



2023 Annual Report for the Historic Village in Ocean View

Written January 10, 2024

2023 was a very busy year. Many toured the Village at our Wednesday openings, special Town events in the Park, and private tours. This report will showcase events from November of 2022 through December of 2023.

1. November, 2022 – After cleaning up the Meeting Hall after over 785 people had been through the Smithsonian Exhibit, we participated in the Town 's Holiday Market. It was held on Saturday, November 26, and brought many people in for delightful events and vendors. The Village was open, with decorations and many visitors observed our features and displays. We had a table of historically related goods for sale, and profited from them. We participated in "Giving Tuesday" and received a significant amount of donations.
2. January, 2023 – Our first lecture of the year was held on January 25 – Sadie Slavin, who had walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain (500 cm), gave a lecture about her experiences. In spite of heavy rain, 43 people came. On the 28th, we participated in the Fire and Ice Festival by being open for tours. Sales of items, donations, and new members resulted.
3. February, 2023 – The issue of necessary repairs for the Tunnell West House hanging over the Village was discussed and named the "Tunnell West Preservation Project (TWPP)." Different builders in the area were contacted and some responded by examining the damage. The Board voted that the lecturers who do not charge for their presentations should receive an honorarium of \$50. WBOC presented a discussion with Barbara about Cecile Steele for their "Marker Monday" series.
4. March, 2023 – The annual newsletter of the Town included an article on our Village. We joined the Delaware Museum Association to further our relationships with other similar organizations. We participated in a "Delaware Do More 24" activity and won a significant reward for being so involved in the 24 hour period. We had a cartographer, George Kent, speak on March 15 with 31 attending. A fundraiser was held at North East Kitchen with a portion of the sales being given to our mission.
5. April, 2023 – The gutters of Hall's Store were cleaned by Bob Svenson, and the Coastal Towns Museum was targeted for repairs of the back of the barn, a new storm door, a door on the woodhouse, and new landscaping. Dr. Joanne Guilfoil showed the movie *Cluck, Pluck, and Luck* on April 19. About 30 people attended. Miken and Mark Hardt were contacted about the TWPP and had a meeting with some of the Board. Barbara took a group on a tour at an AARP event and spoke at a luncheon for the Bethany Beach Fire Company.

6. May, 2023 – Barbara took a tour group through the Village from Salt Pond. We participated in the Spring Fling on May 6, a Town event in the Park. A local resident of Millville arranged for an antique hayrake found in Millville to be transported to us and had pictures in the Coastal Point. It resides in the barn at the CTM. Barbara presented a history of the area and the church at OV Presbyterian. A tea party was held May 17th in Barbara Slavin's backyard and about 28 attended. We opened the Village and the CTM for summer (June, July, and August) Wednesdays from 10am – 1:00pm. More than 400 people visited.
7. June, 2023 – A church picnic group in the park arranged for a tour of the Village. We opened our Village for each of the summer and fall Town events. A new luxury vinyl floor was installed in the Meeting Room of Hall's Store by Dagsboro Flooring. Dr. Joanne Guilfoil had a Book Launch with her "Chickens on Delmarva" book and she promoted the book on the Delmarva Life tv show.
8. July, 2023 – Continuing the Wednesday tours, we also welcomed several smaller groups for private tours by reservation. The State Bond Bill gave us a large chunk of money to be used for the restoration of the Tunnell West House.
9. August, 2023 – Our first rental of Hall's Store meeting room took place. About 50 people came to celebrate a Mother-to-Be. We received a grant from Berkshire Hathaway and will use it to sponsor an event in 2024.
10. September, 2023 – The Bethany Civic Club had a picnic in the Park, and many of the women toured the Village. Gallery One, an art gallery in Ocean View, came to us with an idea of selling paintings related to the history of the area at Hall's Store and giving us a part of the profits. This event took place on the 23rd and 30th of September and it was such a pleasure to work with the artists. In spite of heavy rain on the 23rd, we sold several paintings and gave exposure to what wonderful talent there is in Ocean View. On the evening of the 30th, Café 26 donated a portion of their take to the Village in honor of the 100th anniversary of Cecile Steele, starting of the Broiler Chicken Industry in Ocean View. (Café 26 was Mr. and Mrs. Steele's home).
11. October, 2023 – We participated in the Chicken Festival's 100th Anniversary Celebration in Salisbury. The Bethany Beach Women's Club had Barbara as a speaker on Cemeteries in the area. The Cops 'n Goblins event was a huge success, and we received several visitors who had never seen the Village! We contracted for a new website program (Wild Apricot) and find it very easy to maintain and maneuver. Another construction company – Hershey Exteriors – observed the damage on the TW house.
12. November, 2023 – Another Dine and Donate event was held at Fins. We received a grant from Caldwell Banker Real Estate to support a multicultural event – there will be a lecture in Hall's Store on January 24th at 7:00 PM about a "Slave in Delaware", sponsored by them. A 7 year old celebrated her birthday in another rental. The Town's Holiday Market, a successful and fun event, gave hundreds of people exposure to wonderful events and decorations in the Park and the Village saw hundreds of visitors that day and evening. After much discussion, we chose to go with Hershey Exteriors for the TWPP and construction will begin in February.
13. December – 2023 – no events took place in December. New signs were placed in front of each building in the Village, and the Coastal Towns Museum. These have proved to be an important segment of our mission, allowing visitors who come when we are not open a chance to see what the Historic Village in Ocean View is all about. We received a grant from the Welfare Foundation and a dedication from Fairplay Foundation in honor of Wanda Powell, one of our Founders. Wanda's family asked that any donations be sent to us, and this led to a substantial amount for our organization

Below is the Ocean View School, which was adjacent to the south end of the Ocean View Presbyterian Church cemetery. When Pierre DuPont had Lord Baltimore School built, this building became a Ford dealership and repair shop run by Will Hickman, who lived on the corner of Central and Atlantic (Rte 26) Avenues. When the building was taken down, it was dismantled and buried in the cemetery!

The children pictured below are in front of the door with an awning. This was taken about 1917.

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This report was prepared and written on January 10, 2024 by Barbara Slavin, President of the Historic Village in Ocean View, for perusal by the Town Council and Town Management.