LONDONDERRY 35 Years 1991 2026
ON THE TRED AVON

TRED AVON TIMES

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Flannels & Firepits

by Jay Craig

On October 14, residents and friends of Londonderry were invited to attend "Flannels & Firepits," a special event at the community center to meet our newest neighbors. It was certainly reasonable to suggest that we wear flannel attire and that the warmth of firepits would enhance an evening where historically the temperature is in the 60s. Mother Nature, however, had a different plan and sent the temperatures into the 80s.

Seventy-four residents signed up for the event and all 74 showed up, most wearing flannel attire (with one notable couple in matching shirts, below) despite the temperature. Not only did everyone show up, an additional 23 found their way to the event, so more chairs and a large table were set up to accommodate the overflow.

In preparation for the festivities, Janet Benvenuto and Lou Duvall scurried about setting up the tables and chairs and ensuring that the multiple-colored table covers and accessories were safe from the slight breeze.

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Flannels (cont. from page 1)

Chef Brendan Keegan supplied a delicious selection of pecan, apple and pumpkin pies (right) for all to enjoy. The goodies were pre-plated in perfect proportions by Lead Line Cook Shavonte Greene for easy distribution and stomach-filling wonder.

Our friends Nicki and Travis of Nicki's Mobile Beverage Experience (below) set up a theme-related table where they served sweet mocktails. Although Nicki and Travis do not serve alcohol, the community made vodka and rum available that could be mixed with the chocolaty s'mores beverage and the delicious apple cider that was dispensed from a hollowed-out pumpkin with a tap inserted into its side.

The drinks were a perfect complement to the pies. Although unable to make s'mores at the firepits, Nicki used a small lighter to roast marshmallows to garnish her fancy mocktails.

To get the party started, Darren Jones and Theresa Allen of the Jones Boys Band (below) cranked up some wonderful music with songs well-known and loved by all. Some of the favorites were "Old Time Rock and Roll," "Take Me Home Country Roads" and Dolly Parton's hit "I Will Always Love You."

(continued on page 3)

Flannels (cont. from page 2)

As the evening wore on, the knee slapping and toe tapping gained momentum, and there was dancing in the community center's driveway. Big John Barkin (right, with Beth Elkins) couldn't hold back and strutted his dance moves with a variety of brave partners. Not to be undone, Jack and Jean Ross (below), "the Dancing Machine," got their groove on to the delight of the crowd. Janet Dwyer requested that Darren play a polka, and soon she and Bob Fortkiewicz (center) were tearing up the concrete with their polka moves.

The crowd was well-protected during the evening by Director of Buildings and Grounds James Brooks and Director of Security and Transportation Rich Williams who were vigilant in maintaining the safety of the three firepits placed at the event's perimeter. We are lucky to have Rich and James who have fire-fighting experience.

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One of the highlights of the evening was a little ditty sung by our new neighbor Jan Reeves (right) with her guitar in hand. Knowing that Chef Keegan would be presenting pies for us to eat, Jan sang "The Pie Song" which was originally performed by Andie MacDowell in the 1996 movie "Michael" starring John Travolta.

Flannels (cont. from page 3)

CEO Christine Harrington was on hand to welcome all attendees and especially the new residents, who stood as Director of Community Engagement Erica Hardeo called their names.

It was a pleasure to welcome (clockwise, from top right) Katie and Gene Hamilton (#334) and William Ritchie (#524) who joined our community in June. July brought us Jan Reeves (#4201) and Debbie Smith (#566). Our newest arrivals, Tony and Pat Bartholomew (#4211) and Lynda Morrison (#4210) joined us in October. The other new residents since our last gathering, Kathryn and Michael Kavanaugh (#114) and Gloria Lunter (#118), were unable to attend.

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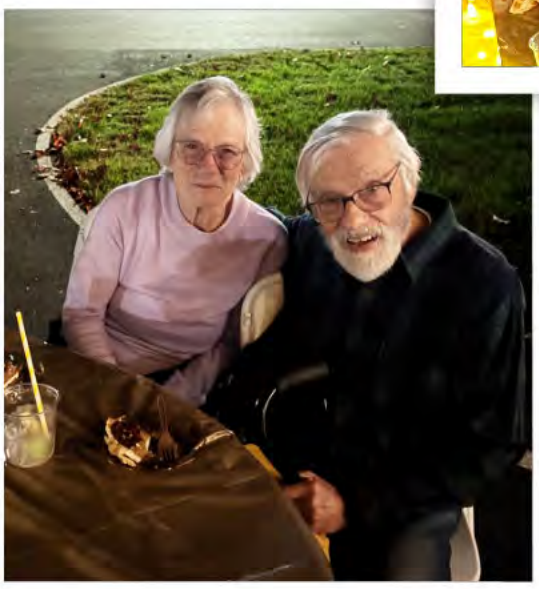

Flannels (cont. from page 4)

Among the other staff keeping the event running smoothly was Director of Sales and Marketing Rachel Smith who assisted with the pie disbursement. Making sure that there were no tummy aches from gorging on all that pie, Director of Health and Wellness Lorraine

Flisher made her rounds assisting where needed. In addition, we should give a shout out to Brayden Aleshire, Lead Security Guard, and Angie Shelton, Executive Assistant, for helping out. Creating these opportunities for community engagement requires a great deal of effort and an all-hands approach. So, thanks also go to Director of Housekeeping Services LaCree Brown and Controller Jennifer Hughes for pitching in. Our great Londonderry directors contribute their time to perform the tasks required for these events which often occur during their off hours.

Londonderry is a tight-knit community full of energy, enthusiasm and empathy, creating an environment for growth and healthy living with a sense of belonging. It thrives because of its wonderful residents with their wealth of experiences and the community's social activities that bring a sense of togetherness.

It is always exciting when informed by CATIE that a newcomer has just moved into Londonderry. A couple of times a year, Erica Hardeo waives her wand and creates a magical setting for introducing our new neighbors. The Flannels & Firepits event did just that, allowing us to warmly welcome and greet our new friends. Thanks go to her and the rest of the directors and staff who make these occasions available, and thank you, too, to our new neighbors who have decided to live among us.◆

The Gallery Celebrates the Staff

by Patricia Bradley

The latest Gallery exhibit was christened with cider and doughnuts on the morning of October 2 at 10 AM. The reception was switched to the earlier than usual time in expectation that more of the staff would be able to attend—this is the exhibit dedicated to the staff. The staff and the many residents who did attend were pleased to see what their friends and co-workers contributed to the collection, and, in some cases, got to hear talks about some of the pieces.

There were three fireman's helmets in the collection from Jake Abbatiello, James Brooks and Rich Williams. Rich (below left) also contributed his photo album and talked a bit about some of his experiences fighting fires over the years.

On a different note, Angela Shenton (left) told about her family's Brazilian connection as she described her beautiful tray with butterfly wings beneath the glass.

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Gallery (cont. from page 6)

Dane Brinsfield (right), who at the time was a paratrooper in the United States Army, won his trophy as a member of the Men's Flag Football Tournament for his battalion at Fort Bragg. They were the champions, and he said they also won the Braggers' brawl after the game.

Lorraine Flisher (below) demonstrated her ankle bells and "clapping" spoon that were gifts for her collection of musical instruments.

Ron Haddaway (above) shared a portrait of a young girl on her birthday in her "Goth" attire. Photography takes up a good bit of Ron's free time. Kristina Giebler (nee Carson) showed the picture of sunflowers she had also taken and framed, and included a wrapped candy from her very recent wedding (right).

(continued on page 8)

Congratulations!

Kristina Carson & Kevin Giebler
Married September 26

Gallery (cont. from page 7)

The exhibit included many other items, of course: pictures of staff with their children and even a pair of baby shoes. Brenda Nichols-Brown's grandson, Major, was a poster child for autism. Gail Graham contributed some travel souvenirs. Duval Mills loves candles and his car. And there is more. There are trophies, professional awards, sports equipment, clothing (Bryant Harper's t-shirt and a pair of his socks,) pets, and a wand from Harry Potter's world. There are also signs that some like to fish, some like to repair cars, and the shopping gene is still alive and well.

If you haven't already done so, go see for yourself. You will find a written description of each item hanging on the side of the cabinet. It is a list of all the items on the shelves, left to right, bottom to top. You will get better acquainted with our amazing staff, which—in addition to making the living room more beautiful—is the whole point.

We thank all the staff members who participated in any way in this exhibit, and we promise, at some time, to do it again. Look for it!◆

Cruisin' with the Gallery Group

CEO Christine Harrington sat down with Gallery Group members Susan Andrews and Paula Gervis for her latest edition of "Cruisin' with Christine" for *Talbot Spy*. Watch the episode at:

https://talbotspy.org/2026/10/07/cruisin-with-christine-a-visit-to-londonderrys-gallery/

A Garden of Eastern Shore Delights

by Kaye Dutrow

On September 30, residents and guests explored Ceci and Rob Nobel's beautiful garden designed by Jan Kirsch. The garden tour, sponsored by Adkins Arboretum, "highlights thoughtful landscape design and the role residential landscapes can play in supporting beauty, biodiversity, and connection to place along Maryland's Eastern Shore."

Adkins Arboretum Executive Director Ginna Tiernan (center, in photo at right), along with Leslie Cario (right) and Cristina Niciporciukas (left), was on hand to answer questions. They also provided refreshments on the Manor House porch. The Nobels' garden tour is part of an Ecological Landscaping Speaker Series, presented in partnership with ShoreRivers, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Phillips Wharf Environmental Center, and Wild Ones.

Ceci (at left with Clare Kettell) has had a lifelong interest in gardening. Since moving to the Eastern Shore in 1987, she has developed a special interest in "restoring the environment by planting native trees, shrubs, and plants."

Visitors received a list of approximately 60 native plants flourishing in her garden. Many of us were fascinated by the Mexican sunflowers, which attract so many butterflies. New England asters, with their small, purple, daisy-like flowers, provide a late-season food source for butterflies. Lovely zinnias growing in a pot also attract these colorful visitors.

Autumn Joy sedum, another favorite of bees and butterflies, changes color as the season progresses, deepening from pink to rosy red before eventually turning coppery. Raydon's Favorite, which also attracts butterflies and other

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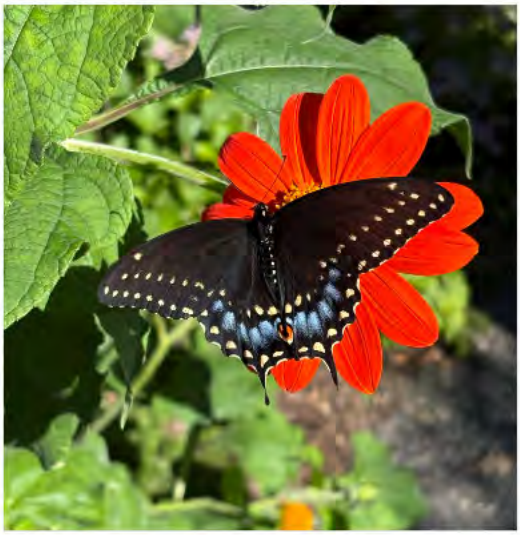
Garden (cont. from page 9)

pollinators, produces lavender-purple, daisy-like flowers with yellow centers in September and October.

Susan Andrews and I spoke with a family visiting from Annapolis who were very impressed by both the gardens and the Manor House. Several other visitors remarked on how fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful setting. I know this to be true, but how nice it is to be reminded!



Afterwards, Ginna Tiernan commented, "The beautiful location demonstrates thoughtful landscaping and the positive impact native plants and trees can have on biodiversity, even within a small space." If you missed the tour, walk to the Manor House and look over to #508. You may see Ceci happily and carefully tending the gardens she loves.

Many thanks to Ceci and Rob Nobel, the Adkins Arboretum staff, Jan Kirsch, and Erica Hardeo for organizing this lovely garden party. ◆

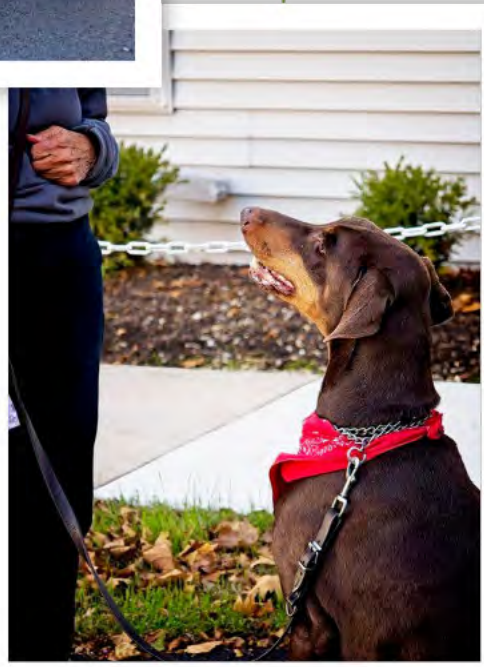
Blessing of the Animals

by Linda Cades

Most of us who have or have ever had pets think of them as family members. Cats, dogs, fish, birds and even the occasional horse or rabbit provide insight into nature's vast array of sizes, shapes and colors. Sources of endless fascination, they give so much and ask so little. They truly are among life's greatest blessings.

This year, Father Pat Bergquist blessed some of Londonderry's pets in recognition of the annual Feast of St. Francis. Blessing of the Animals is a service that honors St. Francis of Assisi, a 13th century Franciscan monk who is the patron saint of animals. The special prayer for this service tells us that St. Francis thought of animals as his brothers and sisters. Begun in the Catholic church, this service has also been adopted by other Christian and non-Christian congregations as a way of promoting environmental awareness.

Now semi-retired, Father Pat has blessed many animals. Growing up, he had an Irish setter and has also provided several Chesapeake Bay retrievers a warm and loving home.



Beginning appropriately at the beginning, Father Pat opened the service with the words from Genesis Chapter 1, Verses 20–25 about the creation of the world. He led Londonderry's animal lovers in singing "All Creatures of our Lord and King" and then blessed all of them with holy water.

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Blessing (cont. from page 11)

Among those blessed were Brendan Keegan's new puppy Scarlet, Jen Hughes's dog Huxley and Helen Pritchett's dog Tucker. Linda Dulak brought her Doberman, Jasper. Ginny and Joe Campioni brought along Cody, their Havanese, while Bruce and Lynn Kranz made sure their two Labrador retrievers, Eve and Quinn, were appropriately blessed.

Assembling that many animals all at one time in the relatively small space in front of the Community Center might have caused something of a ruckus, but the dogs were mostly curious about each other, not busy defending turf. However, cat owners, worried that their beloved pets would panic, brought photographs and got their pets blessed by proxy.

Father Pat enjoyed blessing our pets so much that he planned to head to HeartFields to perform another Blessing of the Animals there.

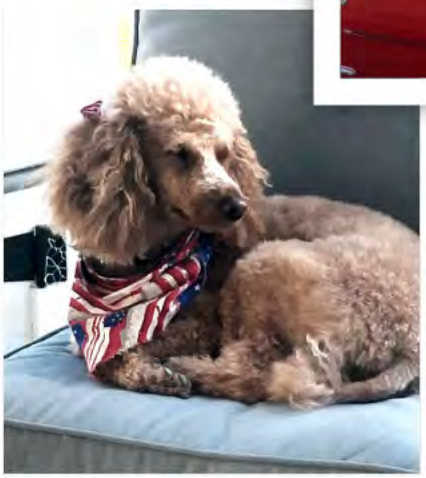
We all look forward to having our animal brothers and sisters with us to be blessed for many years to come.◆

Pet of the Month

A new feature introducing you to some of our residents' non-human companions

Say Hello to Sugar Belle

by Stan Reed



Sugar Belle lives with Beth Elkins and Larry Ulm. They brought her home when she was eight weeks old. She recently had a birthday and is now nine years old.

Sugar Belle is a purebred miniature poodle. Tiny Milk-Bone treats are her favorite snack. She loves being around people more than other dogs. She has given Beth and Larry specific jobs for her care, and when you give her your attention, her tail wags like crazy.

If you walk by their home and she sees you, she will bark continuously. She is not trying to scare you away. She just wants you to come say hello.◆

Advocating for the Child with Special Needs

"What are we doing for the child who is bright, capable, and curious, but cannot demonstrate what they know in the same way as other students? What are we doing for the child who needs specialized instruction, different teaching methods, additional time, assistive technology, or an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to have a fair opportunity to learn? And perhaps most importantly: What happens when the system that is supposed to support that child decides they no longer need that support, and gets it wrong?"—Rachel Smith

Many of our residents have grandchildren who struggle with learning difficulties. Director of Sales and Marketing Rachel Smith wrote a letter to *Talbot Spy* relating her family's experience in navigating the challenging system supporting—and sometimes NOT supporting—children with special educational needs. While her thoughtful letter is too long to reproduce here in full, we invite those interested to read it at:

https://talbotspy.org/2026/10/06/letter-to-the-editor-the-talbot-county-children-we-dont-see-in-the-scores/

Come Get in Line and Dance!

by Kaye Dutrow

DJ Steve Moody had us on our feet and dancing for nearly an hour on Thursday, October 22. The group consensus was that line dancing was both fun and challenging. In a short time, we learned three new dances: “The September Song,” “Cupid’s Shuffle” and “The Hitchhiker.”

Steve has been teaching line dancing for more than 30 years, starting when he was just 18. In fact, Pat Crane and I discovered that we had both taken his line dancing class at the Elks Club 20 years ago.

Steve is an excellent teacher who breaks down each dance into manageable steps and gives us time to practice before the music starts. As we dance, he calls out familiar cues such as “grapevine,” “rock back” and “shimmy.” These code words keep us literally on our toes!

Steve is also personable, positive and supportive. His “do what you can do” approach creates a relaxed atmosphere that makes the class enjoyable for everyone. His plan is for us to learn a new dance each week while continuing to practice the dances we’ve already learned.

If you missed the first few sessions, it’s not too late to join us. New participants are always welcome. Steve will be at the Clubhouse at 2 PM on the following Thursdays: October 29, November 5, November 12, December 3 and December 10.

Many thanks to Erica Hardeo for organizing another fun activity that challenges us both mentally and physically. Come join us, learn some new steps and enjoy the music!◆

Emily's Produce & Farm Market

by Patricia Bradley

After having heard quite a bit about the wonderful Emily's Produce, I made my first visit there by Londonderry bus on October 9, which turned out to be a beautiful day. The sun shone brightly on the large spread of pumpkins, the chrysanthemums, the wild flowers, the bales of straw; and inside I found multitudes of vegetables, fruits, and such an assortment of anything else you might want to eat—it was amazing.

Emily's Produce and Farm Market is so much more than a roadside market. You can find all manner of prepared food items, fresh and frozen meat and poultry, fresh seafood, preserves and canned goods, all kinds of packaged items. They have a kitchen and do their own baking. At some time during your stop there, you will be offered an apple cider doughnut to sample. You can pick up a lunch there as well and eat it outside on their picnic benches. You can have an ice cream cone for dessert.

The broader picture of what goes on at Emily's is how much they are invested in their community.

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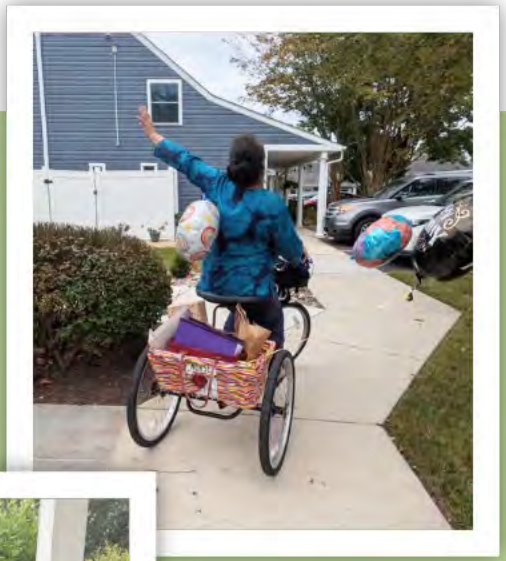
Emily's (cont. from page 15)

This is a local family that has been farming this land for seven generations. Paul Jackson and his son, Kyle, manage 1,000 acres of grain; mom, Kelly, and daughter, Emily, manage the market and 100 acres of produce. They partner with many local businesses, and they sponsor local events. They do fundraisers for groups such as animal rescue and first responders, and they have a food bank and a program called "Meals 'til Monday." For children, there is a playground, and there are a corn maze and a wildflower field where people may pick their own. I learned a lot about what they do, but I know there's even more.

Emily took time to talk with me and tell the story of how it all began. Her mom was a state trooper who took maternity leave and was looking for something to do, *and* she wanted to buy furniture for the baby's room. She put a bench out on the side of the road and would load it with produce. In time, the baby was born, they named her Emily, and the bench became a tent and then evolved into a small building and a true roadside market. Emily grew up and went to college, and after trying some other work in the outside world, as her parents insisted she do, she came home to the farm. She now has a darling baby, the eighth generation. And they have a staff of 30.

When it was time to come home, we brought mums, beans, cauliflower, beets, sourdough bread, sweet potatoes, kale, honey, pumpkin muffins, etc., etc., and one ear of corn. I bought an arrangement of wild flowers which I placed in the Community Center as an expression of gratitude for the trip. ◆

Happy 70th Birthday, Lorraine!



The exercise classes helped Nurse Lorraine celebrate her 70th birthday in style, with her bike decorated by Jan Reeves.

Out to Lunch at the Pub

by Linda Cades

Easton has a lot of places to grab a good lunch, some shiny and new, and others that have stood the test of time. On Monday, October 19, Erica Hardeo, our Director of Community Engagement, booked several tables at the Washington Street Pub, which is both old and new.

Located inside a historic structure built in 1898, the Washington Street Pub served for decades as a casual gathering place for locals and visitors. Due to the economic downturn and the pandemic, the original Pub stood vacant for several years while people hoped for its return.

Enter entrepreneur Paul Prager, who purchased and completely renovated the building to address severe structural damage while preserving its classic layout. The Pub reopened on July 9, 2025. I never saw the original Pub, but this version is comfortable and welcoming. It has a long, well-stocked bar with large-screen television sets as well as seating on two levels.

The seating area was large enough to accommodate our group: Maureen and Mark Bennett, Joe and Ginny Campioni, Jean and Jack Ross, Queenie Swaren, Susan Andrews, Peggy Sloan, Erica Hardeo, and Linda and Steve Cades.

The menu has a wide variety of options, most priced under $30 and includes soups and salads, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, and chicken. After 3 PM, diners can enjoy a raw bar offering shrimp, oysters, clams and lobster. For those with a heartier appetite, they also offer either a half or whole fried chicken. On Sundays, diners can enjoy roasted prime rib after noon.

Our group's favorites included the cream of crab soup, the BLT salad and chicken pot pie. Some entrees came with Pub chips, a side dish featured at the earlier incarnation of the Pub. Servings were large enough that several people took home doggie bags. An attentive wait staff made the visit a nice way to spend an autumn afternoon. There is also a kids' menu if you want to bring along your grandchildren.

If you want to visit, the Washington Street Pub is open 11 AM–11 PM Sunday through Thursday, except for Tuesday, when the Pub is closed, and 11 AM until midnight Friday and Saturday. ◆

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Ten Hungry Men

by Jay Craig

The first day of October broke warm and sunny, which was just the right atmosphere for a trip to the Denton Diner for 10 hungry men to fill their bellies full of eggs, bacon, scrapple, pancakes and various other breakfast goodies.

Excited to depart, we gathered alongside the community van, better known as “the Old Grey Lady,” for a photo taken by Director of Community Engagement Erica Hardeo. From left to right above are Director of Security and Transportation Richard Williams, Dick Codrington, Steve Cades, Jay Craig, Richard Henry, Jack Ross, Roger Bollman, Henry Prieger, Rich Morin and Director of Buildings and Grounds James Brooks.

James nestled into the driver's seat with Rich Williams manning the copilot chair. Not only is James a great driver, he is knowledgeable of every highway, street, road, cul-de-sac, gravel road, dirt road and pathway in this and adjoining counties because of his experience with his father in the transportation business.

It is rumored that the Old Grey Lady may be going into retirement soon, and it was obvious she wanted to strut her stuff on this trip with a flawless performance of road readiness and interior temperature control. How could we go wrong with mechanical perfection and expert driving skills?

As usual, we were met at the front door of the diner by longtime server Bobbijo, left, who seemed to have a special glow about her, and we soon understood why when she explained that she had been away from work for a while in order to help with her very first grandchild. From that point forward, we received service with a smile.

Seated at a long table in the middle of the diner, our orders were taken and the coffee was poured with carafes left behind so that our cups would never be

(continued on page 19)

Breakfast (cont. from page 18)

empty. While waiting for our food to arrive, small talk abounded and many of the world's problems were solved.

The food arrived quickly, and it was time to dig in. One of our group must have been particularly hungry because he was fighting a stubborn catsup bottle with a sticky cap. While attempting to remove the cap, he was squeezing the bottle so tight that the catsup exploded at the top and a couple of us ended up with a catsup shower!

Mounds of food arrived, and no one left the diner hungry. The food was excellent as usual, with less than positive remarks only about the scrapple. Three or four within the group are scrapple enthusiasts, so their input is always requested in determining the food quality.

Back to Londonderry, we traveled with confidence of a safe journey, bellies full of generally good food, and wonderful camaraderie. From exploding catsup bottles to mediocre scrapple to a new and excited grandma, trips like this are always an adventure and a period of learning.

Hats off to Erica for scheduling these breakfast outings and her interactions with the eateries to make them possible. Our next outing is scheduled for Friday, November 6; so if interested, please consider joining us for a fun time and belly-filling adventure.◆

Ravenscroft

by Millie DePallo

A (small) busload of Londonderry residents spent a truly enjoyable evening at the theater on October 22. While it was not the first time most of this group ventured out to see a Tred Avon Players production at the Oxford Community Center, all agreed that *Ravenscroft*, the last show of the 2026 season, was the best performance they had seen at this venue in a long time.

The script, written by Don Nigro and directed by Ron Sanchez, starts out as a classic whodunnit, to wit: an Agatha Christie-like closed-room setting, a raging blizzard, and a dead body at the foot of an elegant staircase.

TAP
TRED AVON PLAYERS

The year is 1905, and we are in a remote manor house in the rural English countryside. All that remains is for the astute detective (Inspector Ruffing) to apply his ingenious detecting methods to unmask the real killer of the manor's handsome handyman from among the five women (all comically exaggerated stereotypes) who reside in the manor house. They are: Mrs. Ravenscroft, lady of the house; Gillian Ravenscroft, her daughter; Mrs. French, the housekeeper; Dolly, the maid; and Marcy, the governess.

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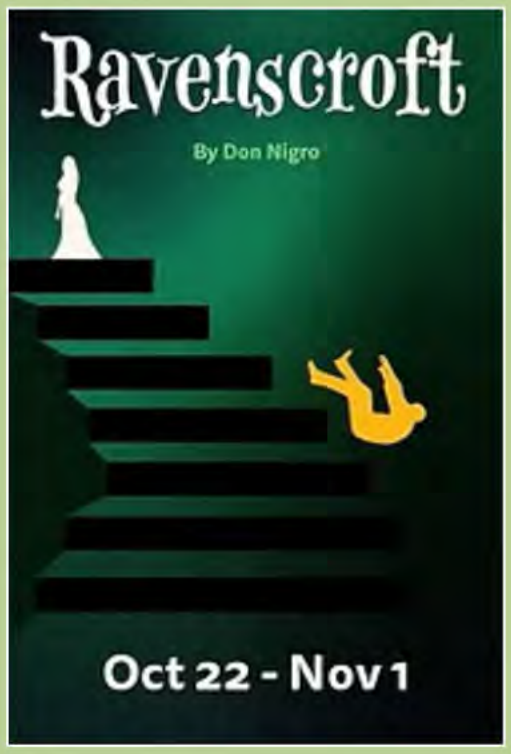
Ravenscroft (cont. from page 19)



What ensues after Ruffing's arrival is a tortuous sparring between the detective and the five women as he tries to unravel the sequence of events which preceded the victim's fall. Was it simply an accident? Well, as it turns out, each of them has her own secrets and motivations for his murder.

The biggest laughs from the performances come from Ruffing's sheer exasperation in trying to get a straight answer from any of the suspects. The initial questioning of the governess makes the claim that she pushed the handyman to protect herself from his advances. From that point on, as the suspect interviews continue, nothing is straightforward. Some of the clever techniques building up the humor of the script include feigning misunderstanding of his questions, ridiculously evasive answers, humorous misuse of words, absurd lies, and much finger-pointing during the ceaseless squabbling among the women.

The plot becomes increasingly complex. We learn that Mrs. Ravenscroft's husband also died recently in a fall on the same stairs (!!). It's no wonder that at the play's culmination, we in the audience are experiencing the same exasperation as the hapless detective Ruffing. We leave the play in a way no Agatha Christie play would ever leave us—the detective gives up, starts drinking, takes his leave, and we never really find out whodunnit!

The Londonderry audience found the quality of the performances "superb." The six actors included three veteran TAP members and three making their TAP debuts. Brad Chairs, who has acted locally for 15 years, made a solid debut playing Ruffing. We all enjoyed watching him trying to push the plot forward in the face of these five frustrating antagonists. Other praise from our group commended the lively pace of the play's dialogue and action. Also, one remarked that it was satisfying to see elaborate roles for the servants, not always the case for "the help."◆

All Things Londonderry

by Millie DePallo

All Things Londonderry is a semi-annual open forum chaired by CEO Christine Harrington and Controller Jennifer Hughes to provide the opportunity for Londonderry residents to ask questions of management about community operations, finances, maintenance, dining services, future plans, and really anything of pertinent interest.

Roughly 60 total residents attended the two latest sessions on October 16 and 19, and the main topics discussed were:

Strategic planning: The Board is preparing to convene a formal strategic planning process with an outside vendor, updating the previous strategic plan, done in 2020. Board members selected the vendor from five consulting companies, and the planning process will include input from operations, residents, the Board, and other stakeholder groups. The community's mission and vision statements will also be revisited. Christine asked residents to consider:

- Londonderry's greatest strengths and best attributes.
- Its biggest challenges over the next year.
- Its greatest challenges over the next five years.

Potential 501(c)(3) nonprofit: Management and a small group of residents and Board members are exploring whether Londonderry could establish a nonprofit organization that would allow certain donations to Londonderry to be tax-deductible. Current donations to Londonderry—including the Employee Appreciation Fund and scholarship-related donations—are not tax-deductible. The new proposal is intended to encompass charitable and educational activities, including reading programs, support for staff, and educational grants.

Trees and landscaping: Residents expressed concerns about dead and overgrown tree removal. Christine related that five tree-management projects needing attention have been identified in the most recent budget proposal, but limited funding means the work must be phased over several budget cycles.

(continued on page 22)

This year, the three least costly tree removal requests were addressed. Others will be addressed in later budgets. Special thanks were extended to Cathy Cooper for her efforts to get another Londonderry tree recognized by the State of Maryland's Big Tree program. The state certificate is expected. It was also confirmed that the planned sidewalk for Port Street will be on the opposite side from Londonderry, meaning the tree line will remain a Londonderry issue.

Dining services: Management is working to improve food quality, kitchen supervision, staffing, and menu organization. Residents raised questions about food preparation and who is responsible for dining quality during evening hours. Christine noted that Brendan's schedule is flexible and that he sometimes works evenings and weekends. There was some discussion of simplifying the menu structure into three separate lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch menus, as they put considerable pressure on a small kitchen.

Maintenance and safety: Hot water tanks, water-line problems, dryer vents, gutters, window cleaning, outdoor lighting, and heavy cleaning were discussed. Maintenance staff do check and clean exterior dryer vents and replace damaged vent covers. Staff noted that while maintenance will flush hot water tanks when requested or when a maintenance issue arises, routine flushing is not performed on a fixed schedule. Calcium buildup and water-treatment chemicals were identified as ongoing concerns. A resident requested that management review the heavy-cleaning process because of the excessive workload demands it places on staff. It was noted that the siding replacement for the apartments/community center will begin sometime next year once the vendor gives us a date, but that the price and color are locked in. One resident noted that the leaf blowers often leave door mats curled up or blown against doors, creating a safety issue. A question arose about the inconsistency in the temperature in the community center, and Christine hoped that it would stabilize as the outdoor temperatures become less variable.

Lighting and safety: Residents reported dark areas near walkways, parking areas, and community buildings. Maintenance staff said they had been checking lighting at night, trimming trees that block lights, restoring some previously disabled lights, and adding or replacing lights where needed. Some fixtures are being converted to LED lighting, but different fixture types, brightness preferences, and installation locations complicate standardization. One resident brought up the issue of the steepness of the speedbumps. Christine said that they will wear down a bit with time, but that the speed of traffic through the community is still a serious issue.

Community and regional development: Management is monitoring the proposed Rails-to-Trails route, road safety on Port Street (including street-striping), development associated with the new hospital, and broader growth in Easton. Christine reported that to

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her knowledge, the adjacent property which residents voted on is not currently on the market. The Rails-to-Trails extension will cross the bypass at Glenwood Avenue, where there will be a stoplight, and is currently under construction between the bypass and the footbridge across the river.

Election Day and Early Voting: Management said Londonderry had historically transported residents to the polls and agreed to check with the transportation manager. Residents offered to help drive people if staff capacity proved insufficient. The discussion referenced early voting dates of October 22 through 29 and on November 3.

Marketing: Director of Sales and Marketing Rachel Smith answered questions about the increase in number of people on the priority list. She said that many on the list are "someday" residents, 10–15 years from purchasing (if at all), and some are ready now. The sales team keeps track of those on the list and regularly reviews their status. Rachel noted that even with the large priority list, aggressive advertising still needs to be done, adding that they have reduced reliance on print ads and increased digital marketing with the changing times, targeting both prospective residents and their children.

Resident communication: Management encouraged residents to use feedback forms and email rather than wait for the next forum. ◆

In Memoriam

by Florence Thompson

RUTH KAIFER DOMINICK was born on January 31, 1934, and passed away on October 2, 2026, at age 92. She was predeceased by her parents, Raymond Newheiser and Margaret Hohman Newheiser, and her sister, Dorothy Ruppert.

Ruth graduated from Catholic High School in Baltimore in 1952 and began a career as a secretary with C&P Telephone. She married Lawrence Kaifer and welcomed their son Christopher. Devoted to her son, she resigned from her job. When Christopher was older, she returned to C&P and transitioned through Bell Atlantic and Verizon with supervisory and management positions.

In 1976, Ruth married Walter Dominick. Walt has declared that they had a "50-year happy marriage." He also worked for the telephone company. When Walt retired, he became for a few years a stay-at-home husband. When Ruth retired, they began their Eastern Shore lives.

Familiar with boating and St. Michaels, they first rented and then built their "dream house" in Sherwood. Later they lived near Easton where they gave their time and devotion to numerous faith-driven organizations. The listing of these activities is remarkable: St. Vincent de Paul, Talbot Hospice, and Ruth's 25-year active lay membership in the Carmelite order of nuns. Together, Walt and Ruth moved to Salisbury in 2003 in order to assist in the ministry of The Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary, serving the poor, the homeless and the street people of the area. They returned to Easton in two and a half years, and in 2018, they moved to Londonderry.

At the funeral services for Ruth, her many interests and talents were highlighted. Her watercolor paintings and writings were displayed as well as photos of her enjoyment of the beach, traveling, her care for rescue dogs and her devotion to family.

Ruth Kaifer Dominick is survived by her husband Walter Dominick, her son Christopher Kaifer and his wife Ruth, five grandchildren—Megan, Kelsey, Hannah, David and Abigail—and six great-grandchildren. ◆

The Power of a Health Care Advocate

You hear a lot about how to prepare for a doctor's visit:
Make a list of medications you're taking. Write down your questions.
Complete any paperwork ahead of time, if you can.
Here's one more thing to consider: bringing a health advocate with you.

As people age, their health concerns may become more complex. Having two people hear the discussion and making sure the patient understands is much better than just one set of ears, since it can be difficult for the patient to remember all the details.

What You Need to Know

- A health advocate can be a spouse, relative, friend, or caregiver whom you trust.
- Although all patients can benefit from designating an advocate, only about 70% do.
- Older adults are especially likely to benefit from having another person with them during medical visits.

Choosing Your Personal Health Advocate

A good health advocate is someone who knows you well and is calm, organized, assertive, and comfortable asking questions. The most important thing is choosing someone you respect and can trust to be both discreet and caring.

Working with a Health Care Advocate

Working with a health care advocate empowers you to:

- **Clearly explain** the kind of help you need and your concerns.
- **Provide details of your medical history.** You may even want to give your advocate access to your electronic health record so he or she can refer to test results or notes, ask for refills on prescription medication, and even email questions or concerns to the physician. Just make sure you provide permission for the doctor and other health care professionals to share information about you with your advocate.
- **Ask the advocate to take notes** or even record conversations with health care professionals. (Ask for your doctor's permission before recording.)
- **Give your advocate's contact information to your health care team**, and give your advocate your health care team's contact information.

While your personal health advocate can help if you're hospitalized, many hospitals also provide patient advocates to assist you. Geriatric care managers, including registered nurses and social workers, often serve as health care advocates. It is also an option to

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Advocate (cont. from page 25)

hire a health care advocate. As with anyone you hire to help with your personal affairs, it is important to ensure they are qualified in your area.

Your Advocate as Educator

An advocate is not just for doctor visits or hospital stays. A patient can discuss new health issues with the advocate. For instance, an advocate can offer perspective on whether or not a treatment is working. When there are two people on the same page of an issue, the patient doesn't have to agonize about making all the decisions alone. This is particularly important for seniors and those who may live alone.

An advocate can also help doctors educate you about your condition so you can manage it better. Your advocate's communication with your doctor can help deal with issues such as hypertension fall risk.◆

From John Hopkins Medicine, hopkinsmedicine.org

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: Thursday, November 5, 9 AM

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Parting Shots

Wine Night Halloween Fun

Donkey Cuddling

Londonderry's Pumpkin at Easton's Fall Kickoff

Shredding Day

A Haunting Sight

Jen & Christine Twinning