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Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2011

## It's all about business at Damascus Heritage Museum

People and Places | Susan Singer-Bart



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The Damascus Heritage Museum's latest exhibit, "It's all about the Business" opens today.

This exhibit includes items from businesses that are gone but not forgotten as well as new businesses in the community.

On display are old newspaper ads and memorabilia from businesses of yesteryear, as

well as ads, memorabilia, calling cards and pictures of businesses still operating in Damascus. The exhibit includes Damascus Motors and Molesworth/Williams Funeral Home, two businesses that have been in existence for several generations and are still going strong.

"We've talked to so many people in town, unfortunately there wasn't time or manpower to get to every tiny business," said Damascus Heritage Society President Linda Olsen. "Any business we missed, we would be more than happy if they came into the museum and brought us their cards and menus."

Several items are on loan from Damascus businessman and town historian Gary Richard, including the original boardroom table and the burglar alarm from the first Bank of Damascus.

"When something's going on in town or somebody's moving and they're throwing things in Dumpsters, Gary shows up and takes or buys it," Olsen said.

Richard also lent the museum a tapestry from the Druid movie theater.

Of interest from the Buck Gladhill collection are items from Scott's General Store, which closed in the 1930s. Lew Gladhill lent the museum the original 1947 sign from Gladhill Meat Market.

As a treat for Valentine's Day, Robert Williams has lent the museum his collection of antique

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valentines. From the funeral home he has lent the museum a brass lamp from a horse-drawn hearse and two sample coffins that are more than 150 years old.

The museum is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment.

Call Olsen at 301-253-1811 for information.

Damascus Heritage Society invites ladies to tea

The Damascus Heritage Society will host its second annual tea Feb. 19.

"I've heard from many people that attended last year that they loved it so much, they wanted to come back," organizer Daria King said.

The tea will be from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the Damascus Senior Center, 9701 Main St. Snow date is March 5.

Guests will enjoy homemade mini sandwiches, scones, pastries and a pot of hot tea.

"We're going to have lots of food made by members of the heritage society and their friends," King said.

A silent auction will include items ranging from a night at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Rockville and dinner coupons to McCormick and Schmick's to handmade bowls, jewelry and paintings. Escapade, a Sweet Adeline quartet, will provide the entertainment.

Children over 10 are welcome.

The \$15 admission ticket will benefit the nonprofit Damascus Heritage Museum.

Seating is limited. For reservations, call King at 301-253-1564.

Drug awareness

forum postponed

Montgomery County police officers, in cooperation with the county recreation department, will participate in a community forum in Damascus addressing concerns about teenage drug abuse.

The forum, originally scheduled for last week, will be from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday at the Damascus Community Recreation Center, 25520 Oak Drive.

Topics will include symptoms of drug abuse, reasons for teen drug abuse, negative side effects of drug abuse and guidance for parents who want to help their children.

Professionals from the Screening and Assessment Services for Children and Adolescents will be on hand to answer questions and provide guidance. Resource materials on adolescent treatment centers, drug use assessments and counseling options will be available.

On campus

Mary Wildsmith of Damascus was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Miss.

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale.

DHS seeks help

with service projects

A Damascus High School sociology class and the Environmental Club will focus this spring on two service projects to help members of the community, under the direction of social studies teacher Robert Dickie. These service projects will be conducted between now and April. 15.

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Students will be collecting clean, serviceable used clothing to donate to the Salvation Army Family Store in Gaithersburg. Donors who want a receipt for a tax deduction must take the items directly to the Salvation Army.

Students will also collect spare change to donate to the Children's Inn at NIH in Bethesda and to Fisher House at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda.

The Children's Inn and the Fisher House provide a homelike place where families can stay while their children are in the hospital with a critical illness.

For a tax-deduction receipt, contact the homes directly at <http://www.childrensinn.org> or <http://www.fisherhouse.org>.

Donations may be dropped off at Dickie's classroom, Room 134.

For information, e-mail [Robert\\_P\\_Dickie@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Robert_P_Dickie@mcpsmd.org).

Let them call you sweetheart

Want to hit the right note with a loved one on Valentine's Day?

The Montgomery County Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society will send a quartet to deliver a musical message anywhere in Montgomery County — home, office, school, hospital, nursing home, restaurant, you name it — on Feb. 11, 12, 13 or 14.

The recipient will get two classic sentimental songs, a long-stemmed silk rose and a Valentine's Day card.

Prices are \$40 for visits made within a four-hour period, \$50 for visits made within a two-hour period and \$75 for visits made at a specific time. All proceeds support the nonprofit group, part of the Hometown USA Chorus.

The deadline for placing orders is Feb. 9.

For information or to schedule a visit, call George Martin at 301-929-3446.

Apartment assistance available

Montgomery County's Rental Assistance Program will accept applications Feb. 14 to 18.

The program helps low-income households meet their monthly rental expenses. Assistance is available to legal residents who are disabled, elderly or living in households of two or more. Eligible renters can receive \$50 to \$200 per month towards their rent.

A completed application must be postmarked, hand delivered, faxed or e-mailed between Feb. 14 and 18.

All households applying during this period will be placed on a waiting list. Recipients will be selected at random when openings in the program occur.

The application is available at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov).

For information, call 240-777-4400.

Manna needs manpower

Manna Food Center in Gaithersburg is looking for adult volunteers on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3p.m. to help prepare and distribute fresh food boxes for clients.

Light to moderate lifting is required and hours are flexible.

The organization also needs volunteers to pack backpacks with healthy food for local school children. The two- to three-hour shifts are set for Monday afternoons or Friday mornings or afternoons.

To sign up, e-mail

[volunteer@mannafood.org](mailto:volunteer@mannafood.org).

Parents invited to learn

about high school

Damascus High School has rescheduled the Eighth-Grade Parent Night that was cancelled last week because of the weather. The information meeting will be held Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the school auditorium, 25921 Ridge Road. Parents and incoming ninth grade students will have an opportunity to discuss course offerings with school counselors and receive registration materials for next year's classes. For more information call the school office, 301-253-7030.

Items for People and Places must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday for consideration for the following week. They can be mailed to The Damascus-Clarksburg Gazette, 9030 Comprint Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20877; sent by fax to 301-670-7183; or e-mailed to [ssingerbart@gazette.net](mailto:ssingerbart@gazette.net). Items are used on a space-available basis.

Rec registrations now accepted

Montgomery County's Department of Recreation is now accepting registrations for its summer camps and programs. The 2011 Summer Camps and Programs guide is available at all recreation community and aquatic centers or online at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec).

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and space is limited. Individuals may register one of four ways: by mail, fax, online or in person at the Recreation Department Administrative Offices at 4010 Randolph Road, Silver Spring.

For information, call 240-777-6870.


Habitat launches new website

Gaithersburg-based Habitat for Humanity for Montgomery County has launched a new advocacy website in support of affordable housing. The goal of this endeavor is to change a NIMBY ("Not in My BackYard") neighborhood into a YIMBY ("Yes in My BackYard") one.

At [www.YIMBYMoCo.org](http://www.YIMBYMoCo.org), visitors can advocate for affordable housing by sending Facebook or Twitter updates, drafting letters or visiting elected officials.

For information, go to

[www.YIMBYMoCo.org](http://www.YIMBYMoCo.org).

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