



LIBRETTO 🎵

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

VOL. XVIII No.8

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!



Maureen O'Connor
137 Concerto Avenue

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS - AUGUST 2023

BILL RIDGWAY, PRESIDENT

Our General Manager and Committees are working to develop the HOAs 2024 Draft Budget. We await the results of a new Reserve Study that will determine our annual obligation for funding of the Capital Reserves. At the halfway point, we are on track to stay well within our budget for 2023.

The Nominating Committee continues to seek volunteers interested in being candidates for the three vacant Board positions to be filled in the December 3 election. These Board positions will have a term of two years starting in December. Committee members or current Board members will be happy to answer any questions about serving on our HOA Board.

The Board meeting held on August 4 addressed many of our major annual contract expenses and authorized a large project to resurface our Clubhouse parking lots. Thanks to all who attended for your participation, comments, and questions.

Summary of Meeting

Electronic Vote(s): The Board confirmed a July 11 email vote to remove four dead trees on Taylor Mill Road, a fifth tree located next to the horseshoe pits, and to prune a tree located on Sonata Way. All trees were considered to be hazards. Bartlett Tree completed the work for \$3,260.

Parking Lot Resurfacing: The Board authorized the GM to accept the asphalt proposal by Chamberlain Contractors to resurface both the right and left Clubhouse parking lots at a total cost of \$117,285 with funding from the Replacement Reserve Account. The Board also approved a \$30,000 contingency allotment to allow for discoveries identified during the execution of the project. Work includes repair of curbing and drainage structures and is likely to commence in September.

EDU Reimbursement: The Board agreed to send a prepared letter to the Centreville Town Manager requesting a determination on our EDU refund request and/or a meeting to discuss usage and refund status. A payment was required to obtain a Town Permit for the Clubhouse Expansion project, but a partial refund is due if water usage does not exceed our allowance.

Flagpole/Water Meter Antenna: The Board still awaits a draft agreement with the Town outlining responsibilities for circle landscape modifications and maintenance, etc. Some previously promised pole features, namely an internal halyard and pole-mounted lighting, seem now to be in question as the Town finalizes its contract. No schedule for installation has yet been announced.

Vegetative Buffer Garden & Sign: The Board approved a Level Green Landscaping proposal for \$3,771 to plant a native pollinator buffer garden along the pathway near Pond 1, along with a \$385 bid from Shore Signs for an installed sign as selected by the L&I Committee. All expenses except about \$329 will be covered by a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant awarded to SV HOA in early 2023. Planting is to be done in September.

2024 IPM Contract: The Board voted to approve a Bartlett Tree proposal for \$24,192 to perform Tree Care Integrated Pest Management in 2024, to include inspecting all common area trees for insect and mite pests, diseases, and cultural problems impacting plant health, with treatment of designated plants.

2024 Landscape Management Contract: The Board approved a 2024 Landscape Maintenance Contract with Level Green Landscaping for landscape services at a total cost of \$311,283. The amended contract will include (previously additional) common area aeration and common area overseeding in Fall 2024.

2024 Irrigation Maintenance Services: The Board approved a proposal by Level Green Landscape with Montgomery Irrigation for irrigation maintenance services from March through November 2024 at a cost of \$37,814. Note that this expense covers regular maintenance. Repairs are anticipated and these are budgeted separately and paid as necessary.

Bluebird House: The Board agreed to allow homeowners at 210 Concerto Avenue to install a bluebird house in a common area bed at the rear of their home. The homeowners, working with Pete Zerhusen, accept responsibility for all costs, maintenance, and removal, if ever necessary.

Pavilion Event Music: The Board agreed to allow the softball group to play unobtrusive music at their afternoon end-of-season event in the Pavilion on September 25. The group's event is sponsored by Lifestyle.

Fitness Center Ceiling: Condensation from an HVAC unit or ductwork appears to have damaged the fitness center ceiling. The Board authorized the GM to start the claim process with our insurance agent, as repair and restoration expenses may exceed \$10-15K. Further actions will be required once repairs begin.

ELECTION NOTIFICATION

At the end of 2023, Symphony Village homeowners will be filling three (3) **two-year term** vacancies on the HOA Board of Directors. On Friday, September 1, 2023, the Nominating Committee will issue a formal "Call for Nominations" to the community. Nominations will not be accepted until nominations formally **open on Friday, September 1, 2023**. The following options will be available for submission of the nomination forms:

1. The form may be downloaded from the community website and submitted to the Management Office in person, by email to gm@symphonyvillagehoa.com, by fax to 410-758-8509, or via US postal mail to 100 Symphony Way, Centreville, MD 21617.
2. An eBlast will be sent on September 1, 2023, with a link to submit nominations online.

3. Hard copies of the nomination form will be available for pickup at the front desk at the Clubhouse.

The completed form can be submitted to the Management Office by email to gm@symphonyvillagehoa.com, by fax to 410-758-8509, or via US postal mail to 100 Symphony Way, Centreville, MD 21617.

The website links to the online form and a printable version will be available on the Governance page of the Symphony Village website.

Please note that nominations will **close at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20, 2023**. All nomination forms must be submitted by this time to be counted.

Nominations will be kept private 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 9, 2023.

A homeowner may nominate himself/herself or another homeowner who you feel is well suited to represent our community, is respectful to others, and has demonstrated they can work well as a team.

If you have any questions regarding what may be required to fulfill the Board of Directors position, feel free to contact Bill Ridgway, 443-262-8217 or Rebecca Wagner, 410-758-8500.

COMMITTEES

COVENANTS CORNER

TOM MERINGOLO, CHAIR

DEBI WELLS HOOPER, AUTHOR & COVENANTS BOARD LIAISON

Covenants Update – New Process for Urgent Maintenance Issues


A Covenants Committee's ability to help the HOA adapt to change is essential for the long-term success of the community. To support a positive change for Symphony Village in the future, all water-related, urgent maintenance, and medically required railings for front or rear steps will be approved expeditiously by the Board via an email vote after submittal of an Exterior Modification Form (EMF) from the resident. That urgent EMF will be reviewed by the General Manager and Covenants Committee Chair prior to a Board vote. All Board-approved urgent EMFs will be reported to the Covenants Committee by the Board Liaison. The Board believes this will help residents and the Covenants Committee avoid the need to hold unplanned virtual meetings to review and vote upon an urgent EMF.

The Covenants Committee reviews all EMFs in a timely manner and strives to streamline the process and requirements. Consequently, it is important **residents submit their EMFs at least one week prior to each Covenants Committee monthly meeting**. The earlier you submit the EMFs the better! Timely submission of EMFs allows Covenants Committee members to thoroughly evaluate proposed projects and ask important questions of the homeowner before the EMF is presented and voted upon at a monthly meeting. Tabling an EMF at a meeting, due to lack of information, can result in a lengthy wait by the homeowner to initiate their project. The sooner the EMF submittal, the better the outcome.

Just a reminder to homeowners (as the EMF requests), adjacent neighbors are required to sign the paperwork. Adjacent means *next to*, the homeowners on the right and left must sign the EMF. If there is no home to the right or left, then the closest neighbor who has a view of the exterior modification will be accepted. Signatures are required to ensure that neighbors are aware of the requested modification and are part of the process. Neighbors can choose to attend the Covenants Committee meeting and voice any concerns to the Board or General Manager prior to the vote. However, the decision to approve or not approve an EMF is not based on neighbors' opinions. Instead, the Covenants Committee votes according to the unique details of each EMF based on the [Architectural Requirements](#). See the [Architectural Requirements](#).

The Covenants Committee is all about aesthetics, guidelines, and building a cohesive sense of community, and for that reason, attendance at monthly meetings and *input from residents is always welcomed*. The Covenants

Committee meets the second **Wednesday** monthly at 9:30 a.m. in the Concert Hall. The meeting is also available virtually. Please feel free to join us from the comfort of your home or at the Clubhouse for part of a meeting, an entire meeting, or choose to join as a member! We can use your help!

 PLEASE NOTE:	Next Covenants Committee Meeting Date and Time	Exterior Modification Form Due Date To HOA Management Office
	Wednesday, Sept. 13, 9:30 a.m.	Wednesday, Sept. 6

ARTISANS GUILD

**KATHY McMANUS, CO-CHAIR, AND SUE CANFIELD, CO-CHAIR
AUTHOR, PATTY SMITH**

If you have not had a chance to see the August to November art display at the Clubhouse, you are missing a great journey. Our art collection starts with a fabulous photograph collection by Len Saltiel. Len is living out his retirement dream by collecting photographs as he travels. His journey begins with mountain ranges, cliffs, and mesas—all capturing magnificent scenery. He then shows some interesting pathways through stairs and architectural columns. And finally, he shows his views of animals in their wild habitat.



As one continues through our display, there are amazing pieces focusing on light and shadows. You'll find herons, sailboats, Queen Anne's lace flowers, and irises silhouetted against beautiful evening skies. You'll see mountains, bridges, animals, and buildings reflecting their images in the water below.

Joseph Lichaa created a completely black and white painting showing the bottle shadows of his Grandma's kitchen. Cathy Olson and Nancy O'Brien capture the movement of dancing water shadows in their days end water scenes. Janet O'Connor never disappoints us with her lovely needlework. She has included a replicate of Charles-Francois Marchal's painting, *Penelope*. Each hue of the color shows shadows in Penelope's dress and needlework activity. In addition, Janet has created her own artwork showing shadows in a flowery, wooded, spot.

As always, there is always someone who submits the cool, unusual, or comical piece. Zina Lichaa submitted a photograph of a nosy pelican poking his nose (or beak, I should say) into the shadows of the door to find out what is going on. Patty Smith created a picture of a boy doing a hand puppet show for his pets, and Maria Koszalka created the most unusual, yet striking image of what appeared to be shards of red glass. Each piece reflecting off of each other creating another hue of red. A very interesting piece.

This article highlights just some of your SV neighbors' creative works. Come and enjoy a great art show.



Photo of the ladies responsible for the delicious spread at the reception: Maria Koszalka, Kateri Coombe, Cathy Olson, and Janet O'Connor

A NEW HABITAT FOR BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

In early February 2023, the Symphony Village HOA was awarded a grant in the amount of \$3,828 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust that supports *hands-on* community projects leading to the restoration and health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The SV HOA BOD approved the use of these funds, along with a budgeted supplement, to support the installation of a native buffer garden along the walkway near Pond 1 by Level Green Landscaping. The turf-replacing garden will contain all native, pollinator plants that bloom in spring, summer, and fall, plus berry-producing plants for birds during winter. On a 10' x 30' slope, the plant roots will serve to help capture the runoff of rainwater that would ordinarily end up in a nearby stream. Another *plus* feature is the characteristic of these native plants to survive during extremely hot, dry weather. Deep, penetrating roots make this possible.

The SV HOA received a personal note from Maryland Senator Stephen Hershey, Jr., recognizing the importance of this grant-supported project at Symphony Village that creates a natural habitat for pollinating insects and a means to lessen rainwater runoff. Signage posted at this garden will remind passersby of this same purpose.



Red Cardinal Flower



Red Winterberry



Blue Flag Iris

LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE—MAY 2022**VINNY & MARYJO VOLPICELLI, CO-CHAIRS****MARIE BOSSIE—CORRESPONDENT**

The Lifestyle Committee members have been busy this summer planning and coordinating fun events for all residents. We hope to see you all at some of the upcoming events.

Recent Events

- **Healthy Lifestyles:** Carolyn Harty continues to present useful information on healthy foods, activities, recipes, and tips for living healthy. Different topics and recipes are shared each week. Drop by the Concert Hall any Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. and check it out.
- **Pick-Up Softball:** The Ladies and Gents have been playing every other Monday, weather permitting. We had lots of visiting grandchildren join us at the last game. Any questions call or text Norm Bossie at 202-255-8942.
- **Ice Cream Social at the Pool:** July 19, special ice cream treats were provided by Ed and Cindy Beres for all the residents of SV. Many residents came to socialized during the event.
- **Isaiah's Ice Cream truck in support of the Autism Foundation of Queen Anne's County:** Wednesday, July 26. Many residents came to enjoy many wonderful new ice cream flavors and have a chance to socialize with friends and neighbors. These events are coordinated by Martha Anthony. If you have questions about the foundation, please call Martha at 443-988-1201.

- **Movie Night:** Saturday, July 29, Randy presented *All About Fathers*. Thanks to Randy for another fun evening. Lots of positive reviews from attendees.
- **Special Social Hour:** Friday, August 4, to celebrate residents who had a birthday in July and August, and who will be celebrating one in September. Zina made one of her spectacular cakes for the occasion enjoyed by all who attended.



Upcoming Events

- **Isaiah's Ice Cream Truck: Wednesday, August 23**, Isaiah's Ice Cream truck will be returning to the parking lot from 5 - 7 p.m. Come enjoy your favorite flavor and socialize with other residents. Remember, you are supporting the Autism Foundation of Queen Anne County.
- **Randy Officer Movie Night: Saturday, August 26.** Title to be announced. Please note that August 26 starting time is 7:30 p.m.
- **Co-Ed: Pick up Softball: Monday, August 28, September 11, and 25**, 10 a.m. Come cheer on Team Rock and Team Roll and enjoy some fun and laughter.
- **Labor Day Picnic: Sunday, September 3**, 12 noon – 4 p.m. Catered by Adams Grille. Menu includes barbeque chicken and pork, sides, coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans, and rolls and butter. \$20 per person, \$10 children 12 and under. Sign up in Wall Street Room. **Isaiah's Ice Cream** will be in the parking lot from 2 - 4 p.m. for all to purchase their favorite flavor. Open to all residents.
- **Food Drive: Tuesday, September 12**, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Truck will be in the parking lot at the Clubhouse. This event benefits Haven Ministries. A list of items needed will be posted soon. Monetary donations will also be appreciated.
- **Gary Fookes Stretching: Saturday, September 16**, 10 to 11 a.m., at the Clubhouse. More information to follow.
- **Octoberfest Social Hour: Friday, October 6**, bratwurst will be served. Come join your neighbors.
- **Community Yard Sale Saturday: October 7**, 8 to 11 a.m. Rain date: October 8. More information to follow.
- **Halloween Karaoke: Saturday, October 21**, 7 to 10 p.m.
- **Len Saltiel Presenting Travels Around the World: Friday, October 27**, 7 p.m. in the Concert Hall.

Thanks to all who signed up to host the Friday and Saturday Night Social Hours. It is really appreciated. The next Saturday Social hour is on **August 19**. Email Helen Fitzgerald, coordinator, at helen6289@gmail.com. with any questions. Enjoy the rest of summer.

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 issues such as the Clubhouse, swimming pools, and sidewalks.

The Operations Committee met on July 20 and reviewed four asphalt proposals for upgrading the Clubhouse parking lots. We recommended selection of Chamberlain Contractors, and the BOD approved the contract at the August meeting. We considered proposals to do the parking lots separately or simultaneously. Since doing them separately was \$15 to 20K more expensive, the decision was made to do both at the same time. The GM is working out a schedule with Chamberlain and will advise residents when the work will proceed. This work will require closing of the lots while work is underway.

The GM received a proposal for sidewalk repair as spelled out in last month's *Libretto*. We will review the proposal at our next meeting and make recommendations to the BOD. Work will likely occur in the September/October timeframe.

SV has received its long-awaited leg press for the fitness center. The GM is working with RMS Fitness to schedule a session to answer questions and discuss the use of all fitness equipment. Look for a future notice regarding date and time.

Lastly, the Operations Committee discussed the feasibility of converting our pools to saltwater pools, a topic of discussion that was raised at a recent BOD meeting. While there are advantages to such pools, they require significant upfront costs and likely increased long-term costs as well. As a financial matter, the Committee did not favor conversion. The topic is complicated. The Committee produced a discussion paper on the subject. The paper is included as a stand-alone entry with Operations Committee minutes on the [SV Website](#).

The next Operations meeting will be held on August 17 at 10 a.m. in the Clubhouse. The meeting will be hybrid and all residents are welcome to attend either in person or virtually.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

MARYKAY KERR, CHAIR

P&C likes to put out a great newsletter. We appreciate residents who take the time to contribute articles for the *Libretto*—and here's *the but*—frequently, we receive articles that have copyrighted pictures included. When you copy a picture from the internet or wherever and send it to the *Libretto*, we notice the picture has writing across it (called a watermark), that indicates that the picture is copyrighted. It is against the law for us to print a picture that is copyrighted without permission from the owner of the picture.

So, please help us out and contribute copyright-free pictures only. It might take a little searching to find one or two pictures to enhance your article. If you do a Google search of the picture subject, you can easily find copyright-free pictures for the subject you are writing about.

If you are personally taking pictures to add to your article, those pictures are fine. By sending the picture, you are giving the *Libretto* permission to publish. Example: pictures of the softball team, pictures taken at Cheeseburger in Paradise, or any other event we have at Symphony Village.

There is one more subject to address. Occasionally we receive an article saved as in a **pdf** format. Sometimes we can convert that **pdf**, and sometimes we can't. It would be greatly appreciated if you would give us your submissions as a Word document. If you don't have access to Word, you can write the information you want published in an email. We can copy and paste your article into our Word *Libretto* document.

Thanks, from the *Libretto* Editors for your help.

OUTREACH—SYMPHONY VILLAGE OUTREACH PROGRAM, INC.

JOANN WALKER, PRESIDENT

Outreach is sorry to learn of the dissolution of Sneakers and wishes to thank and recognize Linda and Bob Farrar and all their helpers for the many years of service given to the children in the Centreville area. Outreach will assume responsibility for two of Sneaker's popular programs—the *Giving Tree* at Christmas time to benefit needy children in local schools and the HOA Raffle. Profits from the raffle will allow us to increase our donations to QAC agencies and charities. We would also like to invite residents who were Sneakers members to join us in our efforts.



HOA Raffle tickets are now available. Please make checks out to **SVOPI** and placed the check in the **purple** box in the Wall Street Room. Raffle tickets will be delivered to your home. Tickets are \$30 each or two tickets for \$50. The drawing will be on September 3 at the Clubhouse. We will also sell tickets at the Social Hours on August 4 and 19 and at Ladies Social Hour on August 24.

Save the Dates

We have two events coming up over the next two months. First, we have a fundraiser dinner at Doc's Restaurant on **Wednesday, September 20**, from 4 to 8 p.m. Doc's will donate 10% of the dinner receipts during the 4 to 8 p.m. time period. The proceeds from this event will be donated to the new Senior Center coming to the YMCA this fall. We are also preparing for our annual Card and Game Party on **Wednesday, October 18**. Save both of these dates!

Workshops

We encourage you to attend the workshops facilitated by Rhonda Knotts on dealing with the losses all of us experience during our senior years. Workshops are held on the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

In July, Outreach made donations to Camp New Dawn to support children who have experienced family loss and to the Goodwill Fire Company. In August, we will donate to the Queen Anne's Department of Emergency Services. Thank you for supporting our events. The profits from these events make these donations possible.

Our next meeting will be September 27 in the Concert Hall at 3 p.m.

A Reminder

The Outreach team wants to thank neighbors and friends who collect aluminum pull tabs from cans. We partner with our local Shriners organization in Chester for recycling the pull tabs. The proceeds from recycling are used to cover the cost to transport local children to Shriners Hospitals at no charge to the families. To date, millions of pounds of aluminum have been recycled nationwide in this program!

If you are a new resident, please join us in this effort. Saving aluminum pull tabs is so easy. Save pull tabs from soda cans, and other beverage, fruit, vegetable, and canned pet food items. Place the tabs in a Ziploc bag in the container in the Craft Room in the Clubhouse. That's all you have to do.

This collection effort has been ongoing for several years. The many pounds of aluminum scrap recycled means so much to these families. Did you know? Approximately 1,200 tabs are equal to a pound of aluminum.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO BAG THOSE TABS!



CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

LUNCH BUNCH—SEPTEMBER 2023

BEA TROTTA & MARGE STRANO

NEW RESERVATION TIME: 1:15 P.M.

September Lunch Bunch—The September Lunch Bunch will take us to a favorite Chestertown restaurant, Luisa’s Cucina Italiana on **Thursday, September 7**, at 1:15 p.m. We had to change the arrival time due to a conflict at the restaurant. Please do not arrive too early since there is another event just ahead of our luncheon. Luisa’s is located in Chestertown at 849 Washington Avenue. You can look at the lunch menu online at [Luisa's Cucina](#). The menu reflects the very best of Italian cooking and so much more—great appetizers, salads, hot sandwiches, and interesting and delicious meat and pasta entrées. The restaurant is a five-minute ride from downtown Chestertown.



Luisa's Cucina Italiana

Signup for the September Lunch Bunch will begin on August 16 and run through September 4. If you miss signing up on time, please call Marge or Bea to add your name to the reservation list.

You can sign up online on the [Lunch Bunch sign-up link](#). You can also go to the [Symphony Village Website](#) and scroll down to *Current and Upcoming SV Events* and click the link. As usual, you can sign up in person in the Club Activities Book at the Clubhouse. 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 need to sign up after September 4, want to cancel, need a ride, or have a question.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

JOHN OLSON, CERT COORDINATOR



Safety Day is Next Month

The Symphony Village CERT in coordination with the Queen Anne’s County Department of Emergency Services will host a Symphony Village Safety Day on **September 20** from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

This will be an open house event and residents can come and go as desired.

There will be a series of demonstrations, activities, and exhibits open to all SV residents. These demonstrations include CPR/AED training, home safety, Meet the First Responders, etc. Outside of the Clubhouse will be ambulance tours and Stop the Bleed training (weather permitting).



CERT-Sponsored Pool Safety, CPR, and AED Course

On July 29, the Queen Anne’s County Department of Emergency Services taught a basic pool safety course to Symphony Village residents. The course covered essential knowledge and skills to ensure the safety of individuals in and around swimming pools. Participants also received introductory training on CPR and the use of the Automated External Defibrillators (AED) that are available in the Clubhouse. The course was well-received by participants, who said they learned a lot about pool safety and how to help someone who is drowning.



The photo to the right shows Owen Long, Director of First Responder and Aquatic Training of the American Red Cross, briefing Symphony Village residents.

Safety Tips for Electronic Bike Batteries

Electronic bikes are becoming more popular, and you should be aware that e-bike batteries can be dangerous if not handled properly. Here are some safety tips to keep in mind:

- Use only the charger that came with your battery. Using a different charger could damage the battery and increase the risk of a fire.
- Never leave your battery charging unattended. If you leave your battery charging overnight, you could come back to a fire.
- Do not overcharge or over discharge the battery. Overcharging can damage the battery and over-discharging can shorten its lifespan.
- Do not store your battery in a hot or humid environment. High temperatures can cause the battery to overheat and catch fire.
- If you notice any problems with your battery, such as swelling or a strange smell, stop using it immediately. Contact the manufacturer for instructions on how to dispose of the battery safely.
- If you are not going to use the e-bike for an extended period, store the battery at 50% charge.
- One of the biggest hazards on e-bikes seems to be low-quality batteries that may not be UL tested. Buying reputable brands and using the original charger paired with the battery mitigates much of that risk.



By following these safety tips, you can help keep yourself and others safe while using an e-bike.

PICKLEBALL

ROSEMARY ROSENBERGER

DID YOU KNOW THAT AUGUST 8 IS A NATIONAL PICKLEBALL DAY?

SV pickleball courts have been rocking all summer long. For the most part, we occupy all four courts—new players, old players, serious players, and other players just looking for exercise or just plain fun! In fact, pickleball has become so popular, it has its own designated day on the calendar! SV players celebrate, do you?



FUN FACTS FROM [TheNationalDayArchives.com](https://www.thenationaldayarchives.com).

When is this day celebrated? August 8 of each calendar year.

What is National Pickleball Day?

This day celebrates and raises national awareness of the sport of pickleball. Pickleball is currently being played in all 50 states. It is a fun, social, and simple game that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong into one. It can be played at any age, from beginner to pro level. Pickleball began in 1965 as a way for the entire family to play a game together. The sport is played by using paddles and a plastic ball on hard surface courts the same size as badminton courts and can be played either indoors or outdoors.



Pickleball Court and Players

Why was this day created?

Invented in the mid-1960s, pickleball is now the fastest growing sport in the USA. It is played by all ages and skill levels, including pro and para-pickleball athletes around the world. In alignment with the USA Pickleball Association, this governing body's mission is to promote the development and growth of the sport currently supported by 3.5 million players.

How should this day be celebrated or observed?

Ambassadors, coaches, pickleball clubs, and players throughout the USA are encouraged to promote the sport by inviting new players to join them. Ambassadors, coaches, and sport reps conduct free clinics for all skill level players. Local tournaments and leagues could be introduced as a more formal and competitive aspect of play.

Who created this day?

This day was created in July 2021 by Deirdre Morris.

Have I captured your curiosity? Take a trip to the pickleball courts on scheduled play days, **Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday** at 9 a.m., to see it in action! Please note that some folks are early birds and show at 8:30.



As always, please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions or concerns! If scheduled play days don't work for you, I am willing to come up to the courts any evening. Please contact me, Rosemary Rosenberger, at 443-676-3875, if you would like to schedule some time to *give it a try!*

READING FOR FUN—MAY 2023 REVIEW

JOE SIKES

The SV Book Club met on July 18 to discuss *Zero Fail: The Rise and Fall of the Secret Service* by Carol Leonig. Attendees included: Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, JoAnn Walker, Bob Nilsson, Jim and Kathryn Buckheit, Kitty Wilson, Donna Harkins, MaryJo Volpicelli, Len and Carol Saltiel, Lidija Kampa, and Cathy Olson.

The book was recommended by a former colleague of mine in the Department of Defense. The author was a newspaper reporter for the *Washington Post* and had covered the modern Secret Service since 2012. During the confusion of *9/11*, two secret service agents were sent to the White House roof with no idea or weapons to defend against a suicide airliner if it approached. President George Bush realized that coordinating the assets of the FBI, CIA, FAA, and other related agencies would allow the Secret Service to better protect against emerging threats in the modern world. The Homeland Security Department was born, and the Secret Service was moved from its original home to the Treasury Department. Author Leonig had gone back to trace the origins of the Secret Service and the increasing challenges it faced following the assassination of President Kennedy.

Interestingly, the Secret Service was the brainchild of President Lincoln but not for the reason you might think. Counterfeiting was rampant during the Civil War and the Secret Service agents were tasked to make sure that the U.S financial system, awash in fake money, did not crash. But Lincoln did not live to see implementation of his plan. And while lawmakers found numerous investigative uses for the new federal police force, unique at the time, it took 36 years and two assassinations before the presidential protection mission was assigned. Teddy Roosevelt was the first president assigned a Secret Service detail. The old roughrider paid scant attention to his detail and made it known that he was perfectly capable of protecting himself.

The men and women of the Secret Service are, by nature, brave and patriotic Americans, willing to take a bullet for the president. Most Presidents resist the intrusion of being watched continuously which often makes the agent's mission a thankless task. Convincing the most powerful man on the planet not to take a stroll in Lafayette Park can be a daunting conversation. While the assassination attempts are well known, there have been numerous close calls that never make the news or quickly fade from memory. Who remembers Lynette

“Squeaky” Fromme (of Charles Manson fame), for example? Personally, I had forgotten she tried to shoot the President until I was reading this book.

Two Presidents were particularly challenging for the Secret Service and their chapters are interesting reading—JFK and Bill Clinton. They shared two common traits that made their agents lives more challenging. Both were young, engaging men whose travel schedules were much more prolific than their predecessors causing increased demands on Secret Service details in terms of personnel required and travel budget. The Secret Service was underfunded from its inception and Congress did not treat the agency as a high-budget priority since the agency represented no constituents.

Presidents Kennedy and Clinton were also famous for the endless stream of female visitors that the agents were expected to both facilitate and overlook. Security checks were often waived, and, in some cases, identities were never known. Agents were uncomfortable with keeping secrets and the possible danger of such arrangements. The book illuminates many interesting tidbits about those presidencies.

Later presidencies brought their own challenges. Barack Obama's election resulted in a large spike in the number of death threats compared to prior presidents. When Donald Trump assumed the presidency, two residences had to be protected since his family remained in New York for his first year. Trump Tower demanded more complex security because it was in a dense urban setting.

Author Leonig highlights the budget battles that always seem to leave the Secret Service a couple of years behind the increasing demands on its workforce. The introduction of new technology has only made surveillance and protection more expensive. I was also surprised by the relative lack of seniority in the supervisory levels of the Secret Service. Supervisors were commonly graded at the GS14 level (equivalent to an Army Lieutenant Colonel). In the Pentagon, for example, a GS14 would be an action officer, not a supervisor. The Secret Service is also a very insular organization and outsiders are viewed skeptically. Career progression requires climbing the ladder of the "old boy" network to get promoted. Recent changes to improve efficiency by introducing outside leaders have met with great resistance.

The book includes a plethora of inside stories about the Secret Service. Even an event as widely dissected as the Kennedy assassination revealed details that were new to me. Many other incidents during my lifetime had long since faded and the book brought them back to life. Many of the Book Club members felt the same way, and awarded a score of 8.21 on our scale of 10, reflecting the top third of our list.

The reputation of the Secret Service has suffered since the Cartagena prostitution scandal in 2012. (Read the book if you do not remember.) The scandal unfortunately obscures the bravery and patriotism of the agents in the Secret Service. It also highlights a reason for their motto, *Zero Fail*, a motto that requires continuous improvement if it is to be achieved.

The SV Book Club holds our meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Clubhouse. We 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.

August 15—*The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab

September 19—*Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty

SOFTBALL

NORM BOSSIE

After two consecutive rainouts, players awoke Monday morning, July 31, to yet another night of rain. The ball fields were unplayable. But did we quit? No, not these players. The game was played on grass at the far end of the park with makeshift bases.

Rosemary and Amy were starting pitchers. Of note, both Bob Ciesielski and Vinny Volpicelli hit homers with Brad Kram hitting two doubles and a single.

The very exciting game ended a bit early, with Team Roll leading Team Rock, 10–8, due to the unrelenting heat and no dugout for shade. There are only four games remaining on the schedule: August 14 and 28, September 11, and 25. Don't miss your chance to come out and cheer for the players and have a few laughs.

All games are played at the QAC Parks & Rec Fields on Rt. #18, at 10 a.m. except for the last game, September 25, starting at 11 a.m.

SV QUILT CLUB

MARYKAY KERR

The next Quilting group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16, at 10 a.m. in the Craft Room at the Clubhouse. We will be making additional stockings to send to our troops.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

NEIGHBOR OF NOTE—MARY COLLING-OFFICER

KATHRYN MARCHI

As usual, when I interview for Neighbor of Note, I am surprised and delighted to hear the life stories of our neighbors in Symphony Village. Our Neighbor of Note for August, Mary Colling-Officer, is no exception. She had a varied and very interesting life before coming to SV. When you see this very glamorous lady, you won't believe some of her adventures.

Before I begin her story, I would like to share a most interesting fact in Mary's life. Mary's father was born in Russia. His grandmother was killed by the Bolshevik Russians because she was Jewish.

Subsequently, his mother, father, and their three sons fled to China where they were taken in by a wealthy Chinese family. His father returned to Russia and was imprisoned and killed. His mother then met and married William Colling who was stationed in China with a humanitarian group. He was a Catholic and thus raised the three boys as Catholics. Upon his death, his brother sponsored the family, and they were able to immigrate to San Francisco, California. Because Mary's father spoke both Russian and Chinese, he joined the United States Army and later, the CIA. Mary did not know about her Jewish roots until after her father's retirement



To continue Mary's story, Mary was born in Berkeley, California. Because her father was in the CIA, the family moved often—Taiwan, Cuba, Panama, Germany, and back to the United States. She actually began her schooling in Taiwan and, ironically, ended up graduating from Taipei American High School in 1965.

After graduation, adventurous Mary traveled to Hong Kong and Hawaii. Taking a short break before college, Mary returned to the United States and worked for the CIA in Langley, Virginia. She then attended and graduated from Shepherd College in 1970.

After graduation, Mary worked at the Navy Federal Credit Union and then spent eight years in management for Women's Retail Clothing in the Washington, DC, area.

True to her wanderlust nature, Mary decided to join a college roommate and her family for a year in New Zealand. Mary lived with them for a time in a remote mountain community where she learned to spin yarn, knit, and weave.

During her year there and wanting to see more of New Zealand, Mary decided to take time to hike and hitchhike from south to north through the country. Folks were happy to help her along the way, calling ahead to friends for safe places to stay. At this point, Mary decided to hike the Milford Track, reputed to be the most famous walk in New Zealand. Located amidst mountains and temperate rain forests in the southwest of the South Island, the hike is thirty-two miles long and requires a fair level of fitness.

To support herself, Mary worked at sheep stations along the way, cooking for the shearers and visiting tour groups, as well as cleaning and childcare.

Mary said her year in New Zealand was among the most wonderful years of her life.

Returning to the United States, Mary moved to Olde Town Alexandria, Virginia, and began working at the Torpedo Factory Art Center as a production weaver in their yarn shop. She also took a six-week weaving course with a master weaver in Vermont. On weekends, Mary stayed with friends in the area where she loved milking goats and tending to donkeys and sheep!



Some of Mary's subsequent jobs after her early adventures include Director of Admissions at TESST College of Technology and Director of Business Development at a building and maintenance firm. Mary then went to work at Apollo Higher Education for Hospitals and Health Care as a Development Director of Training to encourage nurses to earn a BS degree. After five years with Apollo Higher Education, Mary retired in 2015.

In the meantime, Mary met Randy and they married in 2009. Between them they have three sons and four grandchildren.

Mary and Randy began thinking about moving to an over-55 community. At one point, a friend on Kent Island invited them to dinner and then took them to



Symphony Village. It was "love at first sight" and they moved in November 2011.

After retirement, Mary became active in Symphony Village. She joined the Lifestyle Committee and chaired it for three years. She also co-chaired six food drives, a soup night, and co-founded the Banned Book Club. Mary is also a member of the Operations, Covenants, and Nominating Committees, the Centreville Festivities and Beautification committee, and the Centreville Holiday committee. In addition, she serves as a substitute teacher in Queen Anne's County public school system.

Mary Colling-Officer has been adventurous and motivated her entire life. She continues to volunteer and contribute while enjoying her retirement and life in Symphony Village. Mary is certainly a busy lady!



CENTREVILLE HAPPENINGS

CENTREVILLE AREA HAPPENINGS PLUS

CHARLOTTE GODFREY



Annapolis 1st Sunday Arts Festival



Queen Anne's County Fair

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

Community Wellness at the Symphony Village Clubhouse Craft Room: second Wednesday of every month 10 a.m. to noon (September 13). Screenings include blood pressure, pulse, glucose, and cholesterol.

Centreville Farmers' Market every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Lawyers Row.

Chestertown Farmers' and Artisans' Market: Saturdays, year-round, 8 a.m. to noon, High St.

Kent Island Farmer's Market: Thursdays year-round, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Cult Classic Brewery, 1169 Shopping Center Rd, Stevensville.

Easton's Farmers Market: 100 block of North Harrison St., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Denton's Farmers Market: Wednesdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the corner of Market and 3rd St.

Trappe Farmers' Market: every other Saturday, July 15 through October 14 in the parking lot of Momma Maria's Mediterranean Bistro from 7:30 a.m. to noon. p. 56 of *July Attraction*

Easton Night Out: Every first Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. (September 1), the streets will be filled with music and excitement. Explore the downtown shops, restaurants, and galleries.

Institute for Adult Learning: 45 courses, history current events, brain and body health, literature, crafts and more. \$90 fee for unlimited courses. www.instituteforadultlearning.org

Tour Historic Sites on the first Saturday of the month, September 2, and October 7. Spend the day or just a few hours touring train stations, colonial houses, an operating grist mill, a country store, an early courthouse, and churches. Admission is free. www.SHOREUPDATE.com or call 410-604-2100, www.historicqac.org.

Find Your Chesapeake: a new adventure is featured each month with Trips and Tips including birdwatching, fishing, camping, and hiking. www.FindyourChesapeake.com

Veterans Book Club: Connecting and Healing through Literature, open to veterans only, receive a free copy of each month's book. Meet on the third Wednesday of each month (August 16) at 6:30 p.m. at the Center for the Military and Veterans in Stevensville. Email Eric Johnson at info@VAMSA.US

Church Hill Theatre: "Harvey" through Sunday, September 24. www.churchhilltheatre.org

Annapolis First Sunday Arts Festivals: From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., September 3, October 1, and November 5. Vendors, live music, food trucks, and more. First block of West Street.

Flea Market & Craft Fair: Saturday, August 26, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hope Warehouse, 6527 Friels Rd. Queenstown.

Summer Concerts in Muskrat Park, St. Michaels: Every Thursday through August 31 from 6 to 7:30. www.stmichaelsmd.org

"A Scrappy Life" Quilts by artist Alice Kish on display at the Fiber Arts Center in Denton Wednesdays to Saturdays from 12 to 4 p.m. through Saturday, September 2.

KIFA: open Thursdays through Sundays 1 to 4 p.m., www.kifa.us

- **Annual Photography Show** from Thursday, July 27, through Sunday, August 27.
- **Absolutely Abstract** Friday, September 15, through Saturday, September 30.

Avalon Foundation Free Saturday Outdoor Street Concerts: Saturday nights at 7 p.m. on Harrison Street in Easton, avalonfoundation.org

- The Hustle Souls, August 19
- US Navy Country Current – Bluegrass and Country, August 26

Queen Anne's County Arts: open Monday–Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.queenannescountyarts.org

- **Nao Baum – world renown Storyteller:** Saturday, August 19, at 1 p.m.
- **Queen Anne's County Public Schools Faculty Art Show:** opening Friday, September 15 through Friday, October 6.

QACAC Thursdays in the Park Concert Series: www.queenannescountyarts.com

- **Rosewood at Cascia Winery:** August 24 at 7 p.m.,
- **Sunny Isle Americana at Cascia Winery:** September 7 at 6 – 8 p.m.

Chestertown: www.townofchestertown.com

- **Cars on High:** Third Thursdays, August 17. Admire classic, exotic, antique, and customized cars on the 300 block of High St.
- **Girls Night Out on the River Packet:** Thursday, August 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. on High Street Town Dock, reservations required, 410-635-0321
- **Beginner Wheel with Chris Neiman:** Class will be held at the Clay Studio, 204 High St., on Tuesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. running from August 1 through September 5. Course introduces basic pottery wheel techniques. 410-778-6300.
- **The Magic of Sumi-e Painting:** Saturday, August 26, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., River Arts Education Center, 200B High St.
- **Beginners Flower Pressing Workshop with Flower Bar:** Sunday, August 27, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Wildly Native, 7060 Broad Neck Rd.
- **Open Mic Night:** last Wednesday of every month (August 30) from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Prince Theatre at Garfield Theatre
- **Brampton Inn Ship-To-Shore Experience with Chester River Packet Co.:** sunset two-hour cruise, Tuesday, September 5 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Ceramic Handbuilding with Marcey Sherman:** Thursday, September 7, from 2 to 4:30 p.m., Clay Studio, 204 High St.
- **Introduction to the Potter's Wheel with Marilee Schumann:** Thursday, September 7, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Clay Studio, 204 High St.
- **Chestertown Jazz Festival:** Saturday, September 9, noon to 6 p.m. at Wilmer Park
- **Jazz Cruise on the Chester River Packet:** Thursday, September 7, at 6 p.m. The Mainstay, Rock Hall.
- **First Friday Celebration (September 1) in downtown Chestertown:** extended shopping hours

American Legion Jeff Davis Post 18: 2619 Centreville Rd., slow summer months, call for activities 410-758-3584

- **BBQ Ribs:** Sunday, September 12
- **TEXAS HOLD'EM:** Tournament Sunday, September 17. Doors open at noon, games start at 1 p.m.
-

Attraction (page numbers listed for reference in the July *Attraction*)

- **Food Truck Nights:** Friday, August 18, from 4 to 7 p.m. at 7013 Main Street, Queenstown, to support the Queenstown Volunteer Fire Department.
- **Legacy Day in Chestertown:** celebrating the historic and continuing contributions of African Americans. Begins Friday, August 18, with an exhibit at the Bordley History Center and continues with music and dancers, a genealogy workshop, and other activities including a parade on Saturday, August 19., p. 14

- **Queen Anne’s Chorale Fall Season:** Monday night rehearsals begin at the Centreville United Methodist Church, September 11, for anyone who enjoys singing. p. 14
- **Ancient Grains & Local Products Festival:** Saturday, August 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Old Wye Mill. www.oldwyemill.org, p.21. Old Wye Mill is open May through October from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Women & Girls Fund Golf Clinic and Tournament:** Tuesday, September 19, at the Talbot Country Club in Easton, p. 29
- **Summerfest Festival in Denton:** Friday to Saturday, August 18 to 19 from 5 to 9 p.m., includes vendors, music, food, classic car show., p. 30
- **The Federalsburg, Rural Life, Preston Historical Society Museums** open p. 31
- **Tred Avon Players:** presents *Looking* by Norm Foster at Oxford Community Center, Thursday, August 17, through Sunday, August 27. www.TredAvonPlayers.org , p. 39
- **Claws for a Cause:** Old fashioned Eastern Shore Crab Feast Thursday, September 14, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Fisherman’s Crab Deck in Grasonville., p. 46
- **Avalon Jazz Experience:** Labor Day weekend, Friday, September 1 through Sunday, September 3. www.avalonfoundation.org, p. 52
- **Chesapeake Film Festival:** kicks off Saturday, September 30, at Avalon Theatre, p. 55
- **Oxford one-of-a-kind painted Picket Fences:** on display throughout the town of Oxford for the entire summer.
- **Summer Talk Series with the Horn Point Lab:** Sharing what they are learning about the natural world around us. Tuesday talks will run weekly from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at High Spot in Cambridge, see schedule on p. 50
- **Third Thursdays:** every month downtown Denton businesses extend their hours and offer specials from 5 to 7 p.m.
- **Rural Life Museum:** Open on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Denton through November, World War I and II exhibits, etc.
- **Skipjack Nathan Dorchester Sail:** at Long Wharf in Cambridge on Saturdays, August 19 and 26 from 10 to noon, p. 23
- **5th Annual Groove City Culture Fest:** Art and culture festival on Pine Street in Cambridge, Friday, August 18, thru Sunday, August 20, p. 23
- **Mid Shore Calendar of Events:** pp. 58–59

Queen Annes’s County Library: www.qaclibrary.org

- **Donation Days:** Donate books, DVDs, Audiobooks, and Jigsaw Puzzles, Kent Island Branch Tuesday, August 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. and Wednesday, August 16, from 10 a.m. to noon.
- **Ongoing Technology Help:** schedule 1-on-1 help by appointment at Centreville Library. 410-758-0980
- **Adult Story Time on Wheels:** Themed backpack kits filled with books, activities, sensory items for adults with memory loss. Call 410-758-0980, www.qaclibrary.org/adult-storytime-on-wheels.
- **Books by Mail:** 410-643-8161 or 410-758-0980.
- **Genealogy/Local History Research Office Hours:** get one-on-one help to investigate your family tree, Tuesdays through August 29 at the Centreville branch from 10 to noon.
- **The Memory Center:** Transfer old home videos to disk or thumb drive. Free at Centerville branch. 410-758-0980.
- **Free Limited Legal Advice:** Thursday, August 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Kent Island Branch.
- **Crime & a Cuppa:** Join mystery reader extraordinaire Kathleen Wilson in an hour of mystery, Saturday, August 26, at 10 a.m. at the Centreville Branch.
- **Used Book Sale:** Thursday, August 17, and Friday, August 19, at the Kent Island Branch

The Adkins Arboretum: (410-634-2847), www.adkinsarboretum.org, many require registration

- **Artist Katherine Binder Zoetrope's Wheel of Life watercolors:** on display through Friday, September 1.
- **Trip to Glenstone:** Tour of the grounds, see the museum, Thursday, September 28.
- **Birders for Beginners:** Class will run for five consecutive Wednesdays beginning August 30 at 10 a.m.
- **Outdoor Sculpture Invitational: Artists in Dialogue with Landscape** on view through Saturday, September 30.
- **Colored Pencil with Mixed Media:** Saturday and Sunday, August 19 to 20, register online.
- **Introduction to Botanical Drawing:** Fridays September 8, 15, 22, and 29; register online
- **Pumpkin & Gourd Color Pencil:** Friday, October 6, register online
- **The Glorious Insects of Goldenrod:** Saturday, August 26, all day
- **Poetry in the Trees:** Sunday, August 27, from 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Plein Air Open Paint-Out:** Sunday, August 27, noon to 3 p.m.
- ***Much Ado About Nothing*** by Shore Shakespeare, Saturday and Sunday, September 2 and 3 at 2 p.m.
- **Botanical Drawing 1:** Fridays, September 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Chesapeake Songs and Stories:** for ages 5 to 95, Singer-songwriter Janie Meneely, Sunday, September 10, at 2 p.m.
- **Know Your Oaks:** Thursday, September 14, at 2 p.m.
- **Fall Native Plant Sale:** orders accepted through Thursday, August 17.
- **First Saturdays Guided Walks** (Saturdays in August) at 10 a.m.
- **Sunny Meadows Soup 'n Walk:** Saturday, September 16, at 11 a.m.
- **Rooted Wisdom: Nature's Role in the Underground Railroad Walking Tour,** Sunday, September 17.
- **Nature Journaling: Autumn Leaves & Berries,** Sundays, September 17, October 8, and October 22, from 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Healing Walks:** Friday, September 1, at 10 a.m., email jhoughton@adkinsarboretum.org or call 410-6342847

*****Please send me pictures of events you attend! If you know of any events you'd like to share, please email to me at godfreycb@me.com**

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