



Chairman's Letter

Congratulations to Queen Anne's County Teacher Of The Year Kristin Hurlock. She has been teaching our students at Kent Island High School for ten years where she teaches her passion social studies. The business community recognized her at the September mixer at Lola's at Hemingways. She received many gifts from business owners including the use of a new car for a year. The event was very well attended by chamber members as well as many Queen Anne's public school teachers, staff and administrators. At the end of the evening, our hosts from Lola's, Biana and Steve Arentz, made cash donations to the Character Counts and After School Programs. Both of these programs had been hit hard by reduced county funding and this generous donation by the Arentz's will be instrumental in keeping these programs funded for this school year.

The evening was a great example of just how important the business community is to our county public school system. Queen Anne's County is blessed with having one of the best school systems in the entire state of Maryland. We have some of the best teachers and administrators our education system has to offer. This past school year our kids tested on the MSA's the highest in the state. Our Character Counts Program is a model for all the other counties to follow. As we all know, it takes many resources to support these efforts and the county is feeling the crunch of the current economic times. It is the generosity of Queen Anne's businesses that helps fill in the holes with such generous donations as the Arentz's.

The partnership between business and the school system is clearly a benefit to all our county citizens. This relationship can continue to thrive and grow but it also is suffering from current economic times. We have an election for new commissioners coming up in five weeks. We as voters have a voice to elect the best candidates that will do there best to help continue to facilitate this relationship by supporting the growth of business and recognizing all a positive business climate in the county can offer to the citizens of our county. If you can, go to a candidate forum, meet the candidates and educate your self on the clear differences between the candidates. Please though, whatever you do... please vote. The races for all county elected officials promise to be close. Your vote will make a difference.

Thought for the month: The future of Queen Anne's County is not in the promises of politicians, but in the hands of the voters.

David Metrinko, Chairman

Chester River Health System and HomePorts, Inc. Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Chester River Health System and HomePorts, Inc. signed a memorandum of understanding on September 29, 2010, in honor of National Aging in Place Week. This contract marks the beginning of a mutual commitment to the community for the provision of quality services and access to safe care.

The National Aging in Place Council first designated a week in autumn as National Aging in Place Week in 2003. This year, National Aging in Place Week is from October 11 through October 19. The National Aging in Place Council encourages families to assess their current living environments to make sure their needs are taken care of and to learn about programs and services that promote prolonged independent life.

HomePorts, an alliance for life care at home, is in operation to facilitate "aging in place," promoting safe and healthy aging with peace of mind for members and their families. As a state of Maryland 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, the organization is a facilitator and communicator for making assistance available from a cadre of volunteers, and from referrals made to reliable local service providers to obtain affordable delivery of transportation; interior and exterior home maintenance services; personal assistance and troubleshooting; and health and wellness activities.

Chester River Health System is proud to be a partner with HomePorts in recognizing the increasing demands of a growing population of older residents. This memorandum promises that each organization will respect the independent rights of older residents for safe and healthy choices; as well as make every effort to coordinate and exchange information concerning activities, programs, and campaigns in the interest of the rights and well being of older residents in Kent County.

Please join Chester River Health System in commending this time to all citizens to honor older residents and the volunteers, service providers and organizations that open opportunities for aging in place in Kent County. For more information about National Aging in Place Week, please check out www.ageinplace.org or call HomePorts at 443.480.0940 or visit www.homeports.org.

Muriel Cole, president of HomePorts and Jim Ross, CEO and president of Chester River Health System, sign the memorandum of understanding for National Aging in Place Week.



SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 21ST

CHESAPEAKE BAY BEACH CLUB

2:30-7:00 PM



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Watch Us Grow!
Opening Fall 2010

Queen Anne's Arts Council Events

October 13 – November 3: Ballroom Dance: Smooth Review ages 14+: 7-7:50 p.m. Tango, Waltz & Foxtrot are showcased in this session with world class dancer and instructor Amanda Showell. Register by 10/6. \$50 members, \$55 non members. Centre for the Arts, 206 S. Commerce St., Centreville, MD. 410.758.2520. www.arts4u.info.

October 13 – November 3: Ballroom Dance: Level I Argentine Tango ages 14+: 8-8:50 p.m. The drama and the right moves are yours in this classic ballroom dance. Register by 10/6. \$50 members, \$55 non members. Centre for the Arts, 206 S. Commerce St., Centreville, MD. 410.758.2520. www.arts4u.info.

October 16: Dance Party. 8-10:30 p.m. Don't forget your cowboy boots, hat and jeans as Amanda Showell mixes in some country music with your favorite ballroom dances. Early Bird Two Step Lesson from 7-8 p.m. Held at the Centre for the Arts, 206 S. Commerce St., Centreville, MD. 410.758.2520. \$10 members/\$12 non members. 410.758.2520.

October 16: Early Morning Artists Series – Pumpkins with Pat!, ages 6-12, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Pumpkin Patch owner Pat Parkhurst, shows kids that there is more to a pumpkin than Halloween with some great pumpkin projects. Register by 10/8. \$20 members, \$25 non members. Centre for the Arts, 206 S. Commerce St., Centreville, MD. 410.758.2520. www.arts4u.info.

October 18 – November 19: Boot Camp: A five-week workout with Pam Thaxton and Mary Messick that will have you in great shape just in time for the holidays. Mon, Wed, Fri, 5:30 to 6:30 a.m. Register by 10/12. \$104 per student, \$80 for returning students. Queen Anne's County Arts Council's Centre for the Arts, 206 S. Commerce St., Centreville, MD. For more information call 410.758.2520. www.arts4u.info

October 22 – November 19: Yoga all ages: Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m. Connect your mind and body with a blend of power and Hatha yoga taught by instructors Mary Messick and Pam Thaxton. Register by 10/15. \$50 per student. Centre for the Arts, 206 S. Commerce St., Centreville, MD. 410.758.2520. www.arts4u.info.

October 23: Sit, Walk, Fly ages 8-12, Saturday 1-4 p.m., young children will reap long term benefits from learning relaxation techniques and have fun in the process too with Tai Chi Chuan instructor, Dell St. Ana. Register by 10/15. \$35 members, \$45 non members. Centre for the Arts, 206 S. Commerce St., Centreville, MD. 410.758.2520. www.arts4u.info

October 23: The Art of Saving Money. Saturday 2:45-5 p.m. Learn everything you need to know to save each week on groceries and personal expenses. Maggie Miller gives shoppers an insiders' guide to saving at drugstores, big box and grocery stores. Register by 10/15. \$17 members, \$20 non members. Centre for the Arts, 206 S. Commerce St., Centreville, MD. 410.758.2520. www.arts4u.info

October 25- November 25: Weight Lifting & Cardio ages 12+ Mon, and Thu, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Enjoy the proven benefits of combining aerobics, weight training and conditioning with instructors Mary Messick and Pam Thaxton. Register by 9/14. \$70 per student. Centre for the Arts in Centreville, 206 South Commerce St., Centreville, MD. 410.758.2520. www.arts4u.info

November

November 5 through 30: Artwork from Suzhou China - Landscapes, calligraphy, relief printing, modern, portraiture, and ink wash are represented by some of China's finest artists. Shen Minyi, Xu Huiquan, Sun Junlian, Zhang Xiaofei, Chen Huibin (shown in photo), Qi Chunlan, Dai Yunlaing and Chen Jianjun, join us for this spectacular exhibit. Artists will come to Queen Anne's County on November 3 and stay through November 6 to kick off their month-long exhibit which will be held in the Centre of the Arts, 206 S. Commerce St., Centreville, MD. 410.758.2520. This exhibit is made possible through partnership with the Sister County International Council.

November 5: Technique, Style and Culture: Brown bag lunch 11 am – 2 pm. Meet visiting artists from Queen Anne's County's sister county, Suzhou District, China. Meet the artists, enjoy a pre-preview of their exhibit, and join in on a discussion of their processes for creating their work. Question and answer period

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throughout. Advance registration only. \$9 includes lunch. Call for details. 410.758.2520. This event is made possible through partnership with the Sister County International Council.

November 5: Reception – Artists of Suzhou China, 6 – 8 pm. A month long display of stunning artwork by noted artists of Suzhou, China, Queen Anne's County's sister county. View artwork and meet the artists at a public reception at the Centre for the Arts, 206 S. Commerce St., Centreville, MD. 410.758.2520, The Arts Council is interested in having Mandarin speaking guests join us for the exhibit reception and other activities to help with translations. Please call the Council for details. This exhibit is made possible through partnership with the Sister County International Council.

November 6 & 13: Organizing your Digital Photographs: ages 16+ 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Learn techniques in storing and retrieving digital photos with award winning photographer Don Dement. Register by 10/29. \$99 members, \$110 non members. Centre for the Arts, 206 South Commerce St., Centreville, MD. 410.758.2520. www.arts4u.info

November 4 – December 9: Hang Time, ages 6-12, 6 weeks, Thursday 3:45-5:15 p.m. Hang-out at the Arts Council after school and make some great hanging crafts with Arts Council Program Coordinator, Anne Eastman. Register by 10/28. \$55 members, \$65 non members. Centre for the Arts, 206 South Commerce St., Centreville, MD. 410.758.2520. www.arts4u.info.

The Queen Anne's County Arts Council and Centre for the Arts is a non-profit organization committed to promoting, expanding and sustaining the arts. We receive support from the Maryland State Arts Council, corporate and private giving. Visit us on the web www.arts4u.info

Score Plans Workshop On How To Start A Successful Small Business

Upper Shore SCORE Chapter 670 announces another in its series of workshops, this one entitled "So... You Want to Start your Own Business?" The free workshop will be held on Wednesday October 20, from 8:30am until 10:30 am at the Kent County Public Library at 408 High Street in Chestertown.

The workshop features an interactive discussion with volunteer SCORE counselors who have worked with scores of local businesses in Kent and Queen Anne's Counties, including start-ups and established firms.

Tom Beckett, SCORE Counselor and workshop organizer, says "We are reaching out to anyone who is starting a small business or just curious about what is involved in starting and managing a new business venture. Unlike most of our prior workshops, this workshop features our local SCORE counselors. Our counselors are typically business executives and managers with years of experience in virtually every aspect of managing a business. The Upper Shore SCORE team includes bankers, financial officers, manufacturing and project managers, marketing and sales executives, and corporate CEOs."

"This will be more than just a 'How-to' lecture," Tom adds. "We are going to outline the special pitfalls that we have observed as counselors to businesses on the upper Eastern Shore, and reveal how these pitfalls might be avoided."

The SCORE workshop series is co-sponsored by the Chambers of Commerce of Kent and Queen Anne's Counties, the Kent County Department of Tourism and Economic Development, and the Queen Anne's County Department of Economic Development, Agriculture and Tourism.

To sign up for the workshop, please contact at (410) 810-2968 or register on-line at www.kentchamber.org.



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SEPTEMBER AFTER HOURS MIXER & TEACHER APPRECIATION RECEPTION





THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2010 • LOLA'S AT HEMINGWAY'S

Emergency Preparedness is Essential for Small Businesses

By Jean Fabi, Economic Development Manager

Is your small business prepared in the event of a disaster? Disasters can be "man-made" or natural, such as a blizzard or hurricane. From severe property damage to power outages, businesses in Queen Anne's County felt the effects of last winter's snow storms. The National Weather Service has predicted that this season's storms may be the most intense since 2005, when Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma devastated the Gulf Coast. The U.S. Small Business Administration estimates that 40% to 60% of small businesses never reopen after a disaster.

There are many resources available to help business owners prepare for a catastrophic event. One example is the SBA's website Prepare My Business (www.preparemybusiness.org). Prepare My Business offers advice on how small business owners can develop their own disaster preparedness plans, and features interactive tools such as monthly webinars on business continuity planning.

According to the SBA, disaster preparedness for businesses should include:

- A written emergency response plan. Consider the "what if" scenarios that can disrupt your business and draft a plan that addresses them. How would you communicate with your employees, vendors and customers in the event of a disaster? Business owners should establish protocols on how information will be disseminated, as well as designate a contact person... How would you evacuate your place of business? Map out evacuation routes and establish meeting places. Most importantly, review your preparedness plans with everyone in your organization beforehand.
- Copies of important records. Important paper documents should be stored in a fire-proof box and/or in a safe deposit box. Computer data should be backed up routinely on hard drives. Consider storing information at a distant off site location or on virtual repositories.
- Adequate insurance. Review your insurance policy and contact your agent to determine what is and is not covered in the event of a disaster. Flood insurance is essential and businesses should consider "business interruption insurance," which helps cover operating costs during the post-disaster shutdown period.
- A "Disaster Survival Kit." Not only is this kit important to have in your house, but also consider having a modified version at your place of business. The kit should include a flashlight, a portable radio, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, non-perishable packaged and canned food, bottled water, a basic tool kit, plastic bags, cash and a disposable camera to take pictures of the property damage.

To learn about SBA disaster assistance, visit www.sba.gov/disasterassistance. For more information about developing an emergency plan, visit FEMA's site at www.ready.gov,

County To Host Free Seminar "How Does Your Cash Flow? A Business Owner's Guide to Understanding Financial Statements"

*By Jean Fabi, Economic Development
Manager*

What does your balance sheet say about your company? Is it a true indication of where you are financially? To help business owners answer these and other questions related to their bottom line Queen Anne's County Department of Economic Development, Agriculture and Tourism, in conjunction with the Eastern Shore SCORE Chapter 670, is hosting "How Does Your Cash Flow? A Business Owner's Guide to Understanding Financial Statements." The free workshop is on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Chesapeake Exploration Center, 425 Piney Narrows Road, Chester, MD 21619.

By attending this seminar, business owners will gain a concise understanding of financial reports, their relationship and important roles they play in making sound business decisions. Mr. Bob Ampula, SCORE mentor, will review cash flow and the key indicators of financial health. Mr. Ampula will demystify the balance sheet and help those in uncertainty to make sense of profit and loss statements. By understanding financial statements more clearly, business owners will insight on the true financial health of their business.

Seating is limited at this free event. Please RSVP by October 15, 2010 calling 410.758.4418 to reserve your space.

To find out more about this and other seminars for business owners, please visit the Queen Anne's County Department of Economic Development, Agriculture and Tourism's website at www.choosequeenannes.com or find us on Facebook at "Discover Queen Anne's."



**COMMUNITY MENTORING
PARTNERSHIP
IN SEARCH OF ADDITIONAL
MENTORS**



The CommUNITY Mentoring Partnership in Queen Anne's County is designed to connect caring mentors with at-risk youth in grades 6-10. Each mentor makes a weekly commitment to spend at least an hour of interaction with their mentee and ultimately meet them both in and out of school.

Mentoring activities could include things such as discussing current events, taking a nature walk, helping with organizational skills, playing sports or board games, cooking, or reading books about a shared interest. The goal is to build a dependable, supportive, and positive relationship with the mentee.

It is hoped that these valuable mentoring moments will increase the academic performance and self-esteem of these young students. With this increase in confidence, it is expected that their lifetime goals and ambitions will increase as well.

Additional mentors are still needed to fulfill the need in local schools. Training and ongoing support are available both at the school and through the mentor coordinator.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the mentor coordinator, Jacki Carter, at 410-758-6677 or jcarter@qac.org.

**QAC EARNS DISTRICT AWARD FROM
THE MCCE**

The Character Counts! Advisory Council is pleased to announce that the Queen Anne's County school system has earned the District Award from the Maryland Center for Character Education (MCCE).

This is the second year the Maryland Center for Character Education has presented this award to a Maryland school system that is making a significant difference in the quality of character education in their county.

**QAC CHARACTER COUNTS! PROGRAM APPRECIATES
RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Character Counts! Advisory Council is delighted to announce that due to recent contributions from the community, the Laws of Life Essay Contest will once again be offered to local students as a way to express how the Six Pillars of Character (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship) have positively affected their lives.

As a part of their Thankful Thursdays, Hemingway's Restaurant donated 20% of all dinners ordered on Thursdays in July to the QAC Character Counts! Program. The owners, Steve and Biana Arentz, presented the check for \$1085 to Jacki Carter, Positive Youth Development Coordinator, at the Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce After Hours Mixer on September 16, 2010.

Also that evening, Biana Arentz donated her part of the winning 50/50 raffle ticket to Character Counts!, which added \$65 to the contributions for Character Counts! After a brief announcement from Carter that the contributions would all be applied to the Laws of Life Essay Contest, which was only \$150 short of being fully funded for this year, Mr. Mareen Waterman stepped up with a donation to fulfill that requirement.

The Character Counts! Advisory Council is very grateful for the community and individual support, which enables us to continue our efforts to strengthen the personal character traits of the youth in our county and empower them to share their stories through this outstanding essay contest.

Feel free to contact Jacki at 410-758-6677 or jcarter@qac.org if you have any questions. QAC Character Counts! is a part of Community Partnerships for Children & Families, our Local Management Board.

This is an honor which has been made possible through the hard work and effort of countless volunteers, school staff, and the Queen Anne's County Board of Education.

As further confirmation of the positive effect Character Counts! is having in Queen Anne's County, Centreville Elementary School was one of six schools in the state to earn the Honorable Mention Award from the MCCE in applying for the State School of Character Award.

Kennard Elementary School also received special recognition as the Queen Anne's

County school chosen to receive the 2010 School of the Year Award in their county from the MCCE.

The District Award and others will be officially received at the Maryland Center for Character Education's Annual Awards Ceremony on September 29, 2010 at Stevenson College's Owings Mills Campus.

Feel free to contact Jacki at 410-758-6677 or jcarter@qac.org if you have any questions. QAC Character Counts! is a part of Community Partnerships for Children & Families, our Local Management Board.

Be TeRRiFiCC

Practice the Pillars of Character Everyday!

Trustworthiness, Responsibility, Respect, Fairness, Caring & Citizenship

Artwork from Suzhou China - November 5 through 30:

In collaboration with the Eastern Shore Sister County International Council, the Queen Anne's County Arts Council will bring a month-long exhibit to Centreville, Maryland featuring artists from the Suzhou Canglang District of China. From November 5 through 30, visitors are encouraged to enjoy the varying styles and cultural landscapes that are revealed in this special show. Calligraphy, relief printing, modern, portraiture, ink wash, and landscapes are represented by some of China's finest artists: SHEN Minyi, XU Huiquan, SUN Junlian, Zhang Xiaofei, CHEN Weibing, QI Chunlan, DAI Yunlaing and Chen Jianjun.

The artists will be visiting Queen Anne's County for several days and public events have been scheduled in advance of the show's opening. On Friday, November 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Arts Council will present, "Technique and Style" an opportunity to meet the artists and enjoy a pre-preview of the work, discussions about technique and question and answer period. The event requires advance registration, and is \$9 per person which includes lunch. Later that evening from 6 to 8 p.m., a public reception to honor the artists will be held as the formal kick-off for the November exhibit. The Arts Council is located at 206 S. Commerce St., Centreville, MD. For more information call 410-758-2520 or visit the website: www.arts4u.info

The Queen Anne's County Arts Council is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting, expanding and sustaining the arts. Visit us on the web: www.arts4u.info We are supported in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council: www.msac.org





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Billingslea Named Director of Patient Safety and Advocacy

Kim Billingslea, BSN, RN, NE-BC, Manager of the Joint Replacement Center and the neuroscience and renal units at the Memorial Hospital at Easton, has been named director of patient safety and advocacy for Shore Health System. In this new position, she will serve as patient safety officer and the patient and family advocate. She will interact with patients, family members and clinical care providers to address issues related to patient safety and customer satisfaction.

Billingslea, who lives in Easton, began her nursing career as a staff nurse for the telemetry unit at Memorial Hospital in 1989 after graduating with a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland at Baltimore Nursing School. In 1992, she was promoted to assistant nurse manager of the Memorial Hospital neuroscience unit and, in 2001, she became clinical coordinator for this unit and for the medical-surgical unit and the Joint Replacement Center. Billingslea transferred to Dorchester General Hospital in 2003, where she was nurse manager for the multi-specialty unit. She returned to Memorial Hospital in 2005, taking responsibility for the neuroscience and renal units as well as the Joint Replacement Center.

Billingslea is board certified as a nurse executive by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Under her leadership, Memorial Hospital earned designation as a primary stroke center from the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems in 2007 and the Joint Replacement Center earned several national quality distinctions for its excellence in patient care.

"We are thrilled to add Kim to the quality team at Shore Health," says Michael Tooke, MD, chief medical officer for Shore Health System. "In this new position, she will dedicate more attention to understanding how to keep our patients safe while they are under our care. Kim will also support the patient advocacy role that our patients and families have come to rely