

Photos by Gil Hoffman

LIBRETTO

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

VOL. XVI No. 4

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!



Francis & Mary Lou Grooms
135 Harmony Way

Ray & Kathy Sanetrik
216 Symphony Way

2021 HOA BOD

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – GOVERNING DOCUMENT REVIEW STATUS -- MARCH 26, 2021

PAT FOX, PRESIDENT

- This effort had unfortunately dropped to the bottom of the priority list year to year as there are so many issues that needed to be addressed in SV. However, as I was Board liaison from back then I felt it was my duty to the community and the hard-working members of the Document Review Committee (DRC) to keep the matter alive. As such, I would periodically meet to complete this effort – a final set of proposed changes to update and clarify our three governing documents.
 - Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions
 - Articles of Incorporation
 - By-Laws
- This effort began in 2018 with the DRC focus on possible changes:
 1. Removing reference to the developer.

2. Updating the documents per current law and best practices
 3. Clarifying how SV does business versus what the documents indicate (example – our Nominating Committee is chaired by a resident not a Board member)
 4. Resolving conflicts between documents with various iterations of the Board year-to-year to review proposed changes, and to add more if necessary.
- Last year the Board hoped that COVID would clear up quickly and we could have the long-awaited Town Hall to review possible changes we all have to vote on. Here we are a year later and still no in person meetings.
 - In 2021 I asked the new Board to work with me and undertake an intense round of review of all three documents with the thought of finishing this matter in 2021. They said yes and we got down to work.
 - We have gone through a number of meetings, and had our attorney complete several rounds of document review and cleanup so we can get closer to having a final draft copy for residents.
 - WE ARE ALMOST THERE! We hope to post the proposed changes on the SV Website shortly accompanied by an executive summary prepared by our attorney to help explain why the changes are being suggested.
 - We will have at least a 30-day review and plan to set up an online link for residents' comments to come through to the Board.
 - At the same time, we will also mail out the documents with the proposed changes – including current and changed language -- and the executive summary to make the review easier.
 - Then we will schedule at least one Town Hall meeting to review what has been proposed, as well as other comments that may come in; more meetings if necessary to meet the needs of our residents.
 - Once we have received comment on the final draft copies of all three documents, we will all vote on them and they will once again be posted online and mailed in hard copy to residents. This will also include the ballot prepared by our attorney. Each document has a different voting formula that will also be explained.
 - Again, our goal is to finalize all of this in 2021, whereby the amended documents will be registered with the QAC Court. Hopefully, the documents will last another 18 years.

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PAT FOX'S INTRODUCTION TO THE SV BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 26, 2021

Welcome to our second 2021 SV Board meeting. As you have heard from Symphony Village Committee Reports, eBlasts, and work going on in the community, there are a lot of springtime activities underway. So far, we have had tree trimming, soon to have critical tree disease treatment, Clubhouse shrubbery restoration and drainage improvements, residential front bed work, beginning communitywide turf treatment, continuing with irrigation system testing; operational analysis and system upgrades, investigating the condition of our two parking lots to name some.

Speaking of disease treatment, many of us have been successful in getting or scheduling our COVID-19 vaccinations. Most of us fervently believe this will lead us

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out of the tunnel we have been in for the last year and into the light. We have been extremely fortunate as a senior community that there have been very few cases we are aware of and no fatalities. At this point the Board is carefully working on a proposed rollout of increasing activities – a few months at a time – which will be announced and approved as a change to the Interim Clubhouse Rules. It is our main job to keep this community safe – both financially and health-wise during this pandemic. We need to make prudent decisions using governmental rules from our Governor and the CDC and expert medical advice. There are no easy answers but your five elected representatives and our general manager are working hard on this. There is more to come soon.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS & ACTION ITEMS – APRIL

DEBI WELLS, HOA BOARD SECRETARY

The following motions were made and unanimously approved by the Symphony Village Board of Directors at the March 26 HOA community Zoom meeting:

- **Bocce Court Repair:** The Operations Committee recommended Gibson Grounds replace the bocce court borders, and ball holders with Trex, and clean the synthetic turf. Not to exceed (NTE) \$18.5K
- **Tree Treatments:** The Landscape & Irrigation (L&I) Committee recommended Davey Tree Company to treat 71 common area Ash trees for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) insects. EAB has devastated Ash trees throughout the United States. NTE \$5.2K
- **Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Contract Renewal:** The maintenance contract for the Clubhouse HVAC was approved to use MERV 13 filters. MERV 13 filters are the highest rated filters to catch everything from pollen, dust mites, mold, bacteria and yes, even virus carriers. This contract does not include service calls, which are billed separately and at an hourly rate. NTE \$6.5K
- **Clubhouse Rekeying:** This was a budgeted item to rekey 39 Clubhouse locks. When a lock is rekeyed, the mechanism is altered to not allow the old key to open it. Rekeying is secure and is less costly than new locks. Rekeying Clubhouse locks will not impact residents' access cards to enter the Clubhouse or indoor pool. NTE \$2K
- **Residential Shingle Color:** This was a recommendation from the Covenants Committee to allow the General Manager to approve all future Exterior Modification Forms requesting a roof replacement with the color 'Driftwood' manufactured by Owens-Corning, a top-ten roofing materials manufacturer.
- **Reinvestment of Community Funds:** This was a recommendation from the Budget & Finance (B&F) Committee to reinvest the \$200K Sandy Springs Bank Certificate of Deposit (CD) to a three-year CD at Parke Bank at 1.00%.
- **Money Market Move:** This was a recommendation from B&F to move \$80K from checking to the Congressional money market account for a better interest rate.



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- Clubhouse Shrubbery Restoration: This was an L&I 2020 recommendation to improve the plant beds in a phased approach. Phase 6, on the right side of the Clubhouse, was approved and will be completed in coordination with the Operations Committee recommended drainage improvements. NTE \$4.2K
- New Gym Equipment: The Operations Committee recommended an addition of a NuStep T4R recumbent bicycle (that provides a low-impact total body workout) to the Clubhouse fitness center. NTE \$5K
- Walking Path Foilage/Limb Cutback: This was a recommendation from the Operations Committee to allow the General Manager authorization to issue a Request for Proposal to contractors to cut back foliage and tree limbs in a number of locations on the walking path.

There was a second recommendation from the Operations Committee to repair and seal asphalt on the lower location of the walking path. NTE \$2K

- Entrance Sign Restoration: A recommendation was made from the Operations Committee to refurbish the entrance sign on Symphony Boulevard. The sign will be removed and given a makeover at the contractor's site, taking 4-6 weeks to clean, sand, and repaint. NTE \$2.3K
- Irrigation Pump Upgrades: L&I recommended upgrade of pump assemblies at Wells 1, 2, and 3. Funding is within the L&I 2021 budget; work completion is anticipated in a month, so there will be no impact to 2021 irrigation for residents. NTE \$10K
- Irrigation Pump Replacement: L&I recommended replacement of the failing pump and motor in Well 4. Funding was included in the 2020 Reserve Study. NTE \$10.7K

The Board is researching the possibility of a pool lift installation and is working with the community's insurance company and attorney to ensure it is in the best interest of the community.

For more details on any of the recommendations/proposals voted upon by the Board of Directors at the March 26 HOA Zoom meeting, please review the Reference Material (agenda, meeting minutes, contracts, and additional information) the Board uses to vote at each HOA meeting [on the Symphony Village Website](#).



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SV COMMUNITY INFORMATION

TOWN OF CENTREVILLE NEWS AND MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

BOB HARDY

The months of March and April are a busy time of the year for the Town of Centreville (TOC). The primary effort is formulating, creating, discussing, and making decisions about the FY 2022 Town Budget. The process started with discussions regarding the Municipal Tax Differential with The Queen Anne's County (QAC) Budget/Finance Office. As four of the five TOC Council Members are new to the budget process, we were first briefed on the FY22 Budget Timeline and the overall process.

The TOC Finance Director and Town Manager drafted the TOC Request for Tax Setoff/Tax Differential, which was presented and defended to the QAC County Finance Director/County Manager at the Council of Government meeting. The duplicative services identified by TOC were: Budget/Finance, Human Resources, Economic & Tourism Development, Administration & Engineering, General Services, Parks, Sheriff's Office, Volunteer Fire Companies, and Board of Elections. There was approximately a \$0.06 difference between the TOC request and the QAC proposal. The TOC was given an extra four weeks to officially respond to the County, since the Town Council had new members. A final determination of the tax differential will be forthcoming on or about April 15.



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The Town Council has been meeting every Thursday to work on the FY22 Budget. There was the initial presentation of the draft budget to the Council, followed by two work sessions with two more sessions to be held in April. After the proposed budget for FY2022 is completed, a public hearing will be scheduled and advertised for May 20. This will be followed by adoption of the budget on or about June 10.

At the March 4 meeting, Officers Todd E. Svehla and John A. LaBelle were promoted to the rank of Corporal. Congratulations to our officers for a well-earned and well-deserved promotion.

There were two presentations to the Council in March/April.

- Megan DelGaudio, IT Manager, QAC gave an update on increased broadband service in the County/Town and the need for ALL citizens to take a State of Maryland Broadband/Internet “Speed” Survey at <https://maryland.speedsurvey.org/>. This survey is vitally important in that the results will help the State better understand broadband needs, especially in the underserved rural areas of the State. This survey will be one part of determining the allocation of funding to improve internet/broadband service.
- Elaine Studley, Director, QAC Legacy Foundation provided a presentation of what the foundation is about and their plans for the coming year in TOC and QAC. The Legacy Foundation played a major role in the excellent TOC Christmas Decorations this past year. A major thrust of the Foundation is to continue to make and improve the quality of life in our town and the county.

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

Carol D’Agostino has selected a contractor for improved signage in TOC. This work is being funded by an Operating Assistance grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The



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contractor will design signs and determine locations in high volume traffic areas in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration.

Arbor Day will be celebrated in the TOC by the Centreville Park Advisory Board. In addition, Bluebird and Wood Duck boxes will be purchased and placed along Millstream Trail.

The Centreville Police Department welcomed Chesley Townsend as the new Administrative Assistant for the Police Department. Ms. Townsend will be the initial point of contact in the department and her hiring will release all officers from administrative duties and permit them to do their primary job, which is to patrol our town and keep us safe.

As of April 8, the Phase III streets/roads of Northbrook have been turned over to the TOC by the developer and the TOC owns the road right-of-way. This means the TOC is now responsible for snow removal. Also, that the fiber optic contractor can now proceed to install conduit and fiber in this part of Northbrook.

A Request for Proposal for Waste Service for the TOC has been issued. It will be for three years with two option years.

A contract was awarded to Coppage Paving to perform crack/seal services for TOC street maintenance at \$1.25 per linear foot, but not to exceed \$30,000.

Ordinance 04-2921 is proposed to be amended to “remove specific size of trash cans” and to amend that trash cans may be up to 96 gallons.

It is anticipated that the Centreville YMCA will break ground in June for their new facility.

The TOC will be receiving \$4.1M from the American Rescue Plan Act. Half of the funds will be received within 60 days and the other half received in one year. All funds will need to be used by 2024. At this time there are four broad uses outlined. The TOC is awaiting further details to determine how the funds may be used.

Centreville Dog Park – Councilman Hardy is coordinating with Parks Advisory Board Chair and Council member Anania to determine the next steps to take action to establish a dog park in the Centreville area.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTISANS GUILD

SUE CANFIELD, CHAIR

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<https://symphonyvillage.net/2021-spring-art-show>



COVENANTS COMMITTEE

VICKI KOBER, CHAIR

LANDSCAPE PLANTS

Plants in garden beds including annuals, perennials, grasses, ground covers, vines, shrubs, and trees planted by the homeowner shall be maintained in a manner to conform to the overall design and landscape architecture of the community at the expense of each individual homeowner.

- When creating a new landscape design plan, an exterior modification form is required.
- When planting a tree, an exterior modification form is required.
- When a shrub requires replacement, the homeowner may replace the shrub with the same type of shrub without approval from the Covenants Committee.
- When adding annuals and perennials to your landscape and planted within existing garden beds, approval from the Covenants Committee is not required.

Planting of trees, shrubs, ground cover, grasses, perennials, and vines shall take into account future growth, and shall be at a reasonable distance from foundation walls and be maintained. The HOA will not be responsible for any planting installed by individual homeowners that are damaged by normal maintenance of the yard by the HOA or designee.

VEGETABLE/FRUIT PLANTS

Vegetable or fruit plants, trees, or vines cannot be planted in the front yard or kept in containers in the front yard. However, vegetable or fruit plants, trees, or vines can be in the planting beds in backyards or in containers that are kept on back patios or decks. Vegetable or fruit plants or vines cannot be visible from the street.

LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE

BILL WELLS

SPRING UPDATE!

The most recent information is strongly suggesting the Brood X cicada infestation will not be on the Eastern Shore, Yay! That is the latest scientific projection. Even though the cicadas won't be here for our viewing pleasure, there are plenty of other interesting outdoor exhibits throughout the village. The cherry trees and plums have had a very good bloom this year. For the first time, the HOA, at the Landscape & Irrigation (L&I) Committee's request, will be having them sprayed to ward off the cherry shot hole disease that caused early leaf drop in previous years. This important spraying will help to reduce the stress the trees have undergone in the past.



Our 71 ash trees will receive an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) insecticide treatment later this spring. This will involve an injection into the base of the trunks with a product called Triage. Since the insecticide is injected into the tree, it is more environmentally safe than other methods of EAB control. And, since the ash trees do not attract bees or other pollinators, there is no harm to those populations. As for the EAB; well, that's a different story – *it's devastating!*

The community's ash trees will also be treated for ash leaf rust. This fungal disease begins life in the nearby Corsica River as a fungus on the reeds growing along the riverbanks. If you have walked on the path running alongside the river, then you've seen these very tall reeds. Once the fungus finishes its growth on the reeds, it shoots out spores that are carried by the wind to nearby ash trees, ours included, where it completes its life cycle as orange circles on the underside of the leaves. As the warmer weather increases, the infected leaves wilt making the tree appear to be dying. Our hope is to break the cycle by applying 2 to 3 treatments specifically targeting the fungus. This treatment has already begun and will occur again later this spring. Currently, we are targeting the white and green ashes because the black ashes were not infected last year.

The Callery pear trees (also known as Bartlett pear trees) are also receiving a fungus treatment this spring. Each year the pears on Symphony Boulevard have been infected with rust. This rust attacks the smaller branches and twigs of the tree, reducing its vigor and attracting harmful insects. Our goal is to reduce the stress to add years to the trees' life.

So, as you can see, our community's trees are receiving essential treatments to ensure Symphony Village continues to attract new residents and provides a beautiful and healthy environment for everyone, including nature.

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LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE

DEBORAH JONES-MILLER

With the arrival of warm weather, birds are singing, trees are blooming, and neighbors are walking, riding, and greeting one another! What a great time to live in Symphony Village!

A food drive, sponsored by the SV Lifestyle Committee, was held on Wednesday, April 7. Donations are being given, for the first time, to Queen Anne's Advocates for Youth. This event resulted in monetary gifts totaling \$1,800 **and** half a truckload of food and other goods. Many families will benefit from these donations. Thank you again, neighbors, for your participation and generosity!



Get your creative juices flowing and make a May basket using live plants and flowers only, in the container of your choice, and attach it on or near your carriage lamp by 9 a.m. Winners will be posted at 3 p.m.

Kicking off this year's social hours, we will be celebrating our neighbors who moved to Symphony Village in 2020 and 2021! This event will be held in early June, date to be announced, outside between the pool, gazebo, and pavilion. It promises to be an event filled with fun and surprises.



The Lifestyle Committee continues to identify and schedule lots of great activities for the coming months, which will include:

Movie Night (back by popular demand!)	Saturday, April 24	7 p.m.
Cooking Series: The Perfect Pie Crust – Apple Galette	Wednesday, April 28	10 – 11 a.m.,
May Basket Contest	Saturday, May 1	Outside by 9 a.m.
Dumpster Day sponsored by Remax Executive, Ed Beres	Saturday, May 22	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Celebration of New Neighbors	Early in June	TBD.
Fall Yard Sale	Saturday, September 18	TBD
Dog Show	Saturday, October 16	TBD

Edwards Pharmacy recently received 200 doses of the Johnson and Johnson COVID—19 vaccine, which were administered in two days! For now, if you are interested in receiving the vaccine, please contact Edwards Pharmacy and your name will be placed on a waiting list. When the next batch of vaccines arrives, you will be notified.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

SUE CANFIELD, PRESIDENT

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In addition to publishing the *Libretto*, the Publications and Communications Committee oversees the Symphony Village Website. Under the leadership of Len Saliel, the Website is undergoing an update and a redesign. Check it out and cruise through the information.

One section that is very interesting is the CERT page. From the main Symphony Village page, in the left column, click on Dashboard. Up pops a page with much SV information. When you click on the CERT logo, the Symphony Village CERT page opens.

On the CERT page, click on HEADLINES and various boxes appear. Click on any one to find out additional information on the various subjects. At the bottom of the page are two word clouds—very interesting! Go back to the top of the page and click on INDEX. An index of ALL articles on the CERT website appears. Pour yourself a hot beverage and settle in to check out a wealth of information. Start clicking on topics of interest—I clicked on heat pump and learned much info about a new-to-me system. Very helpful!



Anita Gruss
Manager

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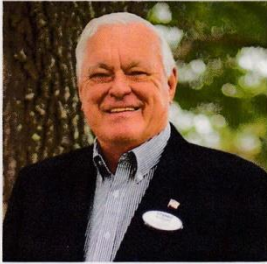
Would You Believe so many things we take for granted today were invented because of Space Exploration? It is amazing what we owe to JFK and his Apollo Moon Landing and Exploration Program. Think of your home laptop and your smart cell phone; they are infinitely smaller and more capable than the first integrated circuit (Atlas) navigational computer that squealed and protested its overloading as it attempted to land the Eagle on the Moon. Here are a few of the discoveries that grew from the Apollo Moon landing:

- **Artificial Limbs**—Innovations originally designed for space vehicles, makes artificial human limbs more functional, durable, comfortable, and lifelike.
- **Scratch-Resistant Lenses**—After NASA developed scratch-resistant astronaut helmets, most sunglasses and prescription lenses are now scratch-resistant.
- **Insulin Pump**—Needing to monitor astronauts' vital signs in space, a monitoring system was created that has been adapted to regulate blood sugar levels and release insulin as needed.
- **Firefighting Equipment**—The polymers created for use in space suits have been valuable in creating flame-retardant, heat-resistant suits for firefighters.
- **Dustbuster**--During the Apollo moon landings, NASA partnered with Black & Decker to invent various battery-powered tools for drilling and taking rock samples in space. This led to the creation of the ultra-light, compact, cordless Dustbuster as well as many other battery-operated tools.




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- **LASIK**—Technology used to track astronauts' eyes during periods in space has become essential for use during LASIK surgery.
- **Shock Absorbers for Buildings**—Shock absorbers designed to protect equipment during space shuttle launches are now used to protect bridges and buildings in areas prone to earthquakes.
- **Solar Cells—Water Filtration—Wireless Headsets—Air Purifiers**
- **Better Tires**—After the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company invented the material used in NASA's Viking Lander parachute shrouds, the company began using it in its everyday radial tires. The material is stronger than steel and adds thousands of miles of life to the tires.
- **Adjustable Smoke Detector**--In partnership with the Honeywell Corporation, NASA improved smoke detector technology in the 1970s, creating a unit with adjustable sensitivity to avoid constant false alarms.
- **Invisible Braces—Freeze-Dried Food—Camera Phones**
- **CAT Scans**—NASA's digital signal technology, originally used to recreate images of the moon during the Apollo missions, is the underlying technology that makes CAT scans and MRIs possible.
- **Baby Formula**—A nutritious, algae-based vegetable oil invented by NASA scientists is now an additive in many infant formulas.
- **Lifeshears**—The pyrotechnic mechanism used to detach a space shuttle from its rocket boosters after launch is the same used in Lifeshears. Lifeshears is a tool that can be used in emergency situations to cut into cars or collapsed buildings to rescue people trapped inside.
- **Grooved Pavement**—The requirements for landing space shuttles led NASA scientists to do extensive research on minimizing hydroplaning. They discovered that cutting grooves into runways helps channel water away from the runway and significantly reduces accidents.

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- **Memory Foam--Workout Machines-- Home Insulation—Infrared Ear Thermometers**
- **Ice-Resistant Airplanes**—Ice was a real threat for shuttles in space, and NASA had devised multiple electronic solutions to prevent ice formation on spacecrafts, some of which are now used on commercial aircraft.
- **Portable Computer**—The first portable computer, the Grid Compass, was used on multiple shuttle missions in the 1980s. Nicknamed SPOC (Shuttle Portable On-Board Computer), the computer could

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communicate with onboard devices and was used to launch satellites off space shuttles.

- **LEDs**--Intended for use to help in growing plants aboard space shuttles, NASA's LED technology has been utilized in the development of LED medical devices that relax muscles and relieve pain in soldiers, cancer patients, and those with Parkinson's disease.
- **3D Food Printing**--The ability to cook food on long space missions is no longer impossible with the invention of 3D food printers. This technology is now being refined for commercial use for the production of chocolates and other confections, as well as to create nutritious foods for diabetics and others with specific dietary needs.
- **Computer Mouse**--While searching for a way to increase interaction with onboard computers and allow users to perform tasks like manipulate data, NASA and Stanford researchers developed the first mouse.
- **Athletic Shoes**--A shock-absorbent rubber molding designed for astronauts' helmets inspired what is now a common feature in the soles of modern athletic shoes.

Who Would Have Think It?

Last month I mentioned that three countries have plans to land men on the moon by 2024, and China would be drawing near to our capabilities in space exploration within the next decade. Well, last month these three countries (China, UAE, and Japan) all landed unmanned spacecraft on the moon, and that China has an unmanned Mars landing planned in the next few months. A private company in Israel attempted to land an unmanned craft on the Moon in the last few months, but it crashed on the surface.

Planets in View April and May:

Evening Sky—In the West, Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Uranus (moves to the Morning Sky in May, look to the east).

Morning Sky—In the Southeast, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune (east)

CLOTHES DRYER FIRE SAFETY

JOHN OLSON – CERT COORDINATOR

Facts about home clothes dryer fires

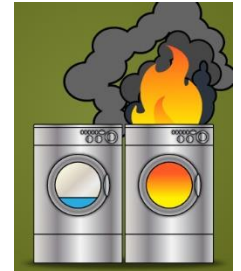
- 2,900 home clothes dryer fires are reported each year and cause an estimated five deaths, 100 injuries, and \$35 million in property loss.
- Failure to clean the dryer (34 percent) is the leading cause of home clothes dryer fires.



Dryer Safety Tips

It is important for community residents to know how to keep themselves safe from fire. Keep in mind the following dryer safety tips:

- Clean the lint filter before and after each load of laundry. Don't forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up. In addition, clean the lint filter with a nylon brush at least every six months or more often if it becomes clogged.
- Clean lint out of the vent pipe every three months.
- Have your dryer cleaned regularly by a professional, especially if it is taking longer than normal for clothes to dry.
- Inspect the venting system behind the dryer to ensure it is not damaged or restricted.
- Make sure the outdoor vent covering opens when the dryer is on.
- Check regularly to make sure nests of small animals and insects are not blocking the outside vent.
- Keep the area around the clothes dryer free of items that can burn.
- If you will be away from home for an extended time, unplug or disconnect the dryer.
- Don't dry anything containing foam, rubber, or plastic. An example of an item not to place in a dryer is a bathroom rug with a rubber backing.
- Don't leave a clothes dryer running if you leave home or when you go to bed.



Symphony Village CERT

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates individuals about disaster preparedness and trains and organizes teams of volunteers that can support their communities during disasters. The CERT Program offers training in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. With proper CERT training, you can help protect your family, neighbors, and co-workers if a disaster occurs. If you are interested in finding out more or joining, check out the [SV CERT web pages](#).


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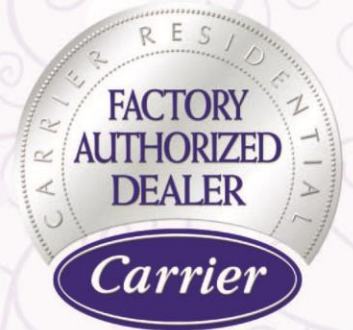
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PICKLEBALL— *SPRING INTO FUN!*

ROSEMARY ROSENBERGER

HAPPY APRIL 2021! It's game on fellow picklers! We've had a superb turnout of players for the past month to embrace the sunshine and warmer temperatures on the pickleball courts—sometimes 12—14 players each day!! Why not test your skills, your energy, your smiles, and just some plain good fun by joining us on our regularly scheduled play days, which are:



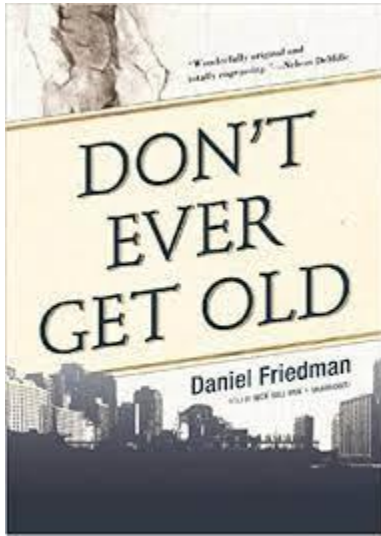
Every Tuesday and Thursday at 2 p.m.; and Saturday at 10 a.m.



If you have a computer, you can visit [the Pickleball Website](#) to learn more: If you don't own a computer and are still interested, please visit the SV courts on the play times noted above to take in the view and see what the game is all about. My hope is that our new Symphony Villagers residents will come out and join us. We have lots of fun, and the players are fabulous and friendly!!

Have a wonderful month, and whatever it is that you choose to do, always enjoy our beautiful Symphony Village! Please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions or concerns!

The SV Book Club met virtually on March 16 to discuss *Don't Ever Get Old* by Daniel Friedman. Our communal online literati included: Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Bob Nilsson, Pat Fox, Celia Love, Mary Jo Volpicelli, Jim & Kathryn Buckheit, JoAnn Walker, and Cathy Olson. Peggy Decker also provided input on this month's book.



Usually, Jan and I order books from Amazon and often take advantage of purchasing used books to save a little money. So, I was excited to find a nice used copy of this book for only \$6. It arrived in excellent shape and when I opened the cover, I saw 25 cents written on top of the first page. Then I realized that some entrepreneur had made a 2,400% profit by reselling a book found at a yard sale. Good for them! Who said old folks can't help restart the economy?

Buck Schatz is a POW/holocaust survivor, who was part of a U.S. Army unit captured by the Germans in 1944. As a Jewish soldier, he was sent to a work/death camp in Poland, but managed to survive by sheer orneriness. Returning to Memphis after the war, he embarked on a decorated career as a homicide detective. Now a long-retired octogenarian, he is contacted by a fellow POW from his Army days. They both survived a particularly heinous Nazi, Heinrich Ziegler, who supposedly died at the end of the war. However, Buck's friend confesses, on his deathbed, that he let Ziegler bribe him to cover his escape with Nazi gold (stolen from Jews.) His last wish is that Buck, the former detective, track Ziegler down and find the gold.

While Buck is not completely convinced that the story is true, he quickly discovers a motley and murderous collection of characters are searching for the Nazi and his treasure. Buck's presence at the deathbed confession has convinced the group that he must know something about it. Soon bodies start turning up and Buck is back in the detective business. He pulls out his old .357 Magnum and a fresh pack of Lucky Strikes and dives into modern policing. His decidedly "old school" methods create many interesting and often amusing encounters.

The author provides plenty of suspects and, just when you think you have it figured out, your prime suspect is found dead. So, the plot winds its way to the climax, which most of the Club did not see coming. What more can you ask of a whodunit? The Club graded the book as 7.2 on a 10-point scale.

Our upcoming books are listed below. We plan to continue meeting virtually, using Zoom technology. Invitations will be sent directly to those wishing to attend. If you wish to participate contact me at: sikes.withers@yahoo.com

April 20 -- *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano

May 18 -- *The Mission Song* by John LeCarre

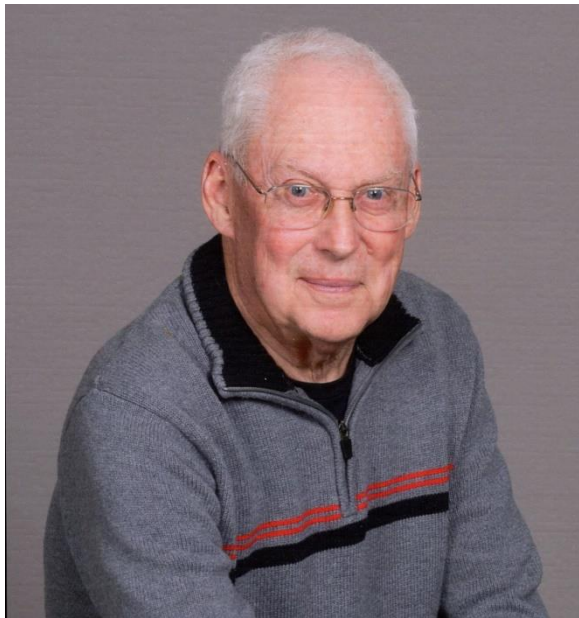
June 15 -- *Quiet Cadence* by Mark Treanor

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

NEIGHBOR OF NOTE Meet George Drake, AKA "Mr. Symphony Village" DEBI WELLS, P&C LIAISON

Most assuredly, the person who represents the best qualities of our community, all wrapped up into one person, is George Drake. Like most intellects, George is just a good guy with a down-to-Earth, humble personality. He has no need to show you how much he has accomplished, but you'll eventually find out as you get to know him! In addition to having a master's degree in publications design, George has a background and work experience as

a website designer and developer, graphic designer, lecturer and teacher, contractor and business owner/entrepreneur, author, and technical writer. To succeed in any *one* of these fields is quite a feat! To succeed in all, and have artistic gifts as well, defines George Drake.



George’s employment resume is quite diversified. His skills and abilities have served him well while employed on complex government projects for the nation’s largest university-affiliated research center, The Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, in Laurel. George also worked for AAI and Bendix Corporations, and for the Martin Company on project Gemini, an early (human) spaceflight program that helped NASA get ready for the Apollo moon landings. As part of that space program, George developed and taught 40-hour classes at Cape Canaveral where all of the Gemini-manned spaceflights were launched. In fact, George even once lectured to astronauts!

As an author, George wrote seven how-to books that were published by Reston Publishing Company (a Prentice-Hall Company) and also wrote two books for Black and Decker. One of his Reston books was voted “Book of the Month” by Popular Science Book Club and sold over 100,000 copies! He has had magazine articles published in *Popular Science* and *Popular*

Mechanics. In addition, George did freelance technical writing for 16 years and partnered with his wife, Mary, to teach Photoshop and computer skills for passengers on cruise ships. But the best was yet to come!

How fitting it is that George Drake was named as Neighbor of Note during April, which is National Volunteer Month. Volunteering is truly George’s forte. For a number of years George and Mary altruistically supported youth groups who were travelling to selflessly care for others. Examples include a trip to Pass Christian, Mississippi, after Hurricane Katrina, to clean debris, paint, and help in whatever way they could to make repairs after that disaster. In 2007, they ventured to an Indian Reservation in Oklahoma to work on the home of a bedridden woman. Seeing her rise from bed, out of happiness, to examine the work was all the thanks that George and the youth group kids needed! In 2008, they went to Chicago and found it rewarding to work with a boys and girls club to help less fortunate youth. And, in 2009 they journeyed to the Adirondack Mountains where rural life is quite difficult, and their help at several small churches was welcomed. George’s volunteerism has always been a way of life, so no surprise at what he’s done for Symphony Village!

From a historical standpoint, George probably knows as much or more about Symphony Village than anyone. He and Mary have lived in the community since 2005. It may not surprise you to know that George initiated the Symphony Village Bike Club, Tennis Group, Pickleball



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Symphony Village Residents DUMPSTER DAY

Saturday May 22, 2021
9:00am to 2:00pm

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Courts and Players, and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) which he led for over a decade after training and serving along with Mary as the Red Cross Disaster Action Team for Queen Anne's County. (Yes, George is responsible for the AEDs in our Clubhouse!) Currently directed by John Olson, [CERT](#) is a community organization of resident volunteers who receive specific training in basic disaster response skills. CERT resident volunteers help, in the event of a minor or major disaster, until first responders arrive. Then, they supplement emergency responders to assist in whatever way as directed. And, oh! by the way, George is also a Charter Member of the Queen Anne's Amateur (Ham) Radio Club and is the Covenants Committee's advisory consultant on residential solar panels. He also creates yard art that makes neighbors smile, does woodworking, and is a very active member of the community's Publications & Communications Committee and Artisans Guild. So, do you think George has had time for anything else? Yup! With fundraising as one passion and bike riding as another, he combined the two and has raised over \$10K in funds for worthwhile organizations and charities.

As a long-time supporter of young people and their well-being, it's important to mention George's interest and excitement about the new QAC YMCA in Centreville. Since George was asked to be on its Advisory Board, he will attend the groundbreaking in June and looks forward to the doors opening in about a year.

Last, but not least, George is a visual magician with a camera! We're thinking George's community and wildlife photographs may some day be his next book! Symphony Village has benefitted immensely because of George's volunteerism. Thank you, George, for all you have done for our community. It makes us very happy to call you a neighbor!

SYMPHONY VILLAGE MONUMENT SIGN REFURBISHMENT

At the March 26 meeting, the Board approved the Operations Committee recommendation for the expedited refurbishment of the Symphony Village signs at the community entrance on Symphony Boulevard. The contractor will retrieve the signs for refurbishment by the end of the week (Friday, April 16). Therefore, please do not be alarmed when they are removed. The signs are expected to be returned no later than mid-June. Notice will be sent for any scheduling changes.

SPA HEATER UPDATE

The ongoing efforts of the Association and the pool maintenance contractor, Anchor Aquatics, have resulted in the acquisition of the new spa heater, today, Wednesday, April 14, despite nationwide manufacturing delays. Following installation, the spa heater must pass inspection by proper authorities prior to reopening. Therefore, the continued patience of the Symphony Village community is greatly appreciated. Notice will be sent as soon as additional information becomes available. \

RESTAURANT REVIEW –98 CANNON RIVERFRONT GRILL

BILL RIDGWAY

98 Cannon Street, Chestertown, Maryland 21620 | Phone: 443.282.0055 | Email: Info@98cannon.com | Web: <https://98cannon.com>, (Former location of the Fish Whistle)



98 Cannon overlooks the Chester River with very appealing dining spaces. There are indoor, enclosed patio, and outdoor options, all arranged comfortably for social distancing. They offer an excellent and reasonably priced draft beer selection. Appetizers were creative, including a very nice hummus and baba ganoush dipping plate with fresh and pickled vegetables and fresh bread. The burrata and tomato salad was excellent. We also enjoyed the harvest vegetable pasta done in a light pesto sauce, as well as a very substantial and delicious grilled salmon sandwich on focaccia bread.

The menu is not extensive, but more than adequate to bring us back. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are now served. Seating is limited and reservations encouraged. Another option is to check in, then browse the town or wander the riverside until you get a text message that your table is ready.

CENTREVILLE HAPPENINGS

CENTREVILLE BRANCH OF THE QAC LIBRARY NEW HOURS

Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

LINDA BLUME AT CENTREVILLE FARMERS' MARKET



LINDA BLUME

Linda Blume of Centreville is seen here last year volunteering at the Centreville Farmers' Market with curbside pickup. For more information or to volunteer for this year's market, email mainstreet@townofcentreville.com.

SPECIAL EVENT: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT – SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Drop off your hazardous waste on Saturday, April 17, at the Kent Island Recycling and Waste Disposal. For more information check the link

https://www.kentcounty.com/images/pdf/pubworks/HHW_Drop_off_Day_Kent_April_17_2021.pdf

SYMPHONY VILLAGE CONTACTS

Rebecca Cook, General Manager
gm@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Kimberly Cox, Executive Assistant to the General Manager
ea@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Nick Oliver, Maintenance Technician
maintenance@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Board of Directors group email:
Board@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Location:
100 Symphony Way
Centreville MD 21617

Telephone Numbers:
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