

Susquehanna Habitat finishes first home of combined group

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, the ecumenical non-profit housing organization devoted to building, renovating and repairing homes for low-income families, dedicated its inaugural Cecil County home at 28 Cherry Lane in Elkton last month.

This is the first project completed as the newly merged Habitat Susquehanna affiliate, which formed from the partnership of Habitat for Humanity of Cecil County and Harford Habitat for Humanity.

The ceremony welcomed the Warren-Price family as they cut the ribbon across the front door of their new home. Refreshments were provided by Milburn Orchards, Cakes by Crystal and Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union.

The house was built primarily by students from the Cecil County School of Technology in two parts before it was transported to its Cherry Lane location. Volunteers from Harford and Cecil counties pitched in to complete

the finishing touches.

This project was made possible by many generous sponsors, including PNC Bank; APGFCU; Hollywood Casino; Wachovia Foundation; Artesian Resources; Dennis A. Reynolds Trucking and Excavating; John Price Trucking; The Lions Club of Rising Sun; McCrone Engineering; Maryland Materials; Rising Sun Chamber of Commerce; TitlePoint; Valspar Paint; Whirlpool Corporation; The Gutter Guys; Delmarva Power; York Building Projects; Cecil County Sheriff Barry Janney; Carl D. Roberts; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Pugh; Weyrich, Cronin and Sorra; The Baltimore Community Foundation; and Survice Engineering Company.

The Warren-Price family thanked the many sponsors, donors and volunteers who helped to bring their dreams to life.

"This is what we've been working for," Laura Price said. "We do appreciate this very much."

Wegmans opens in Abingdon

Harford County's highly-competitive grocery market became just a bit more crowded last month with the much-anticipated opening of the new Wegman's in Box Hill Square in Abingdon.

The 122,000 square-foot supermarket at Box Hill Square includes a Market Café with indoor and outdoor seating for more than 200; a Day Boat station for cutting whole fish delivered daily directly to the store; 700 different fruits and vegetables on any given day, with 100 or more organic and many local offerings; and prepared foods ranging from fresh sushi and home-style barbecue to a delicious array of Asian-inspired dishes at the Wokery and hot and cold selections at the Vegetarian Bar.

When Al Jackson, store manager of the new Wegmans Bel Air, talks about his reasons for moving to Maryland five years ago, his eyes light up.

"This is where the action is," he says. "We're breaking new ground, opening stores in areas where people don't know that much about Wegmans. It's a chance to test ourselves, to see if we're up to the challenge."

It's a big ship to captain. A 22-year Wegmans' veteran, Jackson, feels every step along the way has prepared him for the responsibility of running the new store. He joined Wegmans as an assistant deli and prepared foods manager in his hometown of Buffalo, N.Y.

For Jackson, one of the greatest joys of

opening the new store has been assembling the 520-member team.

"We found such an excellent pool of candidates in and around Harford County eager for an opportunity to join our team," he says. "About 85 percent of our people live nearby. Our customers will be shopping with their own friends and neighbors."

He was also impressed with the skills these employees bring to their jobs.

"A lot of positions here require serious culinary skills," he says. "In full view of the customers, we have folks finishing desserts by hand, including authentic French pastries at our in-store Patisserie. Others cut whole fish - swordfish, halibut, rockfish - to order at the Day Boat station, prepare meals in the open kitchen at The Food Bar or do cooking demonstrations that show how easy it can be to prepare nutritious meals at home."

More than \$1.6 million was invested in training alone before the store opened.

Wegmans Food Markets is a 78-store supermarket chain with stores in New York, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and, soon, Massachusetts. The family-owned company was founded in 1916. For 14 consecutive years, it has ranked high on the FORTUNE magazine's list of "The 100 Best Companies to Work for," placing third in 2011. The Bel Air store will be its fourth in Maryland.

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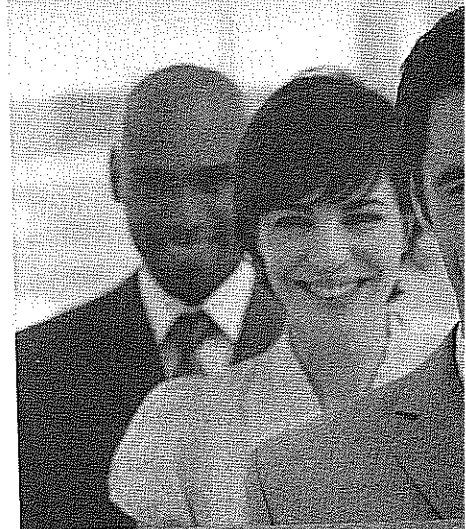
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