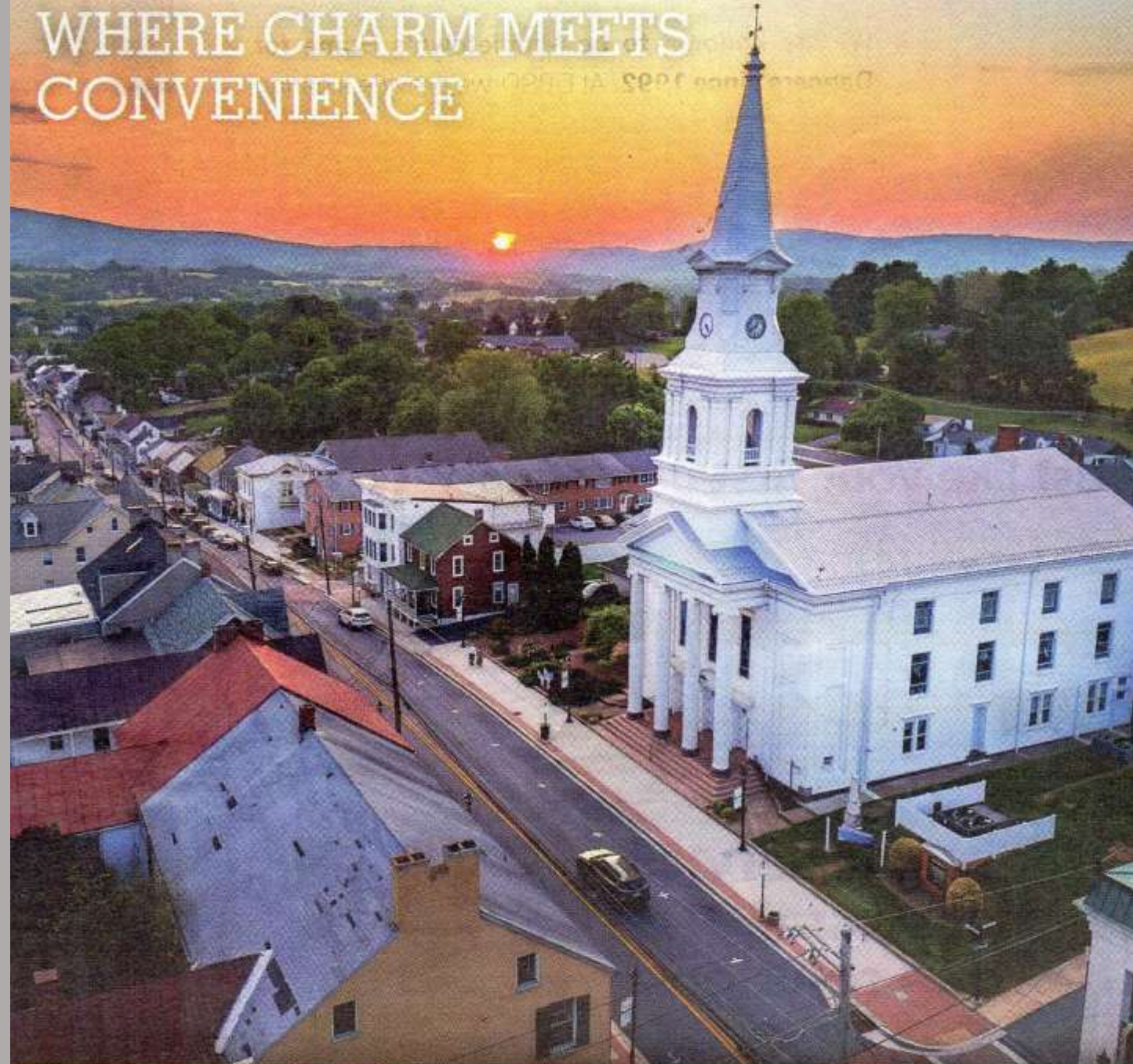


**My daughter,  
Shelly, and I  
bought a  
house in the  
center of  
Middletown  
and moved in  
during  
October 2022.**



WHERE CHARM MEETS  
CONVENIENCE

MAINSTREETMIDDLETOWN.

Right away we noticed that something was going on.

It was the annual Scarecrow Contest. All along a central set of blocks on Main St., scarecrows were standing in a kind of welcome.

Here is one from the 2022 array.

We remembered this event from many years earlier. In the 70s, we lived in the Middletown Valley and Shelly graduated from the Middletown High School in 1980. She feels a bit like she's come home.

I've always been impressed with the Scarecrow Contest as an event that signals Middletown's strong sense of itself as a community.

It seems to me to require a full documentation and that is what this piece is about.



First, like any well-run group project there was a set of rules. There were two parts.

## Middletown's 2023 Scarecrow Contest Information & Rules



The *Middletown Arts and Activities Council* (MAAC) is happy to have you participate in the

### 16th Annual Middletown Scarecrow Contest!

*This contest is open to all Middletown Valley groups, businesses, families, and individuals.*

#### Important dates & Information:

1. This is a family event. Please no political or excessively violent scarecrows, or weapons of any sort!
2. The Middletown Arts and Activities Council reserves the right to reject any entry that is inappropriate.
3. Completed scarecrows are due back to the Municipal Center on or before October 13, 2023, by 4:00pm.
4. Scarecrows will be displayed along Main Street from October 14<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>.
5. The scarecrow entries will be judged by the community on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Ballots will be provided beginning at 2:00pm at the municipal center. Voting ends at 5:00pm with winners being announced after the ballots have been counted.
6. Scarecrows should be removed by their creator by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Any scarecrow that is not taken down by said date will be removed by the MAAC and discarded.
7. Should you realize that you will not be participating in the contest, PLEASE return the unused kit to the Municipal Center.

## Rules and Regulations:

- Your completed scarecrow should be no more than 4' wide and 6.5' tall.
- Scarecrows must be structurally sound since they will be displayed outdoors.
- Store bought masks are discouraged.
- Completed scarecrows are due back to the Municipal Center by October 13th.
- Scarecrows will be displayed along Main Street from October 14th through October 31st.
- The Middletown Arts and Activities Council will hang your scarecrow on October 14th.
- The scarecrow entries will be judged by the community on October 14th. Ballots will be provided beginning at 2:00 at the municipal center. Voting ends at 5:00 with winners being announced after the ballots have been counted.
- Prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Burgess' Choice in 2 Categories: Individual/Family and Business/Organization. Winners do not have to be present.
- Winners will be listed on the Town's website: [www.middletown.md.us](http://www.middletown.md.us)
- Scarecrows should be removed by the creator by November 1st. Any scarecrow that is not taken down by said date will be removed by the Middletown Arts and Activities Council and discarded.
- The Middletown Arts and Activities Council does not assume any liability for damage or loss of any scarecrow entry.

**The Middletown Arts and Activities Council reserves the right to reject any entry that is inappropriate.**

**They don't want weapons on the scarecrows, but this is in tension with some of their design suggestions: e.g. policemen or soldiers.**

**There was no restriction on who helps build the scarecrow. Ours was very much a group effort. Shelly suggested that we build a Jimmy Buffett scarecrow. Judy Heflin, a workmate of Shelly's, did the face on the head. I donated two shirts and a pair of pants and found a felt parrot in an Ohio antique store. A friend donated the ukelele. Shelly put it all together.**

**We didn't win...seemed not even to place. But it was fun.**

**Shelly**



**I wanted to document this year's Scarecrow Contest as well as I could.**

**This is Jen Rhiannon, who passes out the applications, and takes in the completed scarecrows. 65 applications were passed out and 61 scarecrows were submitted. No disqualifications.**



On the left is an early submission. Center and right are another in the street and coming through the door.



We didn't know it, but this second one was a winner.



Scarecrows are brought into the Middletown office and placed up and to the left at the edge of where the Burgess and the Commissioners meet. It got kind of crowded. Of course, this is just a taste.



**Warning**, unless you really like scarecrows, what follows may seem a bit much.

There going to be several views of most of them.







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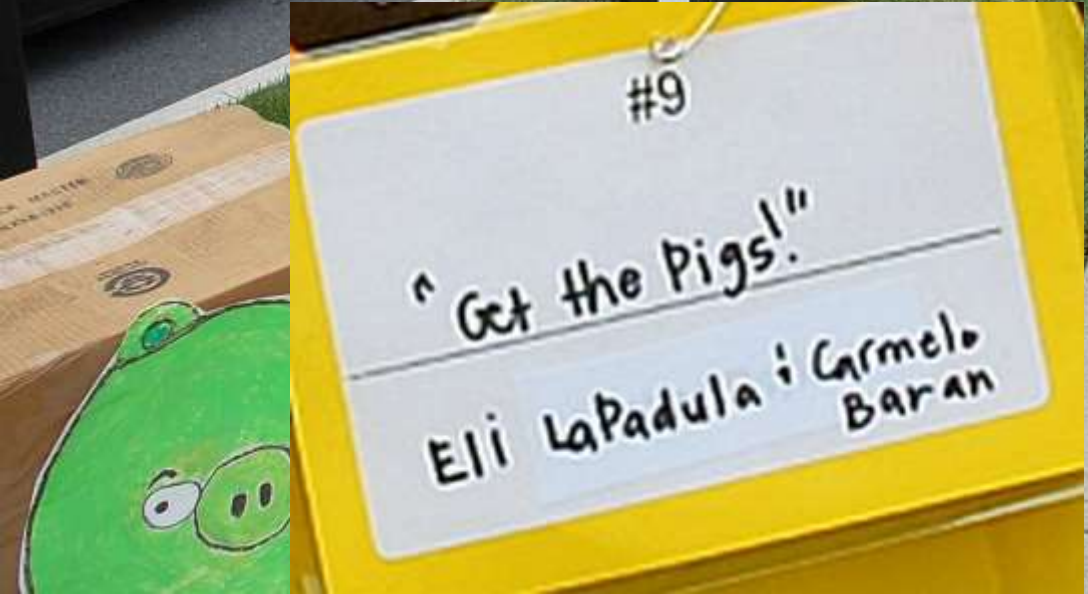
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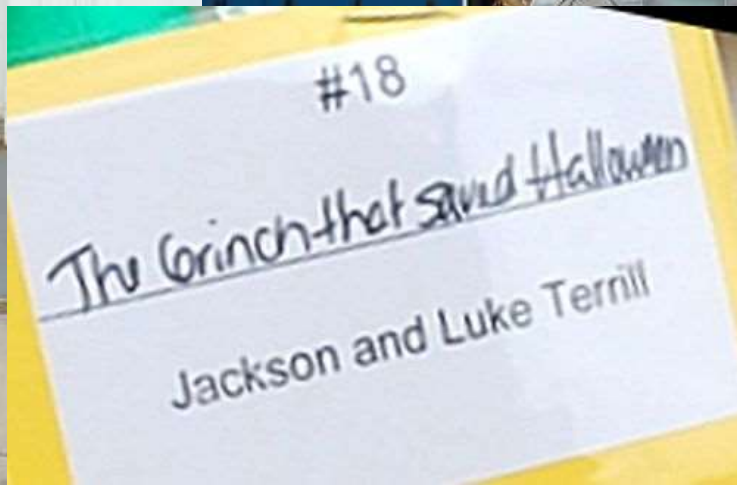
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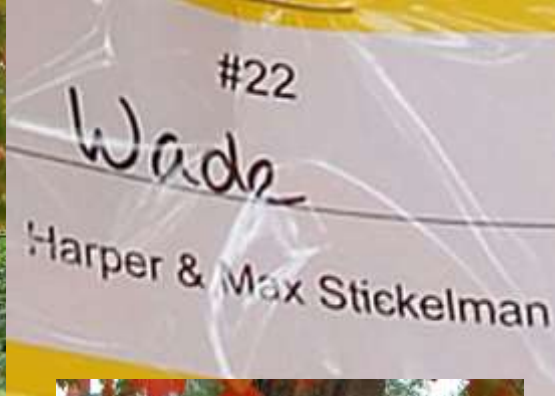


← Light control  
on back





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Back



Back  
comp. &  
back detail



Back









Back







#36  
Mr. Stay Puff  
The Hill Family



#36  
Mr. Stay Puff  
The Hill Family

Back





Back





#41  
Mr. Amazon Prime  
(Rainforest)  
The Baron Family

#41  
Mr. Amazon Prime  
(Rainforest)  
The Baron Family



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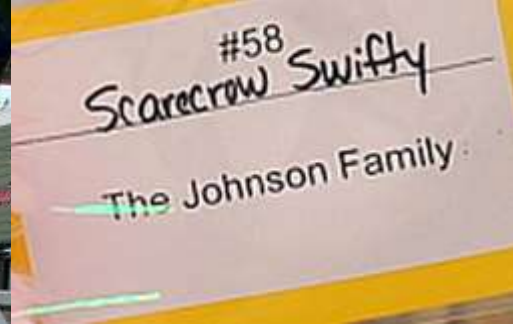
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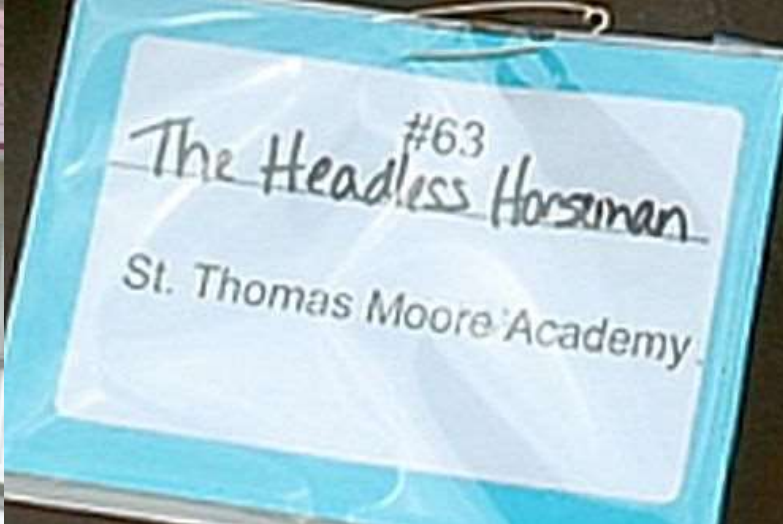


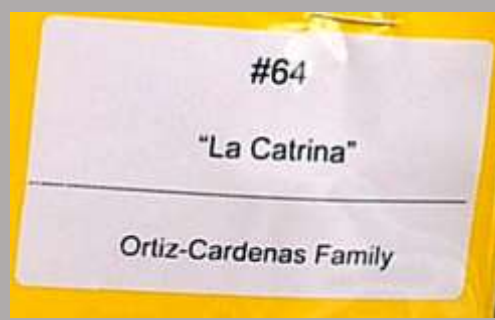


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## 16th Annual Scarecrow Contest WINNERS!!

Congratulations to the Winners of the 16th Annual Scarecrow Contest! Thank you to everyone who participated. This year's entries are fantastic. Scarecrows will be up on Main Street until October 31st so if you didn't get a chance to see them yet, head down for an autumn stroll and take a look.

And the winners are.....

Individual/family:

1st Place: The Pak Family- "The Headless Horseman- Luigi"

2nd Place: The Kolbe Family - "Happy Little Main Street"

3rd Place: The Boozer Family - "We Miss You, Dad!"

Burgess' Choice: Ortiz-Cardenas Family - "La Catrina"

Business/Organization:

1st Place: Middletown Primary School Pre-K3 - "Blippi"

2nd Place: Lucy School - "Totally 'Owl'some"

3rd Place: Middletown Volunteer Fire Company - "Save the Day"

Burgess' Choice: Cub Scout Pack 476,  
Middletown/Myersville - "Minecraft Zombie"

[read more](#)