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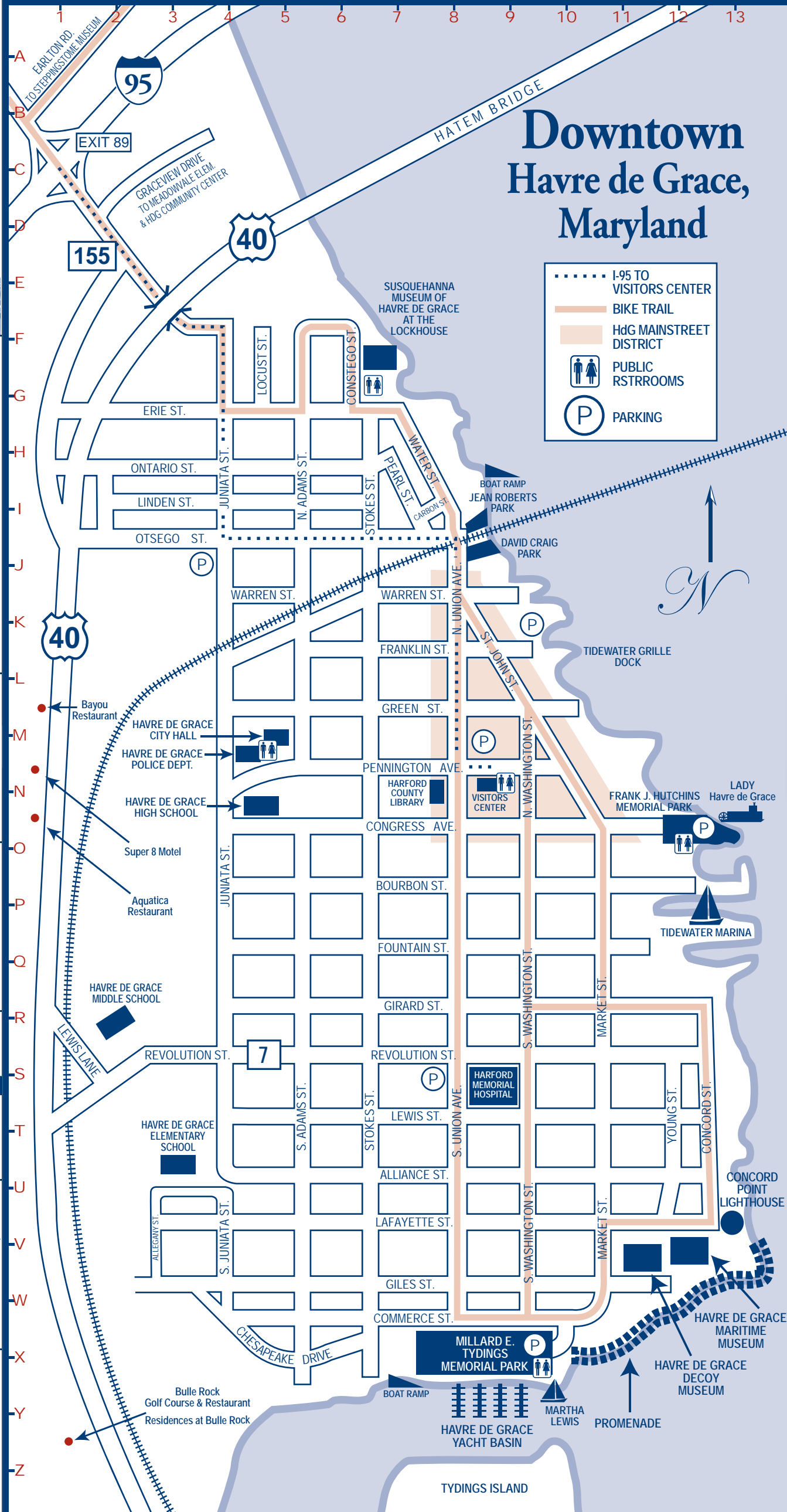
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THE STORY OF OUR TOWN

In 1608, Captain John Smith became the first European to see the Susquehanna River. He was followed sporadically by trappers and traders who camped on Palmer's Island (now Garrett). By 1795, a ferry was established at Susquehanna Crossing, between what are now Havre e Grace and Perryville.
 In 1771, the young Marquis de Lafayette stayed in Rodger's tavern while waiting for the ferry. He was heard to remark on the beauty of the area, and so noted in his journal. His remark, "C'est Le Havre de Grace" stuck, and was used on a survey map compiled by Robert Young Stokes in 1781. It was made official two years later.
 During the War of 1812, the British once again blockaded the Chesapeake, raiding and burning towns along its shores. On May 3, 1813, a landing party from Admiral Cockburn's fleet rowed toward Havre de Grace. Local militiamen, led by John O'Neil put up a spirited defense. Alas, they were repulsed and the British captured O'Neil and burned the town. O'Neil's daughter rowed out to Cockburn's flagship and pleaded with the admiral for her father's freedom, which the admiral gallantly granted.
 In 1827, the Concord Point Lighthouse (V13) was built at the confluence of the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay.

In 1840, the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal opened at the site of the present Lockhouse (F7). It created a navigable waterway from the Chesapeake Bay into central Pennsylvania, linking Havre de Grace with canals that went all the way to the Mississippi. That same year, the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Wilmington Railroad reached town. Originally, rail cars were unhitched from their locomotives and rolled onto a ferry that took them across the river, where they were hitched to the northbound train on the other side. This system prevailed until a bridge was finally built in 1866.
 The P.B. & W was absorbed into the larger Pennsylvania Railroad, and with a new B&O track built in the 1880's, high speed rail service began to eclipse the town and the canal. Havre de Grace became a center of local trade. Canaries, fish packing houses, icehouses and light manufacturing dominated the town. The Canal fell into decay after the Civil War and was abandoned in 1896.
 By then Havre de Grace was gaining a new fame as a hunting and fishing capital. Sportsmen from up and down the east coast came to the town for the waterfowl. Waterman made their living hunting duck in sink boxes, catching hundreds in a single day, and loading them on the morning trains for the restaurants and hotels in Philadelphia. Their life, and this period are preserved at the Decoy Museum (L10).

The Havre de Grace Racetrack opened in 1912, attracting a new and different kind of sportsman. Pari-mutuel betting was not legal in New Jersey, New York or Connecticut before the War, and excursion trains brought loads of gamblers to Havre de Grace every day. With the coming of Prohibition, the town developed a reputation as a "Little Chicago".
 The new bridge carrying the dual highway (U.S. Rt. 40) opened in 1940 and took automobile traffic away from the old town. Prohibition ended in 1933, and the racetrack closed in 1950. For the next few decades, Havre de Grace was suspended in a quiet slumber, bypassed by suburbanization.
 In the 1970's and 80's, we began to explore and preserve our rich heritage. These efforts attracted visitors such as you, who have come to enjoy our beautiful location, our wonderful tree lined streets and magnificent old houses. Learn more about our town at the Havre de Grace Visitor's Center (N9), stroll our Promenade (W11-13), and visit our Museums (N13), (L10), (V11), (V13), (A1), (F7); and please make sure you stroll downtown and visit our fine shops and restaurants, many of whom made this publication possible.

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