

Floating Into Summer

by Jay Craig

What could be better than enjoying a cold root beer float on a warm sunny day surrounded by neighbors and friends while listening to the sounds of Bugleboy Barney Willis? That is exactly what happened on June 17 in front of the community center.

Root beer socials have been around for many years, stemming from the invention of the “Black Cow” in 1893. According to history on the subject, Frank Wisner, owner of Cripple Creek



Brewing in Colorado, created the drink after noticing that the snow-capped peak of Cow Mountain resembled ice cream floating in soda. It is said that Wisner combined his Maple Avenue Red Root Beer with a scoop of vanilla ice cream resulting in a fizzy and frothy beverage.

Gathering to enjoy this treat became second nature with social gatherings in ice cream parlors and soda fountains in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These social events accelerated during the prohibition era when alcohol was banned and folks opted for this tasty treat in neighborhood “ice cream socials.” Because floats are easy to assemble in large quantities, they have become a favorite activity for a variety of fellowship events. There is even a National Root Beer Float Day celebrated every year on August 6 with community centers hosting their own float socials.

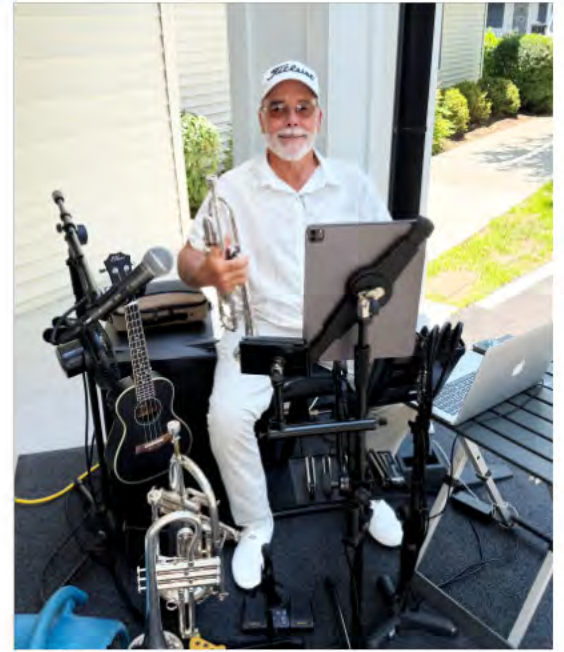
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Root Beer (cont. from page 1)

Our Director of Community Engagement Erica Hardeo waved her magic wand again and scheduled this event for the residents and friends of Londonderry, ordering up a perfectly warm and sunny day for us to gather in front of the community center to enjoy our sweet treats and to listen to Barney Willis, one of our favorite entertainers. According to his website, Barney is known to many as “Bugleboy” and has played horns for 50 years. He is a graduate of Shenandoah Conservatory of Music where he studied Music Theory, Jazz Studies, and Music Education. Using a state-of-the-art system he calls “backing tracks,” Barney plays trumpet and flugelhorn to provide soft background music with his live vocals to entertain his audiences with a multitude of pop and jazz sounds. Erica discovered Barney in 2020, and he has become a mainstay at Londonderry ever since, entertaining us a couple times a year.



It was a beautiful day for a social gathering, and a large throng arrived early and stayed late. Maintenance personnel assisted in setting up chairs, but as the crowd grew additional seats were required. A table was set up for making the root beer floats where staff and volunteers scooped ice cream, poured the root beer and distributed the goodies to the throng who were seated listening to Barney’s music.

It took a lot of muscle power and due diligence from Director of Housekeeping Services LaCree Brown and others to scoop more than 12 gallons of ice cream and pour an untold number of cans of root beer into large plastic cups for all to enjoy. CEO Christine Harrington chipped in, along with Director of Health and Wellness nurse Lorraine Flisher and resident soda jerk Evelyn LoRe (left). Erica, Lorraine, and Evelyn were busy running back and forth making sure everyone was able to receive their root beer floats. In addition to serving the treats to those seated, there was a continuous line of root beer float lovers lined up at the main table to fetch the floats themselves. So much ice cream was consumed, the soda jerks ran out and had to raid Chef Brendan Keegan’s ice cream vault for more.

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Root Beer (cont. from page 2)

For about an hour and a half, a joyful crowd of Londonderry residents and friends sang along, slapped their knees and danced to the music provided by Barney Willis. Whether in the sun or shade, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and appreciated the fellowship and camaraderie. This was very evident during Barney's interpretation of Jim Croce's "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown" where Jean and Jack Ross, the "Jitterbug Machine," showed off their great dance moves again as though they had never stopped jitterbugging since their performance at the Jammers' "On the Road Again Concert" back on May 7.



Bellies full of delicious root beer floats and fond memories of songs both new and old, the crowd started to disperse around 3:30. It was an enjoyable afternoon and another great event, which are so prevalent within this happy and vibrant community.

Hats off to the great staff who assisted at the social and the neighbors who attended and pitched in with its preparation and cleanup, like Lou Duvall who helped remove chairs after the social. Thanks to all for a job well done and for making this community a great place to live. With the abundance of activities available and a staff well prepared to offer wonderful outings of togetherness, Londonderry is the place to be. So, keep an eye on CATIE and join your wonderful neighbors at the next social event on the calendar. ♦



Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler!

By Kaye Dutrow

Philip Dutton and the Alligators is Ken Sadler's favorite band. Perhaps it's because their music reminds him of growing up in New Orleans. On Thursday, June 25, however, they transported all of us to the Louisiana bayous with their concert at the Manor House.

The band has been performing locally since 2013 and is a favorite at Avalon Theatre's outdoor concerts.

While some of the songs were unfamiliar, they vividly captured the spirit of Louisiana life—celebrations, catfish fries, hush puppies, and rising rivers. Several selections paid tribute to New Orleans legend Fats Domino, including "I'm Walkin'," "Blueberry Hill," and "I'm Walking to New Orleans." Philip dedicated "I Wish I Was in New Orleans" to Ken Sadler before continuing with more audience favorites: "Let the Good Times Roll" ("Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler"), "Midnight Special,"



and "St. James Infirmary." As they do at every performance, the band closed the evening with "See You Later, Alligator."

Although the concert was lively and upbeat, Philip shared a more reflective moment near the end of the evening. Earlier that day, our friend and neighbor Jean Rhian had passed away, and he wanted to honor her memory. Philip recalled that his first performance in Easton had been at Jean's birthday celebration years ago. As we quietly sang "When the Saints Go Marching In," we thought of Jean, whose kindness and warmth touched so many lives. Perhaps, somewhere, she was listening.

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Bon Temps (cont. from page 4)

Special thanks to Erica for organizing our first summer concert. Residents enjoyed delicious offerings from Belly Bustin' Grill while visiting with friends and neighbors and listening to wonderful music on a warm summer evening.

We look forward to more summer events, including the Hotel Paradise Orchestra and the Annual Farmer's Market on Wednesday, July 22, and the Joey Harkum Duo on Tuesday, September 1. ♦

More concert photos can be found in [Parting Shots](#) on page 31.



Father's Day Memories & Treats

Londonderry honored resident dads with Father's Day cookies for all the men and a special Father's Day edition of "Cruisin' with Christine" for *Talbot Spy*.

You can watch Christine Harrington chat with these wonderful gentlemen—John Dalton, Bob Grill, Jay Craig, Rob Fortkiewicz and Rich Morin—as they share their memories of fatherhood at:

<https://talbotspy.org/2026/06/21/cruisin-with-christine-the-fathers-day-edition/>

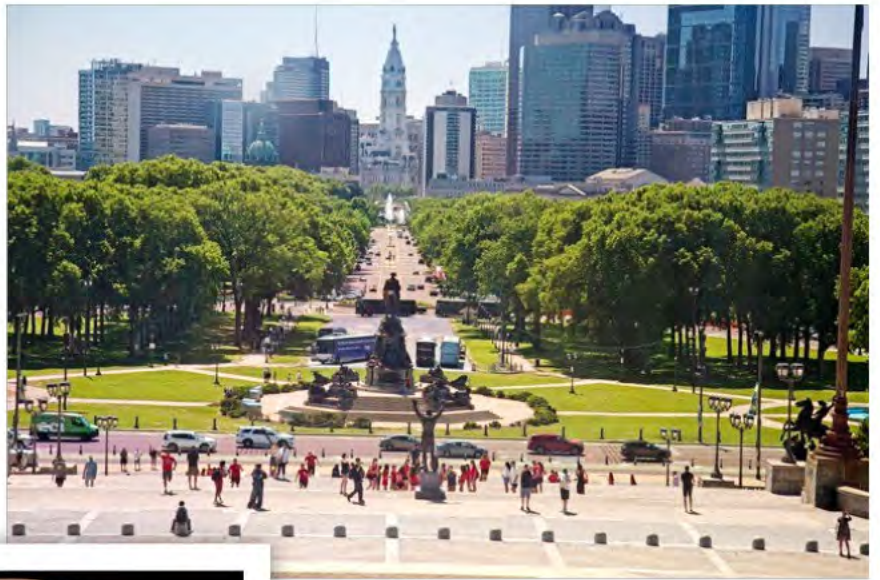


Art for All

By Kaye Dutrow

On Thursday, June 4, ten residents, along with Erica Hardeo and Rich Williams, traveled to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, a world-renowned museum famous not only for its iconic “Rocky Steps” but also for its extraordinary collection of masterpieces from around the globe.

The museum’s mission is reflected in its guiding philosophy, “Art for All.” As stated on its website, the museum seeks to preserve, interpret, and share its collections with an increasingly diverse audience, providing opportunities for delight, inspiration, and lifelong learning. The museum’s motto,



“Where Curiosity Leads,” perfectly captured the spirit of our visit.

Curiosity led our group in many different directions. Some headed straight to the third floor to begin their exploration, while I made my way to the second floor to visit the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist galleries. I was especially eager to see Paul Cézanne’s *The Large Bathers*, a monumental work that took five years (1900–1905) to complete.



Last summer, I attended a Post-Impressionism course in Oxford, England, where we studied the works of Van Gogh, Gauguin, and Cézanne. While I had always admired Van Gogh, the course gave me a deeper appreciation for Cézanne’s artistry and influence. Our instructor, Dr. P., helped us

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Museum (cont. from page 6)

explore how these artists used color, form, and light to create meaning. One of my favorite moments was when she compared art to poetry, a comparison that transformed the way I view paintings. She emphasized the importance of *The Large Bathers* (right) as a pivotal work bridging Post-Impressionism, Cubism, and abstraction. She also told us that if we ever found ourselves in Philadelphia, we should make a point of seeing it—and she was absolutely right.

Many others in our group discovered works that resonated with them. Erica particularly enjoyed the Japanese art collection and the beautifully furnished period rooms. Rich, who also appreciates Japanese art, found the armor displays fascinating.



Jane Bollman and Ginny Duvall spent time admiring works by their favorite Impressionist painters, while Claire Liversidge was delighted by the unique pieces in the Modern Art galleries.

(continued on page 8)



Museum (cont. from page 7)

Lou Duvall was especially impressed by the Southwest exhibits and Native American displays. Lari and Craig Caldwell enjoyed exploring the museum at a leisurely pace and browsing the museum shops. Christine Cooke was so taken with the museum that she is already planning a return visit. Evelyn LoRe summed up her experience by saying she felt “more cultured and smarter” after the tour.

By the end of the day, each of us had discovered artwork that inspired us. Perhaps that inspiration—and our curiosity—will lead us to even more artistic discoveries in the future.

Of course, no visit to Philadelphia would be complete without sampling a famous Philly cheesesteak. We stopped at Pat’s, where we quickly learned the importance of ordering “wit” or “witout” onions. The line moved swiftly, and before long we were enjoying our sandwiches outdoors in South Philadelphia while sharing thoughts about the art we had seen.

As the day came to a close, Rich expertly navigated the van through Philadelphia’s busy streets and heavy traffic. Rose Ertz perhaps said it best: “We had the full Philly experience—art museum, cheesesteaks, and traffic jams.”

Special thanks to Erica for organizing such a memorable outing and to Rich for safely transporting us



to and from Philadelphia. It was a wonderful day filled with art, learning, laughter, and friendship. ♦



The “Big Reveal” at the Gallery

By Patricia Bradley

May 29 was the date of the “Big Reveal” we’d all been waiting for. The items in the cabinet were finally tagged with the donors’ names, and the winners of the contest were announced. We know this exhibit stirred a lot of interest and amusement among the residents because the living room/library was packed that afternoon with those who had played the game. Nancy Henry took up her role as master of ceremonies and made the announcements and guided the discussion.

We were able to question each other about the items each brought to the exhibit. Finally, people could find out that it was Isobel Tascher who came on the Queen Elizabeth when she immigrated to the United States. The intriguing looking Vibroplex High Speed Key was explained by Phil Gibson whose hobby is ham radio. A lot of people knew Jane Ward was a pilot and donated the navigation and flight planners, and Larry Ulm surely resembled the model of a pilot. Craig Caldwell was a Hospice Honoree, and Lari rode the Gearhead bike when she was a social worker. And on and on. The goal of the game was to learn about your neighbors. It worked.

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Gallery (cont. from page 9)

Beth Elkins and Larry Ulm were the grand prize winners. Second place were Faith Dobrenski and Peggy Brownrigg, and Lari Caldwell came in third. They all were awarded Top Banana prizes and gift certificates—one was for fun and one was for real. Thanks to Beth for the idea of the game; it was a big success. The consensus seems to be to do it again sometime. ♦



Pot Luck Dinner

By Jay Craig

Promoting wellbeing and longevity is a natural desire for older people, and community interaction is cited as one of many ways to enhance that possibility. Although young and old can benefit from social gatherings for emotional and physical support, togetherness takes many forms.

In the 16th century, it was important for community members to assist one another in daily activities and look out for each other in times of need, gathering together to enjoy one's company and to break bread with one another while enjoying a hot meal.

In those days, folks looked out for one another and were always prepared to have unannounced guests be treated as family with a hot meal and friendship. It was normal practice to add some extra food to the cooking pot in the event that friends and/or family showed up at the front door with empty bellies and large appetites. So, the cooking pot was always full, and guests relied on luck as to what would be spooned from the pot to eat. As such, the term "pot luck" was introduced into their vocabulary.

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Pot Luck (cont. from page 10)

This activity evolved over the years, and pot luck dinners took on many different forms. In the 1930s, the Great Depression caused thousands of people to go hungry, and communities found it necessary to assist one another by creating communal meals that could be shared with one another. A form of pot luck was created in order that many people could put their meager resources together to provide one another with nutritious meals at less cost for individual families. Again, no one knew what the pot was brewing, and it was your lucky day if the meal satisfied your fancy resulting in your pot luck.

In today's world, communal dining is still in vogue for all of the aforementioned reasons, but many times, it is created for the enjoyment of community interaction. As such, Londonderry was not going to

allow this 500-year-old tradition to go by uncelebrated. Londonderry has had pot luck dinners in the past, but it had been a while since the last one when longtime resident Camille Kneale brought the idea last year to the attention of Director of Community Engagement Erica Hardeo, who in her infinite wisdom agreed. The first of what are hoped to be semi-annual dinners was held in September, and the latest took place at the clubhouse on May 31. Jan Benvenuto and Evelyn LoRe in collaboration with Erica

volunteered to host the dinner, and a signup sheet for those who might be interested was posted. As a result, almost 40 residents signed up.

On the Friday before the event, our wonderful maintenance crew transformed the clubhouse from a place of meetings and exercise classes to an atmosphere for dining delight. To further enhance the



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Pot Luck (cont. from page 11)

decor, Erica supplied colorful blue and white table toppers and luxurious-looking plastic utensils that looked so real that some of the residents wanted to wash them for future use (but were not allowed).

Upon entering the clubhouse for the event, one could not but notice two long tables at the rear of the room covered with a wide range of food choices to please a multitude of appetites. One table was loaded up with great food choices such as hors d'oeuvres, shrimp, fried chicken, lasagna, pasta salads, zucchini, some nice Italian street food called "strada," potato salad, and potatoes. Monica Stecher not only provided Peruvian chicken curry (Aji de Gallina) but also the recipe (below).

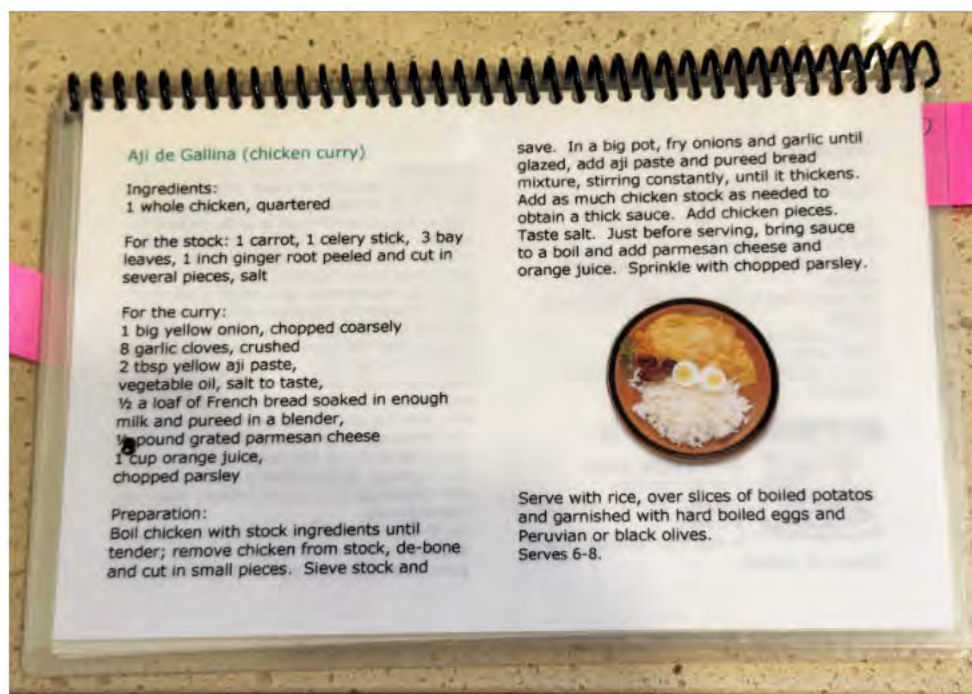
The other table was covered with a multitude of desserts such as pie, cupcakes, cheesecake, cookies and other sweet treats to fill our already-full stomachs with tasty delights that our doctors really do not need to know about.

The importance of these community interactions has been studied with acknowledgment that they are vital for positive relationships, healthier lifestyles and longevity. Obviously, our friends at Londonderry know this and are more than happy to create these situations for residents. It's a good partnership. Londonderry supplies the space and materials, and the residents provide the food.

This event was well-coordinated and professionally handled by our hosts, but future events may change slightly in that a list of interested participants will be posted and volunteer hosts may be selected from each of the five housing complexes, with an additional signup sheet for those interested in helping with the cleanup. This year's pot luck dinner was a great experience, but lack of cleanup help weighed on the hosts who could have used some extra hands.

So, let's look forward to another eating adventure with our wonderful neighbors, and

celebrate a staff here at Londonderry that knows the importance of community interaction and events that bring residents closer together for fellowship and camaraderie. We will bring our appetites and samples of our favorite recipes and be prepared to roll up our sleeves and help with cleanup after a wonderful meal and great relationships with our neighbors. ♦



Londonderry Goes to Easton Elementary School

By Brenda Meier

At a Resident Meeting in February, Jean Rhian spoke about the opportunity for Londonderry residents to volunteer tutoring second grade students in reading at Easton Elementary School. There are seven second grade classrooms, and the sessions were to begin as early as February and continue until the end of the school year. Eighteen Londonderry residents volunteered.

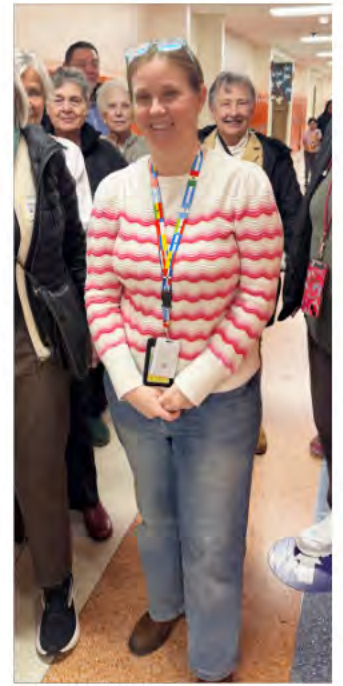
The liaison at Easton Elementary, Katie Fox (right), met with us and set forth some general guidelines: We were to spend an average of 15 minutes per student as they read to us, to help them if they struggled with words, and to emphasize new words introduced to them during their reading. In addition, we were to assist the students to better understand punctuation and where to place emphasis when coming to a period, comma or exclamation point. To better fit the particular needs of their classroom, each teacher determined the rotation of students and the length of the session per student.

I was assigned to meet with Ms. Lucas' class. She chose to include all of her students regardless of their reading ability so that each child received individual attention. Three volunteers were assigned to her class, and we had access to a check sheet to indicate which students we had seen so that each volunteer understood where to begin when they arrived for their next session.

Despite the difference in reading levels, it was inspiring to see these youngsters conquer new words and to move from reading just a

paragraph in the first week or two to reading an entire short book by the end of our time with them. I noticed a huge improvement in their reading skills in just the short time that I spent with them. Of course, there was always time for smiles and tales about the students' pets or their plans for the summer.

At the conclusion of our program, Ms. Fox met with the entire group of volunteers to discuss the reactions from both students and teachers. The teachers were overwhelmingly



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Tutoring (cont. from page 13)

positive, she reported, and the students looked forward to our visits. No negative comments were offered. The volunteers offered suggestions designed to make the process smoother and stressed we are eager to see the program continue next year.

To show their appreciation, on June 1, students in each classroom held a Tea Party for their volunteers and entertained us by reading passages as we sat with them and enjoyed their company and a serving of tea and cookies. To show our appreciation and to

help toward the purchase of books for the library, volunteers agreed to make individual donations to the Media Fund.

Many thanks to Jean Rhian and Katie Fox for making this a reality and to Susan Andrews for coordinating and scheduling the Londonderry volunteers. Thanks also to Evelyn LoRe for collecting our donations for the Media Fund. It was a worthwhile experience, both for the children and for us. We will let you know when we start planning next year's program. Maybe you will want to join us! ♦

Barbara Pratt contributed to this article.

Evelyn

Aubrielle

Mohitae

Brianna

Ashmit

Ashanti

Keyron
Larry

RYAN RYDER

IRIS

Gabriela

Escarlett

Thank you for coming
to our classroom! And
thank you for helping
us read!

Vivi Behsh Kaouki

Rhett

-Ms. Lucas'
friends ♥

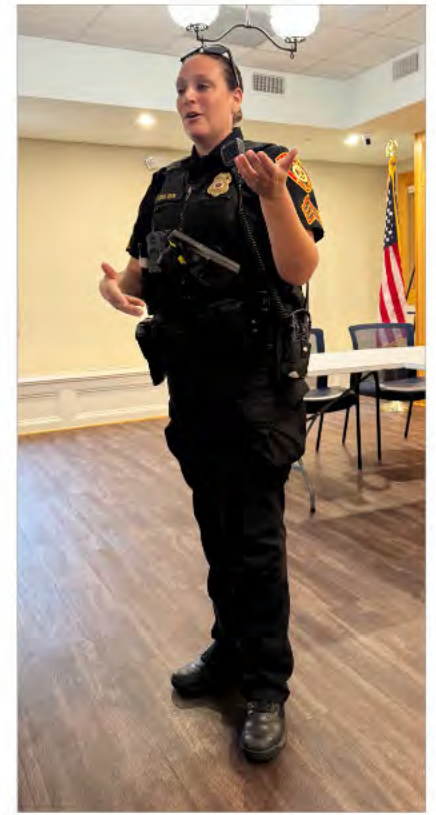
DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!

By Jay Craig

Easton, Maryland, became a town in 1710 and was the “Capital of the Eastern Shore” at that time. Originally known as “Talbot Court House,” it was renamed Easton in 1788 and quickly grew as a social hub for the Eastern Shore. The town was apparently rather quiet, without substantial crime, for about 196 years and had no law enforcement. In 1906, however, the good people of Easton decided that they wanted an official law enforcement presence, and the Easton Police Department was established. Over the next 120 years, members of the police department have served this community with honor and distinction while making the community a safe place to live.

As part of that dedicated service, current Chief Alan Lowrey and Deputy Chief Captain Gregory Wright supervise about 45 police personnel, consisting of members of the Patrol Division, Special Operations Division and Support Services Division. As part of the Special Operations Division, there is a Community Policing unit of which Sergeant Megan Coxon (above) and Corporal Ashley Ostrowski are members. On June 23, they made themselves available to the residents and friends of Londonderry to explain the dangers of being victimized by a multitude of frauds and scams currently prevalent within our community.

According to Sergeant Coxon, there is currently an uptick in fraudulent activity in our area and quite often senior citizens are the target of these fraudsters. These illegal activities consist of home repair scams, identity theft, investment scams, job and money-making scams, romance scams, tech support scams, unwanted calls and text



messages from criminals, and “you’ve won something” scams.

Currently, phone scams are the most common. Using AI, criminals can duplicate the sound of a grandchild’s voice who will tell of an emergency they are having and the money they need to be released from jail or to prevent going to jail. You will be given directions on how to send the money, thereby removing your relative from danger. Most phone scams appear to be from people and/or organizations that you would normally trust, making them that much harder for you to detect as scams.

You may receive calls, text messages and/or emails about debt relief or credit repairs, maybe a call to lower your interest rate or for giving money to what seems to be a perfectly honorable charity. Many scams come in the

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Scams (cont. from page 15)

form of requests for you to extend the warranty on your car. The criminal will actually know the make, model and year of your car and sound very professional. **DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!**

Be careful of free trials on products and streaming video or music opportunities, because at the end of the free trial your credit card will continue to pay for those services whether you want them or not. Be careful about fake banking alerts, package delivery issues, job offers, tax/IRS scams.

Recently people have been victimized by a scam where they receive a very professional and legal looking notification from the state of Maryland about fines related to traffic tickets. They look very official with citation numbers and court dates and offer you the opportunity to satisfy the issue by sending money and clearing it up.

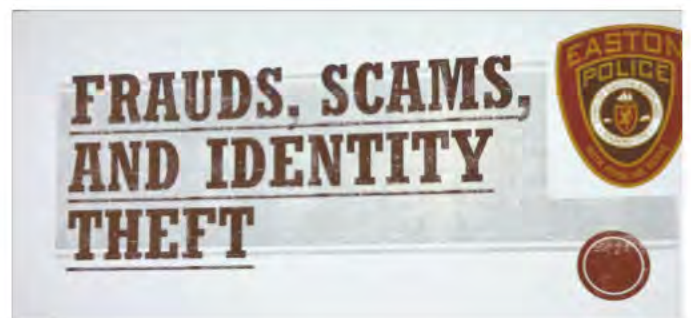
When receiving suspicious requests on line **NEVER CLICK ON ANY LINKS**—immediately delete the text. Quite often these scammers send messages with poor spelling and/or grammar. This is a red flag telling you that this is a scam. Again, **DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!**

There are several ways to protect yourself from these scammers:

- Stop and check it out.
- Tell a friend. You may see through these scams but a friend may not.
- Protect your information. Shred documents before you throw them away.

- Check your monthly statements and your credit.
- Take time to research the offer.
- Never pay money to receive money.
- Hang up. Never entertain calls about computer problems.
- Do not press any numbers or click on links.
- Keep your money and your information to yourself.
- Run anti-virus security on your computer and phones.
- Change your computer passwords on occasion.
- Report all scams to the police and/or federal agency.
- Learn more at [ftc.gov/calls](https://www.ftc.gov/calls).

Do not become a victim. There are predators in our society who would like nothing more than taking every penny you have. Don't allow them to do it. Stay alert and keep up to date with current fraud trends. We all want to trust others, but scammers use that trust to steal. If you feel the least bit suspicious about a call or text, immediately remove yourself from it by hanging up or deleting the text or email. The police can help. Your friends and neighbors can help. You are not obligated to make a thief rich—**DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!** ♦



Breakfast at Denton Diner

By Jay Craig

When thinking of Denton, one can envision a quiet town situated along the banks of the Choptank River, with some having the knowledge that it is an Eastern Shore county seat. But for the men of Londonderry, Denton means breakfast. So, on June 5, a group of hungry men jumped aboard the community van (the Old Grey Lady) for the 40 or so-minute drive to the eatery.

Denton used to be a bustling river port known for being the Delmarva Peninsula's fruit-canning capital, with tomato canning being its specialty. With the reduction of railroad service, however, that industry faded away. Today Denton is designated an American Discovery Trail Town where throngs can enjoy kayaking, boating, and nature trails.

The town has not always been a tranquil river community. During the Civil War, much of the original downtown was burned to the ground. It was thought that a bunch of drunken Union soldiers protecting the town inadvertently burned it to the ground by firing off celebratory fireworks. The town square was eventually rebuilt and revitalized, and its historic buildings have been preserved.

As the years went by, Denton expanded outward with small shopping outlets dotting the roadways, drawing shoppers and diners to their locations. One such eatery was located outside of Denton and went through its own revitalization in 2021. The familiar landmark in Caroline County underwent a major transformation when it was taken over and

reopened by Ozzy and Hassan Bastas. The duo previously owned and operated the 9 Central Avenue Diner in Ridgely which became a fixture in that community. But due to unforeseen circumstances, that diner had to close its doors, allowing the local restaurateurs to open the Denton Diner in 2021.

For the Bastases, it is a family affair; so much so, that Ozzy's brothers Zain and Osman work with Hassan in the kitchen preparing delicious home-cooked foods for their patrons. Additionally, to ensure customer satisfaction, Ozzy was able to retain Bobbi Jo who served tables in Ridgely and now has joined the family in Denton.

It was a great trip to Denton with Lead Maintenance Tech Chris Andrews behind the wheel of the van with Security Guard Troy Sherwood by his side (below). The Old Grey Lady performed wonderfully, purring like a kitten for the entire round trip. I think her engine was able to breathe

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Breakfast (cont. from page 17)

a little better after she was driven to Philadelphia the day before. The long drive may have reduced carbon build up, keeping the engine running smoothly.



The family atmosphere at the diner paid off when within ten minutes of taking our food orders, Bobbi Jo (above) returned with plates full of goodies while keeping our coffee mugs filled to the brim. Seated from front left and clockwise: Henry Prieger, Dick Codrington, Jay Craig, Richard Henry, Lou Duvall, Joe Campioni, Roger Bollman, Rich Morin and Henry Novian. Seated at a separate table were the bosses, Chris Andrews and Troy Sherwood. It was great to have Joe Campioni join us for breakfast. Joe is new to the community and a welcome addition.

While consuming mounds of food, we attempted to solve all that is wrong in the world. Since we were unsuccessful, we

enjoyed each other's company and found out that we had similar jobs as kids. A couple of us had newspaper routes or worked in retail, and we found out that one of our neighbors drove a school bus as a teenager. With bellies full and no complaints, we were transported back to Londonderry by our very capable team of Chris and Troy. We got back in time for some to enjoy bocce ball, while others went their separate ways with fond memories of another breakfast outing with good food, camaraderie and fellowship.



Thank you, Erica Hardeo, for making these arrangements and our monthly breakfast outings a reality. If interested in joining us for our next breakfast adventure, please keep an eye on CATIE near the end of each month when our next outing will be listed for the following month. ♦

Father Pat's Alaska

By Patricia Bradley

At the May 27 meeting of Londonderry's Satellite Rotary Club, all the seats were filled by residents waiting to hear Fr. Pat Bergquist tell tales of his years spent in Alaska. Fr. Pat is a great teller of tales, as anyone who has had the pleasure of spending time with him knows. He began with a bit of humor—acknowledging the size of the crowd, saying he usually would have to travel 300 miles to see that many people and suggesting he should have a basket to pass around.

Fr. Pat devoted 20 years to serving the people of Alaska. He lived among the indigenous tribes and also served as an administrator, the Vicar General to the Bishop of Fairbanks. During that time, he wrote his first book, *The Long Dark Winter's Night*, based on that experience. He found the white population of Alaska interesting as well, so many seemed to be there wanting to “re-create themselves.” He says he originally went to Alaska looking for a bit of adventure, looking for the “craziest thing he could do.” He planned to stay three years, but it was 20 years before he returned to the lower forty-eight, finding different ways to minister here.



He talks about “The Great Land” with something that might be nostalgia, but found on returning for one more year after his time away, that Alaska is not for old people. While living there, he did seem quite comfortable with a bishop whose robes were replaced by a flannel shirt and quite at home with the amount of time everyone seemed to find to go fishing. He was okay with traveling by snowmobile and was able to survive in the extreme cold weather. He brought his Alaska parka to show us that necessary item of clothing. (Extremely heavy but very warm!)

Fr. Pat is very happy to be living in this community at Londonderry. In fact, he declared that of all the decisions he has had to make in his life, coming here was the best. That's quite a compliment; Londonderry welcomes him home. ♦



Out to Lunch at Fisherman's Inn

By Jay Craig

It was a perfect June 24 for Londonderry's "lunch bunch" to jump on board the community's van for a trip to Kent Narrows for a great lunch at Fishermen's Inn. There were no stragglers for this event because the Fishermen's Inn has become famous for its authentic Eastern Shore recipes like its lump crab cakes and unique dining quirks.

Security officer Robert Heggelke jumped behind the van's steering wheel accompanied by our Director of Community Engagement Erica Hardeo, who seemed to be a well-qualified copilot. The van (the Old Grey Lady) purred like a kitten but seemed to enjoy blowing some pretty chilly air throughout its cabin during the trip. You see, the old lady gets cranky sometimes and has trouble with her climate controls on occasion.

When we arrived, the eatery's manager Stacey greeted us, and our server Angelica escorted us to an airy dining space and a long, inviting table that easily accommodated all of us with plenty of elbow room.

The restaurant has a storied history and has been a mainstay at Kent Narrows since 1930. It began as a small grocery store and 30-seat restaurant. The proprietors, Captain Alex Thomas and his wife Mae, lived upstairs with their children and often gave up their own bedrooms for paying anglers and slept on the front porch swing.

The business grew rapidly following the opening of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in

1952, so they added more guest rooms and a screened porch. The original founders' daughter Betty and son-in-law Oscar Schultz built and opened a much larger restaurant facility. In 1980, however, a devastating fire burned the newly built restaurant to the ground. Having the privilege of speaking with one of the volunteer firemen who worked the blaze, I was told that Betty ran back into the burning structure past the firemen to save as many of her oyster plates as possible (left).



(continued on page 21)

Lunch (cont. from page 20)

Today's restaurant houses more than 400 beautiful oyster plates which adorn the walls in all of its dining rooms.

The current restaurant continues to thrive, managed by a third generation of the Schultz family. While seated at our table, we observed a suspended railroad consisting of G-scale locomotives and rolling stock from the collection of Sonny Shultz, late owner of Fishermen's Inn. (Photo on previous page.) The G scale is about twice the size of a Lionel scale. The locomotive and attached railroad cars were quiet and traveled smoothly over the suspended train tracks and just under a unique and large display of oyster plates affixed to all of the walls at ceiling height.

Angelica took our drink orders and made us aware of that day's specials. The menu was expansive and offered a multitude of seafood delights. Some at the table ordered cream of crab soup or the combo cream of crab and vegetable crab soup and found both to be delicious. There were some soft-shell crab sandwiches going around and a gigantic flounder sandwich being devoured by Bob Heggelke. The food seemed to be piled high on every plate and take-home boxes and bags to carry them were the order of the day.

Our restaurant adventure was enhanced by the arrival of new residents, Mark and Maureen Bennett and Ginny and Joe Campioni, who traveled with us and who seemed to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie

that always exists on these trips. Seated at the table from front left and clockwise below are Queeny Swaren, Florence Thompson, Erica Hardeo (standing), Bob Heggelke, Delores Craig with her caregiver Tanika, Mark Bennett, Joe Campioni, Ginny Campioni, Carole Novian and Elaine Moore.

This restaurant provided quality food, unique ambiance and professional staff that made our visit a delight and warmed our bellies with goodies that would surely help nap time for some. The trip back was seamless, and the Old Grey Lady was in a better mood by adjusting her climate controls, making for a more comfortable experience.

A shout out goes to Erica Hardeo who plans these Out to Lunch adventures and for finding the time to join this group for lunch. If interested in future Out to Lunch gatherings, please keep an eye on CATIE and sign up early to ensure a seat on the van. ♦



Live Better Longer

By Linda Cades

No one wants to think about end-of-life issues, but as we age, those issues need to be addressed. Fortunately, we don't have to do that alone. Talbot Hospice, the only hospice service in Talbot County, provides a wide variety of resources for patients and their families.

Lisa Rizia, an RN with over 40 years of experience, most of them in home and hospice care, explained at a presentation to Londonderry residents on May 27 that hospice care is about living every day to the fullest, not about dying. Their hospice and palliative care services help people decide what they want or don't want when confronted with a terminal illness.

According to Ms. Rizia, opting for hospice care is about improving quality of life. Some people on hospice care actually get better and live longer because symptoms are managed and their stress level goes down. Available to anyone within the last six months of life, many patients use hospice services for much longer as long as they need that support. Talbot Hospice cares for patients with all types of illnesses including dementia. Talbot Hospice also offers palliative care for those with chronic illnesses.

The hospice and palliative care team includes a doctor on call 24 hours a day, six on-call nurses working in the county, as well as a nurse manager, a social worker, a case manager, a chaplain, and home care aids to



assist with personal care. Additional services include providing pain medications and arranging for durable medical equipment. The hospice care team also offers grief support.

In addition, there are volunteers who will come to the home to stay with patients while caregivers run errands, take a walk, or just take a nap. The next volunteer training is scheduled for October, and anyone interested is encouraged to apply. No medical training or experience is required. If you cannot volunteer, monetary donations are always appreciated.

Arranging for hospice or palliative care services begins with an in-home visit so the team can evaluate the level of need. If patients cannot remain at home, Talbot Hospice has a 10-bed Hospice House where patients can receive 24-hour care and meals. The maximum charge for care at the Hospice House is \$300.00 per day, although many people qualify to pay on a sliding scale. They also offer hospice services to those in assisted living facilities.

For more information, check out the Talbot Hospice website at talbothospice.org. Ms. Rizia is also available to answer any questions, and plans are to have her return to Londonderry for another presentation for those who missed this one or who would like to know more about hospice care. ♦

Caring for Our Rivers

By Cyndy Carrington Miller

On June 18, Grace Filson and Faith Walstrum from ShoreRivers spoke with Londonderry residents about the organization's efforts on behalf of the Eastern Shore rivers. ShoreRivers is an environmental nonprofit that works to protect our waterways through science-based advocacy, restoration, education and community engagement. It lobbies for legislation to protect the environment, partners with farmers on restoration projects and building new marshes, works with public school children to get them out on the water, and connects with other community organizations among its many activities.

ShoreRivers' four riverkeepers are each lead scientists and advocates for one of the rivers in the Eastern Shore watershed: the Sassafras, Chester, Miles/Wye, and the Choptank. Londonderry, on the Tred Avon River, is part of the Choptank River system—the largest of the four—and Matt Pluta is its riverkeeper.

Every week, 17 sites along the Choptank are monitored and samples collected to check for



enterococci bacteria to ensure the sites are safe to swim and the fish caught are safe to eat. The sites are each given a pass or fail grade. A fail means that the bacteria count is too high and eating fish from that area and swimming are not recommended.

Test results can be dramatically affected by rainfall. Easton Point, just down Port Street from Londonderry, had a very high bacteria count and failed one recent week in June, which they attributed to a heavy rain the night before the testing. By the following week's test, it passed, with a much lower number. ShoreRivers publishes the data every week on its Facebook page and in local media.

Other data are also considered for overall river scores, including oxygen, nitrogen and phosphorous content, water clarity, and algae. Grace and Faith presented a chart of how the Choptank sites did last year after combining all the data. The upper Choptank—narrower, surrounded by farms with more nutrient runoff, and with less tidal flushing—earned a “C” grade. The lower Choptank—

(continued on page 24)



Rivers (cont. from page 23)

with less farmland and where tides do a better job of flushing out bacteria and excess nutrients—did better with a “B” grade.

While not great, they said the grades were better than those of 2024 and are affected by whether the seasons are rainy or dry. This year, they said, has been a remarkable one for water clarity—which is good news for the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds. There has been limited algae growth, the sun can reach the SAV beds, and the bay grass is doing very well.

The SAV beds are important to the river’s ecosystem. Flourishing SAV sequesters carbon, absorbs excess nutrients, decreases algal blooms, slows erosion, and provides food and habitat for river life. Threats to the vegetation include climate change, sediment from erosion, and stormwater runoff.

As part of ShoreRivers’ SAV restoration program, volunteers scout out SAV beds, recording species of bay grasses, how much is there and other environmental factors. They then participate in harvesting grasses from

areas of abundance. Grace and Faith showed a video of SAV being harvested and then “turbulated”—“like a Jacuzzi for SAV”—to separate the grass from its seeds, which are collected, counted, winterized, then mixed with sand in the spring to plant in designated areas in need of more bay grass.

Oysters, too, are important for improving river quality, and ShoreRivers’ oyster restoration program is its other major restoration effort. Volunteers with access to a dock and water with appropriate salinity levels act as oyster keepers to grow spat—baby oysters—off their docks. The spat then goes to designated oyster beds.

As oyster populations build, they are increasingly important in filtering water and providing habitat for other creatures. Grace and Faith played a recording of one of the oyster reef’s denizens, the oyster toadfish (below). This ugly little fish lives on the oyster beds, eating oysters and other fish—an adult has jaws strong enough to crack open an oyster—and has a distinctive frog-like voice. By dropping down a microphone and listening for them, riverkeepers can get an idea of how the reef is doing and how diverse the habitat is.

With oysters at only one percent of their historic level in the Chesapeake Bay due to overharvesting, disease, pollution and other factors, efforts to increase their presence can only help both the habitat and the economy. The Choptank River is one of the biggest oyster restoration sites

(continued on page 25)



Rivers (cont. from page 24)

in the country, with Horn Point Laboratory being a major producer of spat on shell.

A few creeks have had oysters restored to impressive numbers, among them the Little Choptank, Harris Creek and Tred Avon oyster sanctuaries. Oysters also are producing significantly higher offspring of their own since 2023, a good sign that the rivers are improving.

Grace and Faith wrapped up their well-received presentation with a trivia quiz, challenging residents with questions both from information in their talk and general knowledge about the rivers. Connie Lauffer and Kaye Dutrow (above with Grace Filson) took the grand prize of a ShoreRivers hat and mug. ♦



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

Hello, Goodbye

By Stan Reed

The Ukulele Group at Londonderry is welcoming our new leader: Quinn Parsley, who has lived in this area for about 30 years. Quinn teaches individual music instruction locally and has also taught a course at Chesapeake College and a class at Polaris Village Academy (BAAM). We are happy to have him on board.

Unfortunately, welcoming Quinn means we are saying goodbye to Jonathan Williams. Jonathan has led our group for 17-plus years. In my short time in the group, we have performed numerous times at HeartFields, with Londonderry's Jammers, at the start of



the Time Capsule event and, most recently, at a memorial service at the Manor House. He will be sorely missed.

One other note: By saying goodbye to Jonathan, we are also saying goodbye to Becky Otter, his mom. She has been playing harmonica with our group for years but has moved to Candlelight Cove. ♦

Lessons From Geese

By Craig Caldwell

I was watching a family of geese from my living room window as they rested under a tree. There were two adults and five goslings relaxing in the shade. I noticed one of the goslings was being aggressively approached by his siblings, pecking at him and trying to push him out of the group. When they arose to change location, he was slow to join them, and as he attempted to walk, he had a very noticeable limp. The family wandered off to find some new grass to graze upon but he lagged farther and farther behind. They eventually disappeared in the foliage.

The following afternoon, I saw him again, this time alone, lying in the middle of the lawn eating grass. His family was nowhere to be seen. He would nibble a bit then get up and limp a short distance and lie down again all the while making a loud chirp as though calling someone. I attempted to get close, but he would have none of that. He made his way to another family of geese by the pond and lay



down near the four goslings which appeared to be a bit younger than he. They didn't seem to be upset and made no move to distance themselves.

Lari and I were observing from a few feet away as she was trying to locate a rescue / rehabilitation service. Unfortunately, it was after 5:00 PM and no one was answering their phone; those organizations that did pick up referred her to those who were not answering. I had the not-so-well-thought-out idea that I would try to capture the little fellow until we could find some help for him. I started a motion toward the group when I noticed both adults giving me the stink-eye and retreated. We decided we had done as much as we could and left them to their own devices.

Next morning, the geese were back, scarfing up spilled seed under the bird feeder; with them was Tiny Tim, the limping gosling, who seemed to have been accepted by the group. He wasn't moving very fast and lagged behind as they moved on, but he had a new family.



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Geese (cont. from page 26)

This demonstration of compassion reminded me of a piece by Milton Olson.

LESSONS FROM GEESE

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an 'uplift' for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if the bird flew alone.

LESSON: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

LESSON: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go (and be willing to accept their help as well as give ours to others).

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

LESSON: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and share leadership—with people, as with geese, we are interdependent on each other.

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.



LESSON: We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging and not unconstructive.

When a goose gets sick or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again or it dies. Then they launch out on their own, with another formation, or catch up with the flock.

LESSON: If we have as much sense as geese, we too will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong. ♦

Welcome

New Residents

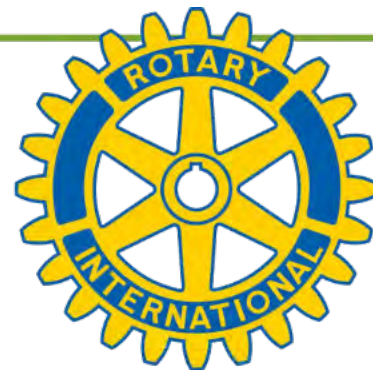
Katie & Gene Hamilton #334

Kathryn & Michael Kavanaugh #114

Elsbeth & Bill Ritchie #524

An Elegy for Londonderry Rotary

For the past three years an intrepid group of Londonderry residents, inspired by longtime Rotarian Bob Grill, have joined together to enjoy fellowship, conversation, exploring our life pathways and, most importantly, doing good for our community.



We have worked to improve our world through Rotary International, using our dues to support efforts across the world to fund such causes as the fight to eradicate polio and assist after disasters. Because Bob was a founder of Disaster Aid USA Relief, we often gathered to stuff envelopes to raise funds for that organization. We helped transport blankets to an area hit by severe storms in Tennessee.

In our community at Londonderry, we sponsored speakers to educate people about organizations in Talbot County including Julie Lowe from Talbot Interfaith Shelter for the unhoused, Linda Elben of Dixon House Assisted Living, Buck Duncan of Mid-Shore Community Foundation, Larry

Agee of Disaster Aid USA Relief and Katie Fox, Community Outreach Coordinator for Easton Elementary School.

Two students whom we sponsored to attend Rotary Youth Leadership Awards conference reported very positive experiences learning skills they will carry with them. We had guests from the Easton 911 Center who described the services they provide. We had a speaker from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a charity that distributes books to young readers every month from birth to five years. We also sponsored a tour of the Manor House with some of our members being tour guides. Our own Father Pat gave us inspirational talks about his adventures in Alaska.

With the support of Londonderry residents, we adopted twenty classrooms at Easton

Elementary School, enabling teachers to provide special experiences to enhance learning and collected donations of new clothing and personal items for their CARE Closet.

We provided a speaker system for Dixon House for their weekly bingo game, for which some of our members have been callers. At Christmas, we have promoted the Drop for Scotty Food Drive for families in need and, each winter, the

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Rotary (cont. from page 28)

Talbot County Health Department Senior Needs Drive.

Every Sunday during brunch, the blue cups appear on the tables in the dining room for donations to Alzheimer research. The Monday/Friday night poker players have also contributed part of their winnings to that organization. We have collected a total of over four thousand dollars.

Our time with Rotary has been brief, but we are proud of the work we have done and the

knowledge we have shared. However, it seems that this has not been the ideal setting for a Rotary Club to thrive, and despite our efforts to attract new members, we have sadly lost others who have been unable to continue. We know that the population here at Londonderry is a group of very generous, community-minded people and will continue to contribute to the needs we see in our local, regional, national and world communities.

With gratitude,

The Londonderry Rotary Board ♦

Congratulations, Rachel!

RACHEL SMITH, Londonderry's Director of Sales and Marketing, has been re-elected Chairperson of the Talbot County Commission on Aging, continuing her leadership of the volunteer body dedicated to improving the lives of older adults across the county. Rachel was first appointed to the Commission in 2020 and has served as Chairperson since her election to that role in 2024.

"This is an honor I don't take lightly," said Smith. "Working alongside this dedicated group of Commission members, we are charged with enhancing the quality of life for seniors in Talbot County by advising the County Council and advocating for change as needed. Our overarching goal remains supporting the safety, dignity, and well-being of all older adults in our county."

"Rachel's continued leadership on this Commission is something we are incredibly proud of at Londonderry," said Christine



Harrington, Londonderry CEO. "As a resident-owned community committed to the well-being of older adults, being represented at this level of local advocacy reflects exactly who we are and what we stand for. Rachel brings both expertise in senior living and a genuine passion for serving this community, and that combination makes a real difference." ♦



Charlie Yonkers tending to
Londonderry's thriving Liberty Tree

Londonderry resident and board member **JEAN RHIAN** passed away on June 25. We offer our condolences to her family and friends and will publish a memorial in the next issue.



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.
Next meeting: Tuesday, July 7, 9 AM

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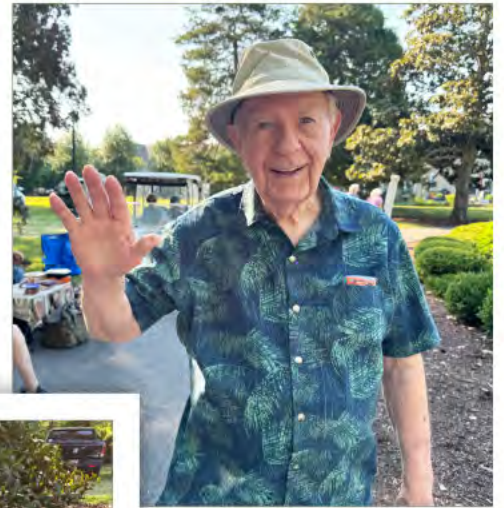
Photos Kaye Dutrow
Erica Hardeo
Michelle Pepper
Ida Ratherby Walken
Londonderry Facebook



Parting Shots



A good time was had by all at the Summer Concert!



Below, LaCree's son August playing with Chef Brendan.

