

# LIBRETTO

Symphony Village's Newsletter

December, 2007

Vol. II No.12

*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 NEW HOMEOWNERS!!



The following residents settled and/or moved into their new homes since our last publication:

Patricia Newgent  
236 Harmony Way

John and Barbara Locke  
806 Harmony Way

Nazir & Roberta Ahmed  
503 Symphony Way

Gary & Christa Fookes  
232 Harmony Way

Ronald and Eleanor Trump  
150 Opera Court

Sandra Palumbo  
631 Harmony Way

## Welcome to each and everyone!

\*\* Some of our new residents were not available to complete the application for the Directory but the information will be updated as soon as possible and will be available on the Web site.

## FROM JAN'S DESK



Many thanks to Liz deGuzman and the SV homeowners who helped decorate the Clubhouse. Once again, we began with a potluck soup dinner and then began decorating. The Gypsy Chicks led the carols, and it was a great way to get into the holiday spirit. All had a great time. The Clubhouse Office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 24 and 25, for the Christmas holiday.



**Mark Your Calendar:** Representatives from Anne Arundel Medical Center will be at the Clubhouse on January 17 at 6:30 p.m. to speak about the new facility on Kent Island.

**Reminder:** This is the cold and flu season. Please remember to use the hand sanitizers provided in the fitness center and the indoor pool before using the equipment and touching the rails. To protect yourself, wipe down the fitness equipment with the alcohol solution before and after use.



Who can I get to do my taxes? *See pages 12 and 13.*

### FROM DENNIS' DESK



Please be aware that the speed limit in Symphony Village is 25 miles per hour. Many drivers go much faster. Many of the speeders are our own homeowners. The disregard of stop signs is a very dangerous practice and could become catastrophic if continued. PLEASE abide by all stop signs/yield signs and watch your speed and protect our community. Also, please ask service people, contractors, and friends that use our roads to follow the speed limit and abide by traffic signs. The life you save could be yours and ours. Thank you for your consideration.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS



#### Lifestyles Committee Calendar

Upcoming Events:

- |          |    |  |
|----------|----|--|
| December | 15 | Holiday Happy Hour – 6:00 p.m. Entertainment and Holiday Sing along.   |
|          | 22 | Happy Hour 6:00 p.m.   |
|          | 31 | New Year's Eve Celebration – 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Entertainment.<br>Registration required. Cost: \$12.00 per person that includes hors d'oeuvres, champagne at midnight, and coffee and Danish after midnight. |
| January  | 04 | Happy Hour 6:00 p.m.   |

The Holiday Party, December 1, was a great success. One hundred two people enjoyed an excellent dinner, great music, dancing, and wonderful neighbors. Thanks to the decorating committee for transforming the hall into a tranquil and festive atmosphere. We extend many thanks to the Lifestyles Committee and Caruso Homes for sponsoring such an elegant evening.



**New Year's Eve** Space is still available for the December 31 New Year's Eve Party at the Clubhouse. Cost is \$12.00 per person to include hors d'oeuvres with champagne at midnight followed by coffee and Danish. DJ Rich Lichty will provide music. Thanks to the Lifestyles Committee for sponsoring this event. We hope to see you there. It is a great way to "Ring in the New Year" with your neighbors.

## **OUTREACH UPDATE**

### **A History of The Outreach Committee**



A mere 20 months ago, Marlene Tennier, on behalf of the Symphony Village Advisory Board, approached Dorothy Hamm with the idea of starting an Outreach Program. After a little arm-twisting, Dorothy agreed and proceeded with Bob Butler to produce the necessary papers and voila--the SV Outreach Program, Inc. was born. Soon after, Pat Loiacono, Helen Schultz, and Mary Lou Coyle organized the Neighbor to Neighbor Committee, Beth Dewhirst started the Caregivers Group. Joyce Edmonston becoming Co-Chairperson in January 2007 enriched the Committee.

Outreach has had four fundraisers--two garage sales and the big income producers, two very successful Symphony Village House Tours, lead by Jeanne Novack and Joyce Ryan. Added to these fundraisers, we now have published *The Village Cookbook*. With the funds realized from these projects, we have been able to contribute to the following:

Queen Anne's County Council for Youth and Children  
Goodwill Fire Department of Centreville  
Adult Day Care Foundation  
Centreville Police Department  
American Legion of Centreville  
Chesterwe Center for the Mentally Handicapped  
Grasonville Senior Center  
Caring and Sharing of Queen Anne's County  
Queen Anne's County Arts Council  
And of course, our own Village Neighbor to Neighbor Program

In addition to the above donations, our big contribution has been to Hospice of Queen Anne's. As they are going to be our new neighbor, we wanted to be involved with contributions of time and money. We began thinking that we could contribute \$12,500 with proceeds from the sale of our published cookbook and other fundraisers resulting in a nice plaque in the new Hospice Center.

We asked Caruso Homes if they would partner with us by matching our donation of \$12,500. The request was passed on to Waterford Centreville, LLC, the developer of Symphony Village, and they honored that request. Hospice then called to inform us that an anonymous donor in Symphony Village wanted to contribute \$25,000 and asked that it be added to our donation. That contribution placed us in a higher category of donors and consequently entitled us to name a room. We chose the kitchen, as it will be the hub of activity for staff, family, and friends. We are so thrilled to be able to make this choice and to be such an important part of the Hospice Center. We also owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our anonymous neighbor and Waterford Centreville, LLC, who have joined with us.

All of our contributions are still hard to believe and in only 20 months!!! This would not have come into existence without the vision of our SV Outreach Program Committee. It has truly been a team effort and would not have happened without everyone's participation. We have worked tirelessly for months, and the gift to Hospice is our crowning achievement. Everyone who has been involved with

our many projects should take great pride in this success and look forward to some new challenges in the future.



Who can I get to tint my windows? *See pages 12 and 13!*

### **Winter Art Gala**

Keep your calendar open for our spectacular Winter Art Gala on Saturday, January 26. Symphony Village Outreach is planning an exciting evening that will include an art auction, fine food, complimentary champagne, lavish décor, and wonderful door prizes, including two works of art donated by the art dealers.

Look for your invitation in the mail by the New Year, and note that advance ticket purchase will give you double the chances to win the door prizes. This will be an event you won't want to miss! Proceeds from the auction will support SV Outreach's community programs.

### **Queen Anne's County Council on Youth and Children Holiday Party**

The Queen Anne's County Council on Youth and Children will hold its annual Holiday Party for disadvantaged families this week. The Outreach Program has donated \$400 to help fund the event. They are still in need of toys and other gifts for foster children and children in group homes. If you would like to make some child's holiday a little brighter, please call Nancy Roe (410-758-8000) at Social Services, which is located down the street from the Food Lion Shopping Center.



### **Cookbook Sale and Wassail Party**

The Wassail Party was marvelous!!! The food was great thanks to Nancie Cameron's organization and our many superb cooks. The wassail was perfect and the aroma wafted through the beautifully decorated rooms. It was wonderful to see so many new faces in the festive crowd. The cookbook sales were as good as it gets with 391 sold.

A deposit of \$5,871 was taken to Hospice of Queen Anne's along with a box of 33 *Village Cookbooks* for a total value deposit of \$6,366. Hospice will sell the cookbooks at Estate Treasures in the Kent Towne Market. Cookbooks are also being sold at

Centreville Shipping & Services by Clay Barnett and Bill Cheezum in the Acme Mall. Please thank them for their efforts. The Hospice Center will sell the cookbooks as soon as they are open and ready. We have plenty of cookbooks left, so please give either Joyce Edmonston (410-758-4908) or Dorothy Hamm (410-758-3803) a call for additional orders. Orders can also be placed at the Clubhouse. Thanks to all the many volunteers, who prepared, served, and cleaned up after the party.

### **Hospice Center in Centreville**



Our long awaited move to the new Hospice Center is almost here. The administrative offices will be relocated there on January 3. We'd like to thank Symphony Village for your continued support and hope to see many of you as volunteers at the Center.

Our new phone number at the Hospice Center in Centreville will be 443-262-4100. The staff and volunteers at Hospice of Queen Anne's wish you all a happy and safe holiday season. Debbie Gilmer, Volunteer Coordinator, Hospice of Queen Anne's-- 410-758-6609.

### **Success for the Adult Day Care Foundation**

On November 13 about 100 ladies met at the Prospect Bay Country Club to play cards and to raise monies to assist the Queen Anne's Country Adult Day Care program. The Foundation sponsors some activities for our medically dependent seniors, but more importantly supplies scholarships to those seniors who otherwise would not be financially able to pay for this service. This year's Card Party was VERY successful. We raised over \$6,000, the most ever. So thank you to all from Symphony Village who helped make this happen. At least 10 people are now able to attend the Adult Day Care because of your efforts.

### **Symphony Village - Volunteer in Action** **by Cyndy Bourke**

Community Mediation Upper Shore, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides mediation services in Queen Anne's, Kent, and Cecil counties. The mission of the organization is to provide conflict resolution services so disputes can be resolved without costly legal services or other consequences associated with unresolved conflicts. These disputes range from arguments with neighbors, workplace disputes, as well as a variety of other conflicts between individuals or groups. Trained volunteer mediators throughout the tri-county area provide the services. The volunteer mediators have completed an extensive educational program supported by the state of Maryland.

Recently, The Reverend Mary Walker spearheaded the "Seeds of Peace" program. Community Mediation Upper Shore identified that young community members were frequently in need of the center's conflict resolution services. As a result of Reverend Walker's efforts, ten local youth became the first youth in Kent County to complete fifty hours of training to become volunteer mediators. As a result of the training efforts, these youth are now empowered to assist other youth to work out their disagreements in a non-violent and productive manner.



The mediation service is a process that allows each party time to talk about the conflict in a non-threatening setting without interruption. Participants break down the issues that are causing the conflicts into more manageable smaller issues. The process usually takes a few sessions lasting two hours. If the parties come to an agreement, the mediators write out the agreement of the conflict, which is given to both parties. In court related cases, the mediated agreement is often grounds for dismissal of the charges. The mediation sessions take place in a location that is convenient to both parties and is provided at no cost. Donations are appreciated.

I have been involved with this organization close to two years as a volunteer outreach coordinator and now as a board member. I firmly believe in the mission of the services of Community Mediation Upper Shore and respect the talents of the volunteer mediators. We are in need of volunteers willing

to complete the mediation-training program and are committed to providing mediation services for the organization in Queen Anne’s County. If you would like more information about the services or you would like to become a volunteer, please contact Cyndy Bourke (410-758-6599) or Edith Hanson, Executive Director of Community Mediation Upper Shore (410-810-9188).

**SYMPHONY SNEAKERS UPDATE**

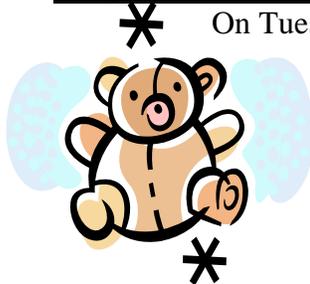
This past month has been busy for the Symphony Sneakers program. The month began with our Silent Auction (thank you to everyone who participated), which was described in the November *Libretto*. We manned the Donuts for Dads book giveaway at Kennard. This was a very successful event with over 150 fathers attending the two-day event. Many thanks to all of you who helped as volunteers. We hope you saw the pictures in the local papers.

Last week we received a wonderful “Thank You Book” full of letters and pictures from the students at Kennard for our help with the Muffins For Moms book distribution in October. Some of us were able to attend the Scholastic Book Sale and obtain enough books for the Holiday Book distribution at an average sale price of \$2 per book. This was a great way to stretch our budget.

We have also voted to extend our support to Centreville Middle School on a case-by-case basis. Our help has already been extended to an emergency funding situation at that school.

Many, many thanks to the Symphony Village Community for all of the wonderful gifts that you have provided for our “adopted” families in the Centreville Community. Please know how much they are appreciated.

**Adopt-A-Bear Gift Sorting**



On Tuesday, December 18, we will be helping Kennard Elementary with their Adopt-A-Bear gift sorting and wrapping as well as sorting and bagging/boxing canned goods for the forty or so families who are recipients under this program. If you have an hour or two on that day and could help us between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., please sign up in the Activity Book in the Clubhouse or call Linda Farrar, 410-758-8744.



Where can I get my car repaired? *See ads on pages 12 and 13.*

### **Book Giveaway**

The next book giveaway at the Holiday All-School Book Distribution at Kennard Elementary School will take place from approximately 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 20. If you can join us for a one or two-hour shift, please sign up in the Activity book in the Clubhouse or call Linda Farrar, 410-758-8744.

### **Next Sneakers Meeting**

The next Sneakers Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 10, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the Clubhouse. Remember, everyone in Symphony Village is invited to join us at our meetings and in our endeavors to help the school-age children of Centreville and their families.

### **SYMPHONY SSINGLES**



On Sunday, December 9, the Symphony Ssingles traveled to St. Michaels to view the homes on the Christmas House Tour. We also stopped to see Hooper's Point Light at the Maritime Museum. The homes were decorated for Christmas, and it was great fun seeing the many different styles and ornaments used. Lunch was at the Town Dock Restaurant, where we enjoyed the food and the view of the Harbor and the Maritime Museum. Doris Pullman has agreed to be the Symphony Ssingles leader in 2008. Watch Jan's update and the Events Book for information about our next trip.

## **CLUBS AND CLASSES**

### **Gazebo Garden Gang**



The flowers have pretty much faded, but we have been busy deadheading and pulling the deceased annuals. We have pulled and drained the hoses to avoid freezing. You may have also noticed that the gazebo has been decorated for the Christmas season. We are all looking forward to spring to see how many daffodils and tulips have survived. We also have big plans for new perennials as well as more beautiful annuals. If you are interested in joining the garden club, please contact Jack or Joan Hennessey at 410-758-4872. Our next meeting will probably be in early March. See you then!

### **Symphony Village Bird Club**



Members of the Symphony Village Bird Club braved blustery winds on December 1 to journey to Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Rock Hall. We were specifically looking for waterfowl. We saw buffleheads, ruddy ducks, masses of magnificent tundra swans, Canada geese, great blue herons, and other birds too distant to positively identify. In the air we saw turkey vultures and black vultures as well as recurring V's of Canada geese. At one stop, a flock of goldfinches seemed to be playing as they constantly flitted in and out of bushes at water's edge. At our last stop we saw a great black-backed gull resting on marsh mud. It was a good, albeit cold, outing. Afterward we lunched in Chestertown. The next bird club meeting will be on January 31, at noon, in the Arts and Crafts Room of the Clubhouse. We may attend a guided winter bird walk in

January or February. Watch for information and a sign-up sheet in the Activities Book after the Holidays. POC is Linda Blume, 410-758-3194.

### **Who IS That Snow Goose?**

by Linda Blume



Have you ever seen some darker birds mixed in with a flock of white snow geese foraging in an open field and wondered what kind of bird that might be? It's actually the "blue morph" form of the more-numerous white snow geese. Originally called a Blue Goose and considered a separate species, these birds are now recognized as merely a dark form of the Snow Goose. The dark color is controlled by a single gene, with dark being partially dominant over white. The adult "white morph" is white all over except for black primary wing feathers. The adult "blue morph" has a white head and front of neck and a dark gray-brown body. Juveniles of both lack the distinctive adult white features.

### **Book Clubs**

#### **Third Tuesday Reading for Fun Book Club**

Pat Kindle, who provided a variety of delicious desserts, hosted our November meeting. The book selected was *74 Seaside Avenue* by Debbie Macomber. Everyone agreed that it was an easy read and was very interesting, but not challenging. The group agreed to cancel the December meeting because it was too close to Christmas. The January selection is *Ghost Riders* by Sharyn McCrumb. Our meeting date is January 15. All are invited to participate. Y'all come!

#### **Third Thursday Book Club**

The book club met on November 15 and discussed *The Camel Bookmobile* written by Marsha Hamel. The next meeting is December 20 at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer. Our book selection for January is *The Emperor's Children* by Claire Messud and for February *Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks. Please come and join our group.

### **Do You Recycle?**

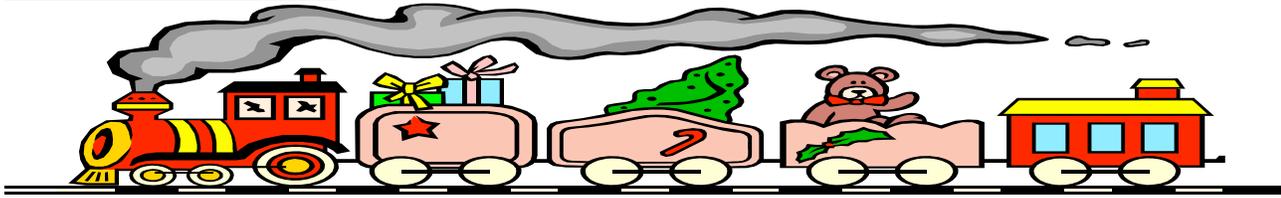
Tom and I are currently collecting recycling at the Clubhouse. The container is located behind the bar. We need others to help us when we are out of town. If you would like to help, please call us at 410-758-8658 or e-mail us at [tscull@atlanticbb.net](mailto:tscull@atlanticbb.net). Thank you in advance for your help. Mary and Tom Scull

### **Thank You**



Doug and I want to express our appreciation to all of our friends in the Village who overwhelmed us with their love and support during Mother's illness and passing. We feel so blessed to be living in such a caring community. Our hearts were touched by your thoughtfulness. Beth and Doug Dewhirst

## Christmas Train Layout



**Hear Ye, Hear Ye: calling all kids 2 to 102 years old.** Again, this year, you are welcome to come and enjoy a Christmas train layout at Paul & Kay Blair's home at 133 Encore Court. Beginning December 9 thru December 30, open house will be each Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. (If this time does not work for visiting family, please phone 410-758-2119 and we will try to accommodate your schedule.) Santa's helper (aka Kay) will have a cookie treat for all good girls and boys. (Note: Paul and Kay are unavailable December 15 and December 16.)

## More Trains

To all Symphony Village residents, friends and families--

Come to see more toy train layouts during the holiday season at Larry and Betty Gingerich's house, 355 Overture Way--the Gershwin with the Lionel flag. We plan to be here on Saturday, December 8, 15, and 22, from 2-4 p.m. and then on Sunday, December 23, from 2-4 p.m. **BUT PLEASE** call anytime your family is visiting to see if we are home and come play trains with Larry. This is a work in progress since we are still getting settled as new residents, but the project is growing everyday. Don't be shy! We would love to meet everyone, so please call 410-758-3102 and come by.

## PAST SOCIAL EVENTS

### Chili Cook-off and Tailgate Party



With two kidney beans in hand, we set out to judge the various vats of chili. Hmm--this one's too hot, this one not so.... After several beers, some sandwiches, and a delightful assortment of vegetables, the word was getting around. "First one on the left--No, last one on the right." As fast as the chili disappeared, the voting jars were filling with the dried beans. While Ravens fans, Redskin fans, (and did we see a Pittsburgh Steeler shirt?), all had diverse opinions on the Sunday football teams, they all seemed to agree on the chili. And the winners were Nancie Cameron 1<sup>st</sup>, Tom Scull, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Jim Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Nancie's recipe is included as the *Libretto* recipe of this month for December.

### 50th Wedding Anniversary



On November 24 we celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of two high school sweethearts, Dorothy and Jim Hamm. It was a wonderful celebration attended by the Hamm's children, grandchildren, friends, and residents of Symphony Village. Delicious food, music and dancing, champagne toasts, and camaraderie feted us all. The humorous speeches by Dorothy and Jim's children gave us not only a glimpse into their past life but also showed us how much they are loved. It was a wonderful celebration of a marriage that has stood the tests of raising a family through obstacles

and relocations. This is a tribute to two people who have lived and are living their vows of 50 years ago--indeed an example to all of us.

### **To Our Friends and Neighbors**



We are so appreciative of our Symphony Village friends and neighbors, who took the time to come and celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary with our family. We had a wonderful time and certainly have fond memories to last a lifetime. The only question is, "Where did all those years go?" And yes, I really did fit into that wedding dress fifty years ago. And yes,

Jim really did have all that hair. And yes, all those stories our children told were based on fact with maybe a little flourish. We thank you all for your good wishes and hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did surrounded by family and friends. We both feel so very blessed. Thank you again!!! Dorothy and Jim Hamm

### **Kay was surprised!!**

Paul Blair and his family sponsored a Happy Hour to celebrate Kay's birthday on Saturday, November 17. The Clubhouse was decorated with balloons, streamers, and banners. By 6 p.m. everyone was assembled, and at 6:15 Kay and Paul arrived fashionably late. When everyone yelled, "Surprise!!" Kay was so stunned she burst into tears. Her grandchildren and family swarmed up for hugs. The rest of the evening was spent enjoying the tasty food, beverages, and great company. Kay is still amazed that Paul was able to arrange all of this without her knowing it. Symphony Village wishes to thank Paul and family for allowing us to share in the festivities. If you wish to view the slide show of the party, click below.

<http://photoshow.comcast.net/watch/YD3Zy5ac>

### **Future Day Trips**

Have you taken a day trip to a destination you can recommend? Would you share with your neighbors? A short paragraph is all we need. Include the destination name, what to see and do, directions, admission charge (if any), hours, as well as anything else of particular interest. You can e-mail your submission to Carol Hodges at [lhodges@atlanticbb.net](mailto:lhodges@atlanticbb.net) or give Carol a hardcopy. Thanks for your input.

### **PERSONAL ADS**

**Do you have something to sell, a condo to rent, something you need. Email the ad of 20 words or less to [lhodges@atlanticbb.net](mailto:lhodges@atlanticbb.net) or call Carol Hodges at 410-758-0591. Commercial or real estate sales are prohibited.**

Cockatiel with cage and supplies, free to a good home.  
Call 410-758-3194.

### Special Reminders

- Clubhouse Phone Number (Jan and Dennis)—410-758-8500
- Jan Van Riper's email--[symphonyclub@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:symphonyclub@atlanticbbn.net)
- Dennis Sesplankis' email--[dsesplankis@legumnorman.com](mailto:dsesplankis@legumnorman.com)
- Warranty Office—301-261-0277 ext. 135 Katherine Zell
- George Bachman—301-261-0277 ext.211; [email—gbachman@carusohomes.com](mailto:gbachman@carusohomes.com)

From the Kitchen of  
Nancie Cameron



### LIP-SMACKIN' CHILI

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2 lb. ground beef (organic, 93% fat-free)              | 1--6 oz. can tomato paste              |
| 3 medium onions, chopped                               | 1--4 oz. can green chilies, diced      |
| 1 green pepper, chopped                                | 3 T. chili powder                      |
| 2 garlic cloves, minced                                | 2 tsp. salt                            |
| 1-2 Tabasco peppers                                    | ¼ c. sugar (or to taste)               |
| (or other fresh hot peppers), minced                   | 2 tsp. cumin                           |
| 1--28 oz. can whole tomatoes,<br>undrained and chopped | 1--40 oz. can red kidney beans drained |

*Garnish: grated cheddar cheese, sour cream, diced onions*

In a large (5 qt.) Dutch oven, brown beef. Remove from pot and drain. Saute onion, pepper, garlic, and hot pepper. Stir in the cooked ground beef and remaining ingredients (except for garnish). Simmer for 2-3 hours, stirring occasionally.

Serve in chili bowls and pass the grated cheddar cheese, sour cream, and diced onions.

Note: This recipe may be made in a slow cooker. The chili is also best made a day or two in advance of serving allowing the flavors to enhance.



Who can do my window treatments? *See the next page.*

Larry Dent

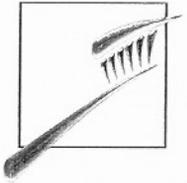
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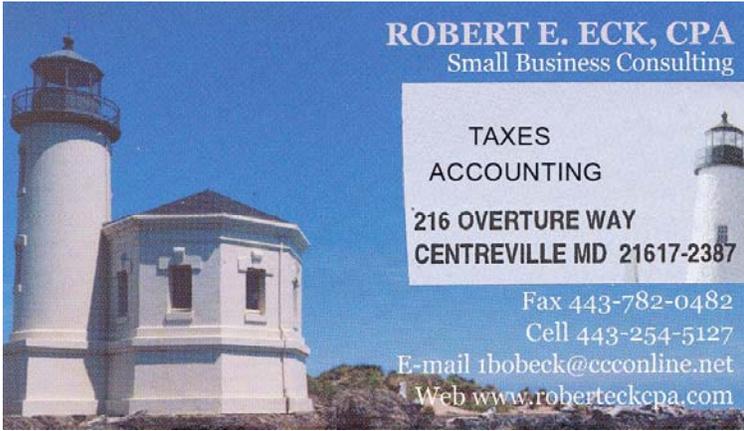
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6 month: \$85.00 for Residents - \$115.00 for Nonresidents  
1 year: \$150.00 for Residents - \$200.00 for Nonresidents

**CALL CAROL HODGES 410-758-0591**

