



by George Drake

LIBRETTO 🎵

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

VOL. XVIII, 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!



Jay & Jane Diepenbrock
115 Overture Way

Mark & Millie Richards
130 Sonata Way

Susan M. Valenti
215 Encore Court

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS – SEPTEMBER

BILL RIDGWAY, BOARD PRESIDENT

You have probably noticed our repaved Clubhouse parking lots. They are the result of great planning by our Operations Committee, who prepared the RFP requirements, recommended a paving proposal and worked with General Manager and the contractor to make sure the work went as planned. Thanks for your efforts on this!

Look for the next big project this fall—replacement of sidewalk blocks that have been pushed up or broken by tree roots. All SV sidewalks have been surveyed, with white paint marks indicating sidewalk sections due for replacement. There will be an opportunity to tell Rebecca of additional damaged sections that you feel should be included.

The Board is also working with Landscape and Irrigation to upgrade pump controls and water pressure management at three pump stations starting this fall. The goal is to protect the infrastructure from pressure or flow anomalies or software control flaws.

The notes that follow discuss business conducted or reported at our last Board Meeting on September 7. Please note that this log is not an official record. Minutes must be approved by the Board at a future meeting and will then be posted on our Website.

Treadmill Purchase: The Board voted by email on August 21 to authorize replacement of two out-of-service gym treadmills with new ones at a cost of \$9963.

EDU Reimbursement: The Board met on September 1 with Town Manager Chip Koogle and Program Project Manager Jenial Turner to discuss our request to have the Clubhouse Expansion EDU fee refunded. We were pleased that Mr. Koogle expects to recommend to the Town Council that the EDU fee be refunded.

Flagpole Water Meter Agreement: The Town confirmed that there is no new information on an installation date as they have not completed their contracting process. We'll continue to coordinate with them on landscaping plans and other aspects of the project.

Sidewalk Replacement: The Board approved the proposal from Second Wind Contracting to replace 2,844 sq. ft. of concrete sidewalk for a price of \$66,288, not to exceed \$75,000 for necessary additional work. The replacement includes cutting of tree roots where necessary and would be paid with Reserve funds.

Fitness Center Ceiling: The Board passed a motion approving HVAC ductwork re-insulation (\$2,065) and hot water line repair (\$1,115). Work is expected to proceed as appropriate after Erie Insurance approves ceiling restoration claim.

2023-2024 Snow Removal Contract: The Board approved a 2024 snow removal contract with Chester River Landscaping.

2024 Fitness Equipment PM Contract: The Board also approved a 2024 Routine Maintenance Service Agreement with RMS Fitness Equipment Services for Four Quarterly Visits totaling \$1400.

2024 Ash Tree Soil Treatments: The Board passed a motion to accept the proposal from Bartlett Tree Experts for two nutrient treatments of ash trees using Fortiphite and Boost Liquid in 2024 at a cost of \$3,648

Tree Removal RFP: The Board authorized the L&I committee to develop requirements for Management to seek proposals from additional vendors for removal of dead or dying common area trees and for specific tree pruning.

Irrigation Pump Upgrades: The Board approved a Montgomery Irrigation proposal to add well protection equipment at pumps 1–3 with a cost not to exceed \$30,000. The new equipment is planned to match that previously installed at pump 4. Approval was conditional on more detailed item-by-item pricing by LLC/Montgomery Irrigation and detailed warranty disclosures.

October 2023 BOD Meeting Date: The next Board Meeting will be held as planned on October 27 at 10 a.m. with participation possible in person or via Zoom.

Saltwater Chlorination Pool Conversion: The Board did NOT pass a motion to include \$35,000 in the 2024 Budget to convert the indoor pool to saltwater. Board members asked Management to seek firm quote(s) for the conversion and annual saltwater pool maintenance.

Overture Way Berm & Retaining Wall Maintenance: Management and Level Green Landscaping surveyed the liriopie plantings and advised that no additional work was needed at this time to keep the plantings healthy.

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NOMINATING COMMITTEE SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Last Call for Nominations For The SV HOA Board Of Directors

On September 1, an eBlast was sent to Symphony Village residents announcing there will be three vacant positions on the HOA Board of Directors effective December 2023. The expiring terms of Bill Ridgway, Karen Kram, and Debi Wells Hooper will be filled by an election at the Wednesday, December 6 HOA meeting. These will be two -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 nomination(s) will be electronically recorded.
2. You may obtain a paper ballot from the front desk at the Clubhouse, complete it, and 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 the validation, candidates will be asked to submit a Candidate Information Form no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, October 9.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS IS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS 4 P.M., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members: Bill Paschak (Chair), Deborah Miller Jones, Marc Land, Bob Montenegro, Mary Jo Volpicelli, or Janet Leister (Board Liaison).

Congratulations, Julia! Debi Wells Hooper, Board Secretary

The next time you stop at the HOA Clubhouse office, you may want to congratulate our Assistant General Manager, Julia Neph. She recently earned a Certified Manager of Community Associations (CMCA) certificate. The CMCA is the only international certification program designed exclusively for property homeowner managers. The CMCA recognizes and provides an earned certificate to individuals who have demonstrated specific knowledge required to manage community associations.

The CMCA is maintained by the [Community Association Managers International Certification Board](#). The test is not inexpensive and allows a candidate one chance to earn certification. Then, qualifications are verified before an applicant is approved to take the test. Julia said there’s lots of studying involved and the 200 questions were not all easy to answer!



A big “**CONGRATULATIONS, JULIA!**” is well deserved!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTISANS GUILD

SUE CANFIELD, KATHY MCMANUS, CO-CHAIRS

Our current show, *Lights and Shadows*, runs until the end of October. If you haven’t had an opportunity to see the show, put it on your calendars and come see the works of your talented neighbors!

Our next show is Artist’s Choice: any theme, any medium—the sky’s the limit! The collection date is Thursday, November 2, 10 a.m. – 12 noon. If you haven’t submitted anything previously, this is your chance! We look forward to seeing works from some of our newer residents.

Janet O'Connor hosted a class on modern embroidery. Janet is a terrific teacher and has an endless amount of patience. Everyone enjoyed the class and some of the results are hanging in the Craft Room. (See photos)



COVENANTS CORNER

TOM MERINGOLO, CHAIR

My goodness, this community has been very busy in 2023! There have been approximately 194 EMFs (Exterior Modification Forms) submitted in 2023. This is a record number for one year *and we're not done yet!* Projects include many roof replacements, patio installations, driveway extensions, flower bed enhancements, and other improvements. All that has enhanced our community in small and large ways!

I would like to commend the volunteer residents that helped to ensure a smooth EMF process from submission to vote approval. These volunteers fall into two groups. The first are all of you SV residents that have done an excellent job in referring to the SV Architectural Requirements (AR) before submitting your EMFs. This not only includes AR compliance regarding the actual work proposed, but the inclusion of all **required documentation with the EMF**, which always speeds up the overall process. The second group would be the members of the Covenants Committee (CC) which includes a very helpful HOA Management Team and Board of Directors Liaison. Because of so many EMFs submitted, all mentioned above have worked very hard each month to understand all the nuances that apply to each specific EMF. **KUDOS TO ALL!**

So, let's finish strong as we enter the final quarter of 2023! Here are just a few reminders for those of you who may have some projects that have slid a bit to the end of the year:

Always go to the SV Website and refer to the Architectural Requirements (AR) to ensure that you understand the parameters of your project with regards to AR compliance.

If your project includes landscape and/or hardscape items, please always use due diligence regarding possible encountering of underground utility cables or irrigation lines and sprinkler heads. If so, then complete the Miss Utility Request form or a work order for Montgomery Irrigation to assist in locating the lines. Our HOA management team can assist with this item.

Carefully select your contractor.

Collect all required documentation before submitting the EMF. Documentation specifics are listed in the AR for each type of project topic.

Turn in your EMF to Julia at least seven days prior to the next CC meeting. Meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month.

Cheerily work with your CC member as he or she visits your residence to discuss your project.

The basics are; however, we all know that unexpected things arise. When they do, be assured that the CC will work with you regarding the completion of your project to make sure that your project is compliant with the AR requirements. Looking forward to working with you as we close out 2023.

LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE

PAT FOX & BETTY MCATEE, CO-CHAIRS

Did You Know?



Have you ever noticed the memorial planter at the pavilion patio with a spiraling wind sculpture adorned with pink swift roses and purple catmint planted below? Did you know that residents have seen flocks of robins in winter feasting on the red berries on the winterberry shrubs outside the indoor pool? If you are a pickleball player, have you admired the striking blossoms on the dwarf oak leaf hydrangeas along the sides of the Clubhouse and pavilion patio? Did you know that the hundreds of trees along SV streets are monitored bimonthly by arborist services working to keep them healthy and disease-free? The vibrant fall color of ash and red maple trees along our streets is a testament of these continuing inspections. Are you aware that the thriving switchgrass along Bravo Boulevard provides food for overwintering local birds? Finally, without a fully-functioning, dependable irrigation system, these living landscape features will not exist.

All of the above exist in our community because of the time and efforts of dedicated volunteers who make up the L&I Committee. Consider becoming a 2024 member of this very active, productive group of residents who want to maintain the natural beauty we enjoy daily in Symphony Village.



LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE

MARY JO AND VINNY VOLPICELLI, CO-CHAIRS

MARIE BOSSIE, CORRESPONDENT

The Lifestyle Committee members spent a very busy summer planning and coordinating some great events for all residents. We hope you had the opportunity to participate in some of them.

- **Healthy Lifestyles:** Carolyn Harty continues to present pertinent information on healthy foods, activities, recipes, and tips for healthy living. Different topics are discussed and new recipes are shared each week. Drop by the Concert Hall any **Wednesday morning at 10 a.m.** and check it out. Fee: \$5
- **Pick-Up Softball:** The Ladies and Gents have continued to play every other Monday. Team Rock enjoyed an Orioles-like blowout victory on August 28.
- **Isaiah's Ice Cream truck, in support of the Autism Foundation of Queen Anne's County,** was onsite on **Wednesday, August 23, and Sunday, September 3.** Many residents enjoyed the many wonderful ice cream flavors while having a chance to socialize with friends and neighbors, and support a very worthwhile cause. These events are coordinated by Martha Anthony. If you would like more information about the Foundation, or have questions about the foundation, please call Martha at 443-988-1201.

- **Movie Night: Saturday, August 26** – Randy presented the movie *Missing*. Thanks to Randy for another fun evening. There were lots of positive reviews from attendees.
- **Labor Day Barbecue:** 177 residents and family members enjoyed the delicious food catered by Adams Grille. There was barbecued chicken, pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, potato salad, and baked beans. Everyone enjoyed a great day. Many residents relaxed around the pool, at the Pavilion, and in the Concert Hall. At 3 p.m., even more fun began as 17 people competed in the bocce competition which was coordinated by Don Rizzo and Tony Cipriano. The competition was won by Carol and Doug Peed, Gary Kateri's grandson Locksley Zimmerman, and his uncle Christian Hill. Lots of spectators cheered on all the teams. Thanks to all the residents who attended the event and a special thanks to all the volunteers who made it such a successful event



- **Food Drive: Tuesday September 12** – Thanks to all the generous residents who donated food and essentials or made a monetary donation to support Haven Ministries. Another successful Food Drive coordinated by Mary Colling-Officer and Janet Leister.

Upcoming Events: We have some exciting new events coming soon that you will not want to miss.

- **Isaiah's Ice Cream Truck** will be returning to the parking lot from 5 – 7 p.m., on Wednesday, September 20, during our special CERT's Day. Come enjoy your favorite flavor and socialize with other residents. Remember your supporting the Autism Foundation of Queen Anne County.
- **Gary Fookes, Stretching For Seniors: Saturday, September 16, 10 a.m. – 11a.m.** in the Card Room. It is free to all residents. There is no sign up required. Just come before 10 a.m., pick your spot, and enjoy. Come join our own Gary Fookes, a 10th Degree in Tae Kwon Do, and learn some floor and chair stretching exercises that promote improved flexibility and overall health. Bring your own Yoga floor mat if you wish. Chairs will be available for those not wanting to get on the floor, but want to participate.
- **Antiques Appraisal Show:** Todd Peenstra will be on site on **Saturday, September 23**, to appraise your special items. So if you've ever wondered if a memento has monetary value now's the time. Come to Clubhouse between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to register your items, maximum of two (2). Appraising starts at 11 a.m. While there is no fee, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Wall Street room for interested residents to sign up. Deadline for sign up is **Thursday, September 21, in order to give Todd an anticipated number.**
- **Movie Night: Saturday, September 30.** Title to be announced. Please note that the September starting time is back to **7 p.m.**
- **Co-Ed: Pick up Softball:** Make-up game, **Monday, September 18, at 10 a.m.** **September 25, at 11 a.m.** will be the **LAST GAME OF THE SEASON.** Last chance to come cheer on *Team Rock and Team Roll and enjoy some fun and laughter.*
- **Octoberfest Social Hour:** Our annual event will be held on **Friday, October 6, Bratwurst will be available for \$2.** Please remember to bring an appetizer or dessert, and come join your neighbors. This is always a fun event.
- **Community Yard Sale Saturday: October 7, 8 – 11 a.m.,** rain date: **October 8.** Sign Up sheets in Wall Street Room. The cost is \$5. Make checks out to SVHOA. Note Yard Sale. Balloons will be available on Friday at the Clubhouse between 4 – 6 p.m. **They should be tied to your lamp post for easy visibility. Please post info to your social media so we can attract more people.** Please call Susan Rayner @ 410-533-1705 with any questions.
- **Halloween Karaoke: Tuesday, October 31, 6 – 9 p.m.** Karaoke Music will be provided by Eddie Hittman Hitt. Costumes are optional, but encouraged. No charge for the evening, but an appetizer to share will be your admission into the event. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the Wall Street room.
- **Len Saltiel Presenting "A Photographic Tour of North America." Friday, October 27, 7 p.m.** in the Concert Hall. More info to follow next month.
- **Soup Night, Tuesday, November, 28,** Mark your calendars. Get out your favorite recipe and join us for a special night.

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 September 16. If you have any questions, email Helen Fitzgerald, coordinator, at helen6289@gmail.com.

We are sorry to see the Pool close, but will be planning many indoor events over the fall months.

OPERATIONS

JOE SIKES, CHAIR, AND FRED KURST, CO-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 met on August 17 and recommended acceptance of a proposal from Second Wind Contracting who did our sidewalk replacements in 2022. We were pleased that the cost per square foot had not increased and have laid out replacements for more than twice as many blocks as last year. Charles Levay has toured the community with Second Wind and ensured blocks to be replaced are marked in white. Where appropriate, tree roots will be cut to protect against further damage. The BOD approved the contract on September 7. The GM will publish a schedule for work after consulting with Second Wind.

The committee has also been reviewing an updated draft of our Replacement Reserve Study from Miller Dodson. We plan to meet with the company and the GM to finalize our inputs in the next few weeks. We expect to make a recommendation to the BOD for acceptance at their October meeting.

Lastly, I would like to commend the GM, Fred Kurst, and Bob Eaves for their efforts in overseeing execution of the parking lot paving. The parking lot looks great and the work proceeded smoothly. Personally, I left for Oregon when they ripped up the old parking lot in case something went wrong. With those three in charge, I obviously had nothing to worry about.

The next Operations meeting will be held on **September 19 at 10 a.m.** in the Clubhouse. The meeting will be hybrid and all residents are welcome to attend either in person or virtually.

OUTREACH

JOANN WALKER, CHAIR
Sue Canfield, Author

We have been very busy this summer. We have hosted some amazing events to benefit our Queen Anne's County Charities.

Kathy Lantz won our **HOA Dues Raffle**. She will have her HOA dues paid for the next year! What a great way to welcome new neighbors.

We are hosting a **Dinner at Doc's** on **Wednesday, September 20** – 4:30 – 8 p.m. Please help us by planning your dinner there and telling them you're from Symphony Village. SV Outreach will get 10% from your purchase!

Outreach is also preparing for our **14th Annual Card and Game Party on October 18**. We will host all kinds of games from Mexican Train, Phase 10, and Scrabble to Bridge, Poker, Hand and Foot, and Pinochle. It will be a busy day at the Clubhouse!

There are just a few more seats available. You will not regret joining us for this fun-filled day.

The **Card and Game Party** will begin at 9:30 a.m. We will have coffee, tea, and a variety of mini muffins. You can snack on our homemade Chex mix during the morning. At noon, there will be a catered lunch from Humble Hearts Catering Company consisting of croissant sandwiches, green salad, pasta salad, and assorted desserts. There will be a 50/50 and other raffles, door prizes, and table prizes. The day ends at 3 p.m.

And please, don't forget our **Annual Gift Card Food Drive** which benefits Queen Anne's County the **second week of November!** Please help us to help MANY.

Coming soon...

Symphony Village Name Tag Sale...
October 1 through October 12

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**BOCCE BANTER****BY DON RIZZO****Labor Day Bocce Tournament**

Sunday, September 3, was only ten hours old when the peaceful summer morning of the SV Pavilion was shattered with the sound of the leaf blower that Tony Cipriano deftly manipulated around the three bocce courts. Tony was doing his best to rid the somewhat stained, but otherwise much appreciated, courts that those pesky leaves had invaded. It was important that the courts look their best today for this was the day the courts were the center of attention as all bocce enthusiasts residing in this well-appointed community gathered to determine those lucky enough to qualify for the Labor Day Championship. Sure, it was fun to be crowned the winner and receive the envious cheers of their fellow competitors. The piece de resistance, however, was that the winner of the Labor Day Tournament was awarded and got to keep and protect with all due diligence, the coveted McNeal Cup until next Labor Day's Tournament. Stanley Cup Winners eat your hearts out!!

As the three o'clock starting time for the bocce match approached, you could feel the mood turning serious. Up to this point, we were blessed in all respects. The weather was outstanding – if you like hot that is. The buffet offered by Adams Grille proved to be first class in all respects. Isaac's Ice Cream truck—if you'll excuse the pun—was like the cherry atop the sundae. The much-appreciated volunteers had done it again. Our thanks go to them.



It was at this point that the largest number of competitors in our bocce history gathered at the courts for final instructions. Attempting to hide their own individual competitive anxieties, the players swapped friendly “Good Lucks,” which merely served to enhance the importance of the match. The courts were filled and the stage was set. Let the games begin! This tournament was no time for a team to let up even one bit for the format was the “One and Done” version. That means single elimination, or you lose one game

and you go home. Every roll of the ball was important. Every bit of luck was appreciated. While the excited spectators cheered and/or groaned with each throw, the talented Team #3 consisting of Jim Cooke, Bob Hooper, and Bob Montenegro edged out Team #2 consisting of Tony Cipriano, Brad Kram, and Linda Schmidt in a very close semifinal match. They entered the finals to face Team #5 consisting of Locksley Zimmerman, Christian Hill, and Carol and Doug Peed who were lucky enough to overturn the talented Team #1 consisting of John Olson, Bob Hooper, and Cindy Bogner to reach the championship round.

Given the heat of the day and the stress of the talented competition throughout the afternoon, by merely participating every team should have been given a trophy for they were all winners. However, we only had one trophy and it was with this in mind that both equally exhausted teams entered the final championship match.

Although tired, the players did not disappoint the exuberant spectators as both teams proved their mettle time and again. Finally, the Locksley Zimmerman, Christian Hill, and Carol and Doug Peed team crossed the finish line in a close final match to earn the McNeal Cup. As both teams traded well wishes to one another, the feeling of mutual respect was obvious and well earned. Our entire community offers our congratulations to the winners--and our respect to all who participated.

The matches lasted a little longer than had been anticipated so the Baltimore Raven Cheerleaders had to leave before the final match had reached its conclusion. When they left, the ABC and ESPN TV people packed up their truck and left as well. That's show biz! However, that did not stop the overflowing crowd from throwing confetti and colorful streamers in utter delight. As Tony Cipriano watched, you could hear him mumble, "Oh well, it's getting dark so I'll get the leaf blower out tomorrow morning."

Thanks, Tony, for helping the Good Times Roll!



VETERANS MONDAY MEETING

BOB NILSSON

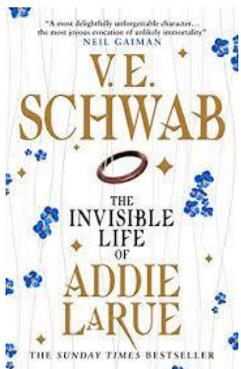


It all started with a note from Karen Kram about a Veterans Book Club meeting in Queen Anne's Library in Centreville two years ago. These monthly meetings have expanded to weekly meetings at our local Dunkin' Donuts where local vets share stories and experiences and generally help each other. We have approximately 20 participants, male and female, all branches of armed forces, and a variety of ranks. The discussions are great and often very funny. Join us and share in the fun.

Be sure to check the recent article about this group in the [Centreville Spy](#).

READING FOR FUN – AUGUST 2023 REVIEW

JOE SIKES



The SV Book Club met on August 15 to discuss **The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue** by V.E. Schwab. Attendees included Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, JoAnn Walker, Bob Nilsson, Jim and Kathryn Buckheit, Sandy Allegra, Mary Jo Volpicelli, Judy Sutter, and Sue Goldberg. While unable to attend, some club members provided their scores separately. These included Cathy Olson, distinguished photographer Len Saltiel, and his equally distinguished wife Carol. Bob Nilsson asked that I point out that it is the field of photography in which Len has distinguished himself.

Normally when our book club gathers the room is abuzz with members recounting highlights of our book for the month. In this case, the room was abuzz with accusations of who suggested this book selection. I will not reveal the identity, but will limit myself to dropping hints. Alexander Hamilton famously bemoaned occasions when he was not "in the room where it happened," but suffice to say, in this case, it would have been a positive.

In defense of the book selection, let me say that author Schwab's premise was intriguing. Addie LaRue grew up in a small French village in the early 1600s and was being forced into a teenage marriage she abhorred. She ran

from the wedding altar and hid in the woods as all the villagers searched for her. In the dark of the forest night, she encountered the devil (Luc in our story, get it?) and made a deal to free her from the constraints of her life. She would be immortal; but when she tired of her new life, Luc would get her soul. In 20th century terms, the story is a mashup of *Runaway Bride*, *Othello*, and *Damn Yankees*. Sounds interesting, right?

In our story, the Luc has put some devilish constraints on Addie in exchange for her freedom and immortality. She cannot write or leave any memory of herself. Therefore, she immediately becomes unrecognized by her family and friends. Anyone she meets has no memory of her after leaving her presence. Accordingly, she can slip around unnoticed but she has no identity or home. As Janis Joplin sang, "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose!" The story jumps back and forth between 1630 and 2014, when Addie is more than 300 years old. She can only die if she surrenders her soul to Luc, who appears randomly through the years to encourage her to do so.

The story finds Addie moving around the planet, sometimes on her own initiative and sometime through Luc's interference. She survives revolutions and World Wars, while engaging in innumerable short term relationships often with the same partner. Once she knows how to appeal to someone, it becomes simple to rinse, wash, and repeat. Near the end of the story, she meets someone who does not forget her, offering the possibility of a long term relationship. However, he has his own deal with the devil which somehow negates parts of Addie's deal. While this is a confusing development, it offers hope for an end to the story. Hooray!

The chapters take two forms. Some describe her many relationships and how she manages within her constraints. The rest describe Luc's many visits over the years. Theirs is a love/hate relationship because Luc's physical manifestation is based on Addie's ideal boy when she was young. Even though she hates the devil for her circumstances, Luc still can charm her when he wants. He is, after all, her only long term interpersonal relationship.

The club awarded a score of 4.3 on our scale of 10, which is in the top third of our bottom three books. Even *Once Upon a River* scored higher. (This is inside Book Club humor.) I will confess that the lowest scored book on our list was one that I suggested, so I still hold that distinction. Before you ask, the book was *On Traigh Lar Beach* by Diane Beaff.

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.

September 19 -- *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty

October 12 -- *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

November 21 -- *Mad Honey* by Jodie Picault and Jennifer Boylan

December 19 -- *Anxious People* by Fred Bachman

INSTITUTE FOR ADULT LEARNING (IAL)

CINDY BOGNER

Fall 2023 Semester Registration is Open

Although the first classes began in early September, many classes have start dates in October, November, and December. With more than 40 class offerings and three day trips to choose from, individuals can sign up for as many classes as desired by becoming members of IAL at any time during the semester. The membership cost is \$90 per semester.

The courses are in the areas of Brain, Body, and Soul; History and Current Events; Culinary Arts; Local Environment and Science; and Literature, Arts and Crafts. Courses range from one to six sessions and classes are held Monday through Friday between 10:30 a.m. and 4:30.p.m. The location for most classes is the Kennard

Cultural Center (410 Little Kidwell Ave) in Centreville. The focus is on personal enrichment and fun. IAL also offers monthly happy hour gatherings throughout the Mid-Shore area and has several day trips planned for this semester.



For details on course offerings, trips, and how to become an IAL member, please visit the IAL website:

InstituteForAdultLearning.org.

For additional information, contact Cindy Bogner (703-655-6505) or Steve Quigley (410-758-6775) who are IAL Council members and SV residents.

2023 BLUEBIRD NESTING SEASON RESULTS

PETE ZERHUSEN, BIRDMAN



The 2023 Bluebird nesting season ended in late August. It was a very productive summer. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Bluebird's fight for survival.

There are now 38 nest boxes in the yards of Symphony Village residents. There are an additional eight nest boxes around pond #1. Three nest boxes were used by Carolina chickadees, fledging 15 young. Three nest boxes were used by Carolina wrens, fledging 12 young. Four nest boxes were used by tree swallows, fledging 15 young. All three species are, like the eastern bluebird, welcome cavity nesters.

Altogether, we had 20 nesting pairs of bluebirds, who raised and fledged 85 bluebird young. Most bluebird nests contained four to five eggs and young. Some nest boxes had a second successful nesting of

bluebirds. Approximately 16 nest boxes were used by bluebirds.

As some reported during my last visits to the nest boxes, *it was* sad to see the bluebirds leave. However, it is only six short months (the end of February) before they return and the nest boxes will be reinstalled.

Let's go for 100 plus fledglings in 2024!

LADIES SOCIAL HOUR

The Ladies Social Hour is Thursday, September 28, 5:30 p.m. The menu is Spaghetti Bolognese with ground beef and vegetables or the vegetarian option is spaghetti with carrots, green beans, and spinach in a tomato-base sauce; French bread and butter; two types of salad, and dessert

The hostesses are Debbie Buss, Karen Patterson, Marti Beernink, Mary Ciesielski, and Donna Donaldson.

The deadline for sign up: Sunday, September 24. Payment is due at time of sign-up by placing \$10 CASH ONLY in lockbox located in Wall Street Room. Food purchase is based on the number signed up and paid.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

John Olson – CERT Coordinator

CERT Hosted Social Hour



Some of the members of the Symphony Village CERT (left to right): Mary Jo Volpicelli, Vinny Volpicelli, Len Saltiel, Carol Saltiel, Cathy Olson, Steve Nelson, Jan Withers, Shai Parsley (QAC), John Olson, Amy Landen, Linda Butler, Dale Butler, Jackie Heimbuch, Joe Sikes, and Jay Landen

Thank you to everyone who attended the SV CERT hosted Social Hour. The event was a great success, with many people asking excellent safety questions, taking home informative brochures, and learning about CERT equipment and safety issues. I would also like to thank Shai Parsley of the Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services for her excellent presentation and for taking the time to discuss CERT and safety issues with our residents. Her insights were invaluable, and I know that everyone who attended the event learned a great deal. Thank you again for your support of SV CERT. We are committed to providing our community with the resources they need to stay safe in the event of an emergency.



SAFETY DAY IS SEPTEMBER 20

The Symphony Village CERT in coordination with 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 include CPR/AED training, home safety, Meet the First Responders, etc. Outside of the Clubhouse there will be ambulance tours and Stop the Bleed training, weather permitting.



When a Symphony Village resident passes away, many families choose to share the news with SV neighbors and friends with a **Sad News** eBlast. Eleanor Strietman is responsible for sending out these emails.

Before calling or emailing Eleanor to request a **Sad News** announcement, you must have the expressed permission of the decedent's family or be a member of the family. As well as the resident's name and date of death, the family may request that visitation/service information be posted (if plans are complete). Obituaries are not posted in **Sad News**, but links to funeral homes, etc. with this information may be shared.

Eleanor may be reached by calling 443-262-8162 or by sending her an email at estrietman68@yahoo.com.

LUNCH BUNCH

MARGE STRANO



The next Lunch Bunch is scheduled for [The FishWhistle at the Granary](#) on **October 5 at 12:30 p.m.** The FishWhistle at the Granary is located at 100 George Street in Georgetown, Maryland. Click on the name of the restaurant above or go to <http://www.fishandwhistle.com/> for the menu, the location, and beautiful photos of the restaurant. The windows in the restaurant provide a panoramic view of the Sassafra River and the marina. We look forward to a wonderful waterside lunch and a crisp October fall day.

Sign up for the October Lunch Bunch will begin on September 16 and run through October 2, 2023. Please call if you forgot to sign up by the end of the day on October 2 to keep our reservation numbers up to date.

Signup online for the September Lunch Bunch from September 16 through October 2 by using 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 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 October 2, need to cancel, need a ride, or have a question.



CANNABIS STATUS -- TWO IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEARINGS – UPDATED LOCATION INFORMATION

PAT FOX

Villager residents have been carrying petitions throughout our neighborhood asking that no more outdoor growing of cannabis be allowed in the Centreville Business Park. As you know the odor emanating from the plants as they bud in the fall smells like skunks. Green Thumb Industries currently has 1.7 acres in outdoor grow production but wants to expand their operation to include 9 more acres!

The petitions signed by Villagers, Northbrook residents and an area business will be sent to both the Centreville Planning Commission for consideration at their Wednesday, September 20, meeting as well as the Town Council meeting for their public hearing and approval on Thursday September 21. Both meetings are at 7 p.m. and will be held at the Queen Anne’s County Building at 110 Vincit St.

Your attendance and support are important. Other areas of the country, who have preceded Maryland in approving marijuana production, have suffered from reduced property values. We all worked long and hard to be able to move into a lovely place like Symphony Village and we want to be able to pass along the true value of our investment to our kids or to use as payments needed for an assisted living facility.

GRATITUDE

ZINA LICHAA

When my husband brought me to Symphony Village in 2015, I was not happy. I did not want to live in a place with all old people. The first day here I did not see any old people. I saw smiling happy faces. Neighbors greeted us as we moved in. I met so many friends in such a short time, I felt like I was on a merry-go-round. I apologized to Joseph for giving him such a hard time. I love it in Symphony Village. It is the best place I have ever lived.

In 2015 a group of us got together and marveled at our neighbors. So many were working tirelessly to make this a great place to live. Just consider the number of people and skills sets we need to run a community of about 400 houses. If we had to pay salaries, our HOA dues could be \$4,000 a month. We have the Board of Directors, Artisans Guild, Budget & Finance, Covenants, Landscape & Irrigation, Lifestyle, Operations, and Publications & Communications, and numerous clubs. They provide things to know when you first move in, publish all the information, welcome new neighbors, etc. I could go on and on. There is so much to do to keep us informed. In 2015, we put on a huge gratitude dinner with all the trimmings.

We have volunteers who do, who work, and who never tire.

It is an endless, demanding job. Please, let’s thank them every chance we get.

PLEASE THANK OUR VOLUNTEERS.

They don't ever ask for anything but being able to add to this wonderful enclave of sensational people.



CENTREVILLE HAPPENINGS

CENTREVILLE AREA HAPPENINGS PLUS

CHARLOTTE GODFREY

Don't Miss these Featured Activities of the Month!



Airport Day in Easton: Saturday, October 14, Gates open at 9:15 a.m. Formation flyovers highlight the event, as well as the world-famous Chicken Drop Contest where pilots drop rubber chickens, targeting the bed of a pickup truck. www.eastonairport.com



Artists' Studio Tour: Pick up a tour brochure at the River Arts Gallery at 315 High St., Chestertown after October 6, and prepare for free, self-guided tours during two October weekends: **Saturdays – Sundays, October 21 – 22, and 28 – 29 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.** Select from more than 50 working studios throughout Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. You are invited to explore the artist's creative studio spaces, watch artists at work, talk with them about their craft, and purchase works at studio prices. Works include paintings, sculpture, furniture, glass, metalwork, pottery, fiber, woodcraft, jewelry, furniture and more. Studios vary and include artist's homes. It's fabulous! www.Chestertownriverarts.com.

Bus Trip to Washington, D.C.: Wednesday, October 18. Get on the bus in Easton at 8:30 a.m., and be dropped off at the Mall or Capitol Hill, and return at 3:30 p.m. 808-276-8078. cost is \$65. Sponsored by the Eastern Branch of AAUW. p.37 of September's "Attraction."

There is so much to enjoy! Scroll through the listings for more adventures!

Community Wellness at the Symphony Village Clubhouse Craft Room: second Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. – noon (October 11). Screenings include pressure, pulse, glucose and cholesterol.

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

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

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

Easton's New Dover Road and Artisans' Farmer's Market: Saturdays year round, 9 – noon.

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

Chesapeake Forum: Hybrid (in person + zoom), Zoom, Field trips, Recordings. Check web site: <https://chesapeakeforum.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 **third Wednesday of each month (September 20) at 6:30 p.m.** at the Center for the Military and Veterans in Stevensville. Email Eric Johnson at info@VAMSA.US

Tour Historic Sites: Last chance to tour these sites this year **on Saturday, October 7.** Tour train stations, colonial houses, an operating grist mill, a country store, an early courthouse, and churches. Admission is free. Call 410-604-2100, www.historicqac.org.

Birds and Brews Run/Walk: Saturday, September 16 from noon – 4 p.m. at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, 600 Discovery Lane, Grasonville. Enjoy a one mile run/walk along CBEC trails with four stops to sample beers from Maryland breweries, also, live music, and food trucks. www.bayrestoration.org

19th Ride for Clean Rivers: Begin and end at Chesapeake College, **Sunday, September 17 at 8 a.m.**, ffarley@shorerivers.org.

Community Garden Tour- Master Gardener Event: Galilee Garden Community Garden at 1934 Harbor Drive, Chester on Saturday, September 16, from 9 – 10 a.m. See the herb, pollinator and flower beds of 19 gardeners! 410- 758-0166

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

Sudlersville Train Station Museum: Open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. first Saturday of every month through December.

Concours d'Elegance: Sunday, September 24 on the front lawn of the Kent Island Yacht Club in Chester. Enjoy seeing the elegant Delayaye, the Grand Marque, and Chesapeake Bay yachts.

KIFA: open **Thursdays through Sundays from 1 – 4 p.m.**, www.kifa.us

Absolutely Abstract: Friday, September 15 through Saturday, September 30.

Artober Fest: Saturday, October 7 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. in historic Stevensville. Streets filled with artisans, crafters, food and live music p. 27 in September's "Attraction". **Queen Anne's County Arts:** open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. www.queenannescountyarts.com

Queen Anne's County Public Schools Faculty Art Show: opening Friday, September 15, thru Friday, October 6, featuring drawings, paintings, and sculpture from talented teachers.

Thursdays in the Park Concert Series: Red Betty & the Rucus at the Cascia Winery: (Rock, Americana) **September 28 from 6 – 8 p.m.**

Chestertown: www.townofchestertown.com

"Much Ado About Nothing": by Shore Shakespeare, **September 15 – 17, Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 6 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m.** at Wilmer Park.

2023 A & E Seasonal Art Walk: all around downtown **Saturday, September 16 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

“The Addams Family”: A musical, beginning **Friday, September 22** at the Garfield Center, p. 68 in September’s “Attraction”. 410-810-2060

Fall Funfest: Free, festive carnival style games, prizes, cocktails, beer, and popcorn – **Saturday, September 23 from 2 – 5 p.m.** on High Street and Memorial Plaza

Concert Series: Alejandro Brittes Quartet: at Washington College Gibson Center for the Arts in the Decker Theater, **Thursday, September 28 at 7:30 p.m.**

American Legion Jeff Davis Post 18: 2619 Centreville Rd., 410-758-3584

Friday night dinners: 5 – 7 p.m.

TEXAS HOLD’EM: **Sunday, September 17.** Doors open at noon, games start at 1 p.m. Food and drinks available.

Queen of Hearts Drawing: Sundays at 6 p.m.

Cruise Night: Wednesday, September 20, (last one til next Spring) from 5 – 8 p.m., hamburgers and hotdogs.

Bingo: Every other **Wednesday at 6 p.m.** (September 27 & October 11)

Blood Drive: Tuesday, September 26 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

A Standup Comedy Special: featuring KP Burke **Saturday, October 14, from 6 – 7:30 and 8:30 – 10 p.m.**

“Attraction” (page numbers listed for reference in the September’s “Attraction”)

Constitution Day: Saturday, September 16 at noon on the Talbot County Courthouse Lawn, p. 55.

Frederick Douglas Day: Saturday, September 23, at the Talbot County Court House lawn, pp. 8 – 9.

Chesapeake Film Festival: Begins Saturday September 30 at the Avalon Theatre and continues Sunday, October 1 at the Ebenezer Theatre. Also featured is a seven-day virtual Festival from Monday, October 2 through Sunday, October 8, showcasing 37 films, p. 18.

Upcoming Classes at the Fiber Arts Center (FACES) in Denton: p. 55

Antiques Extravaganza: Saturday, September 16 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Preston Historical Society, 167 Main Street.

Artisans on the Choptank: Market held Saturday, **September 16 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.** at the Wharves of Choptank Visitor Center, 3 Crouse Park Lane, Denton

Queen Anne’s County Library: www.qaclibrary.org, 410-758-0980

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. www.qaclibrary.org/adult-storytime-on-wheels.

Books by Mail: 410-643-8161 or 410-758-0980.

The Memory Center: Transfer old home videos to disk or thumb drive. Free at Centerville branch.

Telescope Night with the Mobile Library at Sudlersville Park: Friday, September 29 at 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Family Law Clinic: Every other Thursday at 5 p.m., October 5 at the Centreville Branch.

Crime & a Cuppa: Join mystery reader extraordinaire Kathleen Wilson in an hour of mystery **Saturday, September 23 at 10 a.m.** at the Centreville Branch.

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

Soup ‘N Walk – Sunny Meadows: Saturday, September 16 from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Rooted Wisdom: Nature’s Role in the Underground Railroad Walk: Sunday, September 17 from 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Trip to Glenstone: Tour of the grounds, see the museum, Thursday, September 28.

Birding for Beginners: Class will run for six consecutive **Wednesdays beginning August 30 at 10 a.m.**, (last class October 4).

Annual Beer Garden: with “New & Used” Bluegrass musicians, **Saturday, September 23 from 2 – 4 p.m.**

Bird Migration Walk: Saturday, September 23 from 8 – 10 a.m.

Floral Design with Native Plants: Sunday, September 24 from 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Healing Walks: 1st Friday, at 10 a.m., email jhoughton@adkinsarboretum.org or call 410-6342847.

Saturday Guided Walk: October 7 at 10 a.m.

Nature Photography: Saturday, October 28 from 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Tree Care in Human-Made Landscapes: discussion of tree issues, **Saturday, October 14 from 1 – 2:30 p.m.**

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

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