



THE DIXON HOUSE
Independent and Assisted Living

108 N. Higgins Street
Easton, MD 21601

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Easton, MD
Permit No 94



OCTOBER 2015

VOL.1 NO.1

A VIEW FROM *the* PORCH

THE DIXON HOUSE INDEPENDENT AND ASSISTED LIVING

DIXONHOUSE.ORG • 410-822-6661 • 108 NORTH HIGGINS STREET

•YARD SALE•

Join us on Saturday,
November 14, 2015 for our
annual YARD SALE starting at
7am. All proceeds are used for
activities for the residents.

For further information
contact Brittany Jarboe at
410-822-6661.

DONATIONS
APPRECIATED!

Board of Directors

John Atwood *President*

Verna Asplen

Gregory Bailey

Dorothy Fenwick

Joan Muzzillo

Craig Siebert

Mike Thielke

Phyllis Widerkehr

The mission of The Dixon House, a non-profit independent and assisted living facility, is to provide high quality and affordable residential care to seniors in an enriching home-like environment.

Wish List

We are in need of the following items to help enhance our resident activities and programs.

- arts and craft supplies*
- old movies (DVD's & VCR tapes)*
- birdseed for our feeders*
- fall flowers and decorations*
- small screen TV*

Thank you!

Director's Letter



This is the debut of our newly designed newsletter, *A View from the Porch*, glimpses into life at The Dixon House, including our activities, residents, staff and board members. We are so excited to be able to offer this resource to help people learn more about what The Dixon House does and how we are serving

the aging community in a unique way. Because our front porch has been an iconic symbol of our building for over 100 years, imagine how excited I was when I found the poem to the right written by one of our previous residents, Monica Ernst! I am reminded of how beloved the front porch is for residents. Today, The Dixon House actually has three porches where residents can spend time relaxing and socializing.

As a private, non-profit corporation, The Dixon House has the mission to provide high quality and affordable care for men and women in an enriching home like setting. Trained and caring staff assist our residents with hands-on care, health care management, and medications administration and oversight. Stop by The Dixon House at meal time and you will smell the aroma of home-cooked meals wafting into our foyer. Daily activities and outings are planned for all of our residents' enjoyment. This month we had a birthday bash, complete with a band, to celebrate the significant birthdays of our residents Milton Agreen (106) and Oneita McCall (105). We even had the Mayor, our State Senator, and a representative from the Governor's Office in attendance! Finally, we could not fulfill our mission without the generous support of our friends in the community. Please remember us when you receive our year end appeal so that we may continue to provide needed services to the aging population in our community. This year we hope to upgrade and expand the security system for our 10,000 sq. ft. residence. Your ongoing support is appreciated.

Linda Elben
Executive Director

Our Beloved Porch

By Monica Ernst, past resident of The Dixon House

*The steps are back
and we are glad.
Without our porch
has been pretty bad.
We love to go out every day.*

*Some went out
to sit and think.
Some went out
to catch a wink;
Others went just
to watch the traffic flow
or to see people
come and go.
But we loved to go out every day.*

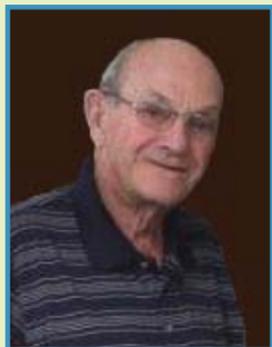
*Sometimes we watched
squirrels and birds;
often we just exchanged
Pleasant words;
some came only
to sit and rock;
to watch more birds –
a great big flock.
we loved to go out every day.*

*Happily we watched the trees
blow up there in the breeze,
we'd watch the clouds
hoping for a storm
but never did one form.
Still we'd go out every day.*

*Now let's all thank God
for the brand new steps
for we'll be happy again
as we come out
on our porch once more.
When we come through that door
we see the world
from our beloved porch.
We'll still come out every day!*

Board Profile: Board President John Atwood

Committed to Community Service



Pictured is John Atwood of Easton, Board President of The Dixon House Board of Directors.

At age 83, John Atwood of Easton, Board President of The Dixon House, could run circles around the property and still have energy to do one thing more! A member of The Dixon House Board of Directors since 2007, John initially became involved with the organization through his wife Sandy, who was a member of the Board of Directors for nine years. He would come with Sandy to help with chores at the residence like gardening and eventually donating the fenced-in area at The Dixon House. When Sandy became ill, John was elected to the Board of Directors and has been here ever since.

I love walking through the door – it feels like you are walking into a home, not an institution.

Linda Elben, Executive Director of The Dixon House, comments, “Mr. Atwood is always here and supportive of our events at The Dixon House and loves communicating with the families of residents here.”

Born and raised in Boston by a blue collar family, he served in the Navy when he turned 18 years old. Later, he studied civil engineering at Tufts University on the GI Bill. He worked with General Electric on the Polaris guidance system before beginning a career

with Black & Decker. He was transferred to Easton’s Black & Decker to open the plant in 1974 and served as the Plant Manager. He retired in 1992 and decided to stay in Easton. He comments, “I liked the informality of living here, as well as the four seasons.”

He is an avid golfer and can be found on the golf course five days a week. But it is his deep commitment and love of the community that really shines through when you talk with him. He has spent his life committed to community service. Among the civic organizations on which he has served are Adkins Arboretum, Talbot County Cancer Board, Talbot County Planning and Zoning, St. Peter and Paul Parish, the Rotary Club, Talbot County Relay for Life, the Talbot County Country Club, Hog Neck Golf Course, Caroline Country Club, and of course, The Dixon House.

When asked about his love of The Dixon House, he states, “I have always wanted to support The Dixon House. It has always had a good foundation.” He adds, “I love walking through the door – it feels like you are walking into a home, not an institution. We cater to those living on limited incomes. What gives me comfort is when I see how our employees give comfort and care to the residents here.”

Dixon House Residents Celebrate Birthdays With Fanfare!

You could hear the band playing from down the street. Balloons lined the porch railings, announcing that a party was about to begin. This was not just any party – it was a party celebrating the birthdays of Dixon House residents Milton Agreen (age 106) and Oneita McCall (age 105). According to Linda Elben, executive director of The Dixon House, “We even had the Mayor, our State Senator, and a representative from the Governor’s Office in attendance to celebrate with us.”

Both Milton and Oneita spent the afternoon toe-tapping on the porch to songs of bygone days played by the Free and Easy Band. Both residents seemed to enjoy the nostalgia of the old tunes. Oneita lived in Cambridge much of her life – working in a restaurant with her husband for many years and volunteering at Soup Day at St. Paul’s Church in Cambridge up until the age of 94. She was able to live independently until she was 96 years old. When asked, her children comment that she

has lived a healthy life – maintaining her weight and taking good care of herself. Her stepdaughter Betty McCall, adds, “I love the care she gets at The Dixon House. It feels like an extension of our family.”

Milton worked for years as an accountant and Post Office worker. He moved to Easton in 2000 from Florida. Although his wife died in 2001 after 60 years of marriage to Milton, he maintained driving his car until age 96. When his children were asked about their father’s longevity, they shared a comment from Milton’s sister, Elsie Agreen, who said that Milton was a teetotaler and would probably live forever. His daughter-in-law, Linda Agreen, comments, “It’s been wonderful for him at The Dixon House. He has peers to be social with and we feel he is being cared for here.”

Both residents received proclamations from the Governor and State of Maryland Senate. Mayor Bob Willey, who was in attendance, comments, “I have been coming to The Dixon House for many years. It’s nice to see the residence providing this much-needed service for the town.”



Pictured back row, left to right, are: Board Member Mike Thielke, Mayor Bob Willey, Board President John Atwood, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs – Office of the Governor; and Maryland Senator Addie Eckardt. Pictured front row, left to right are Oneita McCall and Milton Agreen, residents at The Dixon House.



Pictured left to right are Dixon House residents Oneita McCall and Milton Agreen at their recent birthday party.

Staff Profile: Roxie Thomas



Pictured is Dixon House staff member Roxie Thomas.

Roxie Thomas began her career with The Dixon House in June 1997 as a housekeeper, caring for The Dixon House facility. Today, Roxie is a Resident Aide, caring for all the residents’ laundry and providing them with personal care. She is affectionately nicknamed the “Good Morning Girl” as she wakes up and assists residents with their morning routines. Roxie comments, “I do all I can for the residents.”

During her time at The Dixon House, Roxie remembers that there was an infirmary located where the Craft Room is now. When residents were ill, they would stay in the infirmary until they were better. Another memory she has is of meal time at The Dixon House when residents would dress up for all the meals. Residents would change their clothes for each meal with women wearing dresses and skirts to attend.

Most of all, Roxie enjoys getting to know each resident and learning about their lives. She comments, “You can learn a whole lot from them.”

Her co-workers applaud her kindness and caring nature – pointing out that as their co-worker, Roxie helps in any way she can.

She is affectionately nicknamed the “Good Morning Girl” as she wakes up and assists residents with their morning routines.

Roxie loves that The Dixon House feels it’s just like home, adding, “When you walk in the door you feel welcomed here.”

Around Town



After an outing to the Chesapeake Maritime Museum compliments of Tracey Munson, Dixon House residents were treated to ice cream at Justine’s compliments of Pixel Print & Post.



The Free and Easy Band provided front porch entertainment with some oldies, but goodies!

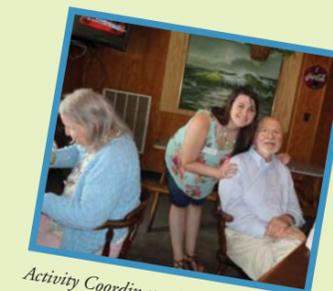


The weather was perfect for the annual Memorial Day Picnic on the front porch.

Around Our House



The Dixon House was selected as the recipient of The Lighthouse Project, an annual companywide service of BB & T. Staff members from BB & T donated two new rocking chairs, a lightweight wheelchair, and a variety of flowering plants and bushes for the yard. Staff members then spent the afternoon improving the landscape at The Dixon House as residents looked on from the front porch.



Activity Coordinator Brittany Jarboe and Dixon House resident George Irwin enjoy a lunch outing at the Old Mill Deli.