



LIBRETTO



Symphony Village's Newsletter

December, 2009

Vol. IV No.12

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

Welcome to Symphony Village

Bob & Jane Rundall
255 Opera Court

Caruso Announces Winners



Caruso Homes is proud to announce that with the help of 49 households, we received 70 Resident Referrals in the last year through our Resident Referral Program. What a great success!! A special thank you goes out to John and Andrea Parham of Overture Way who referred 14 potential Symphony Village Residents, making them the grand prize winner of a vacation getaway. The November/ December monthly winner of a \$100 gift card to Annie's Paramount Steak House is John and Joy Quinan of Harmony Way. Thanks again to all who participated.

Sunday, January 10 – Calling all Chili Cookers!!! Caruso Homes is sponsoring the 2nd Symphony Village Chili Cook Off

starting at 1 p.m. Judging ends at 3 p.m. **Everyone is invited**—both cookers and tasters are needed. Prizes will be given to the top three winners, along with the bragging rights and the title of “Best Chili Cooker in SV.” You must bring a large crock-pot of chili along with your recipe and any toppings to the Clubhouse. A sign-up sheet will be in the Activities Book for both cookers and tasters. To make the event even more festive, Caruso Homes will be providing sandwiches, snacks, soda, beer, and football decorations. Please wear your favorite team's colors.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIFESTYLES UPDATE

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, December 19 – *Holiday Party*** at 6 p.m.

Menu: Antipasto dish; cheese and fruit tray; make your own pasta with Alfredo, marinara, or clam sauce; meatballs and sausage; stuffed shells; garlic bread; dessert; and sangria. Catered by *The Omelette Chefs*.

Cost - \$25 per person.



- **Tuesday, December 22** – *Caroling*  at 7 p.m. Gather at the Gazebo for carol sheets, dress warmly, and bring a flashlight. After caroling, wassail, hot chocolate, and cookies will be served.

- **Thursday, December 31** – *New Year's Eve Happy Hour*



at 9 p.m. Bring a hot appetizer. Dessert and champagne will be provided. There will be dancing. Cost - \$5 per person.

- **Thursday, January 28** – **Ladies Night** at 5:30 p.m. Take a break from cooking! Meet and greet at The High Note Café (aka, The Clubhouse Lounge). A \$5 cover includes one beverage of choice or the “drink du jour” and dinner. Dinner includes a main dish, salad, rolls/bread, and dessert. This popular event is held on the *fourth* Thursday of each month (January - October) and the *third* Thursday in November. We do not meet in December. Mark your calendars and join the comradery of the women of Symphony Village.

Congratulations to Jack Dedrick and the new Lifestyles Committee members.
May they have a wonderful 2010.

Lifestyles Committee for 2010

The new 2010 Lifestyles committee election was held Tuesday after the regular Lifestyles meeting. Jack Dedrick was elected chairperson and appointed Lee Etman as vice chairperson. Carole Walsh remains as secretary. Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month. **New meeting time will be 7:15 p.m.** I encourage everyone who has an interest in community events to come to the meetings and present their ideas to the committee. A forum for open discussion will be held for approximately 30 minutes. The voting members of the Lifestyles committee will then convene to discuss ideas presented.

The other committee members are: Allen Beck, Nanci Cameron, Linda Gardner, Teri Nudo, Vinnie Volpicelli, and Mary Jo Keefe. **Thank you** for your continued support—Jack Dedrick

.....

OPERATIONS UPDATE --- Landscape Sub-Committee

Pond Retrofit Update

Town Watershed Manager, Eva Kerchner, informed Symphony Village that the installation contract has been sent out for bids. The contract will be awarded in early February with work to commence in the spring.

Street Tree Replacement Scheduled

Replacement of street trees by Chester River Landscaping will begin as soon as weather permits. The trees on Harmony Way and Symphony Way will be replaced with 28 “October Glory” red maples. On Encore Court, 11 Willow Oaks, which were infected with a scale disease, will be replaced with “Winter King” Hawthorns. The new trees will be 2-2½” in diameter, smaller than previous trees, but requiring less maintenance. Each tree will be supplied with a treegrator bag to provide supplemental water in the summer months. Replacement of trees on Sonata and other

streets will be addressed in the coming year. Our General Manager, Dennis Sesplankis, is responsible for obtaining this bid that resulted in replacement of 39 street trees under our \$8,000 budget for 2009. Thanks for the great effort Dennis!

Thanks To All Who Serve The Community

This season brings to mind all those who bring goodwill to our residents and the community at large. Thanks to all our volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents through our committees or the many organizations that better the lives of those in need. A special thanks is in order to Dennis Sesplankis, Clubhouse General Manager, and to Laura Wright, Clubhouse Administrator. Their combined efforts and dedication keep Symphony Village running efficiently. As we consider our many blessings, we can evaluate how to renew our contributions in the New Year. Happy Holidays to all! – Cass Smith

.....

OUTREACH UPDATE

Greetings of the season to all our neighbors at Symphony Village. As we all focus on what is special and meaningful to each of us as the holidays approach, we are also mindful of those who may be less able to find cause to celebrate in the coming weeks.

A very hearty **THANK YOU!!!** goes out to everyone who participated in the food drive for our local food pantry coordinated by Social Services. You will be happy to know we delivered 1482 canned and packaged items (and 24 can openers) to be distributed to those in need. Nancy Roe, our contact person at Social Services, was completely overwhelmed by the amount of goods we had collected. She exclaimed that **this was the largest single food donation they had ever received.** We were so happy to be the facilitators for this effort.

Special thanks to those who offered their houses as collection points: BJ McClueb, Carlene and Jim Cooke, Diane Briggs, Linda Blume, Joyce and Bill Edmonston, Dorothy and Jim Hamm, Ed and Marilyn Williams, Joan and Jack Hennessey, Beth and Doug Dewhirst, and Loretta and Steve Quigley. Many thanks also to Allen Beck, Nancie Cameron, Doug Dewhirst and Loretta Quigley for transporting this precious cargo to its destination on Comet Drive. Job well done, everyone!!!!

Neighbor to Neighbor

This past year has been a very, very busy one for the Neighbor to Neighbor street captains as they coordinated meals, transportation, etc., for their neighbors. Being a street captain can be demanding at times, but all of the captains would agree that serving as a street captain is personally rewarding and satisfying; there is no better feeling than the one you have when you're helping someone else.

Two streets captains, Betty Gingerich and Estelle Drewen, know that feeling well. Betty and Estelle have spent the past few years as street captains for Overture Way. Now, sadly, they've both decided to take a break from their Neighbor to Neighbor positions. Please join with me in thanking these two dedicated and compassionate women for all they've done.

On behalf of Neighbor to Neighbor, please accept my wishes that your holidays be happy days and that the New Year be an especially good one for you and your loved ones.

- Eleanor Strietman

Outreach Card and Game Party

On Thursday, **January 21, 2010**, Outreach will sponsor a **Card and Game Party** complete with a delicious lunch. Nancie Cameron, who will be ably assisted by Allen Beck with food preparation, chairs this project. Charlene Cooke and Lauren Rose are in charge of the card/game activities, Linda Gardner and B.J. McClieb are heading up door prizes, and Roberta Ahmed is taking care of the 50/50 raffle. The event will be held at the Clubhouse from 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Our target number is 100 attendees. Admission will be \$30 per person, and all proceeds will go to organizations in the community with whom Outreach partners.

Start thinking about asking “table mates” to join you for this event. Any card or board game is acceptable (e.g., Mah Jongg, scrabble, rummy cube, pinochle, poker, or canasta). And, **Yes, Men Are Warmly Invited To Participate**. Your invitation is in the mail and will give you information on how to sign up and be a part of another wonderful event at Symphony Village.

.....

PUBLICATION AND COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Symphony Village Communication Guidelines

Check the website Bulletin Board regularly for pertinent bulletins that the committee feels would be beneficial, e.g., volunteer opportunities, email problems, and Halloween Happy Hour photos.

Photo Directory

Please check out the fantastic **Picture Directory** changes made by Charlene at our website: villagehoa.org. Now you can click on a picture and name/s will appear on the photo. We really want every SV resident’s picture in our Directory. (It’s a good way to get to know your neighbors so you can call them by name the next time you see them.) So, please, send us your picture and encourage your neighbors to send in their pictures too. If you have a digital copy, e-mail it to Charlene Smallwood Brown (gsmallw594@aol.com). If you have a photo, contact Gil Hoffman (410-758-3519) to have it scanned. We will also have our roving photographer at the Christmas Party and the New Year’s Eve Happy Hour taking pictures. And, after the first of the year, we plan to visit homes on request to take pictures.

All Are Welcome

Everyone is welcome to attend our next meeting on January 6 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Clubhouse.

Blast Emails

Atlantic Broadband customers need to set up a different email account (e.g., gmail, yahoo, hotmail, etc.) to ensure that you receive important notices from Laura, Dennis, or John. Atlantic Broadband can still be your internet provider. You just need to set up a different email address. Be sure to contact John Schultz (schultz@schultz.org) to inform him of the new address. If

you need help doing this, contact Carol Hodges at 410-758-0591. You can also check the website as all blast emails are also posted there—villagehoa.org.

Advertisers

Please support our advertisers. At the end of the newsletter you will find their ads:

Accountant

Air Condition Service

Automotive Services

Awnings

Chair Rail

Chiropractor

Construction

Cosmetics

Custom Carpentry

Custom Sewing

Dentist

Electrician

Eyewear & Eye Exam

Handyman

Home Care Provider

Home Theater

Insurance

Irrigation

Jeweler

Landscaping

Medical Equipment

Painter

Pharmacy

Physical Therapist

Plumber

Remodeling

Travel Agency

ENERGY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Heat Cost Savings – Suggestions

- Install a programmable indoor thermostat to reduce temperature at night and when no one is home. It will also yield savings during the cooling season. Make sure it's a model that's designed for your heat pump. SV homes were built standard with Goodman heat pumps with 1-stage cooling and 2-stage heating. (The second heating stage is a propane furnace.) Some units (like the Honeywell FocusPro 6000 and higher series) allow you to choose "comfort" or "energy saving" mode. When the house is cold, energy saving mode uses the heat pump for a longer time before turning on the backup propane furnace. See: http://www.prothermostats.com/find_thermostat.php. Be sure to select a unit that supports at least 1 cooling and 2 heating stages. **Delmarva has also been providing free programmable thermostats for customers who sign up for their Power Energy Wise Rewards program. Go to: <http://www.delmarva.com/rewards>.**



- Have your outdoor thermostat setting checked by your air conditioning technician. It is located in the outdoor unit (compressor) where the control wires enter the unit. It can be set between 0 and 45 degrees and controls the temperature at which the heating system switches from heat pump to gas furnace. With a higher setting, your system will switch to gas heat at a higher outdoor temperature. With lower setting, the heat pump will run at lower outside temperatures and save propane. Most people are comfortable with a setting of 30-35 degrees. If your house seems cold, try adjusting it higher.
- Install air deflectors on registers to eliminate drafts. They deflect draft up/down to minimize the "breeze" effect. They're normally clear plastic with built-in magnets that attach to the air registers. They are carried by hardware stores such as Lowe's, etc.
- If heat pump efficiency is in doubt, have system checked out by a qualified service.

SYMPHONY SNEAKERS UPDATE

Sneakers' Auction

Thank you!!! Thank You!!! Thank You!!! Thanks to you, the Symphony Village residents, along with the sponsors and donors, as well as the merchants, friends, and residents who provided auction items. The final analysis indicates that you helped Sneakers raise over \$9,400 during our silent auction on November 7.

Food Distribution

On Wednesday, December 16, help will be needed sorting canned goods and, possibly, "Adopt-a-Bear" gifts at Kennard Elementary. If you can lend a hand, we will need help starting around 8:30 a.m. Thanks, in advance, for your help.

Book Giveaway

We held a holiday book giveaway for Kennard students on December 10. Every student had the choice from many books to build their home library. We will be supporting additional book giveaways next year, including an all-school event to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday, as well as another "Pastries for Parents."

Additional Activities

Sneakers has provided funding, through Queen Anne's County, for holiday items for families during this joyous season. In addition, we anticipate assisting the middle school with funding for students who could not otherwise participate in an outdoor education event.

Note: There is no scheduled meeting for January 2010.

.....

CLUBS AND CLASSES

The "Gazebo Gang" Symphony Village Garden Club

There has not been much activity in the Gazebo garden since the weather has turned cold. However, Helena Joy provided some sixty daffodil bulbs, which she had been storing in her refrigerator. Before the frost hit, Larry Hodges came forth with his drill powered bulb planter and saved the day. Jack laid out the holes, Larry drilled the holes and inserted some fertilizer, Jack assigned the bulbs, and Larry filled in the holes and tamped them down. Early next spring, we should see the results of their effort.

Duke and Shirley Clark delivered the Gazebo Christmas tree, which they had been storing since last year. Bob Linkins, Carol and Larry Hodges, and Jack Hennessey erected the tree and strung the lights. They tried the colored lights, which were strung around the perimeter of the Gazebo last year, but only one string worked. We tried to fix the other strings of lights but gave up, deciding it was easier to buy new lights. Ten donations of five dollars each are needed to buy the new lights. The lights were strung on Sunday, December 13. The Garden Club members donate all labor. Each of the 20 plots in the Gazebo garden needs some deadheading. This will be done during the week of December 14. All residents are invited to sing Christmas carols at the

Gazebo on Tuesday, December 22, at 7 p.m. The Farmer division of the Garden Club will meet in February to plan the vegetable garden for 2010.

The Reading For Fun Book Club

The Book Club met on November 17 to discuss the book *Song Yet Sung*, by James McBride. Mary Jo Keefe, who also supplied a delicious variety of cookies and drinks for refreshments, recommended this book. This was the One-Maryland-One Book selection for the year. On a scale of 1 to 10, it received a rating of 7.5. For our December 15 meeting, Jack Hennessey recommended the book *Cheating Death*, by local author Judy Reveal, who will be attending our meeting to discuss her book and to answer questions. Author-attended meetings are always interesting and well attended. All Symphony village residents are welcome to attend. Please let Jack know if you plan to attend so we will have adequate refreshments. Joanne Milczakowsky has selected *Sarah's Key*, by Catiano De Rosnay, for the January 19 meeting. (Jack thinks that this is the best book we have read in the last 12 months.) The group has completed the schedule of books for the year 2010. We will publish this list in January.

Symphony Village Bird Club

Coming Events:

1. The Bird Club will have an indoor picnic on Thursday, **January 28**, at noon, in the Arts and Crafts Room of the Clubhouse. Food and beverage will be provided. Watch the Activities Book for a sign-up sheet in early January.
2. The Great Backyard Bird Count will take place on **February 12-15**. Members of the Bird Club and other Villagers may want to participate. More details will be in the January *Libretto*. If you want more information now, go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc.



Who is that Hawk Eyeing My Birds?

Have you wondered what hawk you are seeing at your backyard birdfeeder? It is probably a Cooper's Hawk or a Sharp-shinned Hawk. We have other hawks flying above SV (e.g., Red-Tailed Hawk), but they usually don't hang around feeders waiting for our small feathered friends to come out of hiding. Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks do just that.



The two hawks look a lot alike. They are differentiated most easily by size and by tail shape. A Cooper's Hawk (left) is 14-20" in length and is described as "crow sized," a Sharp-shinned Hawk (right) is 10-14" in length and is described as "jay sized." A Cooper's Hawk's tail is broader with a rounded tip; a Sharp-shinned Hawk's tail is narrower with a square-cut tip.



Both hawks capture prey from a perch or while flying quickly through dense vegetation. Both hawks feed mostly on small to medium-sized birds. Both hawks are particularly known to perch motionless on trees or on other objects overlooking feeders and to then swoop down on feeding birds, selecting one to catch in flight as the birds scatter. I have shepherd's hooks on my patio, which hold hanging bird feeders. I have seen both a Cooper's Hawk and a Sharp-shinned Hawk perched motionless and patiently on these hooks (at different times, of course) waiting for small

birds to reappear. When seen up close, the bird's size and tail shape make identification easy. In flight, look for the different tails. — Linda Blume

Symphony Village Singles

Singles will start the New Year with a **Pot Luck Luncheon - Friday, January 1, 2010** – 1:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Get together with old friends and make new ones. Sign up in the Activity Book. If you have any questions, please call Linda Blume (410-758-3194) or Doris Pullman (410-758-1578).

.....

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Thank You from Millie and Harry Guerrieri

We would like to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to our many Symphony Village neighbors and friends for your loving support, phone calls, and cards during Millie's pancreatitis and gall bladder surgery and during Harry's months of cancer treatment with "The Miracle Drug Gleevec." Harry's surgery was a complete success, and we are both recovering very well. We are also grateful to Helen Schultz for the prayers of her prayer group as well as the prayers of our other friends in Symphony Village. And we thank God for answering those prayers. We especially thank Pat Porter and her Neighbor to Neighbor Program for providing us with delicious food and goodies from our neighbors. We are humbled, grateful, and blessed to live here. **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!!**



Thank You from Gretchen Storer

Thank you ALL for the Cards, Prayers, and thoughts sent my way. Everyone was so generous in providing food for us for such a long period of time. If you need support and encouragement, Symphony Village is the place to live. I am getting better but not quite there yet. Again, Gerry and I say, **“Thanks to all of you for your generosity.”**

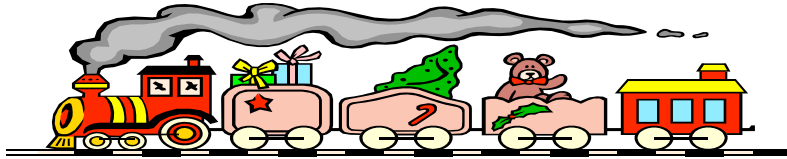
A Thanksgiving Thank You!!!!



We want to give a huge thanks to all the generous THANKSGIVING'ERS, who donated turkeys, trimmings, and monetary gifts to Our Mother of Sorrows' Thanksgiving Baskets. Due to your generosity, we provided 108 families with a full Thanksgiving dinner. A special thanks goes to all the volunteers who shopped, sorted, decorated, constructed boxes, made spice bags, stuffed, audited quantity, and delivered the Thanksgiving Baskets. It simply rained turkeys at our front doors. (Thank goodness, no one got hit.) We have enough turkeys left over to help with our Christmas Baskets. With much admiration, gratitude, and pride in our Villagers, we say, **“Thanks,”** from Jack, Ross, Lois, and Dorothy.



Need an oil change or other automotive service? See ads.



Christmas Train Layouts

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Calling all kids 1 to 102 years old. Again this year, you are welcome to come and enjoy a Christmas train layout at Paul and Kay Blair's home at 133 Encore Court (410-758-2119) and at Larry and Betty Gingerich's home at 355 Overture Way (410-758-3102). Open houses are on Saturdays and Sundays from 2-4 p.m. through January 3. Please call before coming. If these times do not work for visiting families, please phone and we will try to accommodate your needs. Santa's helper (aka Kay) will have cookie treats for all good girls and boys.

3rd Annual "I've Ridden My Bike Everyday This Year" New Year's Day Bike Ride

All Symphony Village Bike Riders are invited to participate in the 3rd Annual New Year's Day ride. Please join your fellow hearty riders at the Clubhouse at 10 a.m. for a one-mile (some may do a couple of more miles!) ride through the community. Following the ride, all participants are invited to warm up at the Clubhouse with hot chocolate and other refreshments. NOTE: Helmets are required (if you need one, call Lloyd McAtee).



CERT Training



On November 18, 2009, 13 of your neighbors completed seven weeks (28 hours) of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Queen Anne's County and the Department of Emergency Services provided the instructors in coordination with the Chesapeake Community College. Coupled with the 16 graduates this past May, Symphony Village now has 29 individuals trained in this most important resource. To refresh your memory, CERT team members are trained to support family and individual

safety preparedness by taking care of our own residents in catastrophic accidents/conditions before emergency responders can get to us. The graduates also received training in the use of the community's automated external defibrillator (AED) and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The graduates included: Joselle Gatrell, Sonny Sollars, Eleanor Strietman, Tom Scull, Art Walsh, Carol Powell, Vinny Volpicelli, Tom and Mary Ann Kisker, John and Andrea Parham, and Dennis and Kathryn Marchi. If any of you have interest in learning more about CERT or participating in the training, call Dennis Marchi, 410-758-3183 or George Drake, 410-758-8266.



Need service on your furnace? See ads at the end.

Homeowner Fire And General Safety— by your CERT Team (Part II of III)

As we head into fall and winter, each homeowner should consider the following actions to prevent emergencies or actions to take in case of emergencies. It’s a good idea to locate house main electrical, water, and propane shutoffs and possibly tag them for future reference (and in a panic situation, you’ll find them quickly and be sure of the correct shutoff!).

WATER: To turn off water to the entire house, locate the shutoff in the laundry area, probably near the water heater. There are two types of shutoffs used:

- ¼ turn shutoff. Turn the handle one-quarter turn (so the handle is across the pipe instead of aligned with the pipe), OR
- Turn the handle clockwise until fairly tight. Don’t force it! Be careful not to twist or pull on the shutoff or pipe.

Turn off water to your outside faucets from the inside in late fall to keep the water lines and faucets from freezing. The shutoff valves are located inside the house, probably under the kitchen sink and under the bathroom sink or in access panels. Close the valve by turning to the right (clockwise). Go outside and open the faucet to drain out any water in the line.

In an emergency, to completely shut off water coming from the street into your house, open the circular cover out by the curb. There is a 5-sided socket that needs to be turned. Assuming you do not have a 5-sided socket, a pair of pliers or vise-grips will do the job. When the lid is off, look inside for a ¼ turn valve and use your pliers or a wrench to turn the valve ¼ turn to the right (clockwise). Be sure to turn your valve – the one toward your property. NOTE: In many cases the grass has grown over the edges of the cover making it impossible to raise it. Check to make sure that the cover is free of any grass growth.

.....

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Centreville Rotary Club Impacting Our Community



Rotary International has chapter affiliations in virtually every established country in the world, having begun in Chicago a century ago by Paul Harris, RI founder. The Centreville Rotary Club is 83 years old and has a current membership of nearly 50 business and civic leaders from Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot Counties. A number of retired business and professional members are also actively involved in the projects and programs of the Centreville organization.

In our own community, the CRC is currently active in these areas:

- Funding scholarships for deserving seniors at our local high schools;
- Donating to various community charities and nonprofit service organizations;
- Supporting an ongoing effort to dig wells in Ghana to provide clean water to tens of thousands of villagers—The leader of this effort is also a member of the Centreville Club;
- Supporting a new leadership program at Kent Island High School for students through **Interact**, a Rotary-affiliated entity encouraging seniors to be more active and involved in their community’s priority issues;
- Annually planning and staging multiple events to raise funds for the various programs receiving contributions from Rotary, e.g., holiday fruit sale, annual sporting clay event at

PinTail Point, Fourth of July food and beverage sales on Kent Island, Artisans Festival in October, Christmas Parade in December, annual Report to the Community publication, distribution of dictionaries to all third-graders in the QAC schools; and

- Rotary House, a four-bedroom home located on Liberty Street which was built entirely by CRC through local and regional government contributions, individual and corporate donations, and in-kind work and donations from members of the Rotary Club—This home is managed by the MidShore Council on Family Violence and serves as temporary, no-cost housing for families seeking refuge and recovery from domestic violence.

Centreville Rotary Club meets every Thursday for breakfast at the Centreville Methodist Church at 7:30 a.m., and guests from Symphony Village are more than welcome at any time. Should you be interested in learning more about the organization or if you are a former Rotarian in another community and would like to consider involvement in your “hometown” club, please contact: Michael S. Olson, molson401@comcast.net. We would welcome your participation.

.....

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Brio Tuscan Grille

By: Karin Larsen



The minute Jenny, my daughter, and I entered Brio Tuscan Grill at Annapolis Towne Center in Parole, we were greeted warmly, then seated in a large, stunning dining room. The wide open, high-ceiling room featured Venetian plastered walls, handcrafted Italian mosaics, arched colonnades, and a beautiful bar not far from the entrance.

We chose our dishes from an appealing menu featuring Northern Italian dishes with the view, “In Tuscany, the food is everything, and it is a feast for all senses. Tuscan culinary creations are mastered at BRIO using the finest and freshest ingredients. Buon Appetito!”

Jenny started with a generous and delicious chopped salad full of feta cheese mixed with fresh tomatoes, olives, onions, and cucumbers tossed with red wine vinaigrette. My Spicy Shrimp with Eggplant featured pan seared shrimp in a black pepper cream sauce over Roman crusted eggplant. This dish tasted rich with a thick dark sauce over the crispy deep fried rounds of tasty eggplant. Our lobster bisque soup, which we shared, had plenty of shrimp and sherry but needed a stronger lobster flavor in my opinion. Jenny’s Penne Mediterranean tasted fresh and light with a generous amount of mushrooms, spinach, sun-dried tomatoes, caramelized onions, feta cheese, pine nuts, and olive oil. My Pasta Brio was very tasty with wood-grilled chicken, seared mushrooms, and roasted red pepper sauce that created a delicious blend of peppery flavors.

The service continued to be wonderful as our waiter was excellent. We took his advice and ordered mini desserts in cappuccino cups. These were light and deliciously prepared tiramisu for Jenny and heavenly, vanilla crème brulee for our sweet finish to a happy dining experience. Our advice is to definitely try this restaurant! If you value good service and delicious food, pay a visit to upscale Parole, with an upscale type of chain restaurant that doesn’t feel like a chain. You can be sure I’ll return to try their bruschetta and flatbread dish, or maybe the beef Carpaccio.

.....

SYMPHONY VILLAGE TRAVEL ARTICLE **Our Western Adventure**

By Brenda Stoltz

When planning our western adventure, John and I decided we wanted to have a variety of experiences. Therefore, we began our journey high in the Rocky Mountains and ended it in the deserts of Arizona on Route 66. A two-day relaxing, fun visit with friends in Breckenridge, Colorado (9,500 feet), gave us time to get acclimated to the high altitudes we would be experiencing during the next four days. Breckenridge, Frisco, and Aspen are beautiful, quaint ski resorts that are enjoyable to visit during any season; but the fall colors, especially the Aspen, gave everything a brilliant, golden hue.

Refreshed and ready to go, we headed to Durango, Colorado. Staying at The Strater (a grand hotel built in 1887) was a good choice. The lovely antique furniture and red velvet curtains throughout set the tone for a fancy western hotel and saloon. Nightly entertainment was provided by the “piano man,” and we were served by scantily dressed dance-hall girls. (John liked the girls; I kept looking for Brett Maverick.) During the day, we toured the town, visited the train museum, and Brenda shopped. Of course, no trip to Durango is complete without a train ride to Silverton (a flourishing gold mining city in the late 1800’s). While in Silverton, we walked through the small town, browsing through buildings and museums, eating, and chatting with other tourists and some of the locals. (There aren’t many locals in the winter—the population drops from about 500 to 50.) The decision to ride the bus to Silverton and the train back was a good choice. It saved time and gave us different views along the way—and the views were spectacular. A couple of times I thought I would soon be collecting on John’s life insurance policy because he kept hanging over the side of the caboose railing to look down the mountain. Riding in the “caboose” was great fun. It gave us the best seats on the train with the freedom to sit inside or outside with plenty of hot chocolate to keep us warm.

The next stop was Mesa Verde National Park. Because the Park Visitors’ Center and the cliff dwellings are located on top of the mesa and involve driving 45 minutes and 12 miles up the mountain, we decided to make reservations at the Far View—the only hotel on top of the mesa. We really enjoyed the hotel’s rooftop lounge. Three walls of windows gave us a panoramic view of the top of the mesa; and, in the evening, we were serenaded by the bugling of a local herd of elk. However, the cliff dwellings were what we came to see, and we weren’t disappointed. It’s amazing to think these marvelous communities were built high in the cliffs hundreds, even thousands of years ago (from AD 1 to AD 1300) by the Ancestral Puebloans (often referred to as “Anasazi”). Farming and hunting were done on top of the flat mesas. It was even more amazing



that John and I were climbing and walking through these cities, built so long ago, marveling at what architectural wonders they are. For me, this was one of the highlights of our trip. The first evening we took a twilight tour of a dwelling called Cliff Palace with an actor/tour guide. It was a fun and informative tour in spite of the rain and steep climbs up and down ladders in the “twilight.” Climbing wet ladders in the dark having just recovered from a broken

foot was a real challenge, and I'm surprised what foolish things we do when we're having fun. Our next tour (Spruce Tree House) was in the daylight—and no climbing.

Moving west, we headed for Monument Valley, Utah—home of Navajo Indians and the setting for many western movies, especially John Wayne movies (which was a real draw for my “John”). Our hotel, located inside the Navajo Tribal Park, is called simply The View. A beautiful hotel, it is built of red stone like the buttes surrounding it. We were delighted with our room, the food, and the “view.” Every room has a balcony looking out onto the red “monuments”—better known as the Mittens. Once you have seen them, you will come to recognize them as you watch many western movies. Every night a movie starring John Wayne is shown on the hotel's outside wall, which can watch from the hotel patio or from the balcony of your hotel room—we did both. The highlight of our visit here was a jeep tour with David Clark (a Navajo guide who had been recommended to us). What appeared from our balcony to be smooth terrain turned out to be anything but; and we had an exciting, bumpy trip with a guide who had lots of great stories to share. In one of the deep caves we explored, David played the flute as we listened to the enchanting sound reverberate off the walls.

Reluctantly, we left Monument Valley and headed south to Canyon de Chelly, Arizona. Canyon de Chelly (pronounced Shay) National Monument is also located in Navajo Tribal Trust Land and embraces 84,000 acres. For nearly 5,000 years people have lived in these canyons. The remains of their cliff dwellings and images on the canyon walls tell their stories. On our amphibian jeep tour into the canyons, we could see the farms of Navajo people who make their homes in the canyon valleys today. Anyone who has read Tony Hillerman's novels will recognize the names of many places we visited within the area of the Four Sacred Mountains and will enjoy traveling in the footsteps of Police Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn.

As we neared the end of our trip, we continued traveling west toward Winslow, Arizona. Along the way, we stopped to see Meteor Crater. The ancient cliff dwellings seem young when compared to a huge crater created 50,000 years ago by a giant invader from outer space. The crater was originally more than 4,000 feet wide and 750 feet deep. One visitor, after viewing the movie at the museum, exclaimed: “Wow! Lucky the damned thing didn't hit the freeway!”

Back on that “lucky freeway” and on to Winslow, Arizona, to stay at the La Posada Hotel. This fascinating hotel was built in 1930 and was designed and furnished by architect Mary Colter. (Colter also is the architect of many buildings in the Grand Canyon.) The hotel is like a museum filled with beautiful and colorful artwork and unusual furnishings. Because the Santa Fe Railroad stops right in front of the hotel, quests often spend time watching the trains as they lounge in the lovely gardens visiting with other hotel guests. While at La Posada, we decided to end our trip on a silly “note.” So we moseyed on down Route 66 to have our pictures taken **“standing on the corner in Winslow, Arizona,”** while singing the famous song by the Eagles, “Take It Easy.”



LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS

Winterfest of Lights

Ocean City's Winterfest of Lights presents dazzling lights on winter nights from November 19, 2009 – January 2, 2010. Almost a million holiday lights sparkle throughout Ocean City. Tour the streets of Ocean City to see the old-fashioned lighted wreaths and the Avenue of Trees on Baltimore Avenue from 15th to 32nd Streets. Take a night drive through the tunnel of lights at the Inlet, and head to Northside Park on 127th Street where you can ride on the Winterfest Express to discover a winter wonderland of spectacular animated displays, including the themed exhibits of the Twelve Days of Christmas and your favorite fairy tales. Hours are Sunday – Thursday, 5:30 – 9:30 p.m., and Friday – Saturday, 5:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. The fee to ride the Winterfest Express is \$4 for adults and children 11 years of age and younger are free. For details, visit www.ococean.com/events.

Lights on the Bay



The Lights on the Bay display is a scenic drive along the shore of the Chesapeake Bay with more than 60 spectacular animated and stationary displays illuminating the roadway at Sandy Point State Park. The show opens to the public on November 21 and will run through January 3. The hours for the show are 5 - 10 p.m. each evening. The cost of the show is \$14 per vehicle. There will be discount coupons, for weekday admission except holidays, available in some local publications and at some local businesses (e.g., [The Baltimore Sun](#), [Pennysaver](#), [The Capital](#), or Graul's Markets). The event is sponsored by the Anne Arundel Medical Center. For more information, see: www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/Southern/sandypoint.html.

Christmas Garden of Trains

Gaze in wonder at this holiday-themed train display at the Cambridge Rescue Fire Company in historic downtown Cambridge, December 1–31. Admission is free with donations accepted. For more information, go to www.ci.cambridge.md.us.

11th Annual Christmas Train Display



Eagle Line Railroad, engineer Talley Ober, is ready to provide family fun and entertainment on Tuesdays and Thursdays, December 1 – January 7, 7 – 9 p.m. (except Christmas Eve and New Years Eve). The layout includes 16 running trains and “many bells, buttons, and whistles.” There is no admission fee. The Eagle Line Railroad is located at 12169 Ober Lane in Ridgely (1/2 mile north of Ridgely off Route 480). For more information, call [410-634-2785](tel:410-634-2785).

Enchanted Campground Driving Tour

Martinak State Park in Denton will host a driving tour December 15–31, 6 - 9 p.m. You can take a relaxing ride through festive, twinkling lights around the park.

For more information, see www.tourcaroline.com.

Holiday Carriage Rides Downtown Easton



Carriage Rides around Historic Downtown Easton will take place on December 18, 5 - 8 p.m. The rides depart from the corner of Dover and Harrison Streets. The event is free.

For information, go to www.eastonmainstreet.com.

Meet the Creatures of Pickering Creek



Pickering Creek Audubon Center will present this program for all ages at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton on **December 17**, 4 - 4:45 p.m. They are shiny, not slimy. They are rough, not soft. Learn about our scaly-skinned friends – turtles, lizards, and snakes – and how they walk, run, and slither around. There is no fee for the program. To register, call 410-822-1626.

For more information, visit www.pickeringcreek.org.

.....

PERSONAL ADS

Do you have something to sell, a condo to rent, something you need? Email the ad of 20 words or less to lhodges@atlanticbb.net or call Carol Hodges at 410-758-0591. Commercial or real estate sales are prohibited.

2009 White House Christmas ornaments -- are you stuck for a Christmas gift? I have four



extra 2009 White House Christmas ornaments left over from a big order that I do every year. Each ornament is \$14. If you'd like to see what they look like go to

http://www.whitehousehistory.org/whha_ornament/ornament.html

Call Mary Lewis at 410-758-8656

Wood Lathe by Toolkraft Corp., 33-in. center-to-center. Includes 10 cutting tools, motor, metal table, speed pulleys. \$50. George Drake, 410-758-8266.

Antique Smith American Pump Organ -- Circa late 1700's. Solid walnut cabinet. Doesn't work, but can be repaired or the cabinet made into a desk/furniture. G. Drake 410-758-8266.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

JAMBALAYA

From the kitchen of Linda Blume

½ C vegetable oil	pinch garlic powder
½ lb. boneless skinless chicken breast, cubed	2 t. dry thyme
1 lb. smoked sausage, sliced lengthwise then sliced into ½” slices	3 bay leaves
1 C chopped onion	1/8 t ground allspice
½ C chopped celery	¼ t. cayenne pepper
½ C chopped green pepper	½ t. freshly ground black pepper
1 16 oz. can diced tomatoes with juice	1 t. salt
½ t. red pepper flakes	2 C white rice, uncooked
	4 C water warmed with 4 chicken bouillons cubes
	1 lb. medium shrimp, shelled and deveined



Heat oil in a Dutch oven.

Add the chicken and lightly brown; remove to a bowl.

Add the sausage and lightly brown; remove to the bowl with the chicken.

Add the onion, celery, and green pepper and sauté until tender but not browned.

Return sausage and chicken to the Dutch oven. Add the tomatoes and the spices.

Simmer, uncovered, 10 minutes.

Add the rice and the chicken stock. Bring to a boil. Cover and lower the heat.

Simmer over low heat for 15 minutes.

Gently fold in the shrimp. Avoid excessive stirring.

Tightly cover the pot and simmer on low heat for 15 minutes or until all the liquid is absorbed. Watch the pot so it doesn't go dry.

Serves 6-8 people.

Note: I like to prepare all the ingredients before I start to cook anything. It takes about 1 ½ hours from beginning of prep to ready to serve – that's a long time, but I think the final dish is worth the effort!

New

WESTERN TIRE & AUTO

SERVING CENTREVILLE FOR OVER 60-YEARS

*** Full Automotive Service Now Available ***

204 E. Water St. Centreville, MD

410-758-2552

Mon.-Fri. 8:00-6:00 • Sat. 8:00-5:00 • Sun. 9:00-2:00

Specializing in:

Tires • Oil Changes • Headlights • Wheel Balancing
Batteries • Wiper Blade Installations • Brakes • Exhaust
Front End Alignments • Tune-ups • Shocks & Struts



LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED



\$5.00 off an oil change with this ad

Solid Ago

Landscapes

Design/Build/Maintenance
Patios, Walls, Landscaping
Superior Craftsmanship
MHIC# 125901

Brian Kurtz
Landscape Designer
T 410-490-9244
F 410-758-3229
kurtzbrian@hotmail.com



**Tuckahoe
Chiropractic**

Do you...

- suffer from stiffness in your neck or back?
- have difficulty with balance or stability?
- have difficulty sleeping?
- constantly tired or fatigued?
- just don't feel right?



**Then come in for a
Free Consultation**

Physical Therapy Services • 0% Financing Available*



Dr Collin Johnson

32201 Queen Anne Hwy
Queen Anne, MD 21657
www.tuckahoechiropractic.com
410.364.9222

*Available up to 18 months for approved applicants.



MVP Irrigation
LANDSCAPE LIGHTING

NICHOLAS J. ARBUTINA
President

MVP Irrigation Inc.
P.O. Box 69
Centreville, MD 21617
www.mvpirrigation.com

MHIC #75211
410-758-4426
Fax 410-556-6931
1-866-432-7270

BACKYARD IRRIGATION

PAVERS

GRILL SURROUNDS

GROUP DISCOUNTS

**American Restoration
Construction**

HERE IS A LIST OF SOME OF THE THINGS WE DO!

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| -Glass Replacement | -Windows |
| -Entry And Storm Doors | -Cabinets |
| -Drywall Repairs | -Hardwood Floors |
| -Tile Floors And Walls | -Painting |
| -Finished Basements | -Siding |
| -Gutters | -Additions |
| -Hot Water Heaters | -Decks |
| -Fences | -Sheds |
| -Bathroom Remodeling | -Garages |
| -Electrical Outlets And Switches | -Railings |
| -Lighting | -Locks |
| -Plumbing Repairs | -Mail Boxes |
| -Garage Doors And Openers | -Porches |
| -Crown Molding | -Chair Rail Molding |
| -Roofing | -Much more! |

866-373-6989 or **410-490-6860**

Free Estimates
MHIC #37618

John Schroeder Jr
Owner



**Erie
Insurance®**

Above
all in **SERVICE™**

Auto • Home • Business • Life

**Joseph W. McCartin
Insurance, Inc.**

Winkie Wilson, SV Resident

105 N. Liberty St.

Centreville, MD 21617

410-758-1588

winkie@mccartin.com

The *Cool* Deck Solution



15% OFF!

Retractable Awnings for Your Deck and Patio

Only Awning Showroom on the Shore!

Open Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Sat. by appointment

- 10 Year Manufacturer's Warranty
- Hundreds of Designer Fabrics
- Complete Installation and Service
- Motorized or Manual

EAST COAST
Awnings & Awnings



302-436-6005 • 800-233-1144 • www.ecshullers.com

Home Care Provider Assisted Living in Your Home



Hi, my name is Gregory. I have had the privilege of helping two other families in the past several years. Through thick and thin, the good times and the tough, we were able to stay at home, have peace of mind and enjoy life one day at a time. I am a chef, American-born and English speaking. I can be with you on a daily basis if you wish. Please call to chat or we can meet to talk.

Looking forward to your call!

Gregory V. Tampe 772-349-9195



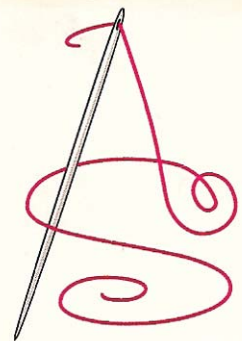
Abraca Do Overs

Holiday Decorating!
Room Makeovers!
Gift Certificates!
Color Consultation!

410-739-2101

Anna@AbracaDoOvers.com

Visit Us at: www.AbracaDoOvers.com



Emily Carr

Always In Stitches

Custom Sewing
22304 Butler Ct.
Denton, MD 21629
410-820-2211
illex@hotmail.com

COTTAGE CUTS



SALON & DAY SPA
410-758-3469



Holiday Savings for Symphony Village

\$5 Off All Hair Services with this Coupon

Buy One - Get One at Half Price

Sale on all Products

(Excluding all Duos & Liter Deals)

Stop by and get your "stocking stuffers" for Christmas and Gift Certificates for the person who has everything!!

**102 W. Water Street, Centreville, MD 21617
Expires January 31, 2010**



**FROSCH INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
LINDA FARRAR – TRAVEL CONSULTANT**

MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE Sept. 2010

Call for Details: Phone 410-758-8744
E-mail: linda.farrar@frosch.com



Our Technicians Are:

- Background Checked
- Drug Screened
- Uniformed
- SENIORS 15% OFF!

Trust Our Family with yours! Call our family for all your Plumbing, Drains, & Septic Needs!

*And Away Go Troubles
Down the Drain!*

Phone: 410-778-7373
Fax: 410-479-4747
WWW.EDSROTO.COM



Kudo

SERVICE INC.
1-800-750-6026
Maryland & Delaware Toll Free

HAROLD C. LEWIS
President

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

Air Conditioning • Heating
Electrical • Refrigeration
Design • Installation
Maintenance

AVON



Call for a free sales brochure!

By Laura

Laura Wright

Independent Sales Rep and eRepresentative

Centreville, MD
410.490.0665

avonbylaura@yahoo.com
www.youravon.com/lwright0066

Phone & Delivery Hours: M-F 4-8pm Sat/Sun 10-2

Larry Dent

Chesapeake Home Theatre & HiFi

custom design, sales and installation

101 Chester Village
Chester, MD 21619

410-604-3368 Shop
301-651-8789 Cell
E-mail: LEDZZZ@aol.com
www.chesapeakehometheatre.com

ROBERT E. ECK, CPA
Small Business Consulting

TAXES
ACCOUNTING

216 OVERTURE WAY
CENTREVILLE MD 21617-2387

Fax 443-782-0482
Cell 443-254-5127
E-mail rbobeck@ecconline.net
Web www.roberteckcpa.com

BILLINGS AND MURPHY, D.D.S., P.A.



Scott H. Billings, D.D.S.
Christopher K. Murphy, D.D.S.

22 Kent Towne Market
Chester, MD 21619
410-643-5500

Fine Jewelry
Paula's
"For Life's Special Moments"

Paula A. Warner
1607 Postal Road
P.O. Box 286
Chester, Maryland 21619
(410) 643-8040
www.paulasfinejewelry.com

Diamond & Gemstone Jewelry •
Sterling Silver Jewelry •
Custom Jewelry •
Gifts •
Goldsmith & Designer on Staff •
Jewelry Repair on Premises •
Appraisals by Appointment •

GEORGE PEUGH SR.
General Contractor



G&M Construction Co.
M.H.I.C. 33778

4639 Bethlehem Road
Preston, MD 21655

410-673-7877



**BAYSIDE PHYSICAL THERAPY
AND SPORTS REHABILITATION**

www.BaysidePhysicalTherapy.com

DAVID BROWN, P.T.
Physical Therapist

202 Coursevall Drive, Suite 111 & 112 • Centreville, MD 21617
Phone: 410-758-0018 Fax: 410-758-4031

Motorhead Electrical Services

Quality electrical work of any kind
without breaking your budget!
10% senior citizen discount.

Need more light? Call us. 410-758-3067

Mark Sharp - Master Electrician
Centreville, MD 21617
msharp@atlanticbb.net



State Farm®
Providing Insurance and Financial Services
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710



Ed Smith Ins Agcy Inc

Ed Smith, Agent

201 Benton Avenue, Suite 204
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-2522
Bus 410 859 0279 Res 410 758 6965
ed.smith.bveq@statefarm.com



24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®

Butler Accounting Service
 CONSULTANT-INCOME TAX SERVICES

Robert H. Butler
 Accountant

410-758-8187 Office
 410-758-8189 Fax
 RBAccounting@Juno.com

251 Concerto Avenue
 Centreville, MD 21617

EDWARDS **EPIC**
Your corner pharmacy

102 Commerce Street, Centreville, Phone 410-758-1715

- * Free in-town delivery
- * Custom Compound Medications
- * Natural Hormone Replacement
- * One-Hour Photo, Passports, Digital & Enlargements
- * Hallmark Cards, Yankee Candles
- * Medical Equipment Sales & Rental
- * Internet Refills: www.edwardspharmacy.com

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
 300
 1706 - 2006
 Celebrating 300 years
 of Queen Anne's County
 History

An Optical Galleria llc
 111 West Water Street
 Centreville, Maryland 21617

Eye Exams
 Exclusive Eyewear
 Contact Lenses
 Polarized Sunglasses
 Repairs and More.

Shop Local.
 See us for all your
 eyecare needs.

Visit us online at
www.eyesandart.net

(443) 262-9415

Eastern Shore
 Best of
 EASTERN SHORE

ROB'S
CUSTOM CARPENTRY
 LLC

"We Handle the Details"

Robert B. Nonemaker, Jr.
 443-988-8076

608 Pigpen Point Road
 Queenstown, MD 21658-1161
 MHIC 125207


Allstate
 You're in good hands.

24-Hour
 Customer Service

Ron Elville
 Exclusive Agent
 Ron Elville Insurance

Allstate Insurance Company
 140 Pennsylvania Ave., Unit 1c
 Centreville, MD 21617

Phone 443-262-8072
 Toll Free 888-358-4553
 Fax 443-262-8081
 a051791@allstate.com

www.allstateagencies.com/51791
 Auto, Home, Business, Life

ADVERTISE IN THE *LIBRETTO*
NEXT MONTH

BUSINESS CARD AD RATES

	Residents	Nonresidents
1 Month	\$20.00	\$25.00
3 Months	\$50.00	\$65.00
6 Months	\$85.00	\$115.00
1 Year	\$150.00	\$200.00

Call Carol Hodges 410-758-0591