



Photos by George Drake

LIBRETTO

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

VOL. XV 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.



Happy Hanukkah

Hanukkah 2020 began the evening of Thursday, December 10, and ends on the evening of Friday, December 18, 2020



Merry Christmas

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day 2020



Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa 2020 in the United States begins Saturday, December 26, and ends Friday, January 1, 2021

Happy New Year 2021

Friday, December 31, 2020, New Year's Eve



2020 SV HOA BOD

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING, DECEMBER 2, 2020

PAT FOX, VICE PRESIDENT 2020

ELECTRONIC MOTIONS:

The following unanimously approved electronic motions were made since the October 23, 2020, Board meeting and unanimously ratified by the Board at the December 2, 2020, meeting:

- **Pool Lighting Project:** Approved \$630 change order for Chuck's Electrical to replace time clocks for the outdoor lighting. The change order brings the total cost of the outdoor pool lighting project to \$43,230.
- **Board of Directors Election:** Approved a motion to appoint Symphony Village staff to count the 2020 Board Election vote. Outgoing Board Secretary, Joe Brown, and Chair of the 2020 Nominating Committee, Jane Romney, are to monitor the counting of the vote on Friday, December 4, 2020.

- **Parking Lot Evaluation:** Approved the proposal submitted by John D. Hynes & Associates for \$5,488 to evaluate the asphalt in both Clubhouse parking lots as recommended by the Operations Committee.
- **Walking Path Repairs:** Approved Option 1 in the proposal submitted by Coppage Paving, Inc., for \$6,600 to replace a portion of the walking path asphalt, cut the tree roots impacting that area, fill in cracks, and level the approach to the bridge as recommended by the Operations Committee.

REGULAR MEETING ACTIONS:

The following motions were made at the regular SV Board business meeting:

- **2021 Budget:** Approved unanimously the 2021 budget as presented based upon the recommendation of the Budget & Finance Committee and the General Manager.
- **CD Roll Over:** Approved unanimously recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee to roll over the \$125,000 CD at Tab Bank, which is maturing on 12/29/2020, to a 1-year CD at Tab Bank at 0.60% and that all accrued interest shall be returned to Symphony Village HOA and deposited in the reserve account.
- **2021 Landscaping Contract:** Approved unanimously, based the recommendation of the Landscape and Irrigation Committee, the 2021 Landscape contract with Level Green for \$242,000.
- **2021 Irrigation Contract:** Approved unanimously the recommendation of the Landscape and Irrigation Committee to approve the 2021 Irrigation contract with Level Green for \$31,250.

**SV BOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING, DECEMBER 4, 2020
REORGANIZATION MEETING - BOARD ACTIONS:**

PAT FOX, PRESIDENT 2021

The following unanimous votes were taken to appoint Board officers for 2021-

- **President:** Pat Fox was elected President by acclamation.
- **Vice President:** Bill Ridgway was elected Vice President by acclamation.
- **Treasurer:** Pat Ways was elected Treasurer by acclamation.
- **Secretary:** Debi Wells was elected Secretary by acclamation

BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS:

Budget and Finance: Pat Ways
 Operations: Karen Kram
 Covenants: Bill Ridgway
 Landscape & Irrigation: Pat Fox
 Lifestyle: Karen Kram
 Staff: Pat Fox
 Publications and Communication: Debi Wells
 Artisan Guild: Debi Wells

BOARD MEETING DATES:

Friday, February 5 at 10 a.m.
 Friday, March 26 at 10 a.m.
 Friday, April 30 at 10 a.m.
 Friday, June 4 at 10 a.m.
 Friday, August 6 at 10 a.m.
 Thursday, September 30 at 6 p.m.
 Friday, October 22 at 10 a.m.
 Wednesday, December 1 at 6 p.m. (Annual Meeting)



New Ads

SV COMMUNITY INFORMATION



Photos by Len Saltiel

HOPE YOUR HOLIDAYS ARE MERRY AND BRIGHT!

SUE CANFIELD

The Holiday Decorating Team was much smaller this year due to “You Know What”!

The team included Kathy McManus, Cathy Toney, Rosemary Page, Sue Peterson, Peggy Decker, Amy Landon, and Sue Canfield. Nick Oliver was an integral part of the decorating team. We only decorated the Entry and Lounge areas, and we did them proud! We usually take on the entire Clubhouse, but because the usage is down, we concentrated on the entry. We hope you enjoy it, and it brightens your day when you visit.

In spite of COVID-19, with the holidays fast approaching, thoughts of celebrations with family, decorating the Christmas tree or lighting the menorah come to mind for many. In addition to the more popular celebrations of the season is the holiday known as Kwanzaa.

Contrary to popular belief, Kwanzaa is neither an official religious holiday nor is it a holiday originating from any of the countries in Africa. Kwanzaa is actually a celebration of life that was introduced in 1966 by African-American Studies professor Dr. Maulana Karenga in the wake of the Watts riots in California. Karenga's goal for the holiday was to offer African Americans an opportunity to "give Blacks an alternative to the existing holiday and [give] Blacks an opportunity to celebrate themselves and their history, rather than simply imitate the practice of the dominant society."

The holiday spans the period of December 26 through January 1. During this time, there are seven principles or concepts that are highlighted: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Like the Jewish Hanukkah, candles called the *kinara* are used to represent concepts of the holiday. The black, green, and red candles are lit every day of the week. The week culminates with gift-giving and a feast of faith called *Karama Ya Imani*.

Regardless of the holiday celebrated, this time of year brings families close together in a spirit of love, faith, and unity for all mankind. Happy Holidays to you all!



Kwanzaa Kinara

SMART PHONE TECHNOLOGY AIDS IN COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING!

DEBI WELLS

Yes, a type of contact tracing is available through smart phones. If you have an iPhone purchased in 2015 or later, then you have the Bluetooth technology necessary to easily register for a new type of contact tracing designed to help you! Want to know if you've been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19? Sure, you do! This way you can get tested and take action. As importantly, you can help to prevent new infections and help to slow the spread of COVID-19!



This technology is not an app, and there's nothing to install. Instead, if your iPhone was purchased in 2015 or later, open your settings and scroll down until you see the words "Exposure Notifications." Swipe left to open it. Toward the bottom of the next screen you will see the words "Availability Alerts." Open it and turn it on. (It will turn green when it's on.) Last, check to be sure the "Active Region" is the Maryland Department of Health. After completing these easy steps, you will receive a notification if you come in contact with a person who has been tested positive for COVID-19. This technology is not a GPS, it cannot identify an individual's location, nor will anyone's identity be revealed. Apple is aware older iPhones do not currently support this technology, and they are working on a solution.

A similar feature is available for Android phones via an app from the Google Play Store.

Whether contact tracing is via an iPhone or Android, there is no cost, and it is voluntary. Users can disable 'Exposure Notifications' at any time. For more information about this type of contact tracing, please click on: <https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/mdcovidalert/>. Be well! Stay safe!

RESIDENT INPUT REQUESTED!

DEBI WELLS, CERT

We'd appreciate your input and the reason is to have updated home health care resources for residents! The Neighbor-To-Neighbor (NTN) program and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) websites have some resources, but they need to be updated. John Olson has made the CERT webpage easy to navigate, and there is a link from it to the Neighbor-To-Neighbor webpage. CERT resources such as hospital phone numbers and addresses, utilities, local pharmacies, emergency phone numbers, and more are located on an easy-to-print one-page sheet (link: <https://sv-info.org/cert-files/pdf/Emergency%20Numbers.pdf>). NTN resources and its webpage encompass the community's volunteer and professional resources for short-term physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. You can easily find NTN resources on the CERT webpage: <https://svcentreville.squarespace.com/neighbor-to-neighbor>.



Recently, Marge Strano, Chair, NTN, and John Olson, Coordinator, CERT, determined that a partnership to update and add new resources to the SV Website would be helpful to residents. We would appreciate your input! What new resources have you found that have been useful? Is there a resource missing on our webpage? Is there a home health care agency you would like to recommend? Do you have any stored medical equipment someone else might need? Do you have tips on companies for meal preparation, medication reminders, companionship, or obtaining some personal care in your own home? Have input? Then, please email Debi Wells at debwells2011@gmail.com.

Most importantly, if you need help, the hardest thing is to take the first step. Ask for help! Please review the resources on the SV Website. Life can happen quickly—planning for the future is so much easier when you're not in the eye of the storm. Thank you for helping NTN and CERT with some of the planning! Stay safe!

New Ad

Happy Holidays!

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

2021 SV COMMITTEE SIGN UP

SV has seven official committees as stated in the [Terms of Reference](#):

- Artisans Guild
- Budget and Finance
- Covenants
- Landscape and Irrigation
- Lifestyle
- Operations
- Publications and Communications

Every year, residents in good standing may choose to remain on a committee(s) that they have served on in the current year and/or may choose to join a committee(s) for the first time. Both actions require a yearly sign-up. Residents may sign up either online (go to: symphonyvillage.net/2021-committee-signup) or on sign-up sheets located on the credenza in the Wall Street Room at the Clubhouse.

Please sign up no later than Thursday, January 2. Please do not sign up in both places.

Don't live in SV 12 months of the year? You may still join a committee—you are deemed “inactive” while away from SV. To see a summary of committee duties, go to the Terms of Reference cited above.

ARTISANS GUILD

SUE CANFIELD, CHAIR



Artist's Choice

*December 28, Drop-off Entries and
Pick-up from Pets and Wildlife Show*

Drop-off — 10 a.m. to noon

*Go to the Index on the Website
open the Artisans Guild Show
Guidelines and Submission Form
Fill out the form and follow all the directions.*

*Show opening on **DECEMBER 31!***

View online or in Concert Hall

LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE

TOM McMANUS, CHAIR

Just an update on our SV Irrigation System. As you may know, 2020 has been a record year for rainfall in our area. As such, we have had less of a demand for irrigation, for our turf and shrub beds, than we've had in past years. Remember, we draw this water from the underground aquifer, through the four deep water wells that we have here in Symphony Village. This is not the same water supply that we get into our homes for washing, cooking, etc. This water is free to us, provided we remain under the allocation amount of 12 million gallons per year. In 2020, we used approximately 5 to 6 million gallons, due to all the rainfall. And NO, we cannot carry any unused amounts into 2021. In 2021, we will get another 12 million gallons for our irrigation needs.

Recently, you may have seen several trucks from A. C. Schultes, a Water & Well Services company, serving the east coast of the U.S.; we are using the branch based out of Bridgeville, Delaware. They are teamed up with Cardno, a global Infrastructure and Environmental Development Company. Together they are performing the well testing work that we have requested. Schultes is doing the "heavy lifting" and the hydrogeologists at Cardno are doing the evaluation and interpretation of the data results. We are due a full report, with video evidence, in a few weeks.

Our systems are about 15 years old, and this analysis will tell us how efficiently these wells are currently performing. This information will then be shared and reviewed with Michael Krones of Hydro Designs (our irrigation engineering consultant) and Montgomery Irrigation (our irrigation maintenance Company) to establish a baseline of operations, and to construct any enhancement or improvement plans for the benefit of Symphony Village in the future. Our goal is to have a long-term, reliable, and dependable irrigation operation, here in our community (needless to say—without "breaking the bank").

Our irrigation system is important to us all, and we have engaged the best resources to assist and advise us on any path going forward. The SV BOD, and Management, and this committee, are not the experts; we want to assure all residents that we are reaching out to those who are for their guidance and expertise.

We thank you for your support and understanding and will keep all residents aware of the progress as we move forward on this important activity.

MARY CIESIELSKI

Graduate, REALTOR Institute
Seniors Real Estate Specialist

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east and west of the Bay Bridge

SV Resident and Neighborhood Specialist

Has participated in the sale of 35+ SV homes

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LIFESTYLE

MARY COLLING-OFFICER, CHAIR; JANET LEISTER, VICE CHAIR

The Lifestyle Committee holiday elves have been busy spreading holiday cheer throughout the Village. Thanks to all the Villagers who attended The Night of Lights. It was a huge success and enjoyed by all. A special thank you to Dave Peterson and his merry men for lighting up the Village, and to Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus for spreading much-needed Christmas cheer. Our Night of Luminarias should be deLIGHTful! Thank you to our own luminaria elf, Mary Jo Volpicelli, for working so hard and selling 230 luminaria kits. Remember, the lights go on December 24 at 6 p.m.

There is still time to decorate your house for The Christmas Home Decorating contest. Our newly elected Board Members have graciously agreed to be on the panel of judges for the contest. Donations in the names of the first, second, and third place winners will be made to Crossroads Community, Inc.

Don't forget the Community Holiday Zoom Party to be held on December 22 at 7 p.m. Contest winners will be announced, pictures of decorated homes will be shared, a community toast to the holidays will be held, and more surprises are in store.

Finally, we are sponsoring a drive to benefit those residents of Queen Anne's County who are in the greatest need. In conjunction with Haven Ministries on December 30 between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., we will accept donations of NEW toiletries, NEW personal hygiene items, NEW socks (for all ages), and NEW pillows. The Haven Ministries truck will be located in the Clubhouse parking lot. Thank you in advance for your generosity. The residents of Symphony Village never cease to amaze me. Happy Holidays to all!



OPERATIONS

JOE SIKES, CHAIR; KAREN KRAM, VICE CHAIR

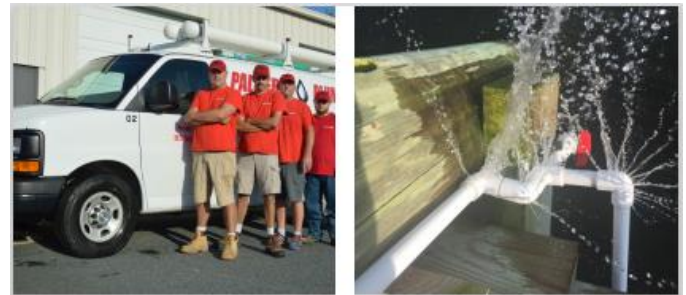
The Operations Committee is responsible for aiding the HOA Board of Directors and the General Manager regarding management and operation of community common property. We share this responsibility with the Landscape and Irrigation Committee and focus on such things as the Clubhouse, swimming pools, and sidewalks. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Since the COVID-19 crisis, we have started to meet virtually using Zoom technology.

Operations held our regular meeting on November 19 and a special meeting on November 24 to address proposals for the SV Walking Path. There is no meeting planned for December, so we plan to reconvene on January 21 as the committee reforms under our new Board of Directors. Committee sign-up for next year is open in the Clubhouse and online. We are looking for new members for the new year!

The committee finished the year with a bang, starting with sidewalk replacements in October and new handicap parking at the Clubhouse. We have started the improvements to Clubhouse drainage, in coordination with Landscape, and have gotten 11 of 12 sites approved by the Board of Directors. Additionally, John D. Hynes & Associates has been selected to do an engineering assessment of our Clubhouse parking lots to inform planning for future improvements to be considered in 2021. The General Manager is also receiving proposals to upgrade the Bocce courts for next year.

Finally, our November 24 special meeting proposed Coppage Paving be selected to repair our Walking Path. The Board approved and the work was expeditiously completed on December 3. Our local SV biker chapter, Tricycle Angels, has provided very favorable reviews!

We have an awesome community. Please consider joining the Operations Committee to help keep it that way.



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12TH ANNUAL OUTREACH “FOOD” DRIVE ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE!

LORETTA QUIGLEY, CHAIR

So happy to report, for those who might not know, your Outreach team is so proud to announce that we collected \$4,960 and purchased over 500 ten-dollar food gift cards to present to QAC Social Services for holiday distribution to their clients.

\$2,100 worth of cards was delivered prior to Thanksgiving and the rest will make its way before Christmas arrives. It is truly amazing to see what our neighborhood does over the course of the year and how much joy we can bring to others by working together.

Again, let me say how grateful we are for the participation of YOU, our neighbors and friends, in this project. It will mean so much to so many in this crazy year of so much uncertainty. I am truly honored to chair this event!



Symphony Village (SV) Outreach Program, Inc., conducted its 12th Annual Food Drive in November in support of QAC Social Services, and this year instead of collecting food, collected monetary donations to enable QAC Social Services to give Food Gift Cards to its clients.

In the photo, Loretta Quigley, Food Drive Coordinator, and Jane Romany, SV Outreach Treasurer, hand the donation to Jane Taylor, Nurturing Coordinator at QAC Social Services.

SNEAKERS

LINDA FARRAR, PRESIDENT

Once again, Sneakers sponsored a Santa Tree for needy families from the public schools in Centreville, Sudlersville, and Church Hill. Ornaments were placed on the tree with the clothing and toys requested by the families. Symphony Village residents either selected the ornaments or gave a check to pay for gifts, particularly since the COVID-19 virus has disrupted access to the Clubhouse.

As a result of your overwhelming generosity, we received or purchased over 250 gifts for our area schools. Believe it or not, every gift was delivered back to the Clubhouse on time for the first time in 16 years. We need to give a special shout out to Terri O’Connell and Rochelle Ray for spearheading this massive endeavor. With the money that was donated, we were able to purchase gifts for the tags left on the tree. You should have seen the looks when Bob and I checked out with 19 pairs of sneakers and 10 pairs of jeans, etc., at the store. One woman said we must have a lot of grandchildren. When we told her what it was for, she was very complimentary about SV. We were also able to enclose a \$50 food card for each of our families.



Thank you to every resident who joined us in making our families in need have a brighter holiday. What a community we live in!

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

BIRD CLUB

LINDA BLUME



In mid-November, the Bird Club sponsored two birdwatching walks after a hiatus of many years. We stayed within SV, walking around Pond #3 and through the surrounding area. Bob Ringler, a “newish” resident and an authority on not only birds but also butterflies and botany as well as an excellent trip leader for our exploration. We identified birds by sight (e.g. bluebirds, a yellow-rumped warbler, several song sparrows, a ring billed gull, cardinals, a flicker), and Bob identified many more by their calls. We also noted plant life, some still blooming in November (!) and even saw a garter snake and flying praying mantis on one walk. I can’t say that we saw many birds, but it was great to be outdoors with friends and actually *enjoying something* in this COVID-19 world. We stayed as safe as we could by wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and limiting each group to ten people.

Will the Club do more walks? Yes! Without carpooling, we have two more SV ponds to explore and maybe the area around the Clubhouse and maybe just stroll Village streets. Another walk is possible in December and in January should the weather cooperate.

If you’re interested in joining the SV Bird Club email group, just let me know by calling 410-758-3194 or email at linda7925y@yahoo.com

PICKLEBALL—A YEAR TO REMEMBER!

ROSEMARY ROSENBERG

We’ve finally made it to December 2020! And what a year it’s been for sure! As the crispness and cold cover the air and the leaves have gone to bed, our playing times are now somewhat limited. For those die-hard players, we will attempt to play (weather permitting and temps above 50 degrees), as follows:

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 2 p.m.

Saturdays will be a potluck day and time will be determined by a group consensus!

NOTE: If the temperature is below 50 degrees, we will not play.

As always, you can gather a group of your fellow SV friends and play on the courts during unscheduled play times. You must bring your own balls for play.

I know that this year has been very tough for many of you and staying safe is a number one priority in the Village. I feel blessed that we were able to get out on the courts, enjoy some fresh air, get some exercise, and have camaraderie with our fellow friends in the Village. I’d like to sum up this month’s article with this!





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*It's a very cold December and the courts are somewhat clear,
But we can reflect that we've been blessed with an energized pickleball year!
We shared some laughs and exchanged many smiles
All within the Village without travelling the miles.
We realize that even though the times are tough
That friends and time shared can be enough!
We count our blessings and hold in our hearts
Those that we love whether near or far apart.
Our houses are warm, and food is on the table.
We do what we can and what we are able.
So hold the love in your heart each day
And in closing, I'll leave you with this that I say,
May your Christmas be merry, may your New Year be bright
Happy holidays to all, and to all a good night!*

Happy holidays to everyone and continue to be safe! Enjoy the December beauty in the Village; there are many beautiful decorated houses to enjoy! Get in your car and take a drive around at night to see the decorations!

As always, whatever it is that you choose to do, enjoy your December in our beautiful Symphony Village! Please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions or concerns!

READING FOR FUN – NOVEMBER 2020 REVIEW

JOE SIKES, CHAIR

The SV Book Club met on November 17 to discuss **Little Fires Everywhere** by Celeste Ng. Beaming in were: Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Bob Nilsson, Jim & Kathryn Buckheit, Sue Goldberg, JoAnn Walker, Peggy Decker, Cathy Olson, DeAnn Cheyne, Diane Briggs, and Mary Jo Volpicelli.

The story is set in Shaker Heights, Ohio, an affluent suburb of Cleveland. I actually worked in high school as a golf caddie at Shaker Heights Country Club, so the scenario was very familiar to me. One of the main characters is a reporter for the small local newspaper, the *Sun Press*, which I delivered when I was 11 years old. Luckily the Naval Academy saved me from a life as a golf caddie or local news reporter!



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Elena Richardson had dreams of being a big-time reporter when she matriculated at Denison College. She married and started her family of four children and settled into a comfortable life with her successful lawyer husband. They lived in the best neighborhood and were part of the social elite while Elena settled in as a reporter for the local suburban newspaper.

The Richardsons owned an apartment that provided supplementary income and, as the story begins, they rent to Mia Warren, a single mother with a teenage daughter named Pearl. As the new kid at the local high school, Pearl befriends Moodie Richardson, who is in her class. She slowly starts to spend time at the Richardson house and interacts with all four Richardson kids. Pearl is used to moving from city to city, eating leftovers from a local restaurant, and shopping for secondhand clothes. The Richardson kids have grown up in a stable, opulent environment and wear new designer clothes. Mia becomes concerned about how Pearl is affected by her exposure to the Richardsons and accepts a chance to work part time for Elena in her house.

As the social dynamics take effect, what could go wrong? How about young love, sexual denouement, pregnancy, contentious adoption, investigative reporting, jealousy, legal battles, family tensions, kidnapping, disappearance to remote China, past secrets uncovered, and eventually FIRES!

Ultimately, the book is about relationships; and the author has provided a plethora of characters to explore. Book club members reacted with differing levels of interest and attachment to the cast provided by the author. Some members had eagerly anticipated the book but felt it read like a young adult novel with little depth. Others found the relationships fascinating and couldn't put the book down. Bob fell into the latter category much to the surprise of other club members who were just happy to see him enjoy the book.

I should also note that *Little Fires Everywhere* has been adapted for television and is currently streaming on Hulu. Jan and I had seen the television series, which I found influenced my appreciation of the book. My impressions of the characters were influenced due to having watched the TV series. There are also some major

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differences between the show and the book that distracted my reading of the book and caused me to grade it lower than most of the club. But the club enjoyed the book on the whole and gave it a grade of 8.01, which is above average.

Upcoming books are listed below. We plan to continue meeting virtually using Zoom technology until normalcy returns. Pants remain optional. Invitations will be sent directly to those wishing to attend. If you wish to participate, contact me at sikes.withers@yahoo.com

December 15 *Chesapeake Requiem, A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island*
by Earl Swift

January 19, 2021 *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult

February 16, 2021 *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

NEIGHBOR OF NOTE

LEWIS DETCH

Question: "How can you tell that your life was filled with a lot of fun?"

Answer: "In preparation for hip replacement surgery resulting from an early friendly fire incident, your employer requests that you write your own obituary and submit it for classification review."

Having flunked retirement several times and returned for remedial work, I have now finally retired from a career spanning 58 years with several elements of the U.S. Intelligence Community, about which I will say little, other than "I had a lot of fun."

As a boy, I spoke Hungarian with my father, his siblings, and my paternal grandparents. I spoke English with my other relatives. Through lack of use over more than half a century, I no longer speak Hungarian or several other languages, but still converse reasonably comfortably in American English, Brazilian Portuguese, and German. I am trying to improve my Spanish by watching Netflix, so practice in any of these languages would be appreciated.

After completing three years of high school as an unmotivated student, I escaped largely unscathed by the beneficial effects of secondary education. At age 16, I loaded all of my belongings into the rumble seat of my decrepit 1930 Model A Ford, left home, and have been self-supporting ever since. I will omit the details of why I decided to go to college and how I talked my way into admission to the College of William and Mary with only three years of secondary education. In spite of earning straight Ds in college English, which I considered a foreign language, I graduated 13th in my class of 619. I ultimately received a master's degree from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics from the University of Wyoming.

I was a National Senior Ski Patrolman, skiing most of the Colorado and Wyoming ski areas.




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I was a proficient bicyclist, commuting 39 miles round trip to/from work, riding innumerable centuries, double centuries, a few triple centuries, and once rode The Great California Land Rush covering 412 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles in less than 24 hours.

I was taught celestial navigation by an ancient mariner who had gone to sea as a radio operator on a four-masted sailing ship before World War One, when radios used “coherers” instead of vacuum tubes to receive. This navigational skill served me well supporting USAF long-range reconnaissance flights before GPS. It also allowed me to sail some 2,000 miles solo in the North Atlantic Ocean in my 40-foot sailboat, including six days of motivated sailing running ahead of Hurricane Dean between St. George, Bermuda, and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

I hold Commercial, Instrument, Certified Flight Instructor, and Airframe and Powerplant Mechanics license and ratings, and am building a Rans S-20 “Raven” two-place single-engine airplane. I have flown extensively in the USA, Mexico, Central and South America, and have some 6,800 hours logged as pilot-in-command in 73 different types of aircraft.

I am happily married to Julia, my wife of almost 31 years. I have had a lot of fun in my life, both personally and professionally.

EVERY 800 YEARS, OR SO...

...the two giant gas planets in our outer solar system line up within 1/10 degree of our line of sight to each other. This is known as a Great Astronomical Conjunction. What would normally be seen as two stars in the night sky will now appear as one. Many think that this alignment produced the Star of Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus. However, Jupiter is closer to the Earth at a distance of 551 million miles while Saturn is twice as far away and slightly off to the side of Jupiter, but they appear as one star to the naked eye.

Through binoculars or a small telescope, you would be able to see both planets in the same field of view. They will appear in the constellation Capricornus in the south/southwest sky, slightly after sunset on December 21. You will be able to do a dry run observation of this event beginning on December 16. Throughout the month of December, you will be able to watch these planets move closer and closer to each other, but the magic begins on the 16th of the month. Many of the giant moons of each planet will be visible if you have binoculars or a small telescope on December 21. As an added bonus if you have some magnification, you will have the opportunity to see Jupiter’s moon, Ganymede’s shadow crossing Jupiter’s cloud top surface.

IMPORTANT VIEWING TIPS:

Make sure houses and trees will not block your view of these planets, which will be low in the southwest at sunset.

Venture out a few evenings prior to the Conjunction, about a half hour past sunset, to make sure your view will be unobstructed.

If using binoculars, I recommend you brace them against something to make them steadier.

LARRY RAYNER, ASTRONOMY CLUB



For those of you who use Sky Walk 2 or similar virtual reality apps, viewing will be made simpler.

The next Conjunctions will be in October 2040 and 2060 but will not rival this one as the alignments will not be as close. Jupiter and Saturn align in their orbits every 20 to 30 years but not to this year's degree. This year is considered a Great Conjunction and occurs only every 500 to 800 years.

Wishing all Clear Skies and a Happy Holiday Season.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

PAT FOX

AROMA – MULTI CUISINE RESTAURANT, 6520 CHURCH HILL RD, CHESTERTOWN, MD 21620

I love Indian food and my husband Howie doesn't. We lived close to a town in NJ—Iselin/Edison Township—that reputedly had the largest population of residents from the Country of India outside of the sub-continent. When he worked late, I drove right from the train station to pick up this wonderful cuisine. No mam—not spices for the American tongue—make it a lot hotter than that!

Fast forward to the Eastern Shore—Juana Ridgway and I are always looking for good Indian food. We recently went to Aroma Restaurant on 213 North, just this side of Chestertown before you cross the Chester River. It is currently only takeout, so we ordered before we left home and ate in the car. Really good food, but I could have gone spicier—I need to try it first before setting my level.

They have an amazing menu! Many of you probably received it as a flyer in the mail. I typically get mostly vegetarian items so ordered Shrimp Pakora (fried shrimp in beer batter – Appetizer Section); Shahi Paneer (tomato and curry-based sauce with paneer – cheese cubes – Vegetarian Entrees); Kashmiri Naan (Naan bread filled with dried fruit, nuts, and coconut – Naan Section) and a Mango Lassi to drink.



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Juana ordered the Lamb Saag (lamb in spinach sauce with added paneer – Non-Vegetarian Entrees) and garlic naan. For Bill, she ordered Navratan Korma (vegetables in curry-based cream sauce with nuts and paneer – Vegetarian Entrees).

The other menu categories available to order from are Indo-Chinese; Soup; Lo-Mein; Biryani; Fried Rice; Tandoori Clay Oven Entrees; Kids menu (chicken nuggets and mozzarella sticks!) and Desserts.

There was so much food it got us through several meals! Try it out.

CENTREVILLE HAPPENINGS

QUEEN ANNE'S CHORALE HOLIDAY RADIO BROADCAST


By the time you read this, some Villagers may have already enjoyed listening to a very special holiday radio program presented by Queen Anne's Chorale on December 14. This short article is a reminder that you can still hear the Chorale's presentation of their family Christmas program, *Christmas Reflections*. WCEI 96.7 will air the program as follows:

Monday, December 14 at 7 p.m. Saturday, December 19 at 7 p.m. Sunday, December 20 at 4 p.m.

The station is also planning to broadcast *Christmas Reflections* on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day randomly at yet to be determined times. If you don't get clear reception of WCEI or if you'd like to share the broadcast with family and friends out of this area, the program will also be available online at www.forevermidshore.com.


Chorale members and volunteers worked very hard to make this broadcast possible. While they would have preferred singing a live concert, the pandemic prevented them from presenting both of their annual concerts this year. For years, many, many Symphony Villagers have enthusiastically provided support by buying concert tickets. You couldn't do that this year, BUT you can still help keep the Chorale singing by making a donation to www.qachorale.org. If you prefer, you can also mail a check to Queen Anne's Chorale, P.O. Box 118, Chester, MD 21619.

Thanks SO much. Enjoy the show!




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Centreville Main Street has just announced a new way of gift giving this year while supporting local businesses—Shop Centreville, Md., Community eGift Cards. Keep local shopping dollars, local!

How It Works: Go to Shop Centreville, Md. (<https://app.yiftee.com/gift-card/centreville--md-centreville>), choose an amount, choose the recipient, and send a gift card via email or text message. The recipient can use the card to make purchases at participating gift card merchants. Each eGift Card is a unique electronic Mastercard® credit card number. Shop Centreville, Md., eGift cards never expire, so when the recipient is ready to return to favorite local businesses, the cards are still good.

To date, 15 local businesses have joined the program, and more are anticipated to join in the coming days (look on the website at <https://app.yiftee.com/gift-card/centreville--md-centreville#locations>).

EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **Winterfest of Lights**: November 19 – January 2, Wednesday – Sunday nights: Ocean City: [Winterfest of Lights](#) (This year’s event is a walking event in Northside Park) (Admission: \$5 per person, free for children ages 11 and under)
- **Lights on the Bay**: November 20 – January 2, 5 – 10 p.m.: Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis: [Lights on the Bay](#) (\$20 per car; \$30 per large van or mini-bus; and \$50 per bus) (Benefits the SPCA of Anne Arundel County) (drive through)

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- **Christmas in St. Michaels: selected dates in December:** venues in St. Michaels: [Christmas in St. Michaels](#)

Caveat: Events indicated above may be cancelled at the last minute due to COVID-19 concerns. Before you plan to attend any event, please confirm it is still scheduled to be held. If the indicated website does not clearly give you the answer, please make contact via phone or email for the latest status. Please always follow COVID-19 guidelines while participating.

QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Jennifer Moore, the president of the Queen Anne’s Historical Society, invites all interested Symphony Village residents to “attend” its monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of every month (unless otherwise announced). There will be an advisory meeting at 5 p.m. where Society members and the public may participate, and a Board meeting at 6 – 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held via Zoom.

Please contact Jennifer (410-708-0151, jmooreprs2007@gmail.com) with questions and to receive details on how to join the Zoom meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS “AT” THE CENTREVILLE BRANCH OF THE QAC LIBRARY

- **Thursday, December 17**, 10 – 11 a.m.: [Shortest Day, Starry Night](#) (Pick up a kit at the library) (Preregister on the website) (Join the library on Facebook to participate)
- **Monday, December 21**, 7 – 8 p.m.: [Winter Trivia](#) (via Kahoot! and Zoom) (Preregister on the website)
- **Monday, January 4**, 10 a.m. – 7:45 p.m.: [Take Home Kit: Botanical Leaf Embroidery](#) (Pick up the kit at the library) (Preregister on the website) (*)
- **Monday, January 11**, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.: [Take Home Kit: Easy Garter Stitch Hat](#) [Take Home Kit: Botanical Leaf Embroidery](#) (Pick up the kit at the library) (Preregister on the website) (*)
- **Tuesday, January 19**, 10 a.m. – 7:45 p.m.: [Take Home Kit: Melted Rock Snow Man](#) (Pick up the kit at the library) (Preregister on the website) (*)

Note: Please confirm that the event is still scheduled before going to the library. Just check the indicated web page above.

(*) The Take Home Kit events fill up fast – preregister as early as possible.

TOWN OF CENTREVILLE NEWS

TOWN OF CENTREVILLE GOVERNMENT NEWS AND COMMENTS

BOB HARDY

First, I would like to thank my wife and everyone in Symphony Village and the Town who encouraged and supported me prior to and during my campaign for office. Especially, thankful for my wife Debbie’s patience and belief in me, and also Pat Fox, who a year ago started asking me if I would run for the Council, and then Irene Ferber, who asked the penultimate question, “Is Bob going to run for Council?”

Just completed my second month in office. It has been interesting from an Orientation about the Town of Centreville to the Swearing-In Ceremony with five of my closest supporters in attendance (Debbie, Pat Fox, Amy Warner, Heather Efland, and the celebrated QACHS All-Star Basketball Center, Jordan Dozier) to tours of the Town Water/Sewer facilities (very enlightening; a lot goes into water coming out of the tap and the flushing of my toilet) and meeting with Chief Saboury (discussing the status of our fantastically professional Town Police force), and then you throw in my first Town Council Meeting, and it has been a busy time.

I would be remiss if I did not congratulate my fellow new Council members (Jeff, Steve, and Shelby) on being elected. If you the citizens of Centreville did not realize it, the admin people taking care of the day-to-day operations

are professional and efficient and take care of business! More to come about upcoming events in the Holiday Season and new things being planned. Thanks again for electing me to the Town of Centreville Town Council.

Sunday, November 22 — Downtown Holiday Decorating was started by the Town of Centreville Operations, Kip Matthews and his crew, and then the Legacy Foundation, Joy of Light Festival, with Murdoch Florist and many volunteers helping to decorate the town for the holidays! In this time of pandemic, it is so wonderful to see everyone come together to begin the celebration of the Holiday Season.

The 9th Annual Tree Lighting ceremony was held on Wednesday, December 2, on the Court House Square / Commerce Street. Children were encouraged to bring ornaments (homemade are our favorite) to decorate the tree. Unfortunately, Santa was not be able to make it this year. Hot chocolate and hot apple cider were available.

Shopping Downtown for the Holiday Season — all parking meters will be bagged beginning December 4 through December 25...**FREE Parking.**

Town Business

Letters of Support from the Town were APPROVED: Support of QAC Family YMCA and Senior Center to the State of Maryland, a \$1.0 million line item in the Governor's Capital Budget.

Support plus \$1,000 grant from the Town to assist the Stories of the Chesapeake Areas grant request (\$2,500) partnering with the Mary Edwardine Bourke Emory Foundation (an additional \$2,500) to develop an exhibit, *Enslavement to Emancipation: Voices Not Heard*, working with the Maryland History of Women's Museum.

Building Futures (\$250) sponsor of the YMCA of the Chesapeake — *Y Turkey Trot Charity 5K*.

Queen Anne's County Family YMCA/Senior Center Update (presentation by Robbie Gill, Director) — Hoping to break ground in the April 2021 timeframe.



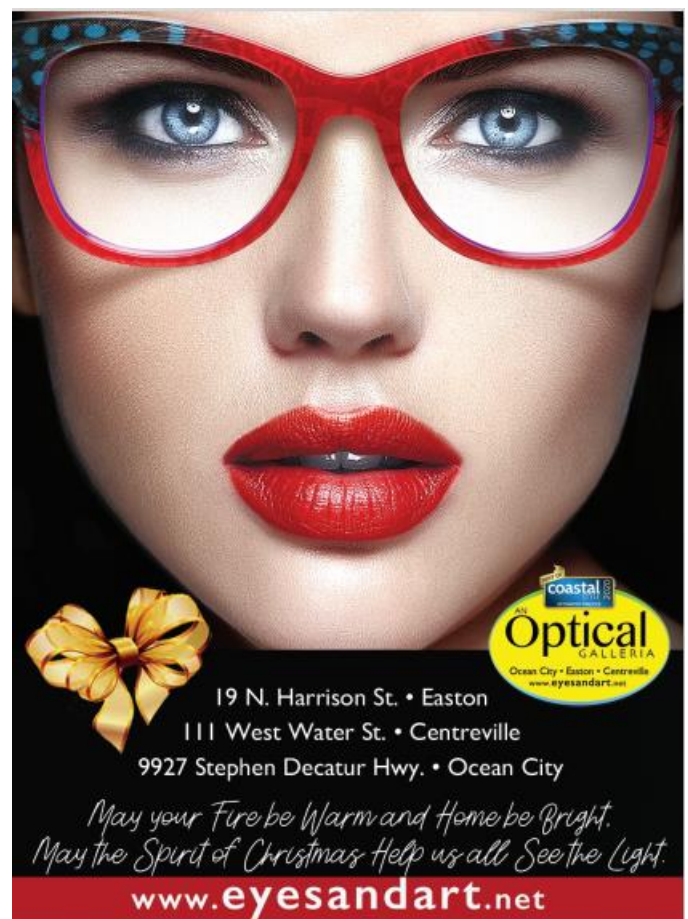
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Need for membership in various Town Boards/Commissions (especially the Personnel Review Board, Parks Advisory Board, and others) — Happy to report there have been several applications received. Thank you.

Three new members for the Parks Advisory Board were interviewed, approved, and sworn in: Gene Magary, Fred McNeil, and Ryan Holdgreve. Thank you, gentlemen, for stepping up to serve your community.

Also, a Resolution to amend the Town Charter—to increase the number of members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections was introduced.

A contract with Living Ecosystems was approved for Timber Boardwalk and Finger Pier Renovations at the Centreville Wharf and dredging of the Corsica River has started (I have been told) in front of the Wharf area (impacting the town boat slips).

In addition, I was informed that the TOC Operations will be installing benches (after the renovations) on the Boardwalk (facing the water) for viewing pleasure, and as I was asked about this, bird watching.

Pilot Program (Bike Patrol at Symphony Village) — Outreach to the community with the TOC Bike Patrol riding around the community with Officer LaBelle and a group of bicycle riders. If successful, this may serve to bring the activity to other neighborhoods in Centreville.

Monday, December 14 — The last day for yard waste for 2020 will be Monday, December 14. Yard waste pickup will resume on Monday, March 22, 2021.

A schedule for live Christmas tree pickup will be released following the Christmas season.

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BOB HARDY

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TOWN OF CENTREVILLE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

TIM MCCLUSKEY, PRESIDENT, TOWN COUNCIL OF CENTREVILLE

Volunteers serving on the Town's Boards and Commissions are the lifeblood of a well-functioning municipal government. We are fortunate to have citizens who want to give back to their community and the Town currently has several vacancies on our boards and commissions, and we are seeking volunteers to be appointed to these roles.

Currently, there are vacancies on the following Boards & Commissions:

PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD, BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS, PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION.

In addition, the Council is seeking future volunteers for the following Boards:

CENTREVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA), BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS, PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

Each of these boards have different responsibilities and time commitments.

The **Personnel Review Board** meets on an as-needed basis and is responsible for hearing employee grievances based on management disciplinary actions in accordance with the town's *Human Resources Policies & Procedures Manual*. Since this board was created in 2011, this board has not heard any grievances and has only met annually to elect a chair and approve minutes. While this board has the least time commitment, it is an important board in the event that an employee files a grievance. There is currently one vacancy.

The **Board of Zoning Appeals** meets on an as-needed basis and hears cases in three areas: 1) grievances by any person as a result of a decision by the Zoning Administrator; 2) determining whether special exceptions should

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be granted as based on the zoning code; and 3) to hear variances from the literal interpretation of the zoning code. Historically, this board has met 3–5 times per year and the meetings are usually 2 hours long. There is currently one vacancy and one ‘alternate’ vacancy.

The **Planning & Zoning Commission** meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 7 p.m. and is responsible for enforcing the comprehensive or master plan, to enforcing the zoning ordinance and implementing subdivision regulations. There is 1 vacancy and 2 “alternate” vacancies”. “Alternate” vacancies are individuals appointed to the board to sit as regular members when there is an absence of a regular member. They typically attend all meetings and observe the proceedings. This allows the Town to ‘build a bench’ and have knowledgeable members ready to sit as needed.

CEDA is responsible for surveying, assessing, and evaluating the potential market demand for business attraction and the analysis of potential opportunities and challenges to successful economic development. They typically meet every other month.

The **Board of Supervisors of Elections** currently consists of three members. There is a pending Council resolution to increase this board to five members to help manage the annual election. This board is in charge of the registration of voters, nominations of candidates, and all town elections. They typically meet annually to select a chair, as well as on an as-needed basis to certify candidates for Town Council. In addition, they typically work the full day on the Town’s election day.

The **Parks Advisory Board** does not have a set number of members. Currently, there are seven members, and the Town Council is eager to consider additional applications from citizens who are interested in town parks, recreation, and improving social and cultural experiences. The Parks Advisory Board meets at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month.

These boards all consist of laypersons who have an interest in the specific board and no professional experience is required. Each board is supported by professional staff.

Appointments are made by the Town Council and are initiated by completing an application and a short interview with the Councilmembers.

If you are interested in finding out more about any of these boards and commissions, please feel free to contact me at tmcluskey@townofcentreville.org, or via phone: 443.262.5729. For an application or other information, please contact Carolyn Brinkley, Town Clerk at Town Hall at 410.758.1180.

SYMPHONY VILLAGE CONTACTS

Rebecca Cook, General Manager
gm@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Kimberly Cox, Executive Assistant to the General Manager
ea@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Nick Oliver, Maintenance Technician
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Board of Directors group email:
Board@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Location:
100 Symphony Way
Centreville MD 21617

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