



Photo by Gil Hoffman

LIBRETTO

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

Vol. XVI No. 5

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.



Pete & Karen Patterson 119 Encore Court

SV BOD PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS

MAY 2021 PAT FOX

- Better communications and openness are important in SV. We have initiated many new communication efforts in 2021 through multiple mediums for people to read and learn what is going on.
- Initiated for First Time
 - Board agendas and materials packages are posted on SV Website approximately five days before the regular board meeting
 - Committee Meeting Agendas are posted on the SV Website three to five days before the meeting.
- SV Website Suggestion Box – questions and answers are handled by the Board
 - Suggestion Box also installed in the Clubhouse
- More documents are now posted regularly
 - Board Action Item Report (continuing since 2017)

- Management Report for the HOA and specific committees
- President's Report
- Secretary's Report
- Secretary's Report
 - More detail added
 - Topics discussed at each Board working session, added by date, and also posted with the Board minutes
- More articles submitted to the Libretto –
 - Continue Report covering Board Action Items
 - Publish President's report
 - Other Reports submitted from staff
 - Exploring ability for SV contractor to submit articles, such as our landscape company
- Heavy reorganization of SV Website by P&C with Board and Committee assistance
 - Making it much more user friendly
 - Easier to find what you need
- Board responds directly to many emails versus just staff
- Board has developed and published eBlasts
- Website posting and multiple hard copy mailings planned for review of proposed changes to SV Governing Documents
- Town Hall meeting(s) planned to review/add/delete proposed changes to three governing documents
- Other Town Hall meetings planned for contractor presentations about work programs
- Other Town Hall meetings on various topics
- Open discussion was held May 13 meeting about possible changes to Interim Clubhouse/Pool Rules

UPDATE TO THE INTERIM CLUBHOUSE AND POOL RULES

SV POLICY WILL CONTINUE TO BE UPDATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNOR HOGAN'S POLICY CHANGES ON COVID-19.

PAT FOX, PRESIDENT

Today the Board of Directors unanimously approved an update to the Interim Clubhouse and Pool Rules which are also published verbatim in this month's Libretto. These rules will go into effect on Saturday, May 15, 2021. As we have with other "Interim" changes to access, masks, social distancing and guests these rules are temporary. We have taken our guidance from Governor Hogan and the CDC for the last 15 months and will continue to do so until the emergency declaration is lifted.

Yesterday Governor Hogan stated that restaurants, retail businesses, and large venues can resume 100% capacity but with masking and social distancing still required. That is what we will now be doing in SV clubhouse and pools effective at 12:01 a.m., Saturday.

In trying to accommodate major concerns, as we are still in the pandemic, we have set aside five days a week for guests in the pool and two days for residents-only. Guests will be allowed at the pools during this period from Friday through Tuesday. Adult guests can be there all day. Children under 19 are limited to 11 a.m. to 4:30

Anita Gruss
Manager



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p.m. as during pre-Covid days. Guests are allowed to access the locker rooms and need to be masked. *Guests are not allowed access to any other part of the Clubhouse during this Interim period.*

We are also going to take a ‘restaurant’ approach to food and drink in the Clubhouse:

- Food and drink will be allowed while seated. Masks are not required while seated and eating or drinking if they are within same household or in a vaccinated group
- Walking or standing in the Clubhouse will still require masking and social distancing
- Community events, such as the Lifestyle Committee undertakes can take place
 - Pre-packaged food is preferred
 - Catered or buffets need to have masked servers with social distancing in lines

While masks are still required in the Clubhouse, they are no longer mandated while exercising in the gym. If you are walking through or merely talking to someone you need to wear a mask.

There is also an expectation, on the part of the governor, that we will reach a 70% adult vaccination level soon that will allow us to no longer have to wear masks. We are currently at 65%! As his press release said yesterday “their plan is to get back to normal by Memorial Day”.

The Board and General Manager will continue to closely monitor policy changes coming from our state and federal governments and make further changes where appropriate. We know we all want to go back to how it was before we ever heard the word COVID-19.

SYMPHONY VILLAGE AT CENTREVILLE HOMEOWNERS’ ASSOCIATION, INC.

INTERIM RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR USE OF THE CLUBHOUSE, POOLS/SPA AND AMENITIES

EFFECTIVE MAY 15, 2021

APPROVED MAY 13, 2021

**SV POLICY WILL CONTINUE TO
BE UPDATED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH GOVERNOR HOGAN’S
POLICY CHANGES ON COVID-19.**

PAT FOX

The following Interim Rules and Regulations are established and revised in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and correlating governmental guidance and requirements **will take effect on May 15, 2021**. These rules and regulations are subject to change upon approval by the Board of Directors and additional governmental guidance as it becomes available. These rules and regulations do not negate applicable Symphony Village Rules and Regulations previously adopted by the Board of Directors.

No person shall use the pool(s), spa, Clubhouse or amenities if they have any symptoms of COVID-19, including cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pains, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, or if any individual in that person’s household has symptoms of COVID-19. For the most current information and symptoms visit www.cdc.gov.

- Guests, including adults and children under the age of 19, may use the outdoor pool, indoor pool/spa, and the locker rooms during limited hours. **All other areas of the Clubhouse remain closed to guests until further notice.**
- The outdoor pool, indoor pool/spa, and the locker rooms are open to guests, including adults and children under the age of 19, during the following hours below:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Adult (19+) Guest Hours</u>	<u>Under 19 Guest Hours</u>
Sunday	5 a.m. to 11 p.m.	11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday	5 a.m. to 11 p.m.	11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	5 a.m. to 11 p.m.	11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	No Guests Permitted	No Guests Permitted
Thursday	No Guests Permitted	No Guests Permitted
Friday	5 a.m. to 11 p.m.	11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	5 a.m. to 11 p.m.	11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- The limited guest hours and Clubhouse access also applies to all holidays, including but not limited to the following: Memorial Day, Father’s Day, July 4th and Labor Day or community sponsored events. These restrictions will be reviewed frequently, are subject to change and will be determined by the Board of Directors.
- Residents must accompany their guests at all times while using the facilities. The use of electronic keys by anyone other than the Age Qualified and/or Age Permitted resident to whom the key is assigned is strictly prohibited.
- The outdoor pool and all areas of the Clubhouse and indoor amenities are open to residents from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.
- The Clubhouse and pools/spa hours are subject to change and will be determined by the Board of Directors.
- Cleaning/sanitizing of high touch surfaces and used furniture/equipment will be completed by staff no less than once a day or more frequently depending on usage Monday through Friday, except on holidays.
- **Residents will be responsible for cleaning/sanitizing furniture and equipment before and after use.** Sanitizing and cleaning products that are safe for Clubhouse furniture will be provided by the Association at the pool areas. **Please do NOT use any household cleaners or sanitizer on equipment or furniture without consulting with Management.**
- No capacity restrictions when using the Clubhouse, pools/spa or any indoor or outdoor amenity.
- All persons will be required to sign in and out of the pool area(s) and the Clubhouse in accordance with governmental requirements and/or guidelines for contact tracing.
- Gathering sizes shall be limited in accordance with guidance provided by State of Maryland, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and applicable Local Orders



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- All residents, with the exception of those from the same household, are not to use pieces of equipment in the fitness center that are adjacent to one another. Please be considerate of others and limit use to 30 minutes when others are waiting.
- Residents will be required to wear face coverings in the fitness center-except while engaging in physical activity where the use of a face covering is likely to pose a bona fide safety risk.
- All persons will be required to wear face coverings on the indoor pool deck at all times. Face coverings are not to be worn in the water.
- Association vendors/contractors are permitted in the Clubhouse and other applicable common areas and amenities as necessary for community operations. All vendors/contractors will be required to wear face coverings in the Clubhouse at all times and when interacting with residents or staff indoors. Vendors/contractors will be required to sign in and out at the Management office.
- Association vendors/contractors shall hold current liability and worker's compensation insurance. A current Certificate of Insurance will be on file with the Management Office and list Symphony Village HOA as the certificate holder and additional insured.
- Signage will be posted in and around the pool areas and Clubhouse in accordance with governmental requirements and guidelines.
- All persons will be required to wear face coverings in the Clubhouse at all times except while consuming food or beverages, in accordance with Governor Hogan's Amended and Restated Executive Order dated April 28, 2021.
- All residents must be seated if/when consuming food or beverages without a face covering indoors.
- All persons preparing or serving food or beverages will be required to wear face coverings at all times indoors and outdoors. Pre-packaged or pre-prepared food and beverage items are encouraged along with single-use service items.
- Communal/buffet style events at which persons serve themselves food are not permitted at this time. This restriction applies to all holidays, including but not limited to the following: Memorial Day, Father's Day, July 4th and Labor Day or community sponsored events. These restrictions will be reviewed frequently, are subject to change and will be determined by the Board of Directors.
- Food vendors/caterers will be permitted in the Clubhouse for resident only community sponsored events. Food vendors/caterers must submit a Certificate of Insurance to the Management Office prior to the event and wear face coverings in the Clubhouse, when serving food and when interacting with resident and staff indoors.

- The use of face coverings on the outdoor pool deck is recommended but not required. Face coverings are not to be worn in the water.
- Staff will wear face coverings when interacting with residents indoors.
- All persons on the pool deck, in the pools or spa, and in the Clubhouse are to be six feet apart except for members of the same household in accordance with the CDC guidelines.
- All persons must shower before using the pool.
- All persons are encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds frequently.
- All persons must adhere to all applicable Symphony Village Rules and Regulations previously adopted by the Board of Directors.
- The Board reserves the right to suspend a resident's access to the Clubhouse and amenities if they do not comply with social distancing and/or face covering requirements or similar regulations.
- The Board reserves the right to close the Clubhouse, pools, spa and/or other amenities in the event a person that accessed these areas tests positive for COVID-19. The community will be notified but that person's information will not be released. Residents will be asked to self-quarantine and advise Management if they or someone they have been in contact with tests positive for COVID-19.
- Every person in the facilities shall adhere to the guidelines and recommendations of the State of Maryland and the CDC on the prevention of COVID-19 infection.
- The Association cannot guarantee all areas will be free of COVID-19. All persons will be responsible for assessing their risk and deciding whether it is in their best interest to visit the Clubhouse and other amenities.

SV BOD HIGHLIGHTS & ACTION ITEMS—MAY 2021

DEBI WELLS, HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SECRETARY

Since the March 26 HOA meeting, the Board has held two Executive Sessions, on March 26 and April 21, and held three work sessions on these dates: (1) April 7, to review proposed changes to the HOA Articles of Incorporation, Declaration and Bylaws with the HOA's lawyer, (2) April 21, Board members discussed our individual ideas for updating the 'Interim Rules & Regulations' for the Clubhouse, community pools, fitness center and other amenities, and (3) on April 28, the Board reviewed the Reference Material (found on the Symphony Village Governance website) for the April 30 HOA meeting, in addition discussing proposed changes to the 'Interim Rules & Regulations.' No votes were taken during any work session. Instead, work sessions provided Board members the opportunity to discuss ongoing projects and, in addition, current COVID-19 CDC and government guidelines to determine Clubhouse access and/or community activity changes.

At the April 30 HOA meeting the following motions were made and unanimously approved by the Board of Directors:

Certificate of Deposit (CD): The Budget & Finance Committee recommended purchase of a two-year \$200,000 CD from Live Oak Bank.

Drainage: The Operations Committee recommended approval of Level Green Landscaping's proposal of \$1,350 (not to exceed \$1,800) to improve drainage next to the indoor pool.



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At the April 30 HOA meeting there was also a brief discussion about the 'Interim Rules & Regulations' for the community's Clubhouse, pools and amenities. On April 27, the Board had sent an eBlast requesting resident comments to the previously sent proposed changes draft of the 'Interim Rules & Regulations' and requested residents to comment. As a result, there were 29 email comments sent by residents to the Board. Of those, 14 were in favor of having guests all days of the week at the community's pools; seven comments were in agreement of the draft not allowing guests on some days; 4 were in favor of a weekday instead of a Sunday for no guests; and the remaining comments were not guest related (instead, asked about the bar reopening and other questions). During the resident forum, a resident stated the pools should have the same rules for guests as other outside venues (tennis, pickleball, bocce, etc.) As a result of residents' comments and a review of Governor Hogan's April 28 and May 12 Executive Orders (pandemic guidance updates), the Board reviewed and revised the draft 'Interim Rules & Regulations,' then held a special Zoom community meeting on May 13. That special meeting invited residents to comment prior to a vote by the Board on the revised proposed changes. (The



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HOA's Declaration provides the Board authority to approve and implement rules and regulations pertaining to the community's amenities.) As Gov. Hogan and the CDC provides future guidance, the 'Interim Rules & Regulations' document will be revised again by the Board to reflect appropriate changes.

TOWN OF CENTREVILLE NEWS HIGHLIGHTS (MAY)

BY 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 and a final draft of the FY 2022 Budget has been reached and there will be a Public Hearing on May 20, 2021. There was approximately a \$0.06 difference between the TOC request and the QAC proposal. A final determination of the Tax Differential was established by the QAC County Commissioners at \$0.13. This amount will be reflected on your QAC Real Estate Tax bill.

The TOC Town Council has been meeting every Thursday to work on the FY22 Budget. The proposed budget for FY2022 is completed and a Public Hearing has been scheduled and advertised for May 20, 2021. This will be followed by adoption of the Budget on or about June 10, 2021.

As everyone probably knows the TOC real estate tax rate was increased by \$0.13/\$1,000 of appraised real 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 5 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. I would beseech all TOC citizens to become more aware and knowledgeable of the FY2022 budget and either attend the May 20, 2021 Public Hearing on the Budget or watch on QAC-TV.

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: election terms and nine Charter Amendments to implement this new council structure.
- Implemented live streaming of Town Council meetings with QAC-TV.
- Worked with seven businesses for Façade Improvement grant funding.
- Approved several equipment upgrades for productivity and safety.

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- Reallocated funds to help promote Centreville’s small businesses during COVID-19.
- Applied for and received MD SERI grants to aid businesses with expenses.

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

A Request for Proposal for Waste Service for the TOC has been issued, and a contract will be awarded in the next week or so. It will be for three years with two option years.

It is anticipated that the Centreville YMCA will break ground in June, 2021, for their new facility.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTISANS GUILD

SUE CANFIELD, CHAIR

The Artisans Guild members will be meeting at the Pavilion for our next meeting, weather permitting. We can also meet in the Craft Room or Concert Hall if the weather is not favorable. It is very encouraging to paint with the group. We share new techniques we have learned. It also motivates us to keep painting. For new painters, this is especially true. Keep your eyes on the SV Calendar so you can come and join us.

There are so many tutorials on YouTube. I have included some for first-time watercolor painters; however, you can search yourself for other mediums. The great thing about a video is you can stop it and try each step and continue. It was a great help for me; I continue to watch YouTube for helpful information.

Do you Want to Begin to Paint with Watercolors? Here is a great “how to” begin:

Emma Jane Lefebvre is a great instructor. Part 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyO1jQh4RHw>



MARY COLLING-OFFICER, CHAIR
JANET LEISTER, VICE CHAIR
DEBORAH MILLER, AUTHOR

Now that winter weather has faded and more people are getting their COVID-19 vaccines, it’s time to think about outdoor fun and activity.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! The Symphony Village Social Hours are back! Please join us as we kickoff the season and celebrate our new neighbors on Saturday, June 5, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the grassy area between the pool, gazebo, and pavilion. Head over to the Bocce Court at 6 p.m. and enjoy a game of Bocce ball, throw horseshoes, or toss some bean bags. PetesPetza, a food truck, will be on site for those who are interested in purchasing dinner or a snack. A menu will be published prior to the event. As a safety precaution, we are asking attendees NOT TO BRING FOOD TO SHARE.



The Social Club is back to the delight of all! Please keep your eyes open for the specially marked boxes. Bring a chair so you can sit, relax, and socialize. We look forward to seeing *old* and *new* neighbors!

As part of our kickoff into warm weather, the Symphony Village Lifestyle Committee sponsored a May Day Basket Contest. There were 29 entries this year. The baskets were all beautifully decorated, with some baskets adorned with very unique items. Congratulations to the winners!!

First Place - Sue Canfield at 725 Harmony Way

Second Place - Judy Lambrix at 206 Encore

Third Place - Carol Peed at 211 Concerto

LET’S GET READY TO TRAVEL! The Lifestyle Committee is sponsoring virtual tours to destinations around the globe. Our flagship trip to the Taj Mahal, which took place in April, was exciting, informative, and well received. Here are a few comments from those who took the tour:

“I thoroughly enjoyed the virtual tour of the Taj Mahal. The guide was amazing with us....[He] took us virtually through the entire building, sharing pictures with extensive details and intricate description of every room. In addition, he gave us the historical information about the king and his queen for whom the [Taj Mahal] was built. He then opened the tour to questions and answers, taking his time with each of us...” –Jan Withers

“We really enjoyed the virtual tour of Taj Mahal. We have been to India and toured this beautiful monument. However, we learned more from the virtual tour than the actual visit.”—Pete and Cele Zerhusen

“I felt like I’d been to the Taj Mahal without leaving my living room!”—Mary Elizabeth Colling-Officer

To keep the momentum going, a tour of the **Egyptian Pyramid and Sphinx of Giza** has been scheduled for Saturday, July 10, at 2 p.m. The cost for the tour is \$22 per person. **A MINIMUM OF 20 TRAVELERS IS REQUIRED.** You may register for the tour on the Symphony Village website and bring your check to the Clubhouse by **July 2, 2021**. Please write your check to “Symphony Village HOA” and write “Pyramid Tour” in the memo section of your check.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dumpster Day sponsored by Remax Executive, Ed Beres	Saturday, May 22, 2021	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Movie Night	Saturday, May 22, 2021	7 p.m.
Social Hour: Celebration of New Neighbors	Saturday, June 5, 2021	5 – 8 p.m.
Virtual Tour-The Pyramid and Sphinx of Giza	Saturday, July 10, 2021	2 – 3 p.m.
Fall Yard Sale	Saturday, September 18, 2021	TBD
Dog Show	Saturday, October 16, 2021	TBD

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COVENANTS COMMITTEE

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PAT FOX, BOARD LIAISON

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW / ARCHITECTURAL REQUIREMENTS

To retain the beauty and architectural integrity of the community, the Covenants Committee will evaluate applications for exterior modifications using both subjective and objective criteria. Each application will be evaluated individually, and many factors will be considered including visual impact, neighbor privacy, lot size, and configurations. The architectural review process has been established to maintain the integrity of the architectural design character of Symphony Village. To this end, the Covenants Committee will review all proposed additions, improvements, or alterations on houses for conformity with the Architectural Requirements. Article IX of the Declaration sets forth provisions with respect to the review process.

“Residential” Property Owners

Owners are required to submit plans (described below) to, and receive written approval from, the Covenants Committee prior to performing additions, alterations, or modifications to (1) existing houses, (2) exterior painting, (3) landscaping, (4) any exception to or deviation from the Architectural Requirements, or (5) any concrete work, ancillary equipment, signage, and any and all other such on-site modifications not listed in the Architectural Requirements, as well as all requirements of the Declaration. Approved color, stone, and brick selections are provided by the HOA Management Office.

Submittals for Changes and Additions

1. The Owner shall submit an Exterior Modification Form as provided in Appendix B showing the plans for the proposed improvement as follows:
 - a) Landscape Description: For landscaping plan approval, or amendments to an approved landscaping plan, the Owner shall submit one (1) copy of the landscaping plan for the Lot, including a description of all varieties and sizes of trees and shrubs, with the location of each tree and shrub clearly delineated on the plan.
 - b) Hardscape Description: In the event the Owner desires to install any hardscape, including but not limited to brick, masonry, railroad ties, wood trim, concrete, rocks or other inert material, such items shall be clearly marked on the landscape plan and a legend shall be provided to allow the reviewer to easily determine the location and type of...material.
2. The Covenants Committee will review such submittals without a hearing, based solely on the information contained within each submittal and a site review of the proposed modification if the Committee judges it necessary. Every effort will be made to respond within forty-five (45) days from the date the Exterior Modification Form was received by the Covenants Committee. The Covenants Committee’s decision shall be final on all reviews.
3. Upon completion of review by the Covenants Committee, a letter will be sent indicating the Covenants Committee’s decision and in one (1) of the following three (3) forms:
 - a) Approved: The entire document submitted is approved in total; work may commence.
 - b) Approved with Contingency: The document submitted is conditionally approved. An Owner may not proceed with the work to be performed. Contingent approvals may be considered fully approved when the conditions of the contingency are met by satisfactory submittal to the HOA Management Office.
 - c) Not Approved: The entire document submitted is not approved and no work may commence.
 - d) Other: The application may be missing information, require Board review, etc.; no work may commence until the Exterior Modification Form has been approved.

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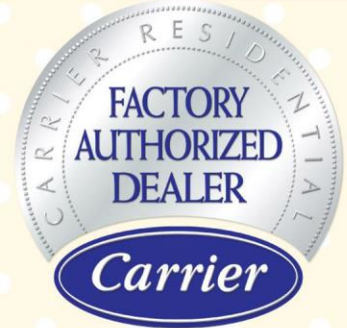
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LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE

TOM McMANUS. CHAIR

A lot of work has been done on our Irrigation System during this past off season, and more is still ongoing. All is intended to provide us with a more reliable system and with an even better distribution of water across the community (turf, beds, and flowers).

Earlier in the year, A.C. Schultes was able to access our Pump #3 (located at Pond 2), and test out the well, pump, and motor. All were found to be in working order and functional. That completed the well testing of our four deep-water wells, which supplies all the water for the irrigation system. Three of the four wells and the associated equipment were found to be acceptable; but Well #4, located on Opera Court, needed to be replaced. The replacement was completed on April 14, with a new motor and pump assembly inserted into the well.

With that work completed attention was then focused on improving the above ground pump assemblies for Pumps 1, 2 and 3. Pump #4 had been upgraded in 2019/20, by transferring some equipment from the old Pump #5 and installing new at Pump #4. This effort is aimed at enhancing the assembly supports and flowthrough equipment (meters, gauges, etc.); to improve and better regulate the flow of water from the wells to all the sprinkler heads throughout the system. This work will be completed before the end of May.

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Concurrent with these assembly upgrades, our irrigation contractor (Montgomery Irrigation) has begun the system initialization activities required to fire up the system for this year. These activities primarily involve starting up the four wells to fill our main water lines with pressurized water and to begin looking for and fixing any leaks that appear in the system. Montgomery uses teams of workers to conduct these tests across all irrigation zones and the job will take a few weeks to complete.

Upon completion in mid-to-late-May a full system test or audit will be performed on our resident zones (both turf and beds). Residents may partake in this effort by monitoring their sprinklers around their homes and reporting any issues to Management. Montgomery Irrigation will also have team members surveilling all zones and sprinkler heads themselves, so residents are not required to participate. Following the audit Montgomery will focus on resolving all open trouble reports, in preparation for starting the system for this season.

This year Level Green Landscaping will work with Montgomery Irrigation to determine the optimum watering schedule, for our community. This means selecting the days, times, and durations of all watering cycles for turf (both common areas and residential areas) and Beds and Flowers. These vendors will work with Management, and the Landscape and Irrigation Committee, so we can provide as much information as possible to all residents. Schedules for both the spring audit and the regular watering times will be published, so all residents will be aware of when irrigation should be happening at their homes throughout this season.

The irrigation system will not be closed down until early November.

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OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

JOE SIKES

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 April 15 and proposed refurbishing the Symphony Village entrance sign which was approved by the Board of Directors. The General Manager arranged for the signs to be removed to complete the work and arranged to replace the deteriorated plywood underneath.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 20. We currently expect to consider repairs to the Clubhouse parking lots based on the prior engineering analysis recently completed. We will also discuss proposals to replace coping and tiles on the outdoor and indoor pools. Committee members met with Anchor Aquatics this month and visually inspected the pools once the outdoor pool cover was removed. Other possible topics include stormwater ponds and walking path improvements.

We encourage resident input to help keep our community great!

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OUTREACH

DO YOU COLLECT POP TOPS?

LORETTA QUIGLEY

If you have any cans that have pop tops for openers, WE WANT YOUR HELP! Your Symphony Village Outreach team has partnered with the local QAC Shriners group in Chester, Maryland, for recycling pop tops. The money received is used to transport sick children to Shriners Hospitals for treatment at no charge to the families.

FYI, nationwide, over \$100,000 was raised in 2020 through this endeavor—that's a lot of garbage going to a great cause. Please join us by collecting your pop tops. Place them in a ziplock bag and drop them off in the Craft Room in the Clubhouse or you can drop off at Quigley home at 509 Symphony Way. This collection is a year-round project; drop off is at your convenience whenever you have a full container.

Many thanks to those of you already collecting! If you are a new resident, it's such an easy way to help others! Please join us today!

YOUR SV NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

MARGE STRANO, CHAIR

The Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program at Symphony Village is part of *Outreach*, a non-profit organization created by Symphony Village residents to provide volunteer services and financial support to charitable and civic organizations in Queen Anne's County. The Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program is designed to provide short-term assistance with meals, transportation, etc. and is exclusively for SV residents. We usually contact our neighbors by sending greeting cards, by email, or by telephone. You can access help through your assigned Street Captain. The names and telephone numbers of the Street Captains are available on the SV Website. You can also make an email request for a copy of the brochure. Please email your request to Marge Strano at mbestrano@gmail.com.

Have a heart and join us. We can always use additional volunteers. We usually have two street captains for each section of a street. Although we have street captains for most blocks, we can always use additional help on the following streets: 100 Block of Harmony, 600-700 Block of Harmony Way, and 800 Block of Harmony Way, and Encore Court.

SNEAKERS

LINDA FARRAR, PRESIDENT

Sneakers held its first meeting of the year on May 13. It was great to see everyone in person. Our meeting was both a meeting and a farewell picnic for Helena Joy. She has been our secretary forever and chairman of most of our gala fundraisers. She will be sorely missed.

We also viewed thank you letters from Centreville Middle School for the money we sent to pay for one day of this year's Outdoor Ed.

BIG NEWS

WE VOTED ONCE AGAIN TO SPONSOR A RAFFLE FOR ONE YEAR'S FREE HOA DUES. DETAILS WILL BE IN THE JUNE LIBRETTO.

Remember, all the profits go to supporting our local schools.

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If you are a new resident or have been in Symphony Village for some time, you might want to check out the New Residents page on the Website. The Website is a good place to learn new information or refresh your memory.

The Website starts off with a *Welcome New Residents* page followed by a *Things to Know When You First Move In* page. Don't know what internet services are available? It's there. How about trash and yard waste information? It's there. Information includes answers to questions such as what to do with the boxes after you

move in, listings of doctors and other services you might need, and a listing of emergency numbers that will come in handy.

Have questions about Symphony Village Governance, Communications, or what to do in case of an emergency? It is there, too. Questions about Landscape and Irrigation or Exterior Modifications, or the Work Order process, the information is there!

NAME TAG SALE

JULIA DETCH

Our Clubhouse and its surrounding areas are starting to open up for social events. With that in mind, we would like to announce a Name Tag Sale for the next two weeks beginning Monday, May 10, and ending May 24. See sample at right.

If you are interested in ordering a name tag, please follow the instructions below. To maintain the cost of \$14 per tag (not including tax), our minimum order must be for at least TEN tags, before we can place an order

To order a name tag:

1. Clearly print this information on a piece of paper:

Name: (as you want it to appear on the name tag)

eEmail Address: (to notify you when they come in)

Backing Choice: PIN or MAGNET

(NOTE: If you have a pacemaker, you MUST choose a PIN backing)

2. Make a check out to Superior Signs: \$14.84 (includes sales tax) for one name tag;

\$ 8.48 (includes sales tax) for a duplicate of the same name.

3. Put both the ordering information and the check into an envelope, label the outside of the envelope "Name Tags c/o Julia Detch," and place the sealed envelope in the black lock box in the Clubhouse Wall Street Room.

Questions? Contact Julia Detch (443-262-8681)

**Symphony Village
Name Tag Sale**

**Happening NOW
May 10 - May 24**

**For more information,
contact Julia Detch at
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CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

ASTRONOMY CLUB

LARRY RAYNER, THE ARMCHAIR ASTRONOMER

This article primarily is about space things hitting the Earth. Why? The impact of the Chinese Long March 5 Space Booster that returned to Earth on Saturday, May 8, 2021 after launching the main section of a Chinese Modular Space Station (Tianhe, translated "Harmony of the Heavens") into orbit and the near approach of the Apophis Asteroid to Earth in late April, 2001.

Most well-known Asteroid/Comet body impacts on Earth have been:

- 65 million years ago at, Chicxulub, Mexico (that killed the dinosaurs and 75% of all life on Earth!)
- 30,000 years ago – the impact that formed Meteor Crater in Arizona
- June 1908 in, Tunguska, Russia



- February 15, 2013, The Meteor that exploded above, Chelyabinsk Russia and injured 1,200 people (Mostly from flying glass from broken windows).

In terms of size and explosive force the Chelyabinsk was about six miles wide and had the force of a 330-megaton hydrogen bomb. In comparison, the A-Bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, Japan was only 15 kilotons! The Tunguska Meteor size was 30 ft and the blast was about 25 megatons. Meteor Crater was formed by a meteor only about 20 ft wide and a blast of about 20 megatons resulting in Arizona’s crater that is 4,000 ft wide and 600 ft deep! It is still a tourist attraction. A fairly recent study concluded that a 35-megaton fusion bomb would flatten all buildings in Detroit and is surrounding suburbs.



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Space objects, about the size we’re talking, get their destructive force from the kinetic energy developed from their speed—typically between 10 and 50 miles per second. They generally break-up at their brightest about 6 to 50 miles above the Earth’s surface as a result of friction with the atmosphere (our shield of protection).

In other notable space news, NASA landed its Preservation Rover on Mars. You can watch a recreation of this on YouTube, or your cell phone, along with actual recorded flights of its Ingenuity helicopter (the first aerial vehicle successfully flown on another planet! Quite an accomplishment since the thickness (density) of Mars atmosphere is only 1% that of Earths atmosphere. By the time you have read this, Ingenuity is expected to have flown more than 6 times from where it and the Preservation Rover sit on “Wrights Field” as its JPL controllers named the area. As I write this on May 10, 2021, Ingenuity has made about four flights of nearly 1,000 ft and flights five and six are expected within the next two weeks. These two crafts landed on Mars in early April after a 6-month journey from Earth.

BOCCE

PATTI CIPRIANO

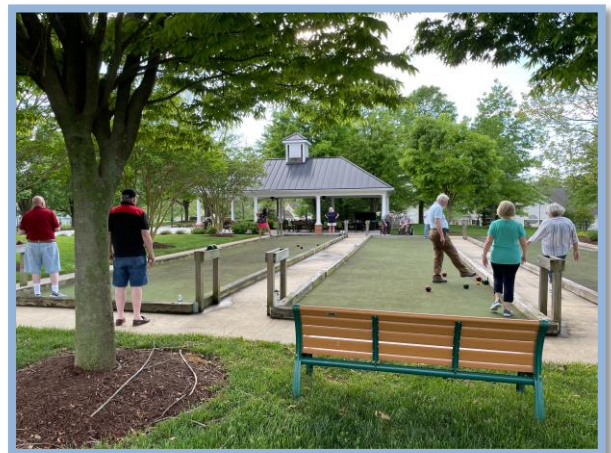
Open Bocce is now meeting each Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the SV bocce courts.

Bocce Fun Facts

Bocce was played as early as 264 B.C. in Rome. No one really knows how old the game of bocce is, but stone balls dating back to 9000 B.C. have been found in Turkey!

Notable Bocce players included the Roman Emperor Augustus, the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates, and the astronomer Galileo.

George Washington built a Bocce court at Mount Vernon in the 1780s.



PICKLEBALL

ROSEMARY ROSENBERGER

PICKLEBALL...COME JOIN US!

HAPPY MAY 2021! We've become quite the popular sport in the Village hosting anywhere from 8 to 14 players per playday. Don't be shy if you've never played! Our group of players is more than happy to help new folks learn the game and assist with playing. We have paddles you can borrow should you want to give it a try. Why not test your skills, your energy, your smiles, and just some plain good fun by joining us on our regularly scheduled play days, that are:

NEW STANDARD TIME FOR PLAY

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Tennis/Pickleball Courts by the Clubhouse

**NOTE: The above times have been adjusted for the late spring/summer weather conditions!

If you have a computer, you can visit the following website to learn more: <https://usapickleball.org/>

If you don't own a computer and are still interested, please visit the SV courts on the playtimes noted above to take in the view and see what the game is all about. The group's hope is that our new Symphony Village members will come out and join us. We have lots of fun and the group of players are fabulous and friendly! Have a wonderful May and whatever it is you choose to do always enjoy our beautiful Symphony Village!

QUILTING GROUP

CARLENE COOKE

The Symphony Village Quilting Group will start meeting outside at 10 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

Come join us at one of our meetings if you are interested in quilting, we are always looking for new members.

READING FOR FUN— READING FOR FUN – APRIL 2021 REVIEW

JOE SIKES

The SV Book Club met virtually on April 20 to discuss *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano. Attendees included Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Bob Nilsson, Jim & Kathryn Buckheit, JoAnn Walker, and new club members, Carol and Len Saltiel. Mary Jo Volpicelli and Peggy Decker could not attend but helped grade this month's book.

My Zoom education was increased this month as well. Since I use my personal Zoom account, I occasionally have multiple invitations active at a given time. On April 13 we were Zooming with our new great granddaughter, Marlo, when we were Zoom bombed. An eager Bob Nilsson was signing in a week early for Book Club. Since Marlo was only one day old, she had not read *Dear Edward* yet. Bob got to meet the family, though, and the Book Club agreed to give Marlo a one-month extension before requiring her score for the book!

Dear Edward is the story of a young boy who is the sole survivor of a catastrophic airline crash. Besides the obvious tragedy of losing his family, Edward finds himself a media sensation due to his miraculous survival. The author tells the story by breaking it into two timelines that alternate throughout the book. One recounts the in-flight events leading up to the crash and the other examines the aftermath. The in-flight portion gives the reader insight into the passengers and, as a result, a more detailed understanding of the reactions of the families and friends who are faced with their loss.

Eddie Adler is twelve years old when he boards a flight from Newark Airport bound for Los Angeles along with 182 other passengers including his parents and his older brother. When he awakes in a hospital room a few hours later, he has lost his family and goes to live with his aunt and uncle. He decides that the persona of young Eddie perished in the crash and decides to be known as Edward following the crash. Hence the title of the book.



Near catatonic from his crash trauma, Edward starts to be lured back into everyday functioning by a teenage girl, named Shay, who lives across the street. Shay is a remarkable individual and was unanimously selected as the favorite character of our Book Club. She becomes a constant companion to Edward on his grief journey and the author cleverly blends this coming-of-age story of two teenagers with the overall plotline.

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The post-crash timeline is consumed by families of other victims seeking some closure from Edward, who they hope can provide some details of their loved ones' last moments. The inflight timeline introduces the reader to the other victims, but also proceeds to the crash itself. The failure of a pitot tube is a central reason for the crash; and, so, I offered to explain how air speed was calculated through use of Bernoulli's equation. But the club members thought I was talking about some pizza place and quickly lost interest in the math. Bernoulli was Swiss for goodness' sake.

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The book was well received by the club and we gave it a score of 7.35. If Marlo can't count to seven by May 20, the grade may decrease. 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

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

June 15—**Quiet Cadence** by Mark Treanor

American Legion Jeff Davis Post 18 Friday Night Dinners



The American Legion has resumed its traditional Friday Night Dinners. The public is always welcome, and the Post especially appreciates SV participation! Dinners time is 5:30 – 7 p.m. or until sold out. Watch the marquee in front of the Post to see the menu for the following Friday. For more information, call the Post at 410-758-3584.



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

LOCAL REVIEWS

LINDA WHARTON

Stam's Luncheonette

I stumbled upon *Stam's Luncheonette* (Stam's 215 High Street, Chestertown (410) 885-6722) one Saturday morning when my "bubble" from Symphony Village decided to venture out to the quaint and charming town of Chestertown. Having only lived on the Eastern Shore for two years, any new place I go is always an adventure and this one included two of my favorite things—food and cats!

Stam's is a lunch counter offering classic American lunch and breakfast staples, to-order fountain sodas, and house-made ice cream and sundaes in a historic downtown Chestertown landmark located right on High Street. It operated as a pharmacy until 2016 and then in 2018 the current owner/chef bought and restored it. The décor is quite charming and whimsical, still with evidence of vintage medicine bottles scattered around. For lunch, I tried the \$5 grilled cheese on sourdough which is the yummiest menu item I have been critiquing since I was a toddler. My Grandmother used to tease me about always ordering a grilled cheese whenever she would take me out to lunch. For breakfast, I had the egg and bacon sandwich, which was served on an English muffin with arugula and a Dijonnaise spread that provided a tasty tang to my taste buds. Being a fan of ginger, I tried a



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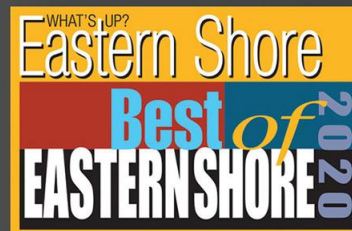


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a cup of their homemade ginger ice cream to my palate. Our ‘bubble’ was quite impressed and pleased with this find and its offerings and will be back for future visits.

As we were sitting there savoring this new eatery, we noticed in one of their front windows a person vacuuming and repositioning a cat scratching post. Being the cat lover that I am, having owned cats all my life, I immediately questioned this activity and was elated to learn that the Cat Colloquium is housed upstairs over Stam’s.

Cat Colloquium

The Cat Colloquium (5 High Street, Chestertown (410) 778-MEOW) is referred to as “High Street’s new happy place.” It is not a cat café or a shelter, but a playful, whimsical space designed to support the community’s well-being in the company of 12 resident cats, all rescues. The Cat Colloquium opened its doors to the public in June 2020. Among its goals: to raise funds for community groups in Kent and Queen Anne’s counties, to provide a meeting space for connection and collaboration, and to create volunteer opportunities for middle and high school students.

The Executive Director, Laura Wilson is very involved in running this fine-tuned establishment. She has been there both times I visited and is very engaged with the public as to her vision for the Cat Colloquium’s future. She believes that coming together to talk and collaborate is how we create community—the word “colloquy” means conversation. She also believes that animals can be a part of that process, comforting and helping people. Here, these two ideas come together, bringing community together to meet and imagine, with a little fur-therapy from the 12 in-house cats.

The space is simply amazing—a cat’s paradise! Admission is free but donations are accepted that go towards the care of these cats. I felt like I gained so much from both of these visits that I could not walk away without leaving a donation. A mask must be worn and reservations are required by calling 410-778-MEOW. Children under eight must be accompanied by an adult and the sessions are usually 45 minutes long which just fly by! With social distancing my “bubble” was able to book a group session that included just us. What a unique renovation of a downtown historic landmark....Kittens and Cream!

ADKINS ARBORETUM

CAROL HODGES

For the many people new to SV in the last year we wish to introduce you to a special place. Adkins Arboretum is a 400-acre nature preserve located at 12610 Eveland Road, Ridgely, Maryland, within the Tuckahoe State Park. The grounds are open daily from dawn to dusk. There are many nature trails with maps available in a container behind the Visitor’s Center. The Visitor’s Center is open **Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.** You can call



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Adkins Arboretum for additional information at 410-634-2847.

A [newsletter](#) is published weekly, and a copy of that is available at the hyperlink. The newsletter contains information on all of the upcoming classes and activities. It is possible to [subscribe for this newsletter](#) to keep you apprised of great activities for example summer camps for children. The gardens were recently featured in [RAP Gardens in Focus](#). Read the featured article for a great description of Adkins Arboretum.

MAY SAFETY TIPS

SYMPHONY VILLAGE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (SV CERT)

JOHN OLSON, CERT COORDINATOR

Car Emergency Kit

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends that all Americans should have some basic supplies on hand to survive for at least three days if an emergency occurs. For more information on what supplies to include, check out our CERT web pages at <https://sv-info.org/cert-files/prepare.html#gobag>. You should also consider keeping basic emergency supplies in your car for those occasions when you are stuck in traffic (think backup on the bridge) or your vehicle is disabled for an unknown length of time.

Your unique needs will determine what items to add to meet these needs. Following is a listing of items to start an auto emergency supply kit.

- Select a sturdy bag or plastic container to hold items. Consider using a clear container so you can see inside. Make sure you have easy access as you might not be able to get out to go to the trunk.
- Personal items – box of tissues, paper towels, water, granola bars, or other snacks, small notebook, pen/pencil
- Emergency repair – zip ties, hose clamps, duct tape, flashlight (change batteries regularly, store separately so they don't explode in your flashlight), multi-tool knife, work gloves, jumper cables or portable battery charger
- First aid kit – prepacked or select your own assortment of bandages, gauze, and antibiotic ointment

Remember, this is only a sample list. There will be things you will add or take off according to your needs. It's Hurricane Season

The Atlantic and Central Pacific hurricane season begins June 1. Hurricanes come with powerful winds, heavy rainfall, and flooding, which can cause significant harm to life and damage property. If you haven't prepared for hurricane season before, now is the time to get ready. There is information on how to prepare on the CERT web pages at <https://sv-info.org/cert-files/prepare.html>. The page also has a link to the Symphony Village Hurricane Preparedness Plan

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Board of Directors group email:
Board@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Location

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Fax: 410-758-8509

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