canned goods and receive ONE extra special game of your choice. All proceeds benefit the Auxiliary Unit 47 Veterans Programs. NOTE: Bingo is canceled if Harford County Schools close due to inclement weather.
410-939-0234

First Friday

Oct 4 • Friday • 5-9:30pm

A family-friendly, festive celebration on closed downtown streets. Bands performing on every block, café seating at our restaurants, food trucks, merchandise vendors, store specials, kids zone, classic car show, and more.

410-939-2100

explorehavredegrace.com

First Friday at the Legion

Oct 4 • Friday • 5-8pm

Great Food at the American Legion Hall
Main Hall – 501 St. John St
Pit Beef, Pit Ham, Pit Turkey Steamed Shrimp, Boardwalk Fries Beer, Sodas, Wine, Water

Swingin' in the Barn

Oct 4 • Friday • 7-10pm

461 Quaker Bottom Rd.
Join us for a night of Swing Dancing in our beautiful Carriage Barn! We'll start with a dance lesson at 7pm, instructed by Christine Zukor (included). Live music from 8-10pm with Baltimore's own Tongue in Cheek band!
Tickets: \$15 for adults, kids ages 12 & under are FREE!
Space is limited, so get your tickets soon!

410-939-2299

Oktoberfest

Oct 5 • Saturday • 9am-3pm

American Legion Post 47 • 501 St. John St
Arts, Crafts, and Vendor show along with German food, beverages, and music. 410-939-0234

Community Concert Choir of Baltimore

Oct 5 • Saturday • 3pm

Havre de Grace United Methodist Church
101 S. Union Avenue
Featuring Dr. Marco K. Merrick, Founding Director.
Proceeds from this evening will be shared between Les Charmantes, Havre de Grace Colored School Foundation, and Hosanna School Museum. TICKETS: \$25

www.hdgcoloredschool.net

Havre de Haunts Tours

Oct 5 - 26 • Fri & Sat • 7:00-8:30 pm

Enjoy this much anticipated event. Take a guided ghostly walking tour of historic Havre de Grace and learn about the ghosts that haunt many of the buildings. Tours are 1.5 hours long and go out rain or shine.

443-243-5836

Havre de Grace OKTOBERFEST

Oct 12 • Saturday • Noon-7 pm

HUTCHINS PARK • Foot of Congress Ave
Enjoy authentic German food, beer, and wine, while listening to German music. Kid Zone includes games, pumpkin painting, and a moon bounce. Shop the many unique merchandise vendors. FREE admission
Rain Date: Oct 13

410-939-2100

explorehavredegrace.com

Palm Tree Delighting Ceremony and Deck Party

Oct 12 • Saturday • 6pm

American Legion Post 47 • 501 St. John St.

410-939-0234

Dead of Night Paranormal Investigators

An Evening of Discovery

Oct 12 • Saturday • 9-11pm

Bahoukas Antique Mall • 408 N. Union Avenue
Enjoy an evening with friends while George shares stories & history of some of Havre de Grace's haunted buildings; then join 5 investigators as they share earlier experiences and see what new ones might occur during the evening. Limited to 20 participants. Adults: \$15 Children: \$10 (no one under 10)
Call 410-942-1290 to reserve your spaces.

Spooktacular Halloween Party

Oct 26 • Saturday • 8-midnight

American Legion Post 47 • 501 St. John St
Ghosts, witches, ghouls, and more will be out in costume for the bewitching hours. Light fare, music, fun, and more.

410-939-0234

Trunk or Treat

Oct 26 • Saturday • 5pm

A free & safe event for families to go from parked car to parked car and receive candy or a non-food item from each car. Kids wear their costumes, visit the decorated cars, fill up on candy, and enjoy a night of family fun.

Havre de Grace Housing Authority

410-939-2037

Howl-O-Ween Tails & Treats Pet Fest

Oct 27 • Sunday

Concord Point Lighthouse • 700 Commerce St. Bring your best-dressed pets and compete in the pet costume parade. Prizes for best costumes! Vendors and games for pets & children!

410-939-3213

Carve & Candy at the Decoy Museum

Oct 27 • Sunday • 4-6pm

215 Giles Street

Carve and paint a pumpkin with a decoy carver. "Trick or Treat" your way through the Decoy Museum, and enjoy other seasonal games and activities. \$5/child

410-939-3739



Havre de Grace Halloween Parade

Oct 30 • Wednesday • 6pm

Registration 6:00, the parade begins at 6:30. FREE Presented by the HdG Recreation Committee. Meet at the corner of Washington Street and Congress Ave. dressed in costume. Come early or stay late... Trick or Treat in participating business from 4-8 pm!

November

Bingo

Nov 5 • Tuesday • 5:30-10pm

Jos. L David American Legion Post #47 • 501 St. John St. Doors Open at 5:30. Early Bird Starts at 6:30pm. Bring non-perishable canned goods and receive ONE extra special game of your choice. All proceeds benefit the Auxiliary Unit 47 Veterans Programs. NOTE: Bingo is canceled if Harford County Schools close due to inclement weather.

410-939-0234

HHS Music Boosters Craft Festival

Nov 9 • Saturday • 9am-2pm

700 Congress Avenue
Enjoy some holiday shopping from local crafters while enjoying live music and pit beef. Support a worthy cause!

410-939-6585

Wreath & Vino Party

Nov 9 • Saturday • 3pm

American Legion • 501 St. John Street

410-939-0234

Veterans Day Observances

Nov 11 • Monday • 11am

Post 47 invites everyone to join us in the Veterans Day service at TYDINGS PARK, in honor of our Veterans.

410-939-0234

americanlegionpost47.org

Harvest Reception

Nov 15 • Friday • 7-9 pm

Arts by the Bay Gallery • 307 St. John Street

Join us at the gallery where artists will display new artwork, pottery, jewelry and showcase a new featured artist.

Refreshments will be served.

410-409-1336

www.artsbythebaygallery.com

North Park Trail Walk

Nov 16 • Saturday • 10am

Join Joe K. to walk this 1.5 mile loop. All ages, rain or shine, sturdy footwear recommended. Meet at the Susquehanna Lock House Museum. FREE

410-939-5780 or **4005**

The Great Havre de Grace Oyster Fest

Nov 16 • Saturday • 4-9pm

Havre de Grace Community Center • 100 Lagaret Lane
A community gathering to support local nonprofits. Food by Atlantic Caterers Inc. featuring: Oysters on the half shell, steamed/fried oysters, oyster stew, MD crab soup, old bay wings, pit beef, turkey, ham, sauerkraut and kielbasa, beef bbq, salads, sides, fruit, cheeses, dips, can beer, wine, soda, coffee and dessert. **410-939-2100**

Dead of Night Paranormal Investigators

An Evening of Discovery

Nov 16 • Saturday • 9-11pm

Bahoukas Antique Mall • 408 N. Union Avenue
Enjoy an evening with friends while George shares stories & history of some of Havre de Grace's haunted buildings; then join 5 investigators as they share earlier experiences and see what new ones might occur during the evening. Limited to 20 participants. Adults: \$15 Children: \$10 (no one under 10) Call **410-942-1290** to reserve your spaces.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service

Nov 26 • Tuesday • 7pm

Webster Congregational Christian Church
4100 Webster Road
Combined Worship and Prayer Service of the Churches of Havre de Grace to give thanks for all of God's Blessings and Love. More details to follow. **443-752-6957**

31st Annual HdG Community THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

Nov 28 • Thursday • 11:30am – 2pm

HdG Community Center • 100 Lagaret Lane
VOLUNTEERS: to help with meal prep and set-up, please arrive around 8:30am. Those delivering meals should arrive around 9:30am. If you want, please bring non-perishable goods to donate.

REQUESTING A MEAL? Call Don Osman at either **410-939-5412** or **443-243-7493**

DONATE? If you want to donate food or other goods, please contact Fred Wills at **732-614-6178**

December

Bingo

Dec 3 • Tuesday • 5:30-10pm

Jos. L David American Legion Post #47 • 501 St. John St. Doors Open at 5:30. Early Bird Starts at 6:30pm. Bring non-perishable canned goods and receive ONE extra special game of your choice. All proceeds benefit the Auxiliary Unit 47 Veterans Programs. NOTE: Bingo is canceled if Harford County Schools close due to inclement weather.

410-939-0234

"Light Up Night" Tree Lighting, Christmas Parade & Holly Jolly First Friday

Dec 6 • Friday • 6-9:30 pm

Festive First Friday Celebration featuring vendors, food trucks, and holiday entertainment in historic, downtown Havre de Grace. Parade at 6 pm on St. John Street proceeding to Washington Street ending at Congress Ave. Following the parade, Santa along with our Mayor light our Christmas Tree to welcome in the Holiday Season! Santa will be available to hear all of your Christmas wishes at Santa Land on Washington Street. **410-939-2100**

Keeper's House Museum Christmas Boutique

Dec 7 & 8 • Saturday & Sunday • Noon

Concord Point Lighthouse
Shop unique handmade gifts, unique lighthouse gifts, and delicious baked goods. See the Keeper's House and Lighthouse decorated for Christmas.

410-939-3213

Outside Nativity Scenes for Business & Residential

Dec 10-25

Share your beautiful Nativity Scenes on Facebook. Email your pictures to: englishqn@aol.com FB Page: Susquehanna Ministerium of Greater Havre de Grace. This promotion is open to the Greater HdG residents and businesses. Jan Biondo or Pastor Mary Whitehead **443-752-6957**

47th Annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Havre de Grace

Dec 14 • Saturday • 4pm

The Havre de Grace holiday tradition showcases the diverse character of our beautiful City. A fundraiser for the Susquehanna Lock House Museum. TICKETS REQ'D **410-939-5780**

Holiday Botique

Dec 14 • Saturday • 9a-5p

Dec 15 • Sunday • 11a-3p

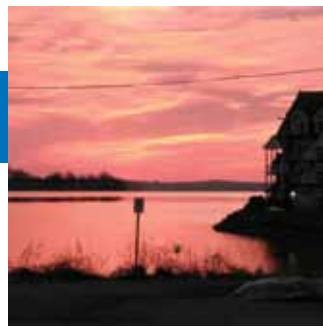
Susquehanna Lock House Museum

410-939-5780

Holiday Tour & HdG Decoy Museum

Dec 14 • Saturday

215 Giles St.
A Havre de Grace community event incorporating a tour of historic homes, businesses and museums decorated for the season. The Decoy Museum is always a stop on the tour, offering carver demonstrations, snacks, and of course, great sales in our Museum Store! Tickets must be purchased for the home tours. **410-939-3739**



Christmas Teddy Bear

Children's Tea

Dec 15 • Sunday • Noon-3pm

461 Quaker Bottom Rd

Petite party-goers & adults will indulge in hot chocolate, tea, scones, an array of tea sandwiches (fluffmutter & ham & cheese) & assorted festive desserts. A holiday story will be read & guests may tour the decorated Farmhouse as well as the museum grounds. Be sure to bring your favorite teddy bear or stuffed animal for this holiday tea. Tickets must be pre-purchased. Appropriate for children 5 and up with their grownup. Seating is limited to 30 guests.

Allergy alert: Peanut butter will be served at this event

410-939-2299

Annual Havre de Grace

Historic Church Tour

Dec 29 • Sunday • 2-4pm

Sunday Tour of Nine Historic Churches.

START at HdG United Methodist Church, 101 S. Union Avenue. Email: pastormormanobenshain@gmail.com

410-939-2464

New Year's Eve Bash

Dec 31 • Tuesday • 8:00 pm

American Legion Post 47

501 St. John St.

Don't miss our annual New Year's Eve Celebration to bring in 2020. More details to follow.

410-939-0234

New Year's Eve Duck Drop

& Fireworks

Dec 31 • Tuesday • 10pm-1am

Concord Point Park

Begin the countdown to 2020 by enjoying our annual celebration. Ring in the New Year by dancing outdoors to music by our local DJ while watching our Duck Drop.

email: info@explorehavredegrace.com

410-939-2100

JAN 2020

Ellsworth B. Shank Lecture Series

Jan 15 • Wednesday • 7pm

Speaker to be announced

Held at the Cultural Center at the Opera House

121 N. Union Avenue

presented by the Susquehanna Lock House Museum

443-502-2005

Havre de Grace Ice Festival

Jan 18-19 • Saturday & Sunday

Browse through historic downtown to see beautifully lit ice sculptures throughout the downtown area and a wide array of things to do and see both days including live ice-carving demonstrations. More details to come.

Sponsored by the HdG Alliance

FEB 2020

Ellsworth B. Shank Lecture Series

Feb 12 • Wednesday • 7pm

Speaker to be announced

Held at the Cultural Center at the Opera House

121 N. Union Avenue

presented by the Susquehanna Lock House Museum

443-502-2005

MAR 2020

Ellsworth B. Shank Lecture Series

March 4 • Wednesday • 7pm

Speaker to be announced

Held at the Cultural Center at the Opera House

121 N. Union Avenue

presented by the Susquehanna Lock House Museum

443-502-2005

Mardi Gras Parade

Details to be announced

explorehavredegrace.com

havredegracemagazine.com

APR 2020

Lock House Craft Beer & Wine Festival

Apr 18 • Saturday • 1-5pm

817 Conestogo

presented by the Susquehanna Lock House Museum

410-939-5780

To Stay Up-to-date visit: **HavredeGraceMagazine.com** and **FB@HdGMag** and **ExploreHavredeGrace.com** or **FB@explorehavredegrace**



Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

Open Year-Round

Monday - Saturday 10:30 am - 4:30 pm • Sunday 12 - 4 pm

215 Giles Street

410.939.3739 • DecoyMuseum.com

A quality collection of furniture, glassware, pottery, etc. in 20,000 sq. ft. historic building

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410.942.0701
201 St. John Street • Havre de Grace, MD 21078

The Road Trip Masters Visit Havre de Grace

Road trip with teachers, Nick and Brian in their 1968 drop top Cadillac.

Touring Americana like you've never seen before, this duo takes you along for the ride as they get up close and personal with the awesome people and places that make this nation rock.

from www.roadtripmasters.com



Brian, John & Susan Muldoon, Nick

You may have seen it on the streets in late June 2019 – the gold 1968 drop top Cadillac! It's a classic, seen a lot of miles, and carries two genuine humans – Nick Kessler and Brian Fulmer, co-hosts of the Road Trip Masters! I had the opportunity to chat with them during the reception at the Vandiver Inn, where they stayed.

I chuckle when I think about the gold Cadillac because Brian made it a point to take me out to photograph the well-used interior, held together with a lot of duct tape. Like a farmer bragging about his ancient tractor still able to work the field, these guys love their transportation! (*and pray a good deal that she keeps running...*)



Interior of the 1968 drop top Cadillac where Nick & Brian have found front row seats to modern America.

From this wonderful conversation, this quote sums up their purpose:

...what [we learned was that] we felt more comfortable with the small towns. They're so rich in history. So many unique things to see – the people are incredible. We wanted to give the small guy a voice – a bigger voice. We want to showcase their community.

They do it well. During their four busy days in town, they visited Vandiver Inn, Backfin Blues – Creole de Graw, Joey Jobs Decoy Shop, plus the Decoy Museum and Concord Point Lighthouse. They hoped to go fishing with Captain Steve Lay, enjoy the Sailboat Races with Betty and Al Caffo, plus whatever they might squeeze in between these interviews. Three young men traveled with them to film the program, hustling here, there, and truly everywhere to catch those special moments. I wish I had more space to write about them. Every member of this group was polite, friendly, and eager to get to know everyone they could fit into their schedule.

Doppelganger

As soon as I met Nick, I had to tell him that he had a twin – a doppelganger – that lived right here in Havre de Grace. I managed to get in touch with Bill Putland and he met Nick during a gathering at The Yard at Coakley's Pub. What's really interesting is that, not only do they look alike, but Bill is a builder and works with wood. They both have amazing smiles. This was a fun 'extra' to their visit.



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Preparing for a crab feast with some locals at Coakley's Pub.

Just who are these guys – Nick and Brian – who co-host the program? Family guys. Nick is married with two teenage sons. Brian is married with two six year old twins. Teachers from small towns. Travelers. History buffs. Brian teaches Special Education and Nick teaches woodworking and engineering in plastics. Both teach in the Parkland Area School District (Allentown, PA). Road Trip Masters is their summer project. September – they're back in school.

Where to watch their programs:

Season 3 – summer of 2019 – will be available on the **Discovery Channel** beginning April 2020.

This fall the Road Trip Masters will be available on **Amazon Prime**.

You can follow their adventures on their website:

www.roadtripmasters.com

and on their Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/roadtripmasterstv 

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NORTH TO FREEDOM.



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www.RFLackeybooks.com



Art Feeds the Soul

Fall is a beautiful time to stroll the streets catching a glimpse of the amazing art sprinkled throughout our city.

Local photographer, **Malgorzata Baker**, with her stunning captures entices you to search them out.

Then visit our galleries, studios, and the many boutiques that carry art.

Visit her at [facebook.com/MBAKERphotos](https://www.facebook.com/MBAKERphotos)



Lodge Lane, looking south of Pennington



Wall Mural 200 block of Market St depicting "The Grow"

Warren St near Juniata





Wall Mural on the 300 Block of Green Street



Brothel Mural at the 200 block of Market St



Undersea Mural viewable at the bottom of 155 as you drive under Route 40.



Panels adorning the side of the Maritime Museum



Seen from 7-Eleven at Union & Warren St



Statue of Lafayette on the Corner of Union Avenue & St. John Street



Veterans Memorial in Tydings Park



*VFW Post 8126 - 300 N Lodge Lane
(behind Lyon's Pharmacy)*



"Big Fish, School of Fish" Sculpture in Concord Park



Gold Star Family Memorial Monument in Concord Park

Meet the Artists:

Wall Mural in 300 block of Green Street, Several wall murals on 100 Block of Market Street / Under the Hatem Bridge on Rt 155 near Route 40.



Ezra's son River putting the finishing touches on the Winners Circle

- **EZRA BERGER** – local artist/muralist – Fine artist and Muralist. Not only has he created beautiful wall murals, but there are many businesses who have had the pleasure of his creative and colorful murals inside!
www.facebook.com/ezraberger

Old RR Station wall on Warren Street / Wall that you can see if you stand in the lane next to the Havre de Grace Visitors Center at 450 Pennington Avenue and look south / RR Wall you can see from 7-Eleven at Union and Warren / VFW wall – Freedom Lane (Behind Lyons Pharmacy)

- **SHAWN FORTON** – a local artist/muralist – known for his sketches and paintings honoring local fallen service men and women, creates amazing wall murals locally and around the country, and has recently opened his studio, Unlimited Art, at 102 N. Washington St.
www.shawnfortonunlimitedart.com
[facebook.com/Unlimited-Art-Studio-1414310315373455/](https://www.facebook.com/Unlimited-Art-Studio-1414310315373455/)
- **Paul Santoleri** - a Philadelphia artist of world-renown painted the colorful wall murals on the exterior of the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum.
www.paulsantoleri.com • [facebook.com/pdsantoleri](https://www.facebook.com/pdsantoleri)

“Big Fish, School of Fish” sculpture in Concord Park

- **THOMAS STERNER** – sculptor who lives in Westminster, MD created this 600 lb. stainless-steel sculpture of a rockfish (or striped bass) is made up of 557 little rockfish for the Havre de Grace Public Art Committee
[facebook.com/thomas.sterner.16](https://www.facebook.com/thomas.sterner.16)
[facebook.com/havredegracepublicart](https://www.facebook.com/havredegracepublicart)

GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT

Hershel Woody Williams Congressional Medal of Honor Education Foundation, Inc. - *from their website*

The purpose of the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument is to honor Gold Star Families, preserve the memory of the fallen, and stand as a stark reminder that Freedom is not free. This stunning black granite monument features two sides. One side bears the words: Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, a tribute to Gold Star Families and Relatives who have sacrificed a Loved One for our Freedom. The other side tells a story through the four granite panels: Homeland, Family, Patriot, and Sacrifice. The scenes on each panel are a reflection of each community's Gold Star Families and their fallen Heroes. At the center of this tribute is the most distinct feature of the monument, the cut out which represents the Loved One who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the name of Freedom.



www.mohf.org/monument-overview.html

LAFAYETTE STATUE

St. John and Union Ave, sculpted by Gary Siegel with the New Arts Foundry in Baltimore, 1976

www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/harford/aegis/ph-ag-hdg-lafayette-statue-20170623-story.html

VETERANS MEMORIAL

Tydings Park, originally built in 1917-1918

www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=39557



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When the weather cooperates, I try to have bands and a barbecue for those who are waiting for their turn for dental care. (*We couldn't last year because it rained.*)



What motivated you to create Veterans Day from the Heart program?

I came to this country when I was six years old as a refugee from war-torn Vietnam. My father and I escaped - lives on the line - leaving my mother and baby sister behind. Many young American soldiers - complete strangers to Vietnam - left their homes, parents, spouses and children, sacrificing their lives to preserve some semblance of hope for us. This is one way I believe I can pay that forward. I feel blessed to have the life I have now because of what they so freely gave, which often meant ALL they had to give. It makes me feel good to help others.

My father and uncles were military Veterans in S. Vietnam and fought with the American soldiers. In the US, there are more than 23 million Veterans and less than 15% of them qualify for dental benefits. We have our annual event to help those Veterans who cannot afford dental care.

Visit this link for more details.

havredegracemagazine.com/dr-chris

That was the beginning of our conversation. Then I had to inquire as to how he ended up working and living in Havre de Grace. Here's the astounding story...

Behind the Story.

In 1985 we lived in South Vietnam. We received news that after 1987, claiming yourself as a refugee would no longer guarantee entry to the U.S. Our family decided to move from our village to the seashore so that we could begin our plan of escape. Very carefully

we started paying attention to the boat captains, trying to determine who might help us. My father planned our trip while my mother and sister were to stay behind. My parents did not want to risk the entire family. The day came. My father and I woke at 3am for the scheduled boat. But we missed our boat and ended up returning home that morning. We later learned that all of the refugees on that boat died at sea due to a bad storm.



Mom and Sister while they were still in Vietnam.

We planned again for our second trip, got to the boat safely, hid in the bottom for 3 hours until the captain told us it was safe to come up. Within 2 or 3 days we were running out of food and water. There were 40 to 50 of us, really crunched up together. We could hardly move. Stranded on the open sea for another 2 weeks, some of us were so thirsty that we tried to mix sea water with sugar - that didn't work; then we diluted urine with the remaining water.

At one point the engine died. After a week, more tragic events occurred. I remembered one older lady who was sitting next to me became ill and died. A mentally-ill man (dehydrated) grabbed an axe and I heard people screaming, blood was everywhere on the boat. He was later wrestled down.

I was six. Six. Everything was very vivid - the sounds, the people, the sights. Everything happened right in front of me. We prayed for the older lady that died and then threw her body into the ocean. Later that night the wind picked up and it started to rain. Everyone was so grateful as we were so dehydrated. We never tasted water so sweet. We put out our hands to catch the rain ... and it was ... so sweet.



the dotted lines show the basic path they took to get from Vietnam to Philadelphia.

The following day, an ocean liner passed by and provided us food and water and gave us directions. We sailed toward Indonesia and were so excited when we saw land.

Suddenly we were surrounded by pirates demanding what we had. We gave them some gold for passage, some we swallowed so that we might survive when we got to land. We arrived in Indonesia weeks after the start of our voyage. We slept inside a church for several weeks prior to being transported to Singapore, Hong Kong, JFK airport in NYC, and finally Philadelphia.



**Reunited: The day Chris's mom and sister arrived.
His dad's smile says it all.**

We arrived in Philadelphia in 1985 with no money and not a word of English. My father worked multiple jobs and we lived in many apartments to get by. I did not eat much growing up. My mother and sister worked their plan to come to the U.S. later. They have their own story to tell. It was even more terrifying. With their first effort, they didn't make it and were actually caught. They went to prison. They were let out sooner, rather than later, because my sister was so young.

The second time they got to the boat but it didn't make it to Indonesia, instead they ended up in Thailand. Their experiences were even more than I can imagine. It was actually March 20, 1990 before we were all together again. My dad worked many odd jobs to keep us well while still sending money to my mother. As a result, I was by myself most of the time.

Share with us about your experience in the US as a young refugee?

Can't say I was able to have much of a childhood - that was hard. Not having my mom present to raise me and with my dad working multiple jobs meant I had to raise myself. I did with God's grace and mercy. In the beginning I didn't know the English language. But, in general, I met more friends than I could have imagined and most were very helpful. My "English as a Second Language" teacher (I was in 3rd grade) was incredibly helpful. I came here with one pair of pants, one shirt, no socks and just flip flops. My 3rd grade teacher, Ms. Stein saw that I was wearing the same clothes every day. She brought me two bags of clothes that no longer fit her own kids. Oh my God, I was so happy to have a change of clothes, something different to wear. I had noticed that it gets cold in the winter in Philadelphia! I was so appreciative that I carried those bags home carefully so there were no tears. I wanted everything in those bags.

In middle school, I remember telling my father that I would not let him down; I would work hard, attend the best University and make him proud. Through financial aid and many jobs, I graduated from Temple University School of Dentistry and attended University of Connecticut Advance Education in Dentistry.

To this day, I know that I cannot help everyone, but I know that whatever, whoever I can help makes me feel really good. Kind of paying it forward...

There is so much more to this family's story that we don't have room to print here. I think this closing quote says so much. During this holiday season, stop a moment and consider this:

What's been amazingly consistent about this country is that with hard work and persistence, it pays off. That's not necessarily how it turns out in other countries where civil liberties are compromised. Opportunities are more available and accessible in the United States. This country is more than its president, its congress or its politics. What makes this country so great is the whole package: its history, its people, the fact that we won't compromise on freedom.

Dr. Chris is married to Sunghee Cho who came from South Korea for a nursing degree, working in a hospital program that sponsored her. He loves gardening, fishing, and jazz (used to play the alto sax). He originally discovered Havre de Grace while traveling regularly to Virginia and decided to stop one day. He is another example of the many wonderful citizens who find their way to our community.



Family photo: (back from left) Sunghee Cho (wife), Thu and Quan Nguyen (mom and dad) and Dr. Chris. In front is his sister, Hai-Yen.

What a beautiful example of human courage, family strength and love, surviving and thriving, sharing, paying it forward and simple gratitude. His story inspires us. Spread the word – I think Veterans Day from the Heart is going to continue to grow in leaps and bounds.

Welcome to our neighborhood, Dr. Chris Nguyen!

Dr. Chris

Learn to Live & Live to Learn

As a young health care professional, society probably sees me as an inexperienced young man who has yet to live the harsh realities of life. It is hard for them to see that beneath the persistent smile and calm facade, there is an individual who has felt the weight of death looming over his head when he was only six years old.

My childlike innocence had disappeared sometime during the night my father and I tried to escape Vietnam on a small boat with many other Vietnamese refugees. We reached the United States months later empty-handed and began to build a new life in this country by working multiple jobs for many years.

Even through my tears when I look back on my life, I feel so privileged to have lived through such raw experiences because I have learned to take nothing for granted. Moreover, these experiences have instilled in me lessons of perseverance, strength, and courage. I strongly believe that these lessons will see me through future hardships and disappointments as they have brought me this far without letting language barriers or cultural differences discourage me.

I met Dr. Chris Nguyen (pronounced 'wynn') one day in passing by his office, Havre de Grace Dental Associates at 363 Green Street. He had been planting beautiful flowers around the building. Later that year, he called me on a snowy day to ask about advertising in the magazine. He happened to be at the office, so I walked up to chat.

I had heard about the wonderful program offered by the HdG Dental Associates, Veterans Day from the Heart. Inquiring more about this very personal project of Dr. Chris's, I learned a bit more of the story.

We started back in 2017, repeated it again in 2018, and our Veterans Day from the Heart in 2019 will be October 26th from 9-3. Our practice offers free care during this special day to all Veterans. We have served more than 40 in a single day!



Top Photo: Dr. Chris as a young student at Clara Barton ES, Phila. Bottom Photo: Port bow view of a boat filled with Vietnamese refugees, as the guided missile cruiser USS FOX (CG-33) (not visible) comes alongside

We work with Dr. Aaron Vafakos, an oral surgeon at Broadway Oral Surgery in Bel Air; and Dr. Gerard "Joe" Simoneaux of the group, Endontics, P.A. They are available for specialty work and accept referrals of our veterans. I'm very grateful that they are willing to volunteer their services to help our Veterans Day from the Heart program.

Many others volunteer to help us that day, including hygienists and other dentists. Without their support we would not be able to help the more than 40 Veterans in a day. We expect this year to be even bigger.

Dr. Chris has plans for expansion if the need is there. He'd love to see every Veteran who needs help in the area, to receive it. If you want to be involved, he's eager to encourage other dentists and support people to join this special day, sharing what he's learned.

Posters are distributed throughout the area, through the VFW and the American Legion, and placing ads with WXCX and 98-Rock.

Continued on page 36



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