



LIBRETTO

July 2018

Symphony Village’s Newsletter

Vol. XIII No 7

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

Welcome to the Neighborhood!



Joe & Eileen Candella 214 Concerto	Bud & Rene Burgan 111 Orchestra
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HOA

SV Board of Directors Action Items – June, 2018– Pat Fox, Vice President

- **Terms of Reference:** Approved the Terms of Reference as presented with the following changes: (1) change “review” to “regulate” in the first bullet under Covenants Committee, (2) change “general manager” to “management” in the 10th bullet under Covenants Committee, and (3) include the Project Close-Out Report Form at the end of Appendix G and in the Terms of Reference.
- **Walking Path:** Approved a motion to authorize the General Manager to work with the Association’s attorney to draft an agreement between the Association and the owner of the undeveloped business park turning over the maintenance and liability of that portion of the walking path back to him.



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- **Securing the Clubhouse:** Approved a motion to direct the Operations Committee to provide recommendations on how to best secure the Clubhouse but still be able to provide access to the phone inside the Clubhouse in case of an emergency.
- **Appraisal of the Clubhouse Post Expansion:** Approved a motion that per the recommendation of the Association’s insurance broker, the Board solicit proposals to provide an appraisal of the Clubhouse to determine current value now the expansion project is complete.
- **Expansion Ad Hoc Committee:** Approved a motion suspending the activities of the Expansion Ad Hoc Committee.
- **Install ADA Toilets: Editorial Clarification from May Report:** Five (5) Clubhouse toilets will be replaced with higher units (comfort toilets).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COVENANTS – Irene Hoffman, Chair, and Scott Page, Vice-Chair

Just a reminder as we all work through the things we need to get done around our homes and gardens:

- If you are replacing or adding perennials, trees and shrubs included, you are required to submit an exterior modification request to the Covenants Committee.
- There are also limits to the number and height of lawn ornaments. Check the Architectural Guidelines online or call the office for information, 410-758-8500.
- If you are doing anything that involves breaking the soil surface on your property, notify the office that you need Complete Irrigation to come around and mark the irrigation lines and sprinkler heads. The irrigation lines sometimes run from the back of your lot and not the front, so be aware that any damage to the lines is chargeable to you. Similarly, check with Miss Utility to assure that public utility lines are clearly marked. Any damage there is also the homeowner’s responsibility. The office has all the right contact information.
- It’s also a good time to cut back any of your plants, bushes, or trees that are impinging on your neighbor’s property or on common property. Mark them for serious “surgery” or replacement later in the growing season if growth habits can’t be constrained by incidental trimming.
- Most of us are watering our rear gardens or lawns. Please move hoses off the lawns to prevent damage to hoses and sprinkler and to prevent accidental slips or falls.
- If you’re in doubt as to whether Covenants approval is needed to go ahead with a project, call the office at 410-758-8500 for help.

Enjoy summer on the Eastern Shore!

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DOCUMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE — *Skip Kornmeyer, Chair, and Debi Wells, Vice-Chair*

Debi Wells has done a great job putting the meeting notes on the Symphony Village website, Governance Section, Committee Minutes. I encourage all to take a look.

To recap, the meeting on March 2 dealt with what we are trying to do and how we are trying to do it. The meeting on March 24 and the meeting on April 11 minutes have to do with the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws word changes relating to the goals in now maintaining and not building our community, and removing class B members designation in the Seventh Article. The April meeting also had a proposal to remove the requirement to advertise the annual or special meeting in the county newspaper but to rely on the *Libretto* (Article 3.5). The May and June meetings continued review of the bylaws. The May meeting focused on the HOA Board to represent the majority homeowners' interests. The June meeting proposed term limits for the Board of Directors and how to fill vacancies.

Under discussion: Should major changes by committees such as pool rules, covenants, architectural, or Clubhouse be posted on an interactive website for a period of time for residents' comments, and how can that be accomplished.

We meet **Wednesday, July 18, at 1 p.m.** Maybe we will see you there. Direct comments to skornmeyer@msn.com.

LANDSCAPE, IRRIGATION, and TREE COMMITTEE – *Tom McManus, Chair, and Michael Norris, Vice-Chair*

As most of the residents are aware, we are focusing much of our efforts this year on buying and planting new or replacement trees throughout Symphony Village. Mindful of the many issues that have plagued the 1,800 trees we already have, we are being especially careful to only select and purchase trees that we are confident stand the best chance of long term good health and growth. Although we ordered 15 trees in the spring, our supplier has had challenges in securing these trees for us, in the time frames we expected. Consequently, only 8 of the 15 have been planted thus far.

Now the weather is working against us. The lack of regular rainfall has forced us to have the supplier hold onto the remaining seven trees, until the situation improves. In addition, we find ourselves needing to supply sufficient water, on a regular basis, to each of the newly planted trees. Thanks to some residents, management, and ourselves, we are doing just that; but this is a lot of work. We all want these trees to do well.

At the same time, we are planning for a “fall planting.” We expect to acquire and plant between 20 and 30 new trees. But we now realize even more, that rainfall is a major consideration. We do anticipate far cooler temperatures and better rainfall in the fall. Still, if that doesn't materialize, we will again need help. Residents requesting a tree need to be

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able to water it, if necessary. Residents unable to water may need to defer until the early spring when there is an even better chance of steady rainfall. We know there are 'water trucks' and other options, but we are trying to be economical and rainfall is best. We thank you for your continued support.



Mary Jo Volpicelli, Chair, and Susan Raynor, Communications,

Hopefully, our heatwave has ended but here in Symphony Village the Lifestyle Committee is

heating up the summer. Our Happy Birthday Happy Hour was one of the most attended. Zina Lichaa outdid herself with the most beautiful Apple Pastry as the birthday cake and gave out Impatiens as gifts.

Our 4th of July was set off by Donna Donaldson's Parade which started on Symphony Way and wound its way around the neighborhood. Candy was throw to those cheering them on and the Centreville Fire Company blew its horn. Our



motorcycle enthusiasts headed up the Parade followed by local business trucks, Donna's illegal golf cart, residents on bikes, and in decorated cars. A great tradition! The Picnic, catered by Acme, was the other most attended event. Over 210 residents joined in for an Old-Fashioned Fried Chicken lunch with lots of salads donated by residents and dare we mention the desserts. Everyone had plenty to eat and lots of space to spread out with our new ballroom. Randy Officer supplied the background music and a great time was had by all. We saw more people in the pool than ever before. It got so hot that day that we cooled off by dumping ice from the water coolers into the pool. Did it help? It didn't hurt. A big thank you goes out to all who pitched in to make this Picnic the Biggest Ever!

The Happy Hours just seem to be getting Happier. Bill & Debi Wells, Joe Sikes & Jan Withers, and Ed & Kathleen Sullivan hosted a fantastic Motown Happy Hour on Friday, July 6. The decorations were over the top and really put us into the soul of it. Randy played the tunes, conducted a sing-a-long, and showed videos from the decade. The food as usual was outstanding including the desserts.

Opus Café has been welcomed back by more residents this year. While we cancelled Opus Café on July 5, it was held on July 12 and we look forward to seeing everyone on July 19 and every Thursday a.m. as well until September. Meet your fellow residents on the terrace at 9:30 until 11 a.m. for scrumptious breakfast dishes. We've had Weight Watchers menu items, quiche, blueberry muffins, smoothies, egg casseroles, sausage, and cheese bites, - the menu is limitless. Oh, yeah, we serve coffee and tea.



Upcoming Events:

We have a **Happy Hour on July 21** - a quiet time, no theme, just great conversation amongst good friends.

Happy Hour, August 3, we pull out all the stops with our new event, **Caribbean Night.** Live Music by *Island Oasis* will perform Harry Belafonte, Jimmy Buffet, Bob Marley, and steel drum music that will have you on your feet. This time there must be a \$5 cover charge for all coming to this Happy Hour to cover the cost of the band. We will be poolside with Margaritas, wine, beer, and water. We'll have our resident appetizers and desserts poolside, weather permitting. The only jerks at this event will be the chickens, bring out your salsa recipes, and other island fare. We are keeping the pool and Happy Hour going until 9 p.m. If you've never seen the underwater lights, now is the time! No pre-payment necessary, you can pay at the doors to the Clubhouse and Pool, and we'll collect from those who want to stay over at the Pool for our event.



August 4 - Movie Night returns. We'll need a good sit down after Caribbean Night. Stay tuned for time and Movie Selection. Randy Officer will let us all know when he knows.

August 18 – Birthday Happy Hour- we will celebrate July, August, and September babies. I'm sure Zina Lichaa will have something special in store for us.

Looking ahead we will host our 2nd Annual Luau, Sock Hop Happy Hour, Jam Session, Oktoberfest, 1st Annual Dog Show, BB&T Panel Retirement, and our Fall Yard Sale on October 27. Watch for notices for upcoming Line Dancing, Yoga, Ballroom Dancing, etc.

OUTREACH – Bea Trotta, President; Sue Canfield, Vice-President

Outreach's 7th Artisans' Fair



Outreach continues to accept registrations to participate in the Artisans' Fair that will be held on **Saturday, September 22, 9:30 – 2:30** in the expanded Concert Hall at the Clubhouse. As the *Libretto* goes to press, we have 34 artisans signed up including 16 from SV! There is still room for more! Registration Forms are in the Activities Book behind the Outreach tab, or you may contact Linda Blume or Loretta Quigley. For more information about the Fair, go to [7th Artisans' Fair](#). (The photo is a jewelry creation by SV resident Juanda Rogers who will be participating in the Artisans' Fair.)

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS – Carol Hodges, Chair; Linda Blume, Vice-Chair

Libretto Editor Needed

Are you able to make your way around Microsoft Word? If so, you would be an asset to the Publications and Communications Committee. You would assemble the *Libretto* from articles submitted from the SV community every 3rd month. The newsletter would be sent to the committee's editors. The corrections would be sent back to you. There would be one last hard copy editing. The *Libretto* is always published on the 15th of the month. If you are interested or need more information, call Carol Hodges at 410-758-0591.

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SNEAKERS

Pssst! Sneakers' Annual Fundraising Event has just been announced!!!

Save the date, **Saturday, November 3, 2018**. Sneakers will present its Annual Fundraising Event, *Symphony Village Artistic Works Gala!*

Along with all of the signature delicious foods and drink, Sneakers will be raffling artist contributions from our Symphony Village community members.

Tickets will go on sale in the Clubhouse on **Monday, September 10**. The entry ticket will be \$25 per person, which includes lots of delicious food, wine, and beer!

The large raffle prize will be **FREE HOA DUES FOR ONE YEAR!** This will be limited to 300 tickets, at \$20 each, (on sale 9/10). Many other raffles will be comprised of paintings, hand woven baskets, restaurant gift cards, tickets to musical events, culinary delights, and hand created crafts. More information will be shared as these donations are made.

This will be a fundraiser for Sneakers, a 501(c)3 group which serves the children from Centreville, Church Hill, and Sudlersville.

Books for Sudlersville Memorial Library

Sneakers has just become aware of an independent library in Sudlersville that is in need of books. They have a librarian who stated that their greatest need is for children's books for all ages of children - from picture books to advanced chapter books. They will also accept recent adult fiction and nonfiction but no coffee table books.

Sneakers has placed a marked red crate in the arts and crafts room and will deliver it to the library periodically. As many of you know, the Sudlersville area is very needy, especially since transportation to another library is very difficult and the more children's books they have, the more families they can serve.

Questions call Linda Farrar 410-758-8744.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, July 25, at 3 p.m.** in the Clubhouse.

The advertisement features a purple header with the SRES logo and icons for Equal Housing Opportunity, Realtor, and MLS. Below the header is a photo of Janice Duty, an Associate Broker with GRI, REALTOR, and SRES credentials. Her contact information includes a direct line (410-490-4903), an office line (410-643-3033 x209), and an email address (JDutyGRI@gmail.com). The Benson & Mangold Real Estate logo is also present, along with a tagline: 'Specially Trained to Help the 50+ Community Navigate Life's Transitions'. The bottom of the ad states 'I'm your Seniors Real Estate Specialist.'

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Reading for Fun Book Club – Joe Sikes

At a historic meeting of the Symphony Village Book Club on June 19, the attendees (Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Mary Jo Volpicelli, Lee Ettman, Charlotte Kurst, Bob Nilsson, Cathy Olson, Mary Colling-Officer, and Peggy Decker) achieved a standard associated with the World's "elite" book clubs. We reviewed two books in one month! We called the book club's founder, Jack Hennessey, to report our prolific performance. Unfortunately, we got Jack's voice mailbox which was full. I report this with a heavy heart since we did not get to have one last conversation with Jack. He was a great friend and our very own renaissance man. We mourn his loss but take comfort that, at least, he now knows that we called. We fully expect he will be watching over our future meetings as our very own "Book Club Angel."

Tuesday's first review was for *The Watson Girl* by Leslie Wolfe, a mystery search for a serial killer who hid his murders by copying the modus operandi of a second serial killer. Because the first killer has already been convicted of 16 murders, Special Agent Tess Winnett had an uphill battle to convince her department that a second killer is still on the loose. She is not helped by her reputation for not playing well with others. Tracking down the killer follows a classic murder mystery format and the book scratched our "mystery" itch. The murder was gruesome, however, and the chapters of the book told from the mind of the murderer were very dark. For that very reason we decided to review a second alternative book as well this month.



Our second book was *Neverhome* by Laird Hunt which is set during the Civil War and tells the story of Ash Thompson, a farmer's wife who disguises herself as a man and joins the Union Army. Fearless and a crack shot with a rifle, she quickly impresses her Colonel. He suspects her secret, but is loath to lose one of his best soldiers. When her secret is discovered, she is considered insane and the Colonel does not come to her aid. She escapes and makes her way home only to find everything has changed.

The story is told in the language of an everyday soldier and highlights the banality of the life of a frontline soldier during one of our most brutal wars. History tells the story in the great strategic and tactical decisions of generals, but the lowly soldier only saw endless marching and sudden terrifying hand to hand combat. This book descriptively conveys that life. For the classical thinkers in the club, the story could also be seen as a reversal of the story in Homer's epic poem, *The Odyssey*, with Ash (Penelope) returning from war while her husband (Odysseus) waits at home. Whatever. We are just trying to impress potential members.



We scored *The Watson Girl* as 4.6 and *Neverhome* as 4.5 out of 10. So, the Serial Killer goes on to the knockout round and the Civil War Soldier goes home. (Goes home. Get it?)

Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Clubhouse. Everyone is welcome. Upcoming books we plan to review are listed below:

- July 17 — *Life and Death in Shanghai* by Nien Cheng
- August 21 — *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo
- September 17 — *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson

Lunch Bunch – Bea Trotta & Marge Strano

The August Lunch Bunch is scheduled for Hemingway's Restaurant on **Thursday, August 2, at 12:30 p.m.** Hemingway's Restaurant is located on Kent Island at 357 Pier One Road, Stevensville. Queen Anne's County residents are so very fortunate to have so many local restaurants with



magnificent water and sunset views. Hemingway's is no exception with a perfect location at the westward entrance to the Bay Bridge. We look forward to wonderful lunch and a beautiful August day.

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 near the bottom of the page. As usual, you can also sign up in the **Club Activities Book** at the **Clubhouse**. Please call Bea Trotta at 410-758-0332 (cell 610-217-4754) or Marge Strano at 410-758-2511 (cell 609-221-6378) if you have a question or need a ride.

CERT News – John Olson, CERT



Coordinator

See a Flash, Dash Inside

Lightning

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), summer brings an increase in lightning strikes.

While the warm weather invites many outside activities, if you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you. Learn how to stay safe in a thunderstorm with tips from NWS.

Outdoors:

- When thunder roars, go indoors – move inside a sturdy building or hard top vehicle with the windows up as soon as you hear thunder.
- Do not take shelter in small sheds, gazebos, dugouts, bleachers, under isolated trees, or convertible automobiles.
- Avoid open fields, the top of a hill, or a ridge top.
- Stay away from water, wet items, such as ropes, and metal objects, such as fences and poles. Water and metal do not attract lightning, but they are excellent conductors of electricity.



Indoors:

- Stay indoors. Stay inside at least 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder.
- Do not touch anything plugged into an electrical outlet.
- Use a corded telephone only for emergencies; cordless and cellular phones are safe to use.
- Avoid contact with plumbing; do not wash your hands, and do not take a shower or bath.

For more lightning safety information, visit www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov. Remember: lightning can strike any time of year.

Prepare for Summer Power Outages

Prepare to beat the heat this summer. Heatwaves often cause power outages. Be ready in case one affects your neighborhood.

Prepare for power outages this summer by following these tips:

- Make sure you have alternative charging methods for your phone or any device that requires power.
- Learn about the emergency plans in your area. Visit your state's website to locate the closest cooling center.
- Build or restock your emergency kit. Include food, water, prescription medicines, flashlight, batteries, hearing aid batteries, cash, copies of important financial documents, and first aid supplies.



- Be prepared to stay cool if the power is off for a long time. Consider going to a movie theater, shopping mall, or library that has air conditioning.

For more information on preparing for power outages this summer, visit www.ready.gov/power-outages.

You can find many more Symphony Village homeowners safety articles at sv-info.org/cert-files/homeowners.html.

Ambulance Demo

On June 22, Assistant Chief Wheatley gave a presentation to Symphony Village about Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in our county, certifications, tools; shared his passion for the job; and answered resident's questions. The EMS Division is committed to providing the citizens and visitors of Queen Anne's County an unparalleled system of emergency medical services delivered through the devotion, compassion, and expertise of their staff. This event was sponsored by the Symphony Village CERT team.



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Dining In

Nancie Cameron has asked that residents be reminded to sign up for Dining In, which will be held **Sunday, July 29, at 6 p.m.** Sign up in the Activities Book and indicate if you are a guest or if you would be willing to host if needed. If more than one person hosts, more guests can attend. The host picks the menu and lets the guests know what to bring. This is a great way to meet new people. Sign up in the Activities Book by July 25.

Bocce Banter — Don Rizzo

4th of July Picnic Bocce Tournament A Success

The weather was hot but the action on the Bocce Courts even hotter as a plethora of bocce enthusiasts crowded the courts to witness another exciting bocce tournament for Symphony Village residents and guests to supplement their July 4th activities. A number of prior champions came back to compete thereby reviving old rivalries and making the competition as exciting as fireworks on the National Mall. In the final match, prior champs **Amy and Jay Landen** edged out prior champs **Allan Levin and John Olson** in a 9 - 8 thriller that gave the spectators just one more reason to be glad to be Americans living in Symphony Village celebrating our nation's birthday.

Saturday Bocce League

Our Saturday morning Bocce League completed its Spring Season on July 7 with the final standings determining which teams qualified for the Playoffs to be held on **Saturday, July 14, at 9 a.m.** At that time the winner and recipient of the coveted McNeil Trophy will be determined. All Symphony Village residents and guests are invited to come by the courts and enjoy what should be some exciting bocce. Perhaps you will decide to join in the fun and get involved in the Fall Bocce League which will start in September.

Come Join Us on Wednesdays

Speaking of that, a good way to see if bocce is a sport for you is to come by the courts on Wednesdays where we have what we call "Open Bocce" starting at 6:15 p.m. All are welcome to come and join in the fun and if you have never played this exciting sport before, we are happy to introduce you. Live a little and ...

Let the Good Times Roll!!

Yarn Overs — Lois Winegardner

On Monday, July 9, at 10 a.m., the Yarn Overs met at the Clubhouse to have their usual knitting session, which is always fun! This time we extended our time together by going to the Lion's Den for a light lunch. It was very enjoyable!! We will knit every Monday and talk about another luncheon. So come join us.

Disclaimer: The Symphony Village HOA and its constituents do not validate, endorse, or support any of the vendors or products presented in all ads and, as such, assume no liabilities.



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

All Aboard — *Susan Rayner*

For all of the new residents I'd like to share one of Symphony's Villages treasures — Larry, "Mr. Engineer," Gingerich and his most gracious hostess, Betty. Larry has been a train enthusiast most of his life and now he shares this joy with our grandchildren, by request. No special days of the year, merely pick up the phone and call them, ask if they will show their trains to your little ones, and not so little ones. Larry and Betty have converted their basement into a Toy Train haven. Trains will go through a working lumber yard, a Christmas village, a carnival, and many more scenes. This is not a sit back and watch, Larry encourages the children to be hands on. There are trains to load with milk kegs, logs to be cut for loading, coal to be hoisted into the cars. My grandson has visited three times and is always seeing and learning how to do something different each time. At our last visit Larry had five trains traveling the tracks at once, some overhead, some disappearing into tunnels, one is even a mystery train—you'll have to see it to believe it. Trains travel spiral tracks, run backwards and forward, call out All Aboard, and light up. Larry and Betty share this incredible experience with all who call, as long as it doesn't interfere with Larry's golf game. Look them up in the directory and tell your little ones they are in for a treat.



Symphony Village Artists! — Sue Canfield

Run up to your sky basements and find your old paints or art supplies, wonderful sewing projects, and cameras and get ready to show off your skills! Remind your inner artist how much fun it was to draw, paint, sew, and snap photos! If you know your friends and neighbors have talent, please encourage them to join!

All frames need to be wired for hanging, and you must take a photo and print it out for your entry.

The current show will be removed the week before the Artisans' Fair (9/22).

The themes for the upcoming shows are as follows:

September 28 — Until mid November — *Autumn* (Drop off date TBA)

Late November — Beginning January— *Holiday Framed Art* (Date TBA)

January-February March — *Fabric Art* (on dowels or framed) and *Winter Framed Art* (Date TBA)



Bob Ciesielski

Contact us if you have artwork and let us know you will enter the show (limited to 2 pieces per artist).

(Email kpmcmanus317@yahoo.com, suecanfield20@gmail.com).

Upcoming Events at the Centreville Branch of the QAC Library

- Wednesday, July 18, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.: [Crafternoon](#) (Family event; free)
- Friday, July 20, 2 – 4 p.m.: [Friday Movie - Jumanji](#) (Family event; free)
- Monday, July 23, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.: [Reptile Wonders](#) (Family event; free)
- Thursday, August 2, 7 – 9 p.m.: [Trivia Night](#)
- Saturday, August 4, 1 – 4 p.m.: [The Human Library](#)
- Monday, August 6, 6 – 8 p.m.: [Family Paint Night](#) (Family Event) (Free) (Pre-register on the website)
- Thursday, August 16, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.: [Build an Insect Hotel](#) (Family Event) (Free) (Pre-register on the website)

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Amazing Astronomy How Bright Is That Star?— by the Armchair Astronomer, Larry Rayner



To become a true Stargazer, you must learn the Magnitude system, or more simply said, how astronomer's categories the brightness of stars. When one says, "it's the brightest star in the west" what does that mean? Magnitude is a numerical measure that astronomers use. Talk about being counterintuitive, instead of assigning the highest number to the brightest star it is the reverse, the brighter the star the lower the number.

So, when I tell my wife she is the dimmest bulb in the chandelier I really mean she's a 10. This system started with the Greek astronomer, Hipparchus in the 2nd century, does the expression "it's all Greek to me make sense now?". The definition of the word Magnitude is "of greater rank or position" so a star of the first Magnitude is brighter than a star of the second Magnitude, a star of the second Magnitude is brighter than a star of the third Magnitude, get it? This system has existed since the 2nd century.

Want to get more exact, more complicated? Get out your calculator. A star with Magnitude 1.0 is 2.5 times brighter than a star of Magnitude 0, for each step of 1 Magnitude there is a factor of 2.5 times brighter or dimmer. The Sun is -27 Magnitude, the Moon is -13 Magnitude. The dimmest star that the human eye can see is Magnitude +6. We are talking about the visible light we can see with our eyes. With binoculars you can see to Magnitude +10, with my telescope around +14 Magnitude. The Hubble can detect objects, much too complicated for me to compute so I'll borrow from *Cosmic Pursuits* and say it is 30th Magnitude (even they didn't give me the + number). For us "amateurs," we talk more about apparent magnitude, how bright does it look to us, not how bright it really is in the sky.

We have been seeing the Planets this month, high in the sky; Jupiter has a magnitude of -2.0 to -2.5; Saturn only -.49; Mars can vary from +2 to -3 depending on the time of year. Venus, as well as Jupiter is the standout, Venus gets as bright as -4.5 magnitudes. From now on when we talk about what is visible in the night sky and mention Magnitude you will be better able to look for the brightest or dimmest star in the sky.

And now for the Fun Side of Astronomy: The Perseids Meteor Shower

The Perseid meteor shower is one of the best since the weather in mid-August is usually really warm. You won't need any binoculars or telescopes for meteors. You just need your eyes, since shooting stars cover a wide area of the sky and magnification will only cause you to miss many of the meteors. Look to the skies in early August, around the 12th for the best light show. All you will need for this light show is a lounge chair, a light blanket, and someone to enjoy the show with you.

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What are meteors? They are ice and dust debris left in the orbit of the earth years before by comets (in this case Comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle). Once encountered by the earth, the debris burns up in the Earth's atmosphere as the earth spins around its orbit around the sun.

August 12-13 for us will be the nights to watch as the moon will be new, so observing conditions are nearly perfect! Start watching on the evening of the 12th as soon as it's gotten dark and the radiant (near the Double Cluster in Perseus) clears the horizon. You might be rewarded with bright fire falls that skim Earth's atmosphere and create long, dramatic streaks in the sky.



The Perseid meteor shower on August 12th will appear to come out of the constellation Perseid (The Charioteer). Meteors are typically traveling at about 100,000 miles per hour, so you add the Earth's orbital speed. If meteors are traveling West and the earth is traveling East, you add 100,000 miles per hour to the 17 miles per second that the earth is traveling. You can see that meteors will blaze a trail across the sky in a matter of seconds or even less than a second. So, some will be really bright and will explode. However, most are dust particles, so most are small. Once in a while, you get a larger rock and it will blaze a path all the way

across the sky. Most meteor showers are at a rate of about 15 to 30 per hour. However, in August, on the evening of the 12th we will be treated to a meteor shower of 90-110 per hour. (For the rest of the article go to [Astronomy Article](#).)

Who is on my Parsley? – Linda Blume



Do you have a pot or two of parsley on your patio? I do, and not only do I use it in cooking, but I also grow it as a food source for the Eastern Black Swallowtail butterfly's caterpillars. The butterfly lays eggs on host plants (e.g., parsley, carrots, and dill). The eggs hatch into a tiny larvae that is black and white with a saddle (pictured above right); older larvae (pictured above left) are green with black transverse bands containing yellow spots and they



grow to about 2" long. Unless you're looking very hard, you'll probably first notice the older larvae on your parsley. Please consider sharing the plant rather than picking off the caterpillars. As with many butterfly species, habitat destruction is making their numbers decline. If I can give another generation (or two) a chance, and watch the "action" from my patio, why not?

Institute of Adult Learning (a Volunteer Organization) – Cindy Bogner

The Institute of Adult Learning (IAL) at Chesapeake College is a volunteer organization whose mission is to support learning and social experiences for its members. The IAL features classes, luncheons, lectures, day trips, and happy hour gatherings. There are two semesters (FALL-classes from September to December and SPRING-classes from February to May) with most classes 4 - 6 weeks in duration. The cost is \$75 per semester for unlimited course enrollment. The "IAL Showcase of Classes" on **Thursday, August 16, from 2 – 4 p.m.** at the Chesapeake College Todd Performing Arts Center includes a wine and cheese social, a brief description of upcoming classes and an opportunity to meet the instructors. RSVP to vrachel@chesapeake.edu. For more information: <http://www.chesapeake.edu/continuing-education/institute-for-adult-learning-ial>.

Also, if you would like to teach a seminar or speak at a brown bag luncheon, please contact SV resident Cindy Bogner (703-655-6505 cell). Each semester a variety of classes are offered in areas such as Arts and Literature, Culinary, Health and Fitness, History, and Social Sciences. Please do not feel constrained; the IAL is always open to new topics and ideas for learning.



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Queen Anne's County Bay-Wise Master Gardeners Offer Summer Tips

— *Suggested by Joyce Anderson*

Summer's here and mid-shore gardeners are bracing for plenty of dry hot days that can stress gardens and landscaping—and gardeners as well. The Queen Anne's County Master Gardeners' Bay-Wise committee, which regularly consults with homeowners about their gardening practices, has come up with ten guidelines to help gardeners keep plants and lawns healthy, and protect often substantial investments of time, effort, and money. Yet the ultimate reason for the Bay-Wise guidelines is protecting the Bay from further pollution. According to the University of Maryland Extension, which trains and sponsors Master Gardeners, most homes in Queen Anne's and Kent Counties are within a half-mile of a stream or other waterway flowing into the Chesapeake Bay. What we do in our yards rapidly impacts, drains, or runs into the Bay waters. It's important we all get it right and not rely on insecticides, weed killers, and fertilizers to get us through summer.

1. Water generously in the morning. Make sure you're aiming for the roots and not the foliage. It's tempting to give drooping foliage a shower on extremely hot days, but such showers encourage leaf mildew. Pots should be watered until it drains out the bottom. Some people prefer using a watering can over using a hose.

2. Mulch, mulch and mulch if you haven't already, but no more than two to three inches. This protects the roots and helps the soil to retain moisture. Plus it cuts down on weeds that steal moisture from your plants. Use whatever works for you. There are a variety of options available.

3. Move anything that's in the wrong place. If something seems to be suffering from too much sun or too much shade, a cloudy day is a good time to rescue those tender plants and move them to where they will prosper.

4. Mow smart. Set your mower at 3 1/2 to 4 inches. Slightly longer grass blades shade the roots, conserve moisture and discourage weed growth. Remove no more than 1/3 of the grass height each time you mow. Make sure that your lawnmower blades are sharp. (Editorial note: Does Complete do this?)

5. Encourage pollinators by using native plants. They're genetically equipped to survive the vagaries of weather and provide habitat for hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. To prompt re-blooming, remove spent blooms on flowering bushes and plants.

6. Watch for invasive insects and disease. They're destructive. Keep up your vigilance and remove or treat them. Japanese Beetles, for example, are looking for lunch anywhere they can get it. Unfortunately, rose bushes seem to be their favorites. Hand removal works; then drown them in a jar of soapy water.

7. Trim off suckers and tie up your tomato plants before they get heavy and droop. This will ensure a good summer long harvest. Check the beans, squash, peppers, peas, and whatever else you have planted for problems or invaders. Daily vigilance is key.

8. Compost your plant-based kitchen scraps and yard waste. Diseased plants or foliage should go in the trash.

9. Weed as if your garden depends on it. Weeds steal moisture, nourishment, and even sunlight. Weeding after a rain makes it easier on you and morning makes it more pleasant. Most of the weeds can go in the compost.

10. Be grateful. We all live within the embrace of the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. We all are then stewards of the land and bear the awesome responsibility of gardening wisely. We need to minimize the use of fertilizers and other pollutants that sadly end up in the Bay.

To arrange for a Bay-Wise Master Gardener team visit to consult on your gardening practices, questions, or problems, contact Rachel Rhodes, Queen Anne's County Master Gardener Coordinator at [410-758-0166](tel:410-758-0166) or email rjrhodes@umd.edu. Master Gardener visits and advice are always free and generally, a visit to go over your yard, identify problems, and suggest solutions takes somewhere around two hours. Two links that might be helpful for you: The first, a charming visit with some young gardeners at Washington College explaining what Master Gardeners are all about <http://www.washcoll.edu/live/news/10129-gardening-wisdom> and for further information on the Bay-Wise Program and other environmentally sound practices, please visit www.extension.umd.edu/baywise or see us on Facebook @<https://www.facebook.com/QueenAnnesCountyMasterGardeners>



Bee on Eastern Purple Coneflower (Photo taken by Rachel Rhodes)

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Crow Vineyards & Winery at the Outlets — Susan Rayner

This third-generation farm (365 acres) that has for years raised grass-fed Angus Beef turned some of their attention and acres over to grape growing. Wine Making & Vineyards have become ubiquitous in Maryland. When I joined Boordy Vineyards in 1997, there were 11 Maryland wineries; today wineries can be found in 20 counties and number around 70. I visited the Crow Wine Cellar at our Outlets in Queenstown this past weekend. The Tasting Room is open Friday through Monday from 11 a.m. (a respectable hour to try a wine) to 6 p.m. The room itself is very modern, with 24 seats, and a long bar that could accommodate 15 people easily. Currently they are offering complimentary tastings of 3-4 wines. Randy, the tasting room manager, picked out a White (very dry Vidal Blanc), Rosé (blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot) and a Red (Nebbiolo, Barbera), because the Sauvignon Blanc was on sale I got to taste that as well. There wasn't a bad tasting wine in the mix, I actually bought the Rosé, my go to wine during the spring and summer. You are welcome to sit and sip a glass of wine, prices range from \$6 to \$8; purchase a bottle to enjoy there with crackers and cheese, prices run from \$13 to \$30, or take your purchase home; sorry, I didn't price the cheese and crackers. I am currently working with Randy and the owner of Crow for an SV wine tasting day in their tasting room, details to follow through Nextdoor. Don't forget when stopping by to look at their meat selections: Roast, T-Bones, Short Ribs, Summer Sausage Log, to name just a few choices. All of the meats are grass-fed and local to their farm located in Kennedyville, Maryland.



UPCOMING CENTREVILLE EVENTS

Family Drive-In Movie Nights



Centreville United Methodist Church (608 Church Hill Road) in Centreville is hosting a summer drive-in movie series on **June 22, July 27, and August 24**. Sit in your car or bring your own lawn chairs. Movies will begin at 8:30 p.m.

Thursdays in the Park: Dell Foxx Company



As part of the QAC Arts Council's [Thursdays in the Park](#) summer concerts, Dell Foxx Company will perform on **Thursday, August 2, 7 p.m.**, on Courthouse Square in Centreville. School friends who made their dreams and passions a reality, this band plays covers of all your favorite songs and really moves a crowd. Bring blankets or chairs. Contact the Arts Council (410-758-2520) in case of extreme weather conditions or alerts or check the website.



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Outdoor Movie: Despicable Me 3



QAC Parks and Recreation presents an outdoor showing of [Despicable Me 3](#) on **Saturday, August 4**, at the Route 18 Park (1945 4H Park Road) in Centreville. Bring blankets, chairs, and snacks. The movie begins at dusk. Free.

Queen Anne's County Fair



The [Queen Anne's County Fair](#) will be held **August 6 – 11** at the 4-H Park in Centreville. Lots of exhibits; lots of vendors; lots of livestock; lots of adult and children's activities; lots of contests; lots of good food; and more. See the website for all the details and

schedule of events. Admission is \$2 Monday – Friday and \$5 on Saturday.

Annual Farm to Table Dinner



The [Farm to Table Dinner](#) will be held on **Sunday, August 12**, 5 – 7 p.m., at Camp Pecometh (136 Bookers Wharf Road) in Centreville. This five-course dinner will showcase produce from Pecometh's garden as well as other locally sourced ingredients. Tickets are \$50 per person, and proceeds will help support Pecometh's sustainable garden.

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