



Photo by Len Saltiel

LIBRETTO 🎵

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022

VOL. XVII No. 9

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!



Tim & Julie Gardner
236 Harmony Way

Joe & Eileen Candella
830 Harmony Way

2022 SV HOA BOD

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – SV BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MARCH 4, 2022

PAT FOX, PRESIDENT

WATER METER POLE

- Our understanding from the Town of Centreville is they will be installing a 75' pole with a 5' antenna in the traffic circle on Symphony Way to collect water meter usage data from across Symphony Village.
- This is town property and the SV piece is the final piece of their upgraded data collection program. All other parts of Centreville are covered by antennas mounted on top of large water towers.
- The Board will be meeting with the town tomorrow to discuss details including purchasing and maintenance responsibilities.
 - Type of pole – flag pole with/without flag, with/without canister lights
 - Landscaping – installation and maintenance
 - Decorative light poles
 - Installation – schedule, traffic control, maintenance
- Whatever terms are decided will be codified in a letter agreement contract signed by both the town and the HOA.
- We will inform the community of the outcome.

If you were among the residents who were able to attend the September 8 HOA meeting, thank you! If you were not available to attend, highlights from the meeting follow.

Email Board Approvals: There were two urgent email votes by the Board since the August 5 HOA meeting that were ratified at the September 8 HOA meeting.

(1) The first email vote was approved on August 24 to execute two proposals presented by Montgomery Irrigation (MI); they were:

a. Proposal #39272: \$1,711 for the additional work required to complete the repair of the irrigation leak along Symphony Way. (This will bring the total cost to date to repair the irrigation leak at this location to \$11,961.)

b. Proposal #39271: \$2,194 to repair a broken mainline in the valve box at Cluster 21 at the end of Symphony Way near Pump 4. This leak was identified by Montgomery Irrigation last Friday and was immediately isolated.

(2) The second email vote was approved on September 1. It was a Level Green proposal for \$15,022 to replace the Tucor controller. Tucor is the irrigation control software that controls the community's irrigation system. Since it had shut down completely, an urgent vote for a replacement order was necessary. However, on September 8, the Board was informed the cost of the Tucor Irrigation Controller was revised and significantly reduced to \$6,627 since purchase of a new license was not required. The lesser amount was ratified at the September 8 meeting.

September HOA Meeting Board Votes: The following projects and/or activities for the community were approved at the September 8 HOA meeting:

2023 Snow & Ice Removal Contract: The Chester River Landscaping contract for the winter season indicated some increases for services (for example: staking all storm drains, sewer clean outs, and fire hydrants for the season is now \$500 vs. \$400 last year). With consideration to a cost-of-living increase during 2023 of 8% to 10%, this contract was approved.

Level Green Mowing Contract Amendment: Each mowing occurrence of the entire community will, in the future, be over the course of four days (weather permitting) instead of the current one-day requirement. This trial change is to help alleviate negative mowing incidents to homeowner property due to mower speed and the one-day requirement.

Common Area Entrance Restoration: The Landscape & Irrigation (L&I) Committee recommended the entrance turf to the community on Symphony Boulevard be repaired aesthetically and, in a way, to reduce on-going erosion on the slope. This area is within reach of sprinkler heads to provide the extra watering that will be needed. The approved cost was \$3.2K from the L&I budget.

Vegetative Buffer Garden: The Landscape & Irrigation Committee recommended an application for a mini grant be completed and submitted to the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) to fund the installation of a native pollinator garden to mitigate excess rainfall runoff on common area slopes behind Sonata and Harmony Way. The maximum amount of the grant would be \$5K. Upon grant approval, the community's landscaper (Level Green) will construct the buffer garden and believes the cost would be below \$5K. Also, if grant approval occurs, it will be presented to the Board at the October 28 meeting to request final approval for submission to CBT, accompanied with a letter of commitment.

Pavilion Pot Plantings: The Landscape & Irrigation (L&I) Committee recommended an L&I volunteer team install plants at the top of the pavilion's large flowerpot this fall with assistance from staff member Nick Oliver. The plants will be chosen by L&I and will not exceed a cost of \$200 from the Committee's budget.

United Texas Bank CD Liquidation: The Budget & Finance Committee requested the Board to liquidate CDs as follows: United Texas Bank CD (.65% rate) for \$40K maturing 08-02-2023 and United Texas Bank CD (1.05% rate) for \$200K maturing 12-04-2023. The Committee also requested purchase of two two-year CDs for \$120K each. The current rate is 3.55%. Purchase of the CDs is to be after the Federal Reserve September 21 meeting, when the rate is anticipated to increase by .75%.

For more detailed information on any of the Board contracts and/or specifics voted upon, please review the HOA September 8 Board meeting Reference Materials online: <https://symphonyvillage.net/202209-board-reference-materials>

LAST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE SV HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CAROL PEED

On September 2, 2022, an eBlast was sent to all Symphony Village residents announcing there will be two vacant positions on the HOA Board of Directors effective December 2022. The expiring terms of Pat Fox and Patrick Ways will be filled by an election at the December 2022 HOA meeting. These will be two-year terms. This is a change from the previous three-year terms.

We asked each of you to either nominate yourself and/or a homeowner whom you feel is well suited to represent our community, is respectful of others, and has demonstrated they can work well as a team.

There are two easy ways to nominate someone:

- 1) You may submit online by clicking [here](#). Complete the form and then click “submit” and your nominations will be electronically recorded.
- 2) You may obtain a paper ballot from the front desk at the Clubhouse, complete it, and return it to Rebecca or Julia or drop it in the ballot box at the front desk.

All nominations will be kept confidential until all candidates have been contacted and validated. Immediately following validation, candidates will be asked to submit a Candidate Information Form no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, October 10, 2022.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS IS CLOSE OF BUSINESS (4 p.m.) ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following nominating committee members: Rich Ryan (Chair), Tom Meringolo, Randy Officer, Joe Sikes, Carol Peed, or Patrick Ways (Board Liaison).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

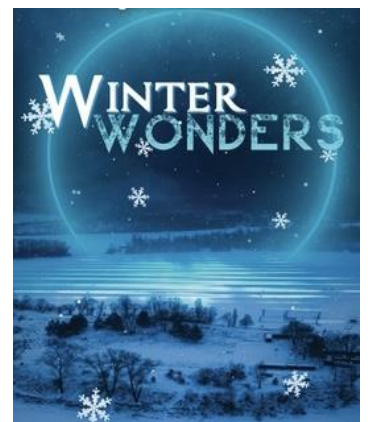
ARTISANS GUILD

KATHY McMANUS, CO-CHAIR / CATHY OLSON CO-CHAIR

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Wild and Friendly art show continues in the Concert Hall. If you have not had a chance to view it, it's worth a trip. Many beautiful paintings, photographs, needlework, and mixed media are on exhibit.

Our next show will be *Winter Wonders* with drop off on **Wednesday, October 26, from 10 a.m. to noon. Our opening reception will be on Sunday, October 30, from 4 – 6 p.m.** Please save the dates. Looking forward to many wonderful submissions from all of our artists, needleworkers, and photographers.



GUILD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

The following paragraph was written by Jean Davis, one of our committee members, about how she became interested in her stained-glass artwork.

Having always loved stained glass, I was delighted when a neighbor in Crofton offered to teach a class in the art in 2006. More classes and creations continued. I took a mosaic class at Anne Arundel Community College in 2012 and found even more fun. Grout hides many mistakes. All you need is a solid surface and bits and pieces to create. The hunt for items to mosaic (bricks, wooden and metal shapes, old windows, etc.) and tesserae (stained glass, beads, rocks, old jewelry, broken china, etc.) to attach is even more satisfying. Creating an image based on reality or the abstract is peaceful. So, that is a piece of my mind.

Thank you, Jean, for sharing your story. Maybe there are others in our SV community who would like to share their creativity story and join our committee.

The committee would like to thank Sandee Love for her help over the years with our many art receptions. We wish her good luck with her upcoming move from Symphony Village. We will miss her around the village.

Our next AG committee meeting will be on **October 13 at 3:30 p.m.** in the Concert Hall. You can find us on the calendar or in the *Libretto* or just contact one of us below.

ONGOING EVENTS

We also meet most Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. to draw, paint, do needlepoint or related arts with an opportunity to socialize as well. If you would like more information about Thursdays, please contact us so we can put you on our email list to get weekly updates. All are welcome.

LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION

TOM MCMANUS, CHAIR

LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION COMMITMENT TO SYMPHONY VILLAGE

This past Spring, I thought the landscaping looked as good as ever throughout Symphony Village. The grass was green, there were few weeds, and the flowers and shrubs were blooming nicely.

Then came the rains, with some heavy at times. At first, this kept the turf lush and green; but then came the ruts and tire marks from the mowers as Level Green felt compelled to mow as the grass was getting too long. These ruts were wide and deep in several places and LG tried some repairs to little avail.

This was followed by the usual minor irrigation issues with stuck valves, broken sprinklers, and assorted localized breaks; all of which affected various but limited irrigation zones. Then we entered the regular dry spell in late July, all of August, and into September; and the weeds came on with a vengeance in spite of LG's assorted chemical treatments being applied.

The finishing touch was a series of mainline water breaks in our irrigation system. We had not had these types of breaks before. They closed down entire sections of our watering capabilities. Were these due to having a constantly pressurized system or variable water surges such as "water hammer," or is it just age and usage related? We have no answers yet. We do know these breaks occurred at joints or other connections throughout the underground piping. And the drought continued.

Just as Montgomery Irrigation repaired these three significant breaks, they were unable to activate the irrigation programs due to a master controller failure. This is the unit in the gatehouse that controls all of our irrigation requirements. Upon consultation with the manufacturer, it was determined that this unit had reached the end of its normal life cycle—and the drought continued.

Now in early September the landscaping isn't looking so good. We have a replacement irrigation controller on order and by the time you read this, it will hopefully have been installed and the system operational (fingers crossed).

The Landscape & Irrigation Committee, Management, and the Board are well aware of all the issues and the condition of our turf, etc. In August, we met with the owner and the management team of Level Green Landscaping and discussed all of our concerns. We listened to their problems with staffing, rising costs, chemical applications, and dealing with inclement weather. We presented our own evidence of inadequate performance and unacceptable results.

Some of the changes we have agreed to are an improved series of weed treatments; the use of a “dedicated crew” to be on-site four days a week to handle all mowing, edging, clean-up, and trimming, etc.; better trained and equipped operators; treatment options for consideration of accommodating pets; and turning off excessive irrigation in some locations. Gone is the “complete all mowing in one day” concept. We can see several potential advantages of this dedicated crew plan, and it is already underway for other LG clients. We will “trial” it this year and based on performance, possibly make it permanent next year.

Also, we will continue to monitor the irrigation system operations (or the lack thereof) and have requested additional advice and guidance from our external irrigation design consultant for an evaluation and suggestions of future irrigation enhancements to improve system reliability.

It is in everyone’s interest to restore our community back to the pleasant and attractive community it has been and can be again.

LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE

Summer is officially over, and Fall has made its entrance with warm rain, cool breezes, and trees shedding beautiful leaves. Fall is a great time to enjoy the mild weather and an abundance of activities scheduled at Symphony Village.

The Labor Day Picnic was enjoyable and well attended. Over 160 Villagers enjoyed the food, warm weather, and, most of all, the opportunity to laugh, meet, greet, HUG, and socialize with their neighbors. It was truly a great ending to a perfect summer. Many thanks are due to EVERY volunteer who made this event one to remember.

Frohes Oktoberfest! Enjoy our Oktoberfest Social Hour. Villagers can anticipate the usual fun, delicious brats, and German-themed appetizers, and desserts. Wunderbar!

Social Hour the following week, October 15, will be sponsored by the Queen Anne’s County YMCA. Dinner will be provided. If you are planning to join us for dinner, please sign up in the Wall Street Room from October 3 – October 10.

DEBORAH JONES-MILLER



THE INAUGURAL CHILI COOK-OFF AND SQUARE DANCE

NORM BOSSIE

The Lifestyle Chili Committee is proud to present the first chili cook-off and square dance party and is working diligently to make this a fun event for all attendees.

Many door prizes will be distributed throughout the evening to lucky recipients. Prizes include a gorgeous necklace, restaurant gift cards, gift cards, and various products, and services. The following companies have graciously contributed to the success of the evening. Please patronize them:

Economy Restoration, Alloyed Earth Jewelry, Bridges Restaurant, Cascia Vineyards and Winery, Doc’s Riverside Grille, Edwards Pharmacy, An Eastridge Garden, Levity Hair Studio, Mama Mia’s, Ace Hardware, Creamery Café and Bistro, and T & N Nail Spa.

The winner of the mild-medium chili entry and winner of the medium to spicy-hot chili entry will each be awarded a trophy and a \$75 gift card. The overall chili winner will receive a trophy and a \$100 gift card. Monies for these gifts were donated by Economy Restoration.

We have far exceeded our expectations for chili entrants. Due to electrical constraints, we had to close the contest for chili. Cornbread makers are asked to share their recipes if they wish. Hot dogs and rolls will be available for those chili dog lovers.

Sign-up sheets are still available in the Wall Street Room. Come join the fun and bring a dessert on Friday, September 23. Activities start at 6 p.m.

The fee for ALL is \$8. Make your check out for \$8 per person payable to SVHOA-chili cook-off and place in the box at sign-in.

A reminder that beverages are NEVER included with the price of admission, but always available through the social club.

Square dancing and line dancing to follow the chili cook-off. Come join us.

Lifestyle Committee—MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Saturday, September 17 | 8 a.m.–12 p.m. | Symphony Village Fall Yard Sale | Sign up in the Wall Street Room Cost is \$5 per household |
| Friday, September 23 | 6 p.m.–9 p.m. | Chili Cook-Off and Square Dance | Inaugural Chili Cook-Off and Square Dance |
| Saturday, September 24 | 7 p.m.–9 p.m. | Movie Night | Enjoy the critically acclaimed murder mystery movie <i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i> based on the novel by Delia Owens. |
| Friday, October 7 | 6 p.m.–8 p.m. | Oktoberfest Social Hour | Come enjoy this German-themed Social Hour. |
| Tuesday, October 11 | 3:30 p.m. depart SV Parking Lot | Bus trip to see <i>Tina</i> at the National Theater Washington D.C. | SOLD OUT |
| Saturday, October 15 | 6 p.m.–8 p.m. | YMCA-Sponsored Social Hour | Enjoy a complimentary catered meal sponsored by the YMCA of Queen Anne’s County. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Wall Street Room from October 3 through October 10 |
| Friday, October 21 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | Frank Sinatra Dance | Come enjoy and dance to the music of “Old Blue Eyes” from DJ and Frank Sinatra impersonator, Bud Falls. |

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

JOE SIKES, CHAIR; FRED KURST, VICE CHAIR

The Operations Committee is responsible for aiding the HOA Board of Directors (BOD) and the General Manager (GM) 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.

The Operations Committee has three ongoing reviews as was noted in the September BOD meeting. First is the reviewing contractors to do replacement work on our sidewalks. We have had one site visit and subsequent proposal. We are awaiting visits from others who received the SV Request for Proposals (RFP). We expect more competition will produce a better result.

Secondly, we have received a survey report on the condition of our swales and stormwater facilities from Apex Companies, LLC. The general condition of our stormwater system is good, but we are reviewing the report to see if some specific repairs are warranted.

Lastly, we have completed a draft RFP to address repaving our parking lots. The Committee and the GM met with David A. Bramble, Inc. and did a survey of the parking lot. We were able to use that engagement to better define specifications for our draft RFP. Realistically, any work would likely be sought next spring, so the Committee plans to refine the RFP to be ready for early 2023.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. in the Clubhouse on Thursday, September 15. It will be a hybrid meeting so residents can also attend virtually. We welcome resident participation to help us ensure our community remains one of the most attractive neighborhoods on the Eastern Shore.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

MARYKAY KERR, CHAIR

*Definition of **copyright** according to Merriam-Webster
the exclusive legal right to reproduce, publish, sell, or distribute the matter
and form of something (such as a literary, musical, or artistic work).*

His family still holds the copyright to his songs.

From Google: *As a general matter, copyright infringement occurs when a copyrighted work is reproduced, distributed, performed, publicly displayed, or made into a derivative work without the permission of the copyright owner.*

Occasionally the **Libretto** staff receives articles or pictures that residents have submitted for use in our newsletter that are copyrighted. The picture may have a watermark [text written across the picture] or the article may have the word copyright on it or the copyright symbol ©; it could even have the name of the author or creator printed across it. My standard question is “Do we have permission to use the article or picture?” Usually the answer is “No.” I regretfully say that we cannot put it in the **Libretto**.

Artwork created for some of our activities has had wording across the picture. Please be advised it is a violation of copyright laws when you use a picture like that. There is so much free artwork on the internet. You only have to Google *free artwork*, and there will be loads of pictures to choose from. Thanks for reading!

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

SV GOLF TOURNAMENT

CAROL HODGES

The annual Symphony Village golf tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, at Blue Heron Golf Course. We will be playing the back nine holes. Tee time will be 10 a.m. using a scramble “best ball” format.

The COST is \$23 per player and includes green fees, cart, and awards. The awards will be presented at our luncheon at the Kentmorr Restaurant immediately following the tournament. Non-playing spouses or guests are encouraged to attend. The Kentmorr once again will allow us to order from the menu and have separate checks.



Please let either Allan Levin (410-299-0998) or Carol Hodges (443-735-0112) know by September 21 if you plan to play. Spots are limited to the first 36 players who sign up and pay. Teams will be formed by blind draw with the exception that husbands and wives can play together, and the remainder of their team will be by blind draw.

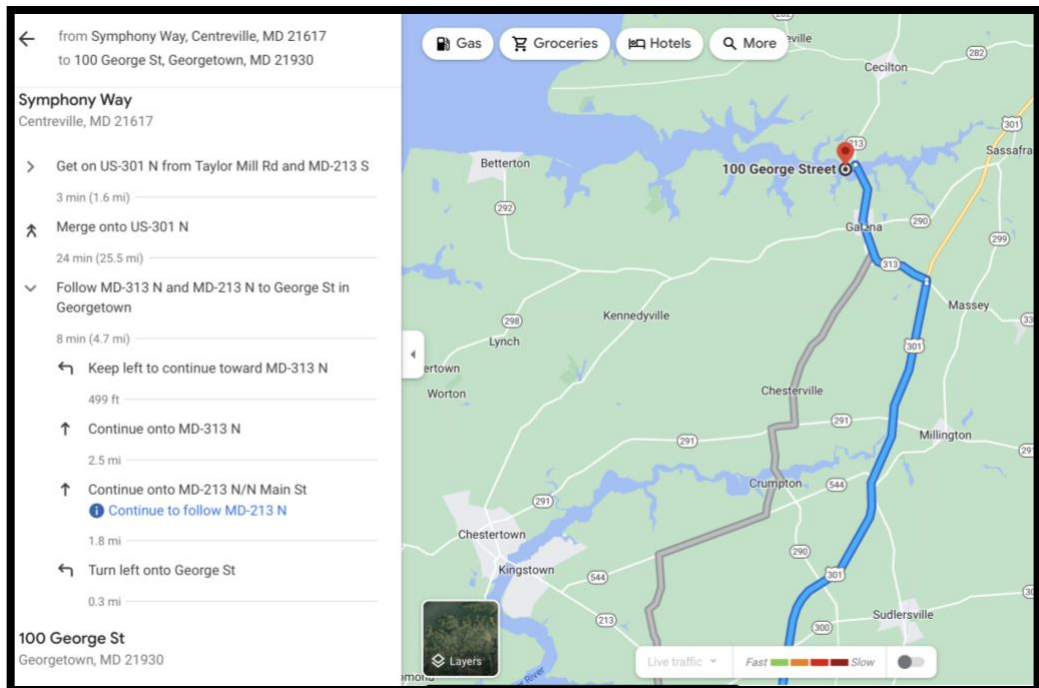
Cash or checks made out to Blue Heron Golf Club may be given to Carol or Allan. Hope you can join us for this fun-filled event.



The next Lunch Bunch is scheduled for the **Fish Whistle at the Granary** on **October 13, 2022**. Note that the Lunch Bunch will meet on the second Thursday in October. The Fish Whistle at the Granary is located at 100 George Street, Georgetown, Maryland. Click on the name of the restaurant or go to www.FishWhistle.com to the website for information on the location, beautiful photos of the restaurant and the river, and the menu. The windows in the restaurant provide a panoramic view of the river and the marina. The Google map and directions should be helpful in getting to the location.

Please call Bea Trotta at 410-758-0332 (cell 610-217-4754) or Marge Strano at 410-758-2511 (cell 609-221-6378) if you have a question or need a ride. We look forward to a wonderful waterside lunch and a crisp October Fall day.

Sign up online for the Lunch Bunch starting October 15 by using the [Lunch Bunch Sign-up Link](#). You can also go to the Symphony Village <https://symphonyvillage.net> and scroll down to *Current and Upcoming SV Events* and click the link. As usual, you can sign up in the Club Activities Book at the Clubhouse.

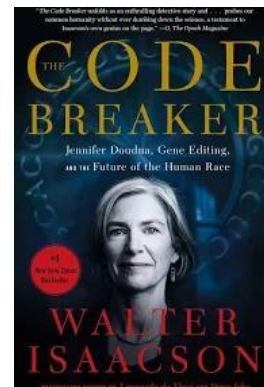


READING FOR FUN – AUGUST 2022 REVIEW

JOE SIKES

The SV Book Club held a hybrid meeting on August 16 to discuss *The Code Breaker* by Walter Isaacson. Attendees included: Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Kathryn & Jim Buckheit, Mary Jo Volpicelli, Sue Goldberg, Len & Carol Saltiel, Lidija Kampa, Kitty Wilson, Joanne Walker, and Bob Nilsson. Peggy Decker and Charlotte Kurst did not attend but provided input separately.

The Code Breaker is the story of Jennifer Doudna, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Chemistry in 2020 for her work in genome editing. She shared the award with her collaborator, Emmanuele Charpentier, and they became the first pair of women to be so recognized in the scientific category. Jennifer grew up in Hilo, Hawaii, where she would explore the rainforests and lava fields with her father, who passed on his love of nature to his daughter. She was fascinated by “sleeping grass” which would curl up to the touch and wanted to know why it did so. She was curious about all of nature and saw it as an endless source of exploration.



When she was six, her father gave her a copy of *The Double Helix*, the story of how the human genome was discovered and mapped. He described it as a mystery story that was Jennifer’s favorite category of reading material. Dubious at first, she eventually saw how investigating the structures of living cells was a mystery

story about how nature works. She was hooked and realized her calling to study science despite resistance from her teachers and society in general. Nonetheless, she persisted!

Matriculating to the University of California at Berkeley, she went to work in a lab focusing on the study of RNA (ribonucleic acid). RNA is the less sexy cousin of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) and carries messages from DNA molecules, creating or collecting enzymes to empower cellular functions in all living organisms. While most researchers focused on the more famous DNA molecules that define who we are, RNA molecules are the worker bees that allow us to reproduce, grow, and generally function. Jennifer Doudna quickly became a rock star in the field of RNA.

At the time, biologists were pursuing methods to cure hereditary diseases like Lupus and Huntington's, which were characterized by abnormality in a single gene. Messenger RNA's (mRNA) were seen as a tool that could "edit" out the abnormality in an individual and, hence, cure the disease. Doudna found herself in a furious competition to be the first to succeed. The competition included scientists, major universities, and laboratories worldwide. When the commercial possibilities became apparent, medical companies started funding their preferred participants.

While Doudna had originally been simply trying to solve a scientific mystery, she now found herself in the midst of a high-pressure competition for recognition, honors, and ultimately profits. Her competitive nature prevailed, and she became the first to publish her findings on gene editing in 2012.

One of the many interesting aspects of the book is how these discoveries were made. Biologists had been studying bacteria that had used RNA to combat viruses for billions of years. By using x-ray crystallography and the computational power of modern computers, biologists could analyze the cellular techniques developed by bacteria since the beginning of time. The possible future benefits are endless and are being used to combat even more complex diseases.

As the science developed, the competition became even more fierce to publish first, hire the best minds, and capitalize on new discoveries. Even Jennifer Doudna went to the private sector briefly but was so uncomfortable that she returned to academia within six months. She found herself increasingly at odds with other scientists who were once collaborators but were hired by competing labs and universities. This trend was continually increasing until the arrival of the coronavirus in 2019.

The dire threat from this worldwide pandemic provided the impetus to bring the world scientific community together to protect the world population. Scientific collaboration returned in light of the pandemic. The resulting advancement in use of mRNA provided new options and speeded development of both testing and vaccines.

Use of mRNA allows direct detection and attack against the coronavirus as opposed to the traditional approach that relies on the body's immune reaction to an inactive virus sample. Additionally, work was able to start as soon as the coronavirus genome diagram was available without the need for samples of the virus. We can all thank this work for the record speed with which we received our Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, as well as our home test kits.

The scientific community is now grappling with the many moral questions that come with our ability to edit genes. Obviously using it to cure diseases like Lupus and Huntington's and possibly cancer is highly desirable. But it could theoretically be used to choose hair color, intelligence, height, etc. If so, would there be government regulation or individual choice? The process will be highly expensive, thus individual choice would limit it to those who can pay. If regulated for equity's sake, would it be only for medical reasons? Would different countries regulate differently? With the rise of in vitro fertilization, this tool could be used either to address problems for a specific person or make it an inherited trait.

The scientific community has adopted some voluntary guidelines that focus on medical necessity and avoidance of gene editing for inheritance purposes. Long-term side effects are not well understood, and one rogue scientist has already edited an implanted embryo that produced twin girls. The purpose of the editing was to make their offspring less susceptible to HIV. The experiment has had negative consequences and was not considered

medically necessary since HIV is treatable with regular medications. As the science moves forward, these moral questions will become increasingly important.

The Book Club discussion was spirited and most found the story interesting and the topic timely. The story of the first female Nobel prize winners in chemistry also resonated with the group. However, the book was long, and the science made it a difficult read. Additionally, the cast of scientists who came and went throughout the book was a little overwhelming. The author, who is an award-winning journalist, was excellent but became part of the story and often came across as a fan boy of all the scientists. The club voted the book a score of 7.7.

The club had some good ideas for how scientific research could be used here in SV. The top three choices were: 1. Keep the grass green when the irrigation breaks; 2. Create a two-foot-high tower that could receive water meter data from everywhere in SV; 3. Find the SV time capsule. Maybe Jennifer Doudna would chair a new Science Committee? Or maybe not.

We hold our meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Clubhouse. We have started to hold hybrid meetings, so contact me if you would like to attend virtually. My email is sikes.withers@yahoo.com

Our current list of books and associated review dates are listed below.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| September 20 | <i>Nine Lives</i> by Peter Swanson |
| October 18 | <i>Prisoners of Geography</i> by Tim Marshall |
| November 15 | <i>Something Unbelievable</i> by Maria Kuznetsova |
| December 20 | <i>Old Woman with the Knife</i> by Gu Byeong-mo |

OUTREACH

SUE CANFIELD

Symphony Village Outreach Program, Inc.



presents our

13th Annual Card and Game Party



When: October 19, 2022 – from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Where: Concert Hall

Price: \$30

Make checks to: SVOPI — Payment Due Now

Sign-up NOW in the Wall Street Room!

Please put a V next to your name if Vegetarian!

Enjoy muffins and coffee and a wonderful luncheon with raffles and prizes!

A special thank you to everyone who supported our annual HOA dues raffle. The grand prize winners were Jim and Vickie Farmer. Congratulations! Also, thanks to Char Kurst and Ann Sewell for spearheading the raffle and to all those who sold tickets.

Sneakers met our goal, and we have already contacted the elementary schools and told them to order books for a book giveaway before Thanksgiving.

We will soon begin working on our Giving Tree project. Look for details in upcoming *Libretto* editions. The schools are thrilled that we will be around to volunteer and support them.

Sneakers is always looking for new members. Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 21, at 3 p.m. in the Concert Hall.

Once again, a tremendous thank you to a most generous community—Symphony Village.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

JOHN OLSON – CERT COORDINATOR

CHOKING FIRST AID: LIFEVAC KITS FOR THE CLUBHOUSE



The Symphony Village CERT has two LifeVac Home Kits (see photo). The LifeVac is a non-powered, non-invasive, single-use airway clearance device developed for resuscitating a victim with an airway obstruction when current choking protocols have been followed without success. LifeVac has a one-way valve that does not allow any air to enter a choking victim on the downward motion.



LifeVac was designed to be easy to use. Easy enough that you can even use LifeVac on yourself in a choking emergency. It helps anyone take out an obstruction that blocks their airway, and it can be used in emergencies when the Heimlich doesn't work. This device is safe and effective, and it has gone through third-party testing to ensure that it does exactly what it claims to do. It only takes a few seconds to use, cutting down the amount of time that the sufferer chokes.

We are exploring where to place the devices in the Clubhouse, but they will probably be stored close to the two existing Automated External Defibrillators (AED) since choking can lead to cardiac arrest.

If you want more information on LifeVac, online training is available at: <https://lifevac.net/training/>

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

SAVING THE EASTERN BLUEBIRD IN SV

PETE ZERHUSEN, BLUEBIRD MAN

In 2021 with the Symphony Village Board's approval, a Bluebird trail of eight nesting boxes was established around the rear of Pond #1 (located near the asphalt path to Dunkin Donuts). The nest boxes are monitored weekly. I now have results for both years 2021 and 2022 nesting seasons. Also, since the Bluebird trail was initially established, an additional 16 nest boxes have been placed in the backyards of Symphony Village residents.

Bluebird trails are established to help Bluebirds in their fight for survival and to, hopefully, prevent their extinction. Bluebirds are a native species that are threatened primarily by two species introduced from Europe: the English House Sparrow and the European Starling. Starlings are prevented from using Bluebird nest boxes, since they are unable to fit through the 1½-inch opening. However, House Sparrows compete with the Bluebirds for use of the Bluebird nest box. House Sparrows are more aggressive and will destroy the Bluebird nest, break the eggs, kill the young, and peck to death the female Bluebird incubating her eggs. The only solution is to

prevent House Sparrows from using Bluebird nest boxes by removing their nests once each week. Below are the results of the 2021 and 2022 nesting seasons:

| Pond #1 (8 Nest Boxes) | 2021 | 2022 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Nest boxes used | 1 | 5 |
| House Wrens fledged* | 4 | 10 |
| Carolina Chickadees fledged | 0 | 4 |
| Tree Swallows fledged | 0 | 5 |
| Tree Swallows fledged | 0 | 5 |
| *Fledged=hatched young birds that left the box | | |

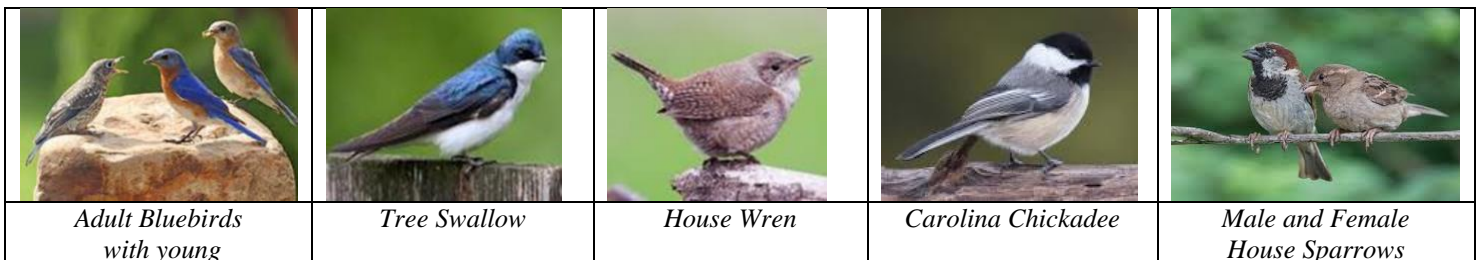
The results show that only one nest box was used in 2021 by House Wrens who raised four young. In 2022, 5 out of 8 nest boxes around Pond #1 were used by four different species. These four species are all native birds. One pair of Bluebirds successfully raised five young. In one year, nest box use increased by 400 percent.

| Community Resident Backyards (16 Nest Boxes) | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Nest boxes used | 1 | 10 |
| House Wrens fledged | 0 | 0 |
| Carolina Chickadees fledged | 0 | 12 |
| Tree Swallows fledged | 0 | 3 |
| Bluebirds fledged* | 8 | 32 |

*Only one box existed in 2021, which was in my backyard. In that one box, two successful Bluebird nestings produced eight fledglings.

As the results indicate, the Bluebird population in Symphony Village increased from 8 fledglings in 2021 to 32 fledglings in 2022, an increase of 300 percent. Bluebirds used seven out of sixteen nest boxes. I have already received four requests from residents for Bluebird nest boxes for the 2023 nesting season. Residents report seeing Bluebirds for the first time while walking throughout the community.

I want to thank all Symphony Village residents for their support in saving a native species (the Eastern Bluebird) from possible extinction.



IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING...

BETTY MCATEE

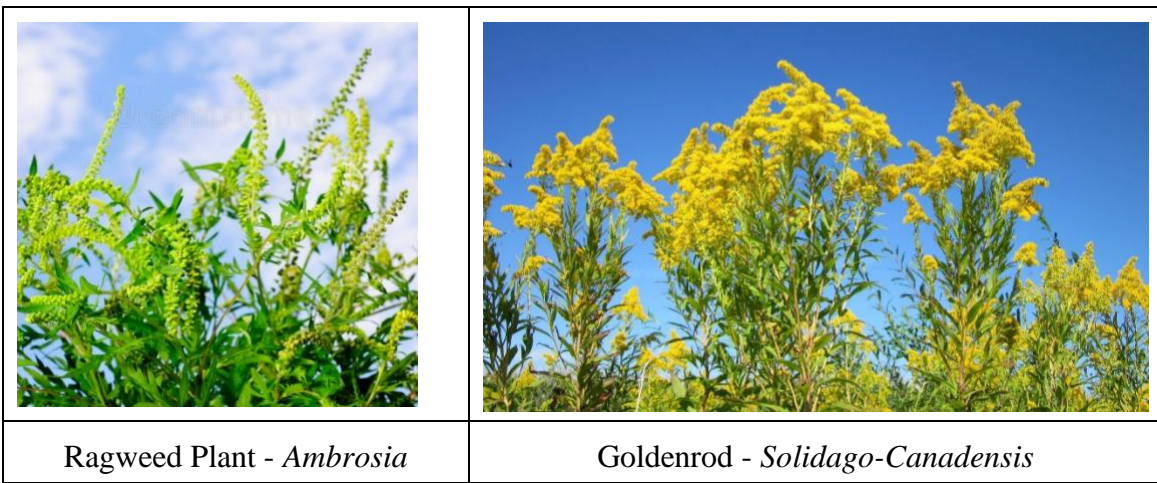
As summer days come to a close and the fall season approaches, you might notice patches of bright yellow in fields or alongside country roads. They would likely be goldenrod blossoms, just in time to provide a timely nectar (energy) source for the monarch butterfly's migration south and for other pollinators as well.

I am often reminded of the commonly mistaken identity of this native perennial for an annual native "weed"—ragweed. They both have similar seasonal bloom times, and hence the confusion.

Here are some differences:

- Ragweed scientific genus name is *Ambrosia*. Goldenrod's genus name is *Solidago*.
- Ragweed is an annual; goldenrod is a perennial.
- The foliage of the ragweed is lobed and fern-like. Goldenrod has smooth undivided leaves.
- Ragweed blossoms are greenish yellow. Goldenrod has bright yellow blossoms.
- Ragweed pollen is lightweight and carried for miles by wind.
- Goldenrod pollen grains are larger and heavier, depending on insects for pollination.

The attached photos should help for accurate identification. Allergy sufferers can safely avoid the look-alike ragweed, and perhaps include goldenrod plants in their gardens.



NEIGHBOR OF NOTE—ROSE CLARK

KATHRYN MARCHI

Most of us residing in an over-55 community are happily retired. But there are some folks living in Symphony Village who are still in the workforce. Rose Clark is one of those residents. Her current employment is with the United States Naval Academy. But that is only the tip of the iceberg! Rose has had a varied employment history, but at the same time continues to serve her community in an ongoing volunteer capacity...more about that later!

Rose was born and raised in Monessen, Pennsylvania, to a family who were quite active in their local Volunteer Fire Department. Rose's father was babysitting her when a fire call came in and he took her, on the truck, to the fire—at age two. The Fire Department became a very important part of Rose's life from then on.

After high school and a few odd jobs, Rose applied to work with the FBI in Washington D.C. After a stringent background check, she was hired and began working a night shift secretarial pool for Special FBI agents working on high-profile cases. Rose and four other girls lived in an apartment in Suitland, Maryland, an area approved by the FBI for their employees.

Three noteworthy events occurred while living in Suitland: Rose helped deliver a baby, tended to a visiting FBI agent who was having a heart attack, and met her now husband, Tom.

In explanation:

- Tom was the paramedic/firefighter on the ambulance responding to the baby's birth.
- Rose helped transport the stricken agent to the hospital immediately, which saved his life, according to doctors. For that, she received a letter of commendation from J. Edgar Hoover, thanking her for saving the life of the most highly decorated Marine in the FBI Service. Mr. Hoover also gave her a day off!
- Rose and Tom began dating, and on their first date, he was called to a Search and Rescue effort. Little did she know that this would be her future. She and Tom were married on July 15, 1967. As the wife of a firefighter, Rose became involved with the Fire Department in District Heights. Tom would go on to a twenty-eight-year career as a professional firefighter in Prince George's County.

In 1968, Rose left the FBI. Pregnant at the time, she recalls anxiously waiting with the other wives of firefighters for news of their husbands who were deployed to help with the riots in Washington, DC.

Moving to Bowie, Maryland, in 1972, Rose worked as a real estate agent for fourteen years. She also worked approximately 700 hours as an emergency dispatcher for Prince Georges County. Rose then took a job as Administrative Assistant to the President of Local Union 1619 for professional firefighters in Prince George's County. During the 12 years there, she helped build a three million dollar building for the Union. Next, she began working at Martin's West in Baltimore as an event planner. This would be a precursor to Rose's volunteerism and her devotion to the firefighters in her life.

And now we come to Rose Clark's present employment at the Naval Academy, started in December 2004. As Director of the Sponsor Program, she is responsible for linking new midshipman with local families whose homes are open to midshipman for rest and relaxation away from the Academy during their four years there. During her time in this job, Rose is credited with building the sponsorship program from 485 families to 2,568!

With that many families, Rose has concentrated on building the program, updating the computer system, training sponsors, starting a monthly newsletter, and setting up local tours for the families and the new midshipmen. To further enhance the program, Rose created a Sponsor Appreciation event and invited the families to shop in the Midshipman Store during that time.

Every year in April, Rose starts planning for the Graduation Ball and the commissioning of graduating midshipmen. With families and sponsors, this is a monumental task—roughly 4,000 folks attend! Similarly, from June to August, Rose is busy with matching the sponsor families with the incoming 1,200 plebes. After this, she plans a "Meet and Greet" on the first weekend of August for the plebes to meet their sponsor families for the first time. You can imagine the numbers involved with this event.

Now we come to Rose's "second life" as she refers to it. Even as she is employed, Rose has made "volunteerism" a second career. Her connection to firefighters stems from childhood and her marriage. Wherever she has had a residence, Rose has joined the local Fireman's Ladies' Auxiliary. When living in Romancoke on Kent Island in Stevensville, Maryland, Rose and Tom joined the United Community Firefighters as volunteers. Even after moving to Symphony Village in 2014 they are still actively helping with events there. Rose is currently serving as President of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

With her many volunteering activities in various firefighters' companies, it's not surprising that the Maryland State Fireman's Association asked Rose to help plan their annual June Fireman's Convention in Ocean City, Maryland. Rose has been directing food preparation, banquets logistics, feeding staff, and other events for over 15 years.

Aside from that, Rose has volunteered with the National Fallen Firefighters' Foundation that takes care of the families of those firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. She also volunteers for the National Fallen

Firefighters' Association event at NASCAR in Dover, Delaware. Rose is responsible for setting up the Hospitality Suite and the Sky Box—usually attended by a thousand people.

During her time of raising two boys, Rose also volunteered her time to their schools and activities. As a firefighter's family, Rose was always concerned about educating the kids to fire issues and safety. In 1994, she was instrumental in setting up the State Farm Insurance Company "Prom Promise" that featured a mock accident with badly wrecked cars containing real people as victims of fake injuries. Actual fire trucks and EMTs were dispatched to the trauma scene. Obviously, a strong message was sent to the students about drinking and driving. One such event at DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville won a first-place award!

As a result of her tireless work with firefighters, Rose was inducted into the Maryland State Fireman's Association Hall of Fame... a tremendous and well-earned honor to be sure!

Moving to Symphony Village was a way for Rose and Tom to free themselves of the many chores of taking care of a large home. They have enjoyed their friends and neighbors here, and they appreciate the "lock and leave" idea when they were away. Even though Rose is still working outside of her home, she has enjoyed sharing her ideas with our Sneakers group.

Despite her busy life, Rose has a serious hobby: collecting "Snow Babies" figurines. For forty years she has accrued some one thousand of these, and they are prominently displayed in her home in five tall curio cabinets! Rose loves children, and these figurines remind her of them.

Throughout this article, the words "Firefighter" and "Fire Department" are a constant. Rose's entire life has been centered around the world of firefighting. She states that it is a "family affair." Her grandfather, father, mother, sister, brother, brother-in-law, husband, son, and grandson have all been involved with a Fire Department in either a volunteer capacity or supervisory/upper management positions. It's definitely in their blood.

Rose Clark, herself, may not have fought a fire, but she has certainly helped and encouraged those who do!



CENTREVILLE HAPPENINGS PLUS

Registration for Institute for Adult Learning Fall 2022 Semester is open

Registration for the Fall 2022 Semester of Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) courses is open and interested individuals may join and sign up for classes any time during the semester that runs from September through mid-December.

The IAL, which provides learning experiences and social events for those age 50+ in the Mid-Shore area, is offering more than 30 courses that range from a single session to eight sessions and are staggered throughout the semester; topics include history and current events, brain and body health, local environment and science, literature, arts and crafts, and culinary classes. All classes are held during the day, Monday through Friday, and most courses are held at the Kennard Cultural Center, 410 Little Kidwell Avenue, Centreville, Md.

The membership fee of \$90 per person per semester entitles participants to sign up for an unlimited number of courses. Members are also invited to participate in monthly happy hours and various field trips throughout the semester.

To learn more about the organization, to join the IAL, and to enroll in classes, visit the website at www.instituteforadultlearning.org. Also, for additional information, contact Cindy Bogner (703-655-6505) or Steve Quigley (410-758-6775) SV residents who are on the IAL Council.

So much to enjoy. Scroll through the listings for your next adventure!

John Godfrey and Ray Sanetrik were met at the Ridgely Train Station by Cathy and Rick Schwab of the <https://ridgelyhistoricalsociety.com> who gave a complete tour of the wonderfully renovated station. It was open once a month during the summer for tours and will be open again in December for two separate visits from Santa: one to meet with children in the waiting room, and another visit from Santa to see all the neighborhood pets. It is located only 15 miles from Symphony Village on W. Railroad Street in Ridgely, Maryland. Personal tours subject to availability, call 410-991-8225.



Centreville Farmers' Market: Sundays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., rain or shine, Lawyer's Row through October 9.

Chestertown Farmers' and Artisans' Market: Saturdays year-round, 8 a.m. – noon, Fountain Park, High Street.

Kent Island Farmer's Market: Thursdays year-round, 3 – 6 p.m., at Cult Classic Brewery, 1169 Shopping Center Rd, Stevensville. (Wonderful freshly baked bread!)

Cambridge Farmers Market: Thursdays from 3 – 6 p.m. through November, 100 High Street at Long Wharf.

St. Michaels Farmers' Market: Saturday mornings 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. through November, 204 South Talbot Street. stmichaelsfarmersmarket.org

Tilghman Little Big Market: local farmers, bakers, artists and more Sunday, September 25, 8:30 a.m. – noon, located at the Tilghman Wharf parking lot, 6129 Tilghman Island Road, TilghmanLBM@gmail.com.

Easton's Farmers' Market: Saturdays, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. through December 17, Public Parking Lot. marie@avalonfoundation.com.

EVERYTHINGMARKET: Saturday, September 17, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., KI American Legion, Stevensville, kialeverythingmarket@gmail.com

First Sunday Arts Festival in Annapolis: at 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. (October 2, November 6) along West Street, over 100 vendors, live entertainment, café dining.

Harvest Highlights Flower Show: Saturday, September 24, from 1 – 5 p.m. at Chesapeake College in the Health Professions and Athletics Center, 1000 College Circle, Wye Mills. Featuring: Unique flower designs, Stellar Horticulture, Imaginative Botanical Arts, Marketplace, food trucks, Educational Exhibits, Programs and Demonstrations. See p. 64 in September's *Attraction* for full description.

13th Annual Easton Airport Day: Saturday, October 8. Formation flyovers highlight the event. The world-famous Rubber Chicken Drop Contest, and rare and unique aircraft will be on display, plenty to see. Event is free. Full description of events can be obtained at end of September at: www.eastonairportday.com.

Chuck Redd and Nate Najar's Tribute to Charlie Byrd: at the Mainstay Friday, September 16, at 7:30 p.m.

Chestertown A&E Fall Arts Walk: Saturday, September 17, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure": in Wilmer Park, Chestertown, Saturday, September 17, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, September 18, at 3 p.m. (see p. 66 in September's *Attraction*)



*Kathy Sanetrik enjoying
St. Michaels*

Alumni Invitational Art Exhibition at the Queen Anne’s County for the Arts located at 206 S. Commerce Street, open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- See how an eclectic group of artists on the Eastern Shore interpret the traffic in our lives. Call 410-827-2520 for more information or see online at www.qacacartists.com.
- Also, an exhibit of the Queen Anne’s County Public Schools Faculty Art Show from Friday, September 9, through Friday, October 7.

Thursdays in the Park 2022 Concert Schedule:

- Phillip Dutton and the Alligators / Chesapeake Heritage & Visitor Center, Thursday, September 15, 6 – 8 p.m.
- 45th Anniversary – a benefit to support the Queen Anne’s County arts in our community. Gnarly Bodacious Outrageous Stellar Seriously Wicked and Most Excellent ’80s–’90s Rock to the vibes of Mike Hines and The Look at the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, October 22, from 6 – 10 p.m. Tickets sales – queenannescountyarts.com, 410 758-2520. Hors d’oeuvres, photo ops, bourbon, oyster and cigar bars, cocktails, raffle tickets, silent auction.

“Clybourne Park” by Bruce Norris at Church Hill Theatre: Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. through September 25. “The Outgoing Tide” by Bruce Graham will play from Friday, November 4 to November 20. Call for tickets 410 556-6003 or <https://churchhilltheatre.org/>

The *Attraction* – Pick up a copy of the September, 2022, *Attraction* in the Clubhouse for wonderful descriptions of numerous activities happening this month and early October. Magazine page numbers added for your further review of the events.

- **U.S. Naval Academy Brass Ensemble Concert**, September 16, at 7:30 p.m. at Washington College. p.71
- **Volunteer Fair**, September 17, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., 200 Block of High St., Chestertown, p. 71.
- **30th Annual Native American Festival**, Saturday, Sunday, September 17 – 18 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 214 Middle Street in Vienna under the water tower. Turtletracks.org . p. 59 and p. 62
- **Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage Annual Magnificent Monarchs workshop:** Saturday, September 24, at 10 a.m. at Barnstable Hill Farm in Chester. Free to the public but space is limited. Call 410-822-5100, apupke@cheswildlife.org. p. 35
- **Chesapeake Film Festival:** Friday, September 30 through Sunday, October 9. chesapeakefilmfestival.com
- **“Explore the Shore through Science”** at the Horn Point Lab Open House Saturday, October 15, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., p. 39.
- **7th Annual Easton Beer Festival** Saturday, October 11, beginning 11 a.m., located at the Easton Volunteer Fire Dept. The event usually sells out in advance. Visit <https://discovereaston.com/beer-fest/> p. 39.
- **Outdoor Flea Market Saturday**, September 24, at 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center. p. 42 and p. 64.
- **Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra’s “Season of Celebration”** series presented on the Eastern Shore and in Southern Delaware. See article p. 43 for full description. Complete schedule is available at www.midatlanticsymphony.org.
- **Upcoming classes** in Applique Quilt, Painting with Fibers, Beginning Knitting, Angel Wall Hanging at the Fiber Arts Center of the Eastern Shore in Denton. p. 67.
- **Garfield Center’s 2023 Season** announced. p. 70

Emancipation Day: Sunday, September 18, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center. 410-221-2290.

American Legion Jeff Davis Post 18:

- Friday night dinners are back on the calendar: 5 – 7 p.m.
- Vendor and Flea Market Saturday, September 24 from 8 – noon at 2619 Centreville Rd.

- Cruise night (car, truck, and bike) the third Wednesday of the month from 5 – 8 p.m.

Queen Annes’s County Library: qaclibrary.org

- Community Wellness Clinic – free health care screening services, Tuesday, October 11, 2 – 4 p.m., Centreville Branch.
- Veterans Book Club, Wednesdays, October 12, and November 16 at 6:30 p.m., Centreville
- Did you know you can take 6-week Gale Courses on a wide range of highly interactive instructor-led courses entirely online through the library for free?
- Crime & a Cuppa hour of mystery, humor, and thrills, discussing new and old crime novels, Saturday, September 24, at 10 a.m. at Centreville Branch.

The Adkins Arboretum: (410-634-2847), <https://www.adkinsarboretum.org/>

- RE-VISION, site specific outdoor sculpture exhibits and poetry by Howard and Mary McCoy, on view through Friday, September 30.
- Introduction to Water Color taught by Lee D’Zmura. Classes meet Fridays, September 16, 23, 30, and October 7 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Birding for Beginners, Wednesday, September 21, 28, and October 5 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. wlsngang@verizon.net
- Soup Walk resumes Saturdays, September 17, and October 15 at 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Wild Food Forest Walk Sunday, September 18, 1 – 2:30 p.m. Guided walk to explore historical foodways, learn about cooking to optimize nutrition and reduce toxins.
- First Saturday Walks: Explore the Arboretum’s rich and unique native plant habitats at 10 a.m. on Saturdays: October 1, November 5, and December 3.
- Nature Journaling: Autumn Leaves and Berries, two remaining sessions on Sundays (October 2 and November 6) from 1 – 3 p.m.
- Fall Plants for Sun, Shade, Wet, Dry – Thursday, October 13, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- Botanical Art Studio Friday, October 14, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Avalon Theatre in Easton:

- For Jazz and other musical events at the Avalon Theatre see pp.30–31, in September *Attraction*. Also, get a full listing of concerts at avalonfoundation.org

If you know of any events you’d like to share, please email them to me at godfreycb@me.com

SYMPHONY VILLAGE CONTACTS

Rebecca Wagner, General Manager
gm@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Julia Neph, Assistant General Manager
agm@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:
Office: 410-758-8500
Fax: 410-758-8509

Bulk Pickup & Yard Waste: 410-758-1180

Trash Removal & Recycling: 410-742-0099

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