



Photo by Gil Hoffman

LIBRETTO

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021

Vol. XVI No. 8

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.



Lucy & Brian Hearn
710 Harmony Way

Linda Mae & David B. Smith
127 Harmony Way

HOA BOARD REPORT

SV BOD PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON SPECIAL ELECTION

PAT FOX, PRESIDENT

Pat Ways, our SV treasurer and Board Liaison to the Budget and Finance Committee, has submitted his resignation. This will be effective as of the December 1, 2021, Annual Meeting date. Pat has been a terrific addition to the Board since his appointment a year ago to fill a vacancy. Unfortunately, he has also been dealing with health issues. We will miss his expertise and enthusiasm.

In the interim, we are hoping to complete the voting on proposed changes to our governing documents, one of which would allow us to schedule a special election to fill his seat. This process is a much more democratic process to strive toward; currently, the Board has no other choice than to make an appointment. We expect to post these documents for review within a matter of days and schedule a Town Hall meeting at the end of September with our attorney present.

SV BOD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PAT FOX, PRESIDENT

- **CHANGES TO BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

- To keep up with action items on a timelier basis the Board has decided to meet monthly.
- To do this we have revised some meeting dates and added another:
 - September BOD changed to Thursday, September 9, at 6 p.m.
 - October 22 at 10 a.m. to capture committee referrals.
 - November 12 (10 a.m.) has been added.
 - December 1 – our Annual Meeting – remains at 6 p.m.

- **POOL RULES**

- Please adhere to our posted SV pool rules. These rules are there for your safety and those of your family.
- The most critical ones to follow are:
 - No jumping from the pool deck into the water; the stairs are the only safe way to enter.
 - No glass bottles or glasses are allowed at the pool. If glasses were broken, we would have to close the pool and drain it to properly clean up glass shards.
 - No ball throwing or playing on the deck or in the pool as someone could get hurt.
 - Children's hours are 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily.
 - All guests must always be accompanied by a resident when in SV amenities—pool and Clubhouse.

- **EXTERIOR MODIFICATION FORMS**

- Please remember that you need to get permission from the Covenants Committee to proceed with exterior modifications to your house or landscaping. The forms can be obtained on the SV Website or through management.
- The Committee uses our SV Architectural Regulations—a legal document we all received when purchasing our homes—as the guiding document.
- Always ask for help from the Committee or staff if you need it to comply with the regulations. The Committee meets monthly to review the requests.

- **YARD WORK DAMAGE**

- Accidents will happen when the landscaping company is mowing our yards and using their equipment to trim.
- We suggest that you check the perimeter after each mow and report any damage.



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Respite Care
We love pets too!

- The easy way to submit damage is go to the home page of our SV Website and click on Work Orders for landscaping. This electronic form will allow you to register the damage and photos into the data system that our contractor has access to so repairs can be investigated and made.
- **COVID STATUS –**
 - We are all hearing that the number of COVID-19 cases are again on the rise—even for vaccinated people. The Board and management are monitoring this closely.
 - From the very beginning, March, 2020, the recommendations and requirements of Governor Hogan, Queen Anne’s County, and of course, the CDC recommendations for our gatherings and use of amenities and will continue to do so.

SV BOD HIGHLIGHTS & ACTION ITEMS—AUGUST 2021

DEBI WELLS, HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SECRETARY

The Board has been working diligently to support the community. Here is some insight!

BOD Email Votes: Since the June 4 HOA meeting and the July edition of the **Libretto**, there have been three Board email votes:

1. At the request of the Landscape & Irrigation Committee, on June 17, the motion was made to remove harmful vegetation around the community’s three stormwater ponds. The Board approved Solitude Lake Management’s proposal for \$2.9K from operating funds.
2. On June 24 the Board made a motion and approved contracting with Express Employment to hire a temporary Executive Assistant to expedite help for the HOA.
3. At the request of the Budget & Finance Committee, a motion was made on July 8 to invest a CD at TIAA Bank for \$235K that was to mature on July 12. That request consisted of putting \$40K in a 2-year CD at United Texas Bank (at .65%), and to open a new Money Market account at Queenstown Bank and transfer the remaining \$195K (at .25%) until CD rates increase next year. A motion was approved by the Board on July 12.

As a result of the August 6 HOA meeting cancellation, it was necessary to initiate six (6) email votes, that were all approved on August 7. They were as follows:

Recommendations from the Landscape & Irrigation (L&I) Committee, all using it’s approved operating budget:

1. A motion was made to approve a competitive bid proposal from Bartlett Tree Experts (Bartlett) to remove 17 dead/dying common area trees at a cost of ~\$2.6K.
2. A motion was made to approve Bartlett to prune and mulch 23 Viburnum trees, as well as remove five small Viburnum trees, along Taylor Mill Road at a cost of ~\$2K.
3. A motion was made to approve the International Landscape & Design proposal to purchase/order 16 replacement street trees at a cost of ~\$11K. This order is contingent upon preparing the sites where previous trees were removed.

Recommendation from the Covenants Committee:

1. A motion was made to modify the Exterior Modification Form (EMF) to clarify residents’ requirements; additionally, the Committee completed a binder of examples for residents to review at the Clubhouse office prior to submittal of their EMF.

Recommendations from the Budget & Finance Committee:

1. A motion was made to approve the 2020 audit completed by Goldklang Group CPAs, P.C. To avoid re-evaluation fees, approval was required to be returned to the auditor by August 14.
2. A motion was made to approve the Goldklang Engagement Letter to complete the 2021 and 2022 audits and community taxes so that work will proceed on a timely basis.

Staff Update

Please welcome Angela Bartkowski, acting Executive Assistant (EA) to our General Manager, Rebecca Cook. Should you require Angela's assistance, the EA email address remains the same:

EA@SymphonyVillageHOA.com. As always, the office phone number to reach Angela or Rebecca remains unchanged: 410-758-8500.

Hybrid Meeting Capability

The Board is working to obtain capability in the Clubhouse to allow the Association to have hybrid meetings. Hybrid is the term used for the ability to hold an in-person meeting simultaneously with a virtual (Zoom) meeting. We hope to have hybrid capability operational soon. In the interim, for the August HOA meeting, the Board had decided to have an in-person gathering to accommodate computer and Zoom challenged residents who have not been able to attend past meetings due to pandemic (virtual only) requirements. Our apologies to all who were looking forward to that meeting, since it was cancelled. The next HOA meeting is anticipated for September 9. Residents will be notified closer to that date of hybrid, Zoom, or an in-person meeting dependent upon CDC and State of Maryland COVID guidance. Thank you for your understanding.

Craft Room TV

At the request of the Artisans Guild, the television in the Craft Room has been replaced and made ready for future community art tutorials. Stay tuned for future information from the Artisans Guild!

Suburban Propane

Since Symphony Village has a large number of Suburban Propane customers, we sent an eBlast message from that utility company to residents on June 25. As a follow-up, we would like you to know the manager who requested that message has resigned. A new manager has not yet been determined. You are urged to contact Suburban Propane if you are a customer and want to know any details regarding propane for your property.

Ducks at the Outdoor Pool

As a result of residents' concerns about ducks in and around the outdoor pool enclosure, the Board developed a comprehensive plan to deter them. With the recent death of the female duck, the Mallard males following her may return to the ponds. Consequently, enacting the plan (and spending that money) to discourage the ducks is on hold. If you see ducks in the outdoor pool enclosure, please notify Debi Wells (443.262.8248) with the time of day you saw them. Thank you!



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 best path forward for the audio/visual equipment in the Clubhouse. Have knowledge of audio/visual equipment and/or its operations? Please contact the Board (Board@symphonyvillagehoa.com). We would appreciate your help.

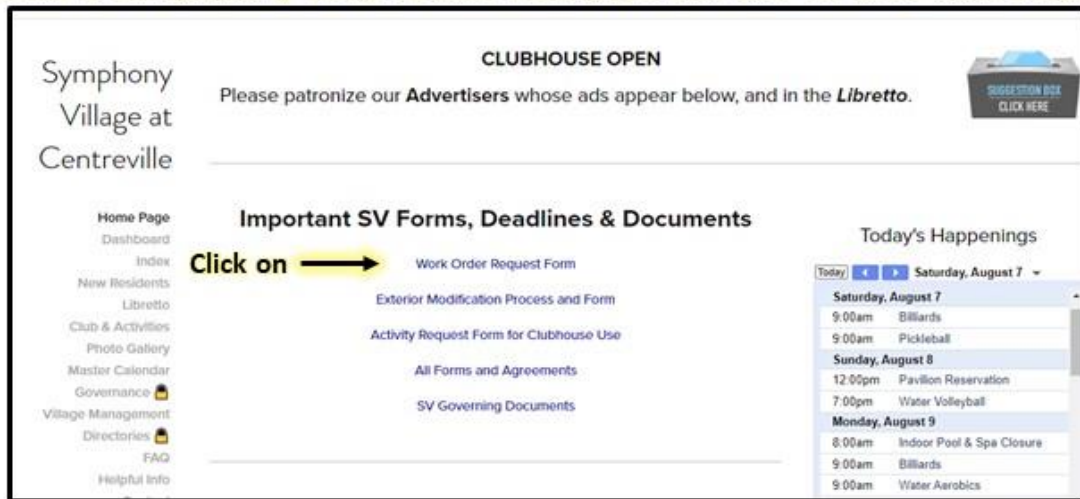
Work Order Forms: First step to fixing a landscape, irrigation, tree or other problem!

by Debi Wells, HOA Board Secretary

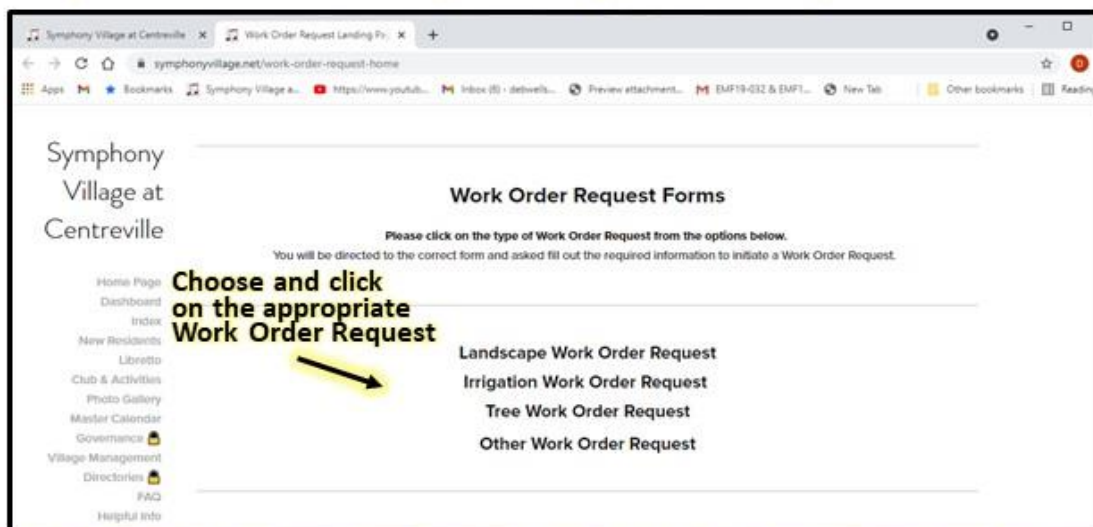
Our Work Order system is not yet perfected; however, we're working on it! Still, it's the *best first step* to fixing a landscape, irrigation, tree or other problem by the HOA on your property. Work Orders are critical to initiate a job, track it, and get it into the right hands. Work Orders are not difficult to submit, the instructions are below. If you have a problem submitting a Work Order, ask a neighbor!

After a homeowner submits their information into the Work Order, it automatically populates an Excel spreadsheet. Then, the work is routed to the correct contractor. After the contractor completes the project, they notify HOA Management. Then, the resident is notified. We're still working to refine the process. Eventually, we will be able to use the Work Order system to track and analyze data for future budgeting and trends purposes. Most importantly for residents, it allows our General Manager to help resolve issues while keeping us all on the same page. To complete a Work Order, please follow these easy steps:

1. Click on the Symphony Village Website: www.symphonyvillage.net
2. Below is the Symphony Village Website Homepage. Just 'click' on 'Work Order Request Form.'



3. After you click on 'Work Order Request Form,' you will see the options below. Click on one!



4. Click on 'Submit' after you input your info into the Work Order. Most projects can wait for resolution; however, if your project is urgent, please call the Clubhouse office: 410-758-8500.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTISANS GUILD

SUE CANFIELD, CHAIR

New Show Coming for Your Viewing Enjoyment!

Our new show's theme will be *Architecture*—The art and science of designing buildings—how we each view the construction of things. As always, the theme will be loosely interpreted by each participant. I recently looked at a dragonfly's wings and was in awe. I can't wait to see what you all come up with!

The collection date will be Thursday, September 23, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The reception for the Show will be Sunday, September 26, from 4 to 6 p.m.

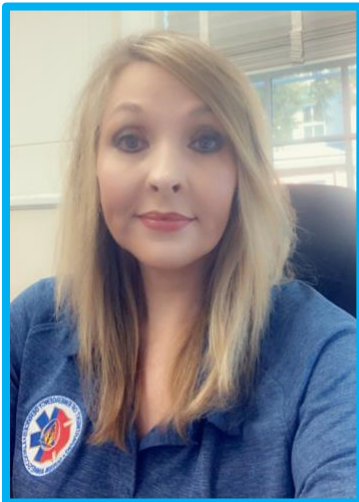
CERT WELCOMES DEBRA HOPKINS

JOHN OLSON, CERT COORDINATOR

The Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services (QAC/DES) has recently appointed a new coordinator for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Her name is Debra Hopkins, and I asked her to provide the following brief bio to introduce her to Symphony Village:



DEBRA HOPKINS



My name is Debra (Debi) Hopkins, and I am employed by Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services. I have spent most of my career providing services as a paramedic/firefighter. I most recently served as a Lieutenant in the Emergency Medical Services Division for the last six years. I have always had an interest in Emergency Preparedness, Community Risk Reduction and Public Outreach so I was excited when an opportunity opened for me in the Division of Special Operations. I have now been assigned to Emergency Management where one of my responsibilities will be to host, instruct, and support the Community Emergency Response Teams in our county. I am very excited for this next step in my career as I genuinely love sharing my knowledge with others so that they can be empowered to help not only themselves but others as well.

On a personal note, I am a mother and wife, daughter and sister, aunt, and friend to many. I have four children ages 8 through 26 and two special fur babies, my dogs Tiller and Cooper. I enjoy event planning, crafting, and in general making the most of my time with my family. I am a volunteer at the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department, responding on our engine, brush truck or riding along with my husband in his Chief's truck doing incident command.



COVENANTS COMMITTEE

VICKI KOBER, CHAIR
MARY JO VOLPICELLI, VICE CHAIR
PAT FOX, BOARD LIAISON

SIGNAGE

Unless restricted by the Town of Centreville, the following will apply to all properties within Symphony Village:

Realtor: No more than one (1) "For Sale" or "Rent" sign shall be allowed to be placed on any individual Lot within the community. Such sign shall be located wholly within the Lot being advertised "for sale" or "for rent." The sign shall be of conforming size, having a combined total face area of not more than four (4) square feet with no more than two (2) "tack on" identifiers that include name, phone number, etc. Temporary signs must be placed on the Homeowner's Lot. Permanent signs are not allowed. The sign must be removed within two (2) working days following the closing of the property, or the termination of the listing agreement. "Open House" directional signs that give directions to a house that is for sale or for rent to which the public is invited for a walk-in inspection are to be removed after the open house.


Security/alarm: notification signs shall be limited to placards provided by the alarm company not to exceed five by seven inches (5" x 7") in size.

House Number: No more than one house number plaque shall be allowed and will be placed at the original house number location. It may be no larger than 16" wide and 10" high and/or conform to the size of the existing house number. Corner houses may have two house number plaques but each must be consistent with the developer's original size and type.

Political Signs: In accordance with the Symphony Village Bylaws, political signs, including endorsement signs, shall comply with federal, state and local laws.

Community Events: Symphony Village sponsored event signs shall be displayed no more than five (5) days prior to the date of an event and must be removed the morning following the event.


No other signs are permitted on any property within Symphony Village.



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MARY COLLING-OFFICER, CHAIR
JANET LEISTER, VICE CHAIR
DEBORAH MILLER, AUTHOR

The summer of 2021 at Symphony Village has been a celebration for getting outdoors, enjoying social hours, bocce ball, pickleball, and other fun-filled activities!!

The 2nd Annual Ice Cream Social, sponsored by Remax Executive Ed Beres, was a huge success! Over 300 ice cream treats were distributed! This event provided an opportunity for neighbors to enjoy the outdoors and take advantage of a game or two of bocce ball! Thank you, Ed, for your generosity and love of our community.

Mark your calendars for the highly anticipated Labor Day BBQ!



Catered by Hot off the Coals

PLEASE JOIN US:
WHEN: Sunday, 9/5/21
TIME: 1:00PM – 3:00PM
WHERE: Poolside
COST: \$24.00/PP
 \$12.00/Age 10 and under

Menu:

- Pulled Pork & Pulled Chicken
- Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
- Baked Beans & Cole Slaw
- Condiments
- Dessert from BJ'S

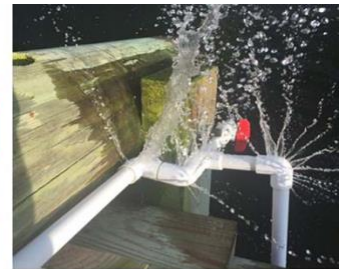
- Sign up in the Lifestyle Activities Book in the Wall Street Room
- Sign-up deadline is August 30th
- Payment is due at sign-up. **CHECKS ONLY**
- Make checks out to SVHOA and write "Labor Day" in the memo section of the check.



YARD SALE

This year's fall Yard Sale is back on Saturday, September 18, from 8 a.m. until noon. In the past, the event has attracted over 100 buyers. This is your opportunity to open closets, clean out sky basements and garages, and DECLUTTER! Remember, your "trash" can be someone else's "treasure."

The Lifestyle Committee will advertise the Yard Sale in local papers and publications. Maps will be distributed at the SV entrance. To participate, you will need to sign up by Monday, September 13, to get your house on the Yard Sale site map. You may sign up in the Activities Book located in the Clubhouse Wall Street Room. Drop your check for \$5 (made out to SV HOA, memo Yard Sale) in the black check box.



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OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

JOE SIKES, CHAIR

The Operations Committee is responsible for aiding the HOA Board of Directors and the General Manager

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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.

The Operations Committee is fully vaccinated and plans to meet in person on August 19 at 10 a.m. While residents are welcome, anyone who is not vaccinated will be expected to adhere to safety precautions such as masks and distancing. However, continued spread of the Delta variant could cause a return to Zoom meetings, however, we will monitor the Covid data and look for an SV blast if a return to Zoom is necessary.

The Committee is currently reviewing proposals for replacement of the coping, tile, and whitecoat for the outdoor pool. Work would be completed prior to the 2022 outdoor pool season. We are also assisting the GM in seeking contractors for asphalt and curbing repairs for the main Clubhouse parking lot.

A Replacement Reserve subcommittee was formed at our last meeting. The task of this group will be to do a complete scrub of the 2020 Replacement Reserve study that can be found on the SV Website. Our intention is to provide improved data for the next study, scheduled for 2023. As residents, we have a wealth of knowledge and experience of our community. Our reserves have served us well so far and we want to ensure they continue to do so.

We encourage resident input to help keep our community great!

OUTREACH

SUE CANFIELD

BINGO Is Back

SV Outreach will once again sponsor Bingo. We rely on volunteers to make this possible. Bingo will be held on the second Friday of each month in Concert Hall from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. beginning on September 10. There will be some changes to keep our guests safe and healthy.

This year we will use disposable paper cards. We also recommended that the players bring their own highlighters to mark their game cards. You can also purchase a highlighter from us for 50 cents.

We will be serving pizza, pepperoni or cheese, for \$2 a slice. Food can be purchased between 6:30 and 7 p.m. and at break time. Soft drinks and water will be sold for \$1 and cookies and snacks will be sold for 50 cents. The servers will wear masks and gloves.

Bingo game cards will be sold for \$1.50 each. There will be about 16 games played, some with larger payoffs. There is also a Jackpot!

Donna Donaldson will be our caller and Brenda Fellows will be her assistant. Each Friday bingo night also requires six to seven other volunteers to verify numbers and pay the winners, sell the cards, and serve the food.

We really want bingo to be safe and enjoyable. If you do come, enjoy the evening.



Save the Tentative Date!!
12th Annual Symphony Village Card & Game Party
Thursday, November 4, 2021—9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Symphony Village Clubhouse
More information will follow in September!

SV NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

MARGE STRANO, CHAIR

The next Neighbor-to-Neighbor meeting will be held via Zoom on September 22 at 7:15 p.m. I had considered having an indoor or outdoor meeting; however, with the current Covid situation, I thought it best to schedule via Zoom rather than change the meeting should Covid restrictions return to the use of the Clubhouse. Please email or call me with your concerns prior to the meeting.

Thank you for all of the work you have continued to do over the last year. We are all fortunate to have such caring, thoughtful, and capable people in SV community.

Volunteers Needed—An Invitation to Join Us

Neighbor-to-Neighbor needs one or two additional volunteers to help out on a couple of streets. Volunteers contact neighbors in time of need or when there is a special occasion by sending cards, making calls, sending emails, or simply by knocking on the neighbor's door when necessary. The cards that we send are provided to you. There is a short half-hour orientation that can be given by telephone or in person. Although we usually have six meetings a year, we currently have meetings on a *need basis*.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor provides a great opportunity for new residents to connect with the community and for current residents to reconnect with the community, especially if you have just retired. If you are interested, please send me an email at mbestrano@gmail.com or call 410-758-2511. We look forward to meeting you!



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SNEAKERS

LINDA FARRAR, PRESIDENT

HOA RAFFLE TICKETS

The Grand Drawing for the 2022 HOA Dues Raffle will take place Sunday, September 5, at the Labor Day Celebration. The winner of this raffle will have their SV HOA dues paid up for an entire year. You still have time to purchase your Sneakers Raffle tickets. The cost is \$30 per ticket or \$50 for two tickets.

We have sold over 200 tickets, and there are only 300 being sold, so don't delay.

Tickets will be on sale until September 5 at specified times in the Clubhouse. You can also choose to leave a check made out to *Symphony Sneakers* in the check box in the Wall Street Room, Sneakers will deliver your ticket(s) to you.

THE GIVING TREE

This year we are introducing a new name for our annual Santa Tree. For newcomers, this is an activity in which Sneakers adopts needy families from the local elementary schools to help them celebrate the holidays. Look for details in next month's **Libretto**.



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PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

MARYKAY KERR

HELP WANTED—The Publications & Communications Committee has a vacancy. The position of Vice Chairman needs to be filled. If you have an interest in helping to spread the word about what’s going on in Symphony Village, please volunteer for the position. The Vice Chairman assists the Chair and the committee when necessary.

NEIGHBOR OF NOTE—CHARLES LEVAY

KATHRYN MARCHI

It has been said that “volunteerism” is the backbone of society. What would we do without folks who willingly offer their spare time to coach Little League, lead boys and girls in scouting, serve on committees, or simply work on community projects...without pay and while they are raising a family and managing a career!

Here in Symphony Village, we have many wonderful volunteers, one of whom is Charles Levay, our Neighbor of Note for the August **Libretto**. In interviewing Charles, I concluded that he is the consummate volunteer, not only in the present but throughout his life.

Hailing from Newark, New Jersey, Charles joined the Air Force after high school and served in the Military Police Force. He was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base for his four-year enlistment and that is where he met his wife Cathie, a Maryland gal. They married in 1967 and settled in the Ft. Meade area of Maryland. Charles began work for NSA as a computer operator and later, a software engineer. Charles said that the computers he worked on were as big as a house and were kept in an air-conditioned room—a far cry from the computer systems today that fit into a phone or smart watch!

Leaving NSA after ten years, he became an independent contractor for the aerospace industry, working for RCA, Ford, Loral, and Lockheed. During that time, he completed an Associate’s Degree in electronic data processing from Anne Arundel Community College and later on, a BS degree in computer science from the University of Maryland. His job descriptions went from computer operator to software engineer, senior software engineer and CACI Test Engineer.



During this time of managing a busy career and raising his son and daughter, Charles began his “hobby” of volunteerism. He coached soccer and became the commissioner of the Jessup Provinces Youth Organization; he coached baseball; for three years, Charles served as a cub master, starting with seven cub scouts and ending up with fifty cubs and seven den leaders after a year!

Anita Gruss
Manager

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Closer to home, Charles was President of his Community Association for 25 years, publisher of the Community Newsletter for 25 years, and Chairman of the Grounds Committee of his parish church, St. Lawrence Catholic Church, for 30 years. His next volunteer position was as Chairman of the Arundel Mills Task Force that facilitated the interaction between Arundel Mills and 17 local community leaders. While living in the Peach Orchard community, Charles organized the distribution of gifts, clothing, food, and toys for underserved families and children at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Charles's volunteerism over the years did not go unnoticed. His neighbors sent a letter to the Maryland General Assembly, and he was given a citation to honor his community work. More citations followed: the Rotary Club honored him with the "Service Above Self" award; he was given the "Sheriff's Citation for "Outstanding Community Service"; again, Maryland's General Assembly honored Charles with an official citation for "Years of Service as President of the Peach Orchard Civic Association and the Arundel Mills Task Force"; he was given the "Distinguished Neighbor" Award from the Provinces Civic Association; Anne Arundel County and the Peach Orchard Association honored Charles with an Executive Citation, stating his "leadership and countless hours of volunteer service and the unwavering commitment to the citizens you serve" that was presented to him by the Anne Arundel County Council.

How busy can one man be? His volunteer work was done outside of his career in computers and the raising of a family!

The next question is, how did Charles and Cathie end up moving to Symphony Village? Several years after Charles retired in 2011, friends Mike and Cathie Norris, moved here and invited Charles and Cathie to visit.

That sealed the deal, and they bought a house in September of 2014. And coincidentally, Cathie's sister, Joan Davis and husband Roy also live in Symphony Village!

With his history of volunteering, it's no wonder that Charles became Chair of the Symphony Village Operations Committee and he and Cathie both joined the Sneakers group.

Here in Symphony Village, Charles and Cathie are relaxing and enjoying their children and grandchildren. They both love to travel and hope to take more trips in the future. Previously, they have enjoyed cruises and trips to western states. As a lover of history, Charles was particularly impressed by the area of Custer's Battle of the Little Bighorn. He and Cathie have also traveled to the many historical sites around the Delmarva area. In the meantime, they are enjoying their neighbors and the comfortable lifestyle in Symphony Village.

Rest assured, however, that in his free time, Charles will certainly offer his time and energy to neighborhood groups and committees, not only in Symphony Village but also in the Centreville community at large. Volunteering is Charles's hobby; it's in his blood!

Are you a veteran?

The September **Libretto** will honor our community's workforce who are military veteran residents. If you are a veteran, please send your response to this question: **"What does it mean to you to be a military veteran?"**

to
DebWells2011@ gmail.com
by September 3.

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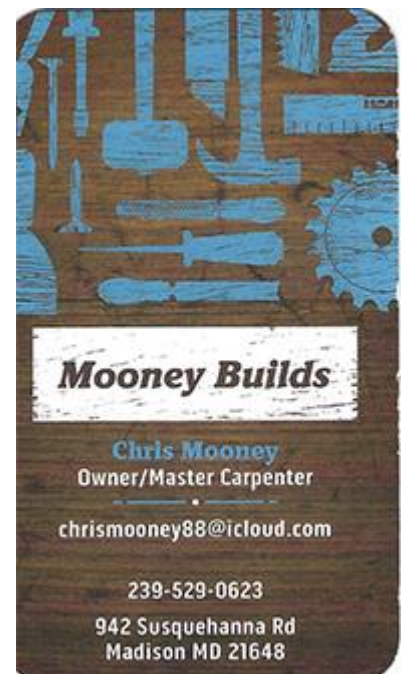
LARRY RAYNER, THE ARMCHAIR ASTRONOMER

By the time this article comes out, I hope you will have been watching the Perseid Meteor Shower (I sent out an ECHOES reminder on the 10th of August), the most beloved display of the year, and certainly, the summer! Prior to its start in late July perhaps you watched two of our three billionaires qualify as astronauts by flying higher than 50 miles above the Earth in their privately financed crafts. First, on July 11, Richard Branson in his Virgin Galactic winged rocket, then Jeff Bezos on July 20 in his more standard rocket design, New Sheppard. They both flew suborbital flights as did Alan Sheppard in May of 1961. Bezos' flight was on the 52nd Anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon in 1969. I expect our third billionaire, Elon Musk, to either orbit the Earth or the Moon by late this year with tourists aboard (Musk recently announced that his company, Space X, has just "stacked" his space ship on his Falcon 9 heavy booster for its first orbital test this month).



I reported on Act I, the Apollo Moon Landing Program, two months ago with the starting words "We are Privileged." I call this stage of mankind's exploration of space, Act II. The Second Act will have established commercial tourism of Space, with hotels in orbit above the Earth, trips to the Moon, and tours of the first Moon Landing Site, the Sea of Tranquility. The Third Act will include a return to the Moon in 2024 landing both a man and a woman, and potentially establishing a colony near the South Pole, in the water-filled crater named Shackleton, named after the British Explorer whose expedition to Antarctica (1914 thru 1917) ended in tragedy. By 2028 we will see the U.S. position a Space Station in orbit around the Moon to make astronaut's exploration of the Moon routine. They will be able to visit the Space Station as a safe haven between landings, explorations, and returns to orbit. Act III will also see the mining of Helium 3 from the Moon for use in fusion reactors on Earth, and rare-earth elements (titanium, platinum, gold, promethium, and those elements with atomic numbers greater than 62) from the Moon and Asteroids.

Neil deGrasse Tyson predicts this endeavor (the mining of rare-earth elements) will create the first trillionaires. Jeff Bezos said he went into space not just for the thrill because he sees us using the Moon and Asteroids as a place for our heavy industry, moving mining off of the Earth and into Space. Prior to then, 2035, we will have become a multi-planet species by establishing permanent colonies on Mars and the Moon. These colonies will protect our race from total extinction, as did the dinosaurs, by Asteroid impact or Super Novas. By 2050, I predict mankind will have eliminated rockets as a way into space and started construction of the first Starscraper Elevator into Space ending at a height of 220,300 miles where GPS navigational satellites now reside. Super-strong nano technology materials, like Carbon 60, will allow this! At the elevator's end will be a port that could be visited by transport rockets that can transport both supplies and personnel to other Starscraper Ports analogous to our water ferries on Earth, and fulfilling Arthur C. Clarke's 1979 vision captured by his award-winning sci-fi novel, *Fountains of Paradise*, a good read. Oh, to live to see this!



Starscraper Elevators could be placed on any satellites that are gravitationally locked to their host planets, i.e., Earth's Moon, Mars' two satellites (Deimos, Phobos), the moons of Mars, the four Galilean satellites that orbit Jupiter, and the moon Titan of Saturn, not to mention ice-covered Pluto and its moon, Charon, that could catapult us to the stars. Using the moon-to-moon approach as stepping stones and using them to refuel rockets we could send manned missions to explore the outer Solar System. Today's science fiction is tomorrow's reality.

You can view videos from the surface of Mars by watching YouTube's coverage of the ongoing NASA, Perseverance Rover, and its helicopter Ingenuity! YouTube has a wealth of information, lecture series, and videos for the armchair astronomers in our community. I also recommend you download the app, Star Walk 2, which provides a video display of the stars and the heavens on your cell phone in real time. For astronomical events by the month go to <https://Space.com>.

BOCCE

CAROL CIPRIANO



Open Bocce is now meeting each Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the SV bocce courts.

Bocce Fun Facts

Thanks to everyone who helped make the SV bocce courts new again! The new courts make playing the game so enjoyable; players no longer fear the risk of catching splinters on old wood! The handicap accessible court has been appreciated too. Stop by on Wednesday nights at 5 p.m. to participate or watch new and old residents perfecting their game. A tournament is planned for September 22...the race is on for the treasured McNeil Cup.

Lunch Bunch, September 9, 2021—*The date for the September Lunch Bunch has been moved to the second week of September due to Labor Day Activities*

BEA TROTTA & MARGE STRANO



Luisa's Cucina Italiana

The Thursday, September 9, Lunch Bunch has been scheduled for Luisa's Cucina Italiana located in Chestertown at 849 Washington Avenue. **If you click on the image**, it will direct you to Luisa's website and menu. Luisa's is a Lunch Bunch favorite. The restaurant is a five-minute ride from downtown Chestertown. We look forward to seeing you at our September outing.

The Lunch Bunch is a wonderful social way for new neighbors to meet people in Symphony Village. Please consider joining us. We simply go to the restaurant and order off the menu. Do you

have a favorite restaurant? Let us know. We are always looking for new lunching destinations.

You can choose to attend our next destination by using the [Lunch Bunch Sign-up Link](#). You can also go to the Symphony Village Website and click on the Dashboard. Scroll down to the Lunch Bunch Icon near the bottom of the page. If you prefer to sign up in person, you can sign up in the Clubs Activities Book at the Clubhouse. Please call Bea Trotta at 410-758-0332 or Marge Strano at 410-758-2511 if you have any new lunching destinations, questions, need directions, or need a ride.

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PICKLEBALL—HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME!

ROSEMARY ROSENBERGER

Our hot summer fun continues! The pickleball courts in Symphony Village are sizzling with amazing action every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday! Due to the excessive heat, we've changed the time to 8 a.m. on our play days. We welcome everyone to come and play, no matter what level of experience you have! We've been trying to pair up those who have been playing for multiple years and want to play more competitively, and also pair those who are out for the exercise and mobility. But no matter what level of play, we are always having fun and enjoying each other on the courts

**Tuesdays, Thursdays, and
Saturdays at 8 a.m. at the
Tennis/Pickleball Courts by the
Clubhouse**

FOUR PICKLEBALL FUN FACTS....DID YOU KNOW???

How many calories can you burn playing pickleball? 250 calories in 30 minutes for casual play if you weigh 150 pounds; 335 calories if you weigh 200 pounds. If you play more aggressively, then you can burn approximately 360 calories in 30 minutes if you weigh 150 pounds,; 475 calories if you weigh 200 pounds.

Is pickleball a good exercise? Pickleball gives you a good aerobic workout without as much stress and strain on joints and muscles, as mentioned above. The endorphins and other bioamines that are released with all exercise are useful in elevating self-esteem and combating depression—both problems that can come with older age.



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What is the pickleball participation in the USA?

From the 2020 SFIA Pickleball Participation Report

- Of the 4.2 million players, 2.8 million were casual players who play one to seven times a year
- 1.4 million were core players who play eight or more times a year
- The Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) for all players from 2017 to 2020 was 10.5%, for a total growth rate of 34% over three years
- 61% of participants are men and 39% are women
- The average age for all players is 38.1 years old
- The average age for core players is 47.5 and casual players 33.6 years old
- 60% of core players are 55 or older
- 79% of casual players are 54 or younger

What is the average age of a pickleball player? The sport has reportedly grown by leaps and bounds in the last couple of years. And it's no longer a game for grandma. The average age of a pickleball player is now apparently 43.5 years old. It's a physical activity that kids and adults can enjoy together. Pickleball players likely have so much fun that they won't realize they're getting their 60 minutes of recommended exercise while playing. Beyond being fun to play, pickleball offers benefits for all ages.

That's all for this month! I hope you enjoyed the fun facts above! Have a wonderful August 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! I'm in the directory!

QUILTING GROUP!

CARLENE COOKE

The Symphony Village Quilting Group will meet outside at 10 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Come join us, we are always looking for new members.



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READING FOR FUN—JULY 2021 REVIEW

JOE SIKES

The SV Book Club met virtually on July 20 to discuss *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. Attendees included Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Bob Nilsson, Carol & Len Saltiel, Cathy Olson, Charlotte Kurst, Sue Goldberg, and Peggy Decker. The Club had previously read *Ordinary Grace* by the same author and were rewarded by another great reading experience with this new selection. Mary Joe Volpicelli, JoAnn Walker, and Kathryn Buckheit (who recommended the book) also provided grading but were unable to attend the meeting.

The novel is set in Minnesota during the Great Depression where Odie O'Bannion and his older brother Albert were sent to live at the Lincoln Indian Training School despite being Caucasian. Both their parents had died within a year of each other and no relatives stepped up to claim them. Indian Training Schools had been created around the country on the theory that removing native children from their uncivilized families would allow retraining them as productive members of white society. All remnants of their ethnic heritage were banned and only English was spoken. The disturbing legacy of these schools has recently been in the headlines both here and in Canada, so the story provided an extra tenor of currency. Conditions were onerous and physical punishment was common in the Lincoln school with a particularly cruel headmistress, who the brothers nicknamed the Black Witch. The school was located on the Gilead River which eventually winds its way from Minnesota to the mighty Mississippi. When Odie is taken out for a beating by one of the male teachers, he ducks out of the way causing the teacher to stumble and fall to his death in the local quarry.

To escape likely prosecution and possible prison, Odie and his brother abscond with a canoe and agree to take along their best friend Mose, a mute Indian child, and an orphan girl named Emmie. This ragtag group, ranging



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in age from 7 to 13 years of age, sets off for a river adventure, while evading law enforcement, to get to St. Louis where they seek a long-lost aunt.

The group meets an amazing cast of characters, some friendly and some not. All are memorable and, as the story winds to its end, the runaways discover all is not as it seems. The author provides an epilogue that allows the reader to find out which acquaintances from the journey remained lifelong friends and which were lost over time. The adventures encountered can strain credulity given the extreme youth of the travelers, but the setting during the depression allowed suspension of such doubt, for me at least. Descriptions of life on the river and hobo life riding the trains were vivid and fascinating. Embedded in the story are several ignominious episodes of American history, starting with the description of the Indian Schools, which could be better described as indoctrination camps.

The runaways also stumbled upon a marker in Mankato, Minnesota, where 38 Sioux were hanged in 1862 by order of President Lincoln. This was the largest mass execution in American history but little known except to historians. Not surprisingly, during the midst of the Civil War, the president commuted 245 sentences because the trials were a travesty of justice. Attempting to bolster a tenuous presidency and preclude further violence in the Dakotas, he allowed 38 executions to proceed.

Book Club members enjoyed the book very much and gave it a score of 8.66 out of 10. The score is only slightly less than we awarded this author's previous book, giving him two of the top five scores we have awarded. Our upcoming books are listed below. We continue to meet on Zoom, so contact me at sikes.withers@yahoo.com if you would like to attend.

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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CAROL PEED

It's not Triple D but Triple P—Peed's Palate Pleasures!

Awful Arthur's Seafood Company in the heart of St. Michaels and is open for lunch and dinner and reasonably priced. Parking is a short stroll away.

It's quaint with outdoor seating with multiple fans for the warmer days and cozy indoor seating available for a more intimate setting. Reservations are highly recommended at this spot.

The menu offers something for every palate with an emphasis on oysters. We started off with the Oysters Awful (anything but awful), five baked oysters topped with chorizo, jalapeño, and smoked gouda cheese—so tasty! We also ordered an appetizer of the fried oysters, fried local oysters with a spicy remoulade and tartar



sauce. Finally, we ordered a fried oyster that is not over battered or hard fried. Not to worry if you're not an oyster lover, there are multiple options for everyone.

We moved onto the main entrées, including the Crab Cake Sandwich and the Blackened Ahi Tuna Taco, served with crispy cabbage, grilled pineapple salsa, and wasabi cream sauce. The crab cake was devoid of fillers with a perfect blend of seasoning and oh so lightly sautéed. I was asked how I wanted the Ahi Tuna cooked and ordered it medium rare. The blackening was perfectly paired with the pineapple salsa and a drizzle of wasabi cream. We had the option of choosing french fries, in-house-made coleslaw, or an assortment of fresh fruit for our side. Everything was outstanding!



We can't wait to return to try other items on the menu. My mouth is watering just writing this. Absolutely one of the better meals we've had since moving here. It's worth the drive!

Cheers, Carol and Doug!

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**QUEEN ANNE'S CHORALE IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ITS
33RD SEASON WITH THE FALL 2021 SEMESTER.**



Monday night rehearsals begin September 13 at Centreville UMC, 608 Church Hill Road. Each semester begins with an “Open House” to welcome new and returning singers. Registration starts at 6:30 p.m. with rehearsal at 7 p.m. and ending with a brief social. Regular 7 to 9 p.m. weekly rehearsals resume September 20 and run through November 29.

Participants will be preparing repertoire for concerts on the weekend of December 4 and 5, with a Community Service Concert planned for Monday evening, December 6. The theme is “A Family Christmas.” Selections include old favorites such as “Silver Bells” and “Winter Wonderland,” fun pieces such as “Mele Kalikimaka,” “You’re a Mean One, Mister Grinch” and “Nutcracker Jingles,” along with other holiday standards that all ages will enjoy. Each concert includes the Select Ensemble, a traditional audience sing-along, and other special music.

The Chorale’s 32nd season (2020-2021) featured a series of December radio broadcasts on WCEI achieved through online rehearsals, spring semester monthly webinars focused on various singing skills, and just concluded with an in-person Summer Semester.

Queen Anne’s Chorale is an all-volunteer, non-auditioned community chorus with the motto “Entertaining, Engaging, Educating since 1989”. The ability to read music is helpful, but not required. All singers should be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 to maintain safety for everyone. Masks are optional.

For more information, visit www.qachorale.org. Email, artisticdirector@qachorale.org, with any questions.

**CHESAPEAKE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER—
ADULT EDUCATION COURSES**

The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center is pleased to offer its Legacy Institute for the Environment (LIFE) course this fall. LIFE is a six-week adult education course for those who want to expand their knowledge of the Chesapeake Bay, from geography, geology, and natural history to the plants, animals, and aquatic life of the Chesapeake. It's a great opportunity to meet like-minded individuals, learn a lot, and become more well-informed stewards of the Bay. LIFE meets Wednesdays, September 22 through October 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and features interesting lectures, discussions, and not-too-strenuous outdoor experiences. The cost is \$150 and 20 hours of volunteer service at CBEC. For more information to go: bayrestoration.org/LIFE.

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