

Ocean View Historical Society



2019 Significant Accomplishments

The Annual Report of significant accomplishments is written for our members, local partners, and potential funders. In 2019, the Ocean View Historical Society celebrated its 11th year of sharing the history of southeastern Sussex County. We offer sincere thanks to our members, visitors, local businesses, and major funders, including the Crystal Trust, Fairplay Foundation, Delaware Humanities, Contractors for a Cause, and the Town of Ocean View.

Our all-volunteer organization and its Board of Directors are most proud of providing meaningful historical experiences during 2019, while our buildings and grounds were undergoing significant changes.

Public Educational Programs

- February 20 – Fin’s Restaurant Dine and Donate – 18% of proceeds - \$428 raised
- March 12 – Luncheon and history lecture of Addy Sea Bed and Breakfast - \$295 raised
- April 3 – Gordon Wood lecture – “Bethany Beach Before Tourists” \$65 raised
- Lecture at Realtor’s Association by Dr. Kimberly Grimes – \$250 donated by Kathleen Schell
- April 16 - Lecture at AARP meeting by Dr. Nippes and President Barbara Slavin – \$50 donated
- May 8 – Garden party at Barbara Slavin’s house – \$1165 raised
- June 5 – Dale Clifton lecture on Treasures of the Sea - \$300 raised
- From May 29 through August 28, the Coastal Towns Historic Village was open on Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00 and the first Saturday from 9:00-11:00; over 200 people visited the Tunnell-West House, the 1889 Post Office, the replica of the first broiler chicken house, and the Coastal Towns Museum, learning from volunteer docents about the history of Baltimore Hundred - \$200 donated
- October 12 – the third annual Historic House Tour was held in South Bethany this year and, despite some coastal flooding, was a big success - \$9878 raised
- October 26 – costumed docents participated in the Cops and Goblins Event, sponsored by the OV Police Department, with over 600 families, many of which came to our Village - \$100 donated
- November 2 – Sandi Gerken, local historian, gave a tour of Prince George’s Chapel and cemetery in Dagsboro – over 20 people attend, and \$295 was raised, with \$140 of this given back to the Friends of Prince George’s
- The Coastal Towns Historic Village in Ocean View joined forces with the Town of Ocean View for some of their new events – three band concerts in the Spring and a very successful Holiday Market on

November 30; over 1000 people were in attendance and at least half that many came to our Village; many never realized we were there - \$120 raised

Community Outreach and Public Interaction and Image

- Channel 47 – Discover Delmarva visited and filmed us for airing.
- May 14th – 100+ fourth grade students from Lord Baltimore visited the Complex, cycling through all the buildings in about 1 hour, 15 minutes.
- June 30 – South Bethany Anniversary – we had a history table to sell tickets to the House Tour.
- The Coastal Point agreed to a quarterly Coastal Towns History Corner article, the first of which was published by Carol Psaros and Gordon Wood on October 11 – it entailed an interview with Katherine Evans, a longtime (77 years) resident of Ocean View.
- Board member Joanne Guilfoil published two books this year, one on the Naval Academy and a children’s book about Bethany Beach.
- Beach Life featured artifacts from the Coastal Towns Museum in two issues.
- Carter McCabe, a Boy Scout in Troop 281, refurbished and decorated the woodhouse and three-seater outhouse at the Coastal Towns Museum over a period of about 6 months. He and his cohorts removed the aluminum siding, painted the interior shutters, painted the exterior, rebuilt some rotten sections, refaced the window frame, turned the outhouse toward the street, painted the interior of the outhouse, acquired pictures of the Evans family and posted them on the shutter wall. His mother, Marsha Evans, wrote a lovely Coastal Point article on the use of a woodhouse and the restoration process. The culmination of the project was in November when over 100 friends, family, and dignitaries gathered to honor Carter at the Eagle Scout ceremony. At the end of his project, Carter donated \$350 of leftover funds he raised.
- November – Channel 47 – segment on the Coastal Towns Museum mentioning Giving Tuesday.
- November 22 – wreathmaking with the Gardeners by the Sea.
- We maintained our membership at the local Chamber of Commerce.
- The Coastal Point has interacted with Publicity chairman Carol Psaros for articles publicizing lectures, open houses, the house tour, and other items of interest to the community. Three quarter page ads were purchased from The Coastal Point for the South Bethany House tour and the booklet for the Tour was designed and printed by the Coastal Point.
- The Coastal Point, The Wave, The News Journal, The Coastal Delaware Insert of the News Journal, The Delaware State News, The Cape Gazette, the Delaware Beach Life, Southern Delaware Tourism, and several electronic calendars included promotions by our Publicity chairman. Society member Lene Kuhblank made colorful flyers for many events which were posted around town. Board members Emilie Cooke and Barbara Slavin maintained the website, and member Marsha Evans maintained Facebook page. As of 1/1/2020, we have 957 followers on Facebook.
- Secretary Martha Pratt recorded Board meeting minutes which were distributed monthly to all Board members.
- Treasurer Dave Coll distributed a treasurer’s report each month to the Board members.
- Two books were published on Fenwick Island, and all proceeds will go to the Coastal Towns Museum.
- Carol Psaros kept the informational flyer stocked at the Tunnell West House.
- The Coastal Towns Village was featured in a flyer called “What to do on Rainy Days “distributed at the Chamber of Commerce and other local places of interest.
- Commemorative bricks were sold, raising \$2883 for the Society.

Society Growth and Accomplishments

Membership During 2019, membership continued to be around 230, with membership files purged. Membership allows free lectures, electronic notification of events, and early registration, as well as a charitable deduction.

Name change The Board of Directors voted to change The Ocean View Historical Complex and the Coastal Towns Museum to the **Coastal Towns Historic Village in Ocean View**. A new sign was donated by Dr. Kimberly Grimes to replace the old battered sign.

Hall's Store Visitor's and Education Center After completion of Phase 1, the exterior of the building, Miranda, Hardt, and O'Leary. LLC, and Contractors for a Cause participants moved inside for Phase 2. After receiving a grant from the State of Delaware and another grant from Crystal Trust, construction of the interior was begun. As of December 31, 2019, we are about 90% complete, with finishing and decorating still to be completed. By summer, if all goes well with the certificate of occupancy, we hope to be occupying the building. It will allow our Society to hold meetings there, to have events there, to rent the space for others in the community to use, and to include on our tours of the Village. After all, Hall's Store was what the Town of Ocean View was called from 1822, the inception of the original Hall's Store just a few hundred feet north of our buildings, until 1889, when the Town Fathers decided Ocean View was a friendlier, more appealing name for a town.

Coastal Towns Museum The Coastal Towns Museum is beginning to take shape. Two ambitious and very generous volunteers have removed the downstairs bathroom, and sanded and stained the dining room floor after removing the rug. The committee is working with Elaine Faye, museum designer, to create a viable museum with rotating displays of the Coastal Towns of Baltimore Hundred. She is connected with craftsmen who will create the necessary exhibits and she will advise the committee about the presentation. The museum was open each Wednesday in the summer for perusal and is progressing. As mentioned above, a Scout from Ocean View Troop 281 refurbished the 120-year-old woodhouse. Colleen Ware and her husband, local loom experts, visited the Village and offered to help with the setup of the loom. Volunteer Robert Ross arranged to have the house power washed and he kept the yard groomed. Board member Marty Pratt planted ferns to decorate the exterior.

Partnership with Ocean View

- This document will be presented to the Town Council of Ocean as required under the Town's lease.
- Several events, as hereto mentioned, were in conjunction with the Town of Ocean View.
- Carol Houck, the Town Manager, and Chief Kenneth McLaughlin, the Chief of Police, have been very aware of our needs and have included us in their plans for activities in the John West Town Park. We are currently working on a Coastal Towns Chicken Festival with the Town's involvement.
- The Town offered us the Old Town Hall free of charge for its public lectures and monthly Board meetings.

Historical Complex We continue our relationship with the Town of Ocean View concerning the lease of the property to OVHS. Several Board members helped with cleaning and decorating the property throughout the summer and for Halloween and Christmas. Our insurance, through Wilgus Insurance was \$4768 for all properties for the year. Our security system for all properties was \$629.10.

Maintenance A grass cutter was employed for the summer season for both properties, costing about \$600. The Plumbing Doctor removed the plumbing for the bathroom in the Coastal Towns Museum and the cost was donated by local history buffs. Member Robert Ross donated the cost of trash removal and power washing of the Coastal Towns Museum. Society member Bob Svenson repainted and restored parts of the post office and

the Tunnell West house. The cost for supplies was \$175. The contractors for the Hall's Store kept a dumpster on the grounds for removal of all construction trash.

Finances The accounting system Quick Books, along with our excellent treasurer and assistant, Dave Coll and Dick Nippes, clarifies each category of income and expenses. Three accounts are recorded, consisting of the Campaign Building Fund for both the Coastal Towns Museum and the Hall's Store project, and the Operating fund from which we pay our monthly bills and maintenance. At the end of 2019, our account had \$79,592. Tax Form 990 for 2019 will be prepared by a CPA at a discounted cost of approximately \$600.

Grants Within the calendar year, OVHS gratefully received the following grants

- Delaware Humanities Forum - \$1625
- State of Delaware bond bill - \$100,000
- Crystal Trust - \$50,000
- Fairplay Charitable Trust - \$5,000

Fundraising

Dine and Donate, third annual Historic House Tour (ads for booklet and tour tickets), Lectures, Donations, Brick Sales, PayPal, Amazon Smile, Facebook Giving Tuesday, book sales, Go Fund Me, Eagle Scout, donations by members all contributed to our coffers, amounting to about \$9500.

Board Member Support

- The thirteen member all-volunteer Board of Trustees met 10 times in 2019 on the third Thursday of each month (except July and December). Meeting times were adjusted, according to Board members' wishes, to 8:30 am and were primarily held at the old Town Hall in Ocean View.
- Many Board members donated supplies, postage, materials, mileage costs, expertise, and labor to the Society. Collectively, they volunteered 1594 hours and donated over \$4000 of supplies.

Summary

The Ocean View Historical Society is extremely grateful to its members, Board, and all the individuals, businesses, and grantors who have donated funds and time during 2019. We are nearing completion of the much-awaited Hall's Store Visitors and Education Center, we are creating a Coastal Towns Museum that will focus on life and leisure in Baltimore Hundred, we are educating children and adults about the history of Baltimore Hundred, and we are establishing a network of volunteers and supporters that will enable us to proceed successfully.

Report written in January 2020 by Barbara Slavin, President of the Ocean View Historical Society

Ocean View Historical Society

Board of Trustees

2019 – 2020

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 01. | Barbara Slavin | President | PO Box 256 | slavinbe1@yahoo.com |
| | (302) 593-8814 | class of 2020 | Ocean View 19970 | |
| 02. | Anne Powell | Vice President | 10 Daisey Ave. | annie@anniepowell.com |
| | (302) 245-9245 | class of 2020 | Ocean View 19970 | |
| 03. | David Coll | Treasurer | 25 Osprey Lane | colld15@yahoo.com |
| | (302) 740-3907 | class of 2020 | Ocean View 19970 | |
| 04. | Marty Pratt | Secretary | 16 Osprey Lane | martyellen@mchsi.com |
| | (302) 344-7374 | class of 2020 | Ocean View 19970 | |
| 05. | Patty Yergey | Communication Dir. | 6 Cedar Grove Court | pattyyerger@gmail.com |
| | (443)745-7466 | class of 2021 | Ocean View 19970 | |
| 06. | Gordon Wood | Ambassador | 58 Daisey Ave | gewood@mchsi.com |
| | (302) 448-0562 | class of 2021 | Ocean View 19970 | |
| 07. | Bert Edwards | Comptroller | 3 Briarcliff Ct. | berttedwards@mediacombb.net |
| | (302) 537-2181 | class of 2020 | Ocean View 19970 | |
| 08. | Kathy Green | | 38854 Bayberry Ct. | kathy.green17@gmail.com |
| | (610) 762-4692 | class of 2022 | Ocean View 19970 | |
| 09. | Emilie Cook | | 522 Harbor Rd. | emilie.cook2016@gmail.com |
| | (443) 540-7320 | class of 2021 | Ocean View 19970 | |
| 10. | Gordon R. Rickards | | 605 Freeport Blvd. | gorickards@gmail.com |
| | (484) 432-6717 | class of 2021 | Bethany Beach 19930 | |
| 11. | Joanne Guilfoil | | 36437 Hudson Rd. | guilfoiljk@aol.com |
| | (302) 604-2015 | class of 2022 | Selbyville 19975 | |
| 12. | Martha Gallagher | | 17 Thornberry Dr. | marthajgallagher@gmail.com |
| | (302) 249-0680 | class of 2022 | Ocean View 19970 | |
| 13. | Dr. Kimberly Grimes, Rep. Coastal Towns | | 31 W. Atlantic Street | kimgrimes55@gmail.com |
| | (302) 539-1827 | Rotating Annually | Fenwick Island 19944 | |

Coastal Towns Museum Committee

2019-2020

Fenwick Island - Dr. Kimberly Grimes	Board Representative	kimgrimes55@gmail.com
Millville – Debbie Botchie	Town Manager	dbotchie@mvtown.com
South Bethany – Carolyn Marcello		cdm24@verizon.net
Pat Weisgerber		valentinerpm@gmail.com
Bethany Beach – Theo Loppatto		theofulton@verizon.net
Carol Olmstead		carolatbethany@aol.com
Carol Psaros		ckpsaros@aol.com
Ocean View – Barbara Slavin		slavinbe1@yahoo.com
Anne Powell		annie@anniepowell.com

Resource Personnel of OVHS

2019-2020

Carol Psaros	Publicity	ckpsaros@aol.com
Marsha Evans	Facebook Administrator	marsha.a.evans@gmail.com
Bob Svenson	Buildings and Grounds	bbsvenson@verizon.net
Glenn Timmons	Video Specialist	getimmons@msn.com
Lene Kuhblank	Communications	thekubes@verizon.net
Donna Stitz	Curating, Creating	donnaj.stitz@gmail.com
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Fran Feighery	volunteer	fefdelaware@mchsi.com
Kathie Barrows	volunteer	atthebeachbl@aol.com
Rosemary Ferry	docent volunteer	roseferry@aol.com
A.Kaye Reese	docent/membership	akayereese@yahoo.com
Dick Nippes	treasury/history/building	drnippes@aol.com
Janet Batlan	historical reference	thebatlans@gmail.com
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Joanne Gichner	LB teacher	jpgichner@mchsi.com
Bonnie Harvey	Paypal/website	bonniejh723@yahoo.com
Laura Hickman	Artist	laurahickman@verizon.net
Lauren Weaver	Chamber of Commerce	lauren@bethany-fenwick.org
Wanda Powell	local historian	wwpowell28@gmail.com
Priscilla Scott	local historian	priscillascott@aol.com
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Donna Swain	Volunteer	dswain24@gmail.com
Colleen Ware	Loom expert	cware0@gmail.com
Pat Wood	Docent	pkwood@mchsi.com
Bruce White	OV Council	bruce.white9@gmail.com
Carol Houck	Town Manager	townmgrtov@oceanviewde.com
Lynn Massey	docent/volunteer	bookmom42@yahoo.com
Mark Hardt	Builder, Hall's Store	mirandahardt@gmail.com