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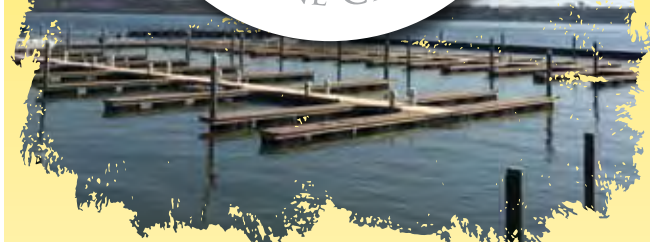
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Connor, Brandt, Molly & Juliette

Young families are part of a changing demographic in our city. For years considered a retirement community, we are blossoming with young families who often have entrepreneurial parents, adding a wonderful energy to our community.

Beth Laverick and David Minnon are perfect examples. Beth owns **b Scene Events & Promotions**.

David owns his own construction company, **Minnon Concrete**. At the time of this writing (late March), they have lived in Havre de Grace about a year. They moved here from Baltimore. Fun, busy, outgoing, and active, this family has managed to make many friends and meet nearly every business in our downtown.

As I watched their social media presence, I was intrigued by the effect they have made on our community. In their enthusiasm they have touched many people. More interestingly, they have connected with like-minded entrepreneurial families. That's when I started to realize how these families are changing our community and, I believe, for the better.

Meet Molly & Connor

MOLLY – Age 8 • 3rd grade

What do you love about Havre de Grace?

My favorite place would probably be the rock shop - sun and moon (Moon & Sea Creations). I also like Sunrise Rock Shop. I like the Joseph's Dept. Store cause I liked their toys there and they're like filled with toys on the walls and all over the place I love being on our boat, swimming, visiting these cool islands, and I have goggles so I can see these cool clam shells under the water.

Then Molly shared how she celebrated her 8th birthday.

I had a sleepover party.

First, my friends and I went boating to our regular island, swimming, and did some adventuring on the island. We ordered pizza. When we got home, I had a birthday cake from Goll's Bakery. We even went there for breakfast – they have the biggest donuts. Then we went shopping.

They visited so many shops, including Les Petits Bisous for her favorite macarons. They found rocks at Sunrise Rock Shop and made bracelets at Moon & Sea Creations. They shared a meal at MacGregor's Restaurant.



I like that we can do independent things and we don't just have a parent walking around speaking. We can just go to all the stores, check out what they have ... and it's really fun.

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Continued on page 8

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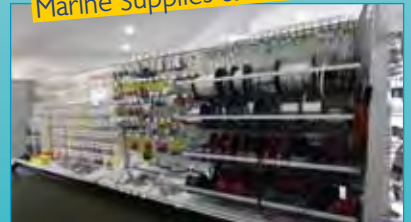
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THE EDITOR'S WALK

Havre de Grace ~ the meeting place!

Wow! There's an awkward slogan – or at least out-of-synch with our lifestyle today. I'm writing my editorial at the end of March. Like you, I'm sequestered in my hobbit hole trying to write of hope: returning to a life of gatherings, events, dining together, shopping, and browsing our local galleries and museums.



I can look down the street and see no activity in the early evening. During the day there are a few businesses open: Lyon's Pharmacy, Goll's Bakery, 7-Eleven. Most of our restaurants plus Sweet Eats Cakes are open for pick-up or take-out. Many of our boutiques have developed an online shopping experience and you can use curb pick-up or have it mailed.

Like each of you, I've also seen and experienced what 'community' truly means. I've watched restaurants offer food that they couldn't keep. Our American Legion Post 47 created a self-serve food pantry on their front porch. Every church, organization, business has found a way to pay it forward! Neighbors have been checking on neighbors making sure those who can't get to stores or may be on fixed incomes get what they need. Folks are still out walking their dogs. Spaced appropriately, they're enjoying our trails and the Promenade! The little Free Libraries scattered throughout the city are enjoying extensive use! The boaters are anxious to get out on the water. Hey, it's pretty easy to put space between you and your mate on a boat! Right?!

We've shared online education, game, and movie sites for all of those stay-at-home kids. We've learned how to search google for a recipe that can be made with 2 or 3 ingredients we have in our cupboards. We've shared many community locations for food and assistance. Those of us who are savvy online are sharing our information via phone with those not on social media.

It's a strange time. Not one of us is unaffected by CoVid-19. And it's frightening on many levels. But somewhere, deep inside, we also know that "This, too, shall pass." I can only hope that we will survive and thrive. Havre de Grace Magazine is published with every visitor and every resident in mind. I love our city and, from my first year here in 1997, I've wanted to encourage everyone to discover the many events, activities, parks, and businesses in our community.

I still want to do that.



We won't be told to "stay home" forever. When the ability to gather again returns, I'm predicting it will be amazing! A hugger by nature, although our social distancing may have become a habit by the time we're able to interact with others, I'm quite certain the very human need for touch and in-person communication will return. I, for one, am hopeful.

Strolling the streets during First Fridays will be so much fun, seeing friends and family after weeks of isolation. Sharing a concert, play, comedy show in one of our venues will take on new vitality. Browsing our shops and saying 'hi' to our favorite shop owners and sales clerks will feel amazing. Enjoying a meal with friends and family at our favorite restaurant or pub will most likely be a priority for scores of people. Enjoying the restaurant outdoor decks – and yes, ice cream! – will take on new meaning.

Once again walking the trails and the Promenade in easy conversation with a friend or two will feel wonderful. Listening to the children enjoying our playgrounds and parks will most certainly bring smiles. I'm guessing that this entire lock-down mode will make us realize just how much humans long to interact with others.

I'm thinking that every 4th of July activity will have a new sense of community and patriotism this summer! The backyard grills and picnics will be cause for quite a family celebration! Returning to church services and praying together will bring joy to our hearts.



Yes, I have hope. My hope is that through our present 'social distancing' we will have kept CoVid-19 at bay while discovering how much we truly do need one another. My hope is that we don't lose our connectedness. My hope is that we remember that we are all in this together, learning from this and taking that newfound wisdom into the months ahead. In the meantime, when we can gather in public once more, I hope you'll visit historic, downtown Havre de Grace and discover all that we have to offer. We'll most certainly be excited to say "Welcome to our neighborhood!"

Ellie

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Continued from page 5

Do you have favorite foods in town?

Macarons. I like to go to Backfin Blues (Creole de Graw). I love seafood. I love the grilled ahi tuna salad.

What events do you like?

My mom's. (Her mom owns b Scene Events with several festivals in the Baltimore area.) I like to see my friends at First Fridays, looking at all the booths, spinning the wheel at Jurassic Park stand.



CONNOR – Age 11 • 5th grade

What about you, Connor, what do you like to do with your friends?

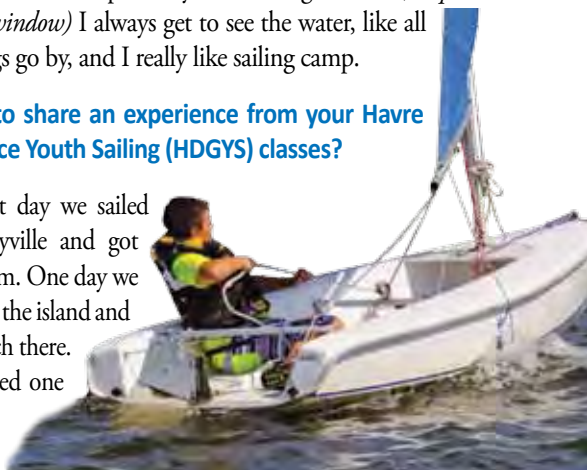
Go to the library. Go to each other's houses. Go to the basketball courts. Just... like play around. I mean there's a lot of things I like about Havre de Grace.

I like going down to the Promenade Grille, going to the promenade, go to the lighthouse.

It's really fun. Um, my favorite part of Havre de Grace is probably the view right there. (He points out their condo window) I always get to see the water, like all the bugs go by, and I really like sailing camp.

Want to share an experience from your Havre de Grace Youth Sailing (HDGYS) classes?

The last day we sailed to Perryville and got ice cream. One day we went to the island and ate lunch there. I capsized one time.



Were you scared?

No. I did get into a dilemma though. I capsized and couldn't get on the boat.

What did you do then?

Waited. There's always someone to help. Stay with the boat!

Are you in any sports?

Soccer. Baseball. Basketball. Oh, and GetFit Bootcamp. We go to get fit and workout. What I really like about that is ... at the end, they say, "We are..." and then we say, "Champions serving champions."

What are your favorite foods?

Wings ... barbeque at Coakley's. I might add here that Connor is becoming quite the chef. During the 'stay home' request, he's been really enjoying creating meals for the family.

What are your favorite Events?

I like First Fridays ... and Mardi Gras was entertaining. I like the Christmas Parade, making s'mores, and our own candy, ah, gingerbread houses.



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BETH (Mom)

Would you like to share any thoughts? You mentioned the parks, and that you think the State Theater will be an excellent addition. (They already enjoy movies and performances at the HdG Opera House.)

I feel like we have so many different options and ... it's really neat, too, that we're so close to North East and Chesapeake City and Port Deposit that we can kind of hop around to different areas and explore.

And I think it's a really great place to raise kids. You know, it's interesting with the two little ones, the one and two year old, the eight and 10 year old seeing how they're getting their take on what life is like in Havre de Grace.

And I think more and more families are looking at houses here because they again love the walkability, right? Being close to the water and having access to such strong schools.

Everyone looks out for one another here. I know that being a mom with a crazy schedule; I realized I was missing one of the kids' reading events. I was in a crunch because I had the babies with me and quickly I was able to drop them at Emily's store while she was baking (*Les Petits Bisous*). As another mom and business owner, she's like, I get it. Just drop them here. And they played at her shop while she baked. Oh. It's really nice that people have each other's back here.



There was a good deal more to the interview. Connor is becoming quite the chef, especially while we're all 'staying in.' Molly is taking after her mom and becoming quite an entrepreneur. Beth goes everywhere with her two youngest in their double side x side stroller. They're quite the little ambassadors. Dave has found a number of construction jobs right in the area, which he loves. This family and their friends are our future. I, personally, welcome them to our neighborhood.



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HAVRE DE GRACE

IN THE

Movies

Many years ago, a friend and I were walking home from an evening of dancing and drinking on the deck of MacGregor's Restaurant. As we passed Goll's Bakery, a few doors down we both saw a human form with what appeared to be a green head. I stopped, looked at my friend, and waited. She looked up and said, "Did you just see that?" I laughed, "Yeah! A guy with a green head!" Yep, we both saw it and thus concluded that we hadn't had too much to drink. The next day we learned that, indeed, someone was filming a scene for an independent, local production. We never did learn any more about it.

A number of shows have been filmed here over the last couple decades that you might recognize (*well, except the first one*). Film production not only brings the excitement of actors and actresses coming to our city, but it offers an economic boost. It creates a buzz, bringing folks into town to try to 'get a peek' or to just meet for coffee and talk about it. They hire local actors as 'extras' and often local laborers to help with production needs. They purchase many items from local shops for props. The city gets great media coverage. Often a shop space is rented so that they can prep it for a specific scene. Cast and crew often make personal visits to local restaurants and shops. While it may interrupt for a time, it most often is a real asset! Here are some titles that you may not know were filmed partly in Havre de Grace and the fictional names of our town!



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© 1919 • Adventure, Comedy, Drama



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The memory above made me think about movies and tv series that have been filmed here in Havre de Grace. The oldest I could find was discovered while researching for our first fall Graw Days 2008-2014, celebrating the Havre de Grace Race Track (1912-1950). I had found the sheet music for "Checkers," © 1919. It had been a screen play by Harry Blossom and in 1919 a very successful silent film. The folks at the Smithsonian confirmed that it was indeed filmed at our race track, but there were no copies to be found.

TUCK EVERLASTING

© 2002 • "Tree Gap" Drama, Family, Fantasy



Tuck Everlasting was filmed in several locations in Maryland. In Havre de Grace they used the Blenheim Mansion in Bulle Rock for filming. It was a beautiful old house with amazing history.

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And prouder still that our community is on land just as stunning and perfect as when the original American Thoroughbreds galloped across the hills. *From blueerockresorthomes.com*



In the film, it is Winnie's home. The house has since been demolished. The production company also came to John Stephens of Stephens & Stephens Clock Shop and recreated the shop on the main street of Berlin, MD. In the photo he's with his granddaughter, Chandler Blake. She's all grown up now and managing the clock shop!



For a great history of the building with photos, visit:

<https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Harford/HA-107.pdf>

In 2017, the Scottfield Theatre Company offered the play, Tuck Everlasting, at the Havre de Grace Opera House.

YOUNG AMERICANS

©2000 • "New Rawley, CT" Drama, TV Series

Filmed in Havre de Grace in 1999, this tv series never really caught on in the states. But it did seem to see some popularity in Europe. And many of its actors have gone on to some very popular tv and movies.

Continued on next page



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Rumor Willis, daughter of Demi Moore and Bruce Willis, was one of the recognizable names in this film. There are several locations in the area, including Perry Point VAMC (*Perryville*) and Port Deposit.

Joseph's Department Store was a main location for the movie. It was interesting to be on the street and listen to someone worried that something happened to Eli Silverstein (*who owned Joseph's*) when they saw a firetruck and police cars in front of it and people with blood on them sitting on the curb.

House of cards

©2013-2018 • "Gaffney, SC" Drama, TV Series



It was an exciting time having Kevin Spacey, Robin Wright and a huge production team in Havre de Grace for the House of Cards TV Series. It was also quite an education to see how much occurs before a 5 minute scene is shot. The support vans could easily start an entire civilization after a zombie attack. (*Okay, so I'm joking.*) But seriously, the production company brings ... well, everything!



In the Havre de Grace filming, the Havre de Grace Ritz Café (*now Les Petits Bisous*) was turned into a gas station with pumps outside. The façade across the street where Chris's Barber Shop

is became a Friendly's. The intersection had a beautiful painted circle. Many locals wish it had been made permanent.

FROM WITHIN

©2008 • "Grovetoyn, MD" Horror, Mystery, Thriller



Jimmyo Burril

A fascinating interview and topic, you'll have to visit our website for the complete story!

Jimmyo, describe Chainsaw Sally.



So I did a movie called Chainsaw Sally. Then I did a movie called the Good Sisters. Next I completed a streaming series - two seasons of the Chainsaw Sally Show. I recently took a break from working on a cartoon to begin production on the third season of the Chainsaw Sally Show.

Chainsaw Sally is essentially the Batman story, except instead of a young millionaire who's raised with money and a butler; she's a young girl who is poor and kind of left to

her own devices. She sees her parents murdered and just kind of becomes this off-the-rails vigilante.

Okay. But is she a good person or a bad person?

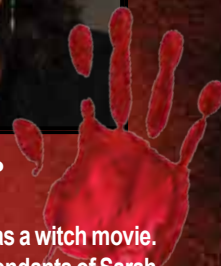
She is what I would call an antihero. So she's not particularly good, but she's not ... she's nuts. Like she winds up as the town's librarian in the movie and kills a person for returning a book very late. At one point she killed somebody because they had too many items in the 10 items or less line. Chainsaw Sally is played by my wife, April Monique Burril.

So this is an adult movie/series? What kind of people like this kind of story?

Yeah, this is an adult storyline. (As to who likes it) evidently quite a few because there are people with Chainsaw Sally tattoos all over the world! We have this kind of interesting little, cult fan base thing. But it's global. I mean, we get fan letters from Japan, from France, from Australia. We have fans here too. We wound up signing autographs at Home Depot one day just because we were there shopping. It's just this weird little - like you either know us or you don't.

Are your movies available online?

The movie, Chainsaw Sally, and the series are available for purchase on Amazon. They're presently not streaming them on Amazon or Netflix because I've been collecting all of my rights back from various distributors. I'm hoping to get a deal with all of the Sally features through Shudder Streaming Services or some other larger streaming service. Chainsaw Sally was released in 2007 followed by the series.



So what was the Good Sisters about?



The Good Sisters was a witch movie. They were two descendants of Sarah Good, who was killed as a witch in Salem. It's a supernatural thriller and was shot here in Havre de Grace. We actually shot it in Bill Price's house! This movie was released in 2009 and is also available on Amazon.

So your movies were shot here in Havre de Grace and Perryville, using local actors?

Yes, but we did have a couple famous ones. Gunnar Hansen, who played Sally's father in the Chainsaw Sally movie, was the original Leatherface in the Texas Chainsaw Massacre. Herschell Gordon Lewis, long known as the "Godfather of Gore" because he was one of the first to put out actually bloody movies in the 60s, did a cameo in the movie. Both of these men have since died.



Gunnar Hansen
courtesy of Chronicle Books

When we first talked, you were sharing a new movie you were going to be working on here in Havre de Grace. Want to explain?

Yes, it's the third series of Chainsaw Sally. It will be six episodes. We'll start as soon as the stay-at-home order is lifted and it will probably take the summer to complete. I hope to have a deal confirmed so that I can release the new series with all of the Chainsaw Sally productions.



Herschell
Gordon Lewis
courtesy DMNews.com

Another film recognized by the horror genre is his 2003 movie, Silver Scream (2003). Jimmyo is multi-talented: painter to cartoonist, actor to film production, writer to director, musician, and other artsy-fartsy stuff. Don't be taken aback by his size and rather somber demeanor. Get him talking about his passions and he changes into a smiling, animated, super fun guy. Visit our website hdgstories.com and havredegracemagazine.com to learn more about this fascinating local artist and the other projects created by him with his wife, April.

Jimmyo Burril manages The Art Rooms, 116 N. Washington St.
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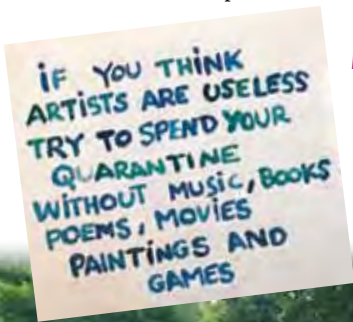


Art Is our Buoy

How are you surviving your stay-at-home order? Think about the movies you've watched, television shows you've enjoyed, the music you've listened to – and yes, maybe danced to, the books you read that carried you away to another land.

We calmed our children with their favorite stories. We sang – entire countries sang – to say 'thank you' to those steadfastly caring for the sick and the dying. We sang outside windows to lonely people stuck inside. We made videos to cheer those we couldn't hug. We shared videos that made us laugh.

The creative among us shared crafts with their children, worked puzzles, colored and painted, and even made masks to send to hospitals. Little chefs blossomed in the kitchens. We lit up our neighborhoods to feel connected and hopeful.



Art in all its facets is therapy!

I saw this posted somewhere on Facebook recently and it gave me pause.

Art acknowledges a shared experience. Art reminds us of better times. Art communicates. Art offers a soft touch when we feel empty. Art turns us toward the light at the end of the tunnel when we are lost. Art honors our humanity.

Jeff Goins shares the following on his blog:

Art helps us make sense of the suffering. Not by spouting off clichés or offering trite platitudes, but by speaking to that inner voice inside each of us that says, "Yes, this sucks, but there is still beauty. There is still hope for redemption."

Sometimes, life doesn't make sense. Sometimes, there is just pain. Without explanation or reason. And that is when art serves us best — when words fail and we are numbed by what we see. When all we can do is cry.

It helps us not escape our pain but transcend it. It doesn't give us a reason for our suffering, but it gives meaning to our lives. *from goinswriter.com*



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During our stay-at-home order, we've truly learned how the arts sustain us! Luckily, our community thrives with an abundance of creatives. We are blessed with local artists, singers, musicians, actors, poets and writers. Hopefully we'll soon be gathering to enjoy our community's art. I encourage you to take a moment and appreciate not only our diverse and eclectic arts culture, but to support them. If you're reading this and we're still in stay-at-home mode, you can purchase art online, buy the local bands mp3, purchase a local book through a local store or online.

Most importantly, when we can walk downtown once again, celebrate by:

- Visiting our art galleries.
- Enjoying your favorite art event.
- Attending performances at our theaters.
- Browsing our shops that highlight their favorite artists.
- Visiting local artists' studios.
- Attending readings by a local author or poet.
- Purchasing a local author's book.
- Enjoying an open mic night.
- Enjoying the music in our pubs.
- Sharing your photography.
- Taking an art class; learning to play an instrument.
- Walking the Lafayette Trail.
- Discovering the murals throughout the city.
- Savoring the Secret Garden Tour.
- Being fascinated by a Ghost or History Tour
- Walking the Lafayette Trail
- Purchasing art for your home, your office, as a gift.
- Learning our legacy by visiting local museums.
- Appreciating the many ways art is incorporated in our city.

Times are challenging. Art soothes us and energizes us. Art is community.

ART MATTERS! CELEBRATE OUR ARTS! 



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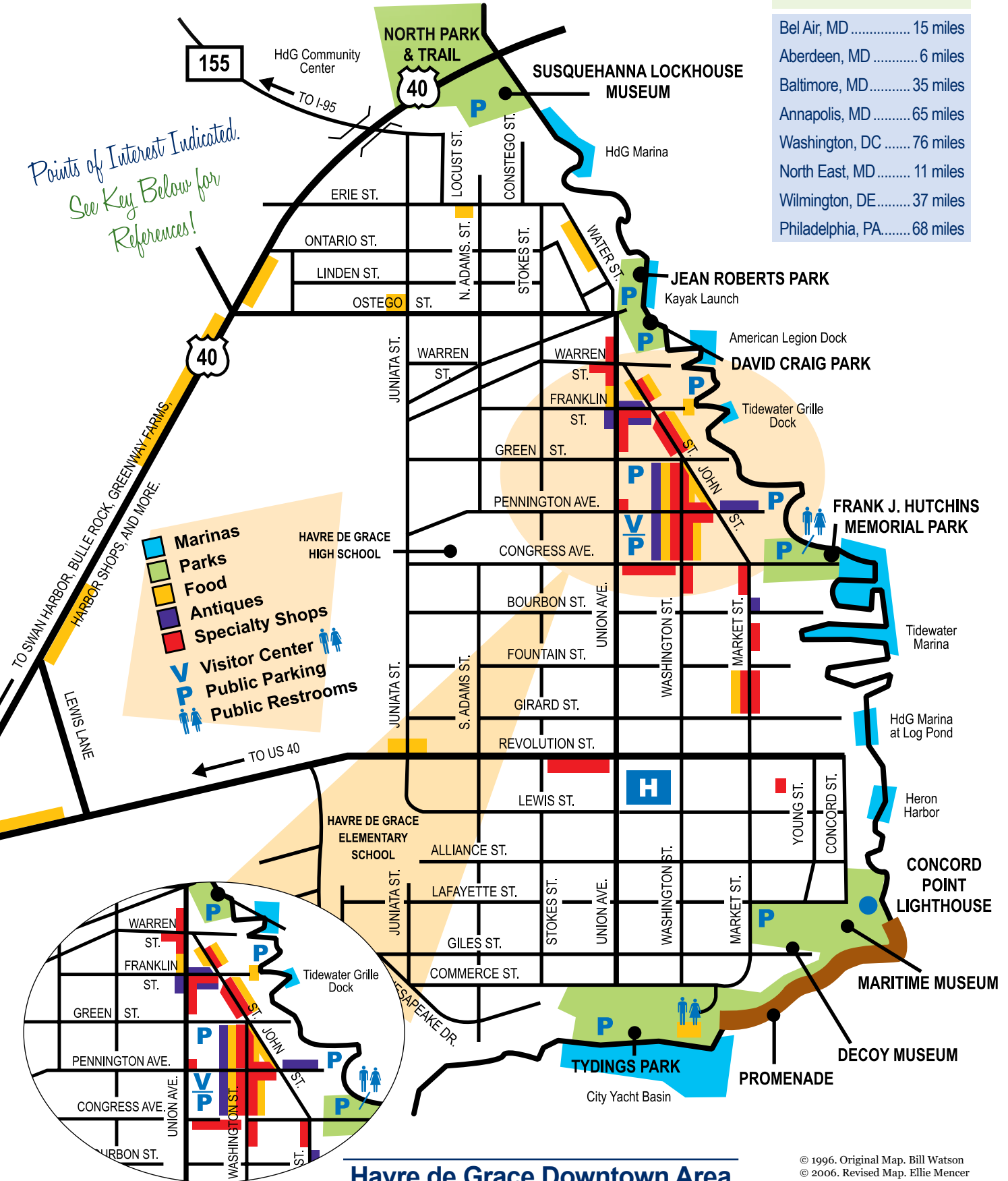


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Wilmington, DE	37 miles
Philadelphia, PA	68 miles

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

Havre de Grace the Meeting Place

Spring/Summer 2020 Events



Friday Concerts in the Park
ExploreHavreGrace.com

HdG Jazz & Blues Fest
hdgjazzbluesfestival.org

Carnival on the Chesapeake
havregracejuly4th.org

Pirate Fest – Family Fun Day
thelockhousemuseum.org

**Senator Bob Hooper House
Hospice Regatta**
uchfoundation.org

**HdG Independence
Celebration**
havregracejuly4th.org

Christmas in July
americanlegionpost47.org

**Commander Crabby's
Seafood Festival**
americanlegionpost47.org

National Lighthouse Day
concordpointlighthouse.org

Arts, Wine, Jazz & More Festival
hdgcoloredschool.net

Summer Art Walk
hdgartscollective.org

57th Annual HdG Art Show
hdgartsshow.org

HdG Waterfront Festival
FB@WaterfrontFestivalHdG

Citywide Yard & Sidewalk Sale
explorehavregrace.com

Children's Art Festival
explorehavregrace.com

**Oktoberfest Arts, Crafts,
Vendor Show**
americanlegionpost47.org

PYREX Vintage Fest
FB@JoRetroVintageMarket

Susquehanna Running Festival
8SusquehannaRunFest.org

MUSEUMS & MORE:

DecoyMuseum.com
410-939-3739

HdGMaritimeMuseum.org
410-939-4800

ConcordPointLighthouse.org
410-939-3213

theLockhouseMuseum.org
410-939-5780

SteppingstoneMuseum.org
410-939-2299

hdgOperaHouse.org
443-502-2005

havregracefarmersmarket.com
443-502-0092

StateTheaterofHdG.com
FB @ TheStateHdG

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Nearly 23,000 hours of elbow grease and 500 gallons of paint...

The State Theater Is Reborn!

Located just a few doors down from MacGregor's Restaurant at 325 St. John Street, new life has come to the The State Theater of 1927! Like many of our buildings, the history of this theater mirrors the history of our community. As times changed, so did the use of the building.

In 1910 the Bijou Dream Motion Picture Theater opened next to the Willou Theater. For a time under the same ownership, these two theaters co-existed, sharing films through a custom passageway – our first multiplex!



In 1925 a fire destroyed The Willou and extensively damaged the Bijou. In 1927 it reopened as The State Theater and thrived through the 60s, closing in 1973.

Cathy Deibel, whose father George Elder, Sr. managed the State Theater for Durkee Enterprises, shared stories of working the candy counter, Saturday morning serials, staying at the theater during the 1958 blizzard because the electric came on in town before it did on their farm, Santa Claus arriving every Christmas, and a murder!



Cathy explained, "In 1965, a man murdered his estranged wife in the theater and as he ran out, my dad tackled him and held him down till the police came."

The suspect was Ronald Dubs, who shot his estranged wife, Katherine, with a .22 caliber pistol in the theater lobby on January 28, 1965.

"My dad always said growing up it was kind of funny, because the name of the movie was "Your Cheatin' Heart," said Cathy.



Before Renovations

She added, "There's hardly a person in town around my age that hasn't told me already about the time they got kicked out of the State Theater by my father because he was pretty touchy about certain things. If you had your foot on the seat in front of you, out you go! He didn't want you to chew gum because then he had to scrape it off the seats. So yeah, he was very strict about it. There are many, many people that were kicked out at least once."

In 1982 the HdG Development Corp., after additional renovations, reopened the theater as The Lafayette. It faltered and was closed by the early 1990's. Many residents will remember the Evangelistic Church of Deliverance from the mid-1990's until the early 2000's.

Today, following 2 years of renovations and hours and hours of elbow grease, The State is back!

While the 'Stay-at-Home Order' is in place, the State Theater will have a number of online programs. Jared Noe, owner, encourages us to be sure to make plans to see this building when

Havre de Grace the Meeting Place

we can once again gather. They've done a remarkable job adding to our Arts & Entertainment District!

The State Theater of Havre de Grace is Harford County's premier destination for live entertainment and creative productions. Their three facilities – **the Live Room @ 327, Recording Studio,** and the **Main Stage** area – give them a wide range of platforms to leverage in bringing your creative enterprise to life, regardless of style or scale.

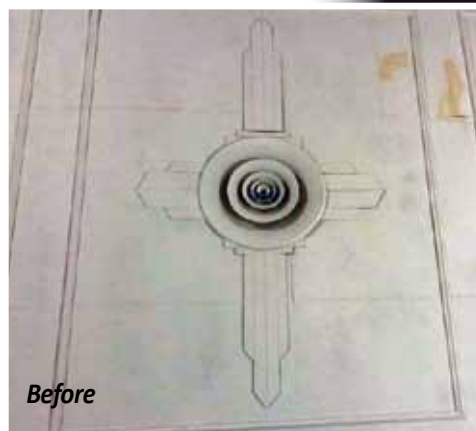
The only thing better than the spaces is their incredible staff, who collectively bring 30+ years of experience to The State in support of the following services:

- **Concerts & Dramatic Stage Production**
(currently, for audiences of 299 or less)
- **Voice & Music Lessons - Audio**
- **Production (Recording, Editing, Mixing)**
- **Video Production**
(Music Videos, Commercials, PSAs, & more)
- **Live Streaming Services**
(Virtual Concerts, Live Sporting Events, Conferences & Tradeshows)
- **Art Direction & Set Design**
- **Portraiture & Photography**
- **Content Development**
- **Content Distribution**

"Yes, 23,000 hours of elbow grease and 500 gallons of paint have brought to life the wonderful architecture of the building. The State has been our creative playground for the past two years throughout the entire redesign and renovation process. We hope it becomes yours too, no matter if you're there as an audience member, performer, or as one of the many "creatives" looking to see your vision come to life!"

-Jared Noe, owner

Cathy Deibel interview at:
hdgstories.com
StateTheaterofHdG.com or
FB @thestatehdg



Photos from State Theater, Baboukas, & Malgorzata Baker Photography

www.HavredeGraceMagazine.com



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way possible – tv, radio, letters, speeches. Connor explains:



"I have gained 30 pounds and a foot in height since my first dose of medical cannabis" a little more than a year after he began taking it," the teen said. In January, his feeding tube was removed.

from Patch.com (Havre de Grace) post by Elizabeth Janney, Feb. 26, 2020

MD HB617 | 2020 was passed in March!

House Bill 617 permits either designated caregivers or designated school personnel to administer medical cannabis to students while they are either on school property, participating in school-sponsored activities, or on a school bus. More explicit guidelines regulating medical cannabis administration must be finalized by December 31, 2020. from norml.org/news/2020/03/26/

This young man is not only a caring, smart, funny, and committed teenager, he loves his race car. Connor Sheffield Racing is getting



very antsy for this 'staying in' to be lifted so they can be ready for spring races. They've been working on their latest car #42 and Connor's ready to get back into that driver's seat.

If you see this young man out and about, be sure to give him a high five (*well, it might have to be an 'elbow bump'*). You can follow his racing on FB @Connor Sheffield Racing or donate to @Project Big or follow news @Connors Courage.

We have an amazing community. I wish I could share everyone's story – especially the many, many kind and compassionate efforts made during the CoVid-19 crisis. 

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Connor Sheffield



15 year old Connor may be slight in build, but he's a giant in character.

How do I begin to describe Connor's journey in a little more than a page. WOW! Let's see:

- ▶ A young teen with big dreams.
- ▶ A young teen dealing with a disease called Gastrointestinal Dysmotility.
- ▶ A compassionate young teen who wanted to do something for others like him: **Enter ProjectBIG.**
- ▶ A young teen that races 270 Sprints and 600 Sprints as Connor Sheffield Racing.
- ▶ A young teen that took a medical marijuana battle to the MD State Legislature and WON!
- ▶ Ostomy Athlete who is just learning to live his best life.



Those are the bullet points. But this young man is, in one word, HEROIC! I've written about him on this magazine's blog. I started following his mother Tricia Sheffield's FB posts back in December 2018. She was so open in sharing their day by day trials and small triumphs as they tried to find a way to deal with Connor's

health problems. He couldn't eat because he couldn't keep food down. He couldn't gain weight. He dealt with a lot of pain. His issues were/neurological. He went from one major hospital and unique treatment to another searching for relief.

On his medical journey, Connor met many others suffering similar issues. He was upset that he often had to go to Philadelphia and beyond to get help. While he was hospitalized, he wondered why there wasn't a center that could handle long-term care for pediatric motility patients. This resulted in the creation of **ProjectBIG**. (<http://projectbig.org>).

His goal is to create a Pediatric Motility Center at Johns Hopkins, which will take a lot of money. At present, the money they raise through their Gala and other events will be used for research and to focus on whatever help they can give these kids.



This past year, in a great effort to find relief and not have to use a feeding tube, Connor and his mom decided to learn more about medical marijuana. I find it amazing the amount of information Tricia researches. As it turns out, after trying several formulas via doctor's prescription, Connor found success. Not only was he able to eat, but pain lessened. He was able to return to school. Most importantly, he started gaining weight.

Then they met another stumbling block – they don't believe in roadblocks! Connor had to take a dose of his meds at lunchtime and after school if he stayed late. To do that, he was not allowed to take it in school. The nurse was not allowed to administer it. Instead, one of his parents had to leave work, sign him out of school, take him across the street off school property, give him the drop under his tongue, and sign him back into school. So, as Connor's family has always done, they took action.



It wasn't long until he met others with the same problem. Connor's Courage was created and they went to every politician they could reach from our local mayor and city council to the Governor. Connor, his mom, and his dad Michael each shared the story in any

Continued on page 21

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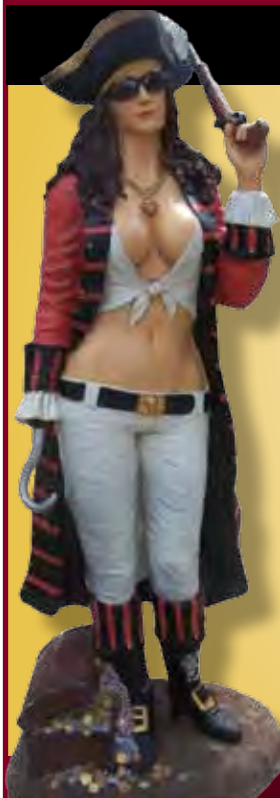
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