



Photo by Gil Hoffman

LIBRETTO

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022

VOL. XVII No. 1

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!



Joseph & Lois Monetti
815 Harmony Way

2022 SV HOA BOD

HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS – JANUARY 2022

DEBI WELLS, HOA BOD SECRETARY

Electronic Board Approvals During December 2021: There were two electronic votes by the Board since the December 1, 2021, HOA meeting. Both votes were urgent, unanimously approved via email and ratified at the January 14 HOA meeting. They were: (1) to use 2022 funds instead of 2021 funds to pay for a Landscape and Irrigation recommended wind sculpture. Previously, at the November 12, 2021, HOA meeting, the Board had approved 2021 funds for the wind sculpture. This email approval was to change the funding year only. (2) Approved the purchase of a pressure tank replacement at Well 4 and a backflow preventer replacement at Well 3, as recommended by our irrigation consultant, Michael Kronen, and pump contractor, David Sale, at a total cost of \$5.6K from the Reserve Fund. The anticipated time frame for installation is eight weeks after the order has been placed. Consequently, placing the order sooner rather than waiting until after the January HOA meeting was necessary.

January 14 HOA Meeting Board Approvals: At the January 14 HOA meeting, the Board approved all residents' names who registered to join a community committee. There are a number of reasons the Board approves volunteers; foremost, it confirms membership since each committee is required to have a quorum



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(majority) of active members present at each meeting in order to conduct business and vote. Traditionally, committee member approval is every January or at the first HOA community meeting each year. However, volunteers are always welcomed to join a committee during any month. If that occurs, Board approval of the new volunteer will be at the following month's HOA meeting. Symphony Village Committees are valued for their positive impact on the community. If you are not a current committee member and want to spend some time supporting meaningful activities for the greater good of our community, please volunteer!

Also approved at the January 14 meeting was a Request for Proposal (RFP) for two storm water inlet grates. For further details, please review this Operations Committee recommendation on the Symphony Village Website's Reference Materials for this HOA meeting.

HOA Board Meeting Reference Materials: The information, RFPs, and contracts the Board receives to make decisions and vote is placed on the Symphony Village Website several days prior to each meeting. To review that Reference Material, click on this link: <https://symphonyvillage.net/governance-landing-2021>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTISANS GUILD

CATHY OLSON & KATHY MCMANUS, CO-CHAIRS

Do you wonder about the fun group of current and prospective artists that meet at 3 p.m. in the Concert Hall on the second Thursday of the month? We are a committee of likeminded individuals who are interested in anything that is covered under the classification of art. Some members also get together most weeks on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. to paint or work on ongoing individual art projects. If you are new to Symphony Village, please consider giving us a try.

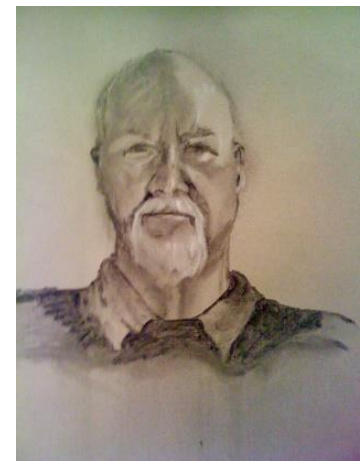


The Artisans Guild was initially formed to help decorate our new Concert Hall, to provide quarterly art exhibits and more. We are always open to suggestions to help make the Symphony Village Artisans Guild better.

Calendar of upcoming events:

PLEASE NOTE: Our show, "Coastal," has been postponed until a date to be determined. On January 20, please pick up artwork from the last show, "Landscapes, Seascapes, and Beyond," between 10 a.m. and noon. There will be no drop off for the "Coastal" theme or our regular art reception at this time.

Ann Sharp is planning a class here in the Concert Hall on beginner portrait drawing in charcoal starting Wednesday, March 2, 1 – 3 p.m. for 4 weeks. The cost is \$25 per person. If interested in attending, please contact either Kathy M or Cathy O (emails below) to reserve your space. Class is limited to 10. This is a perfect class for anyone interested in giving drawing a try! See example at the right.



The upcoming theme for our next show is "Wild & Friendly."

Our next scheduled meeting is February 10 at 3 p.m. in the Concert Hall.

Kathy McManus, kpmcmanus317@yahoo.com

Cathy Olson, shop.5678@icloud.com

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LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

TOM McMANUS, CHAIR

Stewardship Of The Chesapeake Bay

Betty McAtee



If you live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, enjoying its many amenities, should you also accept a stewardship role to help protect the well-being of the largest estuary in the US? If yes, know that what washes from approximately four million acres of lawns (residential and commercial) into the Bay should be of concern to you.

Rainfall runoff from lawns containing toxic chemicals (herbicides/pesticides) will markedly reduce aquatic life (plants, animals) in the watershed waterways. The more turf, the greater lethal damage occurs.

The “American lawn” has become an idealized concept.

Historically, a large, lush lawn was a sign of wealth (Mt. Vernon, Monticello, Versailles). It is composed of a monoculture that is susceptible to disease and invasive vegetation (weeds) that requires constant maintenance. On the East Coast, 30% of water usage is from lawn irrigation. Residential soil is typically compacted, with no topsoil, preventing rainwater from filtering into groundwater. As a result, excess water flows off this impervious surface into storm drains and nearby streams. The shallow-rooted turf cannot absorb adequate amounts of the rainwater. With increased climate change, it becomes more and more difficult to meet the needs of a lush, weedless lawn.

Large communities with expansive common turf areas could identify remote areas that could have acceptable appearance without chemical treatments. Other areas, such as roundabouts, cul-de-sacs, and turf strips between sidewalks and public roadways, separate or outside the residential complex, are ideal for replacing turf with sustainable landscape options (native vegetation) requiring no chemical treatments.

Chesapeake Bay stewardship is critical to the future health and sustainability of the Eastern Shore where we choose to live.

LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE

MARY COLLING-OFFICER, CHAIR AND

DEBORAH JONES-MILLER, CORRESPONDENT

WELCOME TO THE YEAR 2022 AT SYMPHONY VILLAGE!! The members of the Lifestyle Committee hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and wish you joy and peace for this new year!

The New Year’s Eve Party at the Clubhouse was a huge success! With up to 80 neighbors in attendance, the with fun, laughter, and fabulous music provided by Eddie “The Hit Man” Hitt. Neighbors commented on how



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well Eddie kept the fun going by leading line dances, serenading the crowd with his lovely voice, and encouraging the crowd to get involved! Eddie was such a hit that we are hiring him for next year!!!!

Congratulations to the winners of the House Decorating Contest!

1st Place: Carol and Doug Peed, 211 Concerto;

2nd Place: Anna and Kenneth DiGiulian, 406 Harmony;

3rd Place: Rose and Tom Clark, 126 Orchestra

A big thank you goes to our judges, Town Councilpersons Eric Johnson and Ashley Keiser, and to the homeowners who participated in keeping the holiday spirit alive!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Saturday, January 29: Movie Night will be held in the Clubhouse at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, February 12: Ed and Cindy Beres will treat our residents to a Pasta Dinner in the Clubhouse from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Menu will include pasta, meatballs, salad, garlic bread, and dessert. You may sign up in the Lifestyle Activities Book in the Clubhouse Wall Street Room starting January 15. Sign ups are required.
- Wednesday, February 20: Name That Tune hosted by Randy Officer will be held in the Clubhouse from 2 to 4 p.m.
- Friday, March 4: If you enjoyed the vocal and guitar performance of Ms. Kathy Jones in November, you will be happy to know she will be back to entertain us for the Social Hour from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m in the Concert Hall. Neighbors are encouraged to bring cash for a gratuity in appreciation of Kathy's time and talent!
- Saturday, March 19: The Social Hour will be highlighted with Irish coffee provided by neighbor and realtor, Mary Ciesielski.

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.

We are currently reviewing proposals for re-coating the tennis courts and expanding to four pickleball courts. There is much work contemplated for 2022 to keep Symphony Village beautiful. The Committee will hold its first meeting of 2022 virtually at 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 20.

Committee membership will be confirmed at our January meeting, and we will elect officers for the new year. Whether you have signed up or not, we welcome your participation.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

MARYKAY KERR

The Publications and Communications Committee is looking for a few volunteers to fill the open positions that we have on the committee. If you are interested in the Publications and Communications group, we look forward to having you join us. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m. Come sit in on a meeting to check us out and ask any questions about the committee. The positions are:




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Vice Chair for Publications and Communications

Conduct meeting in absence of the chair. Take minutes in absence of secretary. Collaborate with the chair on decisions.

Ad Manager for Publications and Communications

If you enjoy working with people, are detail-oriented, and like to stay on top of deadlines, you will enjoy this volunteer activity. Learning the ropes advice is available.

Centreville Events Reporter

Report on events happening around the Centreville area. Examples: Friday night American Legion dinners, Centreville Library events, City of Centreville events, Centreville Farmers' Market; and any other interesting activities.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

READING FOR FUN – NOVEMBER 2021 REVIEW

JOE SIKES

The SV Book Club met virtually on December 21 to discuss *Island at the Center of the World* by Richard Shorto. Attendees included: Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Carol & Len Saltiel, Sue Goldberg, Bob Nilsson, JoAnn Walker, and Mary Jo Volpicelli. Kathryn Buckheit could not attend but provided her input separately.

Henry Hudson landed on the island of Manhattan in 1608, seeking a route to the Far East like most of the famous explorers of the 17th century. He was an Englishman but sailed under the commission of the Dutch West India Company and claimed his discovery for the Dutch Republic. New Netherlands came into being as a colony in 1625 and encompassed the Middle Atlantic coast from Connecticut through Delaware and into Pennsylvania. The center of commerce in the colony was New Amsterdam on the island of Manhattan.

The colony thrived until English sailed their fleet into New Amsterdam in 1664 and demanded Peter Stuyvesant surrender or have his citizenry pillaged. After a tense (The first demand was returned because it was unsigned) standoff, Stuyvesant acceded realizing his situation was hopeless. The records of the New Netherlands colony were sent to the Tower of London and mostly disappeared. The history of Manhattan became an English story with minor references to the peg-legged Stuyvesant and Peter Minuit who supposedly bought the island from the Indians for \$24 worth of goods.

After the American Revolution, the records of the New Netherland colony eventually ended up in a dusty basement of the New York State Library at Albany and translation was hindered by a lack of linguists fluent in 17th century Dutch. However, a historian and linguist named Charles Gehring discovered them in 1973 and has been steadily translating ever since. The author learned of Gehring's work and has partnered with him to weave this treasure trove of details into a very readable and fascinating story of the colony.

Author Shorto describes the colony's founding in the context of the military and trade rivalries of England, the Dutch Republic, Spain, and Portugal during the 17th century. Spain and Portugal were in slow decline dating from the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, while England was on the rise with the Dutch Republic as a growing rival (albeit eventually eclipsed). The Dutch Republic stood out from the monarchies of Europe at the time and its liberal schools and governing structure were inculcated into the New Netherlands colony. The author's thesis is that much of this influence traces directly forward to the American Revolution a century later.

Many little known, but interesting figures in the New Netherlands colony jump from the archives and are amplified by the author. William Kieft was an original Director who ran the colony with an iron hand but started a needless six-year war in 1634 with the local Indian tribes on Manhattan. Many innocents were slaughtered on both sides exactly like what was later experienced in the American West. Somehow it is hard to imagine the cowboy and Indian battles that I watched on TV as a child occurring on Manhattan somehow.

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Almost unknown in history books, Adrien Van der Donck was an idealistic young lawyer who sought his fortune in America. Probably the first lawyer in the American colonies, he resisted the authoritarian administration of William Kieft and wanted more citizen participation in running the colony. He authored a petition for representative government and sailed back to Amsterdam to argue his petition to Dutch authorities in person. After three long years away, Van Der Donck finally succeeded and the colony was directed to form a council of citizens. During his three years lobbying in Europe, he convinced Swedish settlers to emigrate and founded the New Sweden colony on what is now the Wilmington, Delaware, waterfront. His imprint on the colony is evident in many documents which bear his signature style of legal writing.

The first City Council meeting in Manhattan took place in 1664 and its first vote was to build a wall around its Fort to protect it from the English. The street leading to it became Wall Street and, despite falling to English control, the concept of the council of citizens was adopted. The English recognized this seed of representative government was key to the prosperous trade enjoyed by the Dutch in New Amsterdam. Trade was controlled by merchants, not royalty as in Virginia and New England. The colony was also marked by acceptance of all races and religions as opposed to the strict mores of Puritan New England.

Many names in the area date back to the colony: Brooklyn, Yonkers, Flushing, Bronx, Harlem, and Long Island. Broadway follows the path of the primary Indian trail existing in the early 1600's. Finnish wood makers in the New Sweden colony seemed to have been the originators of the classic log cabin used throughout the early colonies. Cookies, coleslaw, and the term "boss" (not used in monarchies) are of Dutch origin. I bet Bruce Springsteen doesn't know that!

So, let's go back to Peter Minuit's supposed purchase of Manhattan for \$24. The price comes from a document found in Holland years later which tried to estimate the value of goods involved in the transaction. In fact, the natives had no concept of land ownership, but formed alliances which were marked by trading of goods, like furs, tools, food, and wampum, my favorite. Trading likely took place between Peter Minuit and the local tribes.

As an aside, I never knew what wampum was when I watched westerns as a kid. As it turns out, it consists of handmade beads (often made of Quahog shells) which are strung on belts. It was a legal form of tender in the American colonies from the early 17th to the mid-18th century. When machines were invented to make wampum, rampant inflation caused the crash of the wampum market (NYWE). In other words, it was the bitcoin of the 17th century.

With one exception, who will not be named, the Club loved the book and gave it a score of 8.2 on our scale of 10. I found it to be one of my favorites of the year. But I am an admitted history geek; so, take my recommendation with a grain of wampum.

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.

January 16 -- *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave

February 15 -- *The Unexpected President, Life and Times of Chester A. Arthur* by Scott Greenberger

March 15 -- *The Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead

April 19 -- *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

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We've already had some snow this season, and some of you might want or need to go out and shovel. Maybe you must drive to work before the contracted snow removal, or you might want to clear off your sidewalk. In any case, you should take care to follow these tips from the National Safety Council:

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking.
- Take it slow and stretch out before you begin.
- Shovel fresh, powdery snow; it's lighter.
- Push the snow rather than lifting it.
- If you do lift it, use a small shovel, or only partially fill the shovel.
- Lift with your legs, not your back.
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion.
- Don't pick up that shovel without a doctor's permission if you have a history of heart disease. If you feel tightness in the chest or dizziness, stop immediately.
- Take frequent breaks and pay attention to how your body feels.
- Don't eat a heavy meal just before or soon after shoveling. This can put a heavy load on your heart.
- Learn the heart attack warning signs for men and women and listen to your body. Remember this: Even if you are not sure it's a heart attack, have it checked out by telling a doctor about your symptoms. Minutes matter! Call 911.



!6TH ANNUAL I RODE MY BIKE EVERY DAY THIS YEAR CYCLING EVENT



All SV bike riders were encouraged to meet at the Clubhouse at 10 a.m. on New Year's Day, and ride for as long as the weather permitted. This year's weather did not cooperate but that did not stop Don Downey and Steve Quigley. (Steve is a diehard and has never missed the event). Lloyd McAtee is supervising the event. A little rain never stops a warrior.

OUTREACH

SUE CANFIELD, CHAIR

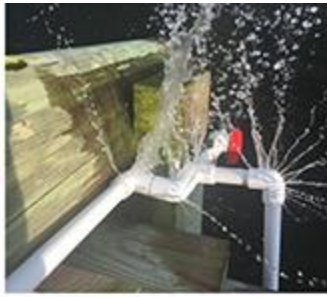
"Welcome Sign" Paint Party on Thursday, March 10.

Lori Freedman from L&M Design is the artist who will be helping us to create a welcome sign on wood. There are three designs to choose from: lemons, apples, or grapes. You need to choose your design when you sign up. The cost will be \$40. Symphony Village Outreach will receive \$10.

AND...you will be able to purchase a paint kit to take home and complete if you wish to do another sign for a gift. The paint kits will be \$30 each. Each sign can have a pretty bow or a simple ribbon for hanging.

Sign up in the Wall Street Room in the Outreach Page of the Activity Book. Place your check in the black box. I need the checks, (made out to SVOPI) by Tuesday, March 1.





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Outreach Thanks You For Collecting Aluminum Pull Tabs!

Loretta Quigley

Your Outreach team is very thankful for our neighbors who collect the aluminum pull tabs from all sorts of cans (soda, beer, pet food, fruits, vegetables, soups, and other items). For those of you who are new to the neighborhood and would like to add to the collection, place these in a Ziploc type bag and when it gets full, bring it to the Clubhouse and leave it on the counter in the craft room. Periodically these are given to our partner, The Shriners, in Chester, who then recycle them for cash. The money is used to transport sick children on the Delmarva and their families to Shriners hospitals for treatment at no charge to them. It is an easy way to donate to this wonderful organization. To those of you who have joined in this for years, a great big THANK YOU for continuing to collect. If are new, please join us! It truly is a great way to show how trash becomes someone's treasure!



Happy and healthy 2022 to you all!

FUN FACTS:

- Did you know it takes 1200-1400 pull tabs to make a pound of recycled aluminum?
- A recycled pound can yield nearly \$4

PICKLEBALL

ROSEMARY ROSENBERGER

Who Said Pickleball Isn't A Hot Commodity?



HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone! I hope this year provides you with good health, fun times, and much laughter in your hearts! I came across a very interesting article (my son actually passed it along to me) about pickleball and food! Whoever came up with this awesome idea is very clever! I love it! Perhaps we could open one up here on the shore!

As posted in the article December 27, 2021:

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — What pairs perfectly with chicken? A great pickle ... ball game. "It (pickleball) goes great with chicken," said Chris Bohn. "And a lot of beer."

Bohn is the general manager of Chicken n Pickle, a new restaurant concept in Grand Prairie. Everyone loves chicken. That's obvious. But why pickleball?

"Pickleball is the fastest growing sport right now in America," Bohn said.

So, if you want to get in on the action, head to Chicken 'n Pickle.

There are 11 courts, five outdoor and six indoor. They can be reserved two weeks in advance. For anyone who doesn't know how to play, there are pickleball professionals who will teach the sport. Guests aren't required to play, however. They can just enjoy the wide selection of chicken, burgers, salads and beer.

There are multiple spaces to spread out and relax, including a lawn and rooftop. Even if you don't play, you can feel like a winner. Because almost every week, Chicken n Pickle donates some of its proceeds to local charities.

"Our hearts are local," Bohn said. "That's what we like to say around here."

So whether you go for the chicken or the pickle, you're bound to leave satisfied.

For hours and more information, visit <https://chickennpickle.com/grand-prairie/>

So Who Knew!? But what I do know is pickleball is growing by leaps and bounds around the country!

In the Village, for those still willing to play under cold conditions:

Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 10 a.m. (unless a text is sent out cancelling or changing the time of day for warmer temps).

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!

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADULT LEARNING (IAL) REGISTRATION

CINDY BOGNER

The Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) registration is now open for classes that begin on Monday, February 7, at the Kennard Center in Centreville, Maryland. Details are available on the IAL website

(<https://www.instituteforadultlearning.org>).

The IAL is offering more than 30 classes, social events, and trips for the Spring 2022 semester. If you have additional questions, please contact Cindy Bogner or Steve Quigley, both are on the IAL Council and are SV residents."

CHANGES

KATHRYN MARCHI



Our lives have changed in many ways during the last several years—drastically and incrementally. Most folks don't like change and fight it. Some are able to embrace it.

It seems to depend on what kind of change occurs. There is an old adage that declares, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." Let's examine that.

In most Governments, regimes change but the body politic at its best, stays the same; division, disagreements, and many a successful legislation for the betterment of its citizens. Education curriculum and methods change but the goal of educating our youth to acclimate to their environment remains the same. Family life changes: marriage, divorce, and death change the dynamic of the family but the family core remains the same. Religious entities attempt change in rituals and dogma but the goals of their beliefs stay the same. Physical changes as we age are natural occurrences, yet we remain the same person.

Sometimes in countries under a dictatorship where individual freedom is severely limited and living conditions deteriorated, one has no choice but to embrace it. Survival becomes the common thread in acceptance.

As centuries pass and life changes occur, Man's human nature stays the same, both positive and negative.

Let's examine how this relates to change over time: Most older generations are usually critical of the younger generations, bemoaning the fact that they do not measure up to societal standards....certainly not theirs.

Consider this quotation:

*Our youth love luxury. They have bad manners
and despise authority.*

*They show disrespect for their elders and
love to chatter in place of exercise.*

Young people are now tyrants,

*not the servants of their household.
They no longer rise
when their elders enter the room.
They contradict their parents,
chatter before company,
gobble up food and terrorize their teachers.*

Who is the author of these words? Would you believe that it was the Greek Philosopher, Socrates, 400 BC.? It certainly is an amusing example of our initial adage.

But what about death or a catastrophic event- changes so drastic that they are painful to embrace. This is a very difficult path that many have had to take and it requires time and resolve to get past it. Each individual has to take it at his/her own pace and personal approach for healing in order to continue living a productive and satisfying life . . .not an easy journey.

Hopefully most of us will be less afraid of, or opposed to, changes that occur in our lives after reading this article. It's certainly a simplistic approach to life that would garner understanding of, but not stressing, over changes that seem to be occurring more and more rapidly in today's world.

A positive attitude as well as an intellectual approach should help us all adjust to any change that affects our daily lives. The human spirit somehow adapts to any situation. It speaks well of us.

THE ARMCHAIR ASTRONOMER

LARRY RAYNER

The Good, The Bad, The Ugly, and Top Space Stories of 2021

This past year many astronomy and space related events occurred. We had some good, some bad, and some ugly events.

Bad: The huge radio telescope located in a natural crater in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, collapsed when several of its supporting tables broke. It is being repaired as I type.

Good: A major success was the landing of the Mars Rover, Perseverance, and subsequent successful deployment of the small helicopter, Ingenuity, to scout ahead of the Rover. The amazing fact is that the helicopter worked so well in the thin atmosphere of Mars, which is only 1/10 as dense as Earth. On YouTube you can view actual videos of the helicopter flying over the surface of Mars taken from the Rover. Both the Rover and the helicopter were judged major successful events because of the complex landing procedure required.

Good: Another major success was the launching of the ten billion-dollar James Webb Telescope by a European Aerospace heavy booster, Arian 5, one of the most powerful rockets on Earth, and the only rocket large enough to hold the Webb telescope in its folded position, from French Guiana, in South America.

Bad, Good: The James Webb Space Telescope is 100x more powerful than the Hubble Telescope. The aging Hubble telescope happened to fail at about the same time as the Webb was launched in October. Now, due to computer backups, the Hubble is up and running and the Webb is going strong. The James Webb telescope will take another couple of months to reach its gravitational position known as the LaGrange 2 position located between the moon and the sun, one million miles from Earth. When the Webb telescope begins returning data, after February, it will be powerful enough to see to the edge of the Universe, to see initial galaxies that formed approximately 700 billion years after the Big Bang. Astronomers are also very excited that it will be able to use its infrared spectrometers to see what chemicals exist in the atmospheres of exo-planets in other solar systems, and within 1000 light-years of Earth. The hope is to identify trace chemicals associated with extraterrestrial

intelligent life on these exo-planets. The Webb is a 10 billion dollar project by multiple countries, multiple continents, and a cooperative endeavor.

Good: In other news the Chinese successfully launched their own Space Station and within the next two months will launch four astronauts to man it.

Ugly: The third stage of the Chinese's largest rocket which launched the Space Station, fell back to Earth but at the time there was much apprehension because no one knew where it would land. It landed in the Indian Ocean but it was a *Chicken Little* moment for the world.

Good: In September the all-civilian crew of Space X was led by Sian Proctor, the first Black woman spacecraft pilot!

Ugly: Russia intentionally blew up their defunct satellite without giving any warning. NASA had to alert the 11 Astronauts on the ISS to suit up in case the debris threatened their safety. The debris still exists and still poses a threat to various satellites and Astronauts orbiting the Earth.

Good: Lucy was launched this past fall. Lucy is a mission to study Asteroids in the same orbit as Jupiter around the Sun called Trojan Asteroids. Lucy was named after the earliest human and the Beatles song, Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.


Bad: The Government released a report on sightings of UFOs or UAPs, as they are now called. The lackluster report which offers no "proof" of extraterrestrials stoked more conspiracy theories. I applaud the Government's intention to continue collecting UFO or UAP information as part of the scientific method.

Good: Captain Kirk goes where only a few have gone before. At 90 years of age, William Shatner is the oldest person to go to the Karman Line (where Earth's atmosphere meets outer space). This was a lifetime dream come true. The commercial tourist business is fully underway launching civilians higher than 62 miles above the Earth, thereby meeting the definition of Astronauts.

Good: Another very important event was the DART mission (Dual Asteroid Redirection Test) launched this fall. The Office of Planetary Defense located at NASA is using this mission as a bowling-pin-like test to see if the collision of the space craft will deflect the two halves of the asteroid.


Bad: A lot of the Chinese major space endeavors are an effort to purport them as a Super Power, as a rival to the US instead of pure research. Remember, it was the Cold War that propelled the US into supremacy in Space. We should reflect on all of our technology supremacy from our Space Endeavors of the 60s and not be left behind at this time. The world's economy is based on the economy of what was developed during the 60s and beyond because of the space program. Now is not the time to see the US as weak, but look beyond to our strengths.

Wishing us all clear skies for star gazing in 2022.




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This month, I am happy to introduce our Neighbor of Note, Pat Fox. As President of the Symphony Village Homeowner's Association Board of Directors, Pat is already well known around Symphony Village. However, those who don't know her personally will now find out just how capable and accomplished she really is. Pat Fox is one interesting lady!

Born in Hampton Virginia, Pat grew up in Scotch Plains, New Jersey. After high school, she attended American University to study Political Science and Economics. After two years, Pat transferred to the University of Denver to also pick up Urban Geography, and ended up at Ohio State University with a Master's Degree of City and Regional Planning.

Pat then moved back to Denver, Colorado, and began her career with the Colorado Department of Highways, studying the environmental impact for an Interstate 70 expansion. From there, she was employed by the Urban Emergency Services with the Denver Police Department. To enhance her training for this job, Pat actually attended the Police Academy and became a "street cop"! She was called on to write grants for special projects, one of which was setting up a Mounted Police Patrol in the city of Denver. However, as criminal justice opportunities were limited, she left the city employment and pursued other planning opportunities.

Following this, Pat moved back to New Jersey and began a lifetime career in transportation and economic development. She was hired by the New Jersey Transit Authority, managing the planning and environment assessment for the commuter train and light rail projects.

As is usual for independent contractors, Pat was recruited by the Engineering Company in New York City as Project Manager to assist with the development of the city's Transit Subway Station Reconstruction Program. Other projects followed where she was recruited as the Deputy City Administrator for Planning Economic Development for Commercial/Residential—Mixed Use developments.

Her next recruitment was a most interesting one: Pat was hired by the New York and New Jersey Port Authority to work on the redevelopment of the World Trade Center! Pat's last job before she retired was with the Newark Airport where she helped design the new airport terminal, now in construction.

During this stellar career, Pat met and married Howie Fox. Ironically, Howie and his two daughters lived in Pat's hometown of Scotch Plains, New Jersey. It turned out that Howie's daughters attended the same high school as Pat and some of the teachers, when asked, remembered her. Apparently, Pat was a memorable student!

Fast forward to 2014, Pat and Howie searched the internet and decided to relocate to Symphony Village because of the proximity (halfway between) their two daughters and their four grandchildren. True to her nature, Pat immediately reverted to the volunteerism she had enjoyed throughout college and her professional career, and joined the Symphony Village Lifestyle and Operations Committees, often serving as Chairperson. In 2017, she was elected to the Board of Directors and became President in 2021. True to form, Pat is currently a member of the Centreville Planning Commission.

Most of us know Pat as motivated, active, and intellectually curious. To that end, she has recently earned her Outdoor Certification to become a Naturalist through Adkins Arboretum. Pat is a Master Naturalist who volunteers to assist Adkins and other conservation groups with their education programs.

As a college student and busy career woman, Pat considered her volunteerism a passion and a hobby at the same time. She always loved art but had no time to explore her own creativity until she moved to Symphony Village.

A class at the Queen Anne’s County Arts Council called “Paint and Sip” triggered her artistic and creative bent. Pat started painting and then discovered Mixed Media. She began creating modern primitive artwork, including the use of recycled materials. Her favorite project was creating art which included all sizes and colors of plastic bottle caps! She has also begun making jewelry and would love to continue making ceramics pieces, which she began while living in Colorado. Many of Pat’s pieces have been displayed in the Symphony Village Art Shows.

When Pat is not doing volunteer work, running a Board Meeting, visiting grandchildren, or feeding the birds in her backyard, she and Howie love to travel. Indeed, they have traveled all over the world!

Pat enjoys living in Symphony Village and the friends and neighbors she has met. When she first moved in, she found out that a neighbor, Anita Dell, is from her own hometown in New Jersey and attended the same high school as Pat and her two daughters! A small world, indeed.

When asked about life in a small historic town versus living and working in big cities, Pat said she loves the rural environment; the quiet pace of the Eastern Shore and learning about the agriculture surrounding her. She now knows all about soy and winter wheat and what corn is grown for livestock versus what is grown for human consumption!

Pat’s inquiring mind and her love of volunteerism will continue to serve her well and we are the lucky recipients. There will be no moss growing under her feet!

TOWN OF CENTREVILLE NEWS

TOWN OF CENTREVILLE GOVERNMENT NEWS AND COMMENTS

- Christmas tree pickup continues on Tuesday for the rest of January. Have the tree at the curb the night before.
- Yard Waste pickup will begin again on Monday, March 21.

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