



Cumberland County
Cultural & Heritage Commission
Spring-Summer
2008
Chronicle

Millville Army Air Field Museum Opens “Go For Broke Battalion” Exhibit

The small airport off Leddon Street in Millville, New Jersey has an immensely important and celebrated place in history. Although many residents may not be aware of the airport’s distinguished past, Lisa Jester hopes to change that. As Executive Director of the Millville Army Air Field Museum (MAAFM), Jester intends to breathe new life into the nearly 25-year old museum and renew interest in “America’s First Defense Airport” with a series of new displays, exhibits, and other enhancements.

At the request of former Museum Chairman Hugh McElroy, the Seabrook Education and Cultural Center was contacted to research and support an exhibit featuring the



(L-R) Norman Ikeda and Ken Sasaki helped create the new 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team exhibit at the Millville Army Air Field Museum.

Upcoming Events

- Riverfront Renaissance Center
To Hold Spring Gala.....Page 3
- A Summer Tradition Awakens Bayshore
Region With Art, Culture, And
Family Fun.....Page 5
- Arts Community Welcomes
New Publication.....Page 6
- New Biography On Greenwich
Native Released.....Page 7
- Farm Day Scheduled For April 27Page 8

World War II veterans of Seabrook, New Jersey and their participation in the famed Japanese American 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT).

To help design the exhibit, the Seabrook Education and Cultural Center enlisted the help of professionals from their branch in California. Norman Ikeda, a former Smithsonian associate; Ken Sasaki, proprietor of the art studio Sasaki Stuff in Torrance, California; Ben

Hasuike, owner of Custom Displays, Inc. of Gardena, California; and Rei Noguchi, a Ph.D at Northridge University in California, volunteered their services on the project. The group designed and prepared the exhibit with the assistance of Seabrook Education and Cultural Center staff. Additionally, Seabrook resident Juri Tamm acted as a technical consultant on the exhibit.

(Continued on page 4)

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Message From The Freeholder Liaison

With 16 galleries and nearly 150 artists, Millville's growing Glasstown Arts District has drawn working artists and visitors from throughout the country. These accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. In fact, *Art Calendar*, a national magazine for the visual arts, recently published an article naming 10 great towns for working artists. We were thrilled to learn that Millville was number one on the list.



As part of the effort to compile the list, *Art Calendar* reviewed towns across the country, taking into consideration factors such as relocation assistance, financial assistance, tax benefits, cost of work space, types of loans and grant programs available, and marketing assistance. Items such as Millville's openness towards new artists and affordable mixed-use properties helped set it apart from the hundreds of other arts districts across the nation that were considered.

Additionally, the city's willingness to aggressively market the Arts District brings a steady flow of visitors, which is the key for working artists who want to show and sell their creations. *Art Calendar* also

recognized that artists have been given a voice in the decision making process. All of this is helping to make the Millville Glasstown Arts District a premier regional cultural and educational center for the arts.

In the article, *Art Calendar* stated "The Glasstown Arts District has been thriving for more than eight years. With affordable, mixed-use properties featuring period architecture, monthly art walks, a large public art center with gallery and studio spaces, and lots of cultural activities, this river town of 26,000 is an energetic place to call home."

The many changes taking place in Millville, as well as the exciting changes taking place in Vineland, Bridgeton, and throughout the area present many new opportunities to attract visitors to the county. The momentum we are building will help to further identify Cumberland County as a destination of choice for entertainment, shopping, and socializing.

Sincerely,

Jane Yetman Christy

JANE YETMAN CHRISTY
Cumberland County
Freeholder Liaison



Boys And Girls Club Hosts "Gambling With The Stars" Benefit

The Boys and Girls Club of Vineland will host a casino-themed event entitled, "Gambling with the Stars" on June 7th. The evening will feature a Chinese auction, open bar, danc-

ing, and gambling in tents beneath the starry summer night. All proceeds will benefit the Boys and Girls Club Programs. *For more information, or to obtain tickets, call 856-692-1206.*

Riverfront Renaissance Center To Hold Spring Gala

This April, a transatlantic flight won't be necessary to enjoy a bit of Parisian street fare. On Saturday, April 12th, the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts (RRCA) will open its doors for their 5th Annual Spring Gala. This year's theme, April in Paris, welcomes guests to the scenic sidewalk cafes of Paris, sans the jet lag, to raise money for the Center's "Art Creates Excellence" program.

Celebrating its 7th anniversary this April, the RRCA was founded in 2001 as part of the city's strategy to achieve economic growth through the arts. Featuring a wide range of cultural and educational opportunities, the Center has already made an impressive impact on the Millville community. The continued support from the community, through events like the Spring Gala, ensures the availability of programming, events, and opportunities for children and adults throughout the year at the RRCA.

The evening will feature food from Clorinda's Catering and a silent auction with works by local artists, gift certificates to local galleries and shops, and other handcrafted items. There will also be a live auction hosted by Rob Shannon, a complimentary wine bar, and a cash bar as well. Given the Center's limited capacity, RRCA Executive Director Carolyne Krull recommends getting your tickets sooner rather than later.

Krull says the event normally sells out. "We hold the event here, at the RRCA, because we want it to be

around the downtown galleries and shops. Although we could move to a larger venue and accommodate more people, we would lose the connection to the arts and the heart of who the fund-raiser benefits," said Krull.

This Spring, the Center will introduce two new programs as part of the "Arts Creates Excellence" program. For those who are interested in computer graphics, a new and improved Animation Studio Project was created. Designed to provide students ages 13-23 with the skills necessary to pursue a career in the graphic arts, the Animation Studio Project will be taught using industry standard equipment and software. Students enrolled in the

Animation Studio Project will have a new G4 MAC lab to create works of 3D, stop-motion, and 2D art, thanks to the generosity and support of Sandy and George Walter of Graphicus Design, Amanda and Jeff Page, and David Hocult.

"The program has already had such a tremendous response. People have just been so excited about it. We thought we'd have a pilot program this spring, but now we have three full classes with about 14 people in each," continued Krull.

In addition, "Upstairs At The RRCA" will also launch this spring. The open-mic atmosphere invites teen and young adult poets, musicians, storytellers, and performers to come and share their art. To help

spoken word artists further hone their craft, the RRCA has invited Rita Lyman to host a series of spoken word workshops before each open-mic session. Additionally, Cumberland County's Cultural and Heritage Commission's Teen Arts Festival will feature a spoken word workshop from 9:30AM to noon, and an open-mic session from 1:00PM to 2:00PM on May 2nd. Krull hopes to see young adults take ownership of "Upstairs At The RRCA," eventually leading workshops and coordinating events with the help of an adult chaperone.

To find out about upcoming events, classes, volunteer opportunities, or the Spring Gala visit the RRCA's Web site at www.riverfrontcenter.org or call 856-327-4500 for more information.



Food by: Clorinda's Catering
Silent Auction
Live Auction with Rob Shannon
Complimentary Wine Bar
Cash Bar

“Go For Broke Battalion” Exhibit Opens

(Continued from page 1)

After more than two years of hard work and dedication by the Seabrook Education and Cultural Center, the consultants, and many more volunteers, the “Go for Broke Battalion” 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team exhibit was unveiled on February 25, 2008. The exhibit highlights the 100th/442nd RCT’s hardship of fighting on the war front and discrimination and suspicion on the home front. By the end of the War, the 100th/442nd RCT was

one of the most decorated units in American history to ever serve, including 21 Medals of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars (including 28 Oak Leaf Clusters), 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldiers Medals, 4,000 Bronze Stars (including 1,200 Oak Leaf Clusters), and 9,486 Purple Hearts.

Before the consultants returned to California, they made suggestions to Jester about the museum’s other displays, and Jester began looking at the display methods nearby museums were using. Particularly intrigued by the carpet-backed displays at the Naval Air Station Wildwood Museum, Jester finally made the decision to update nearly all of the museum’s display walls and cases.

“We’re matting things differently. Currently, felt lines the back of our wallboards, but we’ve been working hard to install a similarly colored blue carpet,” explains Jester. “The felt is prone to fading and shows every hole made in the material. But with carpet, you can use Velcro or even nails to hang a display and the carpet looks

no different once the display is removed.”

The new arrangements allow the MAAFM to exhibit more of the museum’s war-related artifacts, which previously were in storage due to space limitations. The upgrades also make rotating exhibits easier. For example, older display cases have been retrofitted with wheels. Additionally, newspaper clippings, photographs, and other collected pieces, previously in storage, have been preserved and displayed alongside the other binders in the museum, a true labor of love by the museum’s volunteers.

“Everything has just been stagnant for so many years. We’re trying to organize everything so people can see what a great collection we have. It’s a lot of work, and the volunteers have been extremely helpful in upgrading the exhibits. We really couldn’t do it without their help,” concluded Jester.

To find out more information about the Millville Army Air Field Museum’s current exhibits or upcoming events, call 856-327-2347 or visit their Web site www.p47millville.org.



Millville, New Jersey
BIKEFEST 2008
Custom Motorcycle Show

Ride-In Show

Approved by the Millville Historical Society

Custom bikes on display • Live music • Vendors on display

Date: Saturday, June 7, 2008
(Rain Date: Sunday, June 8, 2008)

Time: 2:00 to 6:00 PM
Registration 12 noon-2 PM
Registration Fee: \$15 per bike

Where: Glasstown Arts District
Downtown Millville, NJ

11 Judged Categories

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Stock | Best In Show |
| Production Custom | Best Paint |
| Metric & Metric Custom | Best Chrome |
| Pro Class | • Cash Prizes All Classes |
| Sportster (Harley) | • \$2400 in cash prizes to be awarded |
| Antique (25+ yrs) | |
| RAT | |
| Lady Biker | |

“Tour de’ Swamp” 75 mile Poker Run
Registration & start time 9:30 AM • Glasstown Plaza, 26 N. High St.
Registration fee: \$15 per person

Welcome Party/Early Registration: Friday, June 6 • 6:30-9 PM, Glasstown Plaza



Featuring Michele Smith, Hostess of Speed Channels “American Thunder” 1-6 PM And Biker Billy TV Chef and Author of “Cooking With Fire”



Millville, NJ • A Main Street NJ Community

Main Street Millville is hosting the 4th Annual Custom Motorcycle BikeFest 2008. Along with the motorcycle competition, enjoy live bands, eclectic shops, galleries and a wide variety of restaurants.

To register or for more information, call: 1.800.887.4957 • www.GlasstownArtsDistrict.com

Variety of cafes, pubs & restaurants • Unique shops & art galleries



A Summer Tradition Awakens Bayshore Region With Art, Culture, And Family Fun

Once a year, the historic fishing towns of Bivalve, Port Norris, and Shellpile transform from sleepy coastal villages to vibrant cultural centers. Residents and visitors from throughout the Delaware Valley annually gather to celebrate Cumberland County's rich maritime history, natural beauty, and unique bayshore culture. The Bay Days Festival, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 14th and Sunday, June 15th, builds on its tradition year after year by inviting new generations to explore all that the county has to offer.

Hosted by the Bayshore Discovery Project, the 16th annual event will begin Saturday morning with an old fashioned parade through the streets of Port Norris. Saturday events will conclude with a lighted boat parade and fireworks on the Maurice River. The Bayshore Discovery Project invites boaters to participate in the parade. Interested individuals should contact the Bayshore Discovery Project for more information. Additionally, those interested in a closer view of the lighted boat parade and fireworks can purchase tickets to view the show from the deck of the A.J. Meerwald.

"There are certainly plenty of opportunities for the public to participate in Bay Days. We're always looking for more artists, vendors, volunteers, and individuals who want to be in the street and boat parades," said Bayshore Discovery Project Outreach Program Coordinator Janis Traas. "Even before the Festival starts, people can get involved by entering one of our contests."

The public is invited to reflect on

the maritime history and bayshore environment in a series of contests. Artists of all ages are encouraged to enter one or more of the Festival's events which span poetry, photography, a poster contest, and a tee shirt design contest. The poster contest has the earliest deadline of April

25th, and is open to children grades K-8. Divided into two divisions for judging, prizes will be awarded to one K-4 entrant, and one 5-8 entrant. One grand prize winner will have their poster transformed into the cover art for the Festival's publications.

For those who prefer the written word, there is also a poetry contest which is open to both published and non-published poets. Winners, who are announced at Bay Days, will have the opportunity to read their poem aloud on stage during the event. Additionally, poetry winners will be invited to read at the opening reception for the photography contest winners, whose works will be on exhibit in local galleries in Bridgeton and Millville.

Groups, clubs, and individuals are also invited to participate in the street parade where awards will be presented for "Best Pedestrian," "Best Bicycler," "Best Performance," and other fun categories. Additional activities for the entire family include Blue Crab races, crafts, games, multi-ethnic performances, fresh seafood, artisans and crafters, oyster shucking



The Bay Days Festival features a number of events for young adults including crafts, games, and other fun activities.

contests, guided river tours, wetland walks, and deck tours of the A.J. Meerwald.

Traas hopes visitors of all ages will take away one important message from the Festival. "I hope they find an appreciation for what's in their own backyard, the beauty of the Bayshore Region that's been here for so many years, and will hopefully be here for many more."

Bay Days guests may park for free in designated parking areas along Main Street in Port Norris. Air-conditioned buses will be available to shuttle passengers to Festival sites, including the satellite site at East Point Lighthouse. Visitors with special needs, and those who require additional arrangements or wheelchair accessible seating, should call 856-785-2060 extension 112, two weeks prior to the event to ensure special arrangements are available. Bay Days hours are Saturday 11:30AM to 8:30PM, and Sunday noon to 5:00PM.

For more information on the Bay Days Festival, contest rules and regulations, or for vendor/crafter applications, please call 856-785-2060 or visit www.bayshorediscoveryproject.org.

Arts Community Welcomes New Publication

With open arms, members of the Delaware Valley arts community are welcoming a new publication, designed to take "the long view of the visual arts." *Envision Magazine* will make its debut in May of 2008, and the excitement is building for the launch.

According to Michael Cagno, Director of the Noyes Museum of Art and a driving force behind the creation of the magazine, "Every issue focuses on the region's art scene with coverage that will include talented artists, galleries and exhibition venues, arts in the community, and listings of upcoming openings and shows."

"The magazine will define the visual arts broadly, and will feature a wide variety of painters, illustrators, sculptors, photographers, tattoo artists, sand sculptors, and glassblowers," Cagno said. "We will delve into their work and inspiration in a style

that is designed for people who truly appreciate the arts."

The publishers want the magazine itself to be a work of art. Creative covers will set the tone. Strong graphic design will make every page intriguing, and articles will seek to capture the spirit of the individual artists. Finally, high-quality color printing will faithfully reproduce the photography and illustrations which are featured in each issue. The goal of the editorial team is to draw much-needed

attention to the wide variety of visual arts which are available in the Delaware Valley.

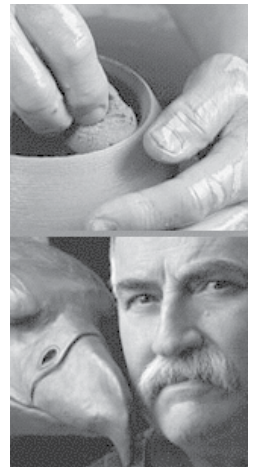
"*Envision Magazine* will take a fresh look at the vibrant, exciting arts scene, and will focus on both new talent and experienced professionals," Cagno continued. "The magazine is a collaboration of seasoned graphic artists, editors, writers, and photographers committed to capturing the

allure and passion of the arts."

Bill Horin, who has 27 years of experience as a magazine photographer and is the former publisher of *art-BEAT Magazine*, is the publisher and editor of *Envision Magazine*. Bill Healey, of Altagraf Design, serves as art director.

Envision Magazine will be mailed to patrons of the Noyes Museum, the Atlantic City Art Center, the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts, and other arts institutions. It will also be distributed free in more than 90 locations throughout the Delaware Valley including galleries and museums, Borders Bookstore, colleges, libraries, professional offices, and selected restaurants. Subscriptions are also available. In addition, *Envision Magazine* is also creating a Web site that will have a gallery guide updated throughout the year.

For more information about *Envision Magazine*, visit their Web site at envisionartsmagazine.com, or call 609-652-8848, Ext. 11.



Nanticoke Leni-Lenape 28th Annual Pow Wow

The Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Indian Tribe invites the public to join them in celebration of their culture and heritage at their 28th annual Pow Wow. This year's Pow Wow will be held Saturday, June 14th and Sunday, June 15th at the Salem County Fairgrounds off State Highway Route 40, in Pilesgrove, New Jersey.

The special two-day event brings

Native Americans from throughout the east coast together for the Pow Wow. The tribe's annual outreach invites attendees to sample traditional foods, view the George Askew Indian Artifacts collection, and peruse the variety of handcrafted, traditional works of art by award winning Native American artists and crafters from across the nation.

The Master of Ceremonies, Keith Colston, will keep everyone informed about the culture, tradition, and ongoing events at the Pow Wow. Gates will open at 10:00AM both Saturday and Sunday. However, Sunday will feature a 10:00AM worship service in addition to the day's scheduled events. For more information, call 856-455-6910.

New Biography On Greenwich Native Released

On the historically restored and reconstructed streets of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, roams Phillip Vickers Fithian, or an actor portraying him. How did Fithian, a native of Greenwich, New Jersey, come to be part of Williamsburg's living history nearly 300 miles away from Cumberland County?

The answer to this and many other questions about the young Cumberland County native may be found in John Fea's new book entitled, *The Way of Improvement Leads Home*. Mr. Fea's new book is the first full-length biography on Fithian. It explores 18th century life in Cumberland County and Virginia through the journal entries of a young man who went on to become one of the most famous diarists of the 18th century.

Fea, an Associate Professor of American History at Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania, first discovered Fithian while conducting research for his doctoral dissertation on the development of religion in southern New Jersey. He was intrigued by Fithian's fame outside of New Jersey within the colonial history of Virginia and Pennsylvania.

"Writing the book was hard because I was basically taking journal entries and reconstructing someone's life. Some of the scattered entries were only one line like 'It rained today.' I had to put them into a larger context and develop a story out of them," Fea said. "That was probably the biggest challenge. However, it was very rewarding when at the end there really was a story to tell."

The story Fea found, and set out to tell, was that of a young man torn between the love for his native



Cumberland County and his ambition to move beyond the small farming community. According to Fea, Fithian wrestled not only with leaving the small community, but with the social issues of the time, including slavery, which he confronted during his search for enlightenment.

"Fithian wrote often about the difference between Presbyterian colonial life in New Jersey on a small farm with very little slavery, and Virginia where he worked on a large plantation as a tutor. It

was almost like a foreign country to him," Fea continued. "The Virginians lived a very wealthy, aristocratic lifestyle and had very different religious practices."

Fea believes Fithian's pursuit of enlightenment, the aspiration to do great things while remaining true to hometown values, friends, and family is still relevant to the thoughts individuals wrestle with today.

"That's a story I think that all of us today can relate to, that dimension of home and the idea of being ambitious to prove something. I think that's what is at the root of the American dream, and I think Fithian is a real good example of the 18th century American dream," Fea concluded.

"The Way of Improvement Leads Home" can be purchased through any of the major online book retailers such as Amazon.com or Barnes and Noble. It is also available through the University of Pennsylvania Press Web site.

John Fea will be in Cumberland County November 1, 2008, for a book signing and discussion at the Cumberland County Historical Society.

Off Broad Street Players Present *The Foreigner*

Based on what the New York Post describes as a "devilishly clever idea," *The Foreigner* demonstrates what can happen when a group of devious characters must deal with a stranger, who they think knows no English. The misunderstanding fuels the comedy that ensues in this play written by Larry Shue.

May 9 and 10 – Curtain at 8:30PM

May 11 – Curtain at 2:30PM

Performances will be held at the Bridgeton High School Auditorium.

For more information, call 856-451-5437 or visit www.obsponline.org.

Farm Day Scheduled For April 27

On Sunday, April 27 the Cumberland County Historical Society will hold its annual Farm Day celebration from noon to 4:00PM at the Gibbon House located on Ye Greate Street in Greenwich.

"Farm Day provides the opportunity for residents throughout the area to get a taste of the early American way of life," said Matt Pisarski. "As always, there will be a number of educational and entertaining events for the entire family."

As is the tradition, students from throughout southern New Jersey will be invited to participate in making Farm Day a realistic re-creation for visitors. Students will perform a number of demonstrations in traditional costumes including crafts, traditional cooking, weaving, and much more.

"Cumberland County's agriculture continues to touch everyone

each and every day," said Farm Day Co-Chairman Michael Griffith. "Attending Farm Day allows residents the opportunity to learn about life when each individual directly contributed to producing food and fiber on a daily basis. One result will be a greater appreciation of the contributions of today's farmers which allow so many others to pursue different endeavors."

The Gibbon House Museum is an excellent example of a 1730s Manor House. Visitors will be able to experience firsthand the living arrangements of the pioneers who helped establish Cumberland County in the early 1700s. There will also be demonstrations of the traditional farming methods used by settlers of the area.

Farm Day is the perfect chance to enjoy the charm and tranquility of one of Cumberland County's hidden treasures. In addition to the Gibbon House Museum, other



Farm Day will be celebrated at the Gibbon House on Ye Greate Street in Historic Greenwich on April 27 from noon to 4:00PM.

attractions such as the Prehistorical Museum, the exhibits in the Lummis Library, the Red Barn Museum, the Swedish Granary, and the many historic homes throughout the village provide a wonderful snapshot of the early history of Cumberland County.

For more information, contact the Cumberland County Historical Society at 856-455-4055 or www.cchistsoc.org.

*Cumberland County
Cultural & Heritage Commission*

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