



11.03.08

REAL
QUICK

1

LIQUOR LICENSE VOTE. Downtown needs your help! Send a letter of support and save the date for **TUESDAY, NOV. 18**, when the County Council may make the final vote on this issue. See below.

2

PINE STREET REPORT. Later this month, a 60-page report on the Pine Street area will be released. See page 2.

3

ELECTION DAY. Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 4. Polls will be open 7 a.m.–8 p.m. For more info, go to the League of Women Voters at www.lwvmd.org/midshore.

HOT TOPIC: LIQUOR LICENSES

Liquor licenses: Speak out now!

THE BACK STORY:

On Oct. 27, the Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners voted 3–2 against amending a state law so that full-fledged restaurants located within 300 feet of a church or school in downtown Cambridge could get a liquor license. Supporting the amendment were Ricky Travers and Patti Tieder. Opposing the amendment were Gloria Dolan, Shirley Satterfield, and Board president Octavene Saunders. While the controversy was prompted by a restaurant planned for 450 Race Street that wants a liquor license, the issue could threaten the future of downtown Cambridge.

Does this vote mean there's no hope for the amendment?

No. The Liquor Board sends its recommendation to the County Council. Then it's up to the council to cast the final vote. Council members can choose to follow or ignore the Liquor Board recommendation. **So this County council vote is critical. We need as many people as possible to speak out.** (See "How can I help?" at right.)

So one restaurant doesn't get its liquor license. What's the big deal?

Actually, it's a VERY big deal—worth upwards of \$25 million in downtown investment—and the whole future of downtown Cambridge. We're talking a LOT more than one restaurant. If this amendment doesn't go through, here's what's at stake:

- **Downtown could lose \$25 million in future investment and improvements downtown.** NOVO Development has been a leading force and a catalyst for redevelopment

If this law isn't amended, downtown Cambridge could lose more than \$25 million in future investment—plus hundreds of jobs and public safety gains. AND REVITALIZATION COMES TO A HALT.

ment downtown. According to Brett Summers of NOVO, the restaurant at 450 Race Street is a critical cornerstone of many of their future plans, including the restoration and redevelopment of the burned-out properties adjacent to 450 Race. If the law is not amended, NOVO may be forced to sell its other properties and cancel pending contracts on two more—a loss of \$10 million in investment. That's not all. Local developers Tony and Terri Easter said that without a liquor license, their project will be impossible. They plan a hotel and restaurant—a \$15 million project that would bring more than 300 jobs to the 500 block of Race Street. The hotel site is within 300 feet of a church.

- **Existing businesses could be jeopardized.** Restaurants are destinations that bring critical foot traffic to downtown businesses. Without more foot traffic, downtown would suffer a setback that could hurt the dozens of businesses—along with the hundreds of jobs they provide.

How would this amendment change the law?

The proposal supported by Cambridge Main Street would amend the Maryland law in a very limited way. Currently, in Dorchester County, no restaurants within 300 feet of a church or school can get a liquor license, unless a previous occupant of the building had one before the law was passed in 1996. The amendment would allow only certain restaurants to qualify for an exception to the 300-foot rule:

- Only bona fide restaurants (one with more than 75 seats, where the revenue from food is higher than the revenue from alcohol) would be eligible. Bars, nightclubs, and liquor stores would still have to follow the 300-foot rule.
- Only restaurants within Cambridge's Arts & Entertainment District would be eligible. That district covers much of downtown over to Sailwinds.
- This would apply only to restaurants seeking a Class B Liquor License, which allows only the sale of alcohol on the premises (no carry-out).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.

HOW CAN I HELP?

1 CONTACT YOUR DORCHESTER COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE

before the final vote (probably Nov. 18). See page 2 for how to contact your representative.

2 SAVE THE DATE! Nov. 18 at 5 p.m.

That may be when the council considers this issue. If so, there will be a **public rally** outside the Dorchester County Office Building (501 Court Lane) at 5 p.m. We'll send out more info in the next two weeks. Or, for the latest, go to www.cambridgemainstreet.com.

Save the date! Rally planned for 5 p.m., Nov. 18 at county office building!

HOT TOPIC: LIQUOR LICENSES

Getting the lowdown on liquor licenses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Why can't these restaurants exist without a liquor license?

It's a matter of public demand—a lot of people enjoy a glass of wine or beer with their dinner, and if they can't have it they may go somewhere else. It's also about profitability and survival. According to the National Restaurant Association, full-service restaurants get 10 to 30 percent of their revenue from alcohol sales, with an average of about 17 percent. That can make or break a restaurant.

Bella Luna just got a contingent liquor license, and that building's within 300 feet of a church. What's the deal?

It's true. Bella Luna, the Italian restaurant planned for 303 High Street, was granted a

contingent liquor license. When the liquor license law was passed in 1996, any building that sold or served liquor at the time was able to retain its ability to apply for a liquor license, even if within the 300-foot radius. Bella Luna is at the site of the former High Spot, a restaurant that served alcohol. Even though the High Spot had been closed for years, the ability to hold a liquor license at that site still stands—despite being within 300 feet of a church.

Show your support for amending the liquor law. Download, print, and post fliers from www.cambridgemainstreet.com.

CONTACTING THE DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL

How to contact the Dorchester County Council:

Send snail mail:

Dorchester County
Office Building
501 Court Lane
Cambridge, MD 21613

Call or email:

Here's the contact information listed on the county website:

District #1

Jay L. Newcomb
410.397.2134 (home)
jaynewcomb@docogonet.com

District #2

William V. Nichols
410.221.1371 (home)
wnichols@docogonet.com

District #3

Ricky Travers
410.228.4313 (work)
410.228.1532 (home)

travers@fastol.com

District #4

Rick Price
443.521.5518 (cell)
rprice@docogonet.com

District #5

Effie M. Elzey
410.228.8736 (home)
effie@shorecable.com
eelzey@docogonet.com

Not sure which district you're in? Go to www.docogonet.com.

Shorebid now open. Karen Fishell and Kevin Davidson (along with daughter Olivia) stand in the newly reopened Shorebid Antiques store at 411 Washington Street. The original store was destroyed by fire in January. The new store is chock full of interesting antiques, furniture, vintage advertising, crab cans, and more. Near the corner of Washington and Race (there's no official sign up yet). Open 10–5 Wednesday through Saturday. 443.521.8171.



Report on Pine Street area due this month

A 60-page report will be released later this month on the Pine Street area that adjoins downtown Cambridge. The report includes an inventory of historic and cultural sites, a compilation of the general physical conditions of buildings in the area, and a survey of community residents.

The purpose of the report is to identify the community's assets and needs and survey

residents about their priorities for the future. The project was funded through a mini-grant from the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area and was a partnership among Cambridge Main Street, City of Cambridge, Dorchester Elks Lodge #223, and Neighborhood for a Better Cambridge. The report will be posted on the Main Street website at www.cambridgemainstreet.com.

EVENTS

NOV. 7, 5–7 p.m.

Art After Dark: Hip Hop & Jazz Dancing

Check out the Dorchester Center for the Arts' new First Friday event. Try hip hop & jazz dancing with Jeannie Wietzel. Free! 321 High Street.

2nd SAT.

NOV. 8, 5–9 p.m.

Second Saturday: True to the Red, White & Blue

Wear red, white, and blue to enter a raffle for Main Street Dollars at any participating downtown merchant. And get a jump on holiday shopping—stores will stay open late. Plus lots of art and music—see page 3.

OPENING NOV. 8

Main Street Gallery: Photographer David Harp

Book launch for *The Nanticoke: Portrait of a Chesapeake River*, 5–8 p.m., featuring the photography of David Harp. 413 Muir Street.

DEC. 13, 5–9 p.m.

Second Saturday: Old-Fashioned Christmas

Santa's Workshop, caroling, great shopping.

DEC. 11, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Dorchester County Economic Development Summit

Register now for this summit all about workforce issues and education in our county. Vital for business managers and owners. Register at www.dorchestereconomic.com by Nov. 24.

VISUAL ARTS
IN NOVEMBER

DAVID HARP'S PHOTOS AT MAIN STREET GALLERY.

Main Street Gallery: Enjoy the pristine beauty of the Nanticoke River in an exhibit by **Chesapeake photographer David Harp**. A book launch for his latest collaboration with Tom Horton, *The Nanticoke: Portrait of a Chesapeake River*, happens 5–8 p.m., Second Saturday, Nov. 8. Show begins Nov. 5 and runs through November. 413 Muir Street

Dorchester Center for the Arts: 1

Discover the great photographers we have living among us in the **Community Photography Show**. Plus works by **Anne Allbeury-Hock**. Reception 6–8 p.m., Nov. 8, with live music and refreshments. Photo winners will be announced (cast your vote starting Nov. 5.)

Through Nov. 29. **2** DCA has lots of classes this fall. For instance, on Nov. 15, there's the **Try It With Watercolor** class taught by Maureen Farrell, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Sign up at 410.228.7782. 321 High Street

Joie de Vivre's Easel Street Gallery:

Meet nationally exhibited, contemporary Impressionist painter **Maureen Bannon** during a reception 5–8 p.m., Nov. 8. 410 Race Street

Maris Elaine Gallery: 1 Premiering the work of **Theresa Knight McFadden**, mixed media sculptor. Meet the artist at a reception 5–8:30 p.m., Nov. 8. Show continues through Dec. 8. **2** Support our local young artists (and find affordable holiday gifts) during Maris Elaine's local and regional juried **Student Art Show**. Reception is 1–5 p.m., Nov. 23; show continues through the holidays. Proceeds go to the Cambridge Boys & Girls Club. 520 Race Street

447 Studios & Gallery: If you missed the late October opening of 447's new show, featuring the works of eight artists who have studios surrounding the gallery, now's the time to check it out. 447 Race Street

Never On Tuesday Books: Featuring works by local artist John Root Hopkins and Antonia Burns. 527 Poplar Street

MUSIC, DANCE, DRAMA
IN NOVEMBER

Art After Dark: Come and dabble in the arts on First Fridays at the Dorchester Center for the Arts. On Nov. 7, 5–7 p.m., try **hip hop and jazzing dancing with Jeannie Wietzel**. It's free, but register beforehand at 410.228.7782. And save the date for December's First Friday Art After Dark Dec. 5—the CD release party with local musician Anne Watts of Boister.

Poetry reading: With Les Rayne. And pop music. Sunday evenings throughout November at the Scoop Station Stage. 400 Muir Street

Music at Scoop: Thursdays feature open mic, along with classical guitar and blues. Most Fridays feature Spare Time. Shows start around 7:30 p.m. www.thescoopstation.com. 400 Muir St.

U.S. Air Force Band: Dorchester Center for the Arts hosts a **FREE concert with Vector, the U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band**, Monday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. They play everything from country & western and Big Band to Dixieland jazz and Broadway show tunes. Tickets are free, but seating is limited. Pick up your tickets at DCA, 321 High Street.



VECTOR IN A FREE CONCERT AT DCA NOV. 10.

Drama: 'Here We Sit': The Dorchester Drama Guild presents *Here We Sit* Nov. 21–23. Shows are Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 (includes refreshments.) For info, call 410.228.7782. 321 High Street

Live Jazz with Minus One: At Cambridge Grill on Saturday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m. 421 Race Street

NEWS
BITS

1 Cambridge Main Street won a significant award from the **Urban Land**

Institute for its "exemplary, creative, and responsible uses of land." **2** Maris Elaine Gallery now carries **Trollbeads**, a jewelry line that lets you tell your own story through your choice of fine art glass and precious metal beads. Special show and sale 5–8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21 and til 7 p.m. Nov. 22. 520 Race Street.

Win \$\$ during
2nd Saturday!

In November, we celebrate being part of the Democratic process—and honor our veterans. Get in the spirit this **Second Saturday, Nov. 8**, by wearing red, white, and blue. If you do, you'll be eligible to sign up for a free raffle at participating merchants from 5–9 p.m. You could win up to \$50 in Main Street Dollars—just in time for holiday shopping! Enter at each participating store you go into—so if you go into five stores, you can enter five times.

There are lots more reasons to head downtown Second Saturday. Highlights:

- Enjoy art at four spots hosting artist receptions: Dorchester Center for the Arts, 6–8 p.m.; Joie de Vivre 5–8 p.m.; Main Street Gallery, 5–8 p.m.; Maris Elaine Gallery 5–8:30 p.m. For details, see arts round-up at left.
- Listen to live jazz with Minus One at Cambridge Grill starting at 7 p.m.
- From 5–9 p.m. at Never On Tuesday Bookstore, meet authors Terry White, Arline Chase, author of *Spirit of Wind*—plus Patriot, the golden retriever of *A Golden's Retreat* (along with authors Ernest Beath and Paula Gibb).

Also, Second Saturday marks the unofficial launch of the holiday season downtown. Main Street volunteers will be putting up holiday decorations on the 400 and 500 blocks of Race Street and the 400 block of Poplar. We could use a few more volunteers. If you're interested, call Billie Jo Heister at 443.521.3909.

Plan your party
downtown!

Now's the time to plan those holiday parties! With the restoration of several historic buildings in the past year or so, downtown offers several spectacular and distinctive spots for holiday parties and other special events. Venues include Bistro Poplar, Cambridge Grill, Canvasback, Dorchester Center for the Arts, J.M. Clayton Company, Main Street Gallery, Maris Elaine Gallery, Richardson Maritime Museum, and Scoop Station. For descriptions of these venues, go to www.cambridgemainstreet.com and click on "Special Event Venues."