



Photos from the past—August 2018 *Libretto* by Gil Hoffman

LIBRETTO

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

VOL. XVI No. 6

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!



Sarina Adoloffo	126 Harmony Way
Leo Haas & Zulma Sosa	306 Opera Court
Kenneth & Anna DiGiulian	406 Harmony Way

2021 HOA BOD

SYMPHONY VILLAGE BOARD MEETING, JUNE 4, 2021, PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PAT FOX, PRESIDENT

Thanks for everyone joining us once again on Zoom. While the Clubhouse and amenities are open at full capacity with no mask requirement, some still are not comfortable indoors in a potentially more crowded setting.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 6, 2021. We hope the level of comfort overall improves, and we will once again be meeting inside the Clubhouse. Even at that time, we would continue to space chairs farther apart and encourage folks to wear masks if this is their preference.

A final note—because there were a few late entries for today's Board meeting that needed more information, we may be scheduling and notifying you about a meeting in July. Thank you for your patience.

FIBER OPTIC SERVICE

The Board, General Manager, and the chairs of the Landscape and Operations Committees have met with a fiber optics company (Talkie) about its interest in installing high-speed internet infrastructure in SV. Various approaches have been discussed with Talkie and the Town of Centreville as well as possible timeframes.

Talkie has recently completed installing fiber underground and contracting for services in Northbrook. They now need to come through town on utility poles before they come to SV. Schedule-wise it could be 6–12 months before they get here, but as of now, it is an unknown.

The Board will maintain contact with Talkie and the town as they progress. Anticipated services they will offer include high-speed internet, phone, and TV. It would be up to the individual to contract with Talkie to extend a hookup from their infrastructure to your house.

We will keep everyone apprised. Before they would come into SV, there is technical and utility data we would need to provide to them to protect our infrastructure so there will be a flurry of activity and plenty of notice to our residents. Thank you for your patience.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS & ACTION ITEMS – JUNE 2021 DEBI WELLS, HOA BOD SECRETARY

As you know, Governor Hogan's May 14 Executive Order enabled the Board to hold an email vote on May 17, which was unanimously approved, to cancel all *Interim Rules & Regulations* for the Clubhouse. At long last, our Clubhouse and pools are back to normal operations. While face masks are not required, you are encouraged to wear one if that makes you more comfortable.

There were three urgent Landscape & Irrigation Committee related email votes during May. All were approved unanimously by the Board on May 24, and all involved timely actions to treat and save the community's Ash trees from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB); those approvals were:

- To terminate the community's contract with Davey Tree Company for \$5,161 due to matters about past treatments.
- To contract with Bartlett Tree Company to treat 64 Ash trees for EAB at a cost of \$5,441.94.
- To contract with Bartlett Tree Company to remove 7 infested Ash trees at a cost of \$1,231.00.

During the June 4 HOA community Zoom meeting, the Board received recommendations from the Operations Committee. These recommendations/requests were all approved unanimously:

- Pond 2 Berm Repair: Solitude Lake Management was contracted for ~\$2K (labor only) to repair a break, which was associated with the removal of the beaver lodge. Consequently, they will supply the repair material at no cost.
- Outdoor Pool Refurbishment Request for Proposal (RFP): The GM was authorized to distribute an RFP NTE \$49K for the replacement of the coping, tiles, and whitecoat on the outdoor pool prior to the 2022 swim season.
- Parking Lot Asphalt RFP: The GM, in partnership with the Operations Committee, will develop an RFP for repair of the Clubhouse Parking Lot #1 (next to the indoor pool) based on an engineering study by J.D. Hynes.
- Walking Path Cutback: A recommendation was made to accept the Bartlett Tree Experts proposal (dated 05/21/2021) to provide cutback services at ~\$7.5K. Pruning will extend to 10' overhead to allow safe passage to walkers and bikers.

The Budget & Finance Committee made a recommendation that was unanimously approved on June 4 to purchase a Certificate of Deposit (CD) at .70% for 18 months from the CFG Community Bank in Baltimore, Maryland. (Due to banks now requiring a visit by members of the Board to purchase a CD in person from Live Oak Bank in Wilmington, North Carolina, the request last month was cancelled.)

The Landscape & Irrigation Committee had one request at the June 4 HOA meeting; it was for the General Manager to create and send an RFP to remove 14 dead or dying common area trees. That request was unanimously approved.

Lastly, the Clubhouse acts as part of the safety enclosure for the outdoor pool. As such, the outdoor pool hours, Clubhouse hours, and safety (bright!) lighting around the outdoor pool, are all required to be in sync. A motion

was made and unanimously approved to extend the outdoor pool hours to 5 a.m. from 8 a.m. to ensure we adhere to code. A timer was also put on the outdoor lighting to automatically turn the lights off when the Clubhouse and pools close at 11 p.m.

Important: All residents are encouraged to review the HOA meeting and voting Reference Materials on the Symphony Village Website Governance webpage: <https://symphonyvillage.net/governance-landing-2021>. HOA meeting information and voting details from the Committees are made available on this webpage three to five days prior to each meeting and are available after each HOA meeting for your review.

TOWN OF CENTREVILLE NEWS HIGHLIGHTS (JUNE)

BOB HARDY

Unfortunately, your Friendly, Neighborhood Town Council Person has severely torn my Achilles tendon (don't know how). Surgery is scheduled for Friday, June 18, and thanks to everyone who sent me notes—they bring me happiness and glad I live in SV.

The FY 2022 Budget was PASSED on June 3. It was necessary due to past administrations not doing their job. So as everyone probably knows, the TOC real estate tax rate was increased by \$0.13/\$1,000 of appraised real



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estate value. This was required to balance the budget, as the QAC County Commissioners went back on a promise to provide the lump sum of the \$0.13 tax differential to the Town of Centreville. So, this results in a neutral amount of real estate tax to the TOC. This increase was required for improved safety and productivity of the Town employees (capital purchases), for increased retention of operation & maintenance personnel and police officers, and to bring the TOC police force into the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS). Past town council administration kept putting off making decisions regarding town employees and their productivity and safety. This town council had a rigorous process, over five budget workshops with all the Town Department Heads and the Town Manager. This was not a decision taken lightly and with the full understanding that this decision would probably not meet with overall approval.

The current Town Manager, Steve Walls, has announced his retirement effective January 5, 2022. This will permit the TOC to conduct a broad-ranging search for his replacement and provide a transition period with the new Town Manager.

A few 2020 accomplishments for the Town of Centreville:

- Engineering estimate analysis for the Liberty and Commerce Streets infrastructure project was completed by KCI, Inc. and RK&K, Inc. The completed analysis determined a good value of the construction cost based on the unit cost items of the project.
- Approved several Ordinances to implement five Council members.
- Worked with seven businesses for Façade Improvement grant funding.
- Approved several equipment upgrades for productivity and safety.
- Improvements made to the Centreville Wharf Boardwalk and Finger Pier.
- Applied for and received MD SERI grants to aid businesses with expenses.

Your town government continued planning for July 4th Fireworks with the event still tentatively to be held on July 3, 2021.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTISANS GUILD

SUE CANFIELD, CHAIR

The new Art Show is just around the corner. **Landscapes, Seascapes, and Beyond** will open at the end of the month. We will accept new art pieces on Thursday, June 24, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Please download the submittal forms and fill them out completely.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/500616cfc4aa3dba773667dc/t/607af969d5ea117831e1d04b/1618671977437/Artisans+Guild+Submission+Form+2021-04.pdf>

We will have a **Featured Artist**, resident Joseph Lichaa. He will be displaying many of his pieces and will be there for you to meet and greet. For information about becoming a featured artist, please contact Sue Canfield, suecanfield20@gmail.com,

We are also having an Art Reception on Sunday, June 27, in the Concert Hall from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Join us for a beverage, some snacks, and view **Landscapes, Seascapes, and Beyond** in person. This show will not be online. Let us know if you miss having the show online.

COVENANTS COMMITTEE

VICKY KOBER, CHAIR

INFORMATION FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL REQUIREMENTS

BIRD HOUSES AND BIRD FEEDERS

Bird houses and bird feeders are permitted only in the Private Area in the rear of the Homeowner's Lot. Bird houses and/or bird feeders must be located in garden beds only. No bird houses or bird feeders are permitted in the front of the house.

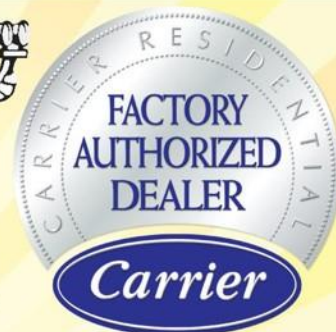
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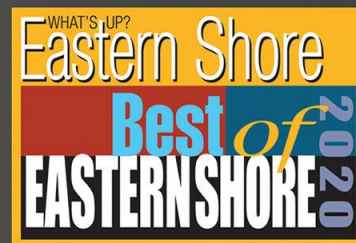


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LAWN FURNITURE, GARDEN EQUIPMENT, AND PLAY EQUIPMENT

Lawn furniture must be stored nightly within the Private (patio) Area and shall not be left on other portions of the Lot so as to impede mowing and maintenance activities.

Children's swing sets and other non-portable play sets are not permitted on Private Areas.

Garden equipment, including but not limited to, sprinklers, wheelbarrows, carts, and gardening tools shall be stored when not in use. Storage shall not be visible from the street.

Garden hoses should be stored neatly close to the outside water spigot, preferably in a container or reel.

TRASH AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS

All trash containers shall be covered containers and be stored in the garage of each house. Trash and recycling containers will be left out for collection at dusk on the day prior to collection and must be removed from the curbside by dusk on the day of collection.

YARD WASTE: Yard waste shall not be placed curbside more than 72 hours prior to the scheduled pick up.

LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE

AN L&I UPDATE: SAVING SYMPHONY VILLAGE ASH TREES

Landscape & Irrigation (L&I) has the unpleasant duty to let you know the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has infested some of our ash trees. EAB has spread to every county west of the Chesapeake Bay including Queen Anne's County, and it is throughout the Centreville area.

Our community has 71 ash trees with most located on Overture Way and five around Pond 2. Of these, 15 have been identified as infested with EAB, and 7 cannot be saved. We have been treating the ash trees with the hope of saving them all since 2017. However, we recently discovered the current contracted tree company has a marginally different treatment approach than was suggested to L&I by professional arborists, universities, Maryland DNR Forestry Department, and the University of Maryland Extension Service. Consequently, L&I has advised the Board to cancel the current contract, and we will be using a new tree company to save our remaining trees.

Just a brief recap about the EAB. EAB is currently considered the most destructive forest pest ever seen in North America. The scientific name is *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire. It's an exotic half-inch long metallic green beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles nibble on Ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner area just below the bark of Ash trees. During the feeding they tunnel back and forth disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. EAB arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships and airplanes originating from China. In just over twenty years since it was introduced into the U.S., every state east of the Mississippi River has huge infestations. Now, South Dakota has reported 2 sites, eastern Nebraska reported 8, Kansas reported 16, Oklahoma reported 1, and Texas has reported 6 sites. At least 35 states with Ash trees have EAB; only a few states in the far west do not have the beetle.

TOM MCMANUS, CHAIR

BILL WELLS/TOM MCMANUS L&I



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

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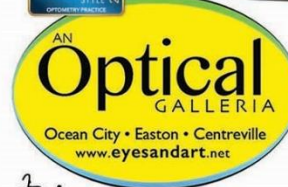
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Since the beetle was discovered, millions and millions of ash trees have succumbed to EAB attacks. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been lost economically. Some of the largest and most prestigious universities, government agencies, and others have been working hard to find a way to save the trees. So far, the insecticide emamectin benzoate (trade name TREE-äge®) seems to be working. Treatments are required every two years, although Purdue University and others are beginning to consider three years as sufficient. The treatment is performed through a trunk injection. This is friendlier to the environment than soil drench or root injections and works almost twice as fast. Most importantly, for Symphony Village it works well with trees in compacted soil. TREE-äge® kills 99% of EAB larvae, so when the adults eat the leaves, after just one or two bites, they die. And because the female must eat ash leaves to lay eggs this is significant. The L&I objective is to save as many trees as possible. TREE-äge® is safe for honeybees in the treatment of ash trees because it is applied after the tree flowers have bloomed. Also, ash trees are wind, not insect, pollinated. Most importantly, since such a small amount of TREE-äge® is used, it is negligible in next year's flower pollen according to University of Maryland, North Carolina State University, and Purdue University studies.

LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE

MARY COLLING-OFFICER, CHAIR
DEBORAH JONES-MILLER

The Social Hour and Welcome for New Neighbors on June 5 was a HUGE success! Many thanks to all of those who worked hard to coordinate this event. Both new and veteran neighbors welcomed the opportunity to greet each other again and forge new friendships!

The next Social Hour will be Saturday, June 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Clubhouse and on the pool deck. We invite all Villagers to bring an appetizer or dessert to share!

With everyone venturing outdoors, the Lifestyle Committee has made the decision to postpone the Armchair Travel tours until the fall. Look for information in the future.

Last month's Movie Night and Dumpster Day were both well received by the community! Many thanks to Randy Officer and Remax Executive Ed Beres, respectively, for coordinating these events. We look forward to a repeat of both in the future.



Social Hour and Welcome for New Neighbors

Dumpster is FULL!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SOCIAL HOUR	Saturday, June 19	6 to 8 p.m.	Bring an appetizer and/or dessert to share
MOVIE NIGHT	Saturday, June 26	7 p.m.	
LABOR DAY PICNIC	Monday, September 6	TBD	
FALL YARD SALE	Saturday, September 18	TBD	Sellers submit \$5 to SV HOA by September 15
DOG SHOW	Saturday, October 16	TBD	

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

JOE SIKES, CHAIR; FRED KURST, VICE CHAIR

The Operations Committee is responsible for aiding the HOA Board of Directors and the General Manager regarding management and operation of community common property. We share this responsibility with the Landscape and Irrigation Committee and focus on such things as the Clubhouse, swimming pools, and sidewalks. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Since the COVID-19 crisis, we started to meet virtually using Zoom technology.

Operations met on May 20 and successfully requested BOD approval to start two contracting processes. One will seek contractors for repairing the parking lot and curbing on the main (east) parking lot. The other will seek proposals for refurbishing the outdoor pool starting this fall. The committee also selected a proposal from Bartlett Tree Experts to cut back the walking path, which the BOD quickly approved. A recommendation to fix a break in the fore pond buffer for Pond 2 was also accepted by the BOD. This was damage caused during removal of the beaver lodges in 2019.

The Committee also notes the arrival of the NuStep T4R recumbent bicycle in the fitness center. It has bright chartreuse controls that brighten up the gym. So buy yourself some matching workout gear and check it out!

We encourage resident input to help keep our community great!

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OUTREACH

SUE CANFIELD

PAINT AND SIP PARTY

Symphony Village Outreach is happy to announce our first fundraising event of the year! We are pleased to have artist, Theresa Schram, instruct us in painting a seascape. Each person can make it their own by adding whatever they want to their masterpiece. Possibly an umbrella, birds, people, or swimmers. You can change the painting to an evening sunset. The Paint Party will be on Wednesday, July 7, from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost will be \$40 each. (\$30 is for the artist and \$10 goes to SV Outreach). The event will be held in the Concert Hall. Signup in the Activity book in the Wall Street Room (across from the office).



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MARYKAY KERR, CHAIR

CHARLOTTE KURST

Are you someone who loves to communicate, but prefers to do it behind the scenes in writing or online? Are you someone who enjoyed working with words in a past life? Are you someone who has skills with web design or editing? On the other hand, are you the person who likes to get to know lots of people and introduce those people to lots of other people? If you fit into any of these categories, the Publications and Communications Committee is a great option for you to get involved in helping SV communicate better.

P&C's function is to inform SV residents of all things related to Symphony Village. Libretto editors gather news and compose an informative monthly newsletter, which is copyedited by other members of the committee. Another P&C task is keeping the Website up to date. Still other members who are outgoing personally welcome new residents and introduce them to the many outstanding activities available here. Those folks also take care of ordering name tags and hosting periodic Welcome Nights for new residents. There are lots of different ways to help keep SV the wonderful community it is!

If you would like to be one of SV's great communicators, please consider joining P&C. For more information on how, please email MaryKay Kerr at marykay.kerr@gmail.com.


SV RESIDENT PHOTO DIRECTORY

We would love for you to include/update your personal photograph for our online photo directory. If you have a favorite recent photo of you (and spouse) from church, a cruise, a vacation, or a family picture, please bring it to the Welcome Night on June 23. The photo will be scanned, placed in the directory, and returned to you. Please include a note with your preferred name(s) and address.

NOTE 1. You can also send the photo via email to georgerdrake@yahoo.com.

NOTE 2: You can view the current photo directory on the SV Website by selecting: Directories from the Table of Contents > then Resident Photo Directory. If you need the USER ID and password, call George Drake at 443-988-8803.

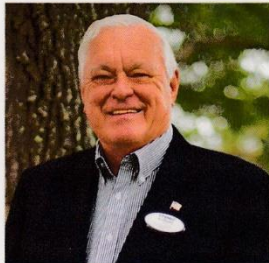
If you would prefer to have a new photograph taken for the Directory, please sign up on the photo signup sheet available June 23 at the Welcome Night. Thank you.




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Symphony Village Welcome Night for New Residents

(and for anyone who may have missed a welcome in the past)

Join us to meet your neighbors
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*Wednesday, June 23, at 7 p.m.
SV Clubhouse, Concert Hall*

Please sign up in the Activities Book at the Clubhouse
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Join us for light refreshments!

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SYMPHONY SNEAKERS

LINDA FARRAR, CHAIR

IS BACK WITH THE SYMPHONY SNEAKERS HOA DUES RAFFLE!

You can have your SV HOA dues for 2022 paid in full. All you have to do is buy one \$30 ticket or two tickets for \$50 (or more tickets). If your ticket is selected, we will prepay the dues—whatever they are for 2022. Tickets will be sold from July 1 until September 5. The best part of this is that all profits from the raffle go to support our projects that aid the feeder schools for Queen Anne's High School (Centreville, Church Hill, and Sudlersville).



We are anxious to resume our book giveaways, help the middle schools provide outdoor education, and meet the needs of school children in the area. Hopefully, this year we will also be able to volunteer in the schools.

There will only be 300 tickets sold so your odds of winning are very good. To purchase a ticket, look for posted times that Sneakers members will be selling tickets at the Clubhouse or put your check (made out to Symphony Sneakers) in the raffle box in the Wall Street Room, and we will deliver the ticket or tickets to your door.

The winning ticket will be drawn September 5 at the Clubhouse. You do not need to be present to win. As

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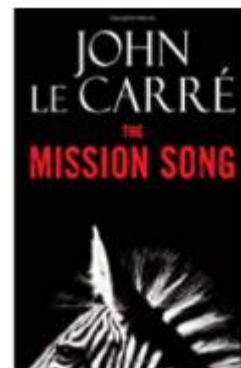
CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

BOOK CLUB—READING FOR FUN – MAY 2021 REVIEW

JOE SIKES, CHAIR

*** Before reporting on last month's book, the Book Club would like to take a moment to recognize the loss of one of our key members. DeAnn Cheyne was an integral part of our treasured discussions each month. DeAnn was extremely well read, and her intelligence provided insights that never failed to generate interesting conversation. And, as anyone who knew her could attest, she was not hesitant to share her opinions. As her health failed, she always kept me apprised whether she was up to the meeting that month. That afforded me the extra benefit of getting her take on the latest book, even when she could not attend. DeAnn, we will miss you, and we envision you teaming up with Jack and Joan Hennessey to watch over our monthly meetings! ***

The SV Book Club met virtually on May 18 to discuss *The Mission Song* by John LeCarré. Attendees included Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Bob Nilsson, Jim & Kathryn Buckheit, Carol Saltiel and departing club member Celia Love. This particular selection was chosen in honor of the renowned author of Cold War spy novels who died in 2020. LeCarré has a lengthy portfolio of titles, many of which have become motion pictures (e.g., *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*; *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*; *The Constant Gardener*).



The **Mission Song** departs from the author's normal setting of eastern Europe and, instead, describes a complex operation in the eastern Congo. The main character, Salvo, was the orphan son of an Irish missionary and a Congolese woman. His mother left him, as an infant, to be raised by the Catholic mission in the Congo. Despite a difficult childhood, he develops an extraordinary facility with languages and becomes a highly sought



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interpreter. He marries an aristocratic English newswoman and straddles his English and Congolese roots. He is hired by the British Defense Ministry to interpret secret meetings between the British government and tribal chieftains, ostensibly to bring peace to eastern Congo. But all is not as it seems, and Salvo ends up caught in a web of intrigue. That tends to happen when you are the protagonist in a spy novel.

Most of the club found LeCarré's writing style to be tough sledding, and some did not make it to the finish. The author is fond of verbal description of the scenes that play out in the plot and is known for his robust use of adjectives. Keeping the many characters straight was also challenging, although the underlying plot does move inexorably to its conclusion.

Jim Buckheit is a long-time fan of LeCarré's work but even Jim thought another one of his Cold War novels might have been a better fit for the club. The Congo details did appeal to me, Bob, and Carol, but I would have preferred to watch it as a movie. In 2008, the author was ranked 22nd on a list of the best British authors since 1945. Luckily, none of the book club members voted in that survey, since we gave the book a grade of 4.3.

Our next book is an award-winning first novel written by one of my Naval Academy classmates. Mark is a Marine who served on the ground in Vietnam and paints a powerful fictional portrayal of the war and its aftermath. The book club is still meeting virtually, using Zoom technology, and we expect the author to join us at our next meeting. If you wish to participate, contact me at sikes.withers@yahoo.com

June 15 — *A Quiet Cadence* by Mark Treanor

OPEN BOCCÉ

PATTI CIPRIANO

This past week, 13 residents participated at the weekly Open Bocce. A big welcome to new residents Carol & Doug Peed, Steve & Annette Nelson, and to returning bocce enthusiasts John & Cathy Olsen, and Don Rizzo.



Participants teamed-up and played their best game. Regulars Andrew Duda and Tony Cipriano thought they had easily shut out Don Rizzo with a score of 10–0; but after a sudden comeback, Don R. won the game 11–10! Jack Cohen had a good game, leading Tony C. the entire game before winning with a score of 11–3. The SV bocce group was thrilled to have spectators this past week! So, come out to the bocce courts to play or to watch a fun and friendly competition on Wednesday evenings starting at 5 p.m. Let the good times roll!

RESTAURANT REVIEW

KATHY MCMANUS

On a recent weekday night, we—along with friends—dined at The Station Steak & Grill at 420 Pennsylvania Avenue in downtown Centreville. It was a great experience! Friendly and attentive staff, nice ambience, and more importantly, delicious food. The decor is train related since it is across the street from the old Centreville Railroad Station.



We shared the Crab Dip appetizer (“we think ours is the best”), and it was pretty darn good! Three of the diners ordered the 8 oz. Filet Steak (comes with the choice of one side), and I ordered the Honey Sriracha Salmon. The steak eaters raved about the tenderness and the flavor. The Salmon was delicious with a definite kick. Other offerings include pasta, pork chops, and chicken.

They have a pretty extensive wine and drink menu at reasonable prices. We were offered dessert menus, but we were all satiated at that point. The Station Steak & Grill is a welcome addition to Centreville dining and is currently open Wednesday through Saturday from 4 to 8 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR LINDA BLUME

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS DEDICATES THIS ISSUE TO LINDA BLUME WHO SERVED OUR COMMITTEE AND THE COMMUNITY FOR MANY YEARS. REST IN PEACE DEAR FRIEND

A LIFE OF SERVICE — IN MEMORIAM

LINDA C. BLUME 1948–2021

When I think of Linda Blume, I would describe her life as one of service. She served her country well while employed by the National Security Agency and rose to the level of management. After 30 years there, Linda retired. Shortly thereafter, she moved to Symphony Village.

Linda loved living in Symphony Village and enjoyed being on various committees. She served faithfully on the Symphony Village Outreach committee and was also the Development Director of Special Events. As part of the Outreach committee, she co-chaired events such as *the Artisan Fair*, *Ladies Tea*, and *the Card Party* where she gave every participant a beautiful cross-stitched bookmark as a party favor. Linda began the advertising program in the *Libretto* that continues to create revenue for SV. She recently enjoyed helping with the Farmer's Market. Linda was a member and Vice Chair for the Publications & Communications Committee for over 14 years. During many Board Meetings, when committee reports were read, it was not unusual for Linda to remain standing and report on several committees! Her great attention to detail and paper trail made her a valued member of any committee. Linda enjoyed writing monthly articles for the *Libretto*, informing residents of activities that they could take part in around the area. She was a faithful editor for the *Libretto* as well.

The Bird Club was founded by Linda many years ago. She would periodically write articles as to what could be found in and around the neighborhood. It is my understanding that just a few months ago she met a new resident and was showing him all the great bird watching spots!

In addition to SV activities, Linda volunteered with a county reading program. She went to a day care home in the countryside of QAC and read books to children at the same day care home regularly. Linda really missed those kids when COVID-19 hit, and she could no longer go and read to them.

Although Linda was a very private person, she was a loyal friend and neighbor. She enjoyed helping care for many pets in the neighborhood, which included her passion—dog walking!

I was Linda's backdoor neighbor. We began our unlikely friendship when she had her hip replaced. I promised to check in on her every day and convinced the "city girl" to leave the backdoor unlocked. Slowly, I began to get this introverted "ole girl" to social gatherings! She became a member of Queen Anne's Chorale and had a sweet voice. I would enjoy hearing her rehearse on the back porch!

We began having what we would call "adventures." I helped her adopt her cats and was the one who insisted she not separate the sister cats when she only wanted one cat—and I'm not sure I was forgiven for that one! We would go clothes shopping, walking, and traveling, which were just some of our adventures. Linda surprisingly drove down to see me in North Carolina—435 miles away and made it in excellent driving time! I was hoping for more adventures, but the lessons she taught me will remain.



I have heard the belief that everyone in heaven has a job. If so, I imagine that Linda is reading to children and/or caring for family pets—perhaps walking your deceased dog. Our unlikely friendship was a gift I treasure. I already miss our conversations and time together. I am better for having gotten to know Linda. Rest, my dear eccentric friend, you don't have to serve on every committee in Heaven!

If you would like to make a donation in Linda's memory, consider Chesapeake Cats and Dogs, Compass Hospice, or any other local charity.

Written by Luann Sackrider, former resident of Symphony Village

MY TRIBUTE TO LINDA

Many SV residents are aware of Linda Blume's active support of our community. She was a devoted contributor to the *Libretto* newsletter. Her "M.O." was being well-prepared, thorough, and well-organized.

Linda was the founder and leader of the SV Bird Club and took the initiative to advertise and organize birding activities for SV'ers. Soon after moving to our community, her interest in and love of her feathered friends motivated her to seek a National Wildlife Federation wildlife habitat certification here at SV. Unfortunately, it failed to materialize.

She enjoyed her garden and shared some of her native penstemons with me. I look forward to their white showy blooms this time of year. Finally, Linda and I shared many hours of friendly chitchat at the Centreville Farmers Market last summer where we both volunteered.

Linda's energy and commitment, despite her demanding health struggles, were an inspiration to me. She made an enhancing positive impact on the quality of life here in Symphony Village leaving a legacy not easily forgotten.



BETTY McATEE

FROM CAROL HODGES

Linda has been a member and Vice Chair for the P&C Committee for at least 14 years. I could always count on her to help me to make a decision for the community.

She has been instrumental in keeping the residents informed of activities that were available in the Queen Anne's County area. She published an article on events in the *Libretto* every month. She was also a great editor for the *Libretto*. Her eye for mistakes was spot on.



She started the Bird Club many years ago and published an article in the *Libretto* periodically to keep the members informed of birding activities within travelling distance of Symphony Village. Along with that, she fed and watched the birds in her backyard and participated in the Backyard Bird Count every year.

She loved to walk dogs and was a big help to her neighbors doing the same. Of course, she would also occasionally feed cats of people who were away or incapacitated. I can still remember Linda saying at a meeting, "I have to leave by 4 p.m. to walk so and so's dog."

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to either of her two favorite charities below or to another Centreville charitable organization of your choice.

Chesapeake Cats and Dogs
326 Wye Mills Road
Queenstown, MD 21658

Pickering Creek Audubon Center
11450 Audubon Lane
Easton, MD 21601

Messages of condolence may be sent to:

Linda's son and daughter-in-law
Frank (Renee) Blume
1919 Cuire Drive
Severn, MD 21144

Linda's sister
Debby Browder
4178 Wycliff Drive
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OUTDOOR POOL: RESERVED SEATING FOR SPECIAL COUPLE!

DEBI WELLS, P&C LIAISON

Symphony Village has their eyes on a special couple in the community! While residents are not allowed to have reserved seating at the outdoor pool, this couple is the exception. In fact, resident Amy Landen remarked, "They're the *only* residents to *ever* have been allowed reserved seating the outdoor pool, what gives?" she asked! This special couple is among the many 'snowbirds' of our community, residing in Symphony Village during spring and early summer. Tom Meringolo recalled seeing them relaxing in the outdoor pool as soon as it opened this year! According to the Kindles, this couple has been residing in the community for at least three years. Recently, HOA staff member, Kimberly Cox, created delightful, reserved seating signs for the couple. The couples' name? The Mallards! As you may have guessed, the Mallards are waterfowl nesting in the garden area next to our outdoor pool.



The Mallards will be busier than ever soon as they are about to become parents. According to Mary Colling-Officer, they have 11 eggs in their down nest. The Board has approved the Mallards' reserved seating as these ducks and their nests are protected by the federal government! As such: *Please! No attempt should be made to disturb the soon-to-be mom or relocate the nest or ducklings when they hatch!*

Mallards are the ancestors of almost all domestic ducks. The male and female look quite different as the male has iridescent green head feathers and a white neck 'collar' and a dark brown breast. The females are not as attractive; in fact, you might describe them as drab. However, drab works as it camouflages them while they protect their ground nests. While the females quack, the males make rattling sounds by rubbing their bills against their flight feathers. When it comes to flight, they are a bit faster than your average waterfowl, flying at ~55mph. They've been known to fly at an altitude of 21,000 feet, so be sure to look out your airplane's window they next time you travel by air!



More than a dozen residents are forming a team to help the Mallards meet their upcoming challenges (for example, how to ensure they go to Pond 1 to reside, how they will avoid a dip in the outdoor pool, etc.). **If you see a duckling, please immediately call Debi Wells at 443-262-8248 and/or Karen Kram at 410-310-5409.**



Want to hear great stories about ducks, their nests and their young? Ask Rosemary and Scott Page! Having lived on the water for years before moving to Symphony Village, they will keep you entertained for hours with their (duck) stories!

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