

havredegrace

MAGAZINE

An artistic illustration of a waterfront scene. In the foreground, a wooden deck with a railing curves along the edge of a body of water. A black lamp post stands on the deck, holding a basket of purple and pink flowers. Two people, an adult and a child, are standing on the deck, looking out over the water. The water is calm, and the far shore is visible with green trees and a small hill. The sky is light blue with a few birds flying.

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7 Ways to Get Out
on the Susquehanna River

Secret Gardens

Map & Calendar of Events Inside!

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On the cover

Watercolor by Alice Humphries

The Havre de Grace Promenade that runs along the shore from the Concord Point Lighthouse to the yacht basin. The Promenade was rebuilt after being devastated by Hurricane Isabel in 2003.



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By Elizabeth Swarm Cook

Secret Gardens of Havre de Grace

Tucked away behind private residences or on the grounds of public places of historical significance are some of the most beautiful and well-designed gardens in our county. On Saturday, May 15, garden enthusiasts have the opportunity to explore some of these special, private gardens as part of the 4th Annual Secret Garden Tour.

Gardens at the residence of Cynthia & Roger Leffler

One of the gardens on this year's tour is at the residence of Cynthia and Roger Leffler. (pictured on this page) The Lefflers' gardens are primarily shade gardens and cover a variety of themes that will certainly fascinate and inspire visitors. Within the gardens, there is a small pond with thriving goldfish.

Event organizers like to include a wide variety of gardens on the tour to showcase each owner's uniqueness and extraordinary passion for natural beauty. Gardens range from formal rose gardens to country gardens, herb gardens, and evening gardens.

The Secret Garden Tour provides visitors with a chance to get lost in the lush sanctuaries throughout Havre de Grace. Hopefully the tour will inspire you to create the garden of your dreams in your backyard!

The tour takes place from noon until 5 p.m. rain or shine. Proceeds from the tour will benefit the diverse educational programs at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum. Tickets are only \$20.00 and may be purchased in advance by calling the Maritime Museum at 410-939-



4800. Tickets may also be purchased on event day along with registration at the Havre de Grace Farmers Market on Franklin Street between 10 a.m. and noon. While at the Farmers Market, sample produce and baked goods before beginning the garden tour. Each participant will receive a program which lists the garden locations and

Gardens at the residence of Carolyn & Ned Colburn

One of the many gardens on the property which has been in the family for years is the evening garden. The garden is set in the stone foundation of Mr. Colburn's grandfather's house. The garden was created in two stages and plants were chosen for their evening luminosity and lovely fragrance. The window garden feature with its window sill and flowering window box was an actual window from the older Colburn's house.



Don't Miss the 4th Annual Secret Garden Tour

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9am-12pm: Farmers Market

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If you didn't make a visit to the Havre de Grace Farmers Market last season, you will want to make it part of your weekends this year! Last year Havre de Grace Farmer's Market grew by ten vendors from years past, and we will have even more vendors this year. Right along side of the local farmers and vendors, Laurrapin Grille is serving breakfast and lunch using local meats and produce. Fresh fruits and vegetables, potted and fresh cut flowers, cheeses, ice cream, scones and other fresh baked goods, meat from local farms, honey, alpaca yarn and tons of other items. Saturdays 9am-12pm May - October at the intersection of Washington Street and Pennington Avenue.

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Art Pantheon

A Retrospective ~ Artist Dee Foe

From how I lay the pillows on my davenport, hang a picture, or do my yard, I'm artistic. I have friends who say they like to travel with me because I see so much more than they do. Seeing art everywhere, I'm always storing up for the future. **Dee Foe**

The Button Lady might be how you heard about Dee Foe and her new art gallery, **Art Pantheon**, in Havre de Grace. With thousands of buttons on display for purchase, used in her jewelry creations and as part of her paintings, the title is certainly apt. You can't help but say, "WOW!" when you step inside the shop. But, oh my, she is so very much more than that. In fact, it's difficult to present her to you in a brief article. But allow me to try.

Dee Foe recently moved to the area from Tennessee to live with her daughter and son-in-law, Sherri and Pete Jordan. She opened the gallery, she says, "to be surrounded by and enjoy my art. Hopefully, selling it since I can't take it with me!" Her family's support was key to accomplishing her goal: building shelves, carrying boxes, hanging paintings, and creating a website for her.

When you step into her gallery, you'll be received enthusiastically with Dee's ready smile winning you over. Her dress is always highlighted with a splash of color and quite often a jaunty beret is the finishing touch.

If you take a little time to point out a painting that inspires you, she'll have an interesting story to share, offering wonderful background and, quite often, historical. One example, ask her about the circus paintings.

The **Art Pantheon**, located at 327 St. John Street, is truly a retrospective of this woman's life as an artist. With 70 years of work displayed on her walls and stacked in a number of floor racks, Dee explains that she has at least another 40 paintings to retrieve from her previous home in Tennessee. Need perspective? That's equivalent to filling another huge wall!

Interestingly Dee has offered few original paintings for sale until now. She's sold hundreds, if not thousands, of prints. But was never ready to sell originals. Even with her many summers spent at Chautauqua Institute in western New York State, she didn't sell originals. When I asked her about that, she said, "Pride of ownership has always satisfied me until recent years."

An artist with great passion, Dee has painted her way through difficult times, raising five children and working several jobs. Art has been her sustenance.

But her passion doesn't stop with painting. She loves teaching and encouraging children, offering them simple suggestions so that they might experience the joy of creating art. She shares a childhood memory explaining that her mom often said that she was happiest with a tub of old magazines, newspapers and a pair of scissors – cutting, pasting and creating.



Story & Photos by Ellie Mencer
www.ellieoops.com



Continued on Page 9

The Susquehanna Museum

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"My art is totally me," Dee shares. "You won't find any copies in my work. I love to paint outdoors and that's "Chautauqua-taught". She explains that most of her classes were completed outdoors during her summers at Chautauqua Institute. As a young child, she loved being in the woods, noticing new flowers and birds. Painting outdoors remains her favorite location.

The world truly is her art gallery! She has carried rocks home from Italy and shells from Naples to create sculptures. This spring she is eager to add Havre de Grace to her gallery, painting scenes and activities of and around the city.

Still curious about the buttons? Back in the late 70s, early 80s, Dee was buying antiques at auctions in New York and selling in the mid-west. At one point her husband commented that he didn't like what she bought and wished she'd bought buttons. Another vendor overheard it and said that he had a 2-car garage full of buttons and other sewing notions. Eight tons worth to be exact. Well, actually, Dee says 7-1/2! They bought them right then, sight unseen. Several months later

they were delivered by semi-trailer to a 90' x 50' Quonset hut on Dee's property that was filled 2 pallets high. When you step into her art gallery, it's hard to imagine that she still has those 7-1/2 tons of buttons and sewing notions to bring here from Tennessee. (She's waiting for the snows to melt.)

Before leaving, I asked Dee if she minded being recognized as the Button Lady. "Well, I want to be an art gallery," she said. "But the buttons draw people in. So it's okay."

Buttons – marbles – jewelry – painted rocks – a few antiques sprinkled here and there – and walls of paintings await your visit. One woman's lifetime of work and passion is waiting to be shared. And since, as Dee says, "I can't take it with me," she hopes you'll find a perfect painting or two for your own home or office.

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Fun Floats!

7 Ways to Get Out & Enjoy the Susquehanna River!

By Elizabeth Swarm Cook

As the days start to get sunnier, warmer and longer, Havre de Grace residents and visitors start to gravitate to the river for all kinds of recreational activities. Located on the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay and the outlet of the Susquehanna River, Havre de Grace, which in French means "Harbor of Grace", becomes an ideal waterfront destination this time of year. Whether you enjoy peacefully looking at the river on land or venturing onto the river by boat, there are many ways to embrace the water in Havre de Grace in the nice-weather months. To get you started we've put together a handy list of ways to get out and start enjoying the water today!

Parasailing

Enjoy breathtaking views of Havre de Grace while soaring hundreds of feet in the air above the river with Old Town Parasail. Parasail rides are 400 or 800 feet and can be experienced alone or with a partner. The whole boat ride and airtime experience is about 1 1/2 hours; time in the air is about 16-17 minutes. Parasailing is offered seven days a week from Memorial Day through the end of September. Captain Glenn calls the experience, "safe and thrilling" and reassures those afraid of heights that "it won't bother you at all!" Old Town Parasail is located at Hutchins Park at the foot of Congress Avenue. www.oldtownparasail.com.

Concord Point Lighthouse & Promenade

One of the most interesting and unique historic structures in Havre de Grace is the Concord Point Lighthouse. It has served as a beacon for sailors and boaters in the Upper Chesapeake Bay for over 180 years. It is the oldest continuously operating lighthouse in Maryland. The lighthouse is open to the public April through October on Saturdays and Sundays. The lighthouse has a gift shop which is located inside the Keeper's Dwelling across the street. Leading to the Lighthouse, visitors can capture sensational views of the river by strolling along the promenade, a scenic 1/4 mile boardwalk. Enjoy waterfowl watching along the way! www.concordpointlighthouse.org

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Skipjack Martha Lewis

Celebrating its 16th year in Havre de Grace, the Skipjack Martha Lewis underwent a major restoration in 1994. The Skipjack Martha Lewis, one of the few remaining working dredge boats, is a V-bottom, two-sail skipjack which offers a wide range of cruises for kids, adults and families. The first official cruise of the season is the Mother's Day Cruise and special cruises continue through the end of October including Maryland Wine Cruises, Margarita Cruises, Sunset Cruises and Lighthouse Cruises. The skipjack can hold up to 28 passengers. Reservations are necessary for private charters but public cruises are held every weekend. Tickets for public cruises may be purchased where the boat is docked at the Havre de Grace City Yacht Basin in Tydings Park. www.skipjackmarthalewis.org



Lantern Queen Riverboat

The largest passenger vessel in the Upper Chesapeake region, the Lantern Queen was built as a replica Mississippi riverboat and is completely paddleboat propelled. Sailing out of Hutchins Park, the Lantern Queen offers both public cruises and private charters, and can accommodate all kinds of special events including weddings, anniversaries, and business meetings. The main deck of the boat seats sixty people comfortably; more can be accommodated, weather permitting. New owners Becky and Carroll Fitzgerald are determined to make sure that everyone has a good time. They have hired top-notch staff; brought on Dean and Brown Catering to deliver scrumptious meals and they work to "manage the whole experience." They offer special holiday cruises throughout the year along with weekly Sailboat and Dinner Cruises. www.lanternqueen.com

Kayaking

For the adventure enthusiast, why not try kayaking along the river? Chesapeake Cycle at 101 N. Washington Street is chocked full of kayaks to rent or purchase. They also offer "eco/nature" themed kayak tours on the bay. The tours are perfect for beginners and include basic kayaking instruction. Guided tours are approximately two hours and are held mostly on Saturday mornings. Reservations are recommended. www.chesapeakecyclesport.com



Sailing Charters

If kayaking is too much work, why not try enjoying the river aboard a sailboat? BaySail offers professional sailing instruction as well as an excellent selection of recent model yachts for charter. Smaller sailboats are available for day rentals. BaySail is located at Tidewater Marina at 100 Bourbon Street. www.baysail.net

Fishing

For fishing excursions on the river, Twilight Zone Charters offers all kinds of fishing opportunities for light tackle/fly fishing on the Susquehanna. The Susquehanna Flats region is prime fishery for striped bass. Sightseeing and bird watching charters are also available. Guests are met at the Havre de Grace Yacht Basin at Commerce Drive. www.tzcharters.com



One can also enjoy the river by relaxing at one of the waterfront parks: Tydings, Hutchins, Susquehanna State Park; visiting one of the waterfront museums: Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Havre de Grace Maritime Museum and the Susquehanna Lock House Museum; hiking on one of the trails; and dining at one of the waterfront dining establishments along the river. **Get out there and enjoy!**



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-  Parks
-  Food
-  Antiques
-  Specialty Shops
-  Visitor Center
-  Public Parking
-  Public Restrooms



DOWNTOWN AREA



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havre de grace magazine.

Spring 2010 Events

April

April 25

Women's 5k by the Bay

8 am • Tydings Park
Benefits Harford United Charities.
410.399.9948 • www.active.com

Havre de Grace Art Crawl

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410.939.6424 • www.mainstreethdg.com

April 30 – May 2

29th Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

HdG Decoy Museum
Fri. 6-9 pm; Sat. 9 am – 5 pm
Sun. 10 am – 4 pm
175 decoy carvers, artists, commercial
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demonstrations.
410.939.3739
www.decoymuseum.com

May

May 1

War of 1812 Re-Enactment

The Susquehanna Museum
10 am – 5 pm
Experience the Battle of Havre de Grace
during the War of 1812.
410.939.2100
www.thelockhousemuseum.org

May 2

John O'Neill Cannon Monument Rededication

Concord Point Lighthouse • 2pm
Rededication of the War of 1812 Cannon
Monument to John O'Neill, war hero
and first keeper of the Lighthouse.
www.concordpointlighthouse.org

May 7

First Fridays!

5-9 pm
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410.939.1811
www.mainstreethdg.com

May 7-9

9th Annual Susquehanna Music & Arts Festival

Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum
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and traditional folk music and activities.
410.939.2100
www.susquehannamusicandartsfestival.com

May 8

Cecil County Arts Council Open Studio Tour

9 am – 5 pm
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visit working artists studios.
www.cecilcountyartscouncil.org

Trashy Women IV Open House Reception

Studio 432, 432 Aiken Avenue,
Perryville • 6 - 9 pm
www.studio432.biz

May 15

Secret Garden Tour

12 noon – 5 pm
See article page 5.
410-939-4800
www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org

May 15 & 16

Medieval Days

Steppingstone Museum
Sat. & Sun. 12 – 5 pm
Event features a medieval
encampment with fighting and fencing
demonstrations, arts and crafts, period
music and dance, children's games, food
and tours.
410-939-2299
www.steppingstonemuseum.org

May 31

Memorial Day Event

American Legion Post 47
9 am & 11 am
Memorial Day observances begin at
Angel Hill Cemetery at 9 a.m. and then
proceed to Tydings Memorial Park.
410.939.0234

June

June 4

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443.643.3460 • www.uchs.org

June 11 & 12

American Cancer Society: Relay for Life of Havre de Grace

HdG Middle School • 7 pm – 6 am
A celebration of cancer survivorship and
community spirit raising funds for the
American Cancer Society.
410.933.5160
www.relayforlife.org/havredegrace

June 13

Celtic Festival

Steppingstone Museum • 12 – 5 pm
Pipe band music, dancing and singing,
sheepherding, sheep shearing, clan
gatherings, vendors, amateur games,
competition, food & tours.
410-939-2299
www.steppingstonemuseum.org

June 19

Annual Sporting Clay Classic

Decoy Museum • 9am
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takes place at Pintail Point. All proceeds
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410.939.3739 • www.decoymuseum.com

June 26

Summertime Blues Festival

Steppingstone Museum • 2 – 8 pm
Live blues music by local, regional and
national acts. Food, beer and wine for
sale. Bring lawn chairs or blankets.
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www.steppingstonemuseum.org

June 29 – July 4

Havre de Grace Independence Celebration Carnival

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July

Sundays during July "In the Heat of the Summer"

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www.lanternqueen.com ■ www.skipjackmarthalewis.org ■ www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org ■ www.thelockhousemuseum.org
www.steppingstonemuseum.org ■ www.decoymuseum.com ■ www.mainstreethdg.com ■ www.hdgtourism.com

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pgrover@aberndeen-md.org

The Entrepreneurial Spirit Comes Alive in Havre de Grace

Storefronts are filling up along the streets of Havre de Grace as several new businesses have opened up in town. We welcome the new businesses and wish them the best of success and encourage our readers to visit and support these new specialty boutiques and restaurants. Some of the businesses that have come to town include:



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DUCK DECOYS

Bridging Generations Through Local Folk Art

Story & Photos by Ellie Mencer
www.ellieoops.com

Josh recalls his nametag that read: Capt. Harry's Yard Boy when he attended his first Decoy Show with Capt. Harry Jobes in Havre de Grace.

That's Josh Blanchette talking about his mentor, Capt. Harry Jobes. Capt. Harry is a lifelong resident of the area and a recognized Master Decoy Carver. Josh is an Aberdeen high school junior who has discovered a tradition he hopes to help preserve.

This story actually began four years ago when, with the encouragement of a friend, Josh walked into Harry Jobes decoy shop to earn a few dollars. Starting with odd jobs: sweeping floors, sanding putty off the decoys, and other tasks, he soon discovered that watching Harry create decoys just wasn't enough.

Thus began the passing of a tradition from one of the masters to our youngest generation. Josh is learning from one of the best. Capt. Harry, not new to teaching a youngster, has encouraged several carvers including his three sons: Charlie, Bobby and Joey. All today earn their livelihoods making decoys.

Sitting in Capt. Harry's shop surrounded by shelves of decoys in various stages of production, the mix of sawdust and paint permeating the air, we share a lot of banter and laughter. Soon it's easy to pick up the nuances unique to each generation. Josh jokes about Capt. Harry's sidiosyncrasies, while Harry goes on about cell phones.

Harry enjoys teaching new kids but says "In this day they don't want to work. They'd rather be playing games on their computer. So working and learning to carve isn't in most kids' schedules." Josh, on the other hand, juggles school, a weekly schedule as a volunteer trainee at the Aberdeen fire hall, a band he plays in, working with Harry and carving ducks.

Then they start talking decoys. Watching Josh, you immediately sense the camaraderie and respect that has developed between them. Josh first shows me the seriousness of the craft as he displays the scar that runs over the palm of his hand, from thumb to wrist. A hard lesson learned in respecting the sharpness of his carving blade.

Next we start talking process. I ask, "Where do you start?" Of course, Capt. Harry says, "...a block of wood. You need lots of wood!" We all laugh.

Creating the decoy starts with the body pattern. Capt. Harry, as do many carvers, has created his own patterns. The block of white pine is placed on a lathe where the body is turned from the pattern. At this point, the shaping of the body is 50% done. The other 50% is handwork, including spoke shaved, fine sanded, and nailing the head on. There is a pattern for the head, but it is totally hand-carved. Completing this part of the process, they putty around the neck, sand it, ballast weight it, ring and staple it. Now it's ready to be primed.

Then they stop to share a few more hard-learned lessons. Like - how easy it is to mess up a \$250 saw blade on the lathe. Uh oh! No paycheck for a week or two! Both share a great respect for the band saw - tough on the fingernails! Just ask Josh.





Why does Josh carve?

He has learned that carving decoys is a purposeful emotional outlet. When he gets upset or angry, he'll go to his shop, turn on the radio, and start carving or painting. Already, Josh is learning what many adults haven't learned – to find a healthy outlet where he can think and release negativity. He says, "If your good at painting and a little artistic, decoy carving is a great activity."

Besides full-sized ducks, Josh loves to paint miniature swans and even smaller ducks. The tiny ducks are time consuming and totally hand-carved. One woman, he recalls, bought about 10 of his miniature ducks. She was kind enough to return and show him the jewelry she created with them. Josh calculates that he's made about 50 full-size ducks and about 400 miniatures. They've gone to Massachusetts, Florida, and even Chicago.

In spite of Harry's reputation for being cantankerous, he is obviously a great teacher. Josh has stayed with it for four years and continues to grow in his craft. He enjoys it enough to want to make a living at it. He no longer cares when other kids tease about his decoy carving. He makes money at it. He enjoys developing his skill. And he's accomplishing something positive.

At this point I ask Josh if he's heard the story of the Jobes family selling decoys on QVC (1996). He looks quite surprised as Harry shares a few details of selling 1700 decoys in 15 minutes. This had followed three months of intense labor by the four Jobes carvers, their wives, and a couple other carvers to help complete the tasks in time. They've not rushed to repeat this adventure.

In an era of plastic resins and mass production, it's easy to miss the value of the hand-carved decoy. We tend to look at the seeming simplicity of a working decoy and not realize the skills, artistic talent, supplies, tools and time required to create it. The decorative decoy asks even more from the carver.

We return to the process. Capt. Harry explains that painting basics are taught next. He also tells me that each carver begins to develop his own style. Those who collect decoys often can spot their favorite carvers by the painting technique used. Josh has already begun to find his own style.

Then we discuss Josh's love of decoy making. He dreams of making a living creating decoys one day. As a young teen he already has his own shop and has invested \$5,000 in machinery including 2 band saws, a joiner, 2 routers, a lathe, and an air compressor. Of course, he still works for Harry and uses some of his heavy-duty equipment. He calculates that he's spent another \$600 in paint and brush supplies.

I ask, "What do you do to earn that money?"

"Sell a duck," shouts Harry. We all giggle. "...sell a duck!"

With this wonderful folk art being taught to our younger generation, we can be assured that Havre de Grace will continue to be "The Decoy Capital of the World." We encourage you to purchase decoys, visit a local carver, enjoy a trip to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum as well as the various shows that highlight the fine craftsmanship of this prized folk art and local tradition!



www.harryjobesdecoys.com

www.decoymuseum.com

Contact Josh: 410-937-4232 or blanchettedecoys@yahoo.com

Safe Haven for Kids in Our Community: The Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford County



By Elizabeth Swarm Cook



A true sign of the current times in our county is that thousands of parents work long hours outside the home on a daily basis which results in thousands of "latch-key" children returning to empty homes after school. After the school bell rings, there is a four-to-five-hour window of time when many kids are on their own and run the risk of encountering danger or getting into trouble if they do not have scheduled activities to keep them safe, busy and out of harm's way.

Planted in a few of our communities in Harford County are neighborhood-based, after-school programs which provide healthy activities and positive alternatives to youth crime, gangs and other negative influences affecting young people today. These "safe havens" are called the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County.

The first Harford County club was formed in the basement of Grove Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen in 1989. A few years later, in 1993, the club received a charitable gift of land in Aberdeen from the Karas family to embark on a permanent facility to be the official home and headquarters for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County. This building now stands on East Bel Air Avenue in the heart of the Aberdeen community. Since that time, other branches have opened in Edgewood, Bel Air and Havre de Grace.

Each Harford County Club serves 100-150 children daily and 4,500 children annually between the ages of six and eighteen. For an enrollment fee of only \$12 a year, the Boys and Girls Clubs "pick up where the schools leave off." Each day when kids arrive at the clubs, they are required to engage in "homework check" to make sure their homework assignments are completed before they are allowed to launch into recreational activities including physical education, arts and crafts, computer training and board games. The clubs employ full-time youth development professionals to oversee all of these activities and to serve as mentors for the kids. They assist kids in developing leadership and socialization skills and encourage them to get involved in their communities, pursue career goals and enhance their education.

At the helm of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County for the past thirteen months has been Randy Acosta. Randy is no stranger to the organization; in fact he is a product of the organization. "I went from the games room to the board room," he stated. Acosta was born in Tampa, Florida and raised in Minnesota and Virginia. In both states, Acosta spent time at the Boys and Girls Clubs and later became Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs in Prince William County, Virginia.

He has brought his personal experience and passion for the organization to Harford County where he is working hard to change perceptions and myths about the clubs.

"We need to get away from the stigma that the clubs are only for at-risk youth," he said. "Every kid needs a club. Every child is at risk when they do not have the proper guidance." He went on to emphasize that the hours from 3 to 7pm are the most critical for young people in America. "Every kid without supervision from 3 until 7 is an at-risk youth."



The clubs are fortunate to have a very active and supportive board as well as key members of the community who serve as board members. The year, the Board of Directors elected Tory Pierce of Frederick Ward Associates to serve as president. Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps is the featured guest speaker at the clubs' 20th anniversary celebration and annual "Steak and Burger" dinner on April 22nd.

In addition to the necessary event fundraisers, executive director Randy Acosta along with his board continue to search for additional sources of revenue for the clubs since the demand for services is higher than ever. However, at the same time, they hope to reach out to more kids. "We can't rest on our laurels," he said. "We need to find those kids who need us the most."

Volunteer recruitment is another short-term goal of the organization. As with any non-profit organization, volunteers serve as the backbone and help to support the dedicated staff members in their efforts to mentor and engage the kids in positive and productive activities. "The smallest amount of time that a volunteer gives can impact the life of a kid significantly," Acosta emphasized.

If you are interested in volunteering, contributing or supporting the organization or know of a child who would like to join one of the clubs, please check out the clubs' website at www.bgcharfordco.org.



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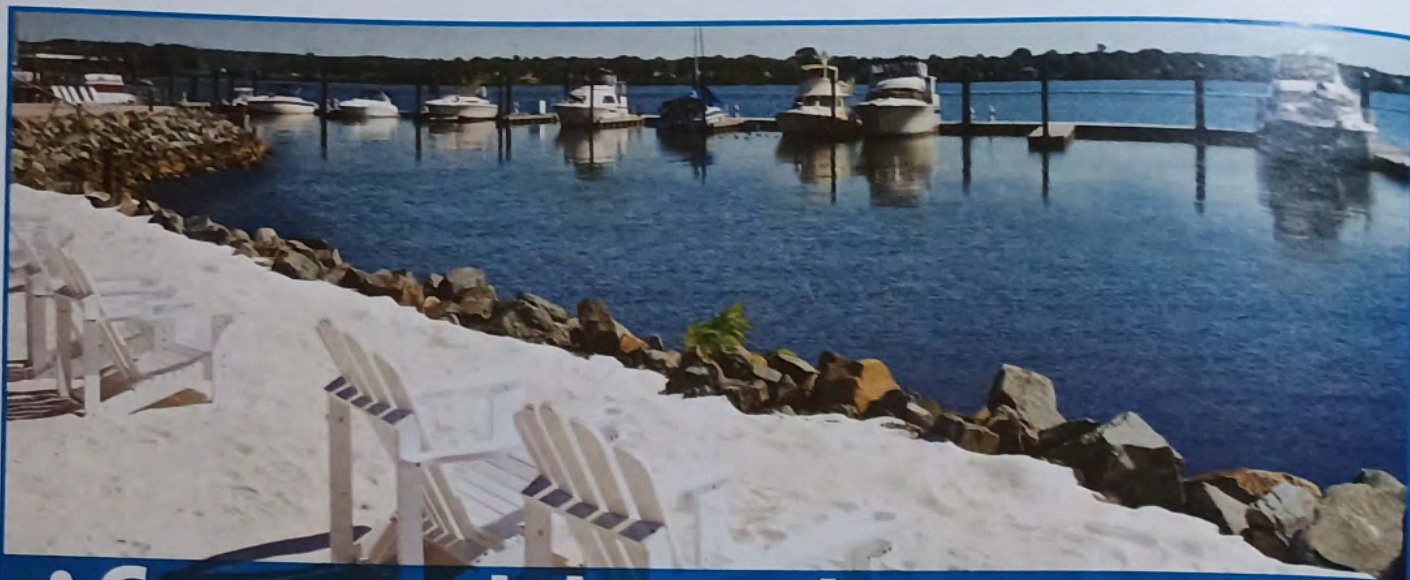
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