



Photo by George Drake

LIBRETTO

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022

VOL. XVII No. 3

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

Welcome to the Neighborhood!



Sarah Bevington

159 Harmony Way

2022 SV HOA BOD

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – SV BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MARCH 4, 2022

PAT FOX, PRESIDENT

- **Our Community’s Loss**

- Bill Wells, the inimitable tree expert in Symphony Village, passed away after a long battle with serious health issues. He was a wonderful addition to the community and a wealth of knowledge and commitment to the well-being of our nearly 2,000 common area trees. We will miss him dearly and his sense of humor—he always made me laugh. Please extend your sympathies to Debi who took wonderful care of him all through these recent trying months.

- **Nominating Committee**

- 2022 will be a Board election year, and there will be two terms expiring.
- We will be structuring a Nominating Committee and looking for volunteers to take us through the process of choosing a slate of candidates.
- Stay tuned for a committee formation announcement in a few months.

- **New Location of the Lost and Found**

- The Lost and Found box is now located on the small desk in the Committee File room in the storage area—the second door on the right.

• Community Announcements

- After adjourning the regular board meeting, we are opening a community Announcement period allowing Villagers have a real-time ability to communicate with others. This will allow residents to announce any non-committee event going on with, for example, the card players, bocce, or pickle ball players or to talk about an event or charitable effort planned by an outside organization.
- Anything that is HOA related—like committee functions or HOA business—would be discussed during the regular business meeting
- We can devote 10 minutes to the community Announcements and then the Board will have to move into the Executive Session. We ask speakers to please limit their comments to one minute.

Also, this is not a swap and sell opportunity, so please advertise your old couch elsewhere!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTISANS GUILD

KATHY McMANUS, CO-CHAIR / CATHY OLSON CO-CHAIR

The Happenings: Our new show, **COASTAL**, opened on March 13. Gil Hoffman is our featured artist for this show and Janet O'Connor was our demonstrator at the reception. If you haven't had a chance to see the show yet, it is worth a trip to the Clubhouse. Thank you to all the people who helped make this show happen—it takes a village, and it was much appreciated.

The Artisans Guild would like to thank Ann Sharp who is teaching a class on “beginner portrait drawing” that started March 2. A big thank you to Art Decker and Mary Officer for volunteering to be our class models.

Many thanks to Joan Dominelli who is teaching a bookmarking class for us in March.

If there are any artists in the Village who would be interested in teaching their art techniques, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Kathy McManus or Cathy Olson. Contact information is below.

Calendar of upcoming events: Our next scheduled meeting is April 14 at 3 p.m. in the Concert Hall. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend if you would like to see some of the fun things the Artisans Guild is doing.

Please join fellow artists on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Craft Room to share ideas and get inspiration. Peggy Decker is the contact (phdeck700@gmail.com).

Kathy McManus, kpmcmanus317@yahoo.com Cathy Olson, shop.5678@icloud.com



COVENANTS COMMITTEE

VICKI KOBER, CHAIR

REMINDER FOR EXTERIOR MODIFICATION PROCESS

The Exterior Modification Form can be obtained from the main office or from the SV [Website](#)

- The Exterior Modification must be received a minimum of one week prior to the Covenants Committee monthly meeting to be considered at that meeting.
- Only one identified project per Exterior Modification Form is to be submitted.
- Complete all sections and attach required pertinent information, plat, detailed drawings, photo of location of proposed project, etc., to avoid delay in processing the Exterior Modification Form.



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- The Covenants Committee will contact the homeowner to schedule a site review for the project proposed on the Exterior Modification Form.
- The Covenants Committee shall act on all matters promptly within 45 days. Work shall not begin until the homeowner receives written approval from the HOA Management.
- Any changes to the scope of work by the homeowner or contractor require resubmission of the Exterior Modification Form.
- Final review by the Covenants Committee is required after completion of the Exterior Modification Process. Please contact HOA management upon completion.
- Approved Exterior Modifications must commence in three months and must be completed within nine months after approval. If not, a new Exterior Modification Form must be submitted by the homeowner.

RETURN COMPLETED EXTERIOR MODIFICATION FORM AND ATTACHMENTS TO:

HOA Management Office, 100 Symphony Way, Centreville, MD 21617

410-758-8500

GM@symphonyvillagehoa.com

LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION

TOM McMANUS, CHAIR

LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION COMMITMENT TO SYMPHONY VILLAGE

Many residents may not realize just how much Symphony Village spends on landscaping and irrigation every year. It's important to recognize that as our community ages further, these costs are very likely to rise (not to mention upward pressure from inflation). This is due to the fact that almost all current funds are directed toward “maintenance requirements” as opposed to enhancements or new projects.

A few of our current figures include:

The 2022 Expense Budget for SV is \$1,140,177 with the L&I portion at \$442,494.

This amounts to 38.8%—the largest group item in our annual budget.

L&I is split into Landscape & Irrigation Contracts at \$345,694, leaving a Discretionary amount of \$96,800. Another factor influencing our expense options is our location. While we all enjoy the many benefits of living on the Eastern Shore, there are some disadvantages and challenges as well. One of those is the scarcity of contractors suitable for supporting our community. Three years ago, when we searched for a new landscape company, we sent out nine invitations to come and talk with us about landscape and irrigation services. Only four responded and came to meet with us, and then only two contractors submitted proposals. At this time, little has changed in this regard.

Nevertheless, we are managing well with what we have. Recent upgrades in the irrigation system should afford us a better and more reliable watering operation for our turf and flower beds. In 2021, we completed the shrubbery upgrades around the Clubhouse, bocce courts, and the pavilion area. We managed to again aerate and overseed most of the property within the community and expect to see the benefits of this effort in 2022. We have also cut back the walking path up to Route 213. We are continuing with our master plan to prune and trim all of our over 1,600 trees (we've done 263 over the last few years), and we've had hundreds of trees successfully treated for infestations and diseases. Finally, we will be displaying a new community sculpture up at the pavilion this spring for all to enjoy.

Still, everyone needs to recognize that our HOA never promised a “perfect lawn.” The HOA has promised to mow, edge, fertilize, mulch, treat weeds, plant flowers, prune shrubs, perform general cleanup, and manage the property around our ponds and our walking paths. L&I and our management team are in frequent communication with the landscapers, as we discuss and review past performances, upcoming activities, chemical treatments, damage control, as well as procedures, techniques and training used by their personnel as they work to meet their commitments to us. Both the L&I Committee, Management, and our BOD have agreed that for all practical purposes we acknowledge that Level Green Landscaping is the “authority” when it comes

to turf management. They are the professionals and have well-trained and knowledgeable experts on all aspects of landscaping. We pay them well for their expertise, and we should rely on their opinions and guidance. One example, applicable to how we manage our budget is Level Green's advice that organic chemicals (comparable in effectiveness to what we currently use) would cost us six times as much as what we currently spend. Frankly, this is a trade-off that we cannot afford. Still, this particular item is something of concern, and we will continue to research and discuss it.

We have all recently heard about supply-chain backlogs and manpower shortages. Well, these issues are impacting Symphony Village as well. The current cost of replacement trees in this area have skyrocketed, and many trees are not even available to us at all, at this time. We are now compelled to defer some of our intended purchases until these conditions improve.

The Symphony Village Board of Directors has been very supportive of the activities and initiatives of the L&I Committee, and we appreciate their help and guidance. We are all mindful of the high amount of expenses related to all the landscape, irrigation, and tree work that is performed here in the Village. Of course, we could do even more, given unlimited funding, but that is not realistic. Our combined teams will continue to strive to find a meaningful balance between what needs to be done and the financial resources we have to do the work.

We thank you all for your continued support and commit to you that we are all dedicated to the on-going upkeep and improvements in the appearance of our community.



LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE

DEBORAH JONES-MILLER

If you're unsure that spring is in the air, then look around Symphony Village! Daffodils are making an appearance in many yards, the snowbirds are making their exit, the landscaping company is pruning bushes, edging flower beds, and applying the first of many lawn treatments. Take this time to clean and gradually put cold weather clothing away and be certain the warm weather clothing is pressed and ready! Many activities are scheduled for March. We look forward to seeing you all throughout the month!

The Lifestyle Committee would like to thank Ed and Cindy Beres for hosting a much-anticipated, fabulous pasta supper on Saturday, February 12. One hundred and thirty Villagers attended and enjoyed the delicious dinner. Thank you both for being two of Symphony Village's biggest supporters!



Those of you who didn't attend the March 4 Social Hour missed out on a great time. Kathy Jones, who entertained us in November, returned for an encore performance. She serenaded us with delightful songs all evening. Thank you, again, Kathy!

Please mark your calendars for the following events:

Events scheduled for March and April — mark your calendars

Wednesday, March 16	6:30 p.m.	Retirement/Progressive Care Community Presentation: Heron Point and Bayleigh Chase	Representatives from both communities (Heron Point is in Chestertown and Bayleigh Chase is in Easton) will share information and answer questions about transitioning as active adults to adults needing medical assistance. Cookies will be provided!
Friday, March 18	7 p.m.	Special second installment of James Bond Event	Second of James Bond double feature— No Time to Die.
Saturday, March 19	6 p.m.	Social Hour	Irish coffee and Irish cream birthday cake will be served, compliments of Mary Ciesielski and Zina Lichaa
Saturday, March 26	7 p.m.	Movie Night	West Side Story new version (2021)
Saturday, April 23		Some Enchanted Evening	Don't miss this special, catered, semi-formal cocktail party. More information to follow.
Saturday, April 30		Spring Yard Sale	More information to follow.



PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

MARYKAY KERR, CHAIR

Please support the advertisers who support Symphony Village by advertising in the *Libretto*. The ads appear in issues of the *Libretto* and are also listed on the Website. If you need a job done, a plumber, a roofer, or anything else, please check the website first to see if we have an advertiser who might be able to do the job for you.



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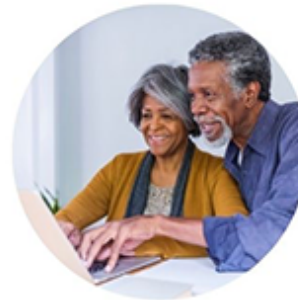
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CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

BOCCE BANTER

PATTI CIPRIANO

Get ready for March 16 when SV Bocce Ball resumes for another season of outdoor fun with neighbors! We will begin the season meeting at 4 p.m. at the Bocce Courts and move the time up as the sun moves during the spring, summer, and fall months. Bocce ball has simple rules making it a fun and easy game for residents of all ages to learn and play. There are two teams (chosen at random each week), each with four larger balls, the bocci. There is also one small ball, the pallino. Play begins when a member of one team throws the pallino across the court. The teams then switch off throwing the bocci at the pallino where it has landed. After all the bocci have been thrown, the team with the bocci closest to the pallino wins the point.

The regular bocce players are looking forward to welcoming all residents who have yet tried this popular Symphony Village activity. Let the good times roll!



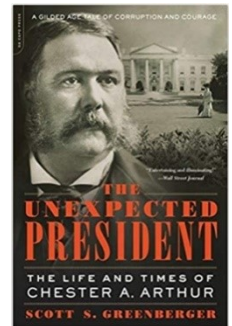
Tony Cipriano waves as Brad Kram looks on

READING FOR FUN – FEBRUARY 2022 REVIEW

JOE SIKES

The SV Book Club met virtually on February 15 to discuss *The Unexpected President, The Life and Times of Chester A. Arthur* by Scott Greenberger. Attendees included: Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Kathryn & Jim Buckheit, Sue Goldberg, and Bob Nilsson. Peggy Decker, JoAnn Walker, and Mary Jo Volpicelli could not attend but read the book and provided their comments separately.

For our selection in February, the Book Club turned back to history with a biography of our 21st president. When asked by a resident what subject we were reading about, I told her Chester Arthur. Her response was, “Why?” I told her “Great sideburns!” Seriously though, he is one of our least known presidents, although there is plenty of competition for that ignominious honor. As the title suggests, Chester Arthur neither sought nor desired the office of President. The story of how it came to pass is pretty interesting.



Chester Arthur was born the son of an abolition minister in Fairfield, Vermont. He matriculated to Union College (near Saratoga, New York) and excelled in his studies, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. He was also socially adept and ambitious, traits which served him well when he moved to New York City (NYC) and pursued a law career in 1853. Eager to move up in Gilded Age society, he sought fortune in land speculation in Kansas in addition to his legal pursuits. Having been raised in an abolitionist family, he naturally joined the Republican party, supporting its anti-slavery policies.

He cut his political teeth as a follower of Thurlow Weed, learning the spoils system from this original machine politician. When the Civil War broke out, he was appointed as the NYC representative for New York state's efforts to raise and equip troops in support of the Union. He was so successful that by the end of the War, he had been promoted to Major General and appointed Quartermaster General for the state.

Amazingly, General Arthur had not enriched himself during the war, unlike many of his contemporaries. However, his organizational skills and numerous war contacts propelled his steady rise through New York politics. He eventually became a loyal lieutenant to Senator Roscoe Conkling, who replaced Thurlow Weed as head of the New York political machine.

Conkling and Arthur knew that control of the New York Custom House was the key to the spoils system and provided the riches and jobs that would keep them in power. Arthur's war experience made him the perfect candidate to be the collector of the Custom House. When the reformer Rutherford Hayes became president, Conkling and Arthur repulsed all efforts to undermine the spoils system, which was the key to their power. The two men shared a political philosophy based, not on policies, but on doing whatever was necessary to stay in power. Sound familiar?

Hayes had pledged a one-term presidency, and when the 1880 Republican convention arrived, Conkling and Arthur supported former President Grant's candidacy for a third term. Reformers in the party successfully blocked nomination of the famously corrupt Grant. James Garfield, a dark horse candidate, was nominated on the 36th vote but only after cutting a deal for New York support. The price was to put Arthur on the ticket as Vice President. The nation found itself with an unexpected Vice President when Garfield won the general election.

Before long the unexpected Vice President became an unexpected President when President Garfield was assassinated in July 1881. Before reading this book, I knew Garfield was assassinated but was unaware that he did not die immediately. There was a three-month period during which the country (and the vice president) did not know whether he would recover. Arthur did not rush to Washington lest he be perceived as too eager to become president. In truth he had never wanted the job in the first place.

Once Arthur became president, he acquitted himself better than anticipated. His mentor Conkling wanted a Supreme Court seat but was surprisingly rebuffed. Arthur also moved forward reforms initiated by Hayes and Garfield, despite his history of support for the spoils system. His performance as president was more upright than suggested by his corrupt past. He never sought a second term, which probably freed him to revert to the



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morals that his father preached. In addition to identifying many little-known characters, the book's historical recounting illuminated the events, dominated by the Civil War, of the second half of 19th century America. Politics and daily business continued, especially in the North, even while the fighting raged.

Another interesting tidbit for me was discovering that Chester Arthur's father-in-law was Captain William Herndon, who became famous for exploring the headwaters of the Amazon River. In 1857 his steamship, the Central America, was lost at sea in a terrible storm. Because Herndon saved the women and children on board, he was hailed as a hero despite going down with his ship. The Herndon Monument, located on the grounds of the Naval Academy, is named in his honor. I marked the end of my first year at the Academy by climbing that heavily greased obelisk with my classmates. It is one of the oldest traditions at the Naval Academy, but I am embarrassed to admit that I never knew who Herndon was. Don't tell anyone!

The Book Club found this saga of an unexpected president compelling, especially as highlighted by stories of America in the Gilded Age. HBO currently has a show of the same title that is centered on NYC but is coincident to Chester Arthur's presidency. The Club rated *The Unexpected President* at 7.42 on our 10-point scale.

Our new list of books and the dates for Book Club discussion are listed below. We hold these meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. We continue to meet on Zoom, so contact me at sikes.withers@yahoo.com if you would like to attend.

March 15 *The Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead

April 19 *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

** I would also like to express my sadness at the recent death of my friend Bill Wells. Bill leaves a big hole in our community because of his dedicated commitment to improving Symphony Village. But I will miss him even more for his love of family and his ebullient personality. You always knew when Bill Wells was in the house. Most of you do not know that Bill and I shared a cruise ship stage in 2017. During a Motown performance, the band invited two audience members to sing with them. Bill sang bass and I sang off-key, but the experience created a treasured memory.



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Symphony Village Outreach sponsored a Paint Party on Thursday, March 10. L&M Designs provided the participants a fun evening. We painted Welcome Signs with different fruit designs. It was a great time.

Save the Date: May 18, SHREDDING EVENT

Resident Mary Ciesielski from Long & Foster will provide a shredding truck set-up in the parking lot next to the Tennis Courts to shred your sensitive documents! There is **no limit** for what you wish to bring and shred! Donations will be graciously accepted for SV Outreach.

Outreach will meet in person on **Wednesday, March 23, at 4 p.m.** Everyone is welcome!



L to R standing: *Fran Dresher, Lois Monetti, Pat Fox, Sharon Roe, Sue Peterson Jo Kirchner, Lucy Hearn, Lori(Instructor), Jenny Gallo, Peggy Andrews, Charlotte Godfrey.* Kneeling: *Patti Ricker, Mary Scull, Donna Donaldson, Sue Canfield*

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VILLAGE PEOPLE PICKLERS AT THE YMCA

ROSEMARY ROSENBERGER

Several of our Symphony Village picklers joined the YMCA (Chestertown) in January 2022 in order to continue our weekly fun and exercise! That particular branch of the YMCA held its first “Kent County Inaugural Pickleball Tournament” on February 26, 2022. Stepping up to the plate were Amy Landen, Mary Leavell (full-time guest pickler to SV), Marty Pawtowski, Steve Nelson, and Anthony and Rosemary Rosenberger. Amy and Mary challenged in the women’s doubles and provided great competition. Mixed doubles consisted of Amy and Steve, Marty and Mary, and Rosemary and Anthony. I am very proud to announce that the **BIG WINNERS OF THE GOLD** for the mixed doubles were Mary and Marty! Congratulations to them and a job well done to all who played, providing some fun, laughs, and great competition! Thanks also to our awesome cheerleaders Pete and Cele Zerhusen, Diana and Jeff Herring, Charlene McGrade, and Frank Dean (and anyone else I may have missed)!



*Anthony, Rosemary, Mary,
Marty, Amy, Steve*



Cele, Frank, Pete



*The Gold Winners
Marty and Mary*

We are actively waiting for the spring weather so that we can get back to our SV courts. Play will be Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday starting at 9 a.m. each day. If you are new to the community and want to see what it’s all about, please come and join us on any of these days. We also look forward to the courts being redone starting sometime in June, while looking forward to the addition of two more courts for a total of four pickleball courts

That’s all for this month! Whatever it is that you choose to do, stay safe and enjoy our beautiful Symphony Village As always, please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions or concerns

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

JOHN OLSON – CERT COORDINATOR

CONSIDER BECOMING A CERT VOLUNTEER

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program can teach you about disaster preparedness and how to organize to provide support during disasters.



Since 2009, over sixty Symphony Village residents have completed CERT training. This valuable training enables you to be prepared for various emergencies—whether weather, fire, vehicle accidents, terrorist, or natural disasters. The course includes subjects such as creating emergency supply kits, fire safety, disaster preparedness, light search and rescue, first aid, disaster psychology, and other preparedness subjects.

We are always seeking additional community members who



would be interested in receiving this training and be willing to assist our own residents in catastrophic accidents/conditions before emergency responders can arrive. All training is FREE. CERT training is spread out over several days and is taught for 2–3 hours each day, usually in the evening. There is a class beginning March 22, and there will be additional classes later in the year.

If you are interested or know of someone who is, please call John Olson at 443-262-8458. This is an excellent opportunity to help yourself as well as your community. If you know someone who is interested in CERT but not a Symphony Village resident, have them contact the Queen Anne’s County CERT administrator, Debra Hopkins, (410) 758-4500 ext. 1119.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

ASTRONOMY CLUB

LARRY RAYNER, THE ARMCHAIR ASTRONOMER

My wife, Susan, got up early one morning and for some strange reason went outside to look at the sky. She didn’t see much in the sky, as it was overcast, but she did see a lot of people out walking. We’ve seen the *street walkers* in the evening and at night while coming home, but it seems there are early birds as well. I’ve decided to look to the heavens for March 15 through to April 15 to see what I could tell you all to keep an eye out for in the morning sky as well as the evening skies.

The Planets in March and April: Find these visible planets from mid-March 2022 to early April: [Venus](#) blazing in the East before sunrise; [Mars](#) and [Saturn](#), also in the East before sunrise; [Jupiter](#), emerging in the East before sunrise by late March or early April. Mercury will return to the evening sky by mid-April for its best evening apparition for the Northern Hemisphere.



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What to See and When: March 15: The full moon will cross in front of, or “occult,” the bright star named Eta Leonis, in the Leo constellation. This will happen in the evening after 8 p.m. Use your Sky Walk 2 app to find the exact location.

March 16: For the early birds, take your binoculars out because just before dawn Venus, which will be very bright in the southwestern sky, will be its closest to Mars, which will be fainter. With binoculars they will be in the same circle of viewing.

March 17: The March full moon will occur on Friday, March 18, around 3:18 a.m. causing it to appear full in the Americas on both Thursday night and Friday night. The March full moon, known as the Worm Moon, Crow Moon, Sap Moon, or Lenten Moon, always shines in or near the stars of Leo or Virgo. Native Americans have their own name for this moon—from Sugar Moon to Hard Crust on the Snow Moon. For many it meant a time to get in balance and celebrate the new year, for others it was called the Eagle Moon because this was the time the Eagles returned, others called it the Windy Moon (windy month of March). Full moons always rise in the East as the sun sets and set in the West at sunrise.

March 19: For another “occult,” look in the wee hours of the morning when the moon crosses in front of the double stars Gamma Virginis and Porrima.

March 20: This is a big day/night for sky watchers. Venus will be very bright, -4.5 magnitude, and will be flanked by Mars and Saturn; look to the southeastern sky around an hour and half before dawn to see these brilliant stars. Also on this day the Spring Equinox occurs. The sun will cross the celestial equator heading north marking the beginning of spring and the day and night will be of equal value.

March 22: Look for the Zodiacal Light, which will appear two weeks prior to the new moon on Friday, April 1. After the evening twilight has disappeared, you’ll have about half an hour to check the western sky for a broad wedge of faint light extending upwards from the horizon and centered on the ecliptic below the Pleiades cluster. That glow is the zodiacal light—sunlight scattered from countless small dust particles that populate the plane of our solar system. Recent studies point to Mars as a major contributor to the dust.

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SYMPHONY VILLAGE BLUEBIRD TRAIL UPDATE

BIRDMAN, PETE ZERHUSEN

One year ago, I was given permission by the Symphony Village Board to establish a small Bluebird Trail on the far side of Pond #1 for the benefit of our community. I have monitored Bluebird Trails for over 35 years. Eight bluebird boxes were erected on metal poles. Bluebird boxes are traditionally placed outside in February. They are taken down at the end of the nesting season, typically in September. Bluebirds nest from one to three times each summer, raising three to five young each nesting. Bluebird Trails were first established over 50 years ago in an attempt to prevent the Bluebird's possible extinction from a lack of nest sites and predation from the introduced European House Sparrow. House Sparrows are more aggressive than Bluebirds and will commandeer their nests while destroying their eggs and/or killing Bluebird young and incubating adult females. Today, I am reporting on last year's nesting season on the SV Bluebird Trail.



I WISH I HAD BETTER RESULTS: Bluebirds were seen in the vicinity of the nest box trail, but none attempted to use the nest boxes. House Sparrows attempted to use five of the boxes, but each time their nests were removed. No House Sparrows nested successfully. Nest removal is essential in controlling House Sparrow populations. I have seen loose flocks of 50 or more House Sparrows in our community. Remember, they are an introduced species and should not be here.

Paper Wasps also attempted to build their nests using the inside roof of the nest box. Each time they were removed. This problem is solved with a thin coating of Vaseline applied to the inside roof of the nest box.

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Chickadees, House Wrens, and Tree Swallows will also use the nest boxes. THEY ARE WELCOME VISITORS. We had an attempted Chickadee nesting, but the adult was found pecked to death on the ground near the nest box, most probably pecked to death by a House Sparrow. We had an attempted Tree Swallow nesting, but the nest was eventually abandoned. Finally, we had a successful nesting of House Wrens. The adults reared five young. Yeah!

On a positive note, I have Bluebirds in my back yard. A pair nested twice and successfully raised four young each nesting. This winter I have had four to ten Bluebirds at one time at a feeding station, using freeze dried meal worms. They will soon disperse and hopefully start families of their own, possibly using a nest box on our trail. Hoping for better results in 2022.

P.S. In an effort to control House Sparrow numbers, last year I contacted several Symphony Village residents and offered to do weekly checks of their nest boxes. Everyone except one was receptive. I am up to approximately 15 houses. Most nest boxes had House Sparrow nests. Each time they were removed, preventing House Sparrow populations from exploding. In one case, after nest removal, a pair of Bluebirds took up residence. In another situation, I monitored a Purple Martin house for a resident, removing sparrow nests, and four pairs of Purple Martins nested successfully. Please be advised, I would be more than happy to remove House Sparrow nest from nest boxes, behind shutters, inside awnings etc. You can contact me at 443-262-8539.

NEIGHBOR OF NOTE—SUSAN RAYNER

KATHRYN MARCHI

Allow me to introduce Susan Rayner, our February “Neighbor of Note.” After interviewing Susan, I dubbed her the Modern Renaissance Woman; she is indeed a person of many talents and areas of interest! During her life, Susan has been a restaurateur, author, retail buyer, and wine educator. Here is her story:

Susan is a Maryland gal who was born in Pigtown, a small town in South Baltimore also known as Barry’s Circle. In the sixth grade she moved to Woodlawn, Maryland, where she was diagnosed with severe Scoliosis. After surgeries to correct this condition, Susan spent two years in the hospital wearing a body brace. This confinement turned her into an avid reader and that role continues to this day.



In 1971, Susan graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, with a degree in History and Psychology. She went on to earn her master’s degree while working at the four-star Crosskeys Inn as the Banquet Coordinator. She was then promoted to Director of Sales. It was during this last position that Susan became interested in hotel catering. She began learning everything she could about food and beverage service. This became her passion.

From there, Susan moved to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Texas as she followed her then-husband’s job transfers. In Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Susan joined the retail world and became a men’s designer sportswear buyer.

Returning to Baltimore in 1988, Susan got back into hotel catering and worked at the Hilton. During that period, Susan and her sister co-authored a book, entitled *Secrets* that detailed wedding planning and was sold in *Bride’s Magazine*.

In 1990, Susan's continued love of food and beverage led her to open a restaurant called Tabrizi's in Baltimore. It became the first Mediterranean restaurant in Maryland, and Susan was proud that she served cuisine from all of the Mediterranean countries. Tabrizi's quickly became a huge success. For eight years, it was listed in the top ten Maryland restaurants and was twice featured on the cover of the *Baltimore Magazine*. Of course, the owner, Susan, was on that cover! Tabrizi's also won the *People's Choice* award for the best crab soup in Baltimore. Susan told me that it was her grandfather's recipe! She is also proud of the fact that she introduced Tiramisu to the diners of Maryland.

After eight years, Susan decided to sell Tabrizi's and take a year's sabbatical to study wines all over Europe. (FYI, the name Tabrizi's changed to "Daniels.") During this study, Susan noted that European wines were always from the local area. Each wine enjoyed the notoriety of its own local cuisine.

Returning to Maryland, Susan realized that Maryland wines did not enjoy that same notoriety in the state. California and other wines were sold in abundance in stores and restaurants here, and Susan determined to change that. She was employed by Boordy Vineyards here in Maryland; and during the next 20 years, she worked tirelessly and successfully to establish this local wine in stores and restaurants throughout Maryland. She became a serious wine educator during that time, educating wine enthusiasts.

In March, 2001, Susan met Larry Rayner online. They married in 2003 and had a three-day wedding at the Tilghman Island Inn. With her catering experience and knowledge of wines, you can bet that was a wedding feast to be remembered!

Susan and Larry have enjoyed traveling together all over the globe. Their favorite countries were Spain, France, Italy, and Greece. Not surprisingly, these countries were all known for food and wine!

One weekend, Larry and Susan invited some friends on a fun trip to visit model homes on the Eastern Shore. Of course, they visited Symphony Village where Larry fell in love with a house on Symphony Way. He loved the house as well as the open sky behind it for using his telescope. So in 2014, Larry and Susan moved into Symphony Village. True to her extensive experience in catering and event planning, Susan joined the Lifestyle Committee and lent her talents in planning events such as a luau, parentine party, a speaker series, and a Preakness Party. This year she enjoyed planning the Christmas decor for the Symphony Village Clubhouse. Susan's latest hobby is creating tablescapes for the art displays in our Clubhouse. She has also discovered the joy of baking bread.

As an urbanite, Susan told me that she enjoys her life on the Eastern Shore because the people are so polite, and traffic is less...or at least not as hectic as in the city. In Symphony Village, she has great neighbors who have become friends. She is particularly impressed that Symphony Village has so many amenities and activities for its homeowners.

Despite her retirement, Susan is still as busy as ever. It must be a pure delight to be a part of a "Susan Rayner" dinner party—given her vast knowledge of, and expertise with food and wine!



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Happy Easter

FIND THE GOLDEN EGGS

Seven golden eggs will be hidden around the common areas in SV, so start the hunt on **Sunday 4/10/2022**. Find an egg and claim the prize. There will be a number inside each egg so just email **EdBeres@remax.net** to claim your Easter surprise!

**Please one winner per household*

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CENTREVILLE HAPPENINGS PLUS

CENTREVILLE & AREA HAPPENINGS

CHARLOTTE GODFREY

Kent Island Farmer's Market—Thursdays year-round, **3 p.m. – 6 p.m.** at Cult Classic Brewery, 1169 Shopping Center Rd, Stevensville.

Chestertown Farmers Market—Saturdays, **8 a.m. – noon**, High and Cross Streets.

Goodwill Fire Company:

- Cash Bash returns, get your tickets now.
- Spring Vendor Fair, **Saturday, April 9, at 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**, 212 Broadway, Centreville.

Queen Annes's County Library:

- Tales and Travels Memories, Centreville Branch (adults with memory loss), **Tuesday, March 15**, 2:30 p.m.
- St. Patrick's Day Shamrock Tambourine Take Home Kit, Thursday, **March 17**. Pick up at Centreville or Kent Island (all ages).
- Creative Aging Cafe Take Home Kit: Holi Festival Colors Mandala Sun catchers, **Friday, March 18**. Pick up at Centreville or Kent Island (Adults 55+).
- Preserving Your Family Treasures via Zoom (Adult), **Monday, March 21 at 1:30 p.m.**
- Mini Spring Faux Wreath Grab and Go Kits at Centreville and Kent Island, Thursday, **March 24** (Adult).
- Crime and a Cuppa at Centreville Branch, **Saturday, March 26 at 10 a.m.**
- Intro to Essential Computer Skills at Centreville Branch, **Monday, March 28 at 10:30 a.m.**

St. Patrick's Day Parade—Easton, Thursday, March 17, 5:30 p.m., EastonDowntown.com

Home, Condo, and Outdoor Show with Arts and Crafts—Friday, March 18 – 20, Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City, MD. 410-213-8090, ococean.com

VFW Post Craft Show—Saturday, March 19, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., and lunch at 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. with a choice of pit ham, beef, or oysters with sides, \$12 at VFW Post 7464, Grasonville. Call 410-827-8194.

10th Annual Small Works Exhibit, Queen Anne's County Centre for the Arts—Small art works raffle to benefit the Arts Council **Saturday, March 19**. Call 410-758-2520, Queenannescountyarts.com.

Indoor Yard and Craft Sale—Saturday, March 19, at 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Caroline County 4-H Park, 8230 Detour Rd, Denton. Crafters, direct sale consultant's household items, furniture, jewelry, antiques, etc.

Fun and Funky Furniture Workshop with Terri Griffin—Saturday and Sunday, March 19 – 20 from noon – 6 p.m. both days. Fee of \$125. Will teach up-cycling furniture. Through the magic of ideas, paint, glue, and other materials, a shabby old piece of furniture will be transformed into a one-in-a-kind piece of art. Call 410-228-7782.

Cherry Blossom Festival—Sunday, March 20 through Sunday, April 17, National Harbor, nationalharbor.com/cherryblossom

Maryland Day at St. Clement's Island Museum—Friday, March 25, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., free admission all day. 38370 Point Breeze Rd., Colton's Point, Md., stmarysmd.com

Live Irish Music and Dance—Saturday, March 26, at 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., enjoy live Irish American Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble. Registration required, Christ Church, 121 East Main Street, Stevensville.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Guided Birding Tour—Sunday, March 27 at 8 a.m. – noon. The birding party will caravan via car to birding hotspots around Wildlife Drive. visitdorchester.org

American Legion Family Day—Open to the public, Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Talbot County Agriculture Center, 10659 Hiners Lane, Easton. There will be live music, food and fun, a Chili Cook-Off, Immunization Clinic, and door prizes. Maryland American Legion riders will be there including Legion Riders from the Centreville Jeff Davis Post 18.

Annapolis Film Festival—Thursday, March 31 – Sunday, April 3. Planned showing of more than 70 films from around the world, in the historic Arts District, annapolisfilmfestival.com

Spring 2022 Birding Events on Delmarva: delmarvabirding.com

- Mini-Delmarva Dogfish Birding Weekend, Saturday, March 26.
- Birding the Harriet Tubman Byway tours, Saturday, April 9.
- 26th Annual Spring Delmarva Birding Weekend, Wednesday, April 20 – Sunday, April 25.

Colonial Annapolis and USNA Walking Tour—through March 27, enjoy rich stories of historic Annapolis, the Maryland State House, and U.S. Naval Academy. 410- 268-7601, watermarkjourney.com/events

Chesapeake College Peake Players—Presents William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, 4 p.m. Thursday, March 31, and 7 p.m. on Fridays, April 1 and April 8, and Saturday, April 9.

Kent AG Center Auction—Saturday, April 9. Silent auction at 10 a.m. Live auction at 11 a.m., Kent Island Fairgrounds. There will be a variety of home and garden items including plants, shrubs, trees, gift baskets, local goods. Can see the items to be auctioned on the Kent Ag Center Facebook page.

Avalon Theatre: Easton, 410-822-7299

- Comedian Drew Landry, Saturday, March 19, 7 p.m.
- Robert Cray Band, Sunday, March 20, 7 p.m.
- Lilli Lewis, Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m.
- Joan Osborne, Friday, April 1, 7 p.m.

The Adkins Arboretum, 12610 Eveland Road, Ridgely.

- Botanical Art Program Series – register at adkinsarboretum.org or call 410-634-2847.
- Illustrated Phenology Wheel – **Fridays, April 1 and 15, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Complete a sample circular calendar wheel with instructor. Introduction to Watercolor and Botanical Drawing II offered later.
- Yarnstorming—local yarn artists and the Fiber Arts Center create a whimsical visual experience in the trees. On display **March 6 – April 3.**
- The Birds are Coming. On **Wednesdays, March 16, and 23, 10 – 11:30 a.m.** Jim Wilson will discuss bird migration and review by sight and sound.
- Soup 'n Walk, **Saturday, March 19, 11 – 1:30 p.m.** This monthly event includes a guided tour where you will listen for early songbirds and spring frogs while searching for skunk cabbage, paw paw, spring beauty, and bloodroot. The theme is Early Blooms, Songbirds, and Spring Frogs. Call 410-643-2847.
- Herpetology Walk on **Saturday, March 26, from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** Walk to learn about the frogs, turtles, snakes, and salamanders that inhabit the arboretum wetlands and forest.
- Spring Native Plant Sale. Orders accepted **through March 31** at adkinsarboretum.org., email native-plants@adkinsarboretum.org or call 410-634-2847.
- 2022 Juried Art Show—**through April 29.** Discovering the Native Landscapes of Maryland's Eastern Shore: paintings, sculpture, photography, and crafts.
- Old Wye Mill—Opening Day, **Saturday, April 30.** Old Wye Mill is located at 900 Wye Mills Road (Route 662), in the town of Wye Mills.

If you know of any events you'd like to share, please email them to me at godfreycb@me.com

SYMPHONY VILLAGE CONTACTS

Rebecca Wagner, General Manager
gm@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Julia Neph, Assistant General Manager
amg@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Nick Oliver, Maintenance Technician
maintenance@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Board of Directors group email:
Board@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Location:
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