



Photo by Len Saltiel

# LIBRETTO

## SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

**JULY 2021**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To enhance the quality of life and promote a harmonious community through the timely publication of accurate information about residents, events, and activities in and around Symphony Village.

**Welcome to the Neighborhood!**



Bob and Jean Davis  
137 Sonata Way

Doug & Kathy Rambo  
320 Overture Way

Ann M. Sharp, Terry Z. Vakas, & Zoe T. O'Brien  
170 Symphony Way

## 2021 HOA BOD

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS & ACTION ITEMS – JULY 2021**

**DEBI WELLS, HOA BOARD SECRETARY**

As the Symphony Village HOA Secretary, it is my pleasure to communicate regularly with residents on behalf of the Board through these monthly messages and HOA community meetings. Additionally, if you have a concern or suggestion, please let the Board know by dropping your message into the Suggestion Box in the Wall Street Room or submit an online message via the Symphony Village Website [Suggestion Box](#).

Since the June 4 HOA Board meeting, there have been three Board email votes: The first was a recommendation from the Landscape & Irrigation Committee to remove vegetation around the community's three stormwater ponds. To avoid more vegetative growth and that cost, the Board made a motion on June 17 to approve a Solitude Lake Management proposal to remove the vegetation for ~\$2.9K from operating funds. The motion was unanimously approved on June 18.





# CENTREVILLE FARMERS' MARKET

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1. Executive Assistant. With Express Employment, if the temporary hire is a good fit, that candidate can be converted to the HOA payroll at no additional charge after 720 hours (18 weeks). To expedite the Executive Assistant replacement, the Board initiated and approved a motion on June 24 to approve hiring a temporary candidate.
2. The third email vote, on July 8, was to satisfy an emergency Clubhouse HVAC failure. On June 28, contractors investigated the HVAC unit servicing the Card Room, Craft Room, and Billiard Room and confirmed a new unit was necessary. It was also determined the 10—12 year old office and lobby units had outlasted their projected working expectancy. At a price NTE ~\$50K from the Reserve Fund, a motion was made and approved to purchase and install two new indoor and two new outdoor units to replace these existing HVAC systems by the Clubhouse maintenance contractor, Northern Bay.

These email votes will be ratified at the August 6 HOA Board meeting at the Clubhouse.

As stated in the HOA document, *Terms of Reference*, the HOA General Manager is authorized to approve contracts of \$3K or less. When the Artisan Guild requested a replacement TV for the Craft Room to use for art lessons online, the Board supported that request, using Reserve Funds. The TV will be installed soon. Then, the Artisan Guild will initiate the online lessons, offered to all in the community on a first-come/first-served basis.

While these highlights typically do not mention eBlasts sent by the Board, since ~300 households are Suburban Propane customers, we want to take this opportunity to again mention the eBlast sent on June 25. That eBlast included an attachment directly from Suburban Propane to their customers in SV. It identified a cost increase and recommended every resident contact the new Suburban manager, Jon Salkeld, to give him an email address for future notifications. It is our understanding there will not be annual contracts in the future. If you want to review that eBlast again, this is the [link](#).



**Volunteers welcomed!** There are a number of projects the Board is undertaking for the community. If you have an expertise you'd like to offer, please contact us. Currently, we are determining the best path forward for the audio/visual equipment on both sides of our Concert Hall in the Clubhouse. Have knowledge of audio/visual equipment and/or its operations? Please contact the Board ([Board@symphonyvillagehoa.com](mailto:Board@symphonyvillagehoa.com)). We'd appreciate your help.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### **ARTISANS GUILD**

**SUE CANFIELD, CHAIR**



### **LANDSCAPES, SEASCAPES, AND BEYOND...**

Our new art show is ready for viewing. Our show opened on Sunday, June 27. We had a wonderful reception attended by many Symphony Village residents. Thank you, Donna and Skip, for making refreshments available; snacks were provided by the Artisans Guild.

We have such a wide variety of artists. It is incredible to see what they can produce every three months. This show is not online. You must come to the Concert Hall to see it in all its glory. But the experience of seeing the art hanging is like going to a museum. We even had music played by resident Sandy Cheyne.

Susan Rayner was our featured artist for the day! Susan loves to entertain and presented us with two "Table-Scapes." One was a formal setting with beautiful plates and glasses. It made you want to sit down and be waited on! The other was an informal picnic setting with yummy food provided by Zina Lichaa.

This show showcased featured artist, Joseph Lichaa. His wall is full of incredible pieces that he has created throughout the years. It is a “must see” display.

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## COVENANTS COMMITTEE

VICKI KOBER, CHAIR

### INFORMATION FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Bird Houses and Bird Feeders**

Bird houses and bird feeders are permitted only in the Private Area in the rear of the Homeowner’s Lot. Bird houses and/or bird feeders must be located in garden beds only. No bird houses or bird feeders are permitted in the front of the house.

- **Lawn Furniture, Garden Equipment, and Play Equipment**

Lawn furniture must be stored nightly within the Private (patio) Area and shall not be left on other portions of the Lot so as to impede mowing and maintenance activities.

Children’s swing sets and other non-portable play sets are not permitted on Private Areas.

Garden equipment, including but not limited to, sprinklers, wheelbarrows, carts, and gardening tools shall be stored when not in use. Storage shall not be visible from the street.

Garden hoses should be stored neatly close to the outside water spigot, preferably in a container or reel.

- **Trash and Recycling Containers**

All trash containers shall be covered containers and be stored in the garage of each house. Trash and recycling containers will be left out for collection at dusk on the day prior to collection and must be removed from the curbside by dusk on the day of collection.

- **Yard Waste**

Yard waste shall not be placed curbside more than 72 hours prior to the scheduled pick up.



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## LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE

TOM MCMANUS, CHAIR

### BAGWORMS - HELP STOP THE INVASION!

BILL WELLS, LANDSCAPE / TREE COMMITTEE



Recently, there have been residents asking about bagworms. After the Village’s major infestation last year—I don’t blame them! So, this is a short summary about these nasty pests; more importantly, some treatment options to help you decide the best way to control them.

During a recent walk through the community, I saw a bagworm nest hanging from a willow oak. Now is the best time of year to see the bagworm nests! They are easy to spot. They love to eat most arborvitae, but will dine on maple, boxelder, willow, black locust, poplar, oak, apple, cherry, persimmon, willow oak, and anything with green leafy leaves. For this reason, it’s important their local activity is noted and confronted. They will not go away on their own. *If*

*you see them on common area trees and shrubs please let us know via the SV General Manager. .*



You can tell if your shrub or tree has bagworms by the defoliation and bags of silk and foliage hanging down from twigs and branches. The deciduous trees (that lose their leaves) will have their bags visibly hanging down from bare branches. The bags contain larvae. They overwintered as eggs inside the female's abdomen within the bag she constructed last year. Each female will lay 500–1000 eggs in each bag during the previous fall. It's important to get rid of the bags if at all possible. The larvae will hatch in early May and begin feeding on the tree's foliage, mostly at night, and will continue to do so through August. The early larvae will be very small and inconspicuous at first. But as they grow, their nests will become larger and larger. In September the male moths will emerge and seek receptive females, and then mating begins. Ugh! Just an interesting note—the females will remain in their nests once fully developed from their larval feeding stage. This is because they have no functioning mouthparts, legs, or wings.



There are two primary ways to kill these pests: (1) pick their nests off the tree (good exercise and an easy way to enhance your tan), placing all nest bags into a plastic bag and tying it tight to keep them from escaping; and (2) spray them!

Picking them off can occur whenever you see them. The most effective spraying is in early to late May through June while the larvae are actively feeding and small. When the caterpillars are no longer feeding (after late August), the tree will not experience additional damage beyond what has already occurred. Most importantly, spraying after August is ineffective and may be a waste of time and money unless a very harsh insecticide is used. I try to stay away from harsh pesticides since they also kill pollinating and other beneficial insects that help to naturally control harmful insects.



If you choose to spray your shrubs or trees yourself, be careful and please follow the label's instructions. I would recommend Dipel or Thuricide. They both contain *Bacillus thuringiensis*. This natural bacterium is deadly to bagworm larvae (worms) but does not harm nonforaging insects such as honeybees. If you choose to have them professionally treated, this is an excellent way to control them and there are several local companies with licensed pesticide applicators.

There is no way to determine if your tree will regenerate new foliage, so wait until spring after the new growth appears before considering removing it.

## **LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE    MARY COLLING-OFFICER, CHAIR; DEBORAH JONES-MILLER CORRESPONDENT**

Summer is off to a good start in Symphony Village!!! Villagers have filled the Clubhouse for the first two Social Hours held in June and early July. Remember that Social Hours are held in the Clubhouse on the first Friday and third Saturday of every month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. See you at 6 p.m. on July 17. Don't forget to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. If you would like to host a Social Hour, please contact a member of the Lifestyle Committee. It is a great way to meet your neighbors.



Come One, Come All and join us for a frosty treat. RE/MAX Executive, Ed Beres is sponsoring our Second Annual Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, July 28, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Clubhouse parking lot.

Remember to clean out your sky basements and garages this summer. The Symphony Village Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 18, from 8 a.m. to noon. If you wish to participate, please sign up in the Lifestyle Activities Book in the Wall Street Room. Drop your check for \$5 (made out to SV HOA, memo Yard Sale) in the black, check box by September 13.



Villagers, please join your friends and neighbors as we celebrate the close of summer with a catered, Labor Day Bar-BQ on Sunday, September 5, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Details will follow.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

**SUE CANFIELD, PRESIDENT**

**PAINT AND SIP NIGHT**



The Paint and Sip Night, sponsored by Symphony Village Outreach, was a huge success! Artist Theresa Schram, from the Kent Island Art Federation, guided 20 Symphony Village Artists through the steps to create a tranquil beach scene. The two-hour class was fun and entertaining. We hope to have another Paint and Sip in the fall to create a one-of-a-kind fall or holiday masterpiece.



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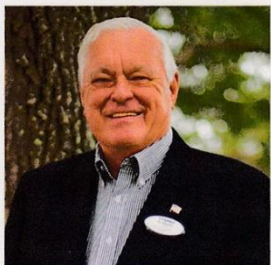
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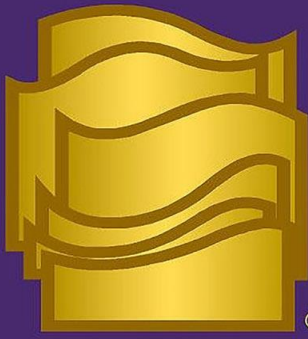


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## BINGO HELP!

Does anyone want to play BINGO? Or win some \$\$\$? We need volunteers. You can play and help at the same time.

We need bankers to pay the winners and people to serve pizza or hot dogs, soda, water, and wrapped desserts. We have the callers and the card sellers. (But we could use more.)

Bingo is held once a month on the second Friday and is sponsored by Symphony Village Outreach.



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## OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

JOE SIKES, CHAIR; FRED KURST, VICE CHAIR

The Operations Committee is responsible for aiding the HOA Board of Directors and the General Manager regarding management and operation of community common property. We share this responsibility with the Landscape and Irrigation Committee and focus on such things as the Clubhouse, swimming pools, and sidewalks. We meet on the third Thursday of each month.

Cleanup of the walking path was the highlight last month. Replacement of the Bocce courts should be complete when the *Libretto* is published this month. Drainage around the Clubhouse is much improved although we continue to monitor performance of the changes made by Level Green Landscaping.

The members of the Operations Committee are fully vaccinated and will meet in person in July for the first time since the pandemic started. The meeting this month will be at 10 a.m. (Note this is 30 minutes later than our historic time.) While residents are welcome, anyone who is not vaccinated will be expected to adhere to safety precautions such as masks and distancing. Zoom has served us well, and we will make adjustments in our meetings, if necessary, as new information regarding variants and vaccine effectiveness becomes available.

The committee's focus for July is to provide input to the Board to assist in the preparation of the FY2022 budget process that starts in August. We encourage resident input to help keep our community great!

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## SNEAKERS

LINDA FARRAR, CHAIR

### Symphony Sneakers HOA Dues Raffle Tickets Selling Fast

You can have a chance at getting your HOA dues for 2022 paid in full. All you have to do is buy a \$30 ticket or 2 tickets for \$50. Tickets will be sold from July 1 until September 5

The best part of this is that all profits from the raffle go to support projects that aid the feeder schools for Queen Anne's High School.

We are anxious to resume our book giveaways in the elementary schools, help the middle school provide outdoor education for the sixth graders, and

An advertisement for CHAIR Express hair salon. The top part features the salon's name in a cursive font over a photo of a white vanity and a black chair. Below the photo, the hours are listed: "HOURS: NOW OPEN MONDAYS 9am-7pm, Tues-Thurs 9am-7pm, Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-3pm". A Facebook icon is to the right. The phone number "443-262-9492" is prominently displayed. At the bottom, it says "We Moved" in red script, followed by the address "2472 Centreville Road, Centreville" and "Food Lion shopping center, next to Beijing".

meet the needs of school children in need of help. Hopefully, this year we will also be able to volunteer in the schools.

There will only be 300 tickets sold, so your odds are very good. To buy a ticket, look for the times Sneakers members will be selling them at the Clubhouse or put your check (made out to Symphony Sneakers) in the raffle box in the Wall Street Room, and we will deliver the ticket or tickets to your door.

The winning ticket will be drawn September 5 at the Clubhouse. You do not need to be present to win. Over 100 tickets have been sold to date, so don't miss out on this opportunity to get a chance to have your Symphony Village HOA dues for 2022 paid in full!

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## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

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### **ASTRONOMY CLUB**

### **LARRY RAYNER, THE ARMCHAIR ASTRONOMER**



Is it a bird, is it a plane, no it's a UFO or as they are now called, a UAP! Since the term UFO has become synonymous with crackpot theories and Hollywood Sci-Fi movies, the new term is hoping to appear more serious in its study of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. The research and later report to Congress by the DOD (Department of Defense) and the Intelligence Community makes no claim as to what the accounts of UAPs are. While we know it's not a secret U.S. plane (per the DOD), we can assume it's not Russian or Chinese—in this area the U.S. is still the leader. So, the question remains, what are these things that Navy and commercial pilots are seeing? The Blue Book Project began in 1947 by the Air Force after the public took a keen interest in what private pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing. In Washington State, he reports that he saw 20 flying saucers (his term, not the report's term). Because of the location, between Mt. Rainer and Mt. Atom, the speed was calculated to be 11,000 miles per hour, with some making zigzagging impossible turns for a human to withstand the gravitational forces, if on board. President Eisenhower established NASA in 1958 in part

due to the public's interest in outer space and UFOs, but the Russian launch of Sputnik I in 1957 is a more logical reason for the creation of NASA.

There is much speculation as to what is going on in the skies with 1,000s of sightings by reputable people, and trained military pilots, with no conclusions as yet. Many think they will be hostile (Stephen Hawking for one) and we should not seek them out. Others believe they are explorers, which brings to mind Arthur C. Clarke's famous quote, "Any sufficiently advanced technology will appear as magic to species less advanced." My personal favorite theory is from Frank Drake. He calculates that any civilization advanced enough to travel from one solar system to another will be at least 25,000 years more advanced in technology. Thinking this through, any civilization that advanced must have overcome warlike tendencies, including nuclear war, flesh eating, and scarcity resources. They will not come for our resources (any minerals found on earth can easily be harvested on asteroids). They will come as explorers and most likely will not show themselves to a primitive species like mankind.

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**Watch this month for the Flight of the Billionaires.** Richard Branson will be the first to take flight (July 11). He will get onto the supersonic space plane (*VSS Unity*) from his rocket venture, Virgin Galactic. He will travel 50 miles above the earth which is considered the boundaries of Space. Jeff Bezos will be flying to outer space on his *New Shepard*, created by his company Blue Origin. His flight is scheduled for July 20. My favorite quote from the Billionaires is from Elon Musk, who said, "I want to die on Mars, just not on impact." Happy traveling fellas!

Look for a post in ECHOES on the upcoming Perseid Meteor Shower in mid-August that you will not want to miss. It should be quite good if the quarter moon isn't too bright. The most meteors will be seen in the wee hours of August 12.

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## BOCCE

PATTI CIPRIANO



Bocce is a game that can be played by everyone, young and old, women and men. Of the many amenities that SV has to offer, the three bocce courts have been enjoyed for over ten years. Last year, it was determined by the HOA Board that refurbishing the courts would be in the best interest of the game and of the SV assets, so work began last week to renew this amenity. Weathered, warped, and rotten wood that contained the artificial turf were replaced, and the concrete base and artificial turf was power washed. Ball racks were reconstructed. The community now has three bocce courts to be proud of and can resume meetups for Open Bocce on Wednesday evenings very soon! Let the good times roll!



# 2nd Annual Ice Cream Social

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**CERT Bids Farewell to Joe Cichocki**



Since 2017, Joseph “Joe” Cichocki has been the Queen Anne’s County Department of Emergency Services (QAC DES) coordinator for the Symphony Village CERT. During that period, Joe has been a true friend and dedicated professional. He provided customized CERT training and added almost 100 new CERT volunteers to Queen Anne’s County. Joe was instrumental in organizing and coordinating many SV CERT activities including an on-site ambulance



demonstration and tour, a visit to the Queen Anne’s County Emergency Operations Center, several Stop the Bleed training classes, a fire extinguisher class and demonstration, and almost every SV CERT meeting. If you are subscribed to Queen Anne’s County emergency alerts, you may have heard Joe’s voice – “This is an important message from Queen Anne’s County...” on the phone.

Joe has accepted a new position as a police dispatcher in Utah. Before he left on June 23, to show our gratitude, several current and former CERT volunteers gathered at the SV pavilion to say goodbye to Joe. We presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation (pictured above), shared stories, and wished him well.



**LUNCH BUNCH**

**BEA TROTTA & MARGE STRANO**

**WELCOME BACK TO ALL SV RESIDENTS**



The Lunch Bunch will have its first luncheon of the year on Thursday, August 5, at 12:30 p.m. at Bridges on Kent Narrows Restaurant, 321 Wells Cove Road, Grasonville. We look forward to our return to the Lunch Bunch after a long COVID-19 break; and anticipate a happy return to a favorite local lunch spot.

Sign up online by using this [Lunch Bunch Sign-up Link](#). You can also go to the Symphony Village [Website](#), and click on **Dashboard**. Scroll down to the Lunch Bunch icon near the bottom of the page. **Please note that you will see a *THANK YOU* response visible on the webpage acknowledging that your Lunch Bunch submission did go through.** You can also sign up in the Activities Book at the Clubhouse. If you sign up online, please do not add your name in the Club Activities Book. Only sign up in one place.



To our new SV residents, you can call Bea Trotta at 610-217-4754 or Marge Strano at 609-221-6378, if you have a question or need a ride. We carpool with neighbors and friends and order from the menu—this is no special menu.



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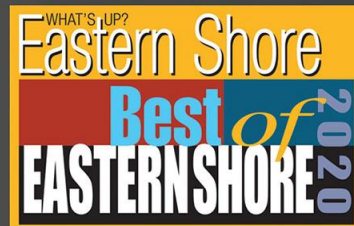


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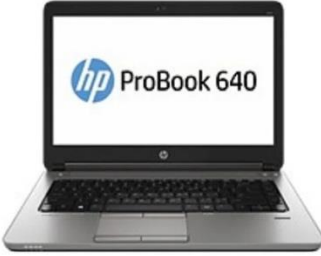
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**Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays  
at 9 a.m.  
at the Tennis/Pickleball Courts by the  
Clubhouse**

It's HOT, summer fun! The pickleball courts in Symphony Village are sizzling with amazing action every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday! I'd like to formally welcome all of the new community members who have joined our pickleball crew. There is so much talent and the exercise is fabulous! We have at least 14 people showing up each day to play, with over 25 community members on our "active list!" Why not come out and join us! Since we have so many new community members, I thought a back to basics may be helpful to let everyone know what this popular and fun sport is all about.

**What Is Pickleball?** Pickleball is a paddleball sport that combines elements of badminton, table tennis, and tennis. Two or four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, much like a whiffle ball, with 26–40 round holes, over a net. Pickleball is fun, social, and friendly. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. It can be enjoyed by all ages and skill levels.

**Why Is It Called Pickleball (Short Version!):** In the summer of 1965, pickleball was founded by Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Within days, Joan Pritchard had come up with the name "pickle ball"—a reference to the thrown-together leftover nonstarters in the "pickle boat" of crew races. Many years later, as the sport grew, a controversy ensued when a few neighbors said they were there when Joan named the game after the family dog, Pickles. Joan and the Pritchard family have held fast for decades that the dog came along a few years later and was named after the game.

Have a wonderful July and whatever it is that you choose to do, always enjoy our beautiful Symphony Village! Feel free to reach out to me with any questions [rosenbergers@mail.com](mailto:rosenbergers@mail.com)!



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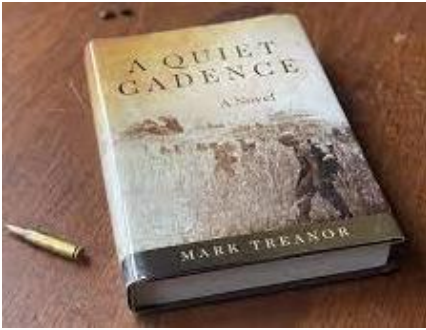
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**READING FOR FUN – JUNE 2021 REVIEW**

**JOE SIKES**

The SV Book Club met virtually on June 15 to discuss *A Quiet Cadence* by Mark Treanor. Attendees included Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Bob Nilsson, Jim & Kathryn Buckheit, Carol & Len Saltiel, Mary Jo Volpicelli, Cathy Olson, Pat McManus, JoAnn Walker, Sue Goldberg, and Ed Sullivan. The author is a Naval Academy classmate and friend of both Ed and me. This meeting of the Book Club was made special because we were joined on Zoom by the author.





Mark Treanor served as a Marine platoon commander in Vietnam and has created a powerful fictional novel describing what the Vietnam War was like on the ground. However, he also follows the protagonist, Marty McClure, after his return home and subsequent career as a teacher. The juxtaposition of "before and after" gives this story a uniquely personal glimpse of how war changes a person. Marty is counseled to exclude his Marine background on his resume because it would be a detriment to his career in education. He keeps the ghosts of his Vietnam buddies buried and struggles to control his PTSD. After refusing to visit the Vietnam Memorial for years, he eventually comes to terms with it in the final chapters of the book.

Military students famously study the writings of the Prussian General Carl von Clausewitz, who told us "War is Bloody." For the first half of the book, Mark Treanor accurately (and graphically) describes exactly what that meant on the battlefields of Vietnam. When I first read the book, I considered stopping halfway through it. Ed Sullivan, another Vietnam vet like myself, had similar feelings when he originally lent me his copy. But the combination of the war and post war narratives creates a powerful description of the Vietnam experience for thousands of Americans who participated in that War.

The author has written compelling descriptions with many phrases that are striking to people like Bob Nilsson, who read a description of the blood-stained seat of a rescue helicopter and was transported immediately back to his time in country. I worried that some Book Club members would not finish, but that has happened much more frequently due to books that bore them than the battlefield descriptions in *A Quiet Cadence*. As a friend, I complimented the author on how much his vocabulary improved since 1968, but he pointed out that a lot of it was just new "four letter words."

The real advantage of having the author present was that the Club could explore the writing process itself. Mark shared how his direct experiences factored into building the stories, and how the characters kept changing, and how he managed his battles with his editors. His publishers wanted a title something like "Ghosts of the Battlefield," but he stuck to his guns. He has already garnered two prestigious awards, so his judgement has been justified.

We did not grade the book since the author participated in the meeting. I told Mark that the Club had eviscerated John LeCarre the previous month and he commented that was probably because LeCarre did not attend in person—being dead. The Book Club was effusive in its praise for this author. For example; "a great Book Club session,"; "really insightful."; "great book, especially enjoyed learning all the provenance," "10.9." Oops! I guess someone did give a grade (albeit illegal).

The club also voted on a new set of books which I have listed below. We continue to meet on Zoom, so contact me at [sikes.withers@yahoo.com](mailto:sikes.withers@yahoo.com) if you would like to attend. Here are the future dates and books for discussion.

July 20 -- *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger

August 17 -- *Whither We Tend* by Christopher German

September 21 -- *Four Lost Cities* by Annalee Newitz

October 19 -- *When My Name Was Keoko* by Linda Sue Park

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## **SYMPHONY VILLAGE'S TEN LITTLE DUCKLINGS**

**DEBI WELLS, P&C LIAISON**

You may have seen the ECHOES post on June 24; ten fuzzy ducklings were born inside our outdoor pool enclosure that morning! They had cuteness that couldn't be ignored. And, that's just a small part of their story!



As you might guess, pools, especially fenced pools, provide not only an adequate body of water for ducks, but also a “safe” environment. Ducks aren't dumb! Since the Chesapeake region is known for its duck hunting, some residents were surprised to be informed Mallard nests are protected by the federal government (Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918). To move a Mallard nest legally requires a permit. While there were excellent reasons to remove the nest, there were two dilemmas: (1) a duck will not recognize its nest if it's moved, resulting

in abandonment and (2) we didn't have enough time to secure the permit.

Before the ducklings hatched, the community came together to determine the best path forward for their future. Bob Ringler and Pete Zerhusen, Symphony Village's bird experts, were key. Both were glad to help and agreed one of our ponds was the best habitat, as the outdoor pool did not have suitable nutrition and water for wild ducks. Other residents, including the pool operator volunteers, formed the Duck Patrol to monitor mom and her nest 24/7. We also provided fresh water next to the nest and placed signs and caution tape around the area to prevent pool goers from accidentally scaring mom or damaging the nest.



As important to the ducklings' future were calls to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wye Island Natural Resources Management Area, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, and Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy. All agree that the Mallard nest next to our outdoor pool presented several concerns. First, within hours of the ducklings hatching in synchrony, the mother duck would introduce them to water—our pool! While chlorine is in our indoor and outdoor pools to safeguard *our* health, it will irreparably damage a duck's kidneys. And, ducks drink *lots* of water. In fact, most adult ducks drink a half gallon a day. Next, the DNR warned the ducks could “imprint” on the outdoor pool. (To ‘imprint’ is a

form of learning in which an animal gains its sense of identification.) To identify with the outdoor pool, instead of a stream, pond, etc., could result negatively for the ducks, their future, and our residents! While the chlorine would most likely kill duck droppings (which may contain E. coli, Salmonella, etc.), the CDC requires duck droppings to be treated no differently than human feces. That's right! After duck dropping detection, the first step could be pool closure!

After two (yes, two!) escapades of the Duck Patrol capturing all ten ducklings from the water and chaperoning their journey (with the mother duck squawking all the way) to Pond 1, they stayed. And, two days later, I, Bob Ringler, Lynn Lewis, and Gail Brown watched as all the ducks left Pond 1 early in the morning and went into the woods! Bob followed, and reported later they had gotten into the stream and were last seen floating under the foot bridge of our walking path (to Dunkin Donuts), headed to Millstream.







**Momma duck and ducklings headed into the woods.**

A huge THANK YOU to Bob Ringler, Pete Zerhusen, and his wife, Cele, and all volunteers of the Duck Patrol! They each diligently and carefully watched over mother Mallard (known as a susie), her nest, and the ten ducklings to get them into the wetlands habitat for their best future.

If you see a duck land in the outdoor pool, to avoid future problems, there are actions we can take. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has recommendations: do not feed, prevent nesting, and use scaring devices (making a loud noise), to name a few. If you make a loud noise (with a whistle, outdoor pool spa, or whatever means available), please alert other residents in the area to avoid scaring *them*! For more information, please see the [U.S.](#)

[Department of Agriculture's Site.](#)

If you participated in the 50/50 raffle to guess the ducklings' birth date and time, the winner was Nancy Paschak! Congratulations, Nancy! Karen Kram, Board member, sent the proceeds to Ducks Unlimited. Ducks Unlimited was started in 1937 by a small group of sportsmen. It is now the *world's* leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation.

### **COUNCILMAN HARDY IS RESIGNING AND MOVING TO PENNSYLVANIA**

**BOB HARDY**

Town of Centreville Council member Bob Hardy and his wife, Debbie, are moving to Pennsylvania. This move was planned to happen AFTER October 2023, when, if elected, to a three-year term as Town Councilmember, he would not run for re-election. Debbie would have retired during the three years, they would have gotten their move in order (consolidating their household, etc.), sold their house, and then Bob would have finished his term in office.

But plans change and this plan was accelerated by several factors. These factors being: a hot real estate market; the financial numbers adding up; good time for Debbie to retire; and the time was right to exit with no special election necessary to replace him. So, a plan which was to occur in three years suddenly was occurring in two months. Fortunately, with family and close friends they were able to accomplish starting to execute the plan to move to Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Their daughter-in-law found a lovely apartment for them, and they signed a lease. It was meant to be, in that, they could take advantage of this life opportunity for both to be fully retired and to enjoy all things they like, e.g., traveling, Debbie's love for genealogy, and being with their youngest grandson, who lives in Mechanicsburg.

Debbie is a native Marylander; Bob came to Maryland 50 years ago, so it is not without fond memories and many friendships and memorable times that they are leaving Queen Anne's County where they made their home for the last 31+ years, and the Town of Centreville and Symphony Village for the last 13+ years. Debbie was an elementary school teacher and media specialist at

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Grasonville and Church Hill Elementary Schools and at Kent Island High School. She is finally retiring from the QAC Library, where she was the cataloging supervisor.

As Bob has talked to people and told many stories, they both could write a book on all the wonderful people and times in QAC and historic Centreville and Symphony Village. They are thankful to be able to take advantage of this life opportunity and enjoy their lives. They know they will be doing lots of traveling (cruise already booked in March), and Debbie will probably be spending a lot of time doing genealogy research on her family at the Pennsylvania State Archives. Of course, they will be spending time with their grandson.



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