



Photo by Len Saltiel

LIBRETTO 🎵

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

VOL. XIX No. 2

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!



Gary & Joan Templeton
110 Sonata Way

2024 SV HOA BOD

FEBRUARY 2024 SV HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NANCY EMERICK, PRESIDENT

In 2024, our February calendar has 29 days which designates the month as a “leap year.” This happens because every four years it takes our earth 366 days to rotate around the sun. Other interesting facts about February include the annual sighting of Punxsutawney Phil. This month, the groundhog did not see his shadow which predicts an early spring for us. I’m hopeful that means no more snow. February is the snowiest month in the United States. It’s not that I don’t like snow. It’s just that the removal efforts here in our village can be costly. Our snow removal in January cost the association \$41K. So, I will be praying for no more snow! Other fun highlights in February include celebrating the Super Bowl, Valentine’s Day, and Mardi Gras. So, for a shortened month, there are a lot of fun things to look forward to.

Speaking of fun, I read an interesting article on how adults play. Apparently, researchers have identified 8 different styles of play that describe how grown ups engage in play. The article, that includes a short quiz you can take to identify your own style of play, can be read by clicking on this link: www.wellandgood.com/adult-play-styles/ It appears that I fall into the *Director* style of play as an adult because I find intrinsic satisfaction in organizing, directing, and coaching. Now I know why I became so involved in HOA activities! LOL Anyway, I mention this to you because there are so many opportunities for Symphony Village residents to experience their style of play by joining one of our committees! I urge you to take the quiz just for fun, and who knows, it may inspire you to volunteer. It’s never too late to join a committee. Residents are welcome to join in at any time throughout the year. If you aren’t sure you want to join a committee, try attending a meeting as an observer to see what it’s all about. Lastly, if you would like to have a voice about our community’s architectural requirements, our covenants committee will be reviewing them this year and would welcome more membership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTISANS GUILD

JANET O'CONNOR, CHAIR

The Artisans Guild unveiled a wonderful new show, *Travel*. The Art Reception was held on Sunday, February 3. There were more than 80 people in attendance enjoying the incredible new Artwork. I continue to be totally impressed with the amount of talent we have in our small village.



The Featured Artist in this show is Janet O'Connor. Janet does things with needles that are truly incredible. She has a framed picture that looks like a fine art oil painting. But her whimsical pieces are not what embroidery looked like in the past! They are unique, colorful, and they tell a story. This is a must see wall of wonder.



There are great photos of many places people have visited, and paintings from all of our travels. Pictures don't do justice to the amazing pieces displayed on the walls of the Conference Room.

Pictures on the left are by Michael Grace (top) and Joseph Lichaa (bottom)

Our Artists of the Day were Susan Rayner and Zina Lichaa. Susan set up a beautiful table depicting an English Tea Party while Zina added a lovely fruit topped cake. While we are talking about food, Debbie Wells Hooper baked adorable "VW Bug" cookies saying *Enjoy the Ride* for the Travel Show!

You do not have to be a member of the Artisans Guild to submit artwork. Any art that can be hung is accepted as long as it meets our guidelines for hanging (Found on the SV Website). We also have cabinets for smaller 3-D pieces. Give it a try!



COVENANTS COMMITTEE

JANE DIEPENBROCK, CHAIR

Greetings to you all. The Covenants Committee has held its first meeting of the year during which we elected Jane Diepenbrock as Chair and Mike Teague as Vice Chair. The committee currently has six members ready to serve you. We are here to assist each homeowner with the Exterior Modification process. The Committee is also charged with reviewing and updating the Architectural Requirements, as needed.

So, you may be asking, "What is the Exterior Modification process?" It starts with a homeowner having an idea to enhance or change the exterior of their home or property. Before these ideas can be implemented, an Exterior Modification Form (EMF) must be completed as required by the HOA governing documents. Each homeowner
Symphony Village Newsletter – February 15, 2024

agreed (via signature) to abide by these governing documents when purchasing their home in this beautiful neighborhood. After completing the EMF form, the homeowner submits the form to the HOA Management office to be recorded. The Covenants Committee will review the EMF, meet with the homeowner, and determine if the project adheres to the Symphony Village Architectural Requirements. (These requirements can be found on the Symphony Village Webpage under Governance.) Once the EMF is approved by the Committee and any contingencies are met, work on the project can begin.

So, now you may be asking, “Is an EMF needed for all Exterior Modifications?” It is best to check with the HOA Management Office and inquire on whether one is needed for your project. Most likely, the answer will be yes. A homeowner may plant annuals or non-woody perennials in existing flower beds, without an EMF. Beyond that, please contact the HOA Management Office, and they will guide you through the process.

As we transition from the 2023 Covenants Committee to the 2024 Covenants Committee, we are making it a priority to make sure that all of the 2023 EMFs have been closed out. If you completed a project in the fourth quarter of 2023 and are unsure whether you have had a final inspection for your project, please contact me (Jane Diepenbrock) at mathtutor2pir@gmail.com. We will ensure that one gets completed, so your EMF can be closed out. Thank you for your assistance.

The Covenants Committee meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. at the Clubhouse and via Zoom. We have a wonderful team, and we invite you to join us at these meetings and consider joining our committee. It is a great way to meet residents and serve your community. Please email Jane Diepenbrock at mathtutor2pir@gmail.com, if you’d like more information.

LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE

MARIE BOSSIE, CHAIR

KATERI COOMBE, CORRESPONDENT

Happy February! There are a lot of activities happening in Symphony Village! If you have not attended an event, please see what is coming up and join in!

A big thank you goes to Terri O’Connell for presenting a tutorial on iPhone use and tips.

Thanks to Vinny Volpicelli for coordinating a great Super Bowl Party. Congrats to all the winners of the Football Pool, to Steve and Annette Nelson for manning the bar, and to everyone who brought great appetizers.

A very special thank you goes to Ed & Cindy Beres for hosting another Pasta Night on Valentines Day. In addition to hosting Ed actually cooked all the pasta himself for the 150 residents who attended.



San Francisco fans at Super Bowl Party.
Andrew Duda, Marty Pawtowski, Charlene McGrade, Carolyn Harty, Deborah Wells Hooper, Diane Bergan, and Brad Kram.



Thanks to Anne Marie Mason for coordinating all our volunteers who helped decorate, set up, and clean up. It was a fantastic evening.

Social Hours

Thank you to Carolyn Harty and Linda Schmidt for taking the lead in coordinating Social Hours for 2024.

We are in need of residents to host social nights throughout the year, first Fridays and third Saturdays of each month. Sign-up sheets are in the Wall Street Room. It is an easy way to get involved in the community and meet new neighbors, so please considering hosting! The next Social Hours are **February 17, March 1, and, April 5**. For questions call Carolyn Harty – 703-203-6696.



Mary Ciesielski aka Irish Mary, and her real estate colleagues Phyllis Endrich and Debbie Shiley, will be serving Irish Coffee at the **Saturday, March 16**, Social Hour, the day before St. Patrick’s Day. Be sure to stop by for our gift to you! Grab your green, an appetizer or dessert, and come out to the Clubhouse to enjoy a night of revelry with friends and neighbors.

Upcoming Events

Healthy Lifestyles

Meetings are held every **Wednesday at 10 a.m.** in the Concert Hall. Please contact Carolyn Harty if you have any questions (mdgalonthemove@yahoo.com).

Movie Night

Randy Officer will show *The Holdovers* on Saturday, **February 24, at 7 p.m.** in the concert hall. Bring your snacks and come join neighbors to watch. The **March 30** movie will be *The Boys in the Boat*.

Music Trivia

Randy Officer will also hold a Music Trivia competition on **March 3** in the Concert Hall from 2 – 4 p.m. Brush up on your music trivia knowledge and head to the Clubhouse for an afternoon of fun. Teams will be chosen by random once participants have arrived.

Community Wellness Screening

The QA County Health Department will be here the 2nd Wednesday of each month, usually in the Craft Room, to do screenings. Their next visit will be **March 13**. No sign up necessary. Any questions, call Eileen Rowley – 703-946-1075.

Mark Your Calendars/Save The Dates:

- March 18** **11 a.m.** – Mary Ciesielski and her co-worker will provide a presentation – “Safari to Kenya/Humanitarian Projects.” Sign-up will be in the Wall Street Room. Watch for more information.
- March 22** **7 p.m.** – Pat Fox will make a presentation on UFOs. Sign up in the Wall Street Room
- April 6** Randy Officer will present *Earth, Wind, and Fire*, the first in what will be quarterly “In Concert” videos.
- May 15** Food Drive to benefit Haven Ministries. Mary Officer will provide a list of items (food and dry goods) for which Haven Ministries has the greatest need.
- July 23** Cheeseburger in Paradise.

Chili Cook-Off and Square Dance has been rescheduled for **September 25**.

We are looking for someone to coordinate our Spring Yard Sale. Anyone willing to help with this project, please call Marie Bossie or Kateri Coombe. Date will be announced.

We are also looking for someone to give a tutorial on Android phone use. If you are an Android user and are willing to share your expertise, please contact Marie Bossie or Kateri Coombe.

PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

MARYKAY KERR

WANTED. We have an opening on the Publications and Communications committee for an individual interested in helping to layout the *Libretto*. If you have computer and or design experience and are interested in helping with our community newsletter, you would be a good fit for the job!

Articles are submitted by members of the SV community reporting on committees and other interests in Symphony Village. The articles and photos are submitted by the 10th of the month and the *Libretto* goes live on the 15th of the month. If interested, please let us know. Send your email to librettoeditors@gmail.com.

The committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m. You are always welcome.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

JOE SIKES, CHAIR; FRED KURST, VICE CHAIR

The Operations Committee is responsible for aiding the HOA Board of Directors (BOD) and the General Manager (GM) 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.

The Operations Committee met on **January 18** and re-elected Joe Sikes and Fred Kurst as Chair and Vice Chair. Additionally, Mary Thompson volunteered to serve as Secretary and was unanimously elected to that position. Steve Nelson will serve as Board Liaison to the Committee for 2024. Despite our disappointment, Fred and I were impressed by Steve's fiscal responsibility when he turned down our request for 10% raises.

As our first order of business, we successfully asked the BOD to allow the GM to request proposals for replacement of coping, tile and white coat for the indoor pool. This early start on the acquisition process not only will foster competitive bids but will also ensure the work can be accomplished while the outdoor pool is still open for resident use.

Our next meeting will be held **Tuesday, February 13 at 10 a.m.** in the Clubhouse. This is a temporary change from our normal time slot on the third Thursday of the month. As usual, the meeting will be hybrid and all residents are welcome to attend either in person or virtual.

SYMPHONY VILLAGE OUTREACH PROGRAM, INC.

JOANN WALKER, PRESIDENT



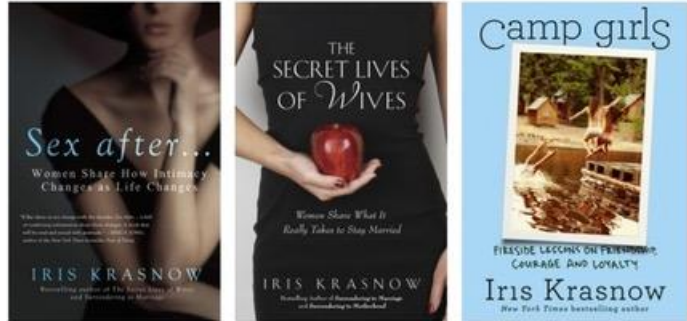
P.O. Box 642
Centreville, Maryland 21617

SAVE THE DATE

Please join Outreach as we present the **Second Annual Symphony Village Author's Luncheon** on **Wednesday, May 22**, with esteemed guest author and speaker, Iris Krasnow. MS Krasnow is Professor Emeritus at American University in Washington, D.C., and has made guest appearances on numerous national TV and radio programs, including *Oprah*, *Good Morning America*, and *The Today Show*, to name a few. MS Krasnow has authored seven books and is Senior Editor of AARP's, *The Ethel*, a lifestyle and health online publication for women over 50. Be on the alert for further details.



Books By Iris Krasnow



Sex After... Women Share How Intimacy Changes as Life Changes

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The Secret Lives Of Wives: Women Share What It Really Takes to Stay Married

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Camp Girls: Fireside Lessons on Friendship, Courage, and Loyalty

[More](#)

“We recently had New York Times bestselling author Iris Krasnow speak at an outreach event. She was wonderful! A sellout crowd found her inspirational and entertaining and her message resonated with women of all generations.”

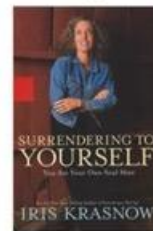
– Ilene Fox

Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, Florida



I Am My Mother's Daughter: Making Peace with Mom Before It's Too Late

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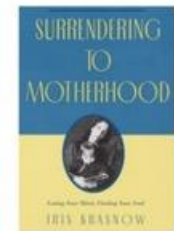
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Surrendering to Marriage: Husbands, Wives, and Other Imperfections

[More](#)



Surrendering to Motherhood: Loving Your Mind, Finding Your Soul

[More](#)

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

SYMPHONY VILLAGE QUILT GROUP

MaryKay Kerr

Once upon a time, Symphony Village had a very active Quilting Group. Over time, the group lost a few members, some moved away, and the group just kind of withered away.

Well...let's get the group up and running again! Meetings are scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month and will be held in the Craft Room from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

It doesn't matter what your level of expertise is...we all began at one time or another. If you have a quilt or something else you made, bring it along so we can see it. We love to look at handmade items! We are not just quilters. We deal with anything made with and out of fabric!

As time goes on, we will discuss projects we are interested in and maybe even have a group project or two. There's always a fun excursion to a fabric shop (or two) with lunch out on the trip. As the Holidays draw near, we make holiday stockings that are donated to a group who fills them with lots of good stuff, and they are distributed to our Service Troops for the holidays.

SEW...oops. So, join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the Craft Room from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Looking forward to seeing you there!

READING FOR FUN – NOVEMBER 2021 REVIEW

JOE SIKES

The SV Book Club met on January 16 to discuss *The Maid* by Nita Prose. Attendees included: Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Bob Nilsson, Mary Jo Volpicelli, Len and Carol Saltiel, Donna Harkins, Kathryn and Jim Buckheit,

Judy Scully, and JoAnn Walker. We also welcomed Diane Heffernan as a new club member. Sue Goldberg attended but did not score since she had not completed the book.



Author Prose creates a murder mystery told using the first person account of the title character, Molly Gray. We see the whole story through Molly’s eyes and therefore her interpretation of the actions of other characters. Molly is a socially awkward 25-year-old woman who was raised by her elderly grandmother. The grandmother is recently deceased as the story begins, but she has left maxims that guide Molly as she navigates her solitary life.

Molly is obsessed with order and cleanliness, characteristics that make her the best maid at the Regency Grand Hotel. Her routine is shattered when she discovers a rich patron dead while she is cleaning the penthouse suite. Molly calls for help but, nonetheless, is found standing over the body. It seems that much scurrilous activity was going on behind the scenes at the Regency Grand and Molly's simple nature made her a perfect foil for evildoers.

Molly was clueless about shenanigans (polite description) at the hotel but in initial police interviews, she was interpreted as having something to hide. She becomes a prime suspect because she found the body and seems devious as opposed to clueless. Luckily, she has as many friends as manipulators, and they work furiously to clear her name. I dare you to figure out who did it, though!

While the book is ostensibly a mystery novel, the Book Club appreciated it more as a character study. As our mystery aficionados would say, “It's no Agatha Christie novel.” But Molly is clearly on the autism spectrum. When I started reading the story through her eyes, my first reaction was that the writing was overly simplistic. After I finished the book, I appreciated that the author had given me a glimpse of what the world looks like to someone who is autistic. The club enjoyed the book very much and awarded a score of 7.73, which is about average on our ten-point scale.

The Book Club meets at 7 p.m. in the Clubhouse on the third Tuesday of each month. We hold hybrid meetings, so contact me if you would like to attend virtually. My email is sikes.withers@yahoo.com.

Upcoming books are as follow:

- February 20** *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese
- March 19** *The Twyford Code* by Janice Hallett
- April 16** *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
- May 21** *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

JOHN OLSON – CERT COORDINATOR

CREATING A FAMILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLAN

Power outages, health scares, and other unexpected events can disrupt your daily routine. But a solid communication plan can be a clear guide that keeps everyone calm and informed in any situation. With it, you and your loved ones can respond swiftly and supportively, knowing exactly who to contact, where to gather, and how to access critical information.



This preparedness brings peace of mind. Whether it’s coordinating medical care, arranging transportation, or simply offering comfort, everyone can contribute effectively because they know the plan. Remember, open communication is the key to a strong family unit, and in challenging times, it can make all the difference. Here’s how to develop your plan:

Gather Information: Create a comprehensive contact list that includes phone numbers, email addresses, and emergency contacts for all family members and relevant services like doctors, neighbors, and community security.

Identify Communication Methods: Discuss and document everyone’s preferred methods for reaching each other, such as phone calls, text messages, online platforms, or radio for emergency broadcasts.

Determine Meeting Points: Establish designated meeting locations both within and outside the community in case of evacuation or restricted access. Within Symphony Village, you might choose the Clubhouse, while outside choose a familiar landmark easily accessible to all family members.

Assign Roles & Responsibilities: Designate roles like a primary contact for initial communication and information sharing, welfare checkers for vulnerable individuals like seniors or those with mobility issues, and information gatherers to stay updated on official announcements and relay them to the family.

Share with Neighbors: While your family is your closest support system, your neighbors can become invaluable allies in times of need. Consider them an extension of your safety net. Getting to know your neighbors fosters a sense of community and trust, making them more likely to keep an eye out for your home and well-being. Sharing your family communication plan with trusted neighbors strengthens the network further. They can help relay information during emergencies, check on you if needed, or even assist with evacuations if necessary. In return, offer to share their plan and be a supportive neighbor as well. Remember, a strong community starts with open communication and collaboration, making everyone safer and more prepared for whatever life throws your way.

Review and Update: Your plan is a living document. Review and update it regularly to reflect changes in contact information, family needs, and communication preferences.

Practice the Plan: Conduct mock scenarios with your family to familiarize everyone with the plan and enhance its effectiveness in real-life situations.

By working together and communicating effectively, you can face any challenge with confidence and ensure everyone’s safety and well-being.

Visit <https://www.ready.gov/plan> for additional information on emergency preparedness. To get even more involved, join CERT. Contact John Olson, SV_CERT@icloud.com, for more information.



CERT Speaker Series:
Scam & Fraud Prevention

Mark Your Calendar

Date: Tuesday, February 27
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Clubhouse – Concert Hall
Register: Wall Street Room
Speaker: Centreville Police Dept.

Debi Wells Hooper

CERT SPONSORED PRESENTATION: ACTIVE ASSAILANT PREPAREDNESS HIGHLIGHTS

DEBI WELLS HOOPER, CERT MEMBER

About 60 residents attended the January 17 'Active Assailant Preparedness' presentation, hosted by the Symphony Village Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The information was provided by 1st Sgt. Jeremy Davidson, who was introduced by Queen Anne's County Sheriff Gary Hofmann. If you missed this beneficial presentation, these highlights are intended to provide useful information to help keep you safe, if faced with an active assailant (shooter or other harmful) situation.



- **Be observant!** Always be aware of your environment and be alert to possible danger(s).
- **Know your exits!** Always take note of the nearest exits to you in any facility you visit.
- **Remain calm!** If you find you are in an active assailant situation, breathe deep, stay composed, and focus on your decision: (1) to run/evacuate, (2) hide/barricade, or (3) fight!
- **Decide your action immediately!** Determine if you will evacuate, hide/barricade, or fight (not always in that order)! Do not depend on anyone else to acknowledge the threat. *This is your decision.*
- **Evacuate/run immediately!** This is your goal, to leave the premises, if safe to do so. Do not wait for others. If you run, do so in a zig-zag manner to be a difficult target. If you cannot evacuate, hide yourself (under a table, etc.).
- **Hide!** If evacuation was not possible, find a place to hide and barricade, if possible. It is important to stay calm.
- **Silence your phone!** Turn off any technology on you that may give away your location.
- **Barricade and secure your surroundings!** If you were not able to evacuate and are in an office, stay there and secure/lock the door, if safe to do so. If you are in a hallway, get into a room and lock the door. If an interior door has a window, avoid the assailant's line of view. Blockade the door with furniture or anything available if you can do so safely.
- **Look around you for potential weapons!** Think out of the box; that is, everyday items can be used to protect yourself: chairs, pens/pencils, trash cans, books, fire extinguisher, rope to secure door handles shut, etc.
- **Last resort - fight!** Only as a last resort, attempt to take down the active assailant. When the assailant is at close range and you cannot flee, your chance of survival is greater if you try to incapacitate him or her.
 - Act aggressively—yell, scream and look as angry and as fierce as possible.
 - Weaponize with everything close to you—throw a three-hole punch, stapler, etc.
- **Call 911!** Call only when it is safe. Do not assume someone else is making the call!
- **When law enforcement arrives!** Stay calm, keep hands in sight, and obey instructions.

SYMPHONY VILLAGE GOLFERS

Men's Golf

The men golfers generally play nine holes of golf two days a week (weather permitting). On Wednesday they play at Blue Heron, a county-owned course. On Friday they play at Hog Neck, an Executive Course in Easton, Maryland.

They meet at the SV Clubhouse parking lot to carpool to the course. The time is usually around 9:30 a.m. fall to winter and 8:30 a.m. in the summertime. They enjoy a good time and good fellowship and would like you to join them.

For more info and to add your name to this group, call or email Mike King at 443-262-9450 or 75sheroman@gmail.com.

Some men play at the Queenstown Golf Course that has a weekly rate, currently \$3,350, and allows play Monday through Friday on both courses, tee times needed. For more info call Howard Fox at 908-209-2934.

Ladies Golf

The women golfers, similar to the men, play golf Wednesdays and Fridays at Blue Heron. They meet at the Clubhouse parking lot to carpool. Time is usually 9:30 a.m. but may change. To get your name on the email list, contact Carol Hodges at 443-735-0112 or lhodges@atlanticbb.net.

ZINA LICHAA, NEIGHBOR OF NOTE

DIANNE HEFFERNAN



Zina was born and raised in Baltimore. She went to the University of Maryland and majored in Pre-Med. Her desire was to be a doctor but this was an almost impossible dream for a woman at that time. She turned her sights to teaching and found reward in teaching advanced Biology, Anatomy, and Physiology. Zina took great pride in teaching her students as much information as she possibly could. She would attend medical conventions in order to be able to provide the most current information to her pupils. She once travelled to New York City to meet with a former boyfriend at the hospital where he was employed as Head of Urology. The information she was given and subsequently imparted to her students allowed everyone in her class to pass the AP test with flying colors. She earned an appointment as the chair for the science department. Sadly, her school was set for closure, and she was transferred to another school. Unfortunately, the new school didn't provide her with the sense of accomplishment she had previously enjoyed.

She left teaching and took on a new career as a Head Hunter. Zina provided lawyers for law firms and enjoyed this work as she is very intuitive and has an astonishing ability to read people.

However, once again she felt she was being held back because she was a woman in a man's world. Instead of being cowed into submission, she left that firm and started her own. She excelled as her own boss and was proud of the work she accomplished along with her five employees.

Zina married her first husband when she was 22. At that time, she was on the verge of being considered an old maid. One aunt would actually refer to her as her "Old Maid Niece." They had three children together. One of her children tragically passed away at the age of 8 1/2. The marriage ran its course and ended after 25 years.

After being single for a while, she had a night free and decided to go out. She literally bumped into her current husband (Joseph) at what she refers to as a “pick up place for old people.” It was love at first sight and they have been together ever since that night. Both are very intuitive people. Zina calls Joseph the most intuitive person she has ever met. (Joseph says he paid her to say that!) They have an uncanny ability to read and understand people who are incredibly charming.

Zina and Joseph lived in Bethesda during the early years of their marriage. They renovated their home and enjoyed life. Eventually they moved to a waterfront home where they could have a boat on their own dock. Again the house was renovated to their liking by Zina and Joseph. Zina proudly proclaims she can do everything DIY Joseph can do, only worse. During the warm months, they would host family and friends every weekend. The house would have up to 20 guests at a time.

The time came when they decided they needed a quieter life and moved to Symphony Village. They loved it from the start and became immersed in all the community had to offer. Not being someone to simply sit back and rest, she started a landscaping business which she sadly had to give up. Zina has done many things since coming to SV. She served on the Lifestyle Committee for eight years. She has a yoga studio in her home and does yoga with friends five days a week. She is a member of the Artisan Guild. She loves to cook, and she writes and sells cookbooks.

Zina looks forward to many more years in Symphony Village and to getting to know and enjoy new people and new things. She is truly a lovely and remarkable woman.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

ASTRONOMY CLUB

LARRY RAYNER, THE ARMCHAIR ASTRONOMER

Looking up to the sky, we can see both Comets and Meteors. A Comet is a small, icy object that when passing near the Sun, warms and gives off gases; this is called “outgassing.” The outgassing produces what some call a coma, which surrounds the nucleus and sometimes a tail of gas and dust that has blown out of the “coma.” The coma is the nebulous envelope around the nucleus of a comet. Many times we can see a Comet with the naked eye. On the other hand, a Meteor is a piece of rock or metal that burns brightly when entering the Earth’s atmosphere—some may call it a falling star or a fireball. Often a Meteor is mistaken for a Comet, but there is no mistaking the Green Comet. When a comet leaves its dust in Earth’s orbit, it will become a meteor shower when the Earth orbits through the dust in following years. Halley’s Comet is the first comet whose return was predicted proving that at least some comets are members of the Solar System.



Astronomers recently discovered a green comet approaching Earth for the first time in 50,000 years. While it will be most visible in late January to early February, get out as soon as possible because we will never see this one again or at least for another 50,000 years. There are more than one green comets in the Universe. Sunlight shining on the coma splits the diatomic carbon molecules in its tiny coma atmosphere into single carbon atoms; this is what produces the green hue. The comet’s dust tail still appears to be white. Green Comets are rare while the reason for appearing green seems commonplace. I saw the great and beautiful Comet in the fall of 1956, which was multicolored and called Arena-Roland (two discoverers) Meteors that are traveling fast through space and entering a planet’s atmosphere (usually enters the Earth’s atmosphere at 60 miles height and 60,000–100,000 mph) will burn up fast like a shooting star; when the meteor survives the trip and hits the ground, it is called a meteorite. A meteor shower is an event where a number of meteors enter the Earth’s atmosphere from what appears to be the same starting point. This starting point is known as the Radiant. Meteor Showers are best observed after midnight because the Earth is facing its direction of travel into the debris field but pay attention to the phases of the Moon. The brighter the Moon (full) the less you will see of the shower. Lyrids will be the

next active Meteor Shower—mark your calendar for April 1 through 29 of this year. I will post on Nextdoor as we get closer to Lyrids and the ETA Aquarius (caused by Halley’s Comet). For now, get out your telescope or binoculars to see the Green Comet and the Lyrids Meteor Shower (no viewing assist needed). While we stare at the sky, there are those who explore the Universe.

The Clipper Project is being crafted with one mission in mind: can Europa (a small icy satellite of Jupiter) harbor conditions suitable for life. The launch window opens October 10, 2024, but the Europa Clipper won’t reach Jupiter’s orbit until April 2030. The Cassini spacecraft determined that Europa has the ingredients essential for life: water, chemistry, and energy. Cassini discovered that some of the outer planets and satellites seemed to be making RNA from their methane atmosphere and oceans. Scientists predict a salty ocean lies beneath Europa’s surface that has more water than Earth’s oceans combined. For Europa to be habitable, it needs the essential building blocks for life: carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and sulfur to name a few. Jupiter’s strong gravity creates tides on Europa that stretch and tug the moon producing heat. If there is life in Europa, it almost certainly was completely independent from the origin of life on Earth—this means that the origins of life are pretty easy throughout the Universe. *Robert Pappalardo, Project Scientist, Europa Clipper Mission*



The Dragonfly Project, which will follow the Clipper Project will conduct exploration of the largest moon in the Solar System, Titan, which orbits Saturn and has a methane ocean that rivals, in size, the oceans of Earth. The mission will launch in 2028. The spacecraft will have eight rotor-like blades (think of a drone). It will make short flights around the surface of Titan. Its goal is to discover how life began on earth 3.5 billion years ago because the atmosphere on Titan is similar to that of Earth’s when life began. NASA’s Dragonfly spacecraft is our next step in Titan Exploration which builds on the legacy of NASA and the European Space Agency’s Cassini-Huygens mission.



TRANSFORM LIVES!

Join Partners In Care Maryland, Inc., a local volunteer based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing Programs/Services that empower Older Adults to Age In Place with Dignity and Respect.

We have an immediate need for volunteer drivers to provide transportation to vital destinations in Caroline/Talbot Counties. Call (410) 822-1803 to learn about our volunteer opportunities!

TOWN OF CENTREVILLE NEWS

TOWN OF CENTREVILLE GOVERNMENT NEWS AND COMMENTS

Monday, March 18 — Yard waste pickup resumes on Monday, March 18.



Queen Anne's County Government

Public Information Manager Elizabeth Malasky • 18 hr ago



Mark your calendars! The Midshore Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off Day is set for Saturday, April 6, 2024; 8 am to 2 pm (rain or shine); Queen Anne's County See more...



Midshore Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off Day

Saturday April 6, 2024, 8AM – 2PM, rain or shine

Queen Anne's County Public Works, 312 Safety Drive Centreville, MD 21617

Free to Midshore County residents (Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties)

ACCEPTABLE HHW ITEMS

- Gas, gas/oil mixtures and automotive fuels
- Empty propane cylinders size #40 and smaller
- Acids, cleaners, and solvents
- Chemicals (pool, darkroom, etc.)
- Pesticides, insecticides, and herbicides
- Oil-based paint, paint thinner, stains, turpentine, wood preservatives, and wood strippers
- Fluorescent tubes and lamps (limit 15)
- Mercury thermometers

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Household trash
- Explosives and ammunition
- Medical and radioactive wastes
- Compressed gas cylinders other than propane cylinders listed above
- Asbestos
- Smoke detectors
- Appliances
- Power tools and power tool batteries
- Tires
- Household batteries
- Road/marine flares
- Liquid containers over 5 gallon maximum size

For questions on the program, please contact the Maryland Environmental Service at (443) 685-4073.

ACCEPTABLE ELECTRONICS

- Computers and peripherals (keypads, laptops, monitors, mice, printers, cables, modems, etc.)
- TVs, remotes, VCR, CD and DVD players (limit 4 TVs)
- CB radios fax machines, answering machines, and copiers

ACCEPTABLE LATEX PAINT

Usable latex paint (*pourable, no mold or mildew*) will be accepted for recycling. Do not bring unusable latex paint to the event.

Instead, solidify the paint with an absorbent such as kitty litter, dirt or mulch and dispose of the paint in regular trash.

PLEASE NOTE

- Household wastes that are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, or reactive are considered HHW.
- Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot residents ONLY
- Limit of 20 gallons or 250 pounds of acceptable waste per residence
- NO business, commercial, or industrial customers or materials
- COVID-19 Safety Precautions
 - Face masks are recommended to enter and use the facility for the purpose of dropping off acceptable materials.
 - Social distancing guidelines are recommended to be followed.

CENTREVILLE HAPPENINGS

CENTREVILLE AREA HAPPENINGS PLUS

CHARLOTTE GODFREY



Charley's Aunt at The Church Hill Theatre, Friday, March 8 and Sunday, March 24. It's a three-act farce and actually ran on Broadway in 1893!
www.churchhilltheatre.org



Sharon Sable joins pianist Joe Holt for his First Friday show of the month on March 1 at the Main Stay in Rock Hall. Get tickets at www.mainstayrockhall.org

So much to enjoy! Scroll through the listings for more adventures!

Queen Anne's County YMCA - It's new and fabulous: Take a guided tour. Many free activities for seniors including use of the Olympic size indoor pool, walking track, wellness center, activities, and games. 210 Vincit Street, Centreville, open daily.

Veterans Book Club: Connecting and Healing through Literature, open to veterans only, receive a free copy of each month's book. Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Center for the Military and Veterans in Stevensville. Email Eric Johnson at info@VAMSA.US

KIFA: open Thursdays through Sundays from 1 – 4 p.m., www.kifa.us

- **Limited Palette Show:** Artists exhibit using the primary colors of yellow, blue, and red only. Through Monday, February 26.

Queen Anne's County Centre for the Arts: open Monday through Fridays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tickets required for some events – www.queenannescountyarts.com, 410-758-2524.

- **A. R. Gurney's Love Letters:** Friday – Saturday, February 16, 17.
- **Tenth Annual Afternoon (High) Tea celebrating springtime in Paris:** Saturday, February 24, from 2 – 4 p.m.
- **Small Works:** Show continues through Friday, March 15. You can bid on these art works.

Chestertown: www.townofchestertown.com

- **4-day Intensive Cooking Class to Learn to Eat Like a Human:** Eastern Shore Food Lab in the Stone Age Kitchen, 236 Cannon St., Friday thru Sunday, February 16 – 18.

- **Lucky Stiff** at Garfield Center for the Arts: through Sunday, February 25.
- **Literary House & Sophie Kerr Screenwriter Series:** Sitcom Series & Writing for TV Monday, February 19 at 6 p.m., and Fiction Reading *Miss Me Forever* Tuesday, February 20 at 6 p.m.
- **Beginner Plus** at the Clay Studio: 200 High Street Tuesday, February 20, and Beginner Wheel on Wednesday, February 21 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- **Sourdough Bread Class:** Eastern Shore Food Lab, 2nd floor, 236 Cannon St., Saturday, February 24, and Saturday, March 2 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; **Cheese making Class:** Tuesday, February 27, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Open Mic** at the Garfield Center for the Arts: Bring an instrument to perform, read poetry, or do stand-up, Wednesday, February 28, from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
- **True West** at the Gibson Center for the Arts: Thursday, February 29, at 7:30 p.m.
- **Washington College Concert Series:** Marcus Flores and Dr. Davy DeArmond recital of modern trumpet works, Monday March 4, at 7:30 p.m. www.washcoll.edu/concert
- **Wine Pairing with Tapas & Cooking Demo with Celebrity Chef Robbie Jester:** Learn the art of wine and food pairing with a guided tapas and wine tasting demo. Friday, March 8, 6 – 8 p.m.
- **Brenda & Elks Paint Party:** Create a masterpiece; artist Brenda Foehrkolb guides you, Saturday, March 9, from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

American Legion Jeff Davis Post 18: 2619 Centreville Rd., 410-758-3584

- **Legion Dinners:** Fridays from 5 – 7 p.m.
- **Queen of Hearts Drawing:** Sundays at 6 p.m.
- **Poker Tournament:** Saturday, February 17, at 11 a.m.
- **Shuffleboard League:** Thursdays at 6 p.m.
- **Oratorical Contest from 10 a.m. - noon, Chili Cook-off at 2 p.m., and ARL 10 Year Anniversary Party at 6 p.m.:** on Saturday, February 24.
- **Bingo:** every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Doors open at 6 p.m., game starts at 7 p.m.

Queen Anne’s County Library: www.qaclibrary.org, 410-758-0980

- **Ongoing Technology Help:** Schedule 1-on-1 help by appointment at Centreville Library. 410-758-0980
- **Adult Story Time on Wheels:** Themed backpack kits filled with books, activities, sensory items for adults with memory loss. www.qaclibrary.org/adult-storytime-on-wheels.
- **Books by Mail:** 410-643-8161 or 410-758-0980.
- **The Memory Center:** Transfer old home videos to disk or thumb drive. Free at Centerville branch.
- **Crime & a Cuppa:** Join mystery reader extraordinaire Kathleen Wilson for an hour of mystery Saturday, February 17, at 10 a.m. at the Centreville Branch.
- **Must Love Books:** Pull up a chair and discuss your favorite romance novels. Saturday, February 17, at 10 a.m. at the Kent Island branch.
- **Seed Swap & Garden Day:** Kent Island branch. Get seeds (can swap), and talk about plants with Maryland Master Gardeners. Saturday, February 24, from 9:30 a.m. - noon. Rain date March 2.
- **Black History Month at the Centreville Branch:** Play bingo daily at 9 a.m., through Thursday, February 29, different cards for different ages. Also, try on Virtual Reality Glasses at the mobile library to view the film *Traveling While Black* in the mid-20th century.

The Adkins Arboretum: (410-634-2847), www.adkinsarboretum.org, registration required for many of these events.

- **Creating Native Plant Gardens:** How to design plant bed layouts, what native plants will look best in your garden. Saturday, February 24, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- **Pysanky: Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop for Adult Beginners:** Saturday, March 2 from 1 – 4 p.m.

- **Yarnstorming:** Colorful yarn art exhibit Thursday, February 29 – Saturday, April 6.
- **United by Flowers - Philadelphia Flower Show Trip:** Monday, March 4, from 6:45 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Ticks and Tick-Borne Illnesses:** Thursday, March 7, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- **New Moon Stargazing:** Saturday, March 9 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Local stargazers will share insight, telescopes, and star stories.
- **Healing Walks:** Join naturalist Jenny Houghton on the first Friday of each month (March 1) at 10 a.m.
- **First Saturday Walk:** Join a docent and explore the Arboretum’s native plant habitats Friday, March 2 at 10 a.m.
- **Early Blooms, Songbirds, & Spring Frogs Soup’n Walk:** Saturday, March 16, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Markets:

- **Chestertown Farmers’ and Artisans’ Market:** Saturdays year round, 8 a.m. – noon, High St. Classic Brewery, 1169 Shopping Center Rd, Stevensville.
- **Easton’s New Dover Road and Artisans’ Farmer’s Market:** Saturdays year round, 9 a.m. – noon.

Learning Adventures

- **Chesapeake Forum:** Winter registration opened, Friday, January 12. Hybrid (in person+zoom), Zoom, Field trips, Recordings. <https://chesapeakeforum.org>
- **Institute For Adult Learning:** 45 courses, history current events, brain & body health, literature, crafts and more. \$90 fee for unlimited courses. Brochures in Club House. www.instituteforadultlearning.org

*****Please send me pictures of events you attend for others to enjoy! If you know of any events you’d like to share, please email them to me at godfreycb@me.com**

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Bulk Pickup & Yard Waste: 410-758-1180

Trash Removal & Recycling: 410-742-0099