



Visit the SV Artisan's Gallery *Vacations* Exhibit at the Clubhouse

Photo by George Drake

LIBRETTO

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019

VOL. XIV 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!



Robert J. (RJ) & Geraldine (Jerri) Bucalo
170 Symphony Way

David & Charlene Flara
503 Symphony Way

Susan McGreevy-Nichols
247 Concerto

Rebecca Murray
207 Encore Court

SV NOMINATING COMMITTEE ALERT!

At the end of the year, Symphony Village will be filling two vacancies on the HOA Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee is alerting you to this important election.

Please consider nominating individuals (or yourself) you feel would be excellent candidates for these important positions. The process continues throughout the next few months with homeowners voting in the November time frame. Election results are announced at the HOA Annual Board Meeting on **Wednesday, December 4**.

The Nominating Committee will announce additional details of the election process in the August, September, and October issues of the *Libretto*. Please keep a lookout for the details.

If you have questions, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Richard Ryan, Jane Romany, Pat Ways, Dominick Mancinelli.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS			
HOA	10 a.m.	Friday, August 2	Concert Hall
Artisans Guild	1 p.m.	Thursday, August 8	Conference Room
Budget & Finance	10 a.m.	Thursday, July 25	Concert Hall
Covenants	10 a.m.	Tuesday, August 6	Concert Hall
Landscape & Irrigation	9:30 am	Tuesday, July 16	Concert Hall
Lifestyle	7 p.m.	Monday, August 5	Concert Hall
Operations	9:30 a.m.	Thursday, July 18	Concert Hall
Publications & Communications	3 p.m.	Tuesday, August 6	Concert Hall
Outreach		No Meeting in July	
Sneakers		No Meeting in July	
Neighbor to Neighbor	7 p.m.	Wednesday, July 24	Concert Hall
CERT	4 p.m.	Tuesday, July 16	Concert Hall

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTISANS GUILD NEWS – SUE CANFIELD

Have you ever wondered where the people from Symphony Village go on Vacations? Come and see for yourselves. Our new show, **Vacations**, is now on display in the Bernstein and Copland Rooms of the Clubhouse.

You will find beautiful paintings, photographs, and quilts. There are two new display cases in each room. We can now exhibit 3-D Art for you to enjoy and possibly purchase. During this show, enjoy fused glass, beautiful handmade decoys and wood works, and intricate handmade airplane models. It is certainly worth the trip to the Clubhouse to see for yourselves.

We enjoyed a very successful Reception for the **Vacations** show on June 30. There were delicious snacks, and Skip and Donna provided our refreshments. A big thank you to them.



Our Featured Artist was Edward Ritchey. He shared many of his handmade airplane models and an airplane cockpit with every detail! He shared his love and knowledge with everyone.

Vacations will be on display until the end of September. Our next show will be Open, which means any paintings, photographs, fiber arts, or glass that can hang from our system will be accepted (two entries per person). Please start preparing now! Contact me (suecanfield20@gmail.com) if you want to display items in the cases or possibly be our Featured Artist!



COVENANTS – DEBI WELLS, COVENANTS CHAIR

LOOK LOVELY? LOOK INVITING? LOOK AGAIN!

Safety is no accident. This lovely plant on the garden hook is an accident about to happen. And, it could be a very bad one. How? It's violating a covenant of the community: no free-standing hooks on the lawn! More, the reason it is a covenant of the community is because an unsuspecting landscaper on a riding mower may not see it and KABOOM!! He'll be wearing that lovely plant and will possibly suffer an injury.



Members of your Covenants Committee have walked the swales between homes and have seen free-standing hooks. You may think they are clearly visible. However, shadows, shade, and dusk can camouflage them. One easy way we can help avoid an accident is to remove garden hooks holding bird feeders, bird houses and/or plants from the lawn area and place them in your private area garden bed. Thanks for your help to remove all objects from your lawn area.

The Symphony Village HOA-contracted landscape company is committed to reducing risk and training employees to mitigate accidents in our community. Let's help them!



You may know according to our covenants, wood burning is strictly prohibited in our community. If you see a wood-burning fire, it may smell good and look inviting. However, if you are aware of a wood burning fire (fire pit, chiminea, etc.), report it! You can't turn off wood embers like you can with propane, and wind can definitely be a factor in carrying those embers to a neighbors' property or the surrounding woods. Wood burning is prohibited in Symphony Village to protect our community of closely located homes and to protect the surrounding preservation area. Complacency is safety's worst enemy! Please don't be complacent! Everything off the lawn; and no wood burning in Symphony Village!

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LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION – BILL WELLS, LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR SPRUCE TREES?

You may have noticed our spruce trees are having a tough time! Many have lost branches and others have turned brown and died. For those of us who live nearby these trees, it is upsetting to see them go from healthy to an eyesore. And, this situation is a concern for the Landscape Committee. So, what is happening to them and what are we, in Landscape, trying to do to reduce the number of dying trees?

First, it's important to know spruce trees are naturally found in boreal (northern and higher elevations) of Planet Earth. They are healthiest in moist well-drained to dry soils and in short, less humid summers. For the most part, they live successfully in vegetative zones 3 through 6 and occasionally zone 7. Maryland is a zone 7. Three of the forty species found in the world today (Norway, blue, and red) are located in Symphony Village. In total, our community has 233 spruce trees with Norway spruces being the dominant species.

Maryland's high humidity and long periods of hot temperatures—higher than the 80's—present problems for them. Our soil is dense clay, making it difficult for their roots to penetrate and it's poor in nutrients. Most of



*Cystosporas Canker resin flows on a branch and trunk.
Lower branches browning needles*

the 233 trees were planted much too deep, add to that heavy mulching, and you have roots being slowly suffocated. If you see weed trees and vines growing under and into the spruces, they are making the situation worse by competing for water and nutrients in the soil. All these conditions have placed considerable stress on the trees. This stress makes them particularly vulnerable to two types of fungus diseases: Cytospora canker and Rhizosphaera. As though this isn't bad enough, the trees are further weakened by spider mites that move into feast on the needles of the compromised trees, depriving the spruces further of desperately needed nutrients.

Cytospora canker is deadly to spruces. You have probably noticed spruce needles turning brown and dying, usually from the bottom up. The lower branches show the first symptoms of this fungus. As the disease progresses, it spreads to higher branches. Occasionally branches high in the tree are attacked even though lower ones are healthy. Either way, in time, trees become unsightly and unattractive. And—this disease is contagious! During rainy weather, spores are spread as the rain and streams of water move them via our soil to nearby trees. Worst of all—there is no effective fungicide that will kill this disease!

Rhizosphaera, more commonly known as Needle Cast, is the second fungus attacking our weakened spruces. Blue spruce seems to be its favorite target, Norway and red spruces are more resistant. (Our Douglas firs are also hosts for this disease, but that is another story.) Mild temperatures and prolonged needle wetness favor disease development. So, this year's wet spring and early summer has not been particularly beneficial to our spruces.

Is this the end of our spruces? No way! Your Landscape Committee is fighting back! Last year we had the roots excavated down to the trunk flare of spruces along Symphony Boulevard. This will allow much needed oxygen to reach the roots. The spruces along Taylor Mill, Symphony Boulevard (behind Sonata



*Needle Cast
on second year growth*



*Typical
infected tree*



*Note the second
year's growth is infected*

and Symphony) received fertilizer and spider mite treatments. Treatments were again applied early this spring. Finally, a fungicide was applied to control and kill the needle cast fungus. All these treatments are an attempt to lower the stress these trees have endured since they were planted about 12 years ago. And, our plans don't stop there! This fall more trees will have their roots excavated.

Bottom line: We can save many of our spruce trees; it just takes positive actions. If you see unhealthy trees in the common area, please advise HOA Management (410-758-8500). Pruning the diseased branches will commence this fall. It may even be done with the help of concerned residents. If you want to help, please contact the Landscape Committee (Bill Wells 443-262-8248).

Symphony Village has many trees. Not counting the trees in the protected areas around our community (that belong to the community), we have just over 1,700 trees. That's a lot of trees to safeguard. But, if we all work together (to notify HOA Management of unhealthy trees and volunteer to help prune), we can do this!

LIFESTYLE – MARY JO VOLPICELLI, CHAIR; SUSAN RAYNER, VICE CHAIR

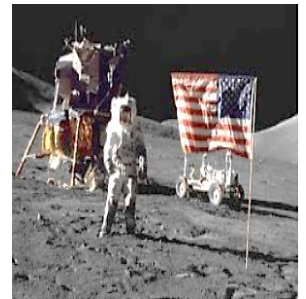


Summer came upon us with a vengeance—from extremely high temps to severe thunderstorms. But did that hold Symphony Villagers back? Heck, NO! We still held our Wet Wild Wednesdays, two serving grilled hot dogs and two playing Volleyball. Come out when the heat of the day has died down for an evening swim. It's fun, it's social, and a great "cool down" to these very hot days. Watch for eBlast and Nextdoor notices to see what each Wednesday will bring. We also enjoyed a Bloody Sunday in June. We won't do that again; it seems folks either had a little too much the night before or prefer to wait until the sun is over the yardarm before they start imbibing. Perhaps August will bring us a Passion Fruit Sunday Cocktail, later in the day.

Our Luau got rained on, but everyone seemed to roll with the thunder and the rain did stop in time for a Fire Dance performance outside.

The Holistic Healing Seminar is cancelled due to vacations. Too many vendors were going to be away, but we are not giving up on this idea. We'll look for a date in the fall.

We have a **NEW Event** to add to the calendar. **Sunday, July 21**, the Lifestyle Committee is hosting a light dinner and movie to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the first **Man Landing on the Moon**. Larry Rayner obtained a film from the Smithsonian with unseen footage from the Apollo 11 flight. Join us in the Concert Hall for dinner, show, and to share "Where Were You" when Neil Armstrong took "One Small Step for Man, One Giant Leap for Mankind." Buffet will open at 5:30 p.m. and the movie will begin at 6:30 p.m.



Zina Lichaa will wow us with another **Birthday Bash** at the Social Hour on **Friday, August 2**. If your Birthday falls in July, August, or September, you are our Birthday Babies. Don't forget to sign up in the Activities Book.

Another **NEW EVENT** is coming in August. Join us at the Pool for **Cheeseburgers in Paradise, Friday, August 9, at 6 p.m.** Chris Sacks' duo will sing our favorite Jimmy Buffet tunes and much, much, more. Taking requests from the crowd, he'll play while we dance the night away. Dancing is not mandatory; some prefer to just listen and tap their feet while they enjoy their cheeseburgers. Cost is \$10 per person. Watch for the Poster and Sign-up Sheets in the Wall Street Room.

We are planning yet another **NEW EVENT** for August or September: a **Crab Feast at the Jetty**. Stay tuned for final details.



Don't forget to sign up for our Murder Mystery Dinner on **Saturday, September 28.**

While you are on vacation to all the marvelous places in the world you travel to, think of us back home. We'd love to see your travel log of photos. We are asking everyone who goes to an interesting spot to put those photos in order and make a presentation to the community. We all enjoyed the Fox's trip to Africa, we are still waiting for India (hint, hint). You don't have to be a public speaker; just be on hand to explain what we are seeing and answer our questions.



We look forward to seeing everyone around the pool and at the Clubhouse! If you have a suggestion or would like to be a member of the Lifestyle Committee, please come to our meeting the first Monday of the month, at 7 p.m.



On the Fourth of July, they came on four wheels...

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OUTREACH – TEA AND FASHION SHOW – LORETTA QUIGLEY

SV Outreach is excited to share its plan for our upcoming fundraiser Tea and Fashion Show. As you know, we are busy year-round raising funds to give to many charitable and non-profit groups with whom we partner in Queen Anne's County. On **Sunday, September 22**, we will hold an afternoon Tea and Fashion Show at The Milestone, 9630 Technology Road, Easton (near the airport) from 2:30–4:30 p.m.

We hope you consider putting together a group for a table or partial table and join in the fun. Tables will be put together for eight or ten people. Think about asking friends and relatives (young ladies ages 8–17 are invited, too!). Admission is \$30 per adult and \$20 for young ladies. A delightful afternoon tea with all the trimmings will be served! There will be door prizes, table prizes, beautiful items for raffle, and of course, the ever-popular 50/50 raffle!

Three of our fashion models will be Gail Brown, Kathy McManus, and Terri O'Connell. One or two surprise models will also be in attendance. Hats and fascinators are optional but encouraged. See resident Harriet Goodmuth for your fascinator needs. Prizes will be awarded for beauty and creativity!

Ticket sales begin July 15. Please sign up at the Clubhouse in the Activities Book (making note of those you want to sit with) and put your check, made out to SVOPI, in the black lock box. Tickets will be hand-delivered to you.

Many thanks for your kind support!



SNEAKERS – LINDA FARRAR

SILENT AUCTION GALA

Sneakers is collecting items for the **November 2** Silent Auction. If you have items to donate, please contact Terri O'Connell (443-928-3368) or Amy Marotta (443-262-8807). We welcome your donations of basket items, gift certificates, sporting or cultural event tickets, professional services, or sharing your personal expertise such as computer knowledge or cooking. Have a new idea—run it by us. The cutoff date is September 29. Ticket sales for the auction will begin **September 29**. Watch for times of the sales.

HOA DUES RAFFLE

Would you like to have over \$2,700 extra in your pocket next year? Well, it could happen to you if your 2020 HOA Dues raffle ticket is chosen. If you are the winner, Sneakers will pay your HOA dues for the entire year. Also, you would be helping Sneakers support the children in the local public schools. Tickets can be purchased for \$25 each by making a check out to *Symphony Sneakers* and putting it in the black lock box in the clubhouse. Sneakers will deliver it/them to your house. It couldn't be easier! Or, look for an e-Blast indicating when the tickets will be sold at the Clubhouse.



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On the Fourth of July, they came on two wheels...

Thank you to
 Donna Donaldson
 for organizing the SV Fourth
 of July parade and to all the
 participants on two wheels,
 four wheels, commercial
 wheels, and all the flag
 wavers along the route.

Thanks to
 Carolyn Harty and Debi Wells
 for supplying photos.

COMMITTEE SUMMARIES (CONTINUED)

NEW TO THE COMMUNITY AND WONDERING WHAT SNEAKERS DOES?

Sneakers is a 501c nonprofit with a mission to support QAC public school children and their families in the Centreville area in various ways. We work with the school counselors to identify these needs, such as assisting any 6th grade child who needs help with funding for Outdoor Education. We also adopt families from the six schools feeding students into Queen Anne's High School to enable them to have a nice Holiday Season with food and personal gifts. Our biggest project is the *Readers are Leaders* program promoting reading for pleasure in the Elementary schools. We supply free, new books, chosen by the school reading specialists, to every elementary school child twice a year. We volunteer in the schools and have the students read a little of their new book to us. Last year, we gave away over 3,000 books.



Over the last 14 years, we have been able to give over \$120,000 to the schools. This has all been possible because of the generosity of the residents of Symphony Village and our sponsors.

All residents are invited to be a member of Sneakers or a supporter of Sneakers.

Our next meeting is **August 19** at 3 p.m. in the Clubhouse.

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SOCIAL HOURS, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE
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This is our 15th year of holding Social Hours. We have gone from mere get togethers, to sponsored evenings by local businesses, and themed parties. There was a time when we asked everyone to limit the food they brought because we had too much; other times the table was bare 20 minutes into the hour. We have had evenings varying from Velveeta Cheese on Crackers all the way to elaborate hors d'oeuvres prepared and displayed with love and artistry. Since we have so many new residents, we want to describe Social Hours, what to expect, and what is expected.

While the Social Hour falls right at dinner time to some, the food brought by residents is not intended to be dinner. While having cocktails, it is nice to put a little food in your stomach, so residents who come to the Social Hour should bring something—an appetizer, dish, or dessert for about 15 other residents to enjoy. This is not dinner, not the time to fill up your plates as if you haven't eaten in two days. It is discouraging when the food disappears a few minutes into the party. We ask that the food be fresh and well-presented. It can be store bought or homemade. We also ask that when you leave the party, you take any leftovers with you. Please do not leave it for others to throw away food and wash up your platters.

Social Hour is a great way to meet new neighbors or visit with others we see every day but don't have time to talk with as we run around doing our errands. We are not doing Themed Social Hours any longer. This keeps the Social Hours free of charge, more social and less complicated. If you want to host a themed party, and we've had wonderful ones, we ask that you do it on a non-Social Hour evening.

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It is nice to wear your name tags to the Social Hour. It is so embarrassing when you see someone you've seen 50 times, but you can't remember their name, ugh! Playing Host is an even better way to meet new residents. Hosting means you greet people at the door, introduce yourself, and tell guests which table to put their food on. You, with help from the Committee, set out tablecloths, plates, utensils, napkins. At the end of the evening, you ask everyone to help you clean up. If there is food on the floor in the bar, it needs sweeping. Bar tables need to be wiped clean by the last people leaving the table. Hosting is not being everyone's maid! We need big chunks of food picked up, but vacuuming will be done on Monday by the maintenance staff. We want to leave the Clubhouse as you would leave your home, tables and chairs in order, trash taken out, and no obvious mess lying around. Remember, other residents may be showing off the Clubhouse the next day (potential buyers). We want to put our best foot forward.

The Lifestyle Committee wants to thank all past and future Hosts for their great efforts. Also, we thank the residents who attend the Social Hours. They help to keep our community active and fun-loving. We look forward to seeing everyone on the first Friday and third Saturday every month. To host a Social Hour, please sign up in the Activities Book in the Wall Street Room.

WORD SCRAMBLE – UNSCRAMBLE THESE WORDS THAT RELATE TO JULY:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. IORRFSWK | 6. EESADTM SCABR |
| 2. EEEDDCINNNPA YDA | 7. GIHILGTNN GBSU |
| 3. BYRU | 8. OAPPTO DLSAA |
| 4. NIIPSCC | 9. EIC OCDL REBE |
| 5. CUBK ONMO | 10. NRCCEA and EOL |

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CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

BINGO NEWS – SUE CANFIELD

Bingo has been a huge success this spring season! The “Jack Pot” is up to \$375. Someone in September or the fall will be a wealthy and happy Villager!



Tom Burton, a member of Outreach has been doing a great job gathering gift cards for some of the “Special” prizes. The winners had a choice of taking an envelope, (Door #1), with an undisclosed gift card or taking the \$10 monetary prize. The players really like this addition. Tom secured some of the gift cards himself while others have been donated by generous residents.

There were ten gift cards given out for prizes. The merchants that supplied gift cards were: Diana Nails, the Dollar Store, the Hilton Garden Inn, Scott Veil Construction, Fred Selby Landscaping, Doc’s, The Creamery, Mama Mia’s, the Lion’s Den, and Starbucks! A thank you has been sent to them for supporting us.

We want to thank Carol and Mel Porosoff for taking over the food service at Bingo; Maggie Kovack for acquiring the Callers for Bingo: Donna Donaldson, Gail Brown, and Dot Abbott with Marlene Tennier as an assistant. Thank you to the behind-the-scenes people who set-up tables: Mike King, Jim Cook, Alex Verna, and Tom Burton. The bakers and the food servers deserve a thank you also: Betty McCutchen, JoAnn Walker, Terri O’Connell, Margo Wagner, Gretchen Burton, and Sue Canfield. I hope I didn’t forget anyone. Thank You Mike King for setting up the signs that remind people when Bingo is taking place. Could **September 13** be your Lucky Day?

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BOCCE BANTER – DON RIZZO

FOURTH OF JULY BOCCE TOURNAMENT

Our July 4 Bocce Tournament was scheduled to commence at 2:30 p.m. However at 2:10 p.m., the skies opened up and proceeded to put a damper on our best-laid plans. A damper in the way of a downpour contributing 3+ inches of water in each of our bocce courts allowed us to now boast of having five swimming pools instead of two in the community. A form will nonetheless be required to be completed before you dip a toe.

To accommodate all those who had planned to compete, fear not for the Fourth of July Tournament will now be played on **Wednesday, July 17**, at 5:30 p.m. with the same guidelines in effect—i.e., teams of two or more may play; we'll assign you to a team if you are "team-less;" all are welcome to play; register in advance at 443-262-8192, or arrive a little early for same-day registration. The winners will forever be memorialized in our SV history book.

SPRING BOCCE LEAGUE

Our in-house Spring Bocce League came to a conclusion on Saturday, July 6, as the top four teams met in thrilling single-elimination format to determine which team was to inherit the coveted McNeal Cup, a recognized symbol of bocce excellence. Teams led by captains Tom Cullen, Jack Cohen, Tony Cipriano, and Jack Walsh solemnly led their highly toned athletes onto the courts for what was surely to be some heated bocce action. And the bustling crowd of vocal spectators were not to be disappointed as the semi-final action merely whetted the crowd's appetite for the thrills to come as the Cohen and Cipriano teams qualified for the Playoff Finals. The Cohen's unique team structure of four players instead of the more common two-player format seemed to confuse the Cipriano's team initially as the lead went back and forth for most of the match.

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Finally, in a remarkable display of bocce expertise, Patti Cipriano threw a masterful two pointer to close out the 11–7 match as the crowd exploded in appreciation flooding the courts with reams of colorful confetti. Our apologies to Nick Oliver who did a wonderful job in bringing our antiquated courts up to Playoffs standards. We tried to clean them up as much as possible, Nick, despite the celebration continuing throughout the evening. It appears the four-player team format used by the Cohen’s has many advantages over the two-player format and may well be a wave of the future for SV Bocce. Two players from the same team throwing two balls each from each end of the court has many advantages not to mention the camaraderie among teammates and socializing and kibitzing with opposing team members adding to the fun and enjoyment of the sport.

After a couple of summer months hiatus, the Fall Season will begin in early September so consider getting a few of your friends together and entering your own team. You will quickly appreciate the real meaning of our motto ... “Let the Good Times Roll.”

WEDNESDAY OPEN BOCCE

To see if you would like bocce, we invite all to join us for our Wednesday Open Bocce, where all residents are invited to drop by the courts and play a little round-robin bocce at the courts. Experienced or not, you are welcome to join us starting at 5:30 p.m. Special introduction to the game is available if you’re new to the game. Relax and have some fun.

SV GOOD TIME ROLLERS IN CHESTERTOWN LEAGUE

Our SV entry in the Chestertown Ye Old Towne Bocce League has continued to represent us in fine fashion. With 20 teams in that league, Captain Allan Levin’s team finished the Spring Season in second place. They certainly have stamped the name of Symphony Village as a place to be reckoned with when it comes to playing bocce. Our thanks to Allan and his team that includes George Drake, Karen Kram, Joseph Lichaa, Don Rizzo, Laura Rocco, Linda Schmidt, and Carole and Jack Walsh.

BOCCE DIDN’T KNOW THAT!

Bocce may not add years to your life, but it will add life to your years. ...Let the Good Times Roll!



*Top left:
Spring Bocce League Champions
Tony and Patti Cipriano show off the
McNeal Cup*

*Top right:
Judy Lamrix, Jack Cohen, Bob Eaves
from the second place team;
Champions Tony and Patti Cipriano;
missing is Bill Wells
also from the second place team*



*Bottom:
Judy Lamrix, Carole and Jack Walsh,
Tony and Patti Cipriano, Jack Cohen,
Bob Eaves, and Bill Wells*

PICKLEBALL PLAY! – GEORGE DRAKE

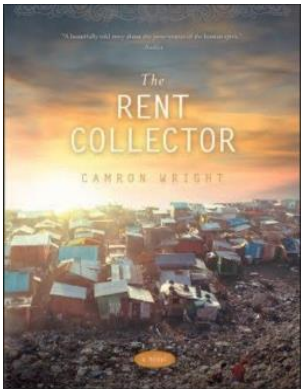


Good News! Our pickleball court lines were painted “Daisy” (yellow) on July 10 by Pickleball Ambassador Dudley Sluter from DE. No more taped lines to contend with!

We have been having great turnouts at our “meet-ups” with 6 to 10 players per session. New pickleball players are trying the game each week—so, if you are interested, join us and give it a try. We have paddles to lend for a trial and balls are at the two courts.

Meet-Ups—Check the SV Master Calendar for times of meet-ups for play—Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Wednesday and Sunday early evenings. Come on out to play or to just watch a game!

READING FOR FUN – JUNE 2019 REVIEW – JOE SIKES



The SV Book Club met on June 18 to review *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright. Attendees were Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Bob Nilsson, Kathryn & Jim Buckheit, Cathy Olson, Joanne Walker, Kathleen Sullivan, Peggy Decker, Mary Jo Volpicelli and Susan Goldberg. Lee Ettman voted by proxy.

The Rent Collector tells the story of a young Cambodian family trying to survive at Stung Meanchey, the largest waste dump in Cambodia. It is located next to the Mekong River in Phnom Penh, the capital city, and is inhabited by a whole host of memorable characters whom the author intricately weaves into her story. The central family of the book consists of Ki Lim, wife Sang Ly, and baby Nisay who struggle every day to find food and enough money to pay their monthly rent. The title character is a drunken, unpleasant woman named Sopeap Sin who comes monthly to collect rent.

Among the characters we meet are: Lucky Fat, Teva Mao, Maly, Uncle Keo, “the Healer,” Heng Rangsey, and Samnang and Soriyan Song. Sang Ly’s grandfather visits her regularly through her dreams.

Sang Ly discovers that the Rent Collector (Sopeap), unlike most residents of Stung Meanchey, is literate and she hatches a plan to get Sopeap to teach her to read. This unlocks a whole new world for her and hopefully for her family. The old woman begrudgingly admires Sang Ly’s determination and gradually accepts her as a student. It turns out that the old woman’s life was uprooted during the Khmer Rouge takeover of Cambodia under Pol Pot. This fascinating backstory leads to a surprising turn as the book winds to its conclusion.

Sang Ly’s quest for literacy leads her to the larger world of literature once she learns to read. The author blends in examples of literature across different times and cultures, while exposing the commonality of the human experience. The hope that drove Sang Ly to seek a better life for her family is a recurring theme in the stories Sopeap introduces her to. And ultimately Sopeap’s own story demonstrates how hope can arise from tragedy.

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The club liked the book very much, and it generated a most rewarding discussion. We scored *The Rent Collector* as a 7.94, which is above average for our club. I keep an updated list of our scores and books in the Activities Book in the Wall Street Room (under Book Club.)

Upcoming book club meetings will be held at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Clubhouse. Meeting dates and associated books we plan to review are:

July 23 — *The Last Palace* by Norman Eisen

August 20 — *Once Upon a River* by Diane Setterfield **

September 17 — *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray & Laura Kamoie

October 15 — *Where the Crawdad's Sing* by Delia Owens

** There is another book by the same name. Check you have the correct author.

TENNIS – LARRY MILLER

The schedule for SV tennis is: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 – 11 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 – 5 p.m. (although not regularly) and Saturday 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Your help identifying residents interested in tennis, especially those new to Symphony Village, would be appreciated. See you on the courts.

CERT – JOHN OLSON, CERT COORDINATOR

The 2018 Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 728 that states: On or after October 1, 2018, a person may not sell a battery-operated smoke alarm in the state unless the smoke alarm is a sealed, tamper resistant unit incorporating a silence/hush button and using long-life batteries. A “long-life battery” means a nonrechargeable, nonreplaceable primary battery that is capable of operating a smoke alarm for at least 10 years in the normal condition. A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.



This new law ONLY applies to battery-operated smoke alarms.

- Smoke alarms are self-contained detectors with alarms.
- Smoke detectors connected to a fire alarm system are not included when you say smoke alarms.
- It also excludes hardwired smoke alarms

SMOKE ALARM REQUIREMENTS

For homes in Symphony Village, all smoke alarms required by this law must be the kind that operate both by battery and on the unit's regular source of power. There must be at least one smoke alarm on each level of the building, including the basement and excluding an unoccupied attic, garage, and crawl space. If two or more smoke alarms are required, they must be installed in a way that activation of one causes activation of all the other alarms.



For all homes with construction permits issued on or after July 1, 2013, there must be a smoke alarm in every bedroom, every hallway or common area that is outside a bedroom, and on every floor of the house (including the basement but excluding the attic, garage, and crawl spaces). These alarms must be arranged so that activation of any one alarm activates all of the alarms within the residential unit. The alarms must also run on alternating current and have a battery backup or other approved secondary power source.

The Maryland Smoke Alarm Law requires the replacement of smoke alarms when they are ten years old (ten years from the date of manufacture). This replacement requirement is already in the adopted State Fire Code, reference to the 2010 edition of NFPA 72, Paragraph 14.4.8. The date of manufacture, while sometimes hard to locate, should be printed on the back of the smoke alarm. If no manufacture date can be located, it is clearly time to replace the smoke alarm.

The law heavily emphasizes the use of sealed smoke alarms with long-life batteries and silence/hush buttons. However, it is critical to understand that these devices are appropriate only where battery-operated smoke alarms presently exist or in locations where no smoke alarms are present. It is never acceptable to remove required wired-in smoke alarms and replace them with any type of battery-only operated device.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

If your house is equipped with hard-wired detectors with battery backups, you don't have to do anything except replace the entire detector when it is 10 years old from date of manufacture.

If you have any battery-powered only detectors, then you must upgrade them to the type described above.

If you have questions, check out the Queen Anne's County Office of the Fire Marshall web pages at <http://www.qac.org/465/Office-of-the-Fire-Marshall> for FAQs and contact information.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

NEIGHBORS OF NOTE – CAROL HODGES AND DEBI WELLS

MEET JOHN OLSON!

If you don't know John Olson, just open the Symphony Village Website and review the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) page! It's entirely John Olson's creation, and it pretty much describes him: detailed, organized, a natural wordsmith, and pretty good looking.



George Drake discovered John at a CERT meeting when he asked members present if there was anyone willing to take over as Chair. Even though he was still working, John decided to take on the responsibility since CERT is a worthy organization that has the potential to help neighbors during an emergency or disaster. His Committee members—more than a dozen—often sing his praises and are quick to let you know he's doing an excellent job. His articles in the *Libretto* are examples of the many activities he supports on behalf of CERT.

As a child, John thrived in Ava, Missouri, among its friendly residents, fascinating historical and cultural heritage, and diverse educational opportunities. He earned a BS and MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Missouri at Rolla (a land grant college, formerly Missouri School of Mines & Metallurgy, now the Missouri University of Science and Technology). And, he attended college with an ROTC scholarship, which required 6 years of military service after he graduated. So, John joined and served in the U.S. Army.

Anita Gruss
Manager

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After separating from the Army, John took advantage of his military intelligence training to undertake assignments within the National Security Agency. He worked at that Agency for 42 years where his experience included management of large IT organizations, program manager of several large agency support initiatives, and development of advanced High Performance Computing systems. It is here he met his wife, Cathy. Married for 35 years, they share a love of ballroom dancing, cruising, and being a part of our community.



John has many hobbies; one is woodworking. The handsome cabinet shown is a piece of furniture he built. He also built a beautiful cherry table. The top was made from rough wood cut from a single tree. He bought the wood from a place in Vermont, and it had already been cut into boards.

Building models is another hobby; not from kits, but from his own design. One such masterpiece is the USS Constellation, pictured. Recently, John purchased a 3-D printer and has been having fun printing amazing handiworks. Previously, his pieces were on display in the Clubhouse at an Art Reception to highlight local artists. In the back right, notice his model of the front of the Clubhouse.



We're glad John and his wife moved to Symphony Village four years ago. John has made our neighborhood a safer place to live by educating residents with CERT training and activities. Thank you, John!


For more information about CERT, visit their website.

TRANSFER TICKET BOOKS PRICE INCREASE


Effective July 1, the cost for Queen Anne's County transfer station ticket books will be \$50 for 15 tickets, up from \$45. Ticket books may be purchased at the Centreville Finance Office, Price and Gannon Ace Hardware, Food Lion, and Acme.

CENTREVILLE HAPPENINGS

COFFEEHOUSE 206 CONCERT SERIES – OPEN MIC WITH RIC

 **OPEN MIC NIGHT** [Queen Anne's County Centre for the Arts](#) (206 S. Commerce Street) presents Open Mic with Rick Strittmater on **Tuesday, July 16**, 6 – 8:30 p.m. Acoustic musicians, writers, and poets are welcome to share their original work on stage. Admission is free.

HOOKED ON FISHING

The QAC Department of Parks and Recreation and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will host  [Hooked on Fishing](#) on **Wednesday, July 24**, 8 – 10 a.m. at Conquest Beach (1000 Conquest Beach Road) in Centreville for ages 8 – 15. The program includes casting practice, angler ethics, catch and release, safety, fish identification, and fishing time for all youth participants. Equipment and bait will be provided. Please bring bug spray, sunscreen, closed-toed shoes, and clothing that can get wet or damaged. The cost is \$5 per youth participant. Registration spaces are limited; no onsite registration. No rain date. The program number is 190001-01.

FAMILY OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT



The Centreville United Methodist Church (608 Church Hill Road) in Centreville will host Family Outdoor Movie Night on **Friday, July 26**, 8:30 p.m. The movie will be *A Dog's Way Home*. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. In case of inclement weather, the movie will move inside.

CENTREVILLE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Centreville will celebrate [National Night Out](#) on **Tuesday, August 6**, in downtown Centreville. Details of the event will be posted on the website as they become known.

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY FAIR



The [Queen Anne's County Fair](#) will be held **August 12 – 17** at the 4-H Park in Centreville. There will be livestock showings, competitions, and demonstrations; featured events such as the Horse Show and Small Pet Show; daily live entertainment; lots of food; and more. See the website for a full schedule of events. General admission is \$3 per day; senior admission is FREE all day Thursday, August 15.

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

EVENTS AT THE CENTREVILLE LIBRARY

- **Monday, July 15**, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.: [Monday Movie – The Public](#) (Preregister on the website)
- **Wednesday, July 17**, 5 – 6:30 p.m.: [Seahorse Mosaic](#) (Registration required; preregister on the website)
- **Saturday, July 20**, 3 – 4 p.m.: [Crime and a Cuppa](#) (Preregister on the website)
- **Wednesday, July 24**, 6 – 7:30 p.m.: [Crochet Support Group](#) (Preregister on the website)
- **Mondays, August 12, 19, 26, September 9, 16, 23** from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.: [“One Finger” Ukulele for Beginners](#) (Preregister on the website)
- **Wednesday, August 14**, 6 – 7:30 p.m.: [Crochet Support Group](#) (Preregister on the website)

WORD SCRAMBLE – ANSWERS:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. FIREWORKS | 6. STEAMED CRABS |
| 2. INDEPENDENCE DAY | 7. LIGHTNING BUGS |
| 3. RUBY | 8. POTATO SALAD |
| 4. PICNICS | 9. ICE COLD BEER |
| 5. BUCK MOON | 10. CANCER and LEO |

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