

Celebrating Londonderry Residents at the Waterfowl Festival

By Rachel Smith

As a lifelong Eastern Shore resident, the Waterfowl Festival has always held a special place in my heart. My connection to this cherished tradition began as a young girl, thanks to my grandfather, Russell Allen, who discovered his passion for carving after retiring. What started as a pastime grew into something

extraordinary when he studied under the world-renowned wildfowl sculptor, Jim Sprankle. My grandparents and the



Sprankles became close friends, and this bond enriched our family's ties to the festival. My grandfather's "hobby" blossomed into a career, with public commissions and invitations to showcase his art at events like the Waterfowl Festival.

As a child, I eagerly awaited the second weekend in November—not just for the three-and-a-half-day weekend but for the chance to "duck-sit," sip hot apple cider and roam the bustling streets of downtown Easton. My connection to the festival deepened when I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship from the Waterfowl Festival upon graduating from high school, which helped me purchase my first college computer.

(continued on page 2)

In This Issue:

Waterfowl Festival	1
Opera Night.....	3
Veterans Day	4
Halloween	6
Rotary Road Trip	8
Annapolis Shopping.....	9
SVdP Pop-Up Shop.....	10
Festival of Trees.....	11
In Memoriam	13, 14
Mommom Moves.....	15
Friendgiving.....	16
Quiz Time Results.....	17
Parting Shots	18

Waterfowl Festival (cont. from page 1)

Today, my relationship with the festival looks different. I now attend with my children, who find joy in the Sportsman's Pavilion and Dock Dogs competitions while I reminisce about my childhood experiences. Witnessing the festival through their eyes adds a fresh perspective to a tradition that has been so meaningful to me.

One thing that has remained constant is the festival's reliance on volunteers. For years, I was proud to be among them. While my current stage of life leaves little room for volunteering, my heart swells when I see Londonderry residents stepping up to give their time and energy. Londonderry is a truly special community whose residents embody the spirit of giving back. Seeing so many of them volunteering at the festival reinforces my pride in being part of this community.

This year's 53rd Waterfowl Festival was monumental. Executive Director Deena Kilmon said the event welcomed more than 25,000 attendees and shattered attendance records. "We know we broke every record we've ever broken," Kilmon shared with *The Star Democrat*.

This year was also notable for Londonderry, as we were honored to sponsor the festival. When Deena approached me about the opportunity, I knew it was the perfect partnership. Our

(continued on page 3)





Waterfowl Festival (cont. from page 2)

residents' dedication to supporting the broader community aligns beautifully with the festival's mission, and I was thrilled to bring this collaboration to life.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make the 53rd Waterfowl Festival one for the record books. Your efforts showcase the incredible heart of the Londonderry community. Here's to the 54th Waterfowl Festival, taking place the second full weekend of November 2025! ♦

Opera At Londonderry

By Florence Thompson

“Back by popular demand.” We have heard that phrase many times; it was appropriate in introducing José Sacin’s program in the Clubhouse on November 18. His program in 2023 was a French performance; in 2024 his emphasis is Italian.

José Sacin, born in Peru, has an extensive history of performances in the opera houses of the world. In a nationally televised event, he performed for Pope Benedict XVI alongside Plácido Domingo at Nationals Stadium in Washington, D.C. Many of his performances (both title and minor roles) have played out on the stage of the Kennedy Center in Washington. His latest major appearance was with the Washington Opera Society in Puccini’s *Girl of the Golden West* in May 2024.

José entered the large room at the Clubhouse carrying a guitar, which he put aside as he

began his program in Italian. His stature and handsome presence filled the space. His songs, some quite familiar, of unrequited love, joy at sunrise, Mama, a lullaby, and fun were well received. He included bits of *Pagliacci*, *Rigoletto*, and *Tosca*.

José took up his guitar for the end of his program. Before playing and singing “O Sole Mio,” he dropped the names of Elvis and Pavarotti. He called for audience participation as he sang “Volare” in English and Italian (Oh, oh,oh,oh.)

Londonderry’s opera lovers hope for a third José Sacin performance in 2025. ♦



Veterans Day

By Jay Craig

Honoring military veterans has been a longstanding tradition in America. Initially known as Armistice Day, celebrating the end of World War I in 1918, it is now known as Veterans Day in honor of all military service members who have served our country ever since. The staff here at

Londonderry actively supports and honors those who have served, in particular the veterans living in this community.

It is believed that approximately 36 of our neighbors are veterans, and a luncheon was held in their honor on November 11. Of the 36 or so, 24 gathered together at the Clubhouse to enjoy the festivities and to reflect upon their respective military experiences.

The entrance to the clubhouse was accentuated with American flags lining the sidewalks, and the meeting room was adorned with red, white and blue throughout.

**Are you one of
Londonderry's veterans?**

**Would you be interested in being part
of a Veterans Social Group?**

We are seeing if there enough interest in starting an informal group that would meet quarterly, to get together as a social group, swap stories or just hang out for an hour. If you are interested in participating, please contact Erica Hardeo.



Director of Community Engagement Erica Hardeo welcomed everyone and asked that we recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The large video screen played the Armed Forces Medley, and Erica presented each veteran with a beautiful Certificate of Appreciation in honor of service to our country.

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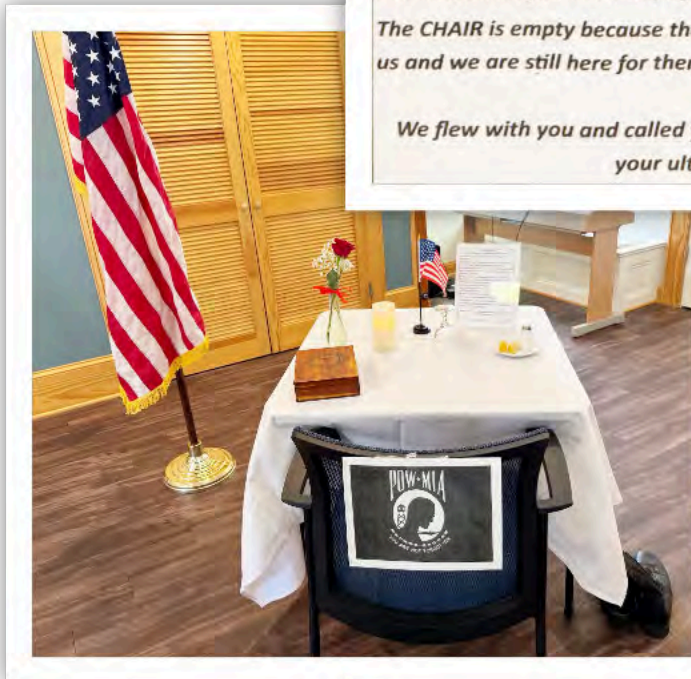
Veterans (cont. from page 4)

In the rear of the room next to the American Flag, the Missing Man Table was set up in honor of those veterans who are no longer with us. Calvin Yowell read the meaning of the items displayed on the table. At the conclusion of the reading, a moment of silence occurred in remembrance of those who had fallen.

As usual, Londonderry staff was on hand to help celebrate and honor our veterans and to make us feel comfortable with the festivities. Erica Hardeo, CEO Christine Harrington and Lorraine Flisher, Director of Health and Wellness, made sure that all of the participants had their fill of chicken pot pie, macaroni and cheese and green beans catered by the Ivy Cafe. The food was great, and the service even better.

The men and women veterans seated at the tables represented every military service of our nation. The Army vets far outnumbered the rest of us who represented the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard, but they still behaved, and we all got along great with one another.

Several of those in attendance spoke of their military assignments and the variety of skills and experiences required of their military



MISSING MAN TABLE

Honoring our missing veterans who are with us in spirit.

The TABLE is set for one symbolizing the loneliness we feel without them.

The TABLECLOTH is white symbolizing the purity of their intentions and willingness to respond to their country's call to arms.

The single ROSE in the vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades-in-arms, who kept the faith awaiting their return, and forever left behind.

The RED RIBBON tied so prominently on the vase, is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn by many who bear witness to their unyielding determination; to account for every one of the missing.

A SLICE OF LEMON is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate. There is SALT upon the bread plate too, symbolic of the river of tears shed by their loved ones.

The GLASS is inverted...they cannot toast with us today.

The BIBLE represents strength gained through faith.

The CANDLE reflects our hope for their return...alive or dead.

The CHAIR is empty because they are not here. They were there for us and we are still here for them.

We flew with you and called you comrade; we will NEVER FORGET your ultimate sacrifice.

duties. It was interesting to learn from a Chinook helicopter pilot, a retired Navy captain who was a Director of Hematology and Oncology, a vet who served during the Korean War, an Army Airborne soldier, a biological warfare scientist, along with Air Force and Navy nurses.

Remembrances such as this mean so much, and the staff at Londonderry never ceases to impress with their unwavering support of veterans. They are to be commended for their steadfast appreciation of service members and for their efforts to conduct this annual event in their honor. ♦

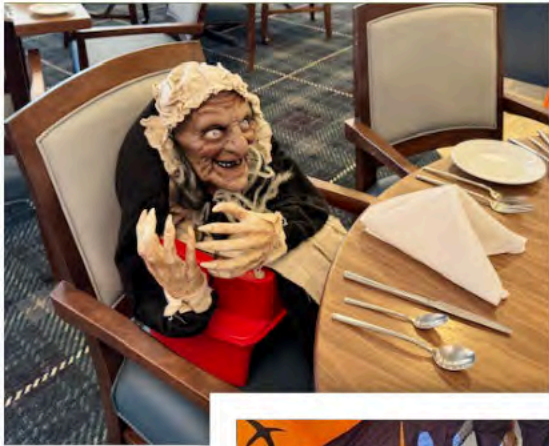
All Hallows' Eve

By Silence Dungood



The devilishly decorated Londonderry dining room was full to overflowing when it hosted a ghoulishly good Halloween dinner. Guests observed some wickedly winsome witch's hats, a skeleton and bats—both winged and wooden, a king and queens, a lady and a courtier, a Viking and a time traveler, Rosie the Riveter and the Phantom of the Opera, and much more.

A costume contest gave entrants a chance to strut their stuff for the judges and diners, with prizes awarded to the winners. First place went to time traveler **Nancy Henry**, second to the ultimate baseball fan **Evelyn LoRe**, and third to the scholar and the gardener, **Charles and Ann Yonkers**. A fiendishly fabulous time was had by all. ♦



More Halloween photos on the next page and in Parting Shots on page 18.



More from
Halloween at
Londonderry



Rotary Road Trip

By Patricia Bradley

On Sunday, November 3, on a mission of mercy, three Londonderry Rotarians drove away—destination Greenville, Tennessee. John Foss and Don Parks drove Don’s van, and Bob Grill drove his truck, accompanied by a fellow Rotarian from Easton, Bill DuBoyce. Dr. DuBoyce is also Bob’s doctor and his good friend. They were delivering needed supplies to a distribution center that served that area of Tennessee and nearby North Carolina that had sustained damage from the latest hurricane. They had been told that blankets were in short supply, and there were 15 displaced families that needed shelter.

John Foss, who had wanted to respond to this national emergency in



some way, took the idea to Bob Grill, president of Disaster Aid USA, and Bob agreed the organization would fund it. John and Don proceeded to visit four of the larger stores in town—Walmart, Target, Kohl’s and Marshalls—and were able to purchase more than 50 full-size blankets and 20 throws which were meant for children. Bob agreed to supply 15 tents which Disaster Aid had in its inventory and which would accommodate eight people each. These tents had been previously sent to various places in Africa, but never yet been used in America.



It’s an eight-hour drive to Greenville, and eight hours back home. In this case, time well spent. It is an admirable thing these three men did, and I thought you would like to know. ♦



Annapolis Shopping Trip

By Susan Andrews

The shoppers—Edna Blakely, Rose Ertz, Helen Pritchett, Mercedes Stone, Queenie Swaren, and I—set off to “shop ’til we dropped” with our driver, Robert, on Monday, November 18, at 9:00.

We all pursued our lists at Marshalls, Home Goods and in the mall at The Container Store. Check out the beautiful shell wreath on Edna’s door—maybe later in the year.

Our lunch at the Cheesecake Factory provided many of us with another meal. The tortilla soup and crab balls are



always a hit. Robert introduced us to an amazing meat loaf meal!

After lunch we went to Trader Joe’s, the main purpose of the trip. Today we focused on getting the Holiday Cheer cheese spread which is absolutely delicious. In

fact, one of us (no name since there would be a run on her supply) bought six containers.

Robert helped us load the bus with all of our packages and labeled our bags.



To top off a day of shopping, we stopped at Dairy Queen for ice cream treats—cones, sundaes, a Blizzard. We arrived back at Londonderry about 3:00; we were a very happy, contented group of shoppers who are looking forward to January’s trip. ♦



First-Ever Pop-Up Shop

By Florence Thompson

On November 13, eight stalwart volunteers of The Society of St. Vincent De Paul Easton set up a Christmas shop in Londonderry's Activity Room. These eight women were quick to acknowledge that several other volunteers had assisted them in packing, transporting and displaying their wares for their first ever pop-up shop.

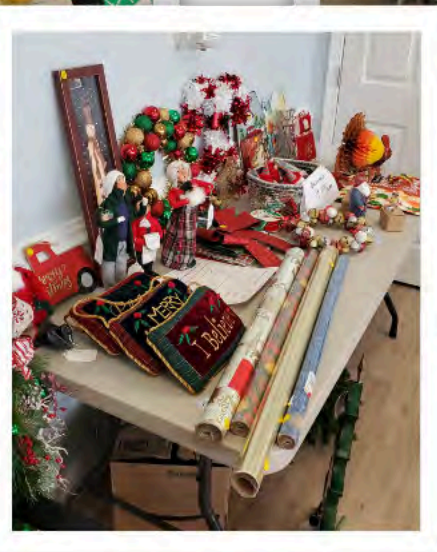
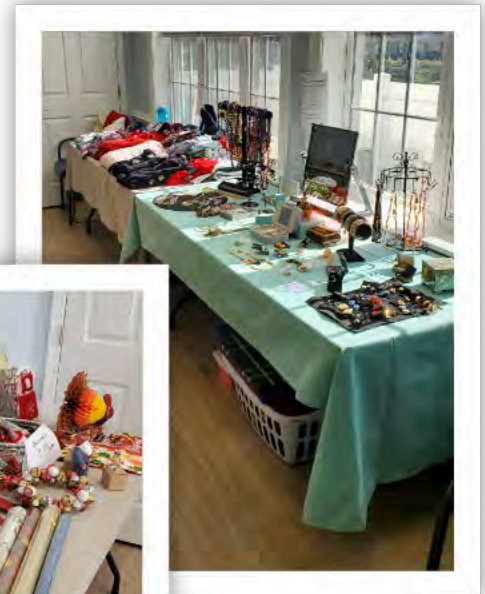
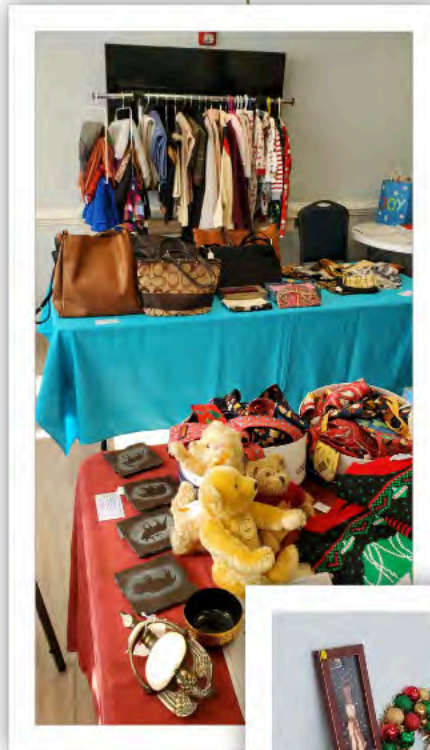
The history of this society began in Paris, France, in 1833. The history of the local society is traced from 1978 when the originators handed out bags of groceries on Wednesdays from a small building behind the original Sts. Peter and Paul church on Goldsborough Street. When this church building was sold, the good works emanated from a storage locker. Several moves later, the society operates from their own building at Canvasback Drive, largely thanks to a grant from the Michael and Nancy Klein Foundation. Currently, another expansion is anticipated with a grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community and other donors to move the food pantry and enlarge the other departments to better serve the community and neighbors in need.

As the facility has been enlarged, the impact has widened. Their distribution of food,

clothing, furniture and their generosity to the needy in Talbot County includes some assistance in paying rent, utilities, medical and prescription bills. All their efforts are the result of the work of volunteers.

Londonderry's Activity Room was transformed on November 13. The designer purses, scarves, costume jewelry, decorative household items, Christmas decorations, gift items were inviting for browsing and purchasing.

Sitting in the lobby waiting for lunch, happy shoppers shared their finds: an adorable, small Christmas teddy bear to add to a collection; a warm plaid wrapper in just the right colors for the lucky buyer; a cute pair of warm slippers; a sparkling pair of Christmas earrings. The shoppers considered this first-of-a-kind event a great success. ♦



The Elves Do It Again

By T. P. Rolles

Helen Pritchett and her Londonderry Elves were busy again this year decorating Londonderry's entry in Talbot Hospice's Festival of Trees. Each year, the effort begins long before the holiday season.

By midsummer, the Festival has designated its theme for the year, and Helen starts nagging—er, encouraging—her senior elves, Susan Andrews and Cyndy Miller, to come up with a focus for Londonderry's tree. The Festival's overall theme was "Christmas Traditions" this year. Cyndy fondly recalled a tradition in her home of her husband reading "A Visit from St. Nicholas" to her and their pup while they all snuggled in bed on Christmas Eve. The poem quickly inspired ideas for ornaments.

Helen put out a general call for volunteer elves to meet, come up with more ideas and take assignments for creating the ornaments. More than a dozen elves spent months

working on sugar plums and lollipops, tiny beds for nestling children, a myriad of mice, scrolls with verses of the poem, adorable toilet-paper-roll Santas along with sacks full of tiny gifts, and many more.

(continued on page 12)



Elves (cont. from page 11)

The tree topper had Santa popping out of—or into?—a chimney on a roof, and there was a garland of Santa in his sleigh pulled by eight reindeer going up one side of the tree and down the other. Peggy Sloan stitched another beautiful tree skirt to finish it off.

It truly was a creative group effort, often with several people working on different facets of each ornament, many using recycled materials. Look closely, and you will find pieces of mylar balloons, handles from Londonderry's meal delivery bags, scraps of fabric and other leftover items in addition to Helen's favorite toilet paper rolls. When everyone got together at Helen's with the finished creations, her dining table looked like a Christmas shop.

On Monday before Thanksgiving, a group of elves went to the Tidewater Inn to decorate the assigned six-and-a-half-foot tree. Each ornament needed to be wired onto the branches so that the tree could be delivered to its holiday destination after the Festival concluded. This year, Londonderry's tree will delight the residents and staff of Talbot Interfaith Shelter.



Helen expressed her appreciation to all the elves who helped create ornaments, including Susan Andrews, Jane Bollman, Lari Caldwell, Joann Campbell, Cathy Cooper, Beth Elkins, Rose Ertz, Gloria Gibson, Judy Harrald, Jan Johnson, Camille Kneale, Pat Lewes, Cyndy Miller, Barbara Pratt, Peggy Sloan and Queenie Swaren, with apologies to anyone overlooked. Whatever the theme for next year may be, start saving those versatile toilet paper rolls! ♦

Welcome!

To *Tred Avon Times*' new editor:

Erica Hardeo

Have ideas to share? Photos? Stories?

We welcome contributions from our fellow residents.

Just contact a newsletter committee member or join us at our monthly meetings in the Londonderry Library. Our next meeting is Monday, December 2, 10 a.m.



In Memoriam

By Florence Thompson

**ERNEST L. COX III (ERNIE)
AND BARBARA C. COX**



Ernie Cox was born in Wilmington, North Carolina, raised in Washington, D.C., and Arlington, Virginia. Barbara Cox was born in Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey. They met at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Ernie attained a B.A. in Fine Arts from William and Mary, an M.F.A. from Cranbrook Academy of Art and had done postgraduate study in philosophy at Michigan State University. He is a sculptor of some renown, his works appearing in many juried and invitational exhibitions at several museums. He received awards and prizes for his sculptures and two Artist Fellowships from the state of Florida and is represented in several corporate, public and private collections.

Music played a major role in Barbara's life. She began music lessons at age four, became the pianist for her Sunday School and substituted for the organist at her church while in high school. She sang in the A Capella Choir and with the New Jersey All State Chorus. However, she changed her focus from music in college to a major in sociology. As children, she and her sister modeled in New York City.

Ernie's teaching career began with teaching art in public schools and in an adult program at the Jacksonville, Florida, Art Museum. In the faculty at the University of South Florida's Art Department at Tampa, he received research grants and an award for outstanding undergraduate teaching. He became Professor Emeritus in 1993.

Barbara's career included work at a museum, a radio station in Tampa and in experimental early education at the University of South Florida. It was during Ernie's and Barbara's time in Tampa that their son Glen was born. She served as assistant to the Dean of Arts and Letters and then as Executive Assistant to the President of the University. She sang with the University Community Chorus and with the Gulf Coast Symphony.

In 1962, Ernie and Barbara traveled abroad in a VW Combi Bus in Germany, camping in it in Italy and France. A second trip was by motorcycle, camping in Italy and Greece. They made 16 crossings from their base in London. When Glen was old enough, he was included in their travels; when he left for college, Ernie and Barbara took up scuba diving. There had

(continued on page 14)

Ernie & Barbara Cox (cont. from page 13)

been an active ski (snow) club in Tampa and as avid skiers they yearly skied in western resorts, as well as in Austria and Switzerland. In 1980 they took up sailing, brought their boat to Bozman in '91, and retired from skiing and sailing in 2011.

In St. Michaels and Easton, Barbara joined a women's group building houses for Habitat for Humanity. The couple built a Williamsburg-style house in Bozman with Ernie involved in the design and hands-on

building. In 2018, Ernie and Barbara moved to Londonderry, Ernie having their new home at #546 adapted for his sculpting and the display of his work.

Sadly, on October 14, Ernie passed away at the age of 87. On November 14, Barbara passed away under the care of Hospice. May it give some comfort to their son, Glen, that they rest in peace together. Londonderry residents join him in mourning the passing of his extraordinary parents. ♦



In Memoriam

By Florence Thompson

MAUREEN ANNE JACOBS was born in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, to Cornelius F. Collins, Jr., and Veronica C. Clarke. She married Michael J. Jacobs in 1966. Together they shared adventures throughout the globe, given Mike's career in the United States Coast Guard.

Maureen's education choices moved from law, to nursing school to various universities, utilizing summer schools and scholarship assistance. She earned a bachelor's degree in social work, eventually becoming a licensed clinical social worker.

Maureen's husband, a lawyer, had a long, distinguished career in the Coast Guard, moving from North Sea and Antarctic cruises to assignments in Hawaii and California. He finally retired from service so that the family would not have to move so much. A move to Easton led to employment with Miles and

Stockbridge and then to establishing his own firm. Sadly, Mike died in 2022, ending a 56-year marriage.

Maureen was employed in the Talbot County Health Department in Cambridge and Chestertown and in the Corsica River Mental Health Agency. She was a dedicated volunteer; she was a founding board member of For All Seasons and served at the Upper Shore Community Mental Health Center and the Eastern Shore Hospital Center. She was a licensed Certified Social Worker, giving of

(continued on page 15)

Jacobs (cont. from page 14)

herself to those with the least resources and the most critical needs.

Her commitment to her faith was evident in her volunteer efforts with the Society of St. Vincent De Paul Easton, and at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

Maureen is survived by her daughter, Melanie Anne Jacobs Barney, her son, Jason Daniel Jacobs, four grandchildren, a brother and a host of nieces and nephews. Also, she leaves her godchild Cordelia Nemeyer.

She is predeceased by her husband and her sister, Cornelia V. Nemeyer.

Maureen moved to Londonderry in August. She joined in several trips, attended board meetings, made the first move to join the Londonderry Book Club. Sadly, she passed on November 16 at age 80, a short three-month residency. Londonderry residents share her family's honoring of her life. ♦

Elaine Moore's great-granddaughters,
Brynley and Macie Curren



Elaine Moore's ten-year-old great-granddaughter wrote the following, and we are delighted to share it with you!

My Mommom Moves

By Brynley Curren

My mommom is not my mom's mom, she is my great grandmother! She lived with me from the time I was a baby. She had taught me how to make lots of things like cake mix cookies, fried egg sandwiches, jello, and our special sauce made with mild salsa and cream cheese. She even taught me how to tie my shoes.

I love spending the night at her house and she always comes to my field hockey games.

One morning I woke up and my mom came into my room, with some surprising news, "Mommom was moving." I was so sad but luckily she was only moving 8 minutes away. Before I could get used to the idea I looked out the window and saw a big truck pull into my driveway and I knew it was time. Then another car pulled up and it was the CHAPMANS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! They are my parents' friends. They had come to help us. Almost no time went by before I was in their CAR! They took me to a weird place with a GUARD HOUSE! It was called Londonderry.

After we pulled into Londonderry, we got out of the car and went to cottage 111. It was so small but I said to myself, "She is only one person." It was perfect. She still lives there even today and I go and spend the night and love it. She is the best mommom you could ever ask for. ♦

Friendsgiving

By Jay Craig

The community of Londonderry is renowned for its encouragement of healthy lifestyles and being a magnet for senior citizens to live and prosper. With strong leadership, aesthetic facilities, safe and healthy dwellings and a multitude of social offerings, Londonderry has been awarded many tributes and stands alone as one of the best senior citizen communities in Maryland.

Of course, the management of the community is of utmost importance and is enhanced by the strong support of its residents. As with any other similar communities, there is always turnover, with residents leaving and new ones moving in. With this in mind, our Director of Community Engagement, Erica Hardeo, makes it possible for current residents to meet with new folks moving in.

Usually two times a year, residents are privileged to be able to meet with and get to know new arrivals. On November 20, a welcome social—a “Friendsgiving”—was held at the clubhouse, where current residents were able to become familiar with their new neighbors. Approximately 65

residents gathered together and had a great time socializing with one another and meeting our new arrivals.

Erica Hardeo did a great job as the emcee for the event, and as usual several staff members assisted by going table to table serving delicious donuts from Bay Country Bakery. It was great to be able to sit back, enjoying donuts and drinks while Erica introduced our new neighbors.

(continued on page 17)



Left: Erica introducing Jackie Christopher



Below:
Janet Benvenuto,
standing, and
Evelyn LoRe,
seated left in white



Robert and Janet Gillen,
standing center

Friendsgiving (cont. from page 16)

First to be introduced was Janet Benvenuto who moved into Unit 224 in June. Following Janet, we were introduced to Jackie Christopher who moved into Unit 344 in April. Ann and Charles Yonkers became great additions to our community when they moved into Unit 520 in June. Robert and Janet Gillen who moved into apartment 4210 in August were then introduced. Followed last, but not least, by Evelyn LoRe who joined us in June when she moved into Unit 107.



Ann and Charles Yonkers

suitable for the event. As usual, many staff members assist with resident interaction, and Erica works very hard to make these ventures successful. Thank you to all who participated, and we welcome all our new neighbors to a wonderful and vibrant community. ♦

To receive *Tred Avon Times* by email for easier reading or printing, contact Cyndy Miller to be added to our distribution list.

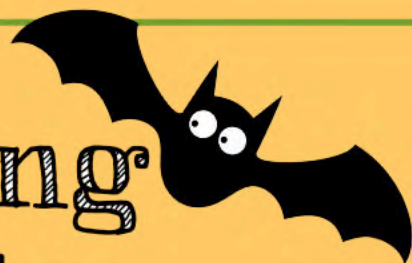
Social events such as these strengthen community interaction and make our new neighbors feel welcome. It takes a lot of work and organizing to make these activities work. The meeting room must go through an entire reconfiguration making it



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Parting Shots



More shots from Halloween at Londonderry

