



Photo by Len Saltiel

LIBRETTO

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021

VOL. XVI No. 10

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.



Kate O'Reilly
137 Encore Court

Tom Rohe & Irene Fares
302 Orchestra Place

SV BOD PRESIDENT'S REPORT—OCTOBER 2021

PAT FOX, PRESIDENT

On Tuesday, September 28, the HOA Board held a Town Hall to present proposed draft changes to our three Governing Documents—the Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation, and the Bylaws. These documents had been on the SV Website for a month to provide an opportunity for review and comment by our residents. Our attorney was present to talk about suggestions the Board received and other issues that have been discussed over the years that these documents have been under review.

Our documents are still on the Website along with an executive summary, a rationale page, and an audio of the town hall meeting. The comment period ended on October 10.



The Board is reviewing every comment submitted. With the help of the parties involved in this endeavor, the Document Review Committee of 2018 and board members since that time, the current 2021 Board of Directors greatly appreciate your effort in getting the documents to the point where the documents are ready to be sent out for a vote. We hope to draw this process to a close and complete the project in 2021. **Once the final documents are completed, they will replace the draft documents on the SV Website. There will also be an eblast. Shortly afterwards, hard copies of the draft docs, the current documents, the executive summary, and the ballot will be mailed to each household.**

As we said before, 237 households need to vote in favor of any change. Among the many changes will be the removal of references to the developer, updates to comply with current Maryland HOA law, and a path forward for SV to operate in a more effective manner. A major issue that all reviewers have struggled with is incorporating the flexibility to fill Board vacancies through a democratic, elective process versus Board appointment only. We think we have finally found a good solution based upon comments received from several residents. You will see this change in the final version if our hypothesis continues to stand when tested against various vacancy scenarios.

Stay tuned for details on voting and an in-person meeting to accept *ballots*. Residents may submit *proxies* by mail, email, or early drop off at the Clubhouse stating their preferences. Residents are not required to attend the meeting to have their votes counted.

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SV BOD HIGHLIGHTS & ACTION ITEMS—SEPTEMBER 2021

DEBI WELLS, HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SECRETARY

Board of Directors Position Opening – Volunteer!

This announcement is an invitation to all SV residents to consider running for a Board vacancy this year. We hope you will give that idea careful consideration. For more details, please read!

As of the December 1 Homeowners Association (HOA) annual meeting, Board Treasurer Pat Ways will formally resign for health reasons. The past and current Board applaud Pat for his leadership skills in budget management and for his help to shape priorities and make significant decisions for the community. Make no mistake, in any HOA there is lots of hard work, dedication, and skill required to carry out duties. Pat continues to tirelessly give Symphony Village his time; he will be missed after December 1. There will be one year remaining on his term when he resigns. How that term is filled may depend upon the HOA's amended governing documents being voted upon. The Board would like Pat's term filled in an open and transparent process. The HOA's current Bylaws state that the "*successor shall promptly be selected by the remaining members of the Board, whether said remaining members constitute a quorum or not, and shall serve for the unexpired term of his/her predecessor.*" In the past, Board vacancy appointments have been

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made in an Executive Session by the remaining Board of Directors, not open to resident attendance or participation.

The current Board of Directors unanimously believe the majority of residents would prefer to have a special election and vote. However, if that is not possible (because the HOA amended documents are not approved), a more open means to the appointment process is planned. Consequently, we would like all residents to:

- Vote on the amended HOA documents! The ballot will be made available to you next month. It will outline the revisions and allow you to vote for or against each suggested change. Among those revisions is a special election if there is a Board vacancy. The Board, along with past Boards and current residents, have diligently reviewed the HOA governing documents to be more in line with how our community operates. Please vote!
- Volunteer for the Board position! We invite residents who are interested in serving on the Board to inform us of their interest. Please include a paragraph about your background and email your information to Board@SymphonyVillageHOA.com. Thank you!

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTISANS GUILD

SUE CANFIELD, CHAIR

Architecture is the theme of the Artisans Guild new show currently displayed in the Concert Halls. As in our other shows, the theme is interpreted differently by each artist. The art contributions keep getting better and better with each new show!

Bob Ciesielski is our “Featured Artist.” His work covers an entire wall; if you have not seen it, what are you waiting for? The art on display is a beautiful collection of Bob’s work throughout the years.



Other artists are also featured at each show on tables throughout the room. Bill Wells put together a model of the Titanic. Debi Wells took and enlarged a photo display that made it easier to see and appreciate the tiny pieces. The display is beautiful with a detailed explanation of the ship. Bill also has an explanation of how it would be impossible for Jack and Rose to hang off the front of the ship—debunking the myth.

elaborate, while the Halloween settings were fun and spooky!

Susan Rayner set two beautiful Table Scapes for everyone to enjoy! The fall centerpiece is



George Drake has his model “two-bedroom framed home” on display—built to 1/64 scale. It is made from balsa wood. He is continuing the construction and is his own general contractor!

Karen Smith constructed a wonderful and unique planter out of paint stirring sticks. You would never guess the material that was used. Each side is different and stained separately.



A newcomer to Symphony Village, but not to painting, is Ann Sharp. Ann paints portraits and fine art pieces. You never know what she might have at the next show! The theme of our new show, at the end of January, will be Coastal! Our hope is to inspire more of Symphony Village Artists to participate and show off their artistic side.



AUTUMN SAFETY TIPS

JOHN OLSON – CERT COORDINATOR



At this time of year, the duration of daylight becomes noticeably shorter, and the temperature can cool down considerably. Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 7. Remember to change your clocks back one hour. At the same time, it's also a great time to prepare for the coming winter. Here are some autumn safety tips to keep in mind.

Flu Vaccination

Flu season is here. Many of us have other health concerns right now and the dangers of influenza are real. Help to limit your risk by taking advantage of the flu vaccine this year that is available at your doctor's office, pharmacies, and many other locations—often for free!

Prepare for Heating Season

You'll want to be sure you're ready to turn on the heat safely.

Have Your Furnace Checked: Save yourself from an emergency repair call and schedule an annual cleaning and maintenance checkup. A well-maintained furnace can save you money and keep you warmer by running more efficiently.

Check Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Along with proper furnace maintenance comes ensuring your safety detectors are running properly. It's crucial to have working detectors, and fall is a great time to check them.

Don't Be Afraid to Use the Heat: Many people don't like to run the heat very much to save on heating bills. Keeping the house a little cooler is fine but you should still be comfortable. Running your furnace is generally less expensive than using space heaters. Space heaters can also be very dangerous if used incorrectly.

Prepare for Cold and Flu Season

The best way to combat winter colds besides not getting one is to be ready before you get a cold. Stock your medicine cabinet with cough drops or syrup, pain relievers, and any other medication you and your doctor agree is appropriate for you to take if you have a cold. In addition, make sure you also have plenty of tissues and cleaning supplies! It's also not a bad idea to keep plenty of soup and tea bags in the cupboards.

Prepare for Cold Weather

Don't let that first snow take you by surprise! Check that you have some basic winter supplies and get out your winter clothing. Remember that layers are the best way to stay warm in any cool weather. If you drive, make sure your car has winter-grade oil. Keep your gas tank at least half full and make sure you keep a snow scraper, an extra pair of gloves, and a blanket in the car just in case.

Staying Safe in Cyberspace: Learn how to protect yourself from cyberattacks during October's Cybersecurity Awareness Month (see www.cisa.gov).





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COVENANTS COMMITTEE—REMINDER!

VICKI KOBER, CHAIR

Exterior Paint Colors

For regular maintenance, repainting with the same color scheme as the original is permitted. Exterior house trim and window trim will remain white.

If a homeowner decides to change the original color scheme on the front entry door and/or the shutters, the new color choice must be selected from the approved paint color binder that is available in the HOA Management Office. Changing the color scheme requires an exterior modification form.

Please refer to Appendix D in the Architectural Requirements for details or call HOA Management or a Covenants member.

Roof Replacement

When you are replacing your roof, the approved color selection is available in the HOA Management Office. An exterior modification form is required.



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LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION, TREE SUBCOMMITTEE

BILL WELLS, VICE CHAIR

Tree Health at Symphony Village

So how are our trees doing? Well, that can be answered in a couple of ways. Since we have been proactive about insect infestation, disease, planting techniques, etc., the overall health of trees has increased over the last six years. However, there are still many challenges. One such challenge is described in this article.

Unfortunately, the original landscapers planted the trees too deep. Now, we are seeing years of root issues because of planting techniques. Maples are a prime example of what happens when the roots of trees are planted deep. The tree cannot get the necessary oxygen to survive. The bark at the base of the tree stays wet from the constant dampness of soil and mulch piled up against tree. Over years, the result is localized decay, and in some cases, weeping cankers (rotting wood) in the trunk's bark. In some trees, the crown begins to die, starting with bare branches seen at the tree top. Now, couple this with years of mulch piled on top of mulch from previous years without mixing—a hard shell is formed that prevents water and



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oxygen from reaching the roots. To survive the tree forces its roots upward instead of laterally into the soil. Eventually, this upward direction causes the roots to leave the soil to spread out in the mulch. And sometimes, the roots work their way to the trunk! These roots continue to grow, surrounding the tree trunk, and over years choke the tree (called girdling roots). Oh, and because the tree has been stressed for so many years, it no longer has the energy to adequately defend itself from insects and disease. We are seeing examples of this problem in Symphony Village. Outbreaks of Gloomy Scale and Japanese Maple Scale have attacked many of our maple trees. All of this is happening because the roots were planted deep and unmixed mulch was piled on, unfortunate for the tree, costly for us.



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The Landscape & Irrigation (L&I) Committee is working hard to improve this situation. It takes time and money. Trees must be identified; the dead wood must be pruned out; and the roots must be excavated until the root flare is exposed. This is the area where the trunk ends, and the roots begin. Girdling roots must be cut out. Larger girdling roots must be notched the first year and removed the following year, so as not to cause additional issues for the tree. Mulch must be removed or mixed. Sadly, too often a tree must be removed; as a last resort. When all of this work has been accomplished, the trees will be healthier and continue to enhance the value of our community.

If you are interested in hearing more about our trees' health or helping, please think about joining the Symphony Village Landscape & Irrigation Committee!



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



Oktoberfest, Symphony Village style, a huge success! The brats, Oktoberfest beer, and German dishes were terrific. Thanks to all the participants and volunteers for making it a fun-filled, yummy evening. A special

thank you to Skip and Donna for supplying special "Oktoberfest Beer" for our event.

Anita Gruss
Manager



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Villagers, the Lifestyle Committee is always looking for *out-of-the-box* fun and creative ideas for Social Hour themes. Please feel free to share any ideas you may have with any member of the committee.

Flu Clinic

This year, once again, the Lifestyle Committee has been in communication with Edwards Pharmacy to bring a Flu Vaccine Clinic to SV. Unfortunately, Edward's has not received its full order of vaccines and is not able to bring a Flu Vaccine Clinic to us at this time. If they do receive the doses later this month, we can set up a vaccine clinic pretty quickly. Meanwhile, Edwards has some doses of the flu vaccine on hand and recommends customers call to schedule an appointment. We have been advised that Walgreens has received its entire supply of vaccines. Appointments for Walgreens must be made online and can often be scheduled the same day. Stay well.

Please join the Lifestyle Committee on November 10 at 6:30 p.m. for a complimentary, informational session on the benefits of CBD, presented by advocates of Green Compass Global, GCG. GCG is a health and wellness company located in North Carolina, specializing in American grown, FDA-certified, organic CBD products. Plant-based, medical-grade products include skin care, topicals, tinctures, drink powders and more. A number of Villagers use a variety of CBD products very successfully. Come on out and see if they may be right for you.

Join us

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The holidays will be here before you know it. Our annual kick-off to the holidays, The Night of Lights (Soup Night), is quickly approaching. Please mark November 30 on your calendar for this fabulous event. More information to follow.

OUTREACH

13th Annual Outreach Food Drive Slated for November 8-12

LORETTA QUIGLEY

Please join your Outreach team in the campaign to provide \$10 food gift cards for holiday help for those in need in Queen Anne's County. Once again, we will partner with Social Services for this project. As last year's campaign was so successful, we will not be collecting food items. Instead we will be purchasing gift cards in bulk.



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- **TO WHOM DO I WRITE THE CHECK?** The check is written to S.V.O.P.I. (Symphony Village Outreach Program, Inc.)
- **WHEN DO WE DO THIS?** We will collect all checks from Monday, November 8 through Friday, November 12.
- **WHERE DO I DELIVER THE CHECK?** Deposit the check in the black box in the Clubhouse or in the container at the Quigleys—509 Symphony Way—whichever is more convenient for you!
- **ONE MORE THING**—Please attach or add your email address to your gift for an acknowledgement of receipt. Your canceled check is also your receipt.

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Any questions or need to deposit earlier? Please contact Loretta Quigley at lorettaquigley@yahoo.com or 410-758-6775. Thank you for your continuing generosity!

Please **mark your calendar** for this very important, once-a-year event. As always, your participation in endeavor means so much to so many.



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Symphony Village Card Party

CARLENE COOKE

**Announcing the 12th Annual Symphony Village Card and Game Party
On Thursday, November 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.* at the Symphony Village
Clubhouse Sponsored by the Outreach Committee**

It is that time again—time to get your group together and sign up in the Card and Game Party Notebook in the Wall Street Room for the 12th Annual Card and Game Party. Remember to mark the sign-up sheet *Complete* if your table is full.

The cost is \$30—80% of which is tax deductible. Please make checks to SVOPI and deposit in the Lock Box in the Wall Street Room.

If you need help organizing a table, please contact Sue Peterson at 410-474-0253 or sdpeterson71@gmail.com. Other questions, please contact either Sue or Carlene Cooke at 301-367-2942 or carlene.cooke@gmail.com. *We are moving forward with our plans but be aware that we are marking it *tentative* since we are dependent on the status of the COVID crisis. **If you have not been vaccinated, we'll see you next year!**

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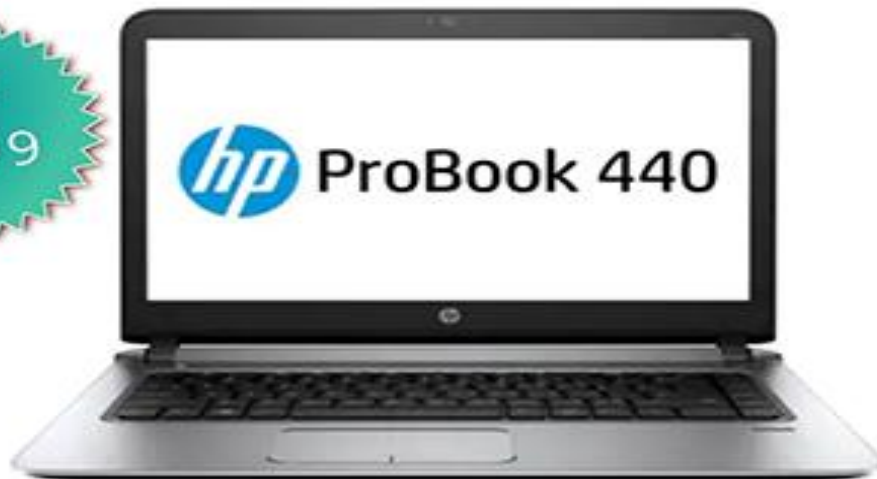
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Bingo Has Changed Hands

SUE CANFIELD

Symphony Village Outreach's mission statement is to raise money to help the less fortunate people in Queen Anne's County. Bingo was one of our fundraising events that consistently brought in funds so we could make many of these donations.

Whether it was caused by COVID or people having other commitments, attendance at Bingo has declined. We thank you for your past support.

Bingo will no longer be a Symphony Village Outreach activity. Fret not, those of you who love the game will still be able to play. Donna Donaldson has decided to run Bingo! She will need your help. Contact Donna at neverneverland316@gmail.com to offer support. Look for a Bingo night in the near future—possibly in November.

GREETINGS SYMPHONY VILLAGE RESIDENTS,

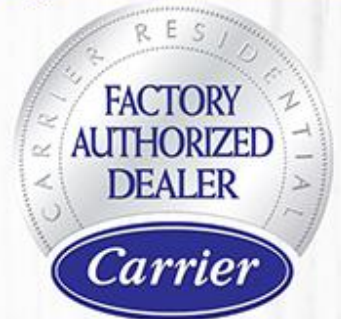
Thank you for all your kind words and wishes regarding my recent nuptials. I could not be more grateful for the kindness and generosity extended as I enter married life and throughout my time at Symphony Village. I would also like to thank the Board for hosting a shower and extend my sincere gratitude to all those in attendance. With great pleasure, I announce that I am now Mrs. Rebecca Wagner.

Sincerely, Mrs. Rebecca Wagner—previously Ms. Rebecca Cook
General Manager/COO

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SV NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

MARGE STRANO, CHAIR

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 as needed.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor provides a great opportunity for new residents to connect with the community and for current residents to reconnect with the community. If you want to know more about how Neighbor-to-Neighbor serves the community and have an interest in meeting new people and helping your neighbors, please send an email to Marge Strano at mbestrano@gmail.com or call me at 609-221-6378.

SNEAKERS

LINDA FARRAR, PRESIDENT
AUTHOR—TERRI O'CONNELL

THE GIVING TREE

Sneakers is getting ready for the "Giving Tree" event that begins on November 5 at the Clubhouse. Sneakers adopts needy families from the local elementary schools to help them celebrate the holidays. In addition,

during the Holiday season, we ask the school counselors for some information regarding families in need. We never know the children's names, just an initial identifies the child. The Giving Tree, located in the Wall Street Room of the Clubhouse, will have tags for each of the children chosen to receive gifts.

Our organization provides books and some help for field trips for each of the six schools that feed into Queen Anne's High School using the profits from our fundraising activities. The Giving Tree provides a unique opportunity for SV residents to help needy children by taking one or more tags on the tree and purchasing the item listed on the tag. Detailed instructions will be provided by early November.

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES



BOCCE

PATTI CIPRIANO

SV bocce enthusiasts gathered at the bocce courts on September 22 to participate in the annual SV Bocce Tournament. The competition first narrowed to two teams and then just one—team Levin & Lister took away the sought-after McNeil Cup. Captured in the photo are last year's winners, Jay and Amy Landen, this year's winners, Jack Lister and Alan Levin; and Don Rizzo presenting the trophy. Even though the tournament is over, open bocce continues until the last Wednesday in October. Let the good times roll!

LUNCH BUNCH, DECEMBER 2, 2021



BEA TROTTA & MARGE STRANO

The November Lunch Bunch has been cancelled due to conflicts with scheduled SV events. However, we do look

forward to the next Lunch Bunch scheduled at The Narrows Restaurant on Thursday, December 2. An article with details will appear in the November *Libretto*. An email reminder will be sent early in November.

The Lunch Bunch is a wonderful social way for new neighbors to meet people in Symphony Village and also get to visit local restaurants and interesting destinations. Please consider joining us. The plan is simple; we go to the restaurant and order off the menu. Do you have a favorite restaurant? Let us know. We are always looking for new luncheon destinations.



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You can add your name to the Lunch Bunch email list by calling either Bea Trotta (410-758-0332) or Marge Strano (609-221-6378) or by sending an email request. Marge Strano mbestrano@gmail.com Bea Trotta bp Trotta@gmail.com

RESTAURANT REVIEW

MARGE STRANO



The Limoncello Italian Restaurant and WineBar, a quaint eatery and gathering place, is located at 200 S. Talbot Street in St. Michaels. The Limoncello provides a true Italian dining experience. The restauranteurs, Gennaro and Ivano, developed their craftsmanship in the preparation of wonderful Italian meals in and around Naples Italy.

The Limoncello provides a broad menu which includes appetizing antipasti, salads, char-grilled pizzette, homemade gnocchi, delicious risotto options, and pasta. The *secondi piatti* options are available for dinner after 4 p.m.

My choice of a lunch portion of the Penne Caprese prepared with a light marinara sauce, EVOO, fresh mozzarella, basil, and parmesan cheese was the perfect choice for the day—so very delicate in flavor and delicious. You can look at the extensive menu by clicking on the photo of the restaurant to the left. Reservations are recommended, especially if you plan to dine after 4 p.m.

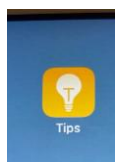
GOLF

ALLAN LEVIN

The 12th annual Symphony Village golf outing was held on Wednesday, September 29, at Blue Heron Golf Course. The weather was just about perfect for the 29 golfers who teed off in scramble format. Everyone had a good time and about 22 enjoyed lunch at the Kentmorr Restaurant.

The teams seemed to be evenly matched; however, the team of Dave and Sue Peterson and Rosie Lewis shot a 30 (2 under par) to take home the first-place prize. Sandy Cheyne got closest to the pin (16 feet, 9 inches) on hole number 12 and Ginny McKaig was closest to the pin (17 feet) on hole number 17. A fun day was had by all. Thanks to Eric Beaufait (manager of Blue Heron) for his help with the outing.

TERRI O'CONNELL



iPhone Widgets: From the Home Screen, touch and hold a widget or an empty area until the apps begin to jiggle. Tap the add button in the upper-left corner, select a widget, choose a size for the widget, and simply tap and add. Tap done to complete the process.

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SV PICKLERS...A GREAT AND FUN BUNCH!!!

ROSEMARY ROSENBERGER



Pickleball Action Continues to Be Hot in the Fall!

HAPPY OCTOBER 2021! The photo above represents only a few of the wonderful folks who have come out to play this year. I am hopeful that we can gather all of the SV picklers later this month to include a photo in next month's *Libretto* that reflects the vast number of people who have joined us to share in the fun!

As we continue to play into the fall season, the action is still hot on the court and full of fun and laughs! Of course, let's not forget a few of our competitive players who are mastering the game quite well and may be a tad more serious...LOL! Whatever your level of play, we welcome everyone! Regularly scheduled play is every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 9 a.m.

With the increased numbers of players, I made a motion to the Operations Committee and the Board of Directors to add two more pickleball courts for a total of four courts. The discussion is in process, and if approved, the additional courts would be put in early next spring when the resurfacing of the current tennis court area is scheduled to take place. Let's keep our fingers crossed and hope that this request will get approved so that we have the appropriate number of courts to accommodate all of our players and alleviate the

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length of the downtime between games, There will be more to follow in future articles as we receive new information.

In addition, the new YMCA currently under construction will include a few indoor pickleball courts. When completed, this new location will provide an exciting opportunity for avid pickleball players to continue playing when the outdoor weather conditions are not favorable!

Remember that exercise makes you feel great and laughing is good for the soul! Whatever it is that you choose to do; stay safe and enjoy our beautiful Symphony Village! Please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions or concerns!



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READING FOR FUN—SEPTEMBER 2021 REVIEW

JOE SIKES

The SV Book Club met virtually on September 21 to discuss *Four Lost Cities* by Annalee Newitz. Attendees included Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Jim & Kathryn Buckheit, Sue Goldberg, and Bob Nilsson. Joann Walker provided her grade separately.

The book is an archaeological tour-de-force, describing details of ancient cities uncovered by modern techniques. While described as "Lost" cities, these cities were never lost to local inhabitants of the respective regions. The four cities are Catalhoyuk in eastern Turkey (7000 B.C.); Pompeii, famously destroyed by Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D.; Angkor in northern Cambodia, capital of the Khmer dynasty (1100 A.D.); and Cahokia, a North American city near St. Louis (1000 A.D.).

Catalhoyuk may be the earliest community, marking the transition of hunter-gatherer humans to farming and communal living. Originally, inhabitants lived in simple living structures underground, traveling to nearby fields by crossing the roofs of the city. Later expansions were built on top of original structures and display increasing specialization, as reflected in advanced tool and pottery samples. Eventually communal rooms started to appear for gatherings. Little is known about these early residents but eventually they migrated to other nearby areas as demonstrated by DNA analyses.

Angkor, the capital of the Khmer empire about 1000A.D., was located in the northern jungles of Cambodia. Many of the structures and monuments that were erected to honor the Khmer Kings remain and are now tourist destinations. Angkor is an example of indigenous peoples clearing swaths of jungle to create cities. Today the monuments are lost



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in the jungle regrowth. However, modern usage of Lidar mapping techniques have exposed a much more complex city structure than previously understood. The water reservoirs serving the city eventually succumbed to climate changes causing abandonment of Angkor. The Khmer capital was moved south to its current location in Phnom Penh.

Cahokia is a little known North American city underneath large mounds on the banks of the Mississippi River near St. Louis. Much like the structure of Catalhoyuk, the city was buried under the earth. Recent archeological finds have identified a thriving city structure which existed contemporaneously with Angkor halfway across the globe. Its primary commerce was agricultural but its political and social structures rivaled those of more famous South American cultures.

Pompeii is the most famous of the four cities and the best preserved. A coastal retreat of the Roman empire, it thrived from about 500 B.C until its destruction in 79 A.D. The Roman emperor put considerable resources into rebuilding. I thought of translating FEMA into Latin, but you get the picture. DNA evidence shows many of the inhabitants resettled into nearby coastal towns rather than moving back near Mount Vesuvius.

The common story of all the ancient cities is that they did not just suddenly disappear. Even Pompeii's sudden end was preceded by several natural disasters in the century before the Vesuvius eruption. Rather, the social and environmental reasons that caused them to be created in the first place changed slowly over time.

As archaeologists study possible reasons for the decline of these four cities, there are lessons for the future. Current environmental events, such as floods, fires, and extreme weather could eventually change where the population centers of the U.S will exist a century from now. Political and religious forces could also affect where people live, as the changes in various Hindu sects restructured the Khmer kingdom. Economic and technological changes affect commerce and jobs, as is evident in modern Detroit.

So, I have applied lessons from Symphony Village that may have benefitted these ancient cities. Catalhyok could have used a strong Covenants committee to control people walking on roofs. Pompeii could have used a stronger CERT team that might have noticed the unhappy volcano sooner. Angkor needed an active landscape committee to keep the jungle from overgrowing the city and making the King angry. Lastly Cahokia needed better swales to control flooding of the Mississippi River.

While the Book Club found the this read interesting, most found it too heavy on the archaeology and felt as though they were studying for an exam. But the only grade was the one we assigned to **Four Lost Cities**, which was 6.01 out of 10. Our next book is listed below. We continue to meet on Zoom, so contact me at sikes.withers@yahoo.com if you would like to attend.

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

THE ARMCHAIR ASTRONOMER

LARRY RAYNER

Astronomy, A Humbling Science

Carl Sagan is quoted as saying “Astronomy is a humbling and character building experience.” In this article, we’ll explore why this is so. Astronomy on an individual level teaches one to learn his place in the Universe/Cosmos and how small and insignificant he is and indeed, how small his place is here on this Earth in relation to the Cosmos. To understand this learning process, one must learn the concept of a Paradigm Shift; both from the individual level and from the level of human culture. Par-a-digm Shift—noun, a fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions.

The Greeks were founded in the “Geocentric” approach, believing that everything revolved around the Earth and the Earth was the center of their Universe. Think of the Greek shepherds, sitting in the pasture, at night, guarding their flocks, watching as the planets wandered amongst the stars as they rose in the East and set in the West. Fast forward to the 1600’s A.D. and the renaissance where Copernicus theorized and later, Galileo confirmed, via the telescope, that the Sun was the center of our Universe and not the Earth, the “Heliocentric” approach. Moving from the Geocentric to the Heliocentric understanding of the planets and their movements around the Sun allowed mankind to calculate the orbits of the planets and the reason for their retrograde motion; this resulted in a true Paradigm Shift for humanity. This new understanding and its impact on mankind’s belief in the areas of religion, culture, and his view of his place in the Universe was revolutionary.

Through the development of the Newtonian telescope and the new math tool of Calculus (both by Newton) man was able to see and calculate the orbits of other planets

and moons and define our own solar system for the first time. In fact, Neptune was the first planet found mathematically. In 1929, the astronomer, Edwin Hubble and mankind profited with the construction of the large, 100-inch diameter telescope on Mt. Wilson in California. Hubble was able to discern that our Milky Way galaxy was just one of many galaxies in the Universe and the Universe was expanding. This made mankind even more insignificant in the scheme of things, another Paradigm Shift for humanity. All of this led to the discovery of the Big Bang Theory.

The next time we feel so proud of ourselves, and we marvel at our accomplishments we need only look towards the stars to sense our true place in the Cosmos.

“Who are we? We find that we live on an insignificant planet of a humdrum star lost in a galaxy tucked away in some forgotten corner of a universe in which there are far more galaxies than people.”

Carl Sagan



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What to see this month in the sky: October 2: The Orionid meteor shower peaks in the early morning hours, one of the finest meteor showers. Looking southwest you can find the constellation Orion by looking for three stars in a row (Orion’s belt). While looking there take time to find one of the finest displays in the heavens, second only to Saturn and its rings. The Orion Nebula, is located as the middle apparent second star forming his sword

sheath on his right thigh. It’s really not a star but a Nebula of dust and gases where new planets and solar systems are in the process of being formed as photographed by the Hubble Space Telescope. Keep in mind as you look at the Nebula the light from it took 1,500 years to reach your eye. The Nebula is 1,500 light years from Earth



October 3: Mercury will rise in the eastern sky before dawn with the brilliant white star Spica in the constellation Virgo.

October 20 to November 30: On November 12 you can spot the Northern Taurus meteors as this shower peaks, the moon will provide little interference. The radiant point of the Taurid shower is in the constellation of Taurus.

November 13: In the morning hours look to the crescent moon for a bright point, Venus. You can see them close with the naked eye. By downloading the Application, SkyWalk 2, you can get a virtual display of the Stars and Constellations.

CLUBHOUSE COFFEE BAR

PAT FOX, THE COFFEE COMMITTEE

COMING SOON—REOPENING OF SYMPHONY VILLAGE COFFEE AND HOT DRINK BAR!

As many will recall, before COVID arrived, a committee of residents set up a self-sustaining coffee and hot-drink bar in the hall opposite the regular bar. We will soon be reopening in time for cooler fall and winter weather. The Keurig pot and supplies for regular and decaf coffee and tea, hot chocolate, and apple cider along with accessories—cups, sugar (real and fake), powdered creamer etc., will be set up in the usual location on the credenza to the left of the bar.

The price will stay the same at just \$1 per cup. We have been very successful since 2015 with the operation paying for itself through user fees that you can deposit in the marked glass jar on the counter.



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

THE QAC FAMILY YMCA/SENIOR CENTER

GEORGE DRAKE

So much more than a gym, this facility will include the following:

- Aquatics Center with an indoor six-lane AAU competitive swimming pool (outdoor pool coming)—swim lessons, team swim matches, water aerobics, lap swimming, masters swimming, a temperature of 83/84 degrees, chair-lift
- Full-size gym with a walking track around the perimeter, basketball, pickleball, team-building activities, youth sports, adult leagues, space to provide meals for seniors three days a week
- Three large group exercise rooms—Yoga, Senior Yoga, Pound, Cardio, BodyPump, Step, Barre, Zumba, Pilates, Group Cycling, Enhanced Fitness for seniors, & more
- Wellness Center—full of the latest exercise equipment to improve strength and balance, train for marathons
- Stay and play area—supervised area for the little ones, exercise, socialization, cooperative play, a fun and safe place while mom/dad take a little time for themselves
- Playground
- Kitchen to provide meals for seniors; nutrition education and cooking classes for all
- Three conference rooms – places for groups to come together, meeting space for nonprofits, training, fiscal literacy classes for youth
- Welcome Center
- Membership priced according to family income/needs



Special Programs & Info

- Every sixth-grade child in QAC will learn to swim!
- Rock Steady Boxing for friends battling Parkinsons (new program in current QAC Y!)
- LiveStrong for Cancer survivors
- Diabetes information
- Enhanced fitness for Seniors with diabetes, arthritis, etc.
- Senior Center – three days per week with meals to alleviate isolation of a single person
- Trained fitness instructors

- Job skills training for students with disabilities
- Business development information for small businesses and nonprofits

I am on the Advocacy Board of the QAC Family Y and the Capital Campaign Committee. We are currently seeking donors for the new Y and I would love to provide you with:

- A packet of information about the Y and its plans.
- A diagram of the layout of the new Y.
- A discussion of how you can help finance this effort by pledging a charitable donation this year or/and over a 5-year term.

To me, being able to pledge/donate over five years was a no-brainer. As you probably know and have seen, ground breaking was on June 30 and completion is expected late 2022 or early 2023.

The Y strengthens communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility by engaging members and their families. The YMCA provides a safe, inclusive environment for you to learn and improve your mental and physical health.

Would you give me the opportunity to talk to you for about 20 minutes about how you can become a part of this amazing building project and program for the kids, adults, families, and seniors of QAC? Call me. Thank you! George Drake, 443-988-8803.



CENTREVILLE NEWS

10TH ANNUAL CENTREVILLE DAY

Lawyers Row, Broadway & the Courthouse Green, Downtown Centreville
Saturday, October 23, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain Date: Sunday, October 24. (FREE)

Features an interactive Kids Zone, a cookie contest, an Idol singing contest, pumpkin painting, pumpkin bowling, a balloon twister, and Scary Games on Broadway, including a Pac-Man tournament, arcade games plus more than 30 vendors, representing businesses, nonprofits, and food (\$) vendors. For information, and vendor and contest forms, email mainstreet@townofcentreville.org or call (410) 758-1180, ext. 17.

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. 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 go to: www.bayrestoration.org/LIFE.

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