



# The Claiborne Clarion

A Newsletter for the Claiborne  
Community  
**May 2015**  
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## **Patti Cruickshank-Schott** July 6, 1949 – April 17, 2015

It was only four years ago that Patti adopted Claiborne as her home, but she made an enormous contribution in that short time. She spent her first months here listening in her deep and careful way, and then began to offer her gifts. She brought us:

- her love of writing and her interviewing expertise, which she shared in the Clarion and in gatherings, large and small
- the example of her loving and graceful care of Jane Guinness, teaching us much about meeting people in their own worlds and bringing them joy
- her gentle insistence that every voice be heard
- her energy for song and celebration, dancing with joy and organizing a rag-tag Claiborne Chorale as a gift to friends
- her willingness to shape other folks' good intentions into practical action when a neighbor was in need.
- her love for the art and the sentiment of Valentine's Day, creating our now-annual Valentine making event
- a fascination with our local history; and a reporter's instinct for where to look for it
- an unwavering trust in and respect for our children, allowing them, always, their own voices



Photo by Kathy Bosin



Photo by Sarah Sayre

### May Birthdays

- Abby Cureton May 2
- Tom Beaver May 5
- Molly Bond May 5
- Lynn Marr May 7
- Alice Sewell May 11
- Beth Ellen Dawson May 13
- Barbara Reisert May 14
- Melissa Connolly May 16
- John Fellingner May 17
- Owen Connolly May 20
- Carrie Gould-Kabler May 26

### May Events

Saturday, May 2  
Village Hall Clean-Up Day  
 Inside and outside  
 9:00 am to pizza!

Tuesday, May 19  
Concert with Nicoli  
Whimsey  
 6:00 – 6:45 pm Uke  
 Workshop BYO Uke  
 (Some extra ukes available  
 for those who want to try it  
 out. New students  
 welcome.)

7:00-8:00 pm Concert  
 Performance by Nicoli  
 Whimsey  
 NICOLI WHIMSEY  
 Merriment and Mirth in the  
 Month of May

Her illness came a shock and a terrible sorrow, but it allowed us to care for her a little bit and gave us, in her words, “many wondrous moments and openings and miracles to hold dear.”

We will soon be choosing a way to celebrate the blessing of our having had Patti among us.

--Martha Hamlyn

### It Takes a Village...to Support a Worthwhile Program by Danielle Murphy

Cardboard (and more cardboard), paint brushes, balsa wood, tape, hot glue guns, fabric, old curtains, discarded Halloween décor, a screw gun, laughter, concentration, planning, team work, creativity, and fun!! The *St. Michaels Elementary School DI Dreaming Dragons* took over the Village Hall on several occasions. What looked like organized chaos...well, was.



Left to right: Tori Batley, Sophia English, Ella Murphy, Selene Wagner, Kai Kelly, Cooper Baum, and Emily Middleton

“Destination Imagination (DI) is a volunteer-led nonprofit organization whose purpose is to inspire and equip students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders. “ \*

Teams choose one of seven challenges offered each year in Improv, Service Learning, Visual Arts, STEM, and Early Learning. Through the

A wonderfully whimsical program in celebration of the month of May.

Featured artists will be the acclaimed duo of Nick Newlin and Joanne Flynn of NICOLO WHIMSEY: musicians and masters of juggling, circus skills and humorous antics.

Fun for audiences of all ages.

Donation: \$10-15 per adult will be appreciated.

BYO beverage of choice.



Fun at the April Uke event

**Spring brings everyone outside.**



Owen Bond at work. Photo by Kathy Bosin

process of solving their challenge the teams learn skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, and courage. Challenges are open-ended and allow the teams to use their imaginations to develop a solution through months of team work bringing their imagination to life and finally competing against other teams. Our team chose the structural challenge “Lose to Win” and please don’t ask me to explain it in less than 20 pages!

Annette English and I served as Team Managers and our job was to simply keep the team on track and help them gain the skills that they identified as necessary to complete the challenge. We could not IN ANY WAY contribute to the solution that they developed. I know that I speak for my co-manager when I say that that was OUR biggest challenge! We were both amazed at the creativity, problem solving skills, confidence, and team work that our team exhibited. We saw them all grow as individuals and a team and enjoyed working with each of them!  
\*<http://www.idodi.org/what-we-do/challenge-program>

### **Ukulele Comes to Claiborne**

By Pat Flory

Claiborne hosted Victoria Vox on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Village Hall as part of the Claiborne Concert Series. Victoria is a Baltimore artist known for her song writing, ukulele playing, and as a mouth trumpeter extraordinaire. In March, Victoria spent a week at Tilghman Elementary as part of the Artist in Residence and the *Ukes on the Move* programs. Fifth graders received their own ukulele, a soft case and an electronic tuner. They performed several songs at an assembly for students, parents and the community on Friday morning, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

You can see the fifth grade performance at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzoQeLiZ08s>

The Claiborne concert began with uke lessons and finished with a concert for the Claiborne community. Claiborne uke students were Edward Schaefer, Anna Kabler, Ella Murphy, and Judy Harrauld. John Scott has a uke and Pat Flory bought a uke – so we may have a Claiborne music group in the making.

According to Judy “There is something about the ukulele that just makes me smile – it brings out the child in me – it is innocent and romantic at the same time and just a lot of fun!”

Please join us on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> for the second concert of the Claiborne Concert Series and be entertained by Nicolo Whimsey. Uke workshop at 6 PM and concert at 7 PM. There will be a few extra ukuleles for you to try.



On two wheels: Koa Cureton, Claiborne's youngest rider.



Claiborne's experienced rider: Bob Todd on a daily jaunt

And the dog walkers:



Four photos above by Sarah Sayre



### **Implementing a Vision for Claiborne Village Hall Renovations** By Kirke Harper

Our Village Hall plays a number of roles in the Village. In addition to its role as the Post Office the Hall is the central place for educational and social events. One of our most important reasons for improving the Hall is to make the Village more sustainable in times of emergency. Electricity and water at the Hall will enable us to return to our homes more quickly. That's why the Board's goal is to complete the major work by the end of 2016.

A substantial amount of progress at the Hall has been made this past year, most recently the new heating and air conditioning system in the main Hall put in by Tim and Ethan Green of Accent Heating and Air. Last fall Jess Murphy's crew installed the new memorial sidewalk.

Less visibly the volunteer work crew, led by Jake Flory and Jim Richardson, has been very busy. They recently repaired the Annex floor by installing a beam beneath the Annex. The beam was installed on concrete caissons poured last summer. The walls between the old kitchen and Fellowship Hall were taken out and re-framed. A beam now spans the widened doorway and the old kitchen floor was raised to create a single, L-shaped Annex room. This winter the work crew installed recycled hardwood flooring. These repairs are essential preparation for the renovations.

## **BACKYARD BURNS.... DID YOU KNOW?**

When planning a backyard burn, you should call this number:

**(410) 822-0095**

That's the Talbot County Department of Emergency Services. They will ask for the address of the fire and request that you call again when the fire is out. They will register it so that fire companies are not accidentally dispatched.

### **Earth Day Planting**



Photo by Linda Harper



Photo by Renny Johnson

You may not realize that quite a number of activities have been taking place behind the scenes. The Board of Directors has been busy making plans for continuing repairs to make way for the renovation of the Annex and creation of the Resilience Center.

Warren Clem, owner of Warren's Wood Works, has volunteered the time of his Kitchen Designer to draw up plans for an accessible bathroom and a small kitchen. Wayne Sutphin, now retired, is working with the County Health Department to determine what kind of septic system will be allowed. The Board recently met with a Fire and Safety consultant to learn about how to meet fire and safety codes. We are also considering how to make the building more accessible. Les Burdett is designing an assessable ramp and entrance. Another consultant is advising us on emergency communications. Michael Keene will donate a marine radio and antenna so we can communicate with amateur radio operators in an emergency.

As soon as a kitchen and bath design decision is made, we will purchase and install new windows in the old kitchen portion of the Annex. As the windows are being installed, the work crew will remove the remaining shingle siding. Then Will Murdoch's crew will complete the exterior re-siding job we began several years ago. This spring we plan to restore the water service to the building, adding a frost-proof faucet and replacing the line under the Annex that served the old kitchen. To improve drainage we need to install a swale between our property and Carl Grieble's that will redirect storm water. Bill Sewell has volunteered to dig the swale when the weather settles.

Following the septic decision and installation, we will apply for building permits and begin the renovation of the Annex. It needs new wiring, plumbing, insulation, drywall, paint, cabinets, bathroom fixtures, kitchen appliances and a heating system. Much of this effort will contribute to creating the Resilience Center. We will need emergence generators; Jack Harrald is preparing grant requests to fund this purchase and installation.

In the near future we may have to remove a couple of trees that appear to threaten our building.

Your question at this point could well be: How will we pay for all of this? This has been a true community effort and the broader community is now responding as well. We will continue to rely on a variety of funding sources, volunteer services and volunteered labor.

Choptank Electric Trust gave us a partial grant for the new heat and air. We have applied to the Mid-Shore Community Trust for a grant for insulation. We will apply for grants from Lowes and Home Depot for construction materials and appliances. Jean and Mike Kuperberg, the new owners of Nancy Clark's house, will donate accessible fixtures for the bathroom. Steve Friedberg donated materials from the old Maple

Hall building.

Our stalwart work crew will continue to supply much of the labor. Will Murdoch may be able to donate the labor to install the new siding. The work crew will caulk and paint. Bill Sewell will dig the swale. Some professional services, such as kitchen design, consulting and legal advice are being donated.

And, as always, you have helped with your cash donations. We appreciate your support and we will ask you again.



### **Mrs. Absher Was Never Very Fond of Mosquitos**

By Mary Gregorio

... that's why, when she heard that Neavitt had a mosquito-spraying service coming through town she made a decision to sponsor the first year of mosquito spraying for Claiborne. Not everyone was pleased, or so the story goes, but some folks agreed with Mrs. A that the mosquitoes were troublesome, a nuisance, perhaps even a threat to health, and they signed on to keep the mosquito spraying service alive.

And oh so many years later, some Claibornites say "off with their tiny troublesome mosquito heads!" while others in town prefer different approaches to the issue, which brings me to this:

Whatever your decision has been over the years, Bernie Boos has been gracious enough to manage a list of the "yeas" and "nays", collect the small fee to pay for the process, and keep meticulous records; for that we are very, very grateful. But Bernie has decided to retire from this management role and we have some time-critical decisions to make.

#### IT'S TIME TO DECIDE:

1/ whether or not you want to have your property sprayed for mosquitoes this year;

AND

2/ whether or not you would like to manage the process.

CLAIBORNE NEEDS A VOLUNTEER – someone who would be willing to simply keep the list of who would like to have their property sprayed and who would prefer not to be sprayed, send out a payment notice and deposit the checks, and send the form letter to the State. It's a once-a-year task and Bernie is happy to answer any questions you might have. This year's paperwork is all set to go.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in managing this task for the community and I will connect you with everything you need to know. Thanks!!!

My email address: [gregorio27@gmail.com](mailto:gregorio27@gmail.com)

#### **More Information on Mosquitos**

For an in-depth review by Sarah Sayre of the pros and cons of mosquito control, please go to the Claiborne MD website: [claibornemd.org](http://claibornemd.org) (Click on Mosquito Control.)

