



# *The WREporter*

The Voice of West River Estates

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## Message from the President

By Debra Patrick



This can be quite a busy time of year. Many people are preparing for holidays, family visits, or winter vacations. Others are planning a well-deserved break from routine. There are a few community events coming up and I hope many of you are able to attend. The community Holiday Party will be on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> @ Pirates Cove and on December 10<sup>th</sup> we will be hanging bows on all of the street lights (47) throughout West River Estates. Volunteer help for that is needed for hanging the bows so if anyone can help please call Debra @ 301-261-9745.

Recently there were a few things that happened in the neighborhood and a number of home owners were not aware of who to call. Here are a few helpful phone #'s.

**Anne Arundel County Switchboard:** 410-222-7000

**Police Department:** 410-222-8500

**Street lights out call BGE:** 1-800-685-0123

Recently there was a dead deer on Plantation Blvd. call

**Animal Control** during business hours 410-222-8900 or after business hours 410-867-8610

Stop sign @ Plantation Blvd. and Sweetwater Drive was hit

**Traffic** 410-222-1933

Also there was vandalism to the Lavender Court entrance signs and the road construction signs. This was reported to the County Police department if

anyone has information about this please notify the HOA.

This spring we are building benches and ladders on the pier anyone that would like to volunteer for that project contact the HOA.

The HOA is in need of volunteers for the Covenants committee, Secretary, and a Web Master. All of these require a small amount of time. Anyone that is interested or has any questions please call Debra @ 301-261-9745.

## *Happy Holidays*



## Covenants Committee

Here is a list of most common covenants violations. If you have any of these please take note and make the appropriate changes per section 6.02

(H) NO DECORATIVE LAWN ORNAMENT, NO STRUCTURE OF A TEMPORARY CHARACTER, AND NO TRAILER, TENT, SHACK, BARN, PEN, KENNEL, STABLE, OR OTHER BUILDINGS SHALL BE ERECTED, USED OR MAINTAINED ON ANY LOT AT ANY TIME;

(O) LAWN FURNITURE SHALL BE USED AND MAINTAINED IN REAR YARDS OR DECKS ONLY AND SHALL BE MAINTAINED IN A NEAT AND ATTRACTIVE MANNER;

(U) CHILDREN'S PLAY AND SIMILAR EQUIPMENT SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN OVERNIGHT WITHIN ANY FRONT YARD OF ANY LOT OR WITHIN THE COMMON AREAS;

- Ornamental Statues in front yard
- Ornamental Bird Houses in front yard
- Bird Bath front or side yard
- Fountain in front yard
- Wood piles that are not in the back yard

**BE A CONSIDERATE PET OWNER**

We live in a community that is for everyone, people and animals. This means having respect for each other's private property and the common areas. There are several issues that need to be addressed. First, it is the pet owner's responsibility to keep all pets (this includes cats) on a leash. It is the law in Anne Arundel County. Many think it is acceptable to have cats roam free. Your neighbor's mulch beds are not litter boxes. Secondly, it is a dog owner's responsibility to properly control and contain their dog. Dogs that jump fences are a menace and a threat to the community and themselves. If your fence doesn't contain the dog - fix it! Last but not least, clean up after you dogs. It seems many dog owners (both adult and children) neglect to perform this duty. This too is a county ordinance. Private yards and common areas are not a toilet. I find it offensive to step in or have my dog step in dog feces. Recycled bags from the grocery store work great! These issues are not the fault of the dog, but the fault of the owner. Please be considerate of others, the environment, and the community we live in.

SECTION 6.02

(B) THE MAINTENANCE, KEEPING, BOARDING OR RAISING OF ANIMALS, LIVE-STOCK, OR POULTRY OF ANY KIND, REGARDLESS OF NUMBER, SHALL BE AND IS HEREBY PROHIBITED ON ANY LOT OR WITHIN ANY DWELLING, OR OTHER PART OF THE PROPERTY, EXCEPT THAT THIS SHALL NOT PROHIBIT THE KEEPING OF DOGS, CATS OR CAGED BIRDS AS DOMESTIC PETS PROVIDED (i) THEY ARE NOT KEPT, BRED OR MAINTAINED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES; (ii) SUCH DOMESTIC PETS ARE NOT A PARTICULAR SOURCE OF ANNOYANCE OR NUISANCE TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD OR OTHER MEMBERS; (iii) NO MORE THAN THREE (3) SUCH DOMESTIC PETS MAY BE MAINTAINED UPON A LOT OR THE DWELLING ERECTED THEREON; AND (iv) SUCH PETS ARE MAINTAINED IN STRICT CONFORMANCE TO ALL LAWS AND ORDINANCES. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE COVENANT COMMITTEE, SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY, AFTER HEARING, TO DETERMINE WHETHER A PARTICULAR PET IS A NUISANCE OR A SOURCE OF ANNOYANCE TO OTHER MEMBERS, AND SUCH DETERMINATION SHALL BE CONCLUSIVE. PETS SHALL BE ATTENDED AT ALL TIMES AND SHALL BE REGISTERED BY LAW, LICENSED AND INOCULATED AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE REQUIRED BY LAW. PETS SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED UPON THE COMMON AREA UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A RESPONSIBLE PERSON AND UNLESS THEY ARE CARRIED OR LEASHED. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO ADOPT SUCH ADDITIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING PETS AS IT MEY FROM TIME TO TIME CONSIDER NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE.

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**Upcoming Events**

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<b><i>Event</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Time</i></b>	<b><i>Location</i></b>
Christmas Party	December 9	7:00 pm	Pirate's Cove
Community Decorating	December 10		West River Estates

## From the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society

*By Mavis Daly*

CHILDREN'S PARTY AT SHADY SIDE MUSEUM:  
DECEMBER 4

Children of all ages are welcome at the Children's Tree Trimming Party to be held at the Captain Salem Avery House Museum, 1418 E.W. Shady Side Road, on Sunday, December 4, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free, refreshments will be served, and no reservations are required.

This year's children's party is inspired by the childhood memories of Flora Ethel Andrews as recounted in her memoir, *Miss Ethel Remembers...* Miss Ethel served as Postmaster, Principal of the Shady Side Elementary School, and operated the Andrew Hotel. She was the matriarch of the community in the early 20th century.

The program will give children the opportunity to celebrate the holidays in the fashion of 1900. Participants will take part in an old-fashioned taffy pull. Among the crafts, children will decorate and fill old-fashioned stockings, much like Miss Ethel would have done. They will hear stories of fireworks, horse and drag rides, charades, shopping trips by steamboat, and other holiday pastimes enjoyed by Miss Ethel's family and friends. And perhaps Santa will even pay a visit, bringing bags of candy for the children.

As in the past, the Shady Side Elementary School will make ornaments for the tree in the Museum great room, and this year they will be inspired by local landmarks. This is part of the community partnership between the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, sponsors of this event, and the School. Shady Side history is being highlighted in the School during the current school year with a host of activities being planned, including oral histories, family trees, an exhibit, and the development of a child's guide to historic Shady Side.

The Tiger Den from Cub Scout Pack 853 will decorate the tree in the parlor of the 1860 house.

The Museum Shop will be open and along with many holiday items, copies of *Miss Ethel Remembers...* will be available for sale. For more information, please call 410 867 4486, or visit [www.averyhouse.org](http://www.averyhouse.org).

NEW EXHIBIT AT SHADY SIDE  
MUSEUM DESCRIBES HOW TO  
PRESERVE FAMILY HISTORY

An exhibit displaying examples of how to organize and produce valuable documents on family history will be mounted at the Captain Salem Avery House Museum in Shady Side. The exhibit, on display from October 2 through December 31, will show the culmination of 25 years of work of Annapolis resident Albert Gomezplata, and will include examples of his projects including family trees, recipe collections and stories that he documented to preserve his family's heritage.

The Museum, located at 1418 E.W. Shady Side Road, is open from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays, and by appointment. There is no admission charge.

The exhibit will contain information on the philosophy that Gomezplata used to make manageable the potentially overwhelming task of collecting old photographs, stories, slides, film and even recipes and then preserving them. By organizing the information into projects and then using archival material to print them, Gomezplata has developed a procedure that anyone can adapt for their own use. Gomezplata, a retired professor emeritus from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, encourages everyone to preserve what they have. "It may be putting as much as you have into your family tree and then putting it in an envelope," he said.

Beginning with a just such a family tree, one handwritten by his mother, Gomezplata displays the progression of his techniques as they were developed. The first family tree he made 25 years ago contrasts with a recent one and shows how the addition of photographs enhances the result. Projects, including books that highlight the history of the migration of Gomezplata and his wife, are included as are photographic histories of family members and places.

An important part of the exhibit will show original and restored photographs to illustrate the improvement that can be done on a personal computer. Techniques using digital photography to condense a lifetime collection of slides onto CD format and methods to convert 16 mm and 8mm family movies onto DVD will also be on exhibit. There will also be information on special techniques such as encapsulation, and archival materials that can be used.