

RiverTalk MD

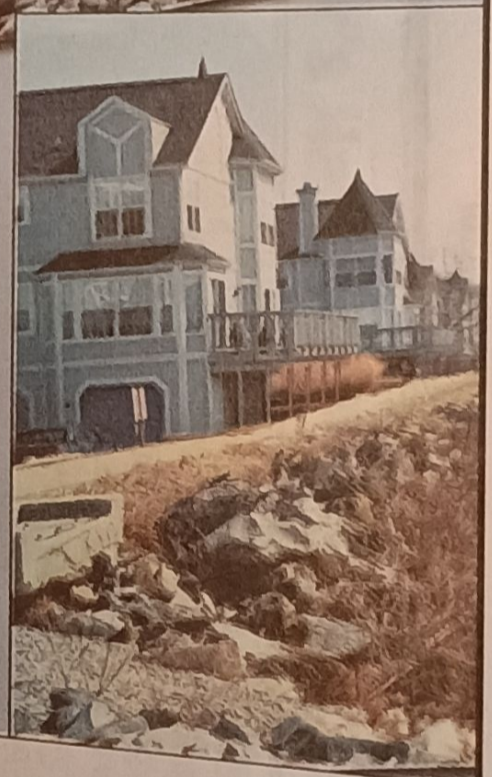
A Daytripper's Guide
to Perryville, Port Deposit,
and the
Lower Susquehanna Greenway

- easy-to-read map
- calendar of events
- local stories
 - A Perryville Haven:
Rodgers Tavern
 - 1860s Flavor -
Port's Candlelight Tour
 - Civil War Soldiers
In Their Own Words
 - Upper Bay Motorcoach Tours
 - Diamond in the Rough Success

Fall/Winter 2003

FREE

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Port Deposit VFW and the Perryville American Legion!**



The River Talks

You are now holding the second edition of *RiverTalk MD*. Developing this publication is turning into a great adventure. As I develop the network necessary to gather information and update the Calendar of Events, I am continually meeting new and interesting people and hearing wonderful stories. In the coming issues, I'll do my best to share them with you – the reader – whether a local resident or a visitor.

I encourage you to read the articles by Erika Quesenberg that I've included in this issue. She's well known in the area for both her writing talents and her solid historical research. And in working with her I've enjoyed her great sense of humor and enthusiasm for both the written word and the 'stories' of the area.

We all know the tourist season may begin to slow a bit now, but there are some very fine events worth attending during the coming months. There are a number of fall festivals including the *Darlington AppleFest*, *Autumn Fest* in Perryville and the *Fall Harvest Festival* at the Steppingstone Museum. These are wholesome family activities where you can also enjoy the great outdoors.

Of course, just traveling into the area to enjoy the changing of the seasons will be worth the drive. I will be very surprised if we don't have the most spectacular fall colors in years within the next few weeks. Biking, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking, sailing and boating are only a few ways to enjoy this most delightful time of year.

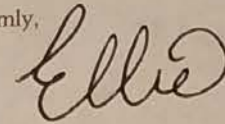
The Holiday Season offers a number of wonderful activities including a Candlelight Tour in Port Deposit, an old-fashioned *Christmas Carol & Tree Lighting* in Perryville, and the *Holly Tree Lighting Ceremony* at Holly Tree Park off Route 40. Steppingstone Museum also has their annual *Christmas Open House*. If you want to remember how Christmas used to be shared, you'll definitely want to take part in a couple of these celebrations.

And we all know that fall means winter chill is not far behind. If the season turns out to be anything similar to last year, I might suggest that the locals purchase new shovels, tune up their snowblowers, and prepare to put those plows on their trucks. But you have to admit, it makes for some great photos and fun times with the neighbors.

The area parks offer trails for cross-country skiing and great winter hikes. For the photo enthusiasts, there are many places to get some fine shots of winter wildlife and landscape. And the kids – well, they hate going to school, but they sure don't mind playing in the snow.

During the coming months, take the time to walk along the shore and listen to the murmuring of the River. As you read Erika's stories, think about what role the Susquehanna and the Chesapeake Bay played in our history. The river gave life to communities that depended on her in the past. And she continues to play a major role in our lives today. Reflect on your life as the *River Talks*...

Warmly,



Ellie



RiverTalk MD

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# Rodgers Tavern: A Traveler's Haven in Perryville

By Erika Quesenbery

The visitor to today's Perryville might look at Rodgers Tavern and see a beautiful, restored stone building with a welcoming front porch and an inviting tree-shaded lawn. But to our ancestors Rodgers Tavern was a place of rest for the weary traveler, a place of refreshment for the hungry visitor, and a place of education for all things politic in the nation's earliest days.



## Origins of the Tavern

Rodgers Tavern is a monument to America's early history and a reminder of a past way of life in Cecil County. Built in the early 18th century, it was known as the Ferry house and also as Stevenson's Tavern, before the more familiar name of Rodgers Tavern.

The Tavern was a necessary and popular stop for travelers on the east coast as the Tavern was at the eastern terminus of the ferryboat to transport travelers across the Susquehanna River, established in 1695. The necessity of crossing the river to get from New York and Pennsylvania to Washington and all points south, made Rodgers Tavern and the ferryboat service a very, busy place, indeed!

Rodgers Tavern was located on what was known as the "Post Road" between Baltimore and Philadelphia. Said one of the many travelers along this north-south thoroughfare, James Kent, in 1791, "This River is one mile wide here; a view up the river as we cross the ferry is very romantic, an island is just above and the banks are steep and rugged."

## Guess Who Slept Here?

It would seem that Rodgers Tavern should have kept the seemingly more appropriate name of the Ferry House, but the fame and import of the

Rodgers family who lived there and kept the tavern, was cause enough to change the name. John Rodgers raised and commanded a company of militia in the defense of Maryland in 1775. Rodgers Tavern with its strategic location on the Post Road prompted such notables as George Washington, Comte de Rochambeau and Marquis de Lafayette to tarry with the Rodgers family for lodging and dining. Indeed, one year after John Rodgers purchased the tavern in 1781, George Washington brought officers and troops to the ferry crossing on the Susquehanna he was abundantly familiar with en route to the victorious campaign against Cornwallis at Yorktown.

But it was not just the father of our Country who enjoyed the hospitality to be found at Rodgers Tavern. Other Presidents such as James Madison and Thomas Jefferson would partake of the amenities offered at the Tavern. The Tavern was known for delicious food and fine entertainment, not to mention its strategic location, which likely enticed notables such as Madison and Jefferson. As hundreds of canvasback ducks were the constant view on the Chesapeake Bay, this delicacy was the frequent fare

on the menu as well as the bounty of fruits and vegetables grown in Cecil's rich soil.

## The Rodgers Family

Col. John and Elizabeth Rodgers were a fascinating couple who did much to ease the travels of their many visitors, all while rearing eight children who earned fame in their own right. Ann Marie Rodgers married William Pinkney, a famous Old Line State orator and jurist. Two sons, John and George Washington Rodgers, became Commodores in the United States Navy, while another son, Thomas, was a noted physician.

Commodore John Rodgers' naval service was from 1798 to 1838. He was highly respected and became known as the Founder of the American navy. He served as a 1st Lieutenant on the maiden voyage of the *U.S.S. Constellation* and during the War of 1812 he is credited with saving Baltimore from ruin by the British. Distinguished military service in the Rodgers family began with John and continues even today.

## Saving the Tavern

Rodgers Tavern was operated during and after the Civil War until at least 1886. The erection of a railroad bridge across the Susquehanna River in 1866 would eventually put an end to the ferryboat service, and ultimately the tavern that relied upon that service. Train transportation rang the death knell for the ferryboat service and the heavy use of the old Post Road, as well as the tavern. The Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington Railroad stepped in to purchase Rodgers Tavern. So began a long period of deterioration, neglect and near ruin for the storied

*continued on page 4*

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## Perryville's Community Park...a world away on the bay

by Erika Quesenbery

It used to be when the Old Post Road was the primary route of travel between Philadelphia and Baltimore that Perryville was THE place to stop to relax, recuperate and rejuvenate before heading off on the next leg of the journey. But the only constant is change. As trains replaced water transport, cars replaced commercial transportation, and airplanes replaced trains, Perryville became a place you drove by and noticed signs for while traveling I-95 and Route 40. Much the same can be said for a number of small towns that dot the landscape on the extended borders to these main roads through Maryland.



and volleyball courts, and baseball and softball fields – a necessity in a town that has strong tradition of Little League sports.

The youngsters are sure to enjoy the playground and the picnic area. The pavilions are frequent stops for family gatherings or just a quick picnic in the great outdoors.

Perryville's Community Park is also available for larger events, for groups who would like to reserve the pavilion or other facilities. An application can be obtained and completed at the

Town Hall, located at 515 Broad Street, Perryville. Permits are \$25 with a nominal charge of 50 cents per person for each person in excess of 80 participants.

If you'd like further details or information on reserving a space, contact Perryville Town Hall or write PO Box 773, Perryville, MD 21903. You can also call Town Hall at 410-642-6066 or via e-mail at Town Hall@perryvillemd.org

However, the Town of Perryville should not be overlooked by today's traveler. Those who choose to see the signs and just pass by are truly missing out on an opportunity to enjoy life at a slower pace. Perryville has become Cecil County's second largest municipality and offers amenities that are, to many, a hidden secret.

Perhaps the best kept secret is the Perryville Community Park of 44 acres. This beautiful park offers breathtaking water views, as well as water access. It is a favorite for local photographers and artisans due to the sweeping panorama of views.

But those with fun rather than film in mind will find a reason to visit as well. The Community Park features tennis courts and the old-time favorite horseshoe pits. In addition, there are basketball

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December 6-7 • Noon-4:30 pm • Free

#### CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

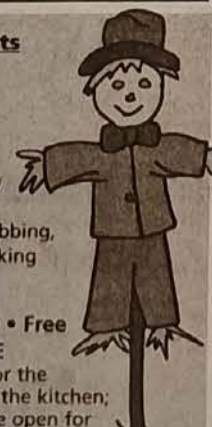
Historic house decorated for the holidays; cookies & cider served in the kitchen; music in the parlor; museum store open for holiday shopping.

For information on any of the events call 1-888-419-1762 or 410-939-2299 email: [steppingstonemuseum@msn.com](mailto:steppingstonemuseum@msn.com)

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## Rodgers Tavern: cont.

continued from page 3

tavern that had once welcomed America's founding fathers.

Finally the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities purchased the building in 1956, and the organization, Friends of Rodgers Tavern, was organized to preserve and restore the glorious Tavern. Rodgers Tavern was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. The effort to maintain the tavern and historical preservation continues.

#### When You Visit

Rodgers Tavern is open throughout the year during a host of community events in Perryville. The observant historian visiting the tavern should note the charming simple stone exterior. The main floor consists of two parlors, a public room and a tiny office. In the front parlor the original 18th century paneling remains as well as the impressive dated fire back which was cast locally at Principio Ironworks, dated 1771.

The tavern is located at 259 Broad Street and the grounds upon which it sits offer a romantic and breathtaking view of the Susquehanna River, head of the Chesapeake Bay and a view of the City of Havre de Grace across the river.

Rodgers Tavern also had a collection of artifacts and historical interpretation materials and is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 p.m., May through October (unless the facility has been leased out). Group or individual tours are asked to make appointments in advance throughout the year by calling 410-642-3703 or submitting an e-mail to [tavern@ximd.com](mailto:tavern@ximd.com)

It is also available for lease through the Town of Perryville. For information call 410-642-6066, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Details for the above article were taken from the Town of Perryville website: [www.perryvillemd.org](http://www.perryvillemd.org)

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## Perryville's Autumn Fest

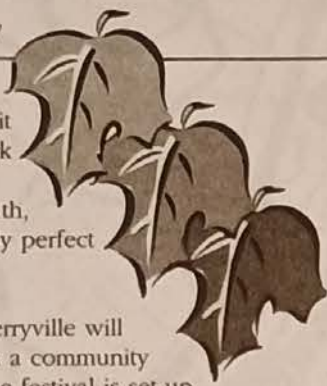
By Erika Quesenberg

If you haven't taken the time to visit Rodgers Tavern, mark your calendar for Saturday, October 11th, as the quintessentially perfect time to drop in.

The Town of Perryville will kick-off the day with a community parade at 10 a.m. The festival is set-up on the grounds of the historic Rodgers Tavern and will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors, displays, businesses, local organizations and artisans make up the traditional grouping of participants at Autumn Fest, which is complete with entertainment.

If you'd like to participate in Autumn Fest, or would like to attend this old-fashioned community event and need more information, call 410-642-3703.

### Mark Your Calendar



## 1860s Flavor at Port's Candlelight Tour

by Erika Quesenberg, Paw Paw Museum Curator

The incredible success of Port Deposit's 2003 Candlelight Tour prompted the committee to make it an annual event! This year a number of houses have been added to the tour, as well as town businesses and churches.

The tour coincides with the projected release date of a new book to be published by Port Deposit Heritage Corporation. Tentatively the title will be *A Snowball's Chance: The Lives and Letters of Snow's Battery B*. The book contains never-before-published letters and photographs of the men who served in Battery B, 1st Maryland Light Artillery, primarily from Port Deposit, the 7th District of Cecil County and environs during the Civil War.

The 2003 season of the Paw Paw Museum has featured a Civil War exhibit around these letters and the men in the battery. That theme has extended to the candlelight Tour with costumed re-enactors leading historic walking tours of the town on the Susquehanna River, the release of the book and other special touches.

Among these will be historic interpretation of a Civil War soldier from the area at each of the homes or properties on the tour, or an interpretation of Civil War related information, to tie-in to the contemporary use of the properties involved.

Port Deposit Heritage Corporation plans to feature such local notables as: 1st Lt. L.A.C. Gerry, Captain Alonzo Snow, 1st Lt. Theodore J. Vanneman, Jacob Tome and John A.J. Creswell. Members of

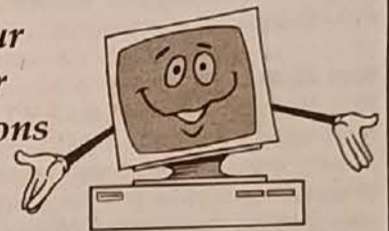
other Civil War units who resided in Port Deposit will also be featured, as well as some outstanding Civil War soldiers and veterans from beyond Port Deposit such as Major Ben Ricketts and Chaplain Joseph T. Brown.

Properties that have a Civil War connection but are not part of the tour itself, will also be interpreted with outdoor temporary signage, including Howard Chapel, the Tome's Landing Waterfront, Jefferson Hall side yard, and others.

The Candlelight Tour is scheduled for Saturday, December 6 from noon-6 pm. For information or tickets call: 410-378-0702.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2003-2004

*It is highly recommended that you check with the contacts listed when making specific plans to visit for a particular event, or e-mail info@RiverTalkMD.com.*

#### ENTERTAINMENT:

**CM Tugs** – Port Deposit  
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**Rendezvous Bar & Restaurant** – Perryville  
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#### SEPTEMBER

**Sept 23**  
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for LOWER SUSQUEHANNA HERITAGE GREENWAY.  
5-9 p.m. – location TBA – info and tickets:  
410-457-2482

**Sept 27-28**  
FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL & CRAFT SHOW –  
Steppingstone Museum, 11AM-5PM, scarecrow  
making, crafts, country music, square dancing,  
clogging, apple cider pressing & apple bobbing,  
corn shelling, straw maze, baking contests, hayrides,  
food. \$ Call 1-888-419-1762, 410-939-2299 or e-mail:  
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#### OCTOBER

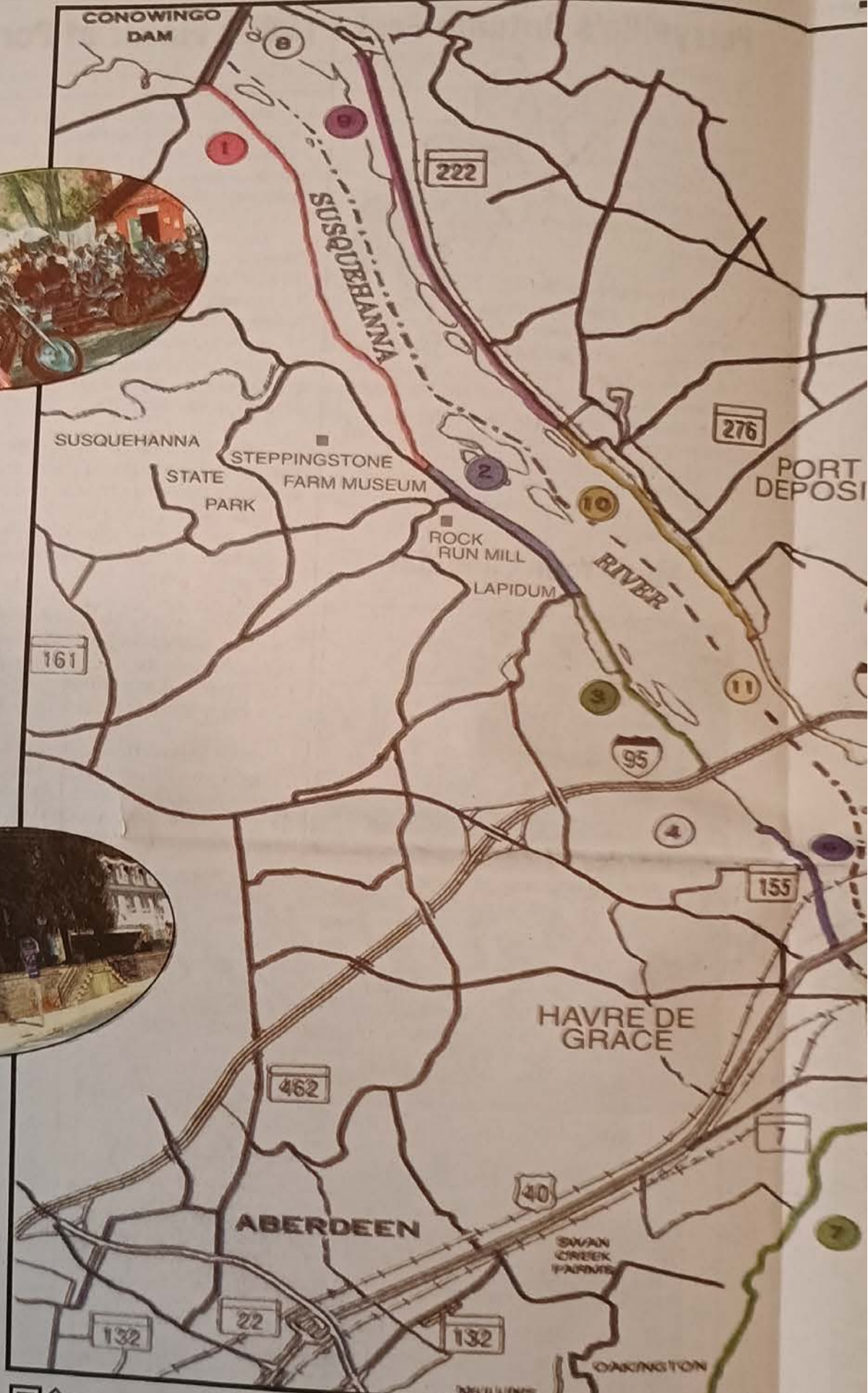
**October 4**  
DARLINGTON APPLE FESTIVAL – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
An old fashion day in the country. Apples,  
entertainment, country market, refreshments,  
ADA accessible. Takes place on Shuresville Road  
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to you at the 10th ANNUAL UPPER BAY  
ROCKFISH TOURNAMENT, held by the Cecil  
County Chamber of Commerce. Eager anglers  
will take to the water at dawn in this competition  
that finds successful fishermen plying their trade  
throughout Cecil's Many waterways, many of whom  
are especially keen on the waters at the Head of the  
Bay and lower Susquehanna River. There will be  
loads of prizes and cash to the winner with the  
winning prize increased this year in honor of the  
10th anniversary. (\$2,000 was added to the already  
\$12,000 top prize!) Registration Required: call  
410-392-3833. Participant Fee: \$75 – the even will  
kick-off and end at Anchor Marina, 36 Iroquois  
Drive, North East, MD.

**October 11**  
PERRYVILLE FALL APPRECIATION DAYS PARADE  
and AUTUMNFEST – 9 a.m. til 3 p.m. - follow the  
parade that begins at 10 a.m. along Aiken Avenue  
to Rodgers Tavern. Then enjoy the brisk fall air,  
autumnal splendor and tremendous view of the  
Susquehanna River and Head of the Bay as you  
shop the artists, vendors, listen to music and enjoy  
the food. Info: 410-642-3703 or 410-642-6066 and  
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*continued on page 7*



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
2003-2004**

**NOVEMBER**

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

**Nov 1**

**ANNUAL ART AUCTION** featuring live music, in support of the Cecil County Arts Council - 6 - 11 p.m. at the Rising Sun Banquet Hall, 300 Biggs highway, Rising Sun, MD. Tickets are available by calling 410-392-5740

**DECEMBER**

**Dec 6**

**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**, 9AM-3PM at Nesbitt Hall in Port Deposit. Info; email: [NSarason@aol.com](mailto:NSarason@aol.com)

**PORT DEPOSIT'S CANDLELIGHT TOUR**, noon-6PM. Tour of homes from 1PM-6PM. Special events all through town. Info call 410-378-0702.

**Dec 6-7**

**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** - noon-4PM, Steppingstone Museum, historic house decorated for the holidays; cookies & cider served in the kitchen; music in the parlor; museum store open for holiday shopping. No admission fee. Info call 1-888-419-1762, 410-939-2299 or e-mail: [steppingstonemuseum@msn.com](mailto:steppingstonemuseum@msn.com)

**Dec 7**

**HOLLY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY** 4-6 p.m. will take you back in time to the days of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroads decorating and lighting of this massive Holly Tree, which was and to many still is known as the *Traveler's Christmas Tree*. The event takes place at Holly Tree Park - just off Route 40 at Jackson Station Road in Perryville. Follow the signs posted for the Holly Tree.

**Dec 14**

Participate in an old-fashioned Christmas Carol Sing and Community Tree Lighting Ceremony in Perryville. You don't have to be a resident of Perryville to enjoy this nostalgic event at historic Rodgers Tavern at 359 Broad Street in Perryville at 6 p.m. Carolers will be on hand to ring in the Christmas season at this beautiful 18th century tavern on the banks of the Susquehanna River. Info: 410-642-6066

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2004**

**April 2004**

**LITTLE LEAGUE FESTIVITIES and PARADE** - exact date to be set in January, 2004. Check the website calendar at [www.RiverTalkMD.com](http://www.RiverTalkMD.com) or call the Perryville Town Hall at 410-642-6066

**April 3**

**EASTER EGG HUNT** at Rodgers Tavern in Perryville - 11 a.m. Info call 410-642-3688

**May 2**

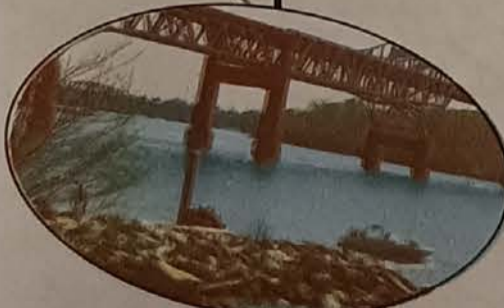
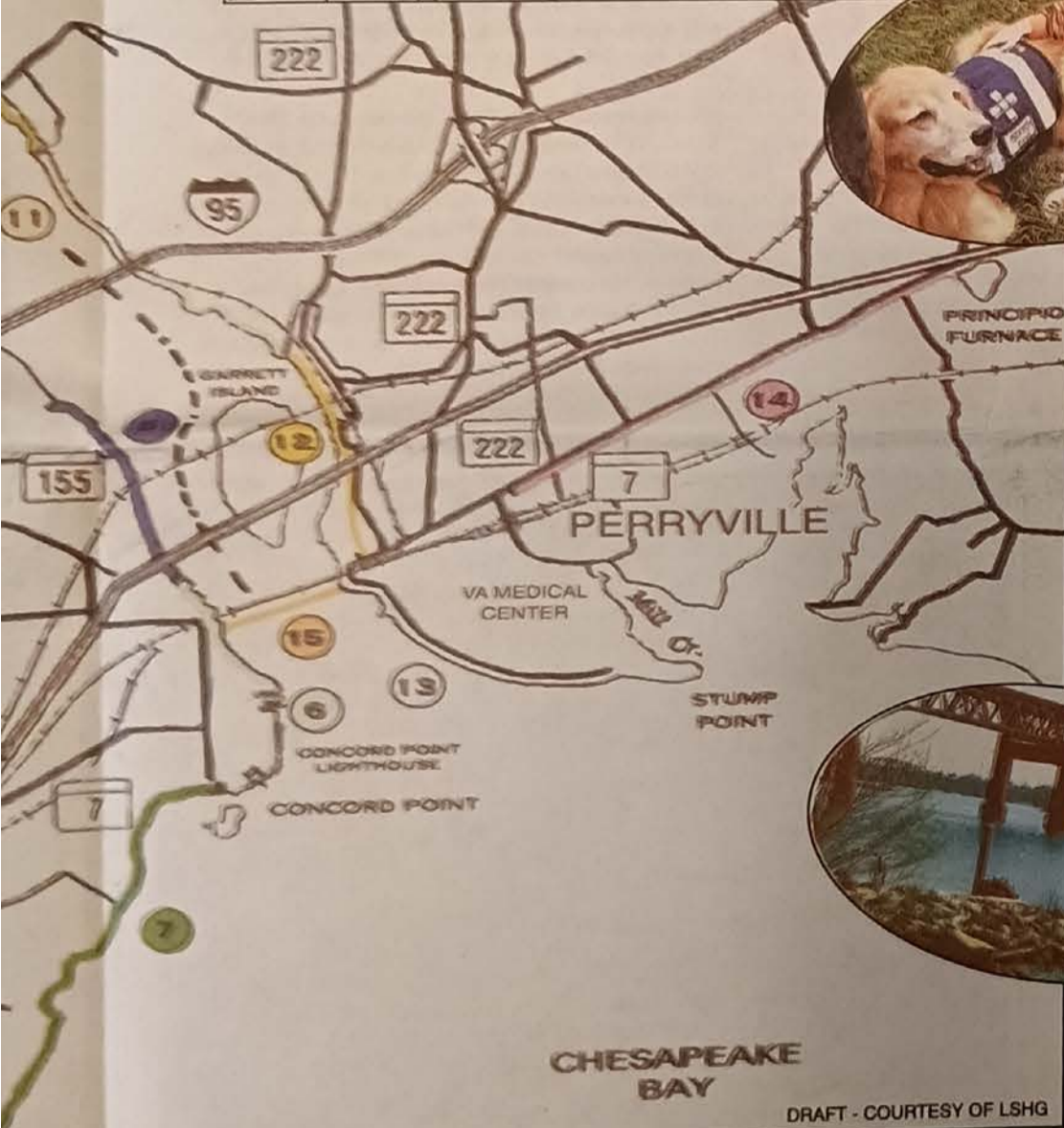
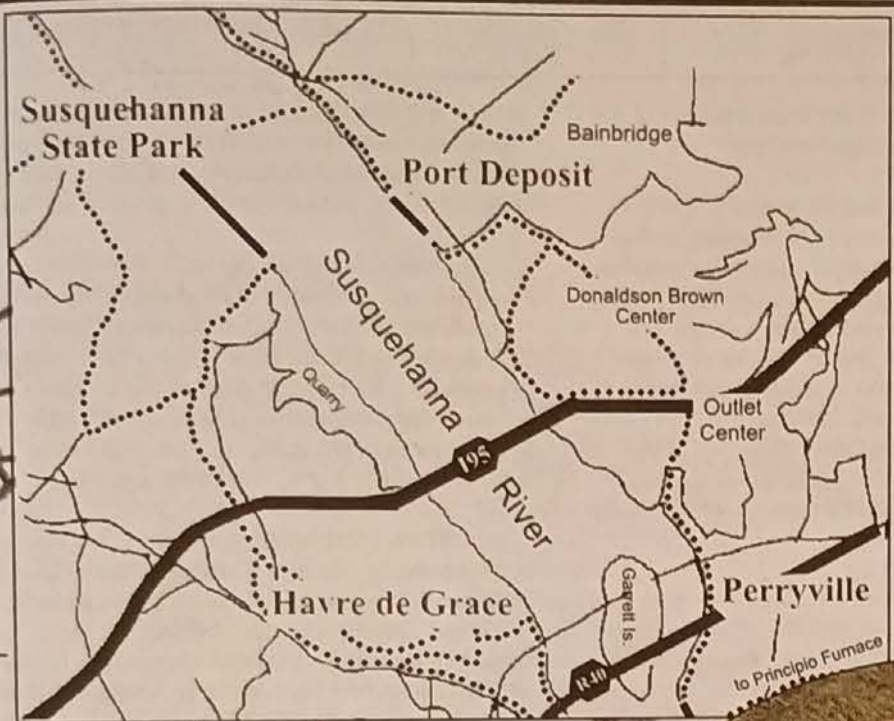
**HISTORICAL MUSIC CONCERT** at Rodgers Tavern in Perryville - w p.m. Free to the public. Info: 410-642-3688

**May 8**

**SPRING FLING** at Rodgers Tavern from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Enjoy arts, vendors, music and food. Info: 410-642-3703

**July 10**

**DIAMOND** in the **ROUGH TRIATHLON** begins at 8 a.m. at the Perryville Community Park. Info: 410-642-6066



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### Cultural Center's Upcoming Season

Ele Crossan hasn't missed a Covered Bridge Theatre performance since the group's inception more than 20 years ago.

She buys season tickets to the CBT performances for herself and signs up 12 friends as well.

"It's total enjoyment," said Crossan, who is also a Community Cultural Center board member at Cecil Community College, North East, MD. "It's a night out. It's a night of fun."

She said attending the performances at Cecil Community College's Community Cultural Center is more convenient than driving to Delaware to watch plays, concerts and musicals.

"You don't have to waste your gas," she said.

The folks in the county don't realize the talent we have in the county until they get here."

Being a season ticket subscriber - whether it's for CBT shows or other performances at the Community Cultural Center - is also a great value. By buying ticket packages, subscribers can save up to nearly 50% off single event ticket prices. For instance, as part of the Center 3 Series or Center 5 Series, subscribers pay no more than \$13 per show, even though tickets to see *The Four Bitchin' Babes*, a nationally acclaimed group, sell for \$25 if they are purchased separately. The subscription prices for CBT shows are still at 2001 prices, providing another great bargain.

Subscribers can pick any three events as part of the Center 3 Series and any five events as part of the Center 5 Series. CBT shows can be included in either package. Subscribers interested in catching all the CBT shows can sign up for the CBT package, which includes all four shows performed by the voluntary theatre company. Call the box office at 410-287-1037 for more details or to sign up.

In September, Wood & Strings Puppet Theatre kicks off the new season with a performance at 8 p.m. Sept. 26th. This professional national touring company uses puppet styles from around the world. They will perform two one-act plays: *An Ire-ish Tale*, acted with larger-than-life body puppets and elf-sized rod puppets, and *Out of the Mist...A Dragon*, which is a journey around the world of traditional folk poetry.

On Oct. 18th, Bay Street Brassworks will per-

form at the Community Cultural Center at 8 p.m. The quintet members met at the world-renowned Peabody Institute in Baltimore and play a variety of styles of music, including blues, classical and jazz.

In November, the Covered Bridge Theatre Company will perform its first show of the season with Michael Frayn's three-act comedy, *Noises Off*. This Broadway hit is a farce about a farce, which opens with a touring company doing a dress rehearsal for a conventional farce, *Nothing On*. Performances begin at 8 p.m. Nov. 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd and at 3 p.m. Nov. 16th and 23rd.

CBT's second production will be the December performance of *Salute to Christmas Radio Days*. The audience will go back in time for a special radio show and musical revue celebrating the great Christmas standards created during radio's heyday. During this second year of the performance, there will be new comedy sketches, radio commercials, and memories. Performances begin at 8 p.m. Dec. 18th and 20th and at 3 p.m. Dec. 20th and 21st.

In January, get ready for comedian Dan Kamin's two performances. His weekend residency at the Center begins at 8 p.m. Jan. 16th when he hosts an excursion into the art of physical comedy called *Funny Bones: The Comic Body Language of Charlie Chaplin*. On Saturday at 8 p.m., Kamin will perform his comedy concert, called *Comedy in Motion*. Kamin has created comedy moves for Hollywood actors in films such as *Benny and Joon* and *Chaplin*, so this is sure to be an interesting evening.

continued on page 10

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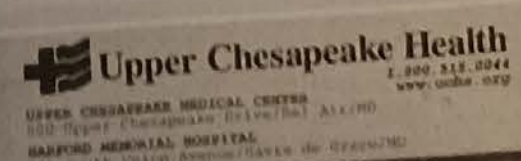
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## Civil War Soldiers Speak In Their Own Words

Fredericksburg – Antietam – the Lynchburg Campaign – Andersonville. All are familiar Civil War names to most armchair historians. But New Bridge, Malvern hill, Crampton's Gap, Harrison's Landing, New Market and the Florence Stockade might not ring any bells to the cursory observer. Likewise, the names of Alonzo Snow, Lucius Artabanus Cornelius Gerry, Theodore Vanneman and Chromus Alexander, obviously names of an historic yesteryear flavor are not likely to be recalled by many today.

Port Deposit Heritage Corporation is set to release their newest literary effort. Tentatively titled *A Snowball's Chance: The Lives and Letters of Snow's Battery B*, the book offers a glimpse of Port Deposit and the surrounding area during the Civil War from 1861 to 1865. Built upon a treasure trove of authentic Civil War letters written by men and officers in Snow's Battery B, 1st Maryland Light Artillery, during the conflict. The book goes beyond the letters to describe the tenor of the area prior to and during the war, the actions and activities occurring back home while Snow's Battery was in Virginia, and details the lives and happenings of the men following the conflict.

"It's been a long-time coming," say Erika L. Quesenberry, curator of the Paw Paw Museum in Port Deposit. Erika compiled the letters and wrote additional text for the book. "Years of research have gone into this publication and untold miles from bisiting Antietam, to National Archives, to the Union Room to pretty much every cemetery in the 7th District, not to mention cemeteries in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Baltimore and Harford County."

Erika's research has resulted in the discovery of the final resting places for many of the men, which is included as a listing in the book. American flags were placed over the graves of these veterans, some for the first time in decades.

"The lion's share of the letters are from or to officers, namely 1st Lt. Theodore Vanneman or 1st Lt. L.A.C. Gerry," Erika explains. "But I wanted the book to be more than a study of these two men, as amazing as they were, and to look at the lives of the enlisted man not just the ones with stripes on their sleeves."



In an effort to achieve this goal, Erika refused census data and visited cemeteries, Official Records, family histories and newspaper archives to learn more about the men in Battery B.

"Obviously there is a great deal of information about Gerry and Vanneman, as they were consummate letter writers and their descendants did an amazing job of preserving their family history, ephemera and other items," Erika explains. "People visit Port Deposit all the time and stop to read the signage at the Gerry House or the Snow's Battery marker."

"But it's not just the homes of Gerry and Vanneman that survive, it is their story pre-Civil War to G.A.R. reunions that is so very interesting," she states. The Gerry House is considered a signature property and is the most often photographed or painted structure on Main Street. It is admired by visitors during the Candlelight Tours. "I think those same people will find this book invaluable, Erika shares. "They will be able to hear Gerry speak in his own words about Lincoln, Stanton, McClellan, Fredericksburg and learn more about him."

The book is not crafted solely for the Civil War

Researcher. Indeed, every effort has been made to provide overviews of the battles in which the Battery fought to make for an easier and informative read for those who do not have an intimate knowledge of the Civil War. Further, the scope of the book is expanded to give an understanding of the tenor of events in Port Deposit, Perryville, Conowingo and Havre de Grace during the conflict. This includes the arrest of Maryland legislators, the great Civil War Mule School in Perryville, Lincoln's ride through Perryville and Havre de Grace to his inauguration and the projected exploding of the Conowingo Covered Bridge to hinder troop movements.

The 400-page book is going through its final edit with a publication release date scheduled for December 6th, the day of the Port Deposit Candlelight Tour. During the event the author will be in period costume conducting historic walking tours of the town. She'll also be available for book signings.

Those interested in this publication are encouraged to attend the Candlelight Tour to purchase their copy and have it signed, or contact the Paw Paw Museum at 410-378-4480.

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## Cultural Center's: cont.

continued from page 8

Gospel Explosion 2004 will kick off events in February. Come hear the annual event filled with two and a half hours of spirit and song, which will feature a special headliner. The concert begins at 2 p.m. Feb. 1st.

On Feb. 6th, *The Four Bitchin' Babes* will visit the Center to perform a concert at 8 p.m. These four well-known, contemporary folk singers – Suzzy Roche, Camille West, Debi Smith and Sally Fingerett – are bringing their sharp social commentary and four part harmonies to the Center. This event is one of the highlights of the 2003-2004 season. Include it in your Center 3 Series or Center 5 Series subscription packages and save almost 50% off ticket prices!

CBT will perform its third of four shows in March, when the volunteer theatre company puts on *The Crucible*, a drama by Arthur Miller. This 1953 Tony award winner for best play was created by Miller about the Puritan purge of witchcraft in old Salem. Performances begin at 8 p.m. March 5th, 6th, 12th and 13th and at 3 p.m. March 7th and 14th.

Later that month, the Celtic Festival with headliners Christina Harrison and Donna Long will begin at 8 p.m. March 27th. This music and dance extravaganza will also feature the well-known local Irish group, HeartSounds; stepdancers; and dancers from the Vinson School of Highland Dance. This celebration of Celtic musical traditions from Ireland and Scotland is performed by some of the region's top musicians.

In April, another premiere event takes place when the Community Cultural Center becomes the first East Coast venue to host the international Human Rhythm Project. To kick-off National Dance Week, the Center will hold the first Cecil Human Rhythm Project. This one-of-a-kind event brings together many percussive dance artists and forms, such as tap, clogging, flamenco, and Katak (an Asian Indian dance form). Lane Alexander, founder of Chicago Human Rhythm Project, will also perform an extraordinary solo tap piece. The show will begin at 8 p.m. April 24th.

The final event of the season is also the final CBT production this year, *A Little Night Music*. Stephen Sondheim's Broadway masterpiece, a musical comedy that won six Tony awards in 1973, deals with the universal subject of love and is set in turn-of-the-century Sweden. Shows begin at 8 p.m. June 18th, 19th, 25th, and 26th and at 3 p.m. June 20th and 27th.

**Community Cultural Center**  
Cecil Community College  
One Seahawk Drive  
North East, PA 21901

Info: 410-287-1023  
website:

www.cecilcc.edu/Community-Resources

## Upper Bay Motorcoach Tours

From Wayne Hill of Hill Travel

At the "peake of the Chesapeake" lies not only the origins of one of the largest estuaries in the world, but also the gateway to Maryland's Eastern Shore. This vast rural paradise whose history, culture, foods and people is all within an easy Day Trip for most of the population on the East Coast of the United States.

Hill Travel offers unique motorcoach itineraries featuring four very special areas: Cecil, Harford, Kent & Queen Anne's Counties. All of our itineraries feature a professional step-on guide throughout, group menus at a number of local restaurants, discount coupons for shopping, and tour stops that are guaranteed to provide your group with the best that this area has to offer. Take a look at the following itineraries (many of whom are easily interchangeable on a half day basis (i.e., Cecil-Harford, and then Kent & Queen Anne's), and if you give us a call, we will customize one (or more) just for your group.

**THE ORIGINAL:** Join us in Chesapeake City, MD for a short walking tour of the Historic District whose 114 restored homes (c. 1829-1859) were once used by those who originally (c.1820) built the third busiest canal in the world (The Chesapeake & Delaware Canal).

Then we are off to the C&D Canal Museum (home of the original "Showboat") for a very special tour followed by a bit of time to shop and then lunch (group menu available or on your own). Following lunch we will do a narrated tour of the world famous Thoroughbred Horse Farms (home of champions – i.e. Kelso, Norther Dancer). Then we go to the Sassafras River and a 1647 Land Grant resored tobacco plantation – Mt. Harmon – for a wonderful tour. Or you could return to Chesapeake City and take a Canal cruise on the Miss Claire.

**Cecil County Sampler:** Join us in North East, MD for an orientation, a visit to the Upper Bay Museum, a tour of the only place left in the world that still



eaves handmade oak baskets – The Day Basket Factory.

We could also do St. Mary Anne's Church Tour (c. 1699 – one of the oldest Anglican parishes in the USA), visit some of the 42 shops in town, and/or (for the more hardy) take a mile walk to one of the most beautiful sights on the Bay: Turkey Point Lighthouse.

All of the above could be put into a full day in North East, or you could add Chesapeake City in the afternoon.

**CHARLESTOWN:** settled in the late 1600s, this lovely little town on the banks of the North East River (opposite the town of North East) was the site of its own "Tea Party" and was considered for the Capital of the USA! This half-day program features two excellent historic house tours when coupled with lunch at The Wellwood Club, and can be mixed 'n matched with any Cecil or Harford Counties itinerary.

**FAIR WINDS EQUESTRIAN FARM:** A great half-day in Cecil County where you tour the farm and visit the indoor horse ring (with demonstrations). See and meet a real Hollywood wrangler and much, much more. Ask for details.

**PORT DEPOSIT/HAVRE DE GRACE:** On the banks of the Susquehanna River lies the narrowest town in the USA – Port Deposit, MD. Named for its river trade and better known later for the precious granite quarried there and used on some of the most beautiful buildings in Washington DC, Baltimore, and Philadelphia. The next time you go to NYC and go through the Lincoln Tunnel, look up! You guessed it! It is Port Deposit granite.

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continued on page 11

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## Upper Bay Motorcoach Tours - cont.

continued from page 10

Then it's off to the other side of the Susquehanna River to Havre de Grace (only 6 miles away) for lunch, a special tour of the Susquehanna Lockhouse, the Victorian homes on Union Avenue (we can go in some if you like), the Concord Point Lighthouse, the Decoy Museum, the Maritime Museum and still have time to shop. Taking a boat ride with lunch on board is an option and we will stop for homemade candy and ice cream at Bomboys! You could spend the entire day in Havre de Grace; and we have the itinerary just waiting for you.

**ABERDEEN:** baseball and/or military? We have a great half-day program for those who are interested in the name RIPKEN. We will do a special tour of the Ripken Museum and Stadium (plus the Academy) that will please anyone. Or maybe you want to see the Military Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground. This half-day program can be mixed 'n matched with any Cecil or Harford County tour.

**HARFORD COUNTY:** We offer two really great tours here. The first is **Wine and Roses**. Join us at Fioré Winery for a tour of the vineyards, the winery, and a special wine tasting with your own personal glass. This is followed by lunch and later a fantastic tour of the Mansion and Gardens at Ladew Topiary Gardens.

The second tour is the **Harford County Farm Tours**. Select from eight unique farms (i.e., Sheep, Dairy, Equestrian) with half and/or full day itineraries (lunch in between in nearby Havre de Grace). We even have a farm that features a huge "corn maze."

**CHESTERTOWN/ROCK HALL:** See the Eastern Shore at its best: Historic (Colonial) Chestertown and the Kent County waterman's community of Rock Hall. What an amazing look and contrast between these two unique places.

We offer a tour of Chestertown, a Colonial House Tour, add the historic Emmanuel Church tour. Then off to nearby Rock Hall for lunch at The Bay Wolf (wonderful!), a tour of the Waterman's Museum, and Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge prior to returning to town to shop and have homemade ice cream at Durdings (1809's original soda fountain). This is a great day!

**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY:** On the edge of the Bay sits one of the six original USA sites: Kent Island. We start at the Exploration center, go to historic Stevensville with period costume guides, and end up at one of the four lovely restaurants for lunch (even a traditional Crab Feast is available!). Following lunch, a boat tour is available as well as a visit to Wye Mills Grist Mill (oldest operating in US) and YES! Maryland Beatin Biscuits at Mrs. Orrells. This program makes a great day on the Bay.

All of the above programs make great day trips as well as overnights. And although we could not include everything, all you have to do is give us a call and we will design an itinerary especially for your group. Thanks so much for considering us. We look forward to working with you.

Wayne Hill

You can easily contact Wayne at Uniglobe Hill Travel, 130 South Main St., North East, MD 21901. Or call 410-287-12290 or 1-800-874-4558. Don't hesitate to check out their websites: [www.hilltravel.com](http://www.hilltravel.com)

## Riverside Building Gets Taller

You must have noticed by now. If you head down Aiken Avenue, you'll see a remarkably different building at the end of the street. Deborah George, owner of Riverside Market, Deli and Restaurant has nearly completed the addition at the time we went to press.

The first floor of the 3-story addition will be home to NBRS Financial out of Rising Sun. They'll be remodeling the interior to fit their needs and opening soon. Their business will most certainly be an asset to the community.

The 2nd and 3rd floors are available and offer a total of 9,000 sq. ft. ready for the interior to be completed to tenant specs. The convenience of an elevator has been added to make these floors easily accessible. The clock tower, clearly visible as you drive down Aiken Avenue, is sure to become a landmark.

The general contractor for the building is David George, who has hired a variety of local contractors for this project. Not only is it a much needed commercial property, visually a great asset, but for its tenants, the convenience of a gas station, store, restaurant, parking and located next to the U.S. Post Office makes it a great place to work.

Congratulations Debbie and George on a project well done.

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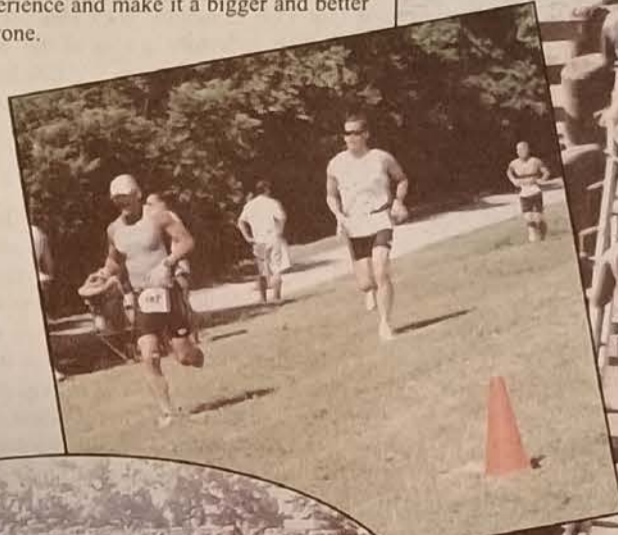
# Triathlon a Success!

from Town Councilwoman, Barbara Brown

The **Diamond in the Rough Triathlon** held this past July was Perryville's first attempt at a venue of this type. And it surpassed all of our expectations! On the day of the race 416 participants were signed up and ready to race. With 120 volunteers to work with the participants and sponsors, the race was on.

It started on time with a one-mile swim, followed by the 27-mile bike ride, and concluded with a 5-mile run. It was a great event for everyone. The volunteers were really impressed with the politeness and thankfulness expressed by the participants for the assistance provided by the volunteers. As one of the organizers, I was impressed with the many compliments of our hospitality and for having such a beautiful area for this great race.

It was an event that all agreed we want to do again next year. The date is set — July 10, 2004 — and the planning has already begun. It was also very easy to recognize that an event such as this brought lots of folks to our town and that in turn helped our businesses. It is hoped next year that we can build on this year's experience and make it a bigger and better event for everyone.



## Building Partnerships to Build Trails

The Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway is a certified Maryland Heritage Area encompassing a 38-mile radius along the Harford and Cecil County shores of the Susquehanna River into the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. Our objective is to promote economic development through community revitalization, job creation, historic preservation and eco-tourism. In order to achieve these objectives we are charged with linking rural areas to existing communities by the creation of an extensive water and land recreational trail system.

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