



# *LIBRETTO*

## Symphony Village's Newsletter

August 2017

Vol. XII, No. 8

**MISSION STATEMENT:** 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.

### HOA BOARD of DIRECTORS

The following items were approved by the HOA Board of Directors at the August 2 meeting:

- **Arborist Contract** – Approved hiring Wetland Studies and Solutions (a Davey Tree Company) to conduct an initial tree inventory and assessment and the inspection of the woodland edges of SV at a cost of \$16,500.
- **2018 Landscape and Irrigation Contract** – Approved exercising the 2017 contract option with Complete Landscaping to perform the same basic services in 2018 at the 2017 price of \$382,000. There may be changes in the 2018 enhancement tasks which will require HOA Board approval.
- **2016 Draft Audit Approval** – Approved the draft SV audit report prepared by Goldklang Group CPAs.
- **2016 Audit Representation Letter** – Approved the letter to be signed by the HOA Board accepting the results of the audit.
- **Path Easement** – Approved sending a letter to each of the three property owners that have signed the SV path easement agreements asking to be released from our maintenance and liability obligation. This includes Nicholas Woods, Coursevall LLC, and Centreville Business Park.
- **Charter for HOA Documents Review Committee** – Approved a charter to create an ad hoc committee to review the SV Declaration, By-Laws, and official documents to assure content is current and relevant to an association that is no longer influenced by the developer.
- **Charter for the Expansion Committee** – Approved an updated charter for the Storage Committee, now known as the Expansion Committee, since the project received approval from the community to proceed. The charter defines responsibilities for maintaining budget, schedule, financial management, and SV communications as the project progresses.
- **Expansion Construction Bank Loan** – Approved the bank loan as proposed by Provident State Bank for construction of the SV Clubhouse Expansion Project. The loan terms are based upon borrowing

\$400,000 for a 12-year period at fixed rate of 4.05% for the full term of the loan with an annual carrying cost of \$42,280. There is no penalty for pre-payment. Interest rate on the CDs deposited with Provident will earn more at 2.05% than current deposits.

- **Expansion Construction Contract for Construction Manager** – Approved the contract for the Construction Manager to perform pre-construction services for \$7,062 working with Torchio Architects on further design development and updated construction costs. The contract used the American Institute of Architects standard form of agreement between the Owner (SV) and the Construction Manager (Willow) which has been vetted by the Board, Management Staff, and the Expansion Committee
- **Expansion Construction Performance Bond** – Approved proceeding with the construction contract terms without adding the cost of a performance bond costing \$6,000 to \$8,000. The Construction Manager has a stellar performance record, excellent references, and is not likely to go out of business during this short duration project of 4-6 months.
- **Expansion Construction Retainage Fee of 5%** - Approved a retainage fee of 5%. Five percent of the cost of work documented in each invoice will be withheld until the end of the project and released when all punch list items are complete.
- **Expansion Construction Insurance** – Approved getting insurance from the SV current insurance carrier at a cost of \$891 (instead of from Willow which was \$1,540).
- **HVAC Unit Replacement In Concert Hall** - Approved the Operations Committee in conjunction with the Expansion Committee to get a price quote to replace the existing HVAC unit servicing the Concert Hall. This unit must be moved to accommodate the expansion project which may be difficult due to the unit's age and condition.
- **Concert Hall Reservations 2018** – Approved a motion that no reservations will be taken for the Concert Hall after December 1, 2017, until the project is completed.
- **Lifestyle Budget Request Motion** – Approved a request for an additional \$400 to add to the Lifestyle Committee budget to cover expenses for the balance of 2017 activities and planned events. This is primarily for paper goods which are available for use by Villagers and supplied for catered events to reduce costs.
- **Terms of Reference Update** – Approved a motion to include “the SVHOA will not sponsor off-site events and will not collect funds for such events as they are not covered by the SVHOA insurance policy.” Restore language inadvertently dropped regarding Board Liaison Committee responsibilities.
- **Transfer of Funds** – Approved transfers of funds from the Union Bank Operating account to the Revere Money Market account (\$110,000); \$25,000 from the Union Bank Operating account to the Xenith Bank Money Market account; and the balance of \$4,824 plus interest from the First Virginia Community Bank Money Market account to the Xenith Bank Money Market account.
- **Realtor Clubhouse Access** – Approved a Clubhouse access process for realtors accompanied by potential buyers to include signing a realtor log sheet and providing a business card to staff.



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## Election Notification

At the Annual Meeting scheduled for December 6, Symphony Village Homeowners will vote to fill three (3) vacancies on the Homeowners Association Board of Directors. In September, the Nominating Committee will issue a formal "Call for Nominations" to the community.

You may nominate yourself; or if you know a homeowner whom you feel really cares about our community, is respectful of others, and has demonstrated that they can work well as a team, then please nominate him or her for one of these positions.

The process will continue throughout the next few months, with Proxy Voting in the November timeframe, and the final Election and Results announced at the December 6<sup>th</sup> HOA Annual Board Meeting. The Nominating Committee will keep everyone updated throughout the process. Symphony Village is very important to all of us and we want to keep it as the vibrant, attractive, upscale community that it has grown to be. Please give this some serious thought.

Please watch for further instructions in the September edition of the *Libretto*.

Thank you,

Symphony Village Nominating Committee:

Tom McManus

Rich Ryan

DeAnn Cheyne

Dominick Mancinelli



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Laura Bittinger, RN,BS  
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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Lifestyle** — *Randy Officer, Chair; Susan Rayner, Vice Chair; Laura Bittinger, Correspondent*



In spite of the television ads for back-to-school supplies and the Halloween candy on display in stores, there's still a lot of summer left! Enjoy the best summer has to offer right here in Symphony Village. Lazy days at the pool, grab a friend for a game of tennis, bocce, cornhole, or pitch some horseshoes. Take advantage of the wide variety of activities your hard-working Lifestyle Committee and a dedicated army of volunteers have planned. See you around the Village!

- **JIMMY BUFFET Happy Hour, Saturday, August 19, 6 p.m.** Wear your Parrot Head gear!
- **ICE CREAM SOCIAL, Sunday, August 20, 2-3:30 p.m.** Sign up in the Activities Book and pay in advance by August 12.
- **MOVIE NIGHT, Saturday, August 26, 7 p.m.** In the Concert Room, *A Family Man*, 2016 drama starring Gerard Butler, Alison Brie, and Willem Dafoe. Fresh popcorn on sale for \$2.





- **HAPPY HOUR**, Friday, September 1, 6 p.m.
- **MOVIE NIGHT**, Saturday, September 2, 7 p.m. Movie TBA. Fresh popcorn on sale for \$2.
- **LABOR DAY PICNIC**, Sunday, September 3, noon-4 p.m. Sign up in the Activities Book/pay in advance.
- **OPUS CAFE**, Thursdays through October, 9:15-10:30 a.m., poolside porch (weather permitting). Hosts needed!
- **LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE MEETING**, Monday, September 11, 7 p.m.
- **MEDICARE in PLAIN ENGLISH**, Wednesday, September 13, 2-4 p.m. Sign up in the Activities Book **FREE!**
- **ANNAPOLIS TROLLEY TOUR**, Saturday, September 23. Sign up in Activities Book. Pay in advance.
- **ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW**, Saturday, September 30, 9-noon. Concert Hall. A chance to appraise your “treasures” before you sell them for just a buck at the Fall Yard Sale.!
- **FALL YARD SALE**, Saturday, October 14. Sign up in the Activities Book.

**A GREAT BIG “Thank You” TO THE NEW LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Lifestyle Committee welcomed new members to the Committee at the August 7 meeting:  
**Gretchen Burton, Mary Jo Keefe, Ellen Reid, and Victoria Weber**

**Ice Cream Social - August 20**



We received such an overwhelming response last year we decided to do it again this summer. Join us for an Old

Fashioned Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 20, from 2-3:30 p.m. You’ll have your choice of five flavors of ice cream including chocolate, vanilla, and three other specialty flavors. You can also choose from numerous toppings. As you did last year, please sign up in the Activities Book, write the number of servings you are purchasing, and leave a check made payable to Symphony Village. We are happy to announce the cost will be the same as last year. One serving is \$5.25. We are offering one size and one price to keep it simple. Registration and payments must be completed by August 12.

**Labor Day Picnic - Sunday, September 3**

What’s Labor Day without a picnic? Join your friends and neighbors poolside for the last picnic of the year, catered by Grills on Wheels. The menu features grilled BBQ Chicken, Pit Beef, hot dogs and hamburgers. Sign up in the Activities Book and pay in advance, **Adults \$17, children (under 10) \$10.**

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## **Volunteers...Please!**

Many thanks to those of you who've reached out since last month's request for volunteers. We need more of you! The responsibility and time commitment of committee membership isn't for everyone. The Lifestyle Committee is seeking to develop a pool of volunteers who'd be willing to help out occasionally at events, no long term commitment required. Examples might be serving food at a picnic, helping set up or clean up after an event, collecting tickets, preparing a dessert or salad, assisting with popcorn sales at a movie night. We'd like to have a master list of folks we can call on in the future. Many hands make light work!

Please call or email Laura to add your name to the volunteer list.

homewithlaura@gmail.com or 401-932-5770 (401 is correct...not a typo!)

## **Breaking News!**

### **Opus Cafe ... Continuing into the Fall**

You've spoken...we've listened. Opus Cafe is such a success, we are going to keep it going! Join your neighbors on the Clubhouse porch by the pool Thursday mornings 9:15-10:30 a.m. during August, September, and October, weather permitting, for a casual breakfast and conversation. Recent visitors have noted it's a great way to start the day, while relaxing and meeting new friends. Come hungry or simply have a cup of coffee or tea. Modest fee for food, determined by each week's menu. Bottomless cup of coffee and tea, \$1. The Cafe is coed; drop-in when you're able, no reservations needed. Carol Hodges and Susan Rayner have been the gracious coordinators. Menu changes weekly per hosts. To keep Opus going, please call Carol or Susan to sign up to host or check the Activities Book.

## **Lifestyle Page on SV Website**

Don't forget to view the new Lifestyle page on the SV Website. Thanks to our Lifestyle computer gurus and SV Webczar, you can view all events conveniently on the SV Website. Events will be added and updated regularly, so make it a habit to log in. Find the Lifestyle page on the Website, **www.symphonyvillage.net**, log in, and click on "**Lifestyle**" to view the calendar of upcoming events.

## **Happy Hour Kudos**

Thank You's go out to our recent "themed" Happy Hour hosts:

**Zina Lichaa, Margo Wagner, and Rosemary Page** for the August Birthday Happy Hour.

Also, our friends at **ACME** provided fantastic Happy Hour food at our July 15 Happy Hour. Please show your support by giving Acme some of your food shopping business. They graciously support SV when asked! It's wonderful to have these special Happy Hours, and we also appreciate the hosts who graciously volunteer for each and every Happy Hour. They couldn't happen without YOU! Only a few openings remain for hosts in 2017...thank you for your enthusiastic responses. Hosting is easy and lots of fun. Remember, Happy Hour hosts and hostesses are able to drink for free and don't have to bring food. This is a very easy assignment and a great way to meet fellow residents. Please review the sheet in the Activities Book which includes the step-by-step guide. You can select a theme, if you wish, which we will advertise. You greet people as they arrive, enjoy yourself through the evening, and help with simple cleanup at the end. If interested, please sign up in the Activities Book or contact Carolyn Harty or Zina Lichaa to register. Lifestyle Committee members are always there and will help.

## **2017 Trips - Please see Activities Book for updated information on payment requirements**

**New York Overnight** - Friday, October 20 - Saturday, October 2

\$399 per person, double occupancy/ \$350 per person, triple occupancy/ \$299 per person, quad occupancy  
Trip includes bagel breakfast with Mimosas and Bloody Marys as we travel to New York.

Lodging at the Marriott Marquis - Baggage handling (1 bag per person)

Catered deli dinner on the ride home ... Bus transportation, all taxes and tips.

**Sign up in the Activities Book - payment to "Tours and More, LLC" in advance by September 1**

**Theatre Trip** - New York, Wednesday, November 1

*Dear Evan Hansen* ( this play just won a Tony award!)

Trip includes Theatre seating (description below for pricing), bagel breakfast, catered deli dinner, bus transportation, all taxes, and tips. Departure 7 a.m. from SV.

Seating: Rear Mezzanine, 30 seats, \$200 per person / Mid Mezzanine, 20 seats, \$220 per person

*Please note, there are steps to climb.*

**Sign up in Activities Book, payment to “Tours and More, LLC” in advance by September 1.**

**Theatre Trip**, New York, Friday, December 8

Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular Show

Trip includes bagel breakfast on bus, dinner on your own. Departure 7 a.m. from SV. \$150 per person.

**Coming soon...See Activities Book for details and to sign up, sponsored by Tours and More, LLC.**

**Theatre Trip**, Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.,

Saturday, December 9, 2017.

National Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert, a visit to the National Christmas tree & the Pathway of Peace.

**Coming soon...See Activities Book at Clubhouse for details, sponsored by Tours and More, LLC.**



**Events in the Planning Stage:**

- Brunch, December 10
- Holiday House Tour, December 17
- Billiards Tournament, 2018

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**Outreach** — *Bea Trotta, President*

**Outreach SV Name Tag Sale**



Outreach will conduct a second ad hoc SV Name Tag sale **through August 31**. There has been some interest from new residents in getting name tags, and we hope to have at least five name tags requested which is the minimum order that the company will accept. The cost per name tag is \$16 (which includes shipping and handling), money due when the name tag order is actually placed (i.e., no money “up front”). If you would like to order a name tag, please contact Linda Blume, 410-758-3194.

**Bingo Is Back!!!**

Starting **Friday, September 8**, we will be back in the Concert Hall calling BINGO. We will start the night off at 6:30 p.m. with **Hot Dogs and Desserts**, giving everyone time to pick out their cards and get something to eat.

The **Jackpot** Game has grown since the last time to **\$275**  
... 59 numbers will be called and You might be the winner!!!  
**Come and enjoy the fun and camaraderie with your neighbors and friends!!!**



## Outreach's Fall Tea and Harvest of Fashions Show



As of August 10, 100 Villagers and guests have signed up to attend the Fall Tea and Harvest of Fashions Show to be held on **Sunday, September 24**, 2– 4:30 p.m., at The Milestone banquet facility in Easton (near the airport). There is room for many more attendees! Tickets continue to be sold at the Clubhouse (both during the week and on weekends). The week's ticket selling schedule will be posted on the SV Website Home Page and on ECHOES every Monday. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for young ladies (ages 8–17). Please make checks payable to SVOPI or bring exact change. People who sign up together will be seated together. And if you sign up as a single or a double, we'll place you at a thoroughly enjoyable table for the afternoon – so don't hesitate to join us if you don't have a larger group in place! If you have any questions, please contact Loretta Quigley, 410-758-6775.

## Tornado Victims on Kent Island

Outreach and its members as well as the Debi Wells' Thursday evening Bunco group have made a donation totaling more than \$1,000 to the victims of the Kent Island tornado. This money is being placed in a fund by the Kent Island United Methodist Church and given directly to the victims to assist them in getting reestablished. Some of those impacted by the tornado have lost all their belongings, and it is our hope that in some small way we can make a positive impact on their lives.

**Thank you to all who donated. Your generosity and care is truly appreciated.**

**(See additional information regarding TORNADOS on page 16.)**

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**Publication & Communication – Carol Hodges, Chair, Linda Blume, Vice Chair**  
**Recipes**

The *Libretto* will no longer be publishing a monthly recipe. However, if someone has a recipe that the residents would love, send it to the editors and it will be published. The [recipes](#) that are already on the Website are still there, so continue to access them.

**UserID and Password**

Several pages such as the Photo Directory on the Website need a UserID as well as the password. The UserID is **bassoon**. If you do not know the password, please ask a neighbor or ask Cindy at the Clubhouse.

**Libretto Editor**

Another editor is needed to add to the three current editors (Brenda Stoltz, Carol Hodges, and Marge Strano). With travel plans and family obligations, it is felt that a fourth would be beneficial.

**Sneakers – Bea Trotta**

Tickets for the Silent Auction will go on sale at the Clubhouse on Tuesday, September 5, from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. After that date, for any remaining tickets you will be able to sign up in the Activities Book at the Clubhouse and place your check in the check collection box. If signing up, please place one person’s name on each line.

In addition to lovely themed gift baskets and restaurant gift certificates, this year you will also be able to buy a special \$10 raffle ticket. This ticket will be drawn early during the evening’s events. If you are the lucky winner, you will be able to choose any Silent Auction item and receive it immediately. There will only be 100 of these special tickets sold.

Sneakers is collecting new/unused items for the November Silent Auction. If you have items to donate, please contact Amy Marotta (443-262-8807) or Terri O’Connell (443-928-3368). We welcome your donations of basket items, gift certificates, sporting or cultural event tickets, professional services, talents, and skills, vacation properties, fishing or sailing boat charters, and even sharing your computer expertise to assist others. The cutoff date for donations is September 29.

Remember to get your tickets early, so you don’t miss this fun-filled evening. There are a total of only 150 tickets available for the Silent Auction.

**Next Meeting**

Sneakers' next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 30, at 3 p.m. in Concert Hall at the Clubhouse. New members are always welcome.

# CLUBS

## **Bocce Ball – Don Rizzo**

### **Introducing ...The Symphony Village Fall Bocce League**

**Your request for some fun-filled bocce with just a slight competitive tinge has been heard.** This fall we will introduce our first- ever Fall Bocce League. The league will play their matches on Saturday mornings to avoid conflicts with your many other activities. We will play a six-week schedule followed by a playoff the following week to determine our first-ever Fall Champions. Enter your own team of two or more players or enter individually and we will form teams. We do not anticipate any fee requirements. Team applications are available in the Wall Street Room of the Clubhouse for your completion. Merely leave them at the front office and we'll pick them up. **An Introductory Meeting for interested participants will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 19, at the SV Bocce Courts to hear your suggestions, answer your questions, and accept team applications.** In effect, this will be a “focus group,” so it is a fantastic opportunity for you to provide valuable input in developing the format for a bocce league which you will be proud to join.



**Trivia Question:** What do the following Villagers have in common? Joe Brown, George Drake, Steve Guy, Alma Harrison, Alan Levin, Betty Lord, Cassie Rawlings, Linda Schultz, Lars Schultz, Lillian Sheehan, and Margo Wagner. (Answer to follow.)

### **Labor Day Bocce Tournament**

As is customary at our Village Picnics, we will be conducting our Bocce Tournament at the Labor Day Picnic on Sunday, September 3. We will start at 2:30 p.m. but you are welcome to warm up earlier. Bring your own team of two or more players, or we will be forming teams for individuals at the courts. You need not be an experienced player to participate. In fact, one year a first-time won it all!

**Any Questions** regarding the Fall Bocce League, the Labor Day Bocce Tournament, or bocce in general please contact Don Rizzo at 443-262-8192, or 410-271-3272 (cell) or by email at [dwriz12@comcast.net](mailto:dwriz12@comcast.net).

**Answer to above Trivia Question:** Each of those Villagers named are former Champions of one of our Village Picnic Bocce Tournaments. — And forever after they are thus entitled to... **let the good times roll!!**

## **Dining In – Debi Wells**

### **Next Dining In – Saturday, September 23**

**Dining In** is on vacation during August; however, it will resume on Saturday, September 23! As always, **Dining In** will be held at 6 p.m. that day. The sign-up sheet is in the Wall Street Room of the Clubhouse.

As many neighbors know, **Dining In** is a great way to meet your neighbors. If you haven't hosted **Dining In** in your home, it is easy and fun. First, decide on an entrée, then let your guests know what to bring. All guests bring their own beverage of choice and part of the meal (a side dish, appetizer, or dessert). And, clean-up is so much easier with helping hands! The sign-up sheet in the Clubhouse designates who would like to host and who would like to be a guest. It's truly that simple.

**Dining In** is in search of a new administrator! Maybe you like **Dining In** the way it's already organized, or perhaps you would like to make some changes...by having an Italian month, Greek month; or, just appetizers! Think about the fun you might have by administering this monthly event, and please email if you have questions: [debwells2011@gmail.com](mailto:debwells2011@gmail.com).

## Knit One–Purl One — Lois Winegardner



Calling all knitters! You may or may not know that we have a nice group of knitters that meet every Monday morning at 10 a.m. at the Clubhouse in the craft room. No matter your skill level, we would love to have you join us. We knit and enjoy each other's company for about an hour and a half—but feel free to join us for as long as you can. Hope to see you soon.

## Lunch Bunch — Marge Strano

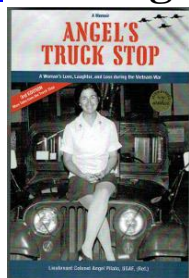
The September Lunch Bunch is scheduled for the **Restaurante Jalapeños** on Thursday, September 7, at 12:30 p.m. You can check the menu online. Just click on [Restaurante Jalapeños](#) located at 85 Forest Drive, Annapolis. The restaurant is located in the Forest Plaza shopping center near the Annapolis Town Center. As the summer winds down, we look forward to enjoying a wonderful lunch and the opportunity to shop or stroll through the Annapolis Town Center or the Annapolis Westfield Mall before or after lunch.

Sign up online by using the [Lunch Bunch Sign-up Link](#). You can also go to the Symphony Village [Website](#), and click on **Dashboard**. Scroll down to the Lunch Bunch icon located toward the bottom of the page. As usual you can also sign up in the Activities Book at the Clubhouse. If you sign up online, please do not add your name in the Activities Book. Sign up in only one place. Please call Bea Trotta at 410-758-0332 or Marge Strano at 410-758-2511 if you have a question or need a ride.



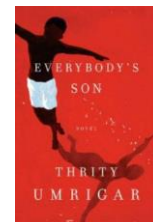
Click on the map to get directions.

## Reading for Fun Book Club — Jack Hennessey



The book we reviewed for our July 18 meeting was *Angel's Truck Stop* by Angel Pilato. The story covers the Vietnam War, from 1967 to 1972, but concentrates on the Udon Air Base in Thailand and the 432<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Air Wing. Pilato tells how she joined the US Air Force at age 25 and rose to become the head of the Officer's Club, despite many objections. She relates the story of many fighter pilots flying over Vietnam, a few of them of never returning home. The pilots flew mainly F4-Phantom Fighters. Most of the pilots had "Tealock" Thai girlfriends even though they had wives at home.

It was the thing to do. The club patrons all loved Angel, and named the club "Angel's Truck Stop." Angel returned to civilian life, and even made a stop at the SV Clubhouse to review her book. Three of our Book Club members were very familiar with the Vietnam War and led an extremely interesting discussion of the book. Unfortunately, the story received a rating of 5.8 by the members. There is a copy of the book in the SV Library for interested residents. The novel for our August 15 meeting is *Everybody's Son* by Thrity Umrigar, who also wrote *The Space Between Us*, which was well received by our Book Club members. The





son referred to is Anton, the only child of a drug addict mother Juanita. Anton is adopted by his father (who is a judge) and his wife, who love Anton dearly. They eventually help Anton graduate from Harvard Law School. It is very interesting to see how Anton eventually reconciles with his birth mother. Thus, Anton has three parents, each of whom betrayed him. A very good read!

## SV Tennis — *Larry Miller*



Are you ready to participate in tennis at Symphony Village? Tennis is currently scheduled at 9 a.m. Saturdays and at different times during the week depending on availability and weather. You are welcome and encouraged to join others on the courts. Please contact me or other SV tennis players if there are questions about your participation. See you on the courts soon.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### *Woodwind* Sunset Cruise

*by Joe Sikes*

On July 27, twenty-one intrepid Village People embarked on the schooner *Woodwind* from the Annapolis dock for a sunset cruise into the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. This public cruise featured music by a local entertainer, Dirk Schwenk, and is a regular Thursday event in Annapolis. We spent about two hours sailing out the Severn River into the Bay towards the Bay Bridge and then returned. J-boat sailing races underway at the mouth of the river presented an unexpected treat with many colorful sails on the horizon.

Not content to sit idly by, the Village contingent pitched in to help the *Woodwind* crew. George Drake hoisted the sails, Allan Levin took the helm while John Olson kept a close eye on the life jackets with help from Art Decker. Dave and Carol Gallop manned the port lookout while Mary Drake and Bonnie Griffith were on the starboard. Bill Wells stayed athwartships singing pirate songs.

A great time was had by all with pleasant weather conditions and temperatures. Laura Rocco, Charlotte and Fred Kurst, Tom Behme and Barbara Singel anchored a sing-a-long of “Me and Bobby McGee” with our cruise entertainer. Ed Sullivan and Joe Sikes waxed nostalgic as they sailed past their



former waterfront residence on the Severn River (Bancroft Hall). And our erstwhile photographers (Peggy Decker, Debi Wells, and Cathy Olson) persistently snapped pictures of the participants while Jan Withers and Kathleen Sullivan successfully made sure no one fell overboard.

Although it was a cloudy evening, the rain held off until after we returned and the sun peeked through as it was setting over the Annapolis skyline. This totally awesome cruise was the brainchild of Mary Officer and the Lifestyle Committee, so Bravo Zulu to Mary from all the cruisers and sincere appreciation for all her planning efforts!

## A 90% Solar Eclipse Comes to Symphony Village

*by the Armchair Astronomer, Larry Rayner*



*“A Total Eclipse of the Sun is a moment of magic: a scant few minutes when our perceptions of the whole universe are turned on their head.”... Peter Coles*

While we would have to travel to South Carolina to experience the Total Eclipse, and some lucky residents are, we can still see something pretty spectacular and a once in my lifetime event.

As far back as 2134 BC, Solar Eclipses have been a source of legends, myths, and omens. From the story of Hsi and Ho who were put to death for failing to predict the Eclipse in China to the more enlightened time of the 17<sup>th</sup> century when Johannes Kepler gave a scientific description of a Total Solar Eclipse (TSE). Far from being harbingers of death and destruction, a TSE was responsible for the discovery of Helium in 1868 by French astronomer Jules Janssen. The Solar Eclipse in 1919 helped Sir Arthur Eddington to prove Albert Einstein’s theory of relativity. He was able to prove that gravity can bend light (gravitational deflection) with the aid of photography.

Solar Eclipses occur every year and more than once a year. The maximum number of Solar Eclipses in a calendar year is 5. Rare though it is, the last time a TSE happened was 1935, and it won’t happen again until 2206. So, if you can see a Solar Eclipse every year and as many as 5 in a year, why all the fuss? Because a SE is only visible from a very limited path on earth and, unless you are a SE chaser, this “path” happens once in a lifetime, if that. Delaware’s last TSE was July 29, 1478. Don’t plan on being around for the next one; it will occur on September 12, 2444. On average, a TSE reoccurs at a specific location every 375 years.

A TSE can only occur around a New Moon because of the alignment of the Earth, Moon, and Sun. The New Moon and Sun have to be near a lunar node (2 points where the plane of the Moon’s orbit path around the Earth meets Earth’s orbital plane around the Sun, The Ecliptic).

August 21 will be the first TSE in North America since March 1979 with the next one not occurring until April 2024. Not being an Eclipse chaser, this is my chance to see at least a 90% Solar Eclipse. I hope you will join the Astronomy Club members for a “pot luck” luncheon (asking residents to bring a lunch item to share) in the ballroom at 12:30 p.m. We will have interesting facts, computer simulated Total Eclipses, and with luck watch our 90% Eclipse around the pool and the Total Eclipse via NASA streaming at 2:30 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the Activities Book so we know how many to plan for, and we have purchased 50 pairs of “eclipse glasses” for our viewers.

## Would you like to join the Symphony Village CERT?

*by Debi Wells on behalf of the Symphony Village Community Emergency Response Team (SV CERT)*



On Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m., starting on September 11 and concluding on October 23, Talbot County Emergency Services is offering its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course. This course is designed to help citizens prepare for

and lessen the effects of a disaster. This 21-hour course includes emergency preparedness, fire safety and suppression, emergency medical treatment, light search and rescue, and disaster psychology. It also includes a final disaster exercise to allow participants to use the skills and knowledge they've acquired during the course.

In a widespread emergency such as a winter storm or hurricane, public safety resources are often stretched thin. CERT volunteers help to care for themselves, their families, and their neighbors until police, fire, and medical responders are able to reach their neighborhoods. CERT members do not take the place of first responders; instead, we help until they arrive.

This course will be offered in Easton at the Talbot County Emergency Services building, located at 605 Port Street. Class participants will receive a training manual and a CERT kit that includes personal protective equipment such as a flashlight, first-aid kit, and high-visibility safety gear. Participants who complete the course will be awarded a certificate acknowledging their accomplishments. This course is interactive, with a combination of lecture and "hands-on" activities, and is open to Symphony Village residents through our SV CERT. There is no charge for the course and space is limited. To register, please contact Debi Wells (debwells2011@gmail.com).

## Red-winged Blackbird

*by George Drake*

To defend his territory and attract a mate, the male perches high with feathers fluffed out with his tail partly spread; he lifts the leading edge of his wing so that the red shoulder patches are prominent, and he sings. He also sings during a slow, fluttering flight. One male often has more than one mate.

Adults are very aggressive in the nesting territory, attacking larger birds that approach, and loudly protesting human intruders (as you may have noticed walking along the walking path!). Their nest is located in marsh growth such as cattails or bulrushes, in bushes or saplings close to water, or in dense grass in fields. (Another great place to view Red-wings is along the Millstream Walking/Biking Trails starting from the Centreville Millstream Park (Hillside at Rt. 213) and going to the Centreville Wharf.)



The female builds the nest that is a bulky open cup, lashed to standing vegetation, made of grass, reeds, leaves, or rootlets, and lined with fine grass. She lays 3 - 4 pale blue-green eggs with markings of black, brown, and purple concentrated on the larger end of the egg. The female (only) sits on the nest during incubation of 10 -12 days. Dad does help mom feed the nestlings that leave the nest in 11-14 days after hatching. **(Photo - Red-winged Blackbird atop a tree at Pond 1.)**

## Happy Hours & Fun Times

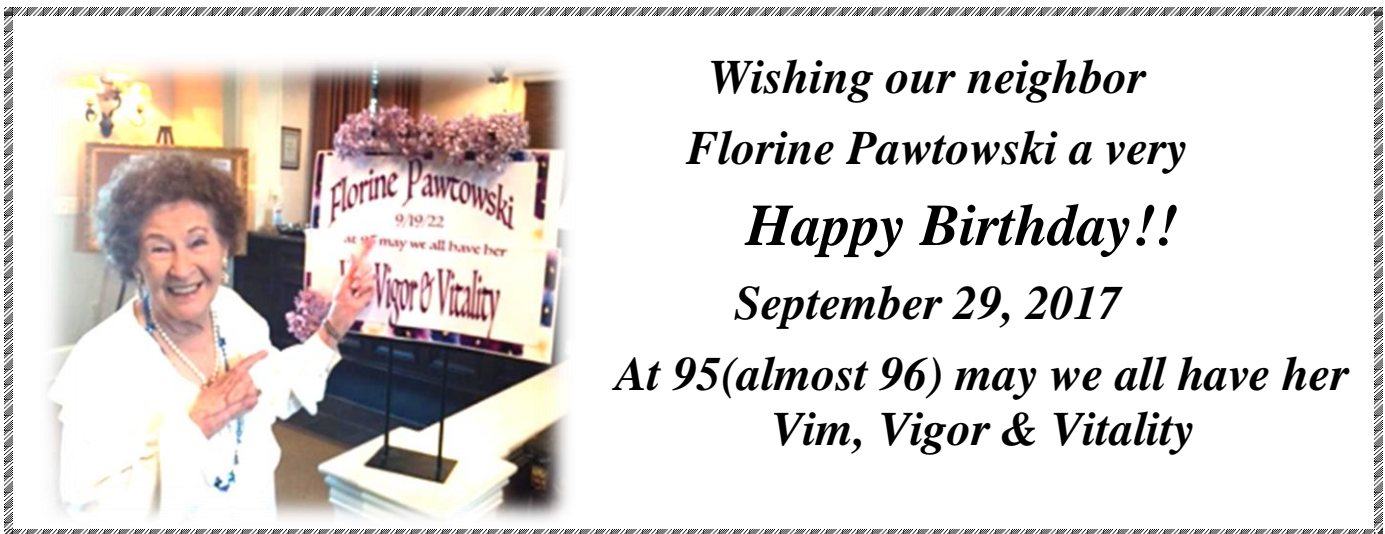


Thanks to many photographers in SV we can present some "Happy Times" during these events. We hope the photos remind you of the fun you had. . . or the fun you missed. . . make sure you don't miss any more.

The photo on the heading of the front page features our SV Hola Girls performing at the Hawaiian Luau. (Do you recognize anyone?)

The photo to the left shows our lead vehicle in the 4th of July Parade, and the next page features an Outreach Card Party, two Happy Hour Birthday Parties, and the Hawaiian Luau.





*Wishing our neighbor  
Florine Pawtowski a very  
**Happy Birthday!!**  
September 29, 2017  
At 95(almost 96) may we all have her  
Vim, Vigor & Vitality*

## Storytelling Returns to Queen Anne's County—a Party!

*by George Drake*

If you attended the April 2016 Storytelling Festival at Chesapeake College or the June 10 (sellout crowd) *Evening with Andy Offutt Irwin* at the QAC Centre for the Arts, you'll want to attend the Party and bring your neighbors and friends (maybe your relatives too!).

**Chesapeake Story Telling Festival – Fish Tales, Fabulous Stories, Food, Art, and Music. Saturday, September 16.**

Join the party all day as seven nationally known professional storytellers spin stories that will make you belly-laugh, make tears roll down your cheeks, and have you visualizing the imagery of their tales. You can even immerse yourself in history through the portrayal of Ben Franklin, Theodore Roosevelt, Clara Barton, Rosa Parks, and Harriet Tubman. The 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. day includes music during the dinner break followed by Ghost Stories! Beer and wine garden open!



**Bil Lepp, infamous tall-tale teller is a featured teller**

Three theatre venues at Chesapeake College offer story choices all day, and there is a Children's Tent for the young! The party is brought to you by the QAC Centre for the Arts in partnership with Chesapeake College.

**See [www.ChesapeakeStorytelling.com](http://www.ChesapeakeStorytelling.com) for full information and tickets.**

### Purple Martins and the Gazebo *by Jack Hennessey*

The Purple Martin house near the swimming pool has always been considered part of the Gazebo. This year we had only three nesting pairs, but apparently they each hatched four eggs. It has always been a delight to watch the Martins zooming and swooping to catch insects, primarily mosquitoes, which is their main diet. By the time you read this report, the Martins will have departed for Argentina where they will spend our winter. We look forward to seeing them in April 2018. Happily, the two benches have been repaired and returned to the Gazebo. They will be used to store spare shingles and Christmas decorations, but more importantly they will be used by residents who enjoy relaxing there and having picnics in the Gazebo.



### Tornado!

*by Debi Wells on behalf of the Symphony Village Community  
Emergency Response Team*

As our Eastern Shore neighbors recently experienced, tornadoes can be overwhelming and devastating. Advance warning and the right precautions can make a big difference in the outcome! In Queen Anne's County (QAC) we're fortunate to have an online [Alert Center](#) to view all emergency situations in our area. More importantly, the QAC website allows residents to register and receive alerts on their landline or cell phone for weather and other emergencies. If you haven't visited the "Notify Me" site, you'll be quite impressed with all the alerts you are eligible to register—everything from weather to county and tourism events to "Fallen Heroes" (information on our military making their way through Queen Anne's County to be laid to rest). Tornado precautions can range from knowledge about their development to knowing what to do if one is encountered. You may know, tornadoes usually strike during late afternoon and early evening (3 p.m. to 9 p.m.). Most move southwest to northeast, but can move in any direction. They have an average speed of 30 mph, but speeds can vary from nearly stationary to 70 mph. Normally a tornado will stay on the ground no more than 20 minutes; however, it can touch the ground several times in different areas. The variables are limitless, so never try to outrun or drive away from a tornado!



Hunker down! For safety's sake, stay put when confronted with a tornado. If you have a bike helmet put it on, and put on your sturdiest closed-toe shoes (in case you need to walk through debris, such as broken glass, after the disaster). Ahead of time, determine a safe place to stay. If you do not have a basement to take cover, head to the innermost room or hallway on the lowest floor of your home. The goal is to put as many walls between yourself and the tornado as possible. Using a large, heavy piece of furniture to take cover is also advised; but, only if it's in the center of your home and away from glass (windows and china or other glass cabinetry). If you are driving, get out of your car and go to the nearest solid looking building. Again, head to the center of that building and away from glass. Wherever you are: protect your head and neck using your arms. Last, but not least, don't forget your pets! They should be put on a leash or in a carrier and taken with you, if this does not jeopardize your safety. And, only if you have time, try to secure small objects and lightweight outdoor furnishings.



The [Emergency Medical Services Authority](#) has an informative and easy to navigate website on all aspects of tornado safety, from creating a survival kit to warning signs that a tornado may develop.

Visit <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/> for a very good quick-reference summary of tornado knowledge from the basics to safety.

We hope this short article has been helpful; however, it is just that ... a short article. We encourage you to read more on the links provided.

## City In A Garden *by Betty McAtee*

In the heart of downtown Chicago, there is a 2.5 acre "rooftop" public garden built on top of a city parking garage, part of Millennium Park, and conceived in 2000 by landscape architects Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, LLC and landscape designer Piet Oudolf from the Netherlands. It is called Lurie Garden and is sustained by the Ann and Robert Lurie Foundation. It was completed in 2004.

Owned by the city, it is a vibrant four-season display of nature, providing a chemical-free habitat for large numbers of plants and wildlife. Sixty-five percent of the plants species are native. It is a spectacular show of 200 perennial species, 14 species of woody plants and many thousands of bulbs. Beehives in the garden produced about 70 lbs of honey in last year's harvest. A wooden footbridge separates the "Light Plate" section, described as a colorful, well orchestrated portrayal of a perennial Midwest prairie in full sun representing the modern artistic side of Chicago, from the "Dark Plate" section, where woody, roughly textures plants shaded by flowering trees represent the original historic site of marshy, wild shoreline along Lake Michigan. The perennial prairie garden is protected on two sides by a 15-foot hedge, which represents the "Big Shoulders" of the city. Lurie Garden exemplifies an element of garden design called "plant size." Important in the planning of a mixed perennial garden, plant size includes the following parts: height, spread, density, and footprint.

**Heights** of plants control the exposure to light, taller plants serving to shade nearby plants, while shorter ones increase exposure to light. Also, using a variety of plant sizes will induce your eyes to move from one area of the garden to another. There are three categories of plant heights:



**1. Base** - This includes low growing plants, 30 cm or less tall. These plants prevent weed growth, erosion, and dehydration of the soil. They make up about 50% of the garden. Examples of base plants are Pennsylvania sedge and moor grass.

**2. Seasonal theme** - This includes colorful, blossoming perennials for each season and measure up to 90 cm. They make up about 30-40 % of the garden. Tulips, salvia, and milkweeds would provide seasonal theme colors.

**3. Structural** - These plants add special interest to certain areas of the garden and are up to 120 cm in height. Five to 15% of the garden is occupied by these taller perennials, like switchgrass, coneflowers, rattlesnake master, and false indigo.

A harmonious garden scene pleasing to the eye requires much research and planning. Creating a garden design is, however, an experimental process which can lead to both successes and failures. However, a dedicated, passionate gardener will plant and replant with an endless number of possible designs to pick from.



\*“City in a Garden” is the motto of Chicago, from the Latin “Urbs in horto.”

To learn more about Lurie Garden, check out the video by Oudolf at [luriegarden.org](http://luriegarden.org)

## Do You Volunteer with a Local Non-Profit Organization? by Linda Blume



Would you like the opportunity to tell residents about your “job” and maybe recruit new volunteers for the organization? Let any of the *Libretto* editors know of your interest, and the P&C Committee will be in touch.

Don't feel that you can write a short article on your own? . . . We ghost write!

**My Story:** Storytime on Wheels is a program run by the Queen Anne's County Library to bring reading and related activities into daycare homes in QAC. I have volunteered with Storytime for over five years (where does the time go?). The children are always glad to see me, and it's very rewarding to see their interest in books.

The Library supplies 37 “kits” that each have a theme (e.g., Cats, Silly Stories, Trains) with theme-related books and activities that the volunteer chooses from to take to the daycare home. Each volunteer goes into one or two homes a month (I go to two – “prepare once” and “present twice”) for about 30 minutes.

The Library is always looking for more Storytime volunteers. If you might be interested, please contact me (410-758-3194) for more information and answers to questions. And you're welcome to come on a ride-along with me some time.



## Presentation:

# Hello From Heaven: Consider the Possibilities!

Join us with speaker Donna Hawkins Suwall to explore what may provide one answer to your question: **Does 'life' exist after death?**

Are you familiar with or do you think you have experienced:

- Near Death Experiences (NDEs)?
- After Death Communications (ADCs)?
- Out-of-Body Experiences (OBEs)?



During Donna's seminar (based on 23 years of studying, researching, exploring and experiencing) you'll have the opportunity to hear about NDE and ADC studies, such as the Guggenheim ADC research project and the world-wide NDE study by cardiologists.

A related subject will also be addressed: **Consciousness: What is it? Where is it? What happens to it when we die?** Donna will also examine two of the tenets of Quantum Physics that may help explain how an NDE, ADC, and OBE are possible.

Donna will share some of her personal experiences with each of the phenomena and give the audience a chance to share their experiences.

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**About Donna and this seminar** -- *The information for this seminar was taken from a course Donna wrote 14 years ago when she was teaching a grief course. It came about because of the strange things happening in her classes that peaked the students' curiosity and caused them to ask: "What's going on?" It was the students' intense interest that prompted Donna to take all the data and information she'd collected over many years of studying, researching, and her own experiences and share them with others via writing and teaching about these so called paranormal experiences, which she now calls -- the 'Also Normal.'*

**DATE:** October 21, 2017  
**TIME:** 2:00pm – 4:00pm  
**LOCATION:** Symphony Village  
Clubhouse; Concert Hall  
**COST:** \$10/person

It is the mark of an  
educated mind to be  
able to entertain a  
thought without  
accepting it.

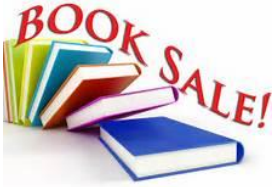
*Aristotle*

**FOR TICKETS CONTACT:** Registration is in the Wall Street Room Activities Book  
Questions? Please email or call Debi Wells.



## UPCOMING CENTREVILLE EVENTS

### Friends' Annual Book Sale



The Annual [Book Sale](#) of the Friends of the Queen Anne's Library will be held at the Centreville branch on Saturday, August 26, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Thousands of used books will be offered – novels, coffee table books, cookbooks, travel books, biographies, histories, and children's books. There will also be DVDs and CDs for sale. Some items are only 25 cents and no more than \$1 per title.

### Movie Night and Kids Fishing Derby



The Town of Centreville will host [Movie Night and Kids Fishing Derby](#) on Saturday, September 9, at the Centreville Wharf. Details will be posted to the Town website close to the event date.

### Tugs for Heroes



The Marine Corps League's Sgt. Jason D. Mileo Detachment 1147 will sponsor Tugs for Heroes on Saturday, September 9, beginning at 9 a.m., on a farm near Centreville (825 Burrsville Road). The tug-of-war tournament will take place on dry land on either side of a 100-foot pond. The charity event will raise money to send children to [Comfort Zone Camp](#), a non-profit bereavement camp that transforms lives of children who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, or legal guardian. Spectators admitted free of charge. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

**Note:** To see a list of tourism and local attraction websites, press "Event Source Links" on the [Sources](#) page on SV Website.

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