



2022 Annual Report for Historic Village in Ocean View

Written March 29, 2023

Due to the pandemic, very few activities took place from 2020 to 2022. We did have open houses at the CTM and the HVOV on Wednesdays from 10-1 in June, July, and August of 2021. This report will reflect activities from November of 2021 to December of 2022.

1. November 2021 - In conjunction with the town's Holiday Market, the HVOV held the ribbon cutting of Hall's Store. Speakers included dignitaries Mayor John Reddington, Representative Ron Gray, and Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long. Over 400 people were escorted through the building and served a piece of cake at the end. Insurance was deemed to be our biggest expense. We contracted with Pam Vaughn of Jefferson, Urian, Doane, and Sterner to be our accountant.
The News Journal featured an article "Preserving their Past" "Growth vs. History" and several pictures and stories included. Our Village was featured, with pictures.
The Coastal Towns Museum (CTM) was decorated and the story boards were installed, lighting and air/heat were installed.
Public Relations materials were expanded and improved – rack cards, banners, table runners, stickers, pens, note cards, and magnetic name tags were purchased. (No December meeting)
2. In January, we participated in the Fire and Ice Festival and concentrated energies toward the proposed chicken festival, planned for May 21. The name officially changed from the Coastal Towns to the Historic Village in Ocean View (HVOV), leaving the Evans-West House to be known as the Coastal Towns Museum. All online searches will lead to this location.
3. In February and March, plans for the chicken festival evolved, as did preparations for the Smithsonian Exhibit begin. We participated in DoMore 24, a Delaware fundraiser that benefits non-profits, raising money in a 24 hour period. Directional signs were ordered from the State to be placed on Rte. 1 and just prior to the turns on east and west Rte. 26. (These signs have increased exposure immensely).
4. In April, we prepared for the Smithsonian by meeting each month with the sponsor – Delaware Humanities – by zoom. The Town installed a camera on the rear of Hall's Store for security reasons.
5. In May, the Coastal Towns Museum was set up, the barn was furnished, and the woodhouse was refurbished by the Eagle Scout (Carter McCabe), who originally had made the building his project. Beginning on the last Wednesday of May, the CTM and HVOV were open each Wednesday from 10 – 1. At summer's end, over 200 people had visited the Village. The Chicken Festival was held on May 21 from 11 – 6:00 and was a clucking success. It featured prizes, a biddie parade, a painting session for children, a chicken hat design for children, a disc jockey, Purdue's truck with chicken items featured, a chicken pickin' contest, and the wonderful aroma of chicken cooking on the smokers provided by the Masons. Hockers also cooked fried chicken which was picked up when needed. There were t-shirts for sale, a chicken themed flea market, other sponsor tables, and participation by both Perdue and Mountaire (who provided the chicken). The Thursday before the event, Café

on 26 sponsored chicken dinners and gave us a nice portion of the sales. A WONDERFUL EVENT, thanks to our organizer, Carol Psaros, and the Town of Ocean View!!!

6. In June, we had our first lecture since the pandemic – Dr. Richard Nippes, our founder, spoke on the history of the region and the formation of the Historical Society. At the conclusion of this lecture, we honored Dr. Nippes by presenting a plaque, posted in the meeting room, which named the meeting hall after him.
7. In August, the lease agreement was updated and approved by the town and the Society. Preparation for the CTM ribbon cutting and the opening of the Smithsonian exhibit (the theme was Crossroads – Changes in Rural America – very appropriate for our area) were high on the agenda. Of the four locations in Delaware where the exhibit would be presented, we were the first. Over 200 cards were mailed to local dignitaries and members.
8. On September 9, from 5-8, the Ribbon Cutting took place, with an excellent array of food provided by Big Fish at a cost of about \$2260. They took care of the plates, napkins, trash, wine bar, and replenishment. The Town provided tents and tables and stored the rest of the Hall's Store Meeting Room furniture, as well as the crates for the Smithsonian Exhibit, in their maintenance building. There was a band performing in the park, offering some background music for our event. The set-up for the dedication and the Smithsonian Exhibit was handled by the Town, our volunteers, Delaware Humanities, and the groups which were to receive the Exhibit later in the year. Speeches were given by Mayor Reddington, Kimberly Grimes, Barbara Slavin, Smithsonian's Carol Harsh, and Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long. All attendees visited the CTM and the Smithsonian exhibit. A grant from the Delaware Humanities was used for advertising and printing for the event. The Smithsonian Exhibit was then open on Friday nights and Saturday and Sunday days from September 9 through November 12, and over 750 people attended. The CTM was also open on Saturdays during this event, due to its similarities to the topic.
9. In October, we joined the Town and the Police Department in their annual Cops 'n Goblins event. A huge number of people toured our Village as they participated in all the many fantastic Town offerings.
10. In November, we dismantled the Smithsonian Exhibit, again with our volunteers and help from other Societies, as well as the Town Maintenance men who arranged for the crates to be picked up. We then focused on our need for the restoration of the Tunnell West house's exterior. A campaign called the Tunnell West Preservation Project (TWPP) was formed and specific fundraising will be used for new siding and preparation. Grant money has been requested from several outlets.
11. The CTM has been winterized, the maintenance of the three heating/cooling units are done, the new sign out front has solar lights and has been decorated by the Gardeners by the Sea. Luxury vinyl flooring will be considered for the Dr. Nippes Meeting Room. We have scheduled lectures and dining events again for 2023, including some community outreach, such as speaking at the local AARP luncheon, appealing to local Women's groups and community groups, as well as attempting to get the local school groups to visit, as they have in the past.

This report was written, prepared, and submitted to the Town of Ocean View on March 30, 2023, by Barbara Slavin, President of the Historic Village in Ocean View



