

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Linda Hughes, 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Group PR, [puffpiece@verizon.net](mailto:puffpiece@verizon.net), 410-263-8733 or Phyllis Emmett, [Phyllis.Emmett@motorola.com](mailto:Phyllis.Emmett@motorola.com), 410-267-8218

**ECA's Home & Garden Tour Tickets Available Online, Local Merchants**

*Plein Air Artists to Showcase Participating Homes & Gardens*

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 7)** – Curious to know what lies behind closed doors in some of Eastport's most charming cottages and homes? Now you have your chance with the Eastport Civic Association's (ECA) 4th Annual Home & Garden Tour to be held on Fathers' Day, Sunday, June 21, 1- 5 p.m.

"Our home and garden tour gives folks a chance to step inside and see the surprises behind the doors of Annapolis' most diverse neighborhood," says Phyllis Emmett, tour chair. "Participants will stroll through an array of unique homes and gardens including the old Eastport firehouse circa 1910 and the first house on the Eastport Peninsula to have an indoor bathroom. Homes like these highlight the extraordinary maritime culture of our historic neighborhood."

Advance tickets for this exceptional "insider's" opportunity are available for \$20 at Ahh, Coffee!, Palate Pleasers and Eastport Deli (all in the Eastport Shopping Center), K & B True Value Hardware Store on 912 Forest Drive and Fawcett at City Dock. Tickets are also available online with major credit cards and PayPal at [www.eastportcivic.org](http://www.eastportcivic.org). Tickets will be available the day of the tour for \$25 at Tour Headquarters -- the renowned maritime business building "222 Severn Avenue." The property, listed on the National Historic Registry, is the former Trumpy Boatyard.

Supporting merchants will display the Eastport Home & Garden Tour poster and have informative postcards available. Posters and postcards are based on a watercolor by Rosemary Freitas Williams, an Eastport resident. This year's poster features: A window box of summer flowers beneath a window reflecting boat masts, the old covered shed (now *Chart House*) with the old *Trumpy & Sons, Inc.* sign softly echoed in the glass. The tour poster and more of her work may be seen at [WatercolorsByRosemary.com](http://WatercolorsByRosemary.com).

Patsy Helmetag, who illustrated and co-wrote the children's book, *Cecily Cicada* in 2004, collaborated with Williams for each of the Home & Garden Tours. She does the graphic design for the tour's program, posters, postcards and tickets. She can be reached at [patsyhelmetag@yahoo.com](mailto:patsyhelmetag@yahoo.com).

-more-

As an extra attraction, more than 20 artists from the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association will be outdoors painting the tour properties *Plein Air*. Tour participants will be able to view many of the completed works which will also be available for purchase at 222 Severn Ave. beginning at 4:30 p.m.

The ECA sponsors this annual event to further its mission of safeguarding the residential and maritime quality of Eastport and engaging in activities that promote, improve and protect the civic interest and well being of the community. Proceeds from the tour benefit community charities and improvement projects. The 2008 tour drew 450 people and raised more than \$7,000 for Eastport charity projects, including funding 10 Eastport Elementary children to attend an enrichment camp, and contributed funding for the flower baskets on the Eastport bridge.

For up-to-date information see [www.eastportcivic.org](http://www.eastportcivic.org).

-30-

News release & media dissemination provided by Linda Hughes, 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Group PR, 410-263-8733, puffpiece@verizon.net.