Fall/Winter 2010

havre de grace MAGAZINE

Ben Sollee
Ditching the Van Tour Visits HdG

Atta-buoy!
Water Trail's Smart Buoys

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Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Recession.

By Maureen G. Eller

The recession has hit me hard . . . it's hit all of us hard. It's affected the way we live, the way we work, the way we pay our bills, and the way we spend our money. Reports indicate that 54% of Americans are living month-to-month on their income, while 16% are not even able to do that. Unfortunately, I am not in the 30% that has sailed through these hard times unscathed. This is depressing.

Trying to look on the bright side of things, a recent *Time* magazine article claimed this recession has become the chance for Americans to enjoy a healthier, greener lifestyle. Perhaps that is true! I've certainly REDUCED my spending. I'm getting pretty handy with REUSING the things I already have. And the RECYCLING has improved with our ability to put it all out at the curb at the same time! So the recession has been a good thing?

Okay, maybe it has, but with the holiday shopping season quickly approaching (and my wanting to be healthier and greener), I'll need to REDUCE the amount of shopping I do. But how would one REUSE (without re-gifting) and RECYCLE (without giving someone an empty milk jug)?

Then it dawned on me. . . look at all the wonderful shops in Havre de Grace! Walk into any antique store and I'm sure to find an item that won't be found in a mall. Walk into a specialty shop and I can browse and enjoy a less-frantic style of hustle and bustle. And what better way to enjoy shopping then to know I'm supporting a small business and not a mega-super-center. That's my Christmas wish.

This holiday season - my shopping will be done in Havre de Grace. I encourage you to do the same.

Congratulations!

to the Havre de Grace Branch of the Harford County Public Library for 50 years of service to the community. There will be a celebration on December 2, from 4-8 pm with a cake cutting at 4:30.

Correction. . . *In the summer 2010 issue of Havre de Grace Magazine, a photograph taken by Virignia Drahan Bennett (Ginna Drahan - 410-688-5643) was used as the background photo for the Havre de Grace Dauntless Base Ball Club story (on page 10). Credit was inadvertently given to Amanda Schaffer for all photos used. We regret this error.*

havredegrace MAGAZINE

Celebrating 12 Years of promoting our City by the Bay.

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Next Issue Comes out in March!

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. . . Laissaz les bons temps rouler!

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Do "good fences make good neighbors?"

Traveling Smithsonian Exhibit Explores Both Sides of the Fence

The Havre de Grace Maritime Museum has been chosen by the Maryland Humanities Council to host *Between Fences* as part of the Museum on Main Street project – a national/state/local partnership bringing exhibitions and programs to rural cultural organizations. This traveling Smithsonian exhibit will serve all Harford County residents and is set to open in Havre de Grace on November 12, 2010 and run through December 31, 2010.

"We are very pleased to be able to bring *Between Fences* to our area," said Iris Leigh Barnes, exhibit project manager. "It allows us the opportunity to explore this fascinating aspect of our history and we hope that it will inspire many to become even more involved in the cultural life of our community."

Through a selection of artifacts, photographs and illustrations, *Between Fences* will surprise audiences with its exploration of the multiple meanings behind this everyday icon. Whether made of split rails, decorative white pickets, or tall chain link, a fence conveys information about the people who built it, how they view and use their property, and the nature of their relations with their neighbors. The exhibit also explores the implications of fences in Colonial America, around gated communities, and at our country's borders with Canada and Mexico.

Spring Yard Work, by Thornton Utz. Saturday Evening Post, May 18, 1957 ©1957 Curtis Publishing, Indianapolis, IN.

The Havre de Grace Maritime Museum will host opening activities and a reception on Saturday, November 13 as part of the museum's Founders' Day Celebration. The celebration is a free event and open to the public. Call 410-939-4800 for details or visit their website.

The Havre de Grace Maritime Museum serves the local community by collecting, documenting, preserving and interpreting the maritime skills and heritage of the Lower Susquehanna River and Upper Chesapeake Bay. To learn more, visit www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org.

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"Attabuoy, Havre de Grace!"

Smart Buoys Marks National Water Trail at the Susquehanna

When the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail was designed for the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Smith's journey through the Chesapeake Bay region, it called for a marking system quite different from the color-coded signs used by land-based trails. For the first-ever national water trail, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) devised a buoy system that would transmit a variety of data for trail users, scientists and naturalists to access.

The bright yellow floating devices look similar to other navigational buoys around the Bay, but the "smart" buoys in the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS) are loaded with sensors to help track and relay information in near real-time to the Internet using wireless technology. Users with access to the internet can log on to www.buoybay.org to see current weather conditions and environmental information such as wind speed, temperature, and wave height at any of the six different buoy locations along the trail.

The NOAA's Chesapeake Bay office deployed a "smart" buoy at the mouth of the Susquehanna River on September 13, 2009, just off the shore of Havre de Grace. This was the fifth interpretative buoy to mark the Capt. John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The CBIBS buoys have been deployed at the mouths of the Potomac, Patapsco, and Rappahannock Rivers, and in the James River off Jamestown, Va., as well as the Elizabeth River at Norfolk, Va.

Captain John Smith

In January 2009, the buoy was caught in ice and dragged nearly a quarter mile from its position due to strong southerly winds. It was eventually freed from the ice and removed in order to avoid any damage. It was redeployed in April, 2009.

In addition to all the standard modern technology, the Havre de Grace buoy also features a sensor to track nutrient levels as they enter the bay from the river, specifically nitrogen. High levels of nutrients have a strong connection to deterioration of the bay's health, and can contribute to low dissolved oxygen levels in bay waters which create areas known as "dead zones."

By tracking the run-off of nitrogen and other nutrients, scientists can better understand how the Chesapeake watershed affects the health of ecosystems like the Chesapeake - which in turn affects the health of the ocean.

As the first English settler to fully explore the Chesapeake Bay, Captain John Smith traveled more than 2,000 miles during the summer of 1608 in an open "shallop" boat with no modern conveniences. We know today it is quite different. If you are equipped with a cell phone, then you can have access to the data being collected through CBIBS. Modern day explorers on the water can call the buoys at 1-877-BUOYBAY to hear the current weather conditions ahead so to avoid swelling waves or impending storms.

Land-based explorers and educators can also use the CBIBS as a portal to a host of historical, scientific, and meteorological information about the Chesapeake Bay region. Log onto www.buoybay.org to gain access to educational resources.

You can also gain historical information such as the Chesapeake Bay's condition in Smith's time of 1608. Query the buoy closest to your location and you can pull up a comparison between the current water quality conditions and those that Smith would likely have encountered during his voyage.

And like modern museum tours, the CBIBS system also provides voice narration of natural and cultural history for the area you're traveling through on the trail. Similar to "podcasts," these vignettes provide the opportunity for both trail users and shore-side learners to find out about the local history of these waterways, making the water trail a paddle through time as well as space.

Learn more about Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail at www.smithtrail.net; The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Chesapeake Bay Office: chesapeakebay.noaa.gov; Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System: www.buoybay.org; Capt. John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail: www.nps.gov/cajo

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For information on moving your business to Havre de Grace or expanding your Havre de Grace business, contact Meghan Simmons, City of Havre de Grace.

410.939.1800

meghans@havredegracemd.com

www.havredegracemd.com

Calendar of Events

Oct 30
HALLOWEEN PARADE
sponsored by the HdG Recreation Committee. 6:30 pm Parade begins. Meet at the corner of Washington Street and Congress Avenue dressed in costume. FREE and Open to the Public.

November

Nov. 2, 9, 12, 16, 19, or 23
DISCOVERY DREDGES
9am - 3pm Experience life on a working skipjack while oystering the way it has been done for decades! Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work with the crew of the Skipjack MARTHA LEWIS. Reservations Required.Call 410-939-4078

Nov 5
FIRST FRIDAY'S "Locals, Legends and Lore" from 5-9pm. Scavenger hunts, ghost tours and scary things! Activities for the kids, shops stay open late and more! Sponsored by Havre de Grace Main Street, Inc. Call 410-939-1811

Nov 6-7
PIRATES by the BAY
Sat: 11am-5pm / Sun: 10am-3pm Visit pirate camps, watch the attacks. Learn the real history of piracy and its connections to Havre de Grace. Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House or call 410-939-5780

Nov. 8
MASÚT WINE UNVEILING at VINEYARD WINE BAR
6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
The Vineyard Wine Bar's One-Year Anniversary Celebration and east coast's premier wine unveiling.

Nov 12
BETWEEN FENCES
HdG Maritime Museum hosts the Smithsonian Exhibition with its exploration of the multiple meanings behind this everyday icon. Runs through December 31.

Nov 13
HISTORIC NATURE WALK on the NORTH PARK TRAIL - 10am Enjoy a free, guided nature and historical walk. Approx. 1 hour. Meet at the Lock House. Free and open to the public.

Nov 13
FOUNDER'S DAY, 11am-8pm Explore the past lifeways of the first peoples of the Chesapeake through demonstrations and hands-on activities. Celebrate the museum's founding. Founder's Day discount offered in our museum store. Not a member? Join today! Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, 100 Lafayette Street, CALL 410-939-4800

Nov. 27, 28
THANKSGIVING CRUISE
2:00 - 4:00 PM Count your blessings on this dinner cruise aboard the Lantern Queen. Call for reservations 410-939-1468

January

Jan. 8
NATURE/HISTORIC WALK ON NORTH PARK TRAIL (Sponsored by Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum) 10am. This guided nature and historic walk is free to the public. Walk approximately one hour. Meet at the Lock House of the Susquehanna Museum. Call 410-939-5780

Jan. 13
ELLSWORTH SHANK LECTURE SERIES Sponsored by Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum. 7:00pm. Call 410-939-5780

Jan. 29
21st HAVRE de GRACE ARTS COMMISSION BALL
7:30pm-midnight. Theme: "Monet's Garden". Dinner/dance fundraiser, live band, silent auction. Held at the HdG Community Center. $ Call 410-939-4441

February

4th ANNUAL RED PUMP BALL
6-10pm. Held at Bulle Rock's Residents' Club. This Black-tie optional Dinner Dance to benefit the Cardiovascular Program at Upper Chesapeake Health. $ Call 443-643-3460 for exact date and time.

Feb. 10
ELLSWORTH SHANK LECTURE SERIES Sponsored by Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum. 7:00pm. Call 410-939-5780

February
Valentine Cruises
Live jazz, a surf & turf menu, and a 2 hour dinner cruise on the Lantern Queen. What could be more romantic? We've got two cruises to choose from, both afternoons from 2:00 - 4:00 PM so you can see the sights with your honey!

Feb. 26
"NIGHT at the MUSEUM" GALA.
7-11pm. Watch as the museum transforms itself overnight. Enjoy specialty foods, entertainment, dancing, and much more. $ Tickets required. Call 410-939-4800 or email: museum@comcast.net

March

March 8
4th ANNUAL MARDI GRAS PARADE and FESTIVITIES
6:30pm. Join in the festivities as we parade down Washington Street to celebrate Mardi Gras. Proceeds to benefit the Susquehanna Hose Company.

March 10
ELLSWORTH SHANK LECTURE SERIES Sponsored by Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum, 7:00pm. "Black Plague of 1918" Held at Chipshot Café (on Rt. 40) Call 410-939-5780

March 19
HISTORIC NATURE WALK ON NORTH PARK TRAIL (Sponsored by Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum) 10am. Enjoy a free, guided nature and historical walk of the North Park Trail. Walk is approximately one hour. Meet at the Lock House of the Susquehanna Museum. Call 410-939-5780

March 19
HdG LIONS CLUB ANNUAL BULL/SHRIMP & OYSTER ROAST
6-11pm. $ Call 410-939-2100

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

Love Style

"Havre de Grace"

By Maureen G Eller

Richard "Dickie" Mahoney proposes to Stephanie Knox (both still in costumes) at the end of their stage performance in May at Tidewater Players in Havre de Grace. She said 'Yes!"

Yankee Stadium in New York City has been dubbed "nuptial heaven." The reason? The score board. It is reported that at each home game, there is at least one marriage proposal request illuminated on the board for one very special lady to see.

Las Vegas has now become the wedding capital of the United States. The city issues an average of 120,000 marriage licenses each year. But, of course we all know what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.

And then there's Havre de Grace. We may be known for our lighthouse, decoys and the Skipjack Martha Lewis, but we may soon be known as the Romance Capital of the world! Havre de Grace is filled with unique locations for those looking to "pop" the question . . . maybe a quiet table for two at a local restaurant, under the gazebo at Tydings Park, or how about a surprise proposal on stage in front of an unsuspecting audience?

Meet Richard "Dickie" Mahoney, MIP Coordinator at North East Middle School, Youth Program Coordinator and actor with Tidewater Players. His mission? To marry the girl of his dreams and to propose to her in a way that will be special to both of them.

Enter Stephanie Knox. Dickie's girlfriend, a Baltimore County School teacher and an actress with Tidewater Players . . . who has no idea her life is about to change.

Although the pair has known each other since 2004, it wasn't until they performed opposite each other in the 2009 Tidewater Player's production of *Blood Brothers* that the romance bloomed.

In that show, Stephanie's character was involved in a love triangle between two brothers. Dickie and his real-life twin brother, Bobby, were cast as the story's twins who were separated at birth and tragically reunited in the play.

Dickie described working with Stephanie on one particular scene of the play when the director insisted they must kiss with more passion.

"The first time we kissed was on stage at Tidewater during a rehearsal," he recalled, "and the director wanted MORE when I kissed her.

"I was just following directions so when we kissed again, I gave MORE. After the kiss I opened my eyes and she was just staring at me."

As he looked at her, he realized she forgot her line and reminded her . . . "It's your line."

"I've always admired her from afar," he continued. "But I don't think she ever noticed me. . .until we did *Blood Brothers* . That was one powerful kiss!"

The couple started dating shortly thereafter but a sudden twist in the plot changed their dating status forever.

"I had a talk with my dad one day," said Dickie. "I told him, I think she was the one."

Over the next few months, he would devise a plan. After all, he thought, they met each other while performing on stage. . . why not propose to her on stage?

So, the stage was set (pun intended). During their final performance of last spring's *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Dickie would surprise his girlfriend with a ring and a proposal.

Knox, along with most everyone in the show, knew nothing about the impending event. He did, however, confide with three very close friends.

"I just didn't want anyone to spill the beans," he confessed.

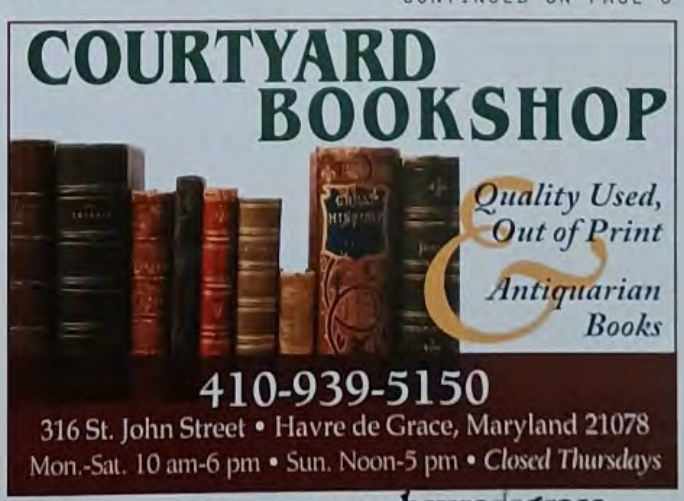
As is customary in the theater, after the final performance, the cast presents gifts to the director and the production staff as a way to thank them for all their time spent on the show. Dickie was conveniently in charge of organizing, purchasing and handing out the gifts.

Knox said she knew something strange was going on, however, when her boyfriend took center stage after the gifts were handed out and began talking about her.

"I wasn't expecting it at all," she said. "I mean, we were playing kids in a spelling bee. There was no romance at all in this show.

"It didn't really sink in," she said. "Then all of a sudden, I thought 'Wait, why is he talking about me?' My mother said I looked like a bobble-head – I wasn't saying anything, but my head was shaking back and forth."

Continued on page 6



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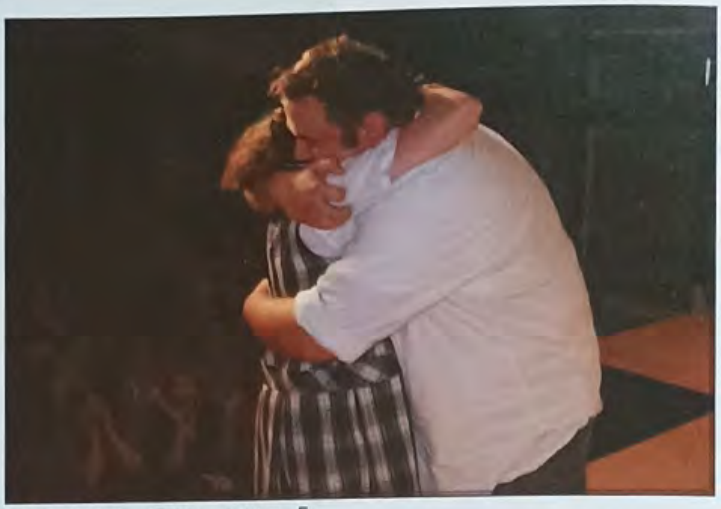

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

His secret was well kept.

And she said 'Yes.'

"It was a very emotional day," Dickie said. "There were tears and cheers from the audience and some of our family members. It was a whirlwind."

The couple is planning a wedding in December with a theatrical theme to suit their personalities.

"The Beauty is marrying the Beast," Dickie joked.

What's next for couple? Well, it just so happens that the spring production with Tidewater Players will be "The Wedding Singer." Hmmm . . . another match made in heaven.

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38th Annual Candlelight Tour

photo credit Ed Heaton

Have you ever wondered how the holiday season might be celebrated in one of the beautiful historic homes in Havre de Grace? Or maybe you just hoped to discover a unique decorating idea?

December 12th is your opportunity to do just that! The Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House will welcome you to join the festivities of their 38th Annual Candlelight Tour. This holiday tradition will delight your senses of sight, sound and smell. The lighted trees and decorations that line the historic downtown, the luminaries that create a soft glow along Union Avenue where many beautiful historic homes sparkle in their holiday trimmings, will soon have you humming your favorite holiday tune!

Each home that opens its door to guests shares a bit of their personal lives for a few hours during this holiday event. After working for days, even weeks, to prepare for this special day, the owners will be ready to greet you warmly.

The smell of hot cider, chocolate and coffee mingling with the tantalizing aroma of holiday pastries and cookies will tease your taste buds. Shops, museums, B&Bs, churches and beautiful homes will each offer their personal spice to the day's texture.

Ornaments on a family tree and decorations scattered throughout a home display years of family memories. A child's first Christmas, an annual decoration added through the years, a favorite Santa, a doll or toy that was made by Grandma or Grandpa and kept for decades - all of these treasures are shared.

It is exciting to enjoy the way someone else decorates their home for the season. So many beautiful arrangements can't help but inspire you to go home and see what you might do with your own collections.

The day will be a busy one. Starting with the museums being open from noon until 8 p.m., their gift shops will be stuffed to the rafters with wonderful ideas for your holiday gift-giving. Demonstrations and treats will also be available at each site: Lock House, Maritime, and Decoy Museums plus the Concord Point Lighthouse and Keeper's Dwelling. And as you might expect, each will be beautifully decorated and ready to ease you into a nostalgic holiday season.

Many downtown shops will be ready to offer you a warm reception starting at noon and will be very eager to help you discover the perfect gift for those special folks on your list.

This event is sponsored by the Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House and it is their major annual fundraiser. For tickets visit the Havre de Grace Visitors Center (410-939-2100) or call the Lock House at 410-939-5780

"Ditching the Van" Brings HdG Businesses Together.

It's been several months since Ben Sollee and his entourage pedaled their way from Baltimore to Havre de Grace via Route 40 during their "Ditch the Van" nation-wide promotional concert tour. The two-man performing group decided to abandon the conventional mode of transportation used by most touring bands and took to the roads – hauling everything they needed on their bicycles . . . and without the use of any support vehicles. Along with Sollee were his percussionist Jordon Ellis, tour manager Katie Benson, and her brother Marty, the group's videographer.

Sollee rides an Xtra bike with a stretched wheelbase and a heavy steel frame. His 1930s-era cello rides in a lightweight carbon fiber hardshell case strapped to the bike. The cello alone is more than 20 pounds, but when you add in the weight of clothing, food, a laptop and other essentials, the riding package is easily 60 pounds. Moving all that weight keeps Sollee in good shape. In fact, the first few times he tried it, he was almost too tired to perform!

You may find yourself asking the question 'why would someone do this?' Sollee saw this as an opportunity to acquaint himself with smaller communities across the country and to play in places that maybe don't see a lot of touring music. But what actually happened for him was what he called a "beautiful limitation" - a re-connection with living that can only present itself when you slow down the pace by traveling by bike rather than bus or plane.

"We were traveling from city to city," Sollee said during his concert, "setting up, playing and then leaving. There was no connection to our audience. We sometimes didn't even know what city we were in. Flying back and forth across the country – that's no way to live."

So the idea was born. The group of four takes on regional tours, playing only at places that are within bicycle range of each other. And each performance is without much separation between the artist and audience, and that's the way Sollee likes it.

Sollee began playing cello in fourth grade but it was his grandfather, who was an Appalachian fiddler, and his father, who played rhythm and blues guitar who influenced him the most. The result is Sollee's unique style - playing a classical instrument, which he both plucks and bows, and creating music with a folk and bluegrass sound. He has been featured on National Public Radio, which named him one of Top 10 Unknown Artists of the Year in 2007, and also 'Jimmy Kimmel Live.'

But this story is not so much about the man and his music but rather about the people and businesses in Havre de Grace that came together to provide this rising star with a premier stage and sound system that amazed each audience during his two sold-out venues at Billers Bikes on Franklin Street.

Biller's Bike, owned by Walt Biller and Mara Wasilik, has been a mainstay in our city for years on Juniata Street, but recently restored the

LEE TOUR

COFFEETREE CAFE

Story By Maureen Eller
Photos By Michael Grubb

Leithiser Mens' Store (built in 1920) on Franklin Street, owned by Gary Getz and BF Partners, and set up shop. Lots of renovations were made to improve the property, but careful attention was made to maintain the historical integrity of the site. Along with being a fully functional store and repair shop, they also planned for a performance stage in their bike showroom where movies are shown on occasion.

But when Walt and Mara were contacted by "If the Shoe Fits," Sollee's touring management team, and asked to host one of his concerts, Biller's reaction was "absolutely."

"Having both been involved with theatre and concert production and promotion, we were excited to put on a show," said Walt. "After doing research on Ben Sollee and watching his performance videos, we were very impressed and knew we could sell out two shows. And we did!"

Havre de Grace is the kind of place where neighbors help neighbors, businesses help businesses. There was a lot of work to be done to accommodate the group. Carol Nemeth, owner of the Spencer Silver Bed and Breakfast, was one of the first persons to be contacted for this maybe-once-in-a-lifetime event.

"We called Carol and asked if she would be willing to help out," said Mara. "She was so nice to say 'yes.' The group was able to relax and really get a feel for Havre de Grace."

The foursome stayed in the Carriage House of the mansion and a perfect fit was found. They loved their accommodations – and Carol. So impressed, they wrote on their daily blog "We stayed in a Castle!" and featured the "castle" online in their video diary.

Nemeth provided accommodations for Ben and his group, but there was so much behind the scene work that had to be completed in a short amount of time. The acoustics of a bike shop is not automatically ready for a cello and percussionist. Paul McGuire and The Rowdy Boys (a local favorite) and Dr. Duke Thompson of the Maryland Conservatory of Music worked together to bring premium audio gear to the stage. The bike shop was already close to perfecting the acoustics in the room for the SUN Cinema movies they show throughout the year, but choosing the correct microphones and monitors for the Sollee tweaked the sound just right.

Dan and Alex Lee from MacGregor's Restaurant, located across the street from Biller's Bikes, helped out with plenty of ice and cold beverages. They even printed "Buy one, Get one" drink cards especially for Biller's Bikes' concert goers to enjoy a libation after each performance.

Local photographer Michael Grubb was asked to document the tour with photos and had the chance to get to know the group on a personal level. Once the photos were taken, Grubb used his expertise in selecting the perfect shots to be displayed on a big projection screen

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Your Way, My Way... Segway? This gentleman took advantage of a beautiful day to "roll" down Union Avenue in Havre de Grace!

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Established in 2008, Arts by the Bay Gallery was created in a team effort by Havre de Grace Main Street, Inc. This unique gallery showcases only the work of Harford County artisans - work is available for sale. Arts by the Bay is a co-op which means the artists are responsible for manning the gallery - a great opportunity to meet these local talents in person. Open Thursdays and Fridays and Saturdays from 12 pm to 5 pm (First Fridays open late with 10% discount on all purchases), and Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm. The gallery is located at 500-B Warren Street in beautiful Havre de Grace.

Brrrrrrisk Fun

Cooler weather is fast approaching and seeing this as a good thing depends upon whether you view a glass as being "half-full" or "half-empty." Autumn and winter weather provides area residents with the opportunity to enjoy the many public and state parks that surround Havre de Grace. Susquehanna State Park is located just three miles from the downtown area and offers something for nearly everyone who enjoys the great outdoors.

Susquehanna State Park is located off Route 155 on Rock Run Road. The park features 15 miles of marked and maintained trails for mountain bikers, hikers, equestrians or just plain nature lovers. There's a trail for the slow walker or the seasoned hiker, and everyone in between, offering challenging trails with varying degrees of difficulty.

The Maryland Park Service announced a revised Pet Policy effective April 9, 2010. The new policy offers expanded opportunities for pet owners to visit and enjoy the park, while continuing to emphasize the importance of following the rules of responsible pet ownership when using public spaces. Pets are allowed in Susquehanna State Park on all trails outside of the day-use areas but are strictly prohibited in the day-use areas and the historic area.

One of the hiking/biking trails, and one of my personal favorites, is also part of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway (LSHG). The LSHG Conowingo Trail runs from Stafford Road in Susquehanna State Park north to the Conowingo Dam. It's a beautiful family walk way with informative displays along the route. It's our family favorite for riding bikes. The flat cinder terrain allows for cyclist of all ages and abilities to pedal along the scenic Susquehanna River and not worry about vehicular traffic. On a recent trip, we were able to learn about Bald Eagles on a display board and then find them flying over the Conowingo Dam. What an awesome sight! They are truly magnificent birds.

Those who prefer passive activities will enjoy the chance to spot local wildlife such as the American Bald Eagles, Great Blue Heron, Osprey and Common Merganser. Numerous species of uncommon birds and ducks that use the Atlantic Flyway navigate here seasonally such as Mute Swan, Canvasback and Wood ducks. Various species of unique plants, flowers and trees are prevalent

along the Conowingo Dam and throughout our trails and scenic byway but you'll need to visit next spring and summer to enjoy their beautiful blooms.

You may be surprised at the amount of wild life you may encounter. Along with Bald Eagles, you may spy osprey and turkey vultures. Did you know the turkey vulture has no vocal chords? You may find evidence of beaver gnawing around the base of trees. You may even sneak up on wild turkey roaming the area. Birdwatchers will be excited at the number of species to be found.

Some of the more spectacular views of Susquehanna State Park are found along the more challenging trails. This time of the year offers an even more spectacular view due to the changing (and disappearing) foliage. It makes it worth the effort to hike or ride to the top levels. In many spots, you can see the Susquehanna River below.

But the outdoor fun doesn't stop there. Be sure to walk, hike or run to the historic Rock Run Mill located at the base of Rock Run Road. Among the historic buildings in this area, the Rock Run Mill is a favorite for photographers and historians alike. The nearby Jersey Toll House used to collect tolls on a bridge that spanned the Susquehanna River, connecting Harford and neighboring Cecil Counties. See if you can find the remains of the Susquehanna Tidewater Canal when you visit.

May your glass be full of fresh air, sunshine and brisk winter fun through Havre de Grace's Susquehanna State Park.

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DOWNTOWN AREA
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12 Years and still going...

Thank you

We are proud to share with you yet another issue of the Havre de Grace Magazine. It has been a long journey to this point in our 12 years covering the city we love. We have gone through some changes - from newspaper to a glossy format, however our mission remains the same . . to bring you the best publication possible. We thank you for reading and look forward to offering you many more years of local features and stories of the people, places and events that make Havre de Grace truly unique.

To make sure you receive your free copy of the magazine, we are now offering delivery to your home or business. You simply pay for postage and handling ($6.00 for one year/ 3 issues). Don't miss out on all the happenings! Fill out the form below and return it with your payment so we can begin your delivery with the next issue. Don't forget to send one to your out-of-state friends and family!

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Specialty Wine Unveiling Planned at The Vineyard Wine Bar in HdG

PHOTO BY MICHAEL GRUBB

Jarrod Cronin (left) and Joe Lertch (right) are set to host an acclaimed wine unveiling in their Washington Street establishment.

The Vineyard Wine Bar in Havre de Grace has been chosen as the East Coast's premier location for the unveiling of a new wine from the famed wine makers Ben and Jake Fetzer. The Masút Vineyard and Winery, located in Mendocino County, California, will introduce their new wine at The Vineyard Wine Bar on Monday, November 8, 2010 between the hours of 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. The Fetzer brothers will be on hand to share a taste with you of their first release of "Masút." If you are a lover of Pinot Noir this limited bottled, artisan crafted wine could be the best Pinot Noir you have ever experienced. This introduction is history in the making.

During the 1980's, Fetzer Winery produced good-value, everyday-drinking table wine widely known as Robert Mondavi or Sutter Home. The winery grew in size and importance and was purchased in 1992 by the Brown Forman, a national wine and spirits company. Bobby Fetzer moved his family north to Mendocino County in hopes of getting back to making wine on a smaller scale. Ben and Jake Fetzer spent their childhood surrounded by their family's vineyards and at an early age they developed a great admiration for their family's accomplishments and knew that they would one day build upon its legacy.

When the elder Fetzer passed away in 2006, Ben and Jake were determined to carry on the sustainable practices they learned from him and to make their own place in wine history. They started "Masút Winery" in 2009 using only estate-grown fruit from the acclaimed Pinot Noir vineyard that they had planted with their father.

Ben and Jake are proud to continue the legacy and share their passion for Masút with you... and The Vineyard Wine Bar, is set to welcome them and help them introduce "Masút" Pinot Noir to the public.

The Vineyard Wine Bar, Bistro, and Bottle Shop is located at 142 N. Washington Street in downtown historic Havre de Grace and will celebrate their one-year anniversary with this unveiling. Phone 443-502-2551 for more information.

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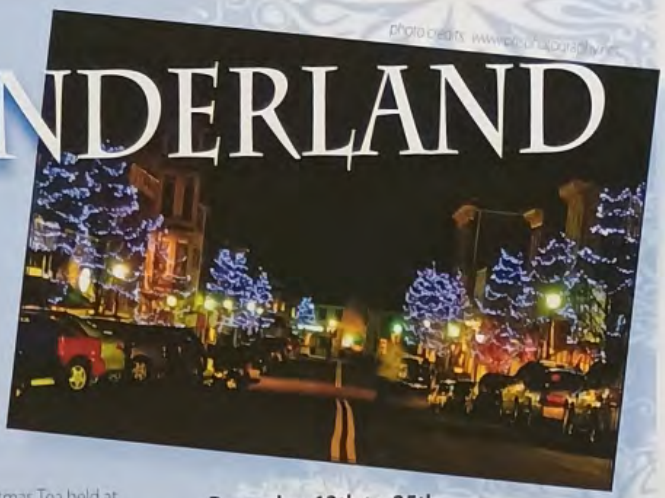

December 3rd
HOLIDAY LIGHT UP NIGHT AND ARRIVAL OF SANTA
Havre de Grace welcomes you to enjoy the beginning of the holiday season in Havre de Grace. Join Main Street, Inc. for the Annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting at the corner of Washington street and St. John Street. Santa is coming to town! Parade starts at 6pm as we celebrate Community Pride.

December 3 rd
FIRST FRIDAY'S "A Downtown Christmas"
from 5-9pm. Shops stay open late, and more! Sponsored by Havre de Grace Main Street, Inc. 410-939-1811

December 4th, 11th
SANTA'S WORKSHOP
12:30pm – 2:30pm
Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus this season at their workshop on Washington Street.

December 4th, 5th
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT STEPPINGSTONE FARM MUSEUM
12-4pm
Enjoy a free tour of the historic farmhouse decorated in the theme of The Nutcracker. Enjoy holiday music, cookies and cider. FREE and open to the public.
Phone: 410-939-2299

December 5th
CHRISTMAS MURDER MYSTERY TEA TO BENEFIT THE SKIPJACK MARTHA LEWIS
2pm-4pm
Join us for the 4th Annual Christmas Tea held at the Vandiver Inn. An elegant tea fit for royalty (hats optional). Advance ticket purchase required.
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www.chesapeakeheritage.org

December 11
SANTA BY THE BAY
10-11:30 am
Ho! Ho! Ho!
Come and join Santa for breakfast, singing, crafts and more aboard the Lantern Queen. Call for reservations 410-939-1468

December 11th, 12th
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December 12th
MARITIME CHRISTMAS
10am-8pm
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December 12th to 25th
12th ANNUAL NATIVITY SCENE CONTEST
Register by calling the Susquehanna Ministerium by Dec. 13th to be recognized for outdoor residential or business awards. Open to the greater HdG community.
Phone: 410-939-5233

December 12th
38TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HISTORIC HAVRE DE GRACE
From noon-8pm enjoy the festivities at the museums and downtown Havre de Grace. From 4-8pm tour historic homes, museums and businesses. Home Tour $15 Tickets available at the Visitor Center 410-939-5780

December 26th
HAVRE DE GRACE CHURCH TOUR
2-4pm Enjoy a self-guided tour of the churches of Havre de Grace. To obtain a list of participating churches, contact: HdG Methodist Church at 101 S. Union Avenue. Phone: 410-939-2464

December 31st
NEW YEAR'S EVE DUCK DROP & FIREWORKS
Close to midnight!
Begin the countdown to 2011 by enjoying the annual Duck Drop and Fireworks celebration at 451 Lewis Lane (on the grounds of the Activity Center & HdG Middle School) Phone: 410-939-2100
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Check for up-to-date calendar of events information at www.hdgtourism.com

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL GRUBB

Welcome to Havre de Grace! From left to right are Marty Benson, Mara and Walt, Ben Sollee, Katie Benson and Jordon Ellis in front of Biller's Bikes on Franklin Street.

BEN SOLLEE. . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Ellie Mencer was instrumental in contacting the media and using her social network to get the word out about the event. A limited number of tickets were available for each night – so they went quick – but Ellie's reputation to step up and help anyone and everyone continues to amaze even the Biller's.

"With the bike shop being so busy," Walt said, "and the concerts approaching quickly, we decided to bring in our great friend, Ellie. When you want the job done right, call the expert!"

The Ditch the Van Tour 2010, sponsored by Kentucky Coffeetree Cafe, was also an awareness-raising project for communities where bike infrastructure is lacking. We are fortunate in Havre de Grace to be part of the East Coast Greenway, the urban and rural bike trail system being designed to take riders from Maine to Florida (often called the "Appalachian Trail for Cyclists.") The ECG trail is nearly 25% complete. In fact, Biller's Bikes is designated as part of the actual trail. They offer a shuttle service for bikers following the trail system who need to cross the Route 40 Hatem Bridge across the Susquehanna River – to or from Cecil County.

Businesses pulling together to support each other in a time of need to provide the community with unique and artistic venues may be a rarity in bigger cities, but you'll discover that Havre de Grace is just that kind of place. . . just ask Ben Sollee.

Sollee's bike tour is being videotaped by Marty Benson, who is part of Sollee's crew and riding on the tour. Clips are posted on Sollee's website at www.bensollee.com.

Ben Sollee spent two days in Havre de Grace getting to know the people in our community after one of his shows (top photo). A percussionist jam-session was held at the Maryland Conservatory of Music with fellow musicians during his visit (below).

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