TOP STORY *(Continued from Page 1)*

Haythe quotes a report released in MARCH 2014 by the Maryland State Arts Council demonstrating how the arts intersect with the economy at key leverage points including employment, state and local tax revenue, and visitor spending. “The MSAC’s report of nonprofit arts organizations such as the DC shows that the arts are a billion dollar business in Maryland. Statewide, the arts support 12,700 jobs, fund $427 million in salaries, and generate $48 million in local taxes.”

Events are a large part of making the arts a destination for residents and visitors. The DC's Arts Showcase alone attracts thousands downtown each September. In 2012, more than 7.7 million people in Maryland attended art venues, events, classes and workshops according to the MSAC. More than 60% of those attendees – 4.8 million – enjoyed free events like the Arts Showcase and Second Saturdays.

Amanda Fenstermaker, Dorchester County’s tourism director, has also championed the arts as a way to attract visitors. Her office commissioned local muralist Michael Rosato, whose studio is in the A&E District, to create two new public art murals in Cambridge based on James Michener’s acclaimed novel Chesapeake. DCED’s marketing campaign features Rosato’s mural of geese in flight seen on the side of an old trolley next to Powell Realtors.

Love applauds recent efforts by the City of Cambridge to promote the creative economy as an important part of downtown’s continued revitalization. She believes that the A&E tax benefits are a significant marketing opportunity for artists living or working in areas without such a designation like Easton, St. Michaels or Oxford. “We need to educate artists about the benefits of moving their studios to the A&E District and promote real estate that can be converted to studios or live/work spaces.”

Love envisions the final act of Cambridge is yet to be written but could include a creative incubator to nurture entrepreneurs and small businesses in visual arts, written works, musical and dance composition, film and photography, clothing design, and folk art. She also imagines the community would be an ideal location for an art and design high school due to the county’s central Eastern Shore location and points to the success of the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts that opened in Hagerstown’s A&E District in 2009.

To learn more about the Dorchester Center for the Arts and the county’s creative community visit www.DorchesterArts.org or call 410.228.7782. For information on technical services, finance programs, and location assistance available to creative entrepreneurs and businesses, contact Dorchester County Economic Development at 410.228.0155 or visit www.ChooseDorchester.org.

FEATURED EVENT *(Continued from Page 1)*

Development Director Keasha Haythe added, “The arts serve as the centerpiece for economic development. It generates economic vitality in our community. Dorchester County Economic Development welcomes Dragonfly Galleria to the community.”

Dragonfly Galleria offers studio space and instructional classes in photography, painting and other skills showcased by artists. You are invited to sit and enjoy the ambiance and beauty around you or browse through the house and take in the creativity.

Dedicated to selling the artwork of Maryland’s finest artists and craft persons, the products are carefully selected for their uniqueness, beauty of form, function and high-quality workmanship. Dragonfly Galleria will help you find that original item that sets you apart as a connoisseur of fine arts and crafts.

For more information please visit www.dragonflygalleria.com, call 410.409.2454, or visit Dragonfly Galleria on Facebook.

DORCHESTER Currents
A monthly publication of Dorchester County Maryland

Lively Arts Scene Draws Visitors & Residents

When Mickey Love arrived in Cambridge in 2007 to run the Dorchester Center for the Arts (DC), she saw firsthand how the beauty of the environment inspired people to create amazing art. As she rolled up her sleeves to join the board and staff to plan DC's expansion and relocation to the historic Nathan building, she quickly discovered that the arts would be a key player in growing Dorchester County’s creative economy.

“I used to say when I first moved here that you couldn’t throw a rock in Dorchester without hitting an artist,” she laughs, adding, “The arts have quietly and quickly become an economic and employment force in the county, creating artistic enterprises, supporting restaurants and retailers, and attracting tourists.”

Since August 2008, the landmark Art Deco Building at 321 High Street has been home to the Dorchester Center for the Arts. With approximately 500 members, a world-class artisans’ shop, more than 100 classes and workshops, a dozen performances, and over 5,000 visitors each year, it is the anchor of the county’s arts industry. The 14,000-square-foot former Nathan’s Furniture Store was renovated in two stages. The recently completed second-floor performance and rental space will increase visitors and visibility.

Love points to the county’s successful application for Cambridge to be one of the earliest state-designated Arts & Entertainment Districts in 2003 as the opening act of a three-act play. Spearheaded by a small group of downtown pioneers including Joie de Vivre Gallery owner Joy Staniforth, artist Greg Van Di Viser, and business owner Heather Rosato, the A&E District was recertified last year for ten more years.

Dorchester County Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe recognized the critical role the arts play in making the county an attractive place for businesses to locate or expand. She featured the DC in Dorchester’s new marketing campaign ‘water moves us’ and has included creative enterprises in the county’s economic strategy.

“A thriving arts scene is an integral part of a community’s quality of life,” says Haythe. “The positive energy – and positive cash flow – of Second Saturdays alone is palpable and fuels the success of many of our small businesses.” She cites the number of people attending exhibit openings at DC, shopping at Sunnyside, dining at Bistro Poplar, or enjoying live music at Leaky Pete’s as just a few examples of the economic impact of such events.

(Continued on Page 4)

FEATURED EVENT
Grand Opening of Dragonfly Galleria

Dragonfly Galleria had their grand opening and ribbon cutting on Saturday, March 15. Local resident and gallery owner Shelley Abbott has semi-retired from her long-time career as an artist of music and has created a retail museum showcase of artwork on Route 50. Abbott said, “There is no cost to experience our collection of artisan creations. The beauty is free to the taker, come experience the magic!” Dorchester County Economic

(Continued on Page 4)

www.ChooseDorchester.org
Currents is the monthly newsletter of the Dorchester County Economic Development Department.
For information or suggestions, contact info@ChooseDorchester.org or call 410-228-0155.

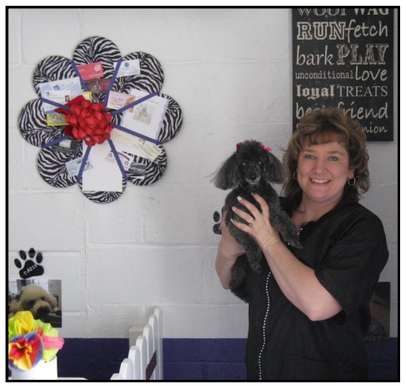
SMALL BUSINESS
Pretty Paws Grooming Business is Booming

Laura's Pretty Paws, a new full-service grooming business located in Cambridge, recently opened their doors to all dogs! The grand opening was a joint venture shared with the Dorchester County Economic Development Office. Dorchester County Economic Development and the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center partnered to support the business with technical and financial assistance.

Owner Laura King noted, "Business is booming, and I am so blessed that people are spreading the word." The grooming business has many available add-ons such as Flea Treatment, Medicated and Hot Oil Baths, Hydro Massage and De-matting.

Customer appreciation is publicized by placing client names on paw prints located on the wall. A full groom is provided with the referral of three new customers. Each month a 10% discount will be given to customers that successfully guess an in-house clue.

For more information, please contact Laura King at laurasprettypaws@yahoo.com or call 410.228.2268. Keep up with current events by visiting their Facebook page.



AQUACULTURE
Recycling One Shell at a Time

The Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) is a nonprofit dedicated to "Bringing back the Chesapeake Bay one oyster at a time." The ORP implements several programs and projects around the bay to further its restoration efforts. The Shell Recycle Alliance (SRA), one of ORP's programs, has hundreds of restaurants, caterers and seafood wholesalers helping restore the Chesapeake Bay's oyster habitat by recycling their used shells.

"Oyster shells are an extremely limited natural resource that we must recycle as new oysters prefer to attach and grow onto other oyster shells," said Stephan Abel, executive director of the Oyster Recovery Partnership. "We are grateful to Dorchester County for recognizing the critical need for oyster shells as part of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay oyster restoration efforts by providing additional public drop-off sites that will ultimately help us achieve restoration goals."

With the addition of new sites added last year, Dorchester County offers four drop off locations at the Beulah Landfill, Secretary Transfer Station, Golden Hill Transfer Station, and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science at Horn Point.

Businesses and individuals who become a member of the Shell Recycling Alliance are eligible to receive a Maryland tax credit for recycling shells. Learn more at www.oysterrecovery.org.

AGRICULTURE
Emily's Produce Featured Nationally

During the off season, Emily's Produce owners Paul and Kelly Jackson spend a week traveling to different agricultural sites attending seminars through the North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association (NAFDMA). The Jacksons were surprised to see their family farm featured at the convention in Kansas City, Mo, along with two other family farms from other states.

Kelly Jackson said, "Each year, we look forward to the vast amount of ideas and opportunities that are available through

our educational and networking partnerships during our off season. This year, our travel to the Mid-West gave us much insight into creative ways to continue operating our family farm in a way that creates local agriculture awareness and brings much satisfaction to visitors for years to come. We came back with some new and improved ideas that will be exciting to this season's visitors!"

Emily's Produce also offers a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Depending upon the program selected, Emily's will provide weekly shares of fruits and vegetables straight from their fields to members. There are three different options for CSA shares to

accommodate individual needs. Kelly Jackson added, "It's a great partnership that empowers local families and local farmers to work directly together in support of local foods!"

For more information about CSA and Emily's Produce visit www.emilysproduce.com.

GENERAL BUSINESS
Slick's Barbershop Opens its Doors

Local resident and small business owner Amy Taylor recently opened her barbershop on 432 Race Street, Cambridge. Specializing in men's barbering, the shop is open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call them for special appointment times.

Slick's offers coupons for $2.00 off your first haircut and holds an open house with complimentary cheese and wine during Second Saturdays. Taylor said, "A masculine finish to your haircut will set you apart from all the rest." Taylor designed the shop with a vintage feel but offering modern amenities for customers.

For more information, visit Slick's Facebook page at or call 410.228.2727.

EVENTS
Main Street Celebrates its Annual Fundraiser

Cambridge Main Street will celebrate their annual fundraising event Spring Fling on March 29, 2014, from 6 p.m. – 11 p.m. at the Dorchester Center for the Arts at 321 High Street. Music will be provided by legendary DC bluesman Jimmy Cole. Food will be prepared by Chef Patrick Fanning of The High Spot, and specialty cocktails from Stoked will be available as well.

The event will feature silent and live auctions that include great getaways, restaurant treats, wine and local specialties. Come out and join the celebration! The fundraising proceeds will support downtown revitalization efforts. Tickets are $65 and include one complimentary house beer or wine. For additional information or to purchase a ticket, email office@cambridgemainstreet.com or visit www.cambridgemainstreet.com.

SPECIAL STORY
District Affords Income Tax Savings For Artists

Story by Cambridge Economic Development : Mural artist Michael Rosato planned to build a painting studio at his home near Cambridge. Then he discovered the tax benefits of creating artwork in the studio he now owns in the City's Arts and Entertainment District.

The lure of working from home was attractive, but Rosato could not ignore the financial savings that came with being in downtown Cambridge. As a Dorchester County resident, he does not pay Maryland state income tax on the art he sells that is designed and produced in his A&E District studio.

"It makes great financial sense," says Rosato, whose artistic works include the new Chesapeake-themed mural along Cambridge Creek outside The J.M. Clayton Company. "I have affordable space in a supportive, pro-art community, and all the work I create here is free of Maryland state income tax. It's a fantastic deal."

But Rosato is in the minority. Many artists don't consider locating in the A&E District because they are unaware of the potential income tax savings and the categories of creative works that qualify for this benefit.

"There's a common misunderstanding that the Maryland income tax subtraction applies only to artistic services that are physically sold or delivered and produced in the District," said Tim Sharp, CPA, an accountant with Mid Shore Tax & Accounting Group. "But transactions by phone, mail and internet for commissioned work created in the District can also apply as long as shipping also occurs from the District."

The artist definition, according to Sharp, also encompasses more and can include visual arts, written works, musical and dance composition, film and photography, clothing design and traditional and fine crafts.

Read the full article at www.ChooseDorchester.org.