

Spring 2009

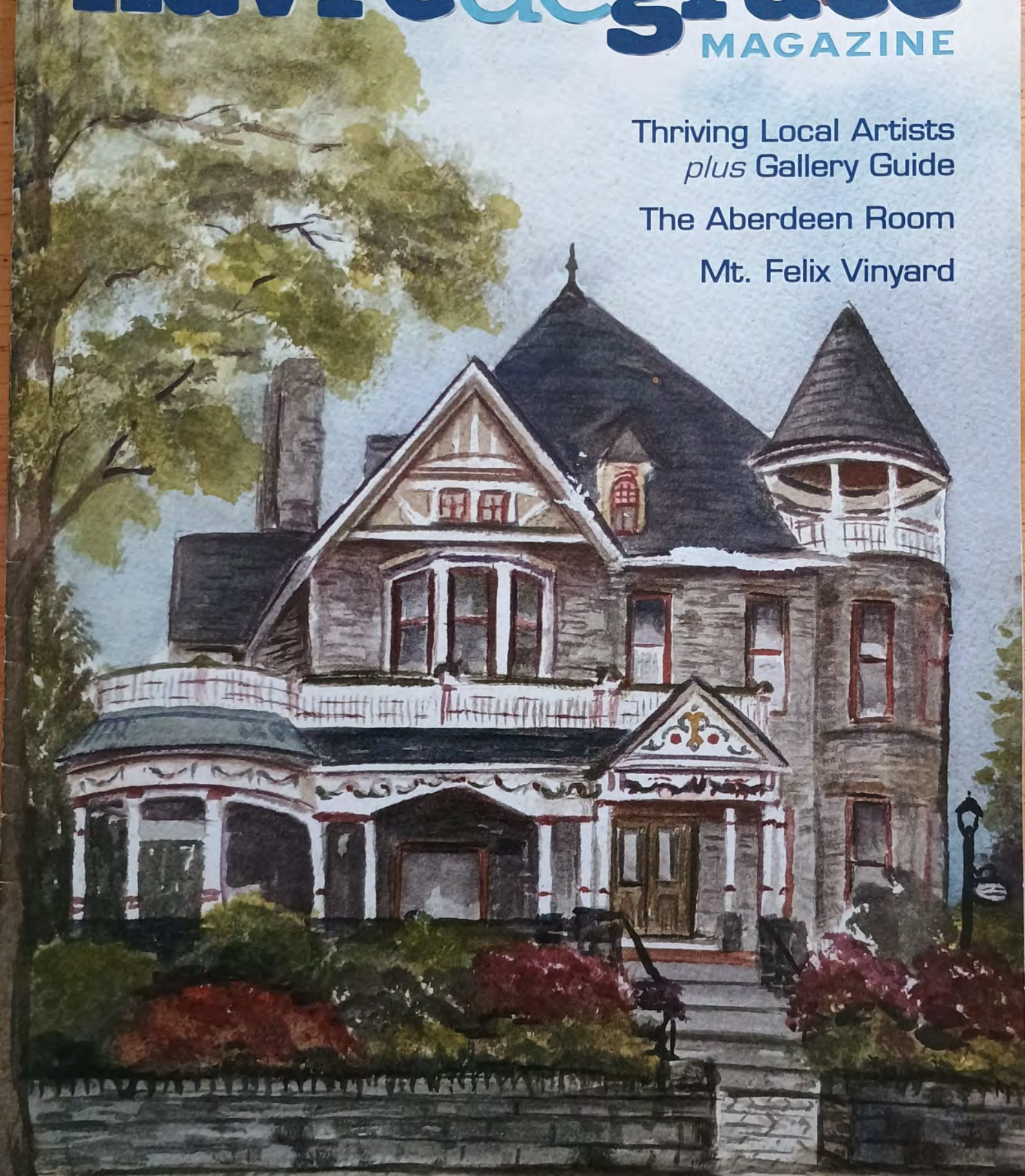
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plus Gallery Guide

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Map & Calendar of Events Inside!

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Summer 2009 Issue All Deadlines: May 16th

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Welcome to Havre de Grace!

As most of the locals know, there has been a change in ownership at Havre de Grace Magazine. Ellie Mencer, the beloved founder of this publication, has decided to retire, after 10 years of following her dream and publishing a creative and somewhat playful magazine that showcases all Havre de Grace has to offer. For Ellie, retirement means moving on to something new. But not to worry, she is staying on with the magazine as the major contributing writer.

The actual task of publishing the magazine will now fall to myself (Anne Fullem) and my partner Jeffrey Herget of Gordon Graphics. Jeff handles the business side of things and I do pretty much everything else. My background is in graphic design, over 25 years experience working for printers, publishers, designers and ad agencies all over the county. I've been freelancing, a little over five years now from my home in Havre de Grace, and have had a lot of opportunities to work with small local businesses and government agencies. We'll continue to work hard to make Havre de Grace Magazine an effective marketing tool and an enjoyable source of information for all things Havre de Grace.

Hope to see you around Downtown!

Anne

On the Cover

"Spencer Silver Mansion" by Alice Humphries

Built in 1896, and located in the heart of downtown Havre de Grace, the Spencer-Silver Mansion offers genuine Victorian lodging for visitors. Complete with beautiful, old-fashioned Victorian garden, including hammock and vintage lawn games. www.spencersilvermansion.com
The Mansion was painted by local Harford County Watercolor Artist, Alice Humphries, who specializes in architectural portraits. 410.679.6246
(see her ad on page 10)



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Runners. Blackout. Blocking.

Ellie Mencer

Sounds like the beginning of an action thriller? Maybe football? No. It's actually a few of the terms used in theater production.

for the play, *The Rainmaker* by N. Richard Nash, I was made aware of the daunting tasks required to have a polished, public performance less than four weeks later.

It was quite a lesson for me – a lover of theater with absolutely no desire to be 'onstage.' What flows so naturally during the performances is a feat of extraordinary effort by a dozen folks or more, each perfecting their particular task. Some members actually work in more than one area: a stage manager may create costumes, an actor also paint sets.



of Harry Malin's photo as a prop somewhere on stage with each presentation, a Tidewater Players tradition.

The Havre de Grace Opera Hall located at 121 North Union Avenue has a long history of public performances. When you walk into the theater, there's a glass case with memorabilia from years gone by including playbills from 1902 and 1905.

It is not a stage that presently receives accolades for its beauty. Its location on the second floor and no elevator means it is not handicap accessible at this time. Between scenes when the lights go dark, there are no curtains to pull as the stage crew changes scenery. If you look closely and your eyes adjust, you can actually watch them rearrange props.

Yet the beautiful tin roof and meticulously painted trim add a certain flair to the building. Sitting quietly, you might visualize performances of a century ago and the balcony that would have risen above you.

Recently, photographer Rob Otis and I observed the arduous process of creating a stage event by the Tidewater Players, a community theater in Havre de Grace. This year they celebrate their 30th year and over 50 productions, bringing the excitement and talent appreciated by those who love attending community theater.

Watching an early rehearsal of two actors going over lines and blocking with the director and stage manager

Simplicity is the charm of this historic building, reminding me a bit of outdoor performances where the audience enjoys the behind the scenes activities.

Several years ago, my grandson Brenden and I, enjoyed a performance by the Tidewater Players. He was more fascinated by what was happening in the dark than on stage under the lights. It made me realize that it's a perfect way for newcomers to theater to notice other tasks involved in stage production, maybe even encouraging them to consider if they have a talent to share.

Local resident and Harford County Executive, David Craig, explained that the Opera House was originally a multi-purpose civic center in the late 1800s. The first floor contained city hall as well as the city's library, which was separate from the county's until the early 1950s. It was three stories tall, but only had two floors – the third floor being the balcony for the stage located on the second floor. The second floor often served as a large meeting room for the city and for the school system. The hose company also had a drying tower in the back of the building to dry out hoses after a fire.

Somewhere around 1920, the building caught fire. The city put the reconstruction on the ballot for the citizens to vote for a loan to rebuild it to its original state. It was voted down and the city had enough money to put a roof on it, removing the third story (balcony). The first floor of the structure now is home to McDermott Chiropractic Offices, the Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy (owners of the historic Skipjack Martha Lewis) and the Havre de Grace Main Street, Inc. Office. Over a century later, it continues to maintain its multi-use function.

The Tidewater Players' performances at the Opera Hall are as varied as its audiences. Musical to romance, comedy to drama, plus a number of presentations for children have been offered throughout the years by this community theatre group. Visit their website for regular updates, www.TidewaterPlayers.com. Choose your play. Then take your seat and prepare to enjoy a couple hours of excellent, local entertainment while you imagine plays of a century ago in this very same building.

Visit <http://library.thinkquest.org/5291/terms.html> for a great glossary of theater terms.

**Tidewater Players, 121 N. Union Avenue, Havre de Grace, MD
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Photos by Rob Otis of www.otisphotography.com

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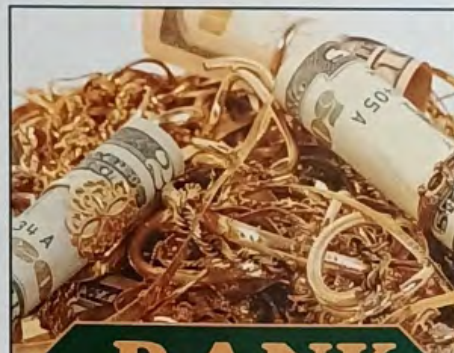
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A Community of Artists

Local artists are able to empower people in exceptional ways.



© Theresa Yost-Bennet
Atelier de Theresa

They have the advantage of a shared history and sense of ownership with those whom they touch. Havre de Grace is fortunate to have more than our share of these talented, vision driven individuals. As a State of Maryland's Art & Entertainment District, we have joined with cities like Annapolis, Bethesda, Elkton and Silver Spring in demonstrating ourselves to be a City, whose focus on the arts has benefited the whole community. The first artists to take advantage of our new designation are Carl Woerner and Christopher Fielding of Pencilworks Studio & Gallery on St. John Street. Carl is a portrait artist and Christopher a jewelry designer. Stop in and meet them anytime, the gallery is also their working studio!

For local artists who may not be in a position to open their own store-front in Havre de Grace, Arts by the Bay Gallery offers them an opportunity to share their work with the community. Through the efforts of Mitch Shank and the Arts & Entertainment Committee of Main Street, the premises at 500-B Warren Street were renovated, and the Grand Opening was held in November 2008. Pat Fair, who was president of the Havre de Grace Arts Commission for many years, has taken the position of Gallery Director, and is busy recruiting local artists and promoting the new Gallery. Art in every imaginable medium, sculpture, painting, jewelry design and more, are created exclusively by Harford County artists, and available for sale at the Gallery. Arts by the Bay is a co-op which means the artists are responsible for manning the gallery - a great opportunity to meet these talents in person.

With over a dozen art galleries (see our *Gallery Guide* page 11), not to mention the abundant boutiques offering unique crafts and works of art, you could spend days viewing these one-of-a-kind treasures. If you need a break, stop at Jana's Java for a latte, her walls are adorned with beautiful local art for sale. Check out our Calendar for information on museum events, festivals, concerts and more fun ways to enjoy our local artists. And don't forget the Annual Juried Art Show in August! It's almost impossible to explain the magnitude and diversity of talent we have in Havre de Grace; I can only hope to inspire you to get out and enjoy it first hand.



Stephen Formwalt gets a little drawing time in during his shift at Arts by the Bay Gallery.



© Lee Alban • Gallery RoCa



© Mary Klunk • Arts by the Bay Gallery



© Sue Eyet
Studio 432

...INTRODUCING SOME LOCAL TALENT



Alice Boyd
Fine Art Painter

Arts by the Bay Gallery
500 B Warren Street
443.686.1648

Alice Boyd is a 3rd generation Havre de Grace native who fell in love with art when she was in high school. After raising her family, Alice pursued her interest in painting and studied with various artists in Maryland. Most recently she has been working with local artist Lee Alban in the "Old Masters" style. Alice is always looking for new ways to express herself and has developed an interest in historical decoupage. At this point in Alice's career, she paints for fun - giving away most of her art as gifts to friends and family. But fortunately for us, a few pieces are available at Arts by the Bay Gallery.

Christopher Fielding
Jewelry Creations

Pencilworks Studio & Gallery
201 St. John St. • HdG
410.939.0040

With a flair for old world charm and a knack for mixing non-traditional stone and pearl combinations, Christopher's work has become highly regarded and loved by all who seek him out. The creator of "Pearls by Design", Chris is a self-taught jewelry artist. He was inspired early in life by the arts and crafts of the English country people in Castleton, UK, where he spent much time. With a lifetime love of fine stones such as Castleton's local "Blue John Stone" and his own creative vision, Chris's work is truly unique! See more of Chris's designs at www.pencilworksstudio.com



Carl E. Woerner
Fine Art Portraits

Pencilworks Studio & Gallery
201 St. John St. • HdG
410.939.0040

A graduate from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Carl has recently opened his new Studio & Gallery "Pencilworks", in Havre de Grace, MD. With many works in private collections, Carl has been creating various works of art for over 30 years. He specializes in mixed media portraits of both people and animals and is available for commissions on any subject including landscapes, cityscapes, interiors and still-life. His personal works emphasize his interest in nature, natural pattern and design. Check out his website at www.pencilworksstudio.com

"Art is making something out of nothing and then selling it" - Frank Zappa

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ARTISTS!



Mary Klunk

Fine Artist & Teacher

Arts by the Bay Gallery

500 B Warren Street

443.686.1648

Mary's works are done in a classical "Old Master's" style, with an emphasis on color relationships. Her thought provoking portraits, still lifes and landscapes are in oils, watercolors and pastels. Mary has used her artistic gifts to enrich her community over the years. Her interest in art therapy led her to work with inmates in local prisons and patients in psychiatric hospitals. Her most recent endeavor has been working as a mural artist for the "Comcast Cares" program. Mary currently teaches painting and drawing classes at Harford Community College. Her works can also be viewed by appointment at her home studio.

410.939.2068

Lee Alban

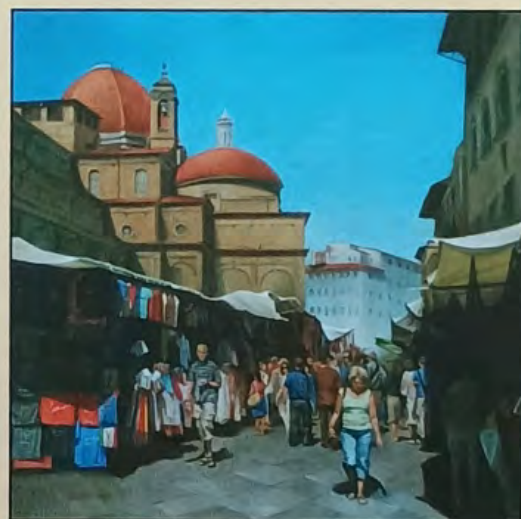
Landscape Artist

Gallery RoCa

220 North Washington Street

410.939.6182

Lee has been drawing since childhood, and always had an interest in art. Despite this, he chose to major in Biology in college and become a science teacher. He taught in Baltimore County schools for 30 years, retired and enrolled in the Schuler School of Fine Arts in 2001. His professional art career began midway through art school as he began exhibiting in galleries and winning painting awards. His work has been exhibited in numerous galleries and museums across the country. He currently teaches oil painting for all levels and has also taught watercolor.



Sue Eyt

Found Object Artist

Studio 432

452 Aiken Avenue • Perryville

410.642.6749

Sue Eyt creates unique, one-of-a-kind windchimes, layered metal signage and found object sculptures, which feature a variety of reclaimed, repurposed and recycled materials. Her creations are playful in nature, yet elegant in design. Recent work incorporates vintage gears, crystals and metal components into an industrial, romantic style of jewelry that reflects her interest in giving a new life to things of the past. Her Gallery, Studio 432, showcases her work, along with over 6 dozen other artists. **410.658.3462**



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HAVRE DE GRACE GALLERY GUIDE



ARTS by the BAY Gallery

500-B Warren Street, HdG

Operated by the Arts & Entertainment Committee of Havre de Grace Main Street, this gallery features up and coming Harford County artists, musicians, writers, poets, and more. They also offer art classes and rental of the gallery for corporate and private functions. **443.686.1648**



Atelier de Teresa

301 St. John Street, HdG

A local clay studio owned by sculptor, Teresa Yost Bennett. Her latest creations, the new Fish Friends and earlier bronzes are now prominently displayed and for sale in the new Gallery 301 at The Picture Show, 301 St. John Street. **443.243.8078**



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Ezra Berger

Ezra creates beautiful wall murals, faux paintings, custom works and fine art paintings. His works can be seen at the Laurrapin Grille (all over the walls in the pub) and in many private homes and other businesses and galleries in Havre de Grace. One of his latest works is the wall mural on Green Street. **443.207.3533**



Faces 'n Places Art Studio

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Janice Frederick is a realist painter with a love for portraiture. Her fascination with faces at an early age, inspired her to capture them in her paintings. She also enjoys creating abstracts, her architectural background is easily seen in many of her landscapes and buildings. **410.642.6455**



Gallery RoCa

220 N. Washington St, HdG

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Pencilworks Studio & Gallery

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Spring 2009

Calendar of Events



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May 2-3

War of 1812: Re-enactment
Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum • Sat. 10-5 & Sun. 10-3
410.939.5780

May 3

Maritime Traditions
HdG Maritime Museum • 2pm
Experience firsthand some of the traditional skills and crafts of the Chesapeake Bay region
410.939.4800

May 9

Annual "Artist's Open Studio Tour"

Studio 432 • 10 am - 5 pm
As one of 16 locations on the tour, Studio 432 will feature multiple artists, demonstrations, amazing art... & sweet tea! Tour guides available at this stop.
410.642.6749

May 10

Mother's Day Tea Party

HdG Maritime Museum
1:30 - 3:30 pm
Traditional tea ceremony
410.939.4800

Mother's Day Cruises

Lantern Queen
Call for info and times
410.939.1468

Mother's Day Cruises

Skipjack Martha Lewis
Call for info and times
410.939.4078

May 16

Secret Garden Tour

HdG Maritime Museum • 1-6 pm
Celebrate spring with a lovely tour of some of Havre de Grace's beautiful gardens, plus a flower and herb exhibit at the museum.
410.939.4800

May 17

Medieval Encampment

Steppingstone Farm Museum
noon-5pm
Featuring fighting and fencing demonstrations, arts and crafts, period music and dance, children's games, food, and tours.
410.939.2299

Easter Cruise

Lantern Queen • 2-4 pm
Includes a holiday luncheon
410.939.1468

April 12

Easter Dinner Cruise

Lantern Queen • 2-4 pm
Easter Dinner with all the favorites and more. **410.939.1468**

April 17

Stem to Stern Wine Cruise

Lantern Queen • 7-9 pm
Gather friends and enjoy a delightful dinner cruise pairing fine wine, excellent food, and a leisurely 2-hour cruise. **410.939.1468**

April 18

Earth Day Celebration

Maritime Museum • 10 am - 5 pm
Learn about native plant species, the art of Bayscaping, and the unique environment of the Upper Bay and Susquehanna River region. **410.939.4800**

Aberdeen

Earth Day Celebration

Festival Park • 11 am - 4 pm
Exhibitors, Games, Food & More!
410.297.4215

Tea with Matilda

Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum • 11am
Children's event. Join us for a tea party with honored guest, Matilda O'Neill. Enjoy crafts, activities & refreshments. **410.939.5780**

April 25

Annual Bull & Oyster Roast for the Skipjack Martha Lewis

Hutchins Park • 6-10pm
Join Martha's crew for a celebration to kick-off the summer cruise season. **410.939.4078**

April 30

Dinner Cruise at the Races

Lantern Queen • 6:30-8:30 pm
Cruising during the HdG Yacht Club's Sailboat Races.
410.939.1468

May

May 1 - 17

Tidewater Players presents
Blood Brothers
Havre de Grace Opera House
121 N. Union Avenue
Fri. & Sat. at 8pm • Sun. at 3pm
Book, Music & Lyrics by Willy Russell **410.939.5046**

May 1 - 3

28th Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum
Fri: 6-9 Sat: 9-5 Sun: 10-4
175 Decoy & Wildlife Artists & Carvers displaying and selling works. Silent auctions
410.939.3739

April

April 4 - 25

Barb Kiwak - Debut Exhibit "Quiet Places"

Gallery Roca
An exceptional collection of oil paintings created through a year's worth of observations from some of the artist's favorite places.
410.939.6182

April 4

Salute to our Veterans - Dinner & Musical

5 pm • American Legion Post #47
Don't miss this great fun!
410.838.1771

April 5

Archeology Month Event

Maritime Museum • 10am-5pm
Take part in an excavation, touch artifacts and find out what trash can tell us about everyday life!
410.939.4800

April 11

Easter Egg Hunt

Tydings Park • Havre de Grace
Begins at Noon - free and open to the public. Bring baskets to collect eggs. Each Egg contains a Prize!
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May 23
Guided Nature & Historical Walk of the North Park Trail
 Lock House of the Susquehanna Museum • 10am **410.939.5780**

Maryland Wine Cruise
 Skipjack Martha Lewis • 7-9pm
Wine from a local vineyard, Cheese & Fruit, Beer & Sodas
410.939.4078

June

June 5
First Friday
 Downtown Havre de Grace • 5-9pm
 Sponsored by HdG Main Street Inc. "Live music, children's activities, stores open late"
410.939.1811

10th Annual Harford Hospice Regatta
 Concord Point Lighthouse
 6:30-10pm

Sponsored by the Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation. Enjoy a sailboat Regatta, steak & chicken dinner by Outback Steakhouse, unlimited beer and soda, live band, gaming wheels, and a silent auction.
443.643.3460

June 7
Maritime Traditions
 HdG Maritime Museum • 2pm
Traditional skills and crafts of the Chesapeake Bay region
410.939.4800

June 8-14
McDonald's LPGA Championship
 Bulle Rock Golf Course
 8am - 6pm
One of four "majors" on the LPGA tour. Proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities.
1.888.321.1681

June 12
Friday Concerts in the Park
 Tydings Park • 7:30pm
Bring a blanket and enjoy the featured Zim Zemer, 5 pc group offering a variety of pop music.
410.939.5425

June 14
Celtic Festival
 Steppingstone Farm Museum
 Noon - 5pm
Featuring pipe band music, dancing & singing, sheepherding, clan gatherings, vendors, amateur games competition, military regiment, spinning & weaving demonstrations, food and tours.
410.939.2299

June 17
Lighthouse Cruise
 Skipjack Martha Lewis • 5-8 pm
410.939.4078

June 21
Father's Day Cruises
 Lantern Queen
Call for info and times
410.939.1468

Father's Day Cruises
 Skipjack Martha Lewis
Call for info and times
410.939.4078

June 22-27
Teen Boat Building School
 HdG Maritime Museum
 9am - 4pm
Teens will learn how to make their own canoe with the help of the instructors from the Chesapeake Wooden Boat Builders School.
410.939.4800

June 27
Blues Festival
 Steppingstone Farm Museum
 2-8pm
Features live blues music by local, regional & national blues acts. Beer, food, wine will be sold.
410.939.2299

June 30
Day on the Bay
 Skipjack Martha Lewis
 9:30am-3:30pm
Enjoy the day sailing the Bay to Charlestown, birdwatching, sightseeing, and lunch at the Wellwood Club.
410.939.4078

July

July 1-5
Havre de Grace Carnival
 Tydings Park
 Tues - Fri 6-10pm • Sat. 4-10pm
Enjoy rides and games for all

July 3
First Friday
 Downtown Havre de Grace • 5-9pm
 Sponsored by HdG Main Street Inc. "Live music, children's activities, stores open late"
410.939.1811

Independence Dinner Cruise
 Lantern Queen • 6:30 - 8:30 pm
410.939.1468

Margaritaville Cruise
 Skipjack Martha Lewis • 7-9pm
410.939.4078

July 4
Independence Dinner Cruise
 Lantern Queen • 2-4 pm
410.939.1468

July 5
4th of July Parade
 Union Avenue • 2pm.
Food & beverages are available before and after the parade - at the post at 501 St. John St! Concert at the City Yacht Basin begins at 7pm. Fireworks begin at dusk!

Fireworks Cruise
 Skipjack Martha Lewis • 7:30-10 pm
410.939.4078

Fireworks Cruise
 Lantern Queen • 7:30 - 10 pm
410.939.1468

July 6
Summer by the Bay Concert Series
 HdG Maritime Museum • 7 pm
Some of the region's best maritime performers. **410.939.4800**

July 11-12
Pirate Invasion
 Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum
 Sat: 11am-5pm; Sun: 11am-3pm
Visit the pirates in their camps, watch the attacks on the "town" and cheer on your favorites.
410.939.5780

July 11
Pirate Gala
 Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum
 7-11pm
Party with the Pirates. Night of music, dancing, auctions, beer, wine & food. **410.939.5780**

July 12
Summer Fun Day w/Car Show & Lawnmower Races
 Steppingstone Farm Museum.
 Noon-4pm
Enjoy summer fun with all the above plus ice cream eating contests, turtle races, frog jumping, marble shooting, face painting, children's crafts, food & tours.
410.939.2299

July 17
Friday Concerts in the Park
 Tydings Park • 7:30pm
Bring a blanket and enjoy the featured Timeless Duo, offering Jazz & Blues favorites
410.939.5425

July 17-August 21
 Studio 432 presents...
"Trashy Women V"
 Thursday - Sunday • 11am - 7pm
Fun, funky & fabulous... the show is a not-to-be-missed event! Prepare to be inspired by this collection of artwork created from repurposed, recycled, and reused materials. **410.642.6749**

July 24 - July 26
Maritime Festival
 HdG Maritime Museum
Enjoy Bay food and beverages, musical and dance performances, living history interpretation, demonstrations, crafters, and children's activities.
410.939.4800

We make every effort to be accurate. But always check with the contact if you're planning a trip for a specific event.

For more cruises, concerts, festivals & events... check out these great websites!

www.lanternqueen.com • www.skipjackmarthalewis.org • www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org
www.steppingstonemuseum.org • www.lockhousemuseum.org • www.decoymuseum.com
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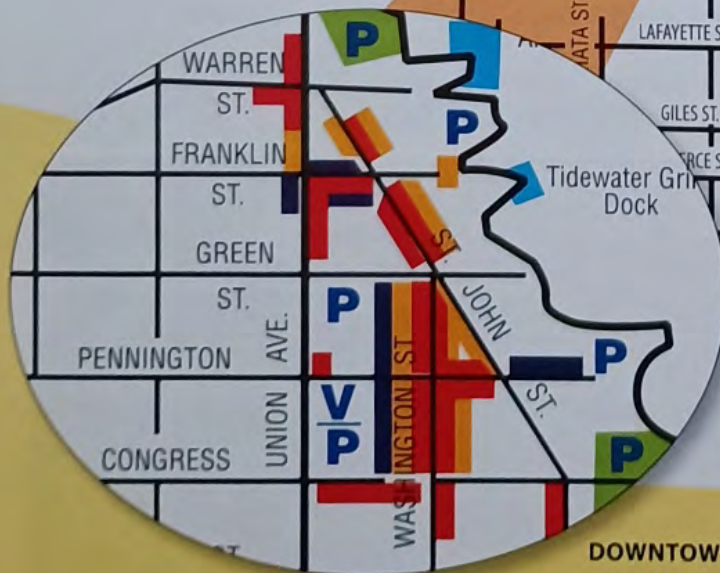
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-  Food
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-  Visitor Center
-  Public Parking
-  Public Restrooms



DOWNTOWN AREA

© 1996. Original map. Bill Watson.
© 2006. Revised map. Ellie Mewer,
havredeg race magazine.

Havre de Grace... Offering Great Outdoor Adventure



For the visiting tourist as well as the exploring local resident, you will find that the city of Havre de Grace, Maryland has many opportunities for outdoor adventure!

The nature lover will enjoy walks on the city's promenade/boardwalk that will take you on a beautiful self-paced tour along the shoreline between the lighthouse and Tydings Park. Take a break and enjoy an ice cream or meal on the deck at The Promenade Grille while still enjoying the waterfront and beautiful wildlife in the area. Don't forget to visit the North Park Trail and other parks throughout the city.

While many of the tourists visit the historical sites located within the city, once here they will find that there is much to offer those interested in the outdoors. Located on the Harford County shoreline at the mouth of the Susquehanna River, strolling the Promenade will quickly provide you with a memorable and enjoyable view of the many outdoor activities this beautiful waterfront community has to offer – sailing, kayaking, motor boats, canoeing, and parasailing.

Better yet, take a boat tour along the city's shoreline with Karl's Bassin' Adventures, as Capt. Karl offers a 2 hour personalized sightseeing trip. While enjoying the shoreline, you will certainly catch a glimpse of the bountiful wildlife including the Great Bald Eagles, Foxes, and Blue Herons that make this area their home. For the lighthouse enthusiast, Concord Point, Fishing Battery and Turkey Point Lighthouses can all be seen from the water. Be sure to bring plenty of film for your camera.

For the fishermen the city offers quick access to the great Susquehanna Flats and one of the east coast's best Upper Chesapeake Bay fisheries – a brief stay is more of a brief experience of PARADISE! In May of 2004 Readers Digest Magazine (America's Best 100 New Discoveries) listed Havre de Grace, MD. as the number one destination for anglers in search of the ever smart & elusive Largemouth Bass. The quote from the article cited the region as producing largemouth bass to seventeen pounds. It is believed by most anglers in the area that they were referring to the spring migration of striped bass locally known as rockfish. It is not uncommon for anglers to catch Rockfish, in excess of 40 pounds during the Spring "Catch & Release" season.

The bass fisherman will not be disappointed. It is normal for a five fish limit of bass in a tournament in the area to weigh as much as twenty pounds. In the fall of the year the area regularly has produced an eight pound largemouth. In the fall of 2008 the area produced an 8.99 pound largemouth during a local U. S. Anglers Choice Team Tournament caught by the team of Joe Thompson and Jerry Gerlach, quite a catch for a tidal river fishery. I look for 2009 to produce a nine pound largemouth bass in this area and make some lucky angler proud. But you have to get out there and fish to have a chance at catching him.



"A Day on the Water" with Karl's Bassin' Adventures is a perfect way to relax and enjoy yourself. It's also a great vacation or family fun activity! We specialize in beginner & youth fishing instruction. We also provide all the fishing tackle needed for your day of fishing. Navigational trips are available with Capt. Karl teaching you the way around the Susquehanna Flats safely and confidently. Sightseeing trips are welcome! While you are on the water with us your fishing and learning goals and safety will be our #1 concern. We give you 100% effort in making your trip on the water with us a successful and enjoyable one. "The Upper Chesapeake Bay/Susquehanna Flats is our home. Welcome Aboard!"

Good Fishing, Capt. Karl Bunch

Captain Karl Bunch, Owner/Guide for Karl's Bassin' Adventures is a United States Coast Guard Licensed Captain, Red Cross CPR & First Aid certified and licensed in the State of Maryland and Commercially insured. We strictly Practice Catch & Release of Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass.



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Discovering the

Aberdeen Room

Ellie Mencer



There's a small archive/museum in the heart of downtown Aberdeen where the past connects us to the present. The connector is made up of the many volunteers who catalogue, read, sort, display and prepare the materials that are donated. They are also the keepers of the stories bringing the facts of history to life for those who may have forgotten.

The first person you are likely to meet at the Aberdeen Room is Charlotte Garretson Cronin. Charlotte is a treasure trove of knowledge about Aberdeen history. Through the Garretson family background, Charlotte inherited the love of railroads, with the tracks running behind her home while growing up. Her grandfather and father both worked for the railroad giving Charlotte the opportunity to travel the states by rail. With her marriage into the Cronin family, she enjoyed a keen interest in her local community through the Cronin's family-owned newspaper, "The Harford Democrat." Through her love of the arts encouraged by her father, Charlotte learned the value of sketching to "help her recall events." These varied paths led to her authoring the book, *Sketches of Village to Town to City: Recalling Aberdeen, Maryland*.

During my visit, I enjoyed a wonderful conversation with Charlotte and two very active volunteers at the Aberdeen Room, Mary Lee Plummer and Mary-Lynne Livezey. Along with displays of old photos, artifacts and books of Aberdeen history, the museum volunteers willingly share stories that will help to bring it all to life.

I browsed the sketches in her book choosing two that I might highlight by comparing to a photo of the same corner today. The first location is the northwest corner of West Bel Air Avenue and Howard Street. The original 1891 First National Bank of Aberdeen was located here. Also known as the "Tin Can Bank" because the organizers were mostly associated with the growing canning industry.¹

In the sketch, you can see the Old Town Hall located behind the bank, and to the left is the 1896 E. Dell and Company Pharmacy.¹ When the brick structure was built around its predecessor, Charlotte comments that the bank did not lose one business day.² Today the building is the home of the Word of Life Christian Fellowship.

At the entry to the city of Aberdeen's downtown area is the corner of West Bel Air Avenue and, in 1919, Front Street, this sketch shows the Odd Fellows Building. Built after the 1918 fire, it housed the Blenheim Lodge, the Masonic Lodge, professional offices and the popular Bonnett's Newsstand. To the right you'll see the AACO Theatre, established in 1919.²

Today's photo shows Dee's Florist and a number of other businesses at the same corner of West Bel Air Avenue and Philadelphia Blvd. The theatre is long gone, replaced by the new Harford Bank building, as is the Bonnett's Newsstand. But the corner looks strikingly similar considering that following a gas explosion in 1976, it was again totally rebuilt. Charlotte recalls that the explosion caused one fireman to be blown, literally, right out of his boots!

The Aberdeen Room offers a plethora of information. There are specific displays recalling the railroad, banking, school and baseball history to mention just a few. The folks there are inviting and friendly, eager to share stories to help bring the facts to life. Should you be so inclined, they are always in need of volunteers.

Visit the Aberdeen Room at 18 North Howard Street, 410-273-6325. Tuesday and Thursday: 10 am - 1 pm; First Saturday of the month: 11 am - 3 pm Or visit their website: www.AberdeenRoom.com Maybe I'll run into you there.

¹ Sketches, by Charlotte Garretson Cronin, © 2006, page 65; ² Ibid, page 68; ³ Ibid, page 73



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HAVRE DE GRACE CELEBRATES 1ST WINERY SINCE JOHN ADLUM!

Ellie Mencer

Some 200 years ago Havre de Grace's John Adlum had a dream. He wanted to free America from dependence on importing European wine. After all, during colonial times there was no refrigeration or water filtration for communities. Havre de Grace was a new and exciting community being considered as the nation's capital. John Adlum selected fertile soils along the shores of the Chesapeake as the place to fulfill his dream of cultivating grapes and making fine American wines. Adlum's dream was further inspired by none other than President Thomas Jefferson whom advised Adlum that his vineyard produced a fine wine, "comparable to a Chambertin." Jefferson further encouraged Adlum to "pursue cultivation and forget about foreign vines." John Adlum adhered to Jefferson's advice and continued to cultivate his Havre de Grace soils ultimately establishing America's first commercial vineyard.

Adlum's legacy is now retold at Havre de Grace's second commercial winery in 200 years. The Winery at Mt. Felix is a place where history is poured with each glass of wine. Mary and Peter Ianniello's inspiration for their wines is to create messages on each bottle that will inspire people by retelling tales of our local history. Peter loves the stories of unsung heroes that he hopes will give us a love of our local history while inspiring us.



When you visit this beautiful location situated on the Mount Felix hillside just outside of Havre de Grace, off Route 155, your senses will delight in the view of the vineyards overlooking the Upper Chesapeake Bay and the grand Georgian federal style manor (circa 1830s) of over 9,000 sq. ft., 11 fireplaces, expansive windows, and a roof-top terrace.



"Wine is a very interesting product. It's mentioned more than 4,000 times in the Bible... it's a collision of many disciplines ... you'll never in one's lifetime learn all there is to know about making wine or growing grapes for wine production. If you're interested in lifelong learning, wine making will continue to fascinate you." *Peter Ianniello*

You'll be entertained by wonderful conversation as you savor the wine tasting. In five short years with his wife, Mary, and their children, they have accomplished many renovations, planting a producing vineyard, and completed their wine production barn and a beautiful tasting room.

TRADITION

A perfect beginning to their wine harvest was the Skipjack Martha Lewis carrying 2,000 pounds of Chambourcin grapes from Mount Felix's first harvest in fall 2007 to St. Michael's Winery. This voyage recreated a long-time tradition on the Chesapeake Bay when the bay boats moved agricultural products from one area to another. The voyage was celebrated in June 2008 when the skipjack pulled in to the Tidewater Grille dock for a wine tasting during the Main Street, Inc.'s First Friday event.



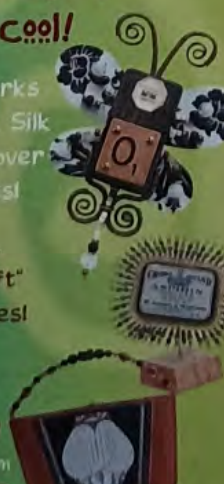
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VIN FIZ

This year Peter and Mary will celebrate their 5th year at Mount Felix and their third grape harvest. In researching the Mount Felix history, Peter learned of the epic flight of the Vin Fiz Flyer in 1911. This first crossing of America by air was a challenge created by publisher William Randolph Hearst, dangling a \$50,000 carrot for the first flyer to cross America in 30 days or less.

Without ruining the great story that Peter shares, we will tell you that Calbraith Perry Rodgers did not win the money but he most certainly did make history with this amazing feat. To make this point, note that a replica of the Vin Fiz flyer hangs in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Vin Fiz was a new grape-flavored soft drink created by the Armour Company. The logo was emblazoned on the wings of the plane and also on the railroad cars that carried Cal's family, support crew (including a chief mechanic who had worked for the Wright Brothers) and parts. The plane followed the train across the country. The distance actually covered according to the NASM site was 4,321 miles in 82 hours, 4 minutes, averaging 51.5 mph. But the actual trip, including crashes, broken planes, and injuries took 49 days!

What ties this neatly to Havre de Grace history is the fact that The Rodgers and their descendants - the most decorated family in U.S. Naval history - owned the lands of Mt. Felix at one time. Sion Hill still resides within the Rodgers family as the Green's now live on the property. Cal Rodgers lived in Havre de Grace and was also related to Oliver Hazard Perry, "Hero of Lake Erie" during the War of 1812.

There's so much to share about this exciting story. Stopping by the Mount Felix Guesthouses, Vineyards and Winery will bring you up to date on these exciting connections. While the Vin Fiz historic flight will celebrate its 100 birthday in 2011, Peter and Mary Ianniello are preparing for this historic event with a spring release of a wine, Vin Fiz, in honor of Cal Rodgers and his fantastic feat of daring, leading up to the 2011 event.

MOUNT FELIX

This event is more than enough reason to visit the Mount Felix Winery. Add to these the ties to John Adlum - the Father of American Viticulture, Thomas Jefferson, Lafayette, and the O'Neill family. With the release of Vin Fiz, there will be 8 wines available from Mount Felix. The wines are wonderful; the stories fascinating; the history exciting.

Don't miss an opportunity to enjoy a night - or a week - in their guest villa and rooms. Enjoy beautiful countryside, a warm and friendly host family, and the fine wines. The location is majestic. The history in stories and on the specialty labels accomplishes his dream. The wines, well, you decide! Salute!

RESOURCES: www.MountFelix.com; www.MarylandWine.com www.nasm.si.edu and search for "Vin-Fiz"

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