



Citizen Connection

711 Pennington Avenue Havre de Grace, MD 21078

www.havredegracemd.com

410-939-1800



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INSIDE

Citizen Connection prepared for you since 2012
by Laurie Dawson, Dept. of Public Works



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2016-2017 Havre de Grace City Council

We invite and encourage you to attend any or all of the City's Commission meetings.



Stephen J.
Gamatoria



Monica A.
Worrell



David A.
Martin



Randolph E.
Craig



David W.
Glenn



Michael R.
Hitchings

Council Portraits: Leo P. Heppner Photography

Citizen Connection

Fall - Winter 2016



Your City Newsletter

City of Havre de Grace • 711 Pennington Avenue • Havre de Grace, MD 21078 • 410-939-1800 • www.havredegracemd.com



Hello Havre de Grace!

The past several months have been extremely busy within the City of Havre de Grace. I am pleased and proud to report we are a **Green** community having completed several energy saving projects. Through efforts of Council and my administration, the City has now become:

Sustainable Maryland Certified!

We have reached our goal of converting all City-owned buildings to **100% solar power**. In addition, the City has added **two electric GEM cars** to our fleet. As our staff moves around town attending to various tasks, these electric cars serve to help:

- reduce carbon emissions,
- improve local air quality, and
- limit noise pollution.

The City is preparing to install four electric car charging stations in our downtown area. These initiatives are a great benefit to our City, as we realize both financial savings and environmental benefits from their use.

As we work together to improve the quality of life for our citizens, you may have noticed there is work going on at Tydings Park and the City Yacht Basin. We have been busy with beautification projects, road and sidewalk repairs, installation of a drinking fountain, and over 50% of the Promenade has been resurfaced. Currently we are reviewing a concept plan to enhance the War Memorial and the entrance to the park - a very exciting time in our City's history indeed!

We remain committed to offering citizens and visitors alike many family-friendly outdoor recreational events throughout the Fall and Winter months. This coming Spring 2017, the Opera House will be reopening if all goes as planned. Contractors are working diligently to meet the anticipated date for completion. This will bring a variety of arts and entertainment to this venue. There is no doubt that you can *Discover your Maryland in Havre de Grace!* I encourage you to visit our website for the upcoming dates for all events.

As always, the Councilmembers and I thank all citizens and staff for helping to make Havre de Grace the BEST place in Maryland to live, work, and play!

I look forward to seeing you around town. *William T. Martin, Mayor*

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~ Mark Your Calendars ~

Farmers Market - every Saturday
9am-noon through Nov. 19 in
Hutchins Park



Concerts at Hutchins Park - 6-9pm \$
Tickets available at Visitor Center
Oct. 6 - Sam Grow (Soul, Acoustic, Rock)
Oct. 20 - Technicolor Motorhome
(Steely Dan Tribute Band)
Nov. 10 - The Reagan Years (1980's
Tribute Band)

Oct. 1 - K-9 Cody Dog Park Grand
Opening and Ribbon Cutting 11-2pm
(located behind Community Center)
Oct. 7-First Fridays (final for 2016) 5-9pm
and **HHS Homecoming Parade** 5:30pm

Oct. 15 - 2nd Annual Oktoberfest
2-7pm, Hutchins Park

Oct. 30 - Halloween Parade 6pm
N. Washington St.

Oct. 31 - Trick or Treat 6-8pm

**Nov. 19 - The Great Havre de Grace
Oyster Feast** 4-9pm Community Center

**Dec. 2 - Light Up Night & Christmas
Parade** - 6pm downtown

Dec. 31 - Duck Drop 10pm-midnight
Middle School

For more information on any of these
events, call 410-939-2100
or visit: explorehavredegrace.com

Greening our City of Grace

by Erika Quesenberry-Sturgill, Coordinator of Havre de Grace Economic Development and Grants
This article was published in the Municipal Maryland magazine and will reach 157 Municipal Governments.

When Mayor William T. Martin announced shortly after being sworn in both a goal and an initiative to reduce the carbon footprint of Havre de Grace he was definitely serious! To bring about the types of meaningful changes Mayor Martin foresaw required a great deal of thought and some very creative methodologies. Mayor Martin challenged his staff to get creative in their thinking and to put into action goals expressed by the long-standing Havre de Grace Green Team.

The challenge was accepted. "We followed a principle, a quote really, of Archbishop Desmond Tutu," Mayor Martin explained. "***Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.***"

One of the most creative initiatives to date has been a significant reduction of the City's carbon footprint by changing the City's fleet vehicles. Rather than the standard fossil-fuel vehicle for short trips through the city on tours, inspections or even between events and activities, Polaris/GEM cars were purchased. **Operating at a cost of 3 cents per mile rather than 12 to 14 cents per mile of a standard six-cylinder automobile**, brings some savings. But it is **the reduction of the carbon footprint** of this still small fleet of two electric vehicles that **was the main goal**.

The two GEM cars, delivered to the City and bearing the City logo, were delivered in the summer of 2016 and immediately put into action. They have carried officials in the Independence Day Parade and carried Governor Larry Hogan through the City on a recent tour. The **American-made** Polaris/GEM cars seat four passengers and allow for space to haul items as well. They were called into use for the Harford County Board of Realtors recently who donated their time and talent to create art-marking of the City's Lafayette Trail to historic homes.

Deputy Director of Administration for the City of Havre de Grace, James "Jim" Newby, even found a way for the City to purchase the vehicles that **saved a different kind of green** in the way of City funds. "We are utilizing a Visa Card 2% Cash Back program to bank sufficient funds to purchase these new electric vehicles without utilization of budget funds," he explained.

As the vehicles are electric-powered, the City installed a stanchion for electric service to these vehicles for recharging in front of City Hall, which is yet another green initiative. "**The City of Havre de Grace, I am very proud to say, has flipped the switch,**" Mayor Bill Martin explained to a recent public meeting. "**All City buildings have switched over to solar power from the solar farm in nearby Perryman and we're off the electricity grid in favor of renewable solar energy.**"

Mayor Martin believed the City of Havre de Grace could realize a significant cost savings and "do more good" in greening our shared environment efficiently and effectively in the first year of his administration. **The City-owned buildings are now 100% powered through solar sources. This change allows Havre de Grace to be both environmentally conservative as well as fiscally responsible.**

Havre de Grace's Director of Finance George DeHority led the charge to negotiate the best possible contract to take the City of Havre de Grace to a 100% solar-powered municipality. The benchmark for completion will be the end of December 2016. The contract was made with Constellation Energy who supplies the City with just over six megawatts per year of electricity for municipal operations. Constellation Generation advised the City of Havre de Grace that the source of this solar power is derived from a 20-megawatt solar generating facility in Perryman, located a short distance away in Harford County. Harford County Government also utilizes the same generation facility for power to operate the Sod Run Wastewater Treatment Plant, located close to the generating station, as well. Government water production and wastewater treatment facilities are traditionally heavy users of electric power.

Our City is going **GREEN** to protect, promote and preserve our natural resources and our Chesapeake Bay.

Discover Your Maryland in Havre de Grace

...and that is just what Legendary Orioles 1st baseman Eddie Murray did when he enjoyed a fun visit to Downtown Havre de Grace!



After having a nice dinner at **Laurrapin Grille**, Murray of course, made sure to visit Joe Steelman and Venessa Bond at **Havre de Grace Sports**, located at 141 N. Washington Street.

HOLIDAY ICE RINK RETURNS TO HUTCHINS PARK!



Opening Weekend is Friday, Nov. 25th - Sunday, Jan. 8th

Hours of Operation:
 Fridays 4 - 8pm
 Saturdays noon - 8pm
 Sundays noon - 6pm



Teamwork!

Harford County Council Member **Curtis Beulah**, along with HdG City Council Member **Monica Worrell** helped the **Harford County Realtors' Association**, **Havre de Grace Historic Preservation Commission** and City Staff from **Public Works** to begin the painting of the newly designed medallions to mark the Lafayette Trail.



This trail marker, designed by **Laurie Dawson**, DPW secretary, along with DPW employees, **Ezra Berger** and **Jody Weaver**, is replacing the existing, but fading white and blue lines that meander throughout the historic district.

Five teams gathered at Hutchins Park on the mornings of June 10th, June 14th and August 31st. A demonstration of this stencil painting project was given by DPW staff member and local artist, Ezra Berger. The teams then moved on to their designated sections of the Lafayette Trail and began painting this four part medallion.

Mark Wilson, CEO of the Harford County Realtors' Association, commented that his organization found all three days to be tremendously rewarding to all who participated. He said, "We felt a great sense of satisfaction for having completed this beautification project."

The Historic Preservation Commission, along with the Harford County Realtors' Association have purchased a bronze plaque inviting all to enjoy the beauty of our City along the Lafayette Trail. The plaque will be placed near the **Susquehanna Museum** at the **Lock House** on Conestoe Street.

A special thanks to the Harford County Realtors' Association for their generous donations of time, and for also covering the costs of the stencils from Pollitt Signs and painting supplies.



Right- HCRA Membership Chair Linda Greco-Rich and City Councilmember Monica Worrell are ready to prep the site for the new Lafayette Trail!

ADOPT-A-PARK and SPONSOR-A-PARK - Two New Programs Coming Soon!

The Department of Public Works is seeking community groups and local brick and mortar businesses who may be interested in helping with the upkeep and maintenance of our City parks. Director of Public Works, Tim Whittle is proposing two programs: **"Adopt-a-Park"** and **"Sponsor-a-Park"**. Mr. Whittle explains, "Within the next few weeks we plan to roll out a program that creates opportunities to provide hands-on help with the care and maintenance of City parks

or for those who want to help but lack the time, may choose to aid with monetary assistance. For their support, sponsors will be recognized with a plaque prominently displayed in the garden, playground or park entrance - all of which have become increasingly popular year round."

In keeping with the Irish Proverb *"Many hands make light work"* think about lending a hand. Currently we have 10 City parks, most with flower gardens, 4 with playgrounds, 1 dog park and 1 living fence.

A great opportunity to be recognized!

- ◆ Tydings Park & Playground
 - ◆ Concord Point Park & Gardens
 - ◆ David Craig Park & Gardens
 - ◆ Seneca Park & Playground
 - ◆ McHinney Park & Playground
 - ◆ Bradford Green Playground
 - ◆ Visitor Center Garden
 - ◆ Veterans Park
 - ◆ Hutchins Park
 - ◆ Jean Roberts Park
 - ◆ K-9 Cody Park
 - ◆ Living Fence
- (Water Plant-Franklin St.)



Storm season is upon us - all hands on deck!

The City of Havre de Grace is undertaking four (4) SWM Storm Water Management projects all located within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area. These are being designed to treat stormwater runoff that otherwise is entering into the Chesapeake Bay untreated or not being treated to an acceptable level. These efforts by the City are to provide a proactive quality treatment program for **MS4** compliance in accordance with EPA specifications.
MS4 = Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems

The 4 Stormwater Management Projects include:

- ◆ **Concord Point**: Pocket Wetland Retrofit to existing Stormwater Management pond
- ◆ **Frank Hutchins Park**: Design Hydrodynamic Structure to treat parking lot/roads
- ◆ **Water Treatment Plant**: Submerged Gravel Wetland to treat parking lot runoff
- ◆ **David R. Craig Park**: Submerged Gravel Wetland Retrofit to existing yard inlet



Please help to keep the storm drains nearest to your home clear of debris. Clear drains keep the rain water moving and reduces flooding.

SCADA - What it is and How it helps:

The SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system is an integral part of operation of the **Waste Water Treatment Plant**. It enables the City to better control the treatment process through Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) to meet the MD Dept. of the Environment (MDE) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements. As part of the backwash process at the **Water Treatment Plant**, the WTP sends the filter backwash and basin drop water to the WWTP via the sewer system. Because the turbidity of the Susquehanna River varies greatly, the sediment loads of the backwash/basin drops vary greatly as well. The varying concentrations of sediment delivered to the WWTP from the WTP can negatively impact the treatment process at the WWTP. This new SCADA System will enable the plant to adjust the treatment process automatically to changes in the sediment loading of the backwash, day or night, with little human interaction. As the WP increases production, this system will play a more vital role in maintaining the WWTP compliance to MDE's TMDL Requirements.

Grant Award = Repaving Projects!

The Department of Public Works received a grant from the State Highway Administration to resurface the 800 block of Erie Street and 900 block of Ontario Street. The grant award of \$180,000 along with the required contribution from the City, will result in hiring a paving contractor to resurface both blocks, replace some sidewalks, curbs and gutters and to construct handicap ramps where needed.

OUR NEW LIBRARY is a definite "WOW!" by Irmgarde Brown, Branch Manager

The Havre de Grace Branch of the Harford County Public Library has been open just three months and already we are in full swing with programs and gallery exhibitions. Our expanded number of staff has been busy keeping up with a surge of new visitors, more than two and a half times the number of visitors to our old building. If you have not been by to visit, come take a look. You will find:

- ◆ a business center with designated adult computers,
- ◆ comfortable seating throughout the building,
- ◆ a designated Teen Room for grades 6-12; and,
- ◆ a fully functional children's play area.

The Havre de Grace Library offers the first library-based interactive learning center, Schooner Cove, where each activity, in conjunction with adult involvement teaches our youngest children the skills they will need to begin school. For children zero to six, this area benefits the little ones the most in one-on-one experiences with their caregivers.

We also offer ongoing programs including:

- ◆ Children's story times (for babies and toddlers),
- ◆ PAWS and Read where young readers are encouraged to read to a cat or dog
- ◆ LEGO Club
- ◆ Teen After Hours - fun!
- ◆ Adult programs including several monthly Book Clubs, discussion groups, knitting, photography, and Special Programming Events!



COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

"The staff is beyond friendly and super competent."
"The children's section is beautiful."

Little Free Libraries in Havre de Grace - 1st in Harford County Nearing the 1,000 book 'mark' !

There are over 40,000 Little Free Library book exchanges around the world and on [June 17, 2016](#), the City of Havre de Grace became one of these, and [the first registered in Harford County](#), when a Little Free Library was installed at [121 N. Union Avenue, Havre de Grace, in front of the Opera House at a bus stop bench](#).



[On June 22nd, a second Little Free Library was installed at Tydings Park](#) near the children's playground and specializes in books for children and youth. Pictured here is Mayor Martin with Isabella Lugo-Frasqueri, a student of Havre de Grace Elementary School, who built this Little Free Library with her parents, Army Sgt. & Mrs. Lugo-Frasqueri.

Three more Little Free Libraries are being built as a Girl Scout project to be located near Concord Point Lighthouse, the Promenade at the City Yacht Basin, Hutchins Park, with a fourth under construction for the Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House.

Since June over 700 books have been donated and installed into the libraries with the motto of ["Take a Book, Leave a Book."](#) Books are donated by community volunteers and stamped with the Little Free Library logo and the name of the City of Havre de Grace and website.

As autumn arrives the total of donated books collected has reached 1,000 individual books and it is expected before the six month mark of November, the Havre de Grace Little Free Libraries will have been the vehicle through which 1,000 books were distributed to the community free of charge.

[In 2015 the Little Free Library was awarded the Library of Congress Literacy Award for its effective implementation of best practices in literacy and reading promotion. A special thanks to Erika Quesenberry-Sturgill, City of Havre de Grace Economic Development Coordinator, for bringing this project to our City.](#)

SKIPJACK MARTHA LEWIS HAS RETURNED TO HAVRE DE GRACE!

In January of this year, ending a long absence, Skipjack Martha Lewis returned to Havre de Grace to undergo a complete restoration. She returned from Port Covington, not on water, but on a truck, because she could not sail – she could not even float!

Now she is now back in the water, her hull planking completely replaced, and floating nicely on her own, awaiting the continuation of her restoration. She still needs a lot of work and her new mast must be stepped and rigged. The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy is now raising funds to complete her restoration this fall. If all goes well, they plan to reintroduce Martha to the community with a grand “coming out” party this coming spring. What a sight it will be to once again be able to watch Martha’s billowing white sails from our shoreline!

SKIPJACK HISTORY ~ At one time, the Chesapeake Bay's rich oyster population fed a nationwide demand and was highly valued, eventually attracting vessels from all over the Northeastern U.S. To compete, local watermen built shallow vee-bottomed ketches called bugeyes that could dredge by sailing directly over the oyster banks, beating out the “foreign” competition. Soon the bugeyes evolved into simpler dredging rigs known as the skipjacks.

Only about 15 remain and Havre de Grace's own Skipjack Martha Lewis is one of them.

Skipjack Martha Lewis was built in 1955 by Bronza Parks for Captain James Lewis, who named the boat after his mother. Martha's two sister ships – Lady Katie & Rosie Parks – were in the yard alongside Martha as she was being built. Both sisters were recently restored.

In 1994, Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, the City of Havre de Grace, and the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, worked together to restore the vessel and develop a mission that would preserve the Martha Lewis as a working oyster dredger and pass on that colorful history. Martha plied the waters of the Upper Bay for nearly 20 years. But by 2013 her wooden hull had deteriorated and she was no longer seaworthy. She sat on the hard for over two years waiting for funding to restore her. *Now she is back and we are thrilled to welcome her!*

Article submitted by Brady Stroh

For more info: e-mail director@chesapeakeheritage.org or www.chesapeakeheritage.org ph. 410.939.4078



The Havre de Grace Opera House

A Performing Arts Venue at 121 N. Union Avenue

A round of applause as Phase Two of the renovation and construction of the Havre de Grace Opera House is underway. Soon the atrium will be constructed and the interior work will begin. Upon the completion of this performing arts venue, citizens will be able to attend various performances ranging from musicals to Shakespeare, and from concerts to opera in a two hundred seat, state of the art facility.

The entire building is being renovated and will be made ADA compliant. The first floor space will be a mixed-use theatre support space and will include a box office, dressing rooms, additional performance and multipurpose space that will support a number of day and night-time uses for the arts and community. The second floor will host a modern theatre featuring a state-of-the art light and sound systems for the theatrical performances, upgraded plumbing and electricity as well as being fully air conditioned !

The atrium will be constructed connecting the Opera House to the City-owned fire station located on the adjacent property, north of the theatre. The purpose of the atrium is to provide an enclosure for the proposed elevator enabling second floor access to the main theatre area as well as providing additional space for receptions and art displays.

This iconic building will serve us well into the future, as it has since 1871. The memories it has already created for many of our citizens and guests alike will now be strengthened for future generations to enjoy. For more info: visit us at: www.operahousefoundation.org or on Facebook.



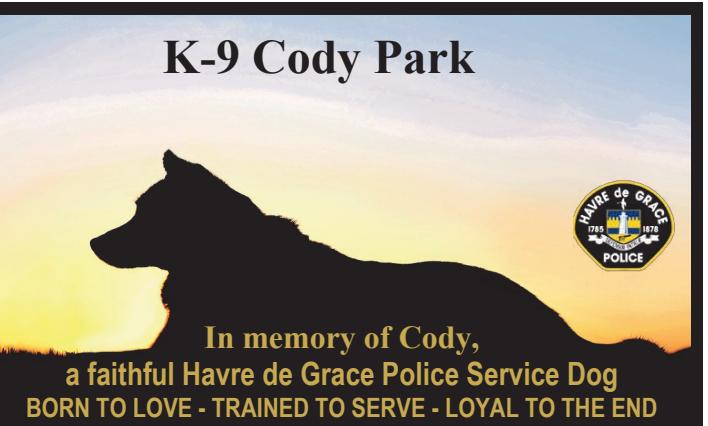
E-Billing! You asked for it and now we're delivering it by...

by: Tracy Conaway, Deputy Director of Finance



The City of Havre de Grace will soon offer you the option of receiving your **Water and Sewer Quarterly Bill** by e-mail. By choosing this option you will no longer receive paper bills. We are currently in the testing stages and hope to have this option available soon. Watch your mail for the authorization and sign-up form.

The City will still use the regular mail service for all Late Notices and other correspondence which will be delivered to the address on record.



The City of Havre de Grace and Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation join together once again for the month of October to

Paint the Town Pink!

Look for banners, signage, special events and in store promotions from participating businesses and community partners. **Paint the Town Pink** promotes cancer awareness while giving patrons the opportunity to support the Kaufman Cancer Center and the Cancer LifeNet program at University of MD Upper Chesapeake.

For more information on the Kaufman Cancer Center and free-of-charge services offered through Cancer LifeNet at the University of MD Upper Chesapeake Health, visit: umuch.org or call: 866-393-4355.



Havre de Grace Honors Local Businesses for Economic Development Week

by: Erika Quesenberry-Sturgill, Coordinator, HdGOED

The Maryland Economic Development Association and MD Dept. of Commerce proclaimed September 19-24, 2016, Economic Development Week. The week-long recognition is to emphasize to the general public the importance of economic development for the State of Maryland, and is designed to increase an understanding of economic development's contribution to the State's business climate, job retention and growth, tax base and overall quality of life in Maryland.

In Havre de Grace the Mayor and Council proclaimed September 19 to 24, 2016, Economic Development Week during the September 6, 2016, Council Meeting. During that week the **Havre de Grace Economic Development Coordinator**, along with the City's Economic Development **Advisory Board Chairperson**, Chris Stathes, partner organization Havre de Grace Chamber of Commerce's **Cathy Hutchins Vincenti**, and Mayor William T. Martin visited numerous businesses in the City.

Businesses who opened in the past year received recognition from City of Havre de Grace and Havre de Grace Chamber of Commerce . These include:

- Aleo & Co.
- Caliber Collision Centers
- Chris Barber Shop
- Danielle Bellezza, LAC
- Edel's Bridal Boutique
- Edward Jones Investments
- Green Farm Produce
- Havre de Grace Dental
- Ice Cold Water Ice
- Norkris Services, LLC
- McLhinney's Speakeasy Museum & International Market
- Proud & Positive Treatment Services, Inc.
- Stirling Bridge Jewelry
- Sweet Eats Cakes
- Vintage Café
- Winners Choice Healthcare Service, Inc.

Additional recognition was given to **businesses achieving milestone years** including:

Karen's Natural Market for 20 years in business; and two businesses founded 50-years ago in 1966 – **Chesapeake Rent All** and **Mary L. Martin Postcards**

On Tues., Sept. 20, the Harford County Office of Economic Development and County Executive Barry Glassman selected business to honor. Three Havre de Grace businesses accepting this recognition include:

Glyph Fine Press • Stack & Store • Tidewater Marina

Congratulations to all!