

Over 100 turn out to support GCAC at first gala

Kingsbay Mansion located on Coulbourn Creek site for well-attended fundraiser

For the Crisfield-Somerset County Times

MARION — After extensive planning and a two-week postponement due to threats from Hurricane Florence, beautiful weather and an outstanding venue in Marion Station created the perfect environment for the Greater Crisfield Action Coalition's (GCAC) first annual fundraising gala — "Dining Under the Stars to Celebrate Greater Crisfield."

More than 100 guests attended the Sept. 29 event held at the Kingsbay Mansion Executive Bed & Breakfast on Coulbourn Creek. After being driven to the front entrance of the former Whittington Mansion in golf carts provided by Tawes Brothers Buick GMC, visitors were offered a tour of the house before exiting through the formal gardens and pool area onto the red carpet runway leading to a large tent where patrons were entertained by famed musician and composer David King while being served a variety of butlered hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

Brief remarks by Mr. King, Linda



Greater Crisfield Action Coalition board members Darlene Taylor and Keith Campbell are pictured with Del. Mary Beth Carozza, left, during the first fundraising gala held by the regional economic development corporation at Kingsbay Mansion in Marion. Right photo, Sen. Jim Mathias and GCAC Board member Angenette Stewart.



Singh, the event chairperson, and Donnie Drewer, GCAC vice-president were followed by a blessing by GCAC Treasurer Jay Tawes and an outstanding dinner prepared by Mr. James Washington of JJK Catering and culinary arts teacher at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. Mr. Washington was assisted by former and current students.

Student volunteers from Holly

Grove Christian School and the Crisfield Lioness Lions Leos attended to the guests under the supervision of adult volunteers. A silent auction of some 58 items closed following dinner and a live auction of another 15 plus items was conducted by auctioneer Bob Kambarn of Allen. Good-natured competition and lively bidding provided for some additional entertainment for the assembled crowd after enjoying dessert of Smith Island cake and coffee.

Guests included longtime residents, come-here's and visitors residing in at least five states. Sen. Jim Mathias and Del. Mary Beth Carozza, both candidates for Maryland's District 38 Senate seat, were there and interacted with many of the assembled guests and GCAC Board members.

Auction items were donated by more than 60 individuals and regional businesses. GCAC board members reported outstanding support from business owners in and around Crisfield and will publish a full list of sponsors and contributors, thanking them for their generous support.

Major sponsors of the event included Sharp Water, Salisbury; Tawes Insurance, Crisfield; The America Legion, Crisfield; The Bay Gift Vault, Crisfield; and The Kingsbay Mansion, Marion, each of which was recognized on the red carpet runway backdrop where many guests enjoyed having their photos taken.

Event organizers in addition to Mrs. Singh, GCAC Board member and owner of the Bay Gift Vault; were Honorary Chairperson Fran Campbell, wife of GCAC Board member Keith Campbell; and Auction Chairperson Linda Rigglin, wife of GCAC

Board member Phil Rigglin.

Other board members in attendance included Angenette Stewart, Eric Banks, Keith Campbell, and Secretary Darlene Taylor. Charlotte Scott, Frances Martinez-Myers, and Phil Rigglin each had travel conflicts as a result of postponing the event due to the threat of Hurricane Florence.

In his remarks, Mr. Drewer thanked attendees for their ongoing support and described some of the priorities of the regional economic development corporation (GCAC) over the next six months. These include conducting feasibility studies for: 1) a water taxi service connecting Somers Cove Marina, the City Dock, Janes Island State Park and other destinations; 2) a boardwalk connecting the marina to downtown to support local waterfront businesses; and 3) a possible waterpark to attract visitors and provide jobs and recreation for the local community.

All of these initiatives are part of GCAC's Five Year Action Plan published in 2016 and may be read in its entirety on the website at www.GreaterCrisfieldMD.org/plan.

In addition to funds raised through the gala, GCAC was also recently notified that it is the recipient of an \$18,000 Technical Assistance Grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. This grant is to be used to support the planning and feasibility studies needed to advance the Five Year Action Plan.

Director Keith Campbell said after the event: "There are three significant things I am taking away from this experience. First, what a wonderful job my wife Fran, Linda Singh, and Linda Rigglin did in planning and executing this event. Second, how many people approached me during the gala to say that they were totally committed to the goals of GCAC and would do whatever they could to assist us. And third, in the days after the event, how many people have said that they had a wonderful time and are looking forward to next year."

"And I also want to express my gratitude to all of the sponsors, contributors, volunteers, and attendees who made our first gala such an outstanding success."

GCAC is an IRS recognized 501 (c) (3) non-profit Community and Economic Development Corporation registered as a non-stock corporation and charity in Maryland. More information may be found at www.GreaterCrisfieldMD.org.

Tide Chart								
Date	Crisfield	Coulbourn Creek, Big Annesmessex River	Smith Isl. Ewell	Chance				
Thurs. 10/11	High	2:41 AM	High	3:06 AM	High	3:03 AM	High	3:36 AM
	Low	8:57 AM	Low	9:36 AM	Low	9:25 AM	Low	10:03 AM
	High	3:04 PM	High	3:29 PM	High	3:26 PM	High	3:59 PM
	Low	9:40 PM	Low	10:19 PM	Low	10:08 PM	Low	10:46 PM
Fri. 10/12	High	3:24 AM	High	3:49 AM	High	3:46 AM	High	4:19 AM
	Low	9:39 AM	Low	10:18 AM	Low	10:07 AM	Low	10:45 AM
	High	3:47 PM	High	4:12 PM	High	4:09 PM	High	4:42 PM
	Low	10:28 PM	Low	11:07 PM	Low	10:56 PM	Low	11:34 PM
Sat. 10/13	High	4:08 AM	High	4:33 AM	High	4:30 AM	High	5:03 AM
	Low	10:22 AM	Low	11:01 AM	Low	10:50 AM	Low	11:28 AM
	High	4:30 PM	High	4:55 PM	High	4:52 PM	High	5:25 PM
	Low	11:16 PM	Low	11:55 PM	Low	11:44 PM		
Sun. 10/14	High	4:52 AM	High	5:17 AM	High	5:14 AM	Low	12:22 AM
	Low	11:07 AM	Low	11:46 AM	Low	11:35 AM	High	5:47 AM
	High	5:16 PM	High	5:41 PM	High	5:38 PM	Low	12:13 PM
							High	6:11 PM
Mon. 10/15	Low	12:07 AM	Low	12:46 AM	Low	12:35 AM	Low	1:13 AM
	High	5:41 AM	High	6:06 AM	High	6:03 AM	High	6:36 AM
	Low	11:57 AM	Low	12:36 PM	Low	12:25 PM	Low	1:03 PM
	High	6:06 PM	High	6:31 PM	High	6:28 PM	High	7:01 PM
Tues. 10/16	Low	1:02 AM	Low	1:41 AM	Low	1:30 AM	Low	2:08 AM
	High	6:35 AM	High	7:00 AM	High	6:57 AM	High	7:30 AM
	Low	12:53 PM	Low	1:32 PM	Low	1:21 PM	Low	1:59 PM
	High	7:01 PM	High	7:26 PM	High	7:23 PM	High	7:56 PM
Wed. 10/17	Low	1:59 AM	Low	2:38 AM	Low	2:27 AM	Low	3:05 AM
	High	7:35 AM	High	8:00 AM	High	7:57 AM	High	8:30 AM
	Low	1:56 PM	Low	2:35 PM	Low	2:24 PM	Low	3:02 PM
	High	8:01 PM	High	8:26 PM	High	8:23 PM	High	8:56 PM



Linda Singh, event chairperson, speaks to the guests prior to dinner served by Jim Washington of JJK Catering. He is also the culinary arts teacher at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center and his workers include former and current students.

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