

Symphony Village's Newsletter

July, 2007 Vol. II No.7

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



WELCOME NEW HOMEOWNERS!!

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

Norman & Anna Willcox 853 Harmony Way Robert & Eleanor Strietman 235 Opera

Stephen & Loretta Quigley 509 Symphony 410-758-6775 lorettaquigley@yahoo.com

Stan & Theresa Weinberg 206 Opera

Welcome to each and everyone!

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

Welcome Evening for New Residents

All new residents are invited to a "Welcome Evening" on Wednesday, July 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse Grand Concert Room. This is an informal get-together to meet other new neighbors, have dessert and learn more about your new community. Please sign up in the Activities Book in the Clubhouse or call Carol Hodges at 410-758-0591 so we can plan appropriately.

Reminder from the Communications and Publications Committee

The Symphony Village Residents' Directory is a classified document. Its sole purpose is to foster communication *of a personal or social nature* among neighbors in Symphony Village. Any person who provides access to the Directory to a non-resident, or who gives a hard copy of the Directory to a non-resident, breaches both the privacy and the autonomy of every home in Symphony Village. However well intentioned or justified one might feel in making an exception in an isolated instance, respect for the community as a whole dictates that it not be done.

FROM JAN'S DESK

Today is the first "really" hot day that we have had this summer. I heard this morning on the *Today Show* that we should be mindful of our pets in the hot weather. Pets, too, need sunscreen when outdoors for long periods, especially on their noses and ears. It is best to walk them in early morning or later in the evening. Please remember to clean up after them.

When bringing grandchildren to the pool, please be mindful of their noise level. Others sitting at the pool could be reading or just trying to relax.

New sign-up sheets have been put in the book for "Thoroughly Modern Millie" at the Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, "George M" at the Oxford Community Center (sign-up for shuttle to Oxford for "George M"), Shakespeare Mystery Dinner Theatre at Chesapeake College, and a 50's Pool Party & Happy Hour on Aug. 11—5 pm til? Music will be provided by Reminiscing (watch for the arrival of Elvis & Patsy Cline).

This has just been added: Twenty tickets have been reserved for "Hero's Celebration" in celebration of all military, police, fire/rescue & teachers. The concert benefits the Queenstown Emergency Medical Services. The concert is Saturday, July 21, at the Queen Anne's County High School at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00. Sign up in the Activities Book and pay Jan for a ticket.

Have a great summer. See you around the Clubhouse and pool.

FROM DENNIS' DESK

A special thanks to Caruso for the movie night they sponsored recently. Everyone had a great time reminiscing about the drive-in days of years ago.

Per their contract, Denison Landscaping will be offering each resident the option to overseed the front and back of their yards at a cost of \$65.00. This should be made payable to Symphony Village and brought to me so I can compile a list. The cutoff date is September 7th. If you are interested, please let me know and bring your \$65.00 check that will be non-refundable.

Violations of the HOA Rules: Normal practice is for a resident witnessing a violation to put the incident in writing. Usually a friendly first letter would go out stating that it "has been observed" that such and such has occurred. Should the violation persist then a "Cease and Desist" letter would go out giving 10 days to stop the violation. If it persists past that time frame, then a Show Cause Hearing would be the next step. At a Show Cause Hearing, it would be required that the witness attend the hearing. Residents must be aware that if they are going to complain about an issue, then they must put it in writing and be prepared to attend a hearing. This is standard HOA/Condo law.

FROM JACK DEDRICK'S DESK

- The meeting that was planned for July 19 for a community discussion on the "Architectural Guidelines," has been "Temporarily Postponed." More information will follow.
- We would like to say a special "Thank you" to Nick and Bel Barbalace for the terrific job they have done in helping set up the Clubhouse bar and keeping it stocked. Nick and Bel have generously provided this community service to the residents of Symphony Village for over 2 1/2 years. Many Thanks Nick and Bel for your hard work and dedication.
- Alan Ettman and Barry Silverman have graciously agreed to keep the Clubhouse bar stocked and ready for future activities. Good luck guys, you have big shoes to fill.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE

Architectural Guidelines

By Gil Hoffman, Chairman, Architectural Review Committee

For several months the Architectural Review Committee has been working on the guidelines for exterior modifications to the residences in Symphony Village. Those guidelines have been presented to the HOA Board and reviewed. The plan to move forward with the guidelines is as follows:

- The Architectural Review Committee will review the latest draft from the HOA board and prepare a review form for the residents.
- The guidelines will be made available on the website. Copies will be available at the Clubhouse for those who have no internet access.
- Feedback forms will be submitted to the General Manager Symphony Village HOA
- After the feedback is processed by the Architectural Review Committee, all changes to the Draft Guidelines will be resubmitted to the HOA Board for approval.
- There will be a Community meeting after approval to review the Guidelines and the process that will be implemented as a result of approval.

There will also be a summary of the process for implementation of the Architectural Guidelines at the HOA meeting in July.

We look forward to your comments and questions as we work together to adopt and implement the guidelines for Symphony Village.

LIFESTYLES COMMITTEE

- July 21 Happy Hour -6:00 p.m.
 - 22 "Act II" (Connie & Ben) Jimmy Buffett Tribute, sponsored by Caruso 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Cheeseburgers, chips and soda provided by the Lifestyles Committee. Sign up in the Activities Book.

Lifestyles Meeting 7 p.m.

August

- 3 Happy Hour -6:00 p.m.
- 5 Happy hour narrated Cruise along the Miles River leaving from St. Michaels. 5:30 7:30 pm. Litet refreshments \$20.00 p.p. Sign up in Activities Book and pay Jan.
- 10 Game Night -7:00 p.m.
- 11 50's Pool Party—5:00 p.m. til?
- 18 Happy Hour 6:00 p.m.
- 19 "Act II" Connie and Ben 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend Lifestyles meetings and bring your ideas and comments. The Lifestyles Committee welcomes input both positive and negative. Evaluation forms are located on the counter at the Clubhouse. Please write your comments and give the form to Jan or Dennis.

Future events (details in future issues of the *Libretto*) include:

- "George M"
- "Thoroughly Modern Millie"
- Mystery Dinner Theater
- Brain Aerobics
- Labor Day Family Picnic with Caruso providing the main dish on Monday, September 3.
- Crab Feast at the Crab Deck at Kent Narrows on Saturday, September 22.
- Old Fashioned BBQ (pig roast) catered by the Smokehouse Grill from Stevensville on Sunday, October 14.
- Halloween Happy Hour, October 26.
- Grandchildren Halloween Party on Saturday, October 27.
- Holiday Party on December 15.
- Last event of the year is the New Year's Eve Party on December 31.

Note: Joan and Jack Hennessey are in charge of the Symphony Village Library. If you have **HARDBACK books** you would like to donate, please call Jack (410-758-4872) to make arrangements for pick up.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Update

The Outreach Committee of Symphony Village, over the past two years, has contributed money from fundraising to the Hospice of Queen Anne's County. At last month's committee meeting it was voted by the members to give a donation in the amount of \$1000.00 to become a sponsor of the upcoming Hospice fundraiser, a Sunset Celebration.

This sponsorship will allow us to have a part in the program and for Hospice to raise more money by using the \$1000.00 as seed money. The Sunset celebration will be held on Saturday, September 15, from 5 to 9 pm.

Guests will be able to dance to the island sounds of "Sean & Mark," be treated to an open bar, and enjoy dining on roast pig, grilled chicken and salmon pasta entrees, as well as an assortment of side dishes and desserts. There will also be a silent and a live auction, which will include the auction of jewelry, trips, furniture, etc.

Tickets are \$50 per person and include admission, food and open bar. The event will be held at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville. Proceeds from the celebration directly support the programs at Hospice of Queen Anne's. To purchase a ticket or volunteer to help in some way, contact Dorothy Hamm at 410-758-3803 or Deborah Davis at 410.643.6609.

The next S V Outreach meeting will be the first Wednesday of the month, August 1. Please join us as we plan the events and projects for the coming year. We would love to hear fresh ideas and invite you to the meeting.

Ed Williams – A Volunteer in Action By George Drake



We know him as our SV tax guy, comedian, and holiday elf, but the kids on ice know him as "coach." Ed Williams on Concerto Way has been coaching kids in ice hockey for over 30 years in the Midget, Squirt, and Junior levels. Some of Ed's kids from the Western New York area have moved on to play in college and the National Hockey League.

Ed's avocation as ice hockey coach began in 1973 with his 12-year old son, Jimmy, and later his second son, Tommy, in the Rochester (NY) Youth Hockey League. He coached a team in the midget and later junior league until Jimmy went to prep school. But, that was not the end – Ed started coaching at the Squirt Level (9 and 10 year olds).

Ed with Grandson Ryan

Ed could skate, but never played hockey! In high school, Ed played basketball, baseball, and football. Hockey became natural to Ed because, with the exception of a 6th player – the goalie – Ed realized that the 5-man offense and defense

were similar to five men on a basketball court. Ed observed the international hockey teams, especially the Russians and Czechs. In Lake Placid, he watched the '84 Olympic teams practice.

Watching his teams on the ice in early days, Ed soon realized that there was the essential need of developing a foundation for the players by stressing fundamentals and learning skills. He worked on the ice with the kids teaching them these fundamentals and skills.

In 1996, Ed moved to Trappe, Maryland, leaving behind his 20 some years of coaching hockey. However, this was not to be the end of his coaching avocation.

In 2003, Ed's 7-year old grandson. Ryan Knorr, came to him and said, "Pop-Pop, I want to play ice hockey and I want you to be my coach." Thus, began Ed's second "term" at coaching – this time the Chesapeake Club at Piney Orchard Ice Rink in Odenton. In 2004, Ryan and a couple of his buddies joined a "travel team" in Bowie and Ed followed and again became the coach. Prior to Ed's coaching, the 2003 team had won only one game. In 2004 and 2005, under Ed's coaching, the team averaged over 0.500 and was in the "A" level of play.

By 2006, the team had progressed further and was placed in an "AA" travel league. There were seven teams in the Maryland/Virginia area that played each other in the Capital Beltway area. In tournaments, the team also played in Delaware and Pennsylvania and became the first place champion team under Ed's coaching.

Near the end of this August to March season, a little skater skating backwards ran into Ed's back, knocking Ed's legs out from under him causing him to fall and causing back problems. With that, Ed has decided to retire from his long tenure as ice hockey coach.

Ed's wife, Marilyn, traveled to all of the games. Marilyn said, "It was a family affair with our own children, Jimmy, Tommy, and Holly. And, I was the team manager!"

When asked, "What did you get out of all of these years of coaching," Ed replied, "the satisfaction of watching kids progress and giving them opportunities to fulfill their dreams-- to build character! And, I love to have fun with kids."

Communications Committee

We would like to start two new sections in the *Libretto*. One section would be "small world" stories in Symphony Village (see example below) and the other section would be Symphony Villagers' travel stories. We are looking for articles--one or two paragraphs-which would fit in one of these two sections. If your travel article requires more space, feel free to submit a longer one.

Small World

"Funny you're a stranger who's come here..." as goes the '50's Johnny Mathis song



Small World. Pat and Bill Scheirer moved from Bowie thinking they did not know anyone living here and knowing very little about Centreville or Symphony Village. Bill just wanted to live "over the bridge." As we talked about the move, we soon realized that both of our children got their marriage licenses at the courthouse. And it wasn't long before we learned our son's preschool teacher lives here as well as one of his middle school teachers and the secretary in his elementary school. The van driver at a daycare center in Crofton

where Pat helped also lives in Symphony Village. Recently, Pat just learned that the neighbor and godmother of one of her best friends is a resident. A very dear neighbor "worked down the hall" from Bill when he was with the government. And there's a police connection we can't mention. Who are these people? Try to guess. They are your neighbors. As the song says, "Small world isn't it--small and funny and **FINE**!"

Symphony Sneakers Update

Sneakers is gearing up for our Silent Auction on November 3. The next meeting will be Thursday August 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse. We will be handing out donation letters and organizing our committees for the auction. With more people continuing to move in, we will need more help this year so that our auction can be better than ever. Please volunteer!!!

Next year we hope to have sufficient funds to expand our help to Centreville Middle School. Remember, if you have something to donate to the auction please let Helena Joy (410-758-6532) or Linda Farrar (410-758-8744) know as soon as possible. Everyone in Symphony Village is invited to join us in our endeavor to help the school age children of Centreville and their families.

Knitting and Crocheting

Come join us on the first and third Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. in the craft room at the Clubhouse. We are always glad to help beginners as well as those of you who haven't knitted since you made that pair of argyle socks when you were in college. The new yarns are beautiful and fun to work with.



Who can I get to be a financial advisor? See pages 15 and 16!

PAST SOCIAL EVENTS

Movies Under the Stars by Brenda Stoltz



The Caruso sponsored "Movie Under the Stars" turned out to be a delightful evening. It was fun lining up our lawn chairs next to neighbors (most came prepared with blankets or jackets), grabbing a soda and bag of popcorn (prepared by Betsy), and settling in for the wonderful music of *South Pacific*. Surprisingly, the sound and

projection were very clear, and I had to resist singing along with the cast--I didn't want to chase people away. A few folks did have to leave early because it was past their bedtime but most stayed 'til the end even though they had seen the movie before. Yes, it was a lovely evening "Under the Stars."

Fourth of July Family Picnic

Neither wind, nor gray skies, nor muggy temperatures deterred the Village People from their 4th of July celebration! Bocce ball lanes and tennis courts were alive with enthusiastic revelers as grandchildren squealed on the playground equipment. Red Zone barbecued chicken received rave reviews from poolside diners. Special thanks to the Lifestyles Committee and to all those who served for providing boxed dinners that could be enjoyed during the festivities, or later during residents' favorite fireworks displays. With no need to cook, and very little clean-up, it was a hearty party long into the night!

Look! Up in the Sky!

Good grief, Snoopy! Is that the Red Baron? Not this time. The low-flying aircraft that caught our attention on Friday evening, July 6, was a crop duster servicing a nearby farmer's field.

Symphony SSingles



On a sunny July 10th we left the Clubhouse a 7:45 a.m. to take the ferry from Lewes to Cape May. It was an enjoyable ride. We had taken our cars on the ferry so we could drive around Cape May to see its attractions. Our first stop was the Lobster House Restaurant for a delicious lunch, then a driving tour of Beach Avenue to look at the many large Victorian Houses now used for hotels and B&B's.

Our next stop was the center of town to go shopping. We browsed the many stores and stopped for ice cream and to buy souvenirs. As we left to take the ferry home the weather changed and we returned in fog and mist. Everyone enjoyed this trip.

On Tuesday, August 14, we plan to go to the Rehobeth Outlets to shop and to have tea at the Boardwalk Plaza Hotel. Plan to meet at the Clubhouse parking lot at 9 a.m. We'll shop from 11-2:30 and have High Tea at 3 p.m. Tea will cost \$15. Food can be hard to find at the outlets, so you may want to bring a snack. See you in August.

SV Cyclists Lunch at Ivy Café



On Saturday, July 7, fourteen SV Cyclists rode from SV to Queenstown via Rt. 18. Destination – lunch at the Ivy Café--panini sandwiches, homemade quiche, fresh green salads, and cold beverages including smoothies. Following lunch, we rode several of the roads in Queenstown, one to the water's edge. The complete trip was 18 miles.

If your bike hangs in the garage and you are looking for exercise, camaraderie, fun in the sun, and an occasional "off campus" trip for brunch or lunch, consider joining us at 8:30 a.m. at the Clubhouse circle every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for rides around SV and an occasional wondering beyond. To join in the fun, send an e-mail to MaryJDrake@yahoo.com and we'll add you to our SV Cycling list.

Book Clubs

Third Thursday



The Third Thursday Night Book club has chosen its next 2 books. You have plenty of time to read them this summer. Our September book is *A Thousand Splendid_Sins* by Khaled Hossini, the author of the well-known *Kite Runner*. This novel also takes place in Afghanistan.

Our October book is *The Girls*, by Lori Lansens. It is the story of conjoined twins and is about love and of finding their way in the world. Please join us at our next discussion on Thursday, September 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse. We are not a serious group but try to choose thought provoking books. We hope you will join us All are welcome!!!

Third Tuesday Reading For Fun

The book for June was *The Mermaid Chair*, by Sue Monk Kidd. Although several members were on vacation, we had an enjoyable meeting. Joan Hennessey provided a delicious Pumpkin Surprise for dessert. We decided to continue our meetings through the summer, even though some members will be vacationing. The book for July is *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy. Preliminary reports are that it is a great book and an easy read. The meeting will be on Tuesday, July 17, at the Clubhouse. New members are welcome for discussion and dessert. Y'all come!

Symphony Village Bird Club

On June 23, the fledgling SV Bird Club held its first meeting. We discussed birds we have seen locally, field trips we may consider, and long and short range plans for the group. It was a very promising beginning.

Our inaugural field trip will be to Millstream Park in Centreville on Saturday, July 21. There is an easy gravel walking trail along the stream, and we plan to leisurely walk for an estimated 1 to 1 ½ hours. All Villagers are invited. Meet at the Clubhouse parking lot at 6:30 a.m. to carpool. Bring your binoculars.

Our next club meeting will be Thursday, August 30, at noon, at the Clubhouse picnic pavilion. We'll discuss possible fall field trips to look for migrating birds. Contact Linda Blume at 410-758-3194 for additional information.

Garden Club

After much fertilizing and mulching, the garden is looking great again. Many residents have signed up as sponsors for each of the 20 beds in the garden. We still have room for more sponsors, since several people are caring for more than one bed. If you are interested, look for the sign-up sheet at the Clubhouse. Sponsors are responsible for weeding, once a week; deadheading, and fertilizing (fertilizer provided). Contact Jack or Joan Hennessey if you are interested at 410-758-4872. A meeting was held to evaluate this years planting, and to make plans for next year. Perennials will be on sale on July 14 & 15 at the Eastridge Gardens. Many purple martin babies are taking flight lessons near the gazebo. The kildeer babies have hatched and flown the coop. We did get some photos of them.



Who can I get to be my personal trainer? See ads on pages 15 and 16.

OF LOCAL INTEREST

Sweet Adelines International Barbershop Chorus Forming inCentreville



Women of all ages are invited to join us on July 24 at 7:30 p.m. at 303 Symphony Way to meet Sharon Ehrisman, a certified director of barbershop and learn about forming a barbershop chorus. A knowledge of music is not necessary—just the joy of singing! "Company B" a well-known female quartet will provide entertainment. Ms. Ehrisman

has a wealth of musical experience not limited to the barbershop community. She has bachelors and masters degrees in Music Education and has most recently focused on voice and choral direction. She has been teaching music for 15 years. Those within the Sweet Adeline community may recognize her from her appearance in several accomplished quartets, most notably as the lead in "Night Magic." For more information, please contact Suzy Wishard at 410-758-1092.

Monte Carlo Casino Night

The stakes are high for Hospice of Queen Anne's as it looks forward to its Monte Carlo Casino Night fundraiser on Saturday, August 11, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., under a tent at 51 Piney Narrows in Chester.

There will be live music, gambling, and great prizes and giveaways. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Island Beef & BBQ and an open bar is courtesy of Moveable Mixtures. Casino games will include blackjack, a roulette wheel, slot machines, and craps. Additionally, a raffle will be held to win a Sea Ray boat and there will also be chances for a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds will directly benefit the programs at Hospice of Queen Anne's.

Additional sponsors and prizes are still being accepted. Tickets to attend are \$55 each. It is recommended that you register by July 29. You must be 21 or older to attend. To register or get more information, call 1-888-867-5269 or e-mail info@moveablemixtures.com.

Day Tripper

A lot of us are new to the Eastern Shore. In order to get the word out on fun day trips, we are starting this Day Tripper recurring feature in the newsletter. Here is the first installment:

Millstream Park by Linda Blume



Millstream Park in Centreville isn't a true "day" trip, but it sure is a great place to know about. Situated along Mill Stream there is an easy walking trail along the water with plenty of benches tempting you to sit and watch nature for a while. There is a great playground and swings for the grandchildren. You can picnic in a covered pavilion. Best of all? It's FREE and it's close. Head north on Route 213 toward Centreville; turn left into the Park from

the left turn lane just before Route 213 splits into two streets. Hours: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Port-a-Potty on site.

Future Day Trips

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

CLASSIFIED ADS



Do you want to rent your condo or place at the beach for a week, or sell a couch, perhaps a car. Maybe you <u>need</u> an item such as a bed or even a service. Look no further. As a service to residents the *Libretto* will include a "classified ads" section beginning in July. Send your ad to Chairperson, Carol Hodges

@lhodges@attlanticbb.net by the 8th of each month and we will place your ad for one month free of charge. Your ad must be limited to 20 words. Space will be limited, so first come first printed. No commercial or real estate sales please.

King-sized bed in a bag. Pale blue floral design. Like new. \$10. Call 410-758-0591.

Exersaucer for that new grandchild. Excellent condition. \$15. 410-758-0591.

Wanted—single or full sized bed. 410-758-3519.

Help Wanted. Part-time supervisor. Flexible hours. Here's the Scoop Ice Cream, Centreville Plaza. Contact Kathy 410-758-1743

Teak File Cabinet-6-Drawer. Free to good home. 410-758-8777.

Centreville Web Site

Check out Centreville's web site! The town provides much information including department heads and phone numbers, town calendar, announcements, and council minutes which may be interesting to Symphony residents. www.townofcentreville.org.

Special Reminders

- Club House Phone Number (Jan and Dennis)—410-758-8500
- Jan Van Riper's email--symphonyclub@atlanticbbn.net
- Dennis Sesplankis' email--dsesplankis@LNresorts.com
- Warranty Office—410-758-8775 x11
- George Bachman—301-261-0277 ext. 211; email—gbachman@carusohomes.com

RECIPE FROM THE KITCHEN OF... Jan DiCarlantonio

BREAD PUDDING WITH BOURBON SAUCE

3 cups stale French bread, cut into 3/4"pieces
2 cups milk
2 eggs
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
4 tablespoons butter, melted and slightly cooled
1/2 cup sultana raisins (I use golden)
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Place stale bread in a bowl with milk and squeeze the bread with your hands until well-saturated with milk.

With an electric mixer on high speed in separate bowl, beat eggs with sugar until thick and pale. Stir in the vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg, butter and raisins to the egg mixture. Add the soaked bread crumbs to the egg mixture and stir well. Let stand for 10 minutes. It is important to allow enough time for the bread to absorb the egg mixture or the bread crumbs will float to the top during baking, leaving a layer of custard on the bottom of the dish.

Transfer the mixture to a greased baking dish. Bake until firm, or until a knife inserted in the middle comes out clean, about 45 to 50 minutes. Let it cool slightly in the dish.

Bourbon Sauce

2 egg yolks
1 stick butter, not margarine
1 cup sugar
1/3 cup bourbon whiskey, to taste

Meanwhile, near the end of the baking time, make the sauce. With an electric mixer, beat the egg yolks until thick and pale. In a saucepan, melt the butter and sugar. Pour the butter and sugar mixture over the egg yolks, beating constantly with the mixture, until well-thickened. Stir in bourbon by hand. Serve the pudding warm with vanilla ice cream, if desired. Pass the hot bourbon sauce separately.

6 Servings - Prep Time: 25 minutes

FEATURE ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

Bob Caulk Remembers St. Michaels by Valerie Siegel

On Sunday, August 5, the "Village People" will enjoy a happy hour cruise on the Miles River in St. Michaels. It wasn't always The Miles River, and Bob Caulk of Opera Court ought to know. His family has lived in the area for 337 years! The Caulk family came from Sweden in about 1640 and lived in Bozman and St. Michaels. It was 1670 when a Peter Caulk came to St. Michaels and settled there. The Church of England owned the land at the head of what was then known as the St. Michaels River. People came to church by boat, and by 1804, the area around it was developed as a town. The area behind the church is today known as Muskrat Park, the church cove having long since been filled in at that point.

Bob is the son of Calvin Caulk and Ida Shannahan. The Shannahan family owned the land where today, visitors enjoy the St. Michaels Maritime Museum. Bob's mother was raised nearby. Calvin's ancestor, Peter Caulk, built Caulk's Farm at Caulk's Cove (off Broad Creek) in 1705. It was known as Lostock, and is now called Lostock Farm. The property was in the Caulk family until 1945.

Ida and Calvin lived in Baltimore when Bob was born. They returned with their young family to St. Michaels in 1934 during the Depression, where Calvin sold life insurance and Ida worked as a secretary for her father, who owned the Shannahan Artisan. Bob remained in St. Michaels until he was 16. In those years, high school went only to the 11th grade. He was one of 28 graduates, and the only one to finish college. In those years, Eastern Shore schools were not highly regarded, but Bob got into the Severn Prep School because of his athletic abilities. He was among the top 10 in his class and went on from there to the Naval Academy, graduating in 1952.

What was it like to grow up in St. Michaels during the depression years? Church was the center of life where Bob was an acolyte for 13 years. The social center of the community was the Miles River



Yacht club. Following a summer abroad on the USS Missouri, Bob was to meet Betty there. They married right after his graduation from the US Naval Academy. But in the preceding years, Bob and other youngsters in St. Michaels entertained themselves in the only places available. There were no restaurants or hotels, but there was a movie theater. Every evening at 7:00 a man would pull the curtain open in the theater and patrons sat back to watch the likes of "Gone With the Wind."

That particular film was very lengthy and there were no restrooms in the movie theater. On those occasion patrons would leave the theater, go home to the bathroom, and return to watch the rest of the film. They did not have to buy another 50-cent ticket (25 cents for children under 12) for re-entry. The only other entertainment in town was the bowling alley, where Bob participated in his first fistfight.

Bob decided on a career in the Navy when the largest regatta in the world occurred on the Miles River in June 1941. He fired the cannon that started the speed boat races. One look at a huge Coast Guard Cutter acting as the committee boat sealed his future as a US Naval Officer. During the war years, people in the area grew corn and tomatoes and crabbed for their protein. It helped that Harry Caulk ran the store, so even with rationing, the family did just fine.

The Symphony Village happy hour cruise will set sail 194 years, almost to the day, after the famous Battle of St. Michaels, which fostered the town's identity as "The town that fooled the British." The British had been raiding the Chesapeake Bay for years when, on August 10, 1813, Admiral Cochran came to the (then) St. Michaels River to destroy the Baltimore Clippers and the shipyard where they

were being built. The passage into the River from the Bay was too narrow and shallow for Cochran's ships, so they had to bombard from the Deep Water Point. The MD Militia assembled in St. Mary's Square and decided to hang lanterns from the treetops high above the houses. Cochran fired at the lanterns, believing them to be inside dwellings, and managed to hit only one house. That house became known as "The Cannonball House," where a cannonball was suspended in a window for many decades following the war.

The Maryland Militia, under General Benson of Royal Oak (who had served with George Washington), was among the very best in the country. Major Caulk was one of Benson's aids. One



night, having had no success bombarding the town from the Bay, Cochran sent in long boats under cover of heavy fog. The 30 Militiamen stationed at the fort on Parrott's Beach did not see the British troops until they were marching toward them along the beach. 27 of the 30 retreated to Royal Oak. The three who remained overloaded two cannons and fired them. One cannon broke in half and fell outside

the fort. The firing reportedly killed 19 British soldiers. It was a huge professional and personal defeat for Cochran, who lost his nephew in the battle.

Gilbert Byron's 1963 publication, *St Michaels: The Town that Fooled the British*, lists 10 of Bob Caulk's family members who served in the prestigious Maryland Militia. Ida and Calvin Caulk are buried in front of St. Michaels Church. Their sons have continued the family tradition of defending our nation as aviators in the greatest Navy and Marine Corps in the world.

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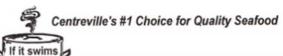
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