

Letters and Correspondence

In support of Greater Crisfield Action Coalition

Over the past 15 years since I moved back home from Florida, I have watched Crisfield develop and really blossom into a town which tourism has become a large source of income for itself and local business owners. The Greater Crisfield Action Coalition (GCAC) has a plan to stimulate the native residents with opportunities, educational skills and quite frankly "the know how" to

meet the expectations of the tourist that comes to see our unique way of life. Their plan is based on common sense, realistic and obtainable goals for everyone involved, and has the residents' best interest at heart.

A few points that GCAC has impacted in my life gave me food for thought:

Educational courses for servers and hostesses to learn history and different presentations of food, restaurants and the atmospheres, knowledge and experiences they can reflect

on and add to their unique way of doing things. Myself, my daughter, and a girl that cleans with me took the hospitality course that was offered by Wor-Wic with the help of the GCAC group. It gave us educational history and the diverse knowledge of ways to incorporate originality of ourselves into what we had learned, learning the expectations of our guests and gaining confidence that we are a unique group of people!

At the end of our class we had the opportunity to have

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a fine dining experience at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City which was amazing! Without the proper education and training that we had learned before arriving and sitting down to the table we would have been overwhelmed by the table setting alone. I mean, there were 3 forks at my plate alone. In my house we had 5 forks and that's because there were 5 people, let alone to know which fork to use first. My point is without education, training and experience we cannot meet the expectations of tourists and guests coming to Crisfield.

Education and training for new businesses, opportunities to assist in opening a business, and learning how to maintain it. Let's face it, if a business owner does not know how to budget and have an understanding of sales vs. purchases, cost vs. profits and learn how to survive a winter, it will never succeed without proper education and training and result in failure.

Our storefronts are bare. Let's all move together and help the unique talents of our residents shine through the showcase windows with the knowledge to maintain them.

I could go on and on about the positive effect that the GCAC group has brought and is willing to bring to the table. I have worked with some of the board members and can say the mix

of local knowledge and the outside skills (knowing that word "outsider" causes shivers to some) but the outside skills of tourism, marketing, branding, workforce development, business building, and housing are outstanding. In this plan is a common sense layout based on knowledge of experienced people that have the town, its residents and business owners as their core objective.

What the condos and tourism have done for me has started me out with another side job which developed into a career for myself and two part-time jobs for others during the season. I attribute my success to very hard work, but mainly the understanding of the expectations of our guests and having that down to earth personality that Crisfield is known for. The "White Boot Hospitality" that GCAC refers to.

Having an understanding of their needs and understanding their way of life off the Eastern Shore, having experienced resorts and fine dining, has only enhanced my abilities to meet people's needs. My point being, education and training are a must for residents to learn before entering into any area of the hospitality business. With God's help and opportunities I will continue to grow, see a strong future for us and with the right decisions the sky is the limit.

I ask that our City Council and Mayor take great consideration that

we are all in this together and it's ultimately your decision to join hands with a group that provides the best opportunities for itself, its residents, and our future residents.

Yes Crisfield was built on crabs and oysters and that's "our story." Capitalizing on "that story" is going to be our survival for years. Tourism is the option that will sustain us for years to come. Thank you for your time.

**Tina A. Swift
Crisfield**

— Some of this letter was presented to the City Council during its Aug. 24 meeting, but time constraints prevented the entire text from being read.

Women of Immanuel UMC invite you to save the windows

On Sept. 24, Immanuel United Methodist Women will host the first of a series of "Let There Be Light" window fundraisers to benefit Immanuel's Window Restoration Project.

The main event will be a delicious Ham and Maryland Crabcake Dinner, served with fresh seasoned green beans, corn pudding, garden fresh tomatoes, assorted rolls and

Sound Off! — Write, email or call 410-968-1197

STALLED: After attending the Mayor and City Council meeting last night (Aug. 24), I can see why Crisfield has never moved forward. The

biscuits, with choice of beverage for those who dine in. The cost is \$15 and serving time is 4:30 to 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and will be on sale during the Crab Derby Hotdog/Crabcake Sale held in front of the church (206 W. Main Street) during the Crab Derby parade Sept. 3.

To compliment the dinner, there will be an extensive Bake Sale.

In addition, diners may browse the Silent Auction, with items as varied as a stay in Ocean City to a Smith Island Cake, including luggage, antique chairs, marble top tables, photographs, hand crafted quilts, Jim Shores Winnie the Pooh, and more. There's sure to be something to delight everyone!

With an ultimate goal of \$98,000 necessary to restore our lovely and priceless 100-year-old stained glass windows, we will also be accepting Restoration Sponsorships from anyone desiring to help preserve this Crisfield treasure. Immanuel Church has been attended by President Coolidge and was the church of the former Gov. J. Millard Tawes. With grateful hearts,

**The Ladies of Immanuel UMW
Crisfield**

only thing our Mayor Kim Lawson has accomplished is to build a bridge to nowhere. I have never heard someone so righteous.