

Photos by George Drake

LIBRETTO J

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023 Vol. XVIII No.10

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.





Bill & Kathy Bender 844 Harmony Way

Maureen O'Connor 137 Concerto Avenue

ELECTION NOTIFICATION 2023

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES CANDIDATES FOR SYMPHONY VILLAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Symphony Village is very fortunate to have four residents who have stepped up and are willing to serve on the Board of Directors. They are Mary Colling-Officer, Dave Mason, Steve Nelson, and Carol Peed. Three positions are available.

Please take a minute and review the candidates' resumes listed below to familiarize yourself with the many attributes these candidates bring to our community.

You can get to know each candidate and have your specific questions answered at the MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Clubhouse or via a Zoom hybrid meeting.

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

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

NAME: Mary Colling-Officer

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Born in Berkeley, California, I grew up in Taiwan, Cuba, Panama, and Germany and as an adult lived in New Zealand for one year. I graduated from Shepherd University with a B.A. degree. My work experience spans retail management, business development, higher education, and incentive travel. I currently substitute teach with Queen Anne County Public Schools. Professionally, I interacted with executive management, selected projects to pursue, developed budgets, oversaw staff, and developed specialized training for healthcare industry professionals.



SIMILAR OR RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

Serving on committees in Symphony Village helps one understand how important it is to follow policies and procedures, stay within budget, and accomplish things in a timely manner. In my career, I served in a variety of leadership roles which required difficult decisions, group discussions and decisions, and doing what is best for your organization regardless of personal feelings. I learned to listen, be open to the ideas of others, and be kind to all. It is helpful to have the support of the community.

VISION/EXPECTATIONS FOR SYMPHONY VILLAGE

I feel blessed to be living in a premier 55+ community. I come with NO personal agenda. It is of primary importance to me that decisions made by the Board of Directors are in the best interest of the entire community. I would like to see Symphony Village stay on the cutting edge of 55+ communities, maintain the property in pristine condition, be fiscally responsible, keep an open mind to new ideas, LISTEN to the residents, and be respectful of everyone.

LIST YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYMPHONY VILLAGE (committees, events, volunteerism, etc.)

Current member of the Operations & Covenants Committee, Co-Chaired Night of Lights (Soup Night), Previous member of Lifestyle and Committee Chair for three years. As Chair, I oversaw all activities we sponsored; to name a few: six food drives, picnics, two dumpster days, pasta suppers, catered cocktail party, New Year's Eve parties, holiday decorating, Zoom holiday party, house decorating contest, cheeseburger in paradise, social hours, entertainment at social hours.

NAME: Dave Mason PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Since November 2021, I have been working part-time as an Agricultural Conservation Experienced Services employee for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation programs. Worked 32 years as USDA Program Manager in Washington, DC. Worked 8½ years on USDA programs in the State of Maryland. Worked 5 years for University of Maryland on the agricultural research farm.

SIMILAR OR RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

Currently employed as a part-time Federal contractor with USDA as a program specialist managing program funding.



Served three years on Church Parish Council at St. Peter, the Apostle, Libertytown, Maryland.

Assistant coach for both of my sons' baseball and basketball teams (1994–2004) in Carroll County, Maryland.

VISION/EXPECTATIONS FOR SYMPHONY VILLAGE

Continue to pursue fiscal responsibility to keep HOA fees in check.

Continue to communicate changes in Maryland HOA regulations to Symphony Village residents.

Continue to preserve property values by encouraging residents to maintain their home exteriors and personal property.

Encourage communication on issues within Symphony Village and the Town of Centreville on issues affecting the quality of life in Symphony Village.

LIST YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYMPHONY VILLAGE (committees, events, volunteerism, etc.)

Vice-Chair of 2023 Covenants Committee

Assisted Lifestyles Committee in 2023 on Welcome of New Residents social event and clean up for Memorial Day, 4th of July, cheeseburger in paradise, and Labor Day picnics

NAME: Steve Nelson

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Annette and I are originally from Boston, Massachusetts. We have a married daughter in Washington, DC, who recently gave us our first grandson. We also have a son in the film industry in New York City. We bought and moved into Symphony Village in March 2020 to be closer to our children and grandson. Needless to say, Symphony Village has everything we were looking for and more.

SIMILAR OR RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

I have a 45-year career in pre-hospital emergency care, with a back ground in critical care, law enforcement, EMS administration, and medical education. I had the opportunity to become COO of a multi-million-dollar, 200+ employee company in Wilmington, Massachusetts. I returned to my love of emergency



medicine after six years when the company was sold. I have had the opportunity to sit on numerous boards and committees at both the state and local levels.

VISION/EXPECTATIONS FOR SYMPHONY VILLAGE

I am seeking a position on the Board because I believe I would be capable of helping to make the best decisions possible to help protect and increase SV property values. I would like to see our community remain fiscally responsible while supporting growth that will attract new homeowners. My goal would be to keep SV the leading 55+ community that it is.

LIST YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYMPHONY VILLAGE (committees, events, volunteerism, etc.)

CERT Member

Covenants Committee

Member Pool Operator

Tends outside bar during special occasions: Memorial Day picnic, Labor Day picnic, cheeseburger in paradise

NAME: Carol Peed PERSONAL BACKGROUND

My husband Doug and I moved to Symphony Village in 2020 during the height of the pandemic from Crofton, Maryland, where I resided for 26 years. Between us, we are the proud parents of six children and seven grandchildren with a new grandson due in March 2024. Realizing my passion is working within and for my community, I retired for the second time after dedicating over 35 years to healthcare administration.

SIMILAR OR RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

As a leading healthcare administrator, I was able to objectively evaluate the needs of a center to elevate the patient experience and overall financial health of a medical practice. In my previous community, Charing Cross, I served on the Board of Directors under the management of ProCom as one of seven board members. My solid leadership skills as well as my unbiased evaluation of any situation has prepared me to serve my community.

VISION/EXPECTATIONS FOR SYMPHONY VILLAGE

I am dedicated to being accessible and communicative with all residents. I am committed to seeing Symphony Village thrive and continue to be the most marketable and sought-after community. I welcome whatever triumphs and challenges lie ahead and hope to serve our community by joining the SV Board.

LIST YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYMPHONY VILLAGE (committees, events, volunteerism, etc.)

Upon moving to Symphony Village despite the Covid restrictions, I looked for opportunities to get involved. So much so, I attempted to attend my first board meeting prior to officially becoming a resident. In three years of residency, I have served on the Lifestyle Committee, Community Emergency Response Team, member of the 2022 Board of Directors Nominating Committee, active Certified Pool Operator, and currently the Treasurer for Outreach.



COMMITTEES

ARTISANS GUILD

SUE CANFIELD AND KATHY McManus, Co-Chairs Author, Patty Smith

Our next show theme will be **Artists' Choice**. The collecting of works will take place on Thursday, November 2, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Concert Hall. A Reception will be held on Sunday, November 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Peggy Andrews, with assistance from Peggy Decker, was kind enough to recently teach a Zentangles class. Pictured below are the participants.



Top row, left to right: Charlotte Godfrey, Sue Peterson, Kathy McManus, and Marcella Hilgartner. Bottom row, left to right: Sue Canfield, Pat Glaunert, Jo Kirchner, Debbie Buss, and Lois Monetti.

ARTISANS—WHAT I LEARNED...

PATTY SMITH

When I first came to Symphony Village five years ago, I had just left a 33-year teaching career as the school librarian. With the new discipline strategies in place (or lack of), the last couple of years were rough! I was done with work, and I wanted to do the things that I had never had time to do before. One of the many things that I wanted to pursue was to know if I could illustrate for a children's book. So, I went to the Thursday morning painting group. Only one other person was there, but I had a little watercolor set and some paper that I was given for Christmas several years prior. I wish I had saved my picture so that you could see where I started. Yikes! But I continued to go each week. I started just making pictures of animals. Finally, Sue Canfield told me that I had to put this one in the art show. I call him Picasso because he's a little distorted.



I then took a watercolor class here at the Clubhouse. I took an oil and acrylics class. I learned a lot! I learned how different paint brushes create different effects. I learned how to evaluate the total composition.

I developed a really good friendship with several people. Again, I learned from each of them in a different way. From Bonnie Griffin, I've learned to pay attention to shadowing and detail. From Peggy Decker, I've learned how to use the paints differently to create mood and feelings.

We then opened up the Thursday painting group to other crafts. Janet O'Conner taught me to incorporate texture as she seems to paint with thread. Peggy Andrews and Donna Ray have taught me how to use design in what I create.

And the classes continue. I was fortunate enough to join one of Ann Sharps drawing classes. She taught how to look at symmetries of the face. I would have liked to take more of her classes but couldn't. Joseph Lichaa taught us how to make realistic trees. Erin Zimmerman taught us to use the pallet knife.

After five years of practice and learning from our community of artists, here are some of my favorite paintings.











I don't think that I compare with a professional painter. And yes, we do have some professional painters in our group. However, have I learned a lot? Oh yes! Have I improved? Oh yes! I find it to be a challenge. And I love the feeling of conquering. There are aspects that I am still trying to improve upon. More importantly for me, I belong to a group of friends who support me, challenge me, encourage me, teach me, and nurture me in many different ways.

LADIES GOLF GROUP KATHY McManus

Some members of the SV Ladies Golf Group recently got together for lunch at the Kentmorr Restaurant. The group plays at Blue Heron Golf Course on Wednesday and Friday mornings. If interested, contact Carol Hodges at speanut31@gmail.com.



Pictured from L to R:
Charlotte Godfrey,
Pat Sharpe,
Betty Lord,
Pat McManus,
Donna Donaldson,
Kathy McManus,
and Carol Hodges.

COMPASS WORKSHOPS

ELEANOR STRIETMAN

Please consider attending the Compass workshops held at the Clubhouse on the second Thursday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. Under the direction of two Compass group leaders, we engage in confidential discussions that evoke comfort and guidance.

You might be thinking that these workshops are only for neighbors who are grieving, but that is definitely not the case. Everyone has experienced life's changes, losses, and struggles that can leave us feeling ostracized and isolated and negatively affect our ability to enjoy life.

These monthly gatherings were created to help participants recognize and acknowledge those feelings of loss and change and to deal with them in ways that promote confidence and hope.

This group is effective when discussing difficult topics because participants are honest, empathetic, and compassionate toward each other. Group participants support one another by helping each other learn how to respond to life challenges, process their thoughts and feelings, and practice healthy and effective self-care.

Light refreshments are provided.

COVENANTS CORNER

TOM MERINGOLO, CHAIR

DEBI WELLS HOOPER, AUTHOR & COVENANTS BOARD LIAISON

After taking way more space than I should have in the September *Libretto*, I decided to give the editors and you readers a break this month. Keeping it like me...short and sweet!

Holiday lighting and decorating, like Hallmark Christmas movies, is fast approaching. You can review the rules for seasonal lighting on page 13 of the Architectural Requirements.

Seasonal Lighting

Seasonal lighting is permitted for illumination within a thirty-day (30) period prior to and twelve (12) day period after the holiday season. Seasonal lights may be installed between November 15 and January 15, but will only be illuminated as stated above. Should extreme weather conditions become a factor in removal of seasonal lighting within the designated timeframe, the Covenants Committee or HOA Management, at its sole discretion, may grant an extension of the allowable period of removal. Seasonal lighting and electrical cords shall be located to respect driveway snow plowing operations and sidewalk snow removal operations. Cords shall never be located over public sidewalks.

With regards to decorations, wreaths, garland, etc. One important reminder...

DON'T COVER UP YOUR HOUSE NUMBER!

When the need arises for our local first responders to come into our community this time of year, a major issue is in identifying the correct street address. By all means, get into the spirit of the season, but keep yourselves safe when decorating your homes.

Lastly, since we are getting ever so closer to the year's end, please give some thought to joining the Covenants Committee in 2024. Nothing is more gratifying than knowing you have helped your neighbors to realize their personal home visions, while staying in the lanes of the Architectural Requirements.



LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION

PAT FOX, CO-CHAIR

Symphony Village Irrigation Upgrade—A Layman's Review of Our Irrigation System and Upgrades

Our irrigation system was installed in the early 2000s by the Symphony Villager developer. Although we used to operate on a five well/pump configuration, the fifth unit at Bravo and Harmony failed several years ago. A hydrologist assessed our setup and concluded we could operate with the remaining four wells. They were tested several years ago and fixed where needed.

For many seasons the irrigation system would operate in the hours after dawn from 5 to 7 a.m. plus or minus. We have had many complaints about lawn ruts when heavy grass cutting equipment damaged wet turf. We now operate the system in the early hours of the morning at 2 a.m. plus or minus so the water has time to infiltrate the turf. However, that makes it difficult for us to see evidence that the system is irrigating our properties. Tip: anchor a piece of paper towel or an upside-down yogurt container top in your front yard the night before your turf watering and see if there is significant water (not dew) the next morning. Because this operates so early in the morning during the 2023 season, we had many complaints about burned out grass and questions about whether the system is working at all!

We discovered that some pumps were not working this year, hence, the brownout. There is a system called Tucor, also installed in about 2004, that is supposed to communicate system operating information. However, it doesn't do so well, but it took time to reach this conclusion. Like our General Manager Rebecca says facetiously—"there are only two people in the U.S. who understand it." (reminds me of Bitcoin?) Unfortunately, Tucor has no training courses for users either. And over the last few years, we have also had major main line breaks that were expensive to repair and that interrupted operations.

So, what do we do to help plug these long-standing gaps? The Committee Irrigation subcommittee, led by Joe Wharton, started to investigate potential improvements. Our pumps were outfitted differently – only two have VFDs (variable frequency drives) with one needing replacement. If all four have this unit plus additional equipment (pressure relief valves, transducers etc.), it would provide redundant protection for the well pump systems and prevent buried pipe damage due to unintended operations such as system on/off instructions failing, if an incorrect rate slows or stops the well, etc. After much discussion, the Committee asked the Board to approve the proposal from Level Green/Montgomery Irrigation at a cost of \$29,973 to install this well protection equipment, including surge protection and a three-year warranty, using our 2023 L&I funding. The Board voted in favor.

Simultaneously the Committee, with the help of Wayne Emerick, a resident in the irrigation services industry, is investigating a communication system that can read and relay pump operating information to handheld devices distributed to staff. If the system works with our irrigation setup, including any Tucor link, if necessary, it would be a far less costly option than replacing Tucor. We are investigating if it will allow a much quicker discovery of pump and flow meter failures, pressure losses, leaks, other failures, etc. If all research, including pricing, can be completed during our current fiscal year, we hope to cover this with the remaining L&I 2023 funds.

The Landscape & Irrigation Committee hopes to start the 2024 Irrigation season with more accuracy, dependability, and confidence.

LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE

MARY JO KEEFE AND VINNY VOLPICELLI, CO-CHAIRS MARIE BOSSIE—CORRESPONDENT

The Lifestyle Committee members have been busy planning additional fall events. We hope you take the opportunity to participate in some of them. Come out and have some fun, meet your new neighbors, relax, and socialize with friends. The committee is pleased to be getting a lot of positive feedback from attendees. So, don't miss out on future events.

- Food Drive: Tuesday September 12 Thanks to all the generous residents who donated food and essentials items or made a monetary donation to support Haven Ministries. Final numbers: \$1,275 in cash was donated, plus much-needed essential items to replenish their empty shelves. Thanks again to Janet and Mary for coordinating this event.
- **Gary Fookes, Stretching for Seniors**: On Saturday, September 16, 15 residents participated in this event. Thanks to Gary for providing the leadership and motivating the participants.
- **Isaiah's Ice Cream truck**: In support of the Autism Foundation of Queen Anne's County, the ice cream truck was onsite on Wednesday, September 20, in conjunction with CERT's Open House. SV

residents enjoyed the wonderful ice cream flavors while having a chance to socialize with friends and neighbors in support of a worthwhile cause. If you would like more information about the foundation, or have questions, please call Martha Anthony at 443-988-1201. We hope to see the ice cream truck return next spring.

- Antiques Appraisal Show: On Saturday, September 23, about 30 residents brought items to the Clubhouse for appraisal by Todd Peenstra. He did an amazing job explaining each item and providing valuable information about the items. We look forward to Todd returning in the spring for another session.
- Pick-Up Softball: September 25. The Ladies and Gents played their final game of a ten-game softball season on Monday, September 25. Twenty-six residents showed up. All played and enjoyed lots of laughs and camaraderie. After the game, players and spouses gathered at the Pavilion for more laughs, great music, and delicious food from Adams Grille sponsored by Economy Restoration. In addition, everyone enjoyed a special dessert (cookies designed as softballs) provided by Irish Mary. A Flash Dance was provided by some of the players to the tune of *Put me in Coach*, choreographed by Amy Landen and Rosemary Rosenberger. It was so much fun and exciting and was repeated at the end of the party due to popular demand so that other attendees could participate. All in all, it was a great day and a great season. Thanks to Norm Bossie for initiating softball and coordinating all the games, to all the players who came out to play, the residents who came out to cheer them on, and the gals who washed the shirts after every game.
- **Movie Night**: Saturday, September 30: Randy presented the movie *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*. Thanks to Randy for another entertaining evening.
- Octoberfest Social Hour: This special, fun evening occurred on Friday, October 6. Grilled bratwurst were provided by the Lifestyle Committee and members provided German potato salad and sauerkraut. Many delicious appetizers, salads and desserts were provided by attendees. About 100 residents attended, making it another great event. Thanks to Judy and Wayne Sutter for volunteering to host this annual event, to Kateri, Deborah, Linda, and Marie for cooking the brats, and to Randy and Joe for grilling the brats. And to add to the festivities, Skip provided a special Octoberfest Beer. A fun evening was enjoyed by all.



Showing off the cookies designed like softballs created by Irish Mary



Joe Sikes grilling brats



Helen Fitzgerald, Social Hours Coordinator, Lifestyles Committee

• Community Yard Sale: On Saturday, October 7, 45 residents participated in the Yard Sale. Balloons were provided to all participants to be tied to their lampposts. There was a lot of activity all morning. Thanks to Susan Rayner for coordinating this event.

Upcoming Events: Mark your calendars.

- **Healthy Lifestyles**: Wednesday, October 18 and 25. These will be the last two sessions Carolyn will present in 2023. Come and get some great tips for getting through the holidays. Carolyn will resume weekly meetings on January 3, 2024, if interest continues. Let her know your interest at mdgalonthemove@yahoo.com.
- Len Saltiel will be presenting "A Photographic Tour of North America" on Friday, October 27, at 7 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Len has traveled and photographed extensively in the United States and
 - Canada. His first love, landscape photography, will be the focus of .the presentation where he will show images of his top five favorite locations in North America. They include the American Southwest (Monument Valley), the Canadian Rocky Mountains, Yosemite National Park in California, Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, and the Oregon Coast. He will also present wildlife images he has taken in these locations. Don't miss out on this great opportunity. Hope to see you there.



- Movie night—Saturday, October 28—TBA. Remember the start time has returned to 7 p.m.
- **Halloween Karaoke**: On Tuesday, October 31, 6 to 9 p.m. Karaoke Music will be provided by Eddie Hittman Hitt. Costumes are optional but encouraged. There will be prizes for costumes. While there is no charge for the evening, an appetizer to share will be your admission into the event. Get ready to sing your favorite song, solo, duo, or group. Come join the fun, fun, fun.
- Gadgets, Gizmos, Tricks & Tips: On Sunday, November 12, at 2 p.m., Jenny Gallo presents another fun event: An afternoon of sampling the latest wines, cheese, and IPAs recommended for holiday entertaining. There will also be 20 plus gadgets for you to try and holiday shopping ideas. Learn what each gadget does, how much it costs, and where to purchase it. Hands-on testing, tasting, and mingling with your friends and neighbors will make for a fun afternoon. The cost is \$25 per person. Sign-up sheets are in the Wall Street Room. Cash or checks should be made out to Jenny Gallo. Call or email her with any questions at wardes4@yahoo.com.
- Annual Night of Lights and Soup Night will be held on Tuesday, November 28. Mark your calendars. Get out your favorite soup recipe and join us for a special night. Sign-up sheets will be available by November 1. Please check on the sign-up sheet if you are willing to serve. If soup is not your thing, then bring your favorite dessert. We will be turning on all the outside decorations and lights to kick off the holiday season. Ed and Cindy Beres will be providing hot chocolate. You don't want to miss this extravagant event. More info next month.
- Thanks to all who signed up to host the Friday and Saturday Night Social Hours for the rest of 2023. It is really appreciated. The next Saturday Social hour is on October 21. Email Helen Fitzgerald, coordinator, at helen6289@gmail.com with any questions.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

JOE SIKES, CHAIR; FRED KURST, VICE CHAIR

The Operations Committee is responsible for aiding the HOA Board of Directors (BOD) and the General Manager (GM) regarding management and operation of community common property. We share this responsibility with the Landscape and Irrigation Committee and focus on such things as the Clubhouse, swimming pools, and sidewalks.

The Operations Committee met on September 21 and proposed to the BOD that RMS Fitness provide introductory training for new equipment installed recently. The BOD will review at its next meeting and further information will be promulgated by the staff.

Committee members met with the GM and Miller Dodson on September 29 and finalized inputs to the draft Replacement Reserve Study. We will review the final draft at our October 19 meeting and make recommendations to the BOD.

The next Operations meeting will be held on October 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—SYMPHONY VILLAGE OUTREACH PROGRAM, INC.

SAD NEWS

Outreach is sad to announce the passing of Dorothy Hamm our founder and first President. Dorothy along with Joyce Edmonston organized the SV

JOANN WALKER, PRESIDENT



Outreach program in 2006. Their commitment to serving others has been the driving force behind Outreach activities for the past 17 years! We appreciate her compassion and extend condolences to her family.

Thank you to all the Villagers who enjoyed dinner at Doc's on September 20. We had a great turnout! Doc's has committed to give us 10% of their proceeds from 4 to 8 p.m. and not just from SV folks. Thankyou Doc's!

We're looking forward to the Annual Card and Game Party on October 18. This is always a fun time. We expect 120 attendees. Thank you to Sue Canfield and Sue Peterson and all their Outreach helpers for organizing this great event.

Outreach will sponsor the ALS Walk on October 22 at Rt. 18 Park. We encourage you to join the walkers or just attend for the fun activities. You can also join in our contribution by putting a check made out to SVOPI with ALS Walk in the memo line in the black box in the Wall Street Room. For more information, contact Martha Anthony - 443-988-1201.

We will sponsor the Christmas Annual Giving Tree program to provide shoes, clothing, and toys for QAC children in need. The tree with tags to select from will be in the Clubhouse on October 29.

Outreach really appreciates the generous support from Symphony Villagers!

SAVE THE DATE

15th Annual Outreach Food Drive: November 15 to 20, 2023

Your Outreach team is proud of our 15-year partnership with Social Services to provide food assistance to those in need in QAC. As in the last two years, we will NOT be collecting food, but rather your check to convert to food gift cards for our local ACME and FOOD LION.

Both stores also participate by adding to the cards we purchase! Last year we provided nearly 600 \$10 gift cards for distribution.

Please mark your calendars for November 15–20 to participate. If you need to be an early bird, please put a check in the black box made out to SVOPI (Symphony Village Outreach Program, Inc.) and designate "food drive." We look forward to another great campaign, and please know that you DO make a difference for many during the holiday season!

Direct any questions or concerns to Loretta Quigley, Chair, at 410-758-6775 or email lorettaquigley@yahoo.com.

Just a note...if the 15th of the month falls on the weekend, the *Libretto* will appear on the first Monday or Tuesday after the 15th.

I found the article below and thought since our community members participate in local food drives, it would be interesting to publish in the *Libretto*. It is something to think about when donating to a food pantry:

- 1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter that is hard to get from regular food banks.
- 2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal that food banks also get a lot of.
- 3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
- 4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
- 5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
- 6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
- 7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
- 8. Sugar and flour are treats.
- 9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
- 10. Seeds are cool in spring and summer because growing can be easy for some.
- 11. They rarely get fresh meat.
- 12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
- 13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
- 14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
- 15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
- 16. Eggs are a real commodity.
- 17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
- 18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
- 19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
- 20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

LUNCH BUNCH—OCTOBER 2023

BEA TROTTA & MARGE STRANO

The next Lunch Bunch is scheduled for Carrol's Creek Café on Thursday, November 2. The arrival time runs from 12 noon through 12:30 p.m. The slight change in the time of arrival is at the request of the restaurant management in order to accommodate timely table service. Carrol's Creek Cafe is located in Annapolis at 410 Severn Avenue. We look forward to a wonderful waterside lunch and a beautiful fall day. The drive from the restaurant to the Annapolis shops takes only five minutes. However, a water taxi may be available at the dock near the restaurant. The water taxi provides easy access to the other side of town and the Annapolis downtown shopping area. Weather is a consideration when making your decision on how to get to the shops. You can also walk to the shops—probably a ten-minute walk. To look at the lunch menu, go to https://carrolscreek.com/lunch-menu/

Sign up online for the November Lunch Bunch starts on October 16 and runs through October 30. Use 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. If you need to sign up after October 30, please call Bea Trotta at 410-758-0332 (cell 610-217-4754) or Marge Strano at 410-758-2511 (cell 609-221-6378). Please feel free to call if you have any other questions.

CERT hosted Safety Day

The joint Symphony Village CERT and Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services (QAC/DES) Safety Day was held on September 20. It was a huge success! We had



over 25 exhibitors and welcomed around 100 visitors. It was a great opportunity for CERT volunteers and Symphony Village residents to learn about new safety products and services and to network with other safety professionals.

We also had the opportunity to educate the public about CERT and the importance of emergency preparedness. We conducted demonstrations on CPR, first aid, and fire safety. We also had a table with information about CERT training and how to get involved. We are grateful to all the CERT volunteers who helped to make Safety Day a success. We are also grateful to QAC/DES for their support of CERT.

CARRIAGE LIGHTS AND YOU

Carriage lights are a classic feature of many 55+ communities providing a soft glow that illuminates pathways and surrounding areas. While they may seem like an aesthetic choice, leaving carriage lights on at night offers several benefits.

One key benefit is improved safety. When people can see clearly, they are less likely to trip or fall, and they are also more likely to spot suspicious activity. This can deter crime and make residents feel more secure at home.

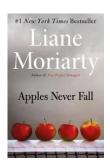
Nighttime walks are also safer with carriage lights illuminating the path and revealing potential hazards. Additionally, leaving carriage lights on can help build community spirit in a 55+ community. When residents see their neighbors' lights on, they feel more connected and more likely to look out for one another. This can create a more positive and supportive environment for all.

Even better, switching to LED carriage lights makes nighttime illumination very affordable. In fact, the annual cost is less than \$5.



Safety Day in action: demonstrations inside and out. The Concert Hall was filled, and outside were Stop the Bleed and fire suppression demonstrations. The SV Book Club met on September 19 to discuss *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty. Attendees included: Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Bob Nilsson, Jim and Kathryn Buckheit, Mary Jo Volpicelli, Kitty Wilson, Cathy Olson, Carol Saltiel, Donna Harkins, and Sue Goldberg. While unable to attend, JoAnn Walker provided her score separately.

Apples Never Fall centers on an Australian tennis family and the mysterious disappearance of their matriarch, Joy Delaney. Joy and her husband, Stan, run a well-known tennis academy in Sydney. (Tennis is the quiet and orderly sport formerly played by the raucous group now called pickleballers.) Stan was a sought-after instructor and the Delaneys' four children all reached varying levels of success in amateur tennis circles under his tutelage. Stan and Joy were a formidable doubles team themselves and the center of their local tennis society.



One day Joy disappears without leaving any notice and a search commences to find her. The behavior is out of character for her, and the family becomes concerned for her safety. The longer she is missing, the more suspicion is focused on her husband, gruff by nature, and inclined to fits of temper. But they are known as a loving couple and the children struggle to believe their father could be responsible.

The table is set for a rollicking mystery story and the author introduces new facts from the months before the disappearance to help the reader solve Joy's fate. A random girl, Savannah, had appeared at the Delaney house months prior to Joy's disappearance, seeking refuge from an abusive boyfriend. The Delaneys, who are empty nesters, decide to take her in and provide refuge lasting until Joy disappears. Now we have a suspect besides the husband! My reaction was that if Savannah was random, I would eat the book. Luckily, I'm reading it on a Kindle.

The author toggles back and forth before and after the disappearance as the story moves forward. The family dynamics are introduced through the viewpoint of the four supposedly successful offspring. Amy is the artsy hippie without a permanent home. Logan is an amiable slacker whose girlfriend is leaving due to his lack of commitment. Troy is a serial philanderer whose wife divorced him after they moved to America. Brooke is a struggling businesswoman with migraines and a worthless husband. (Stan and Joy have not won Australian parent of the year honors.) So, with this group of dysfunctional family detectives, we seek to solve our mystery.

Many interesting clues are scattered throughout the book, but they are seen through the family dynamics. Some of the children suspect the father and some support him. Their personalities are rooted in how their parents treated them when they were tennis prodigies. Those personalities help explain whether the children support the father or not. But these childhood stories don't help the reader decide whether Stan is guilty or not.

Some of the book club felt distracted from solving the disappearance by this dysfunctional family therapy session. Or at least that is what it felt like for me. When it came time to solve the mystery, the author used my old first grade homework excuse. "The dog ate my homework!" The club awarded *Apples Never Fall* a grade of 6.35 on our 10-point scale. The dog excuse never worked very well for me either.

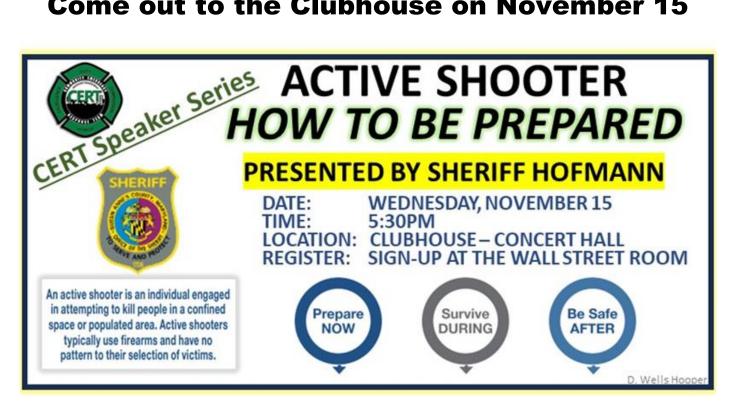
Due to scheduling conflicts, the Book Club has changed our meetings for October and November. October will be a special Saturday meeting and our November meeting has been cancelled. We will resume our regular Tuesday schedule on December 19. The next two meetings are listed below.

October 21 at 11a.m. — Horse by Geraldine Brooks

December 19 at 7p.m. — *Anxious People* by Fredrik Bachman

We hold hybrid meetings, so contact me if you would like to attend virtually. My email is sikes.withers@yahoo.com

Come out to the Clubhouse on November 15



SOFTBALL NORM BOSSIE



The 2023 Symphony Village Softball Team featuring Team Rock and Team Roll:

Row 1 seated left to right: Brad Kram, Rosemary Rosenberger, Charlene McGrade, Marie Bossie, Amy Landen, Debi Wells Hooper

Row 2: Bob Ciesielski, Karen Kram, Marla Spring, Karen Patterson, Mike Grace, Nancy Emerick, Tom Meringolo, Kathy Sanetrik, Jack Cohen

Row 3: Jay Landen, Bob Hooper, Marty Pawtowski, Pete Patterson, Jeff Herring, Joe Sikes, Chuck Bogner, Norm Bossie, Charlotte Godfrey, John Godfrey

Top row: Joe Marchionni, Diane Herring, Mary Leavell, Cindy Bogner, Steve Nelson, Deborah Jones-Miller Missing: Dave Mason, Vinny Volpicelli, Randy Officer, and Skip Kornmeyer.

SV QUILT CLUB MARYKAY KERR

The next Quilt Club meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, at 10 a.m. in the Craft Room at the Clubhouse. If you like to sew—or want to learn to sew—join us as we plan our upcoming activities. There may be a day-out-adventure on the horizon.





SV residents enjoying our community

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

NEIGHBOR OF NOTE MARGE STRANO

Throughout the years, the *Libretto* has included many articles that put the spotlight on one of our Symphony Village (SV) neighbors. This month, it's my pleasure to spotlight Linda Farrar, the President of *Symphony Sneakers* (a nonprofit organization that Linda and Bob Farrar started in 2005) as the October Neighbor of Note.

Linda was born in Baltimore, Maryland. Eighteen months after she was born, her father decided to join the Army, and the family moved to Pocomoke City. Her mother was a Home Economics teacher until Linda was born. Linda was an only child and grew up in Pikesville where she went to Milford Mill High School.



Upon her graduation from Milford Mill High School, she attended the University of Richmond and finished her degree in three years. She met her husband, Bob, on a blind date when she was at the University of Richmond, and he was at Washington and Lee University. They were married in 1964.

Linda worked as a social worker, placing children for adoption at the Maryland Children's Aid Society. She would continue to work with the families for a year after the baby was placed with the adoptive family. Linda and Bob have two daughters, Suzanne and Patricia. After Suzanne and Patricia were born, Linda began to work in a nursery school and continued to do so for eight years.

Looking back on her earlier years, Linda recollected that her father loved to travel and took the family on yearly trips to New York City. One of the trips took her to the United Nations; as a result of that experience, she expressed an interest in becoming a United Nations guide. An early travel memory was a family trip to Cuba



(prior to the Castro era) when she was 15 years old. She would eventually turn her interest in traveling into a life long adventure guiding people on excursions throughout the world. Linda's love of travel emerged as a focal point for her life when she started working for a travel agency she continued to work for the same travel agency for the next 40 years. Although she never became a United Nations guide, she did become a travel guide. Her excursions have taken her to 6 continents and 70 countries.

Linda values her close contacts with both friends and family and still keeps in touch with her friends from college. She has combined her love for family and friends and a strong commitment to give back and share her life through her volunteerism. While raising her family in Ellicott City, she served as a volunteer at Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church and at her daughters' schools.

When Linda and Bob moved to Symphony Village in 2004, they decided to start a nonprofit organization to help children in local schools. Her background in teaching nursery school and social work helped her to understand children's needs. One of the first needs recognized was the need for shoes. Some children did not have shoes or

sneakers to wear to school. Enough money was raised that year to provide sneakers for several children. Shortly thereafter, the program became an official nonprofit and was named *Symphony Sneakers*, a well-known program to all SV residents for over 18 years.

In communication with the school administrations and the school counselors, providing clothing and shoes for needy families emerged as a major goal for the Sneakers Program. The *Santa Giving Tree* was administered by Sneakers and became a yearly holiday event. Dozens of tags identifying needs were placed on the tree. Symphony Village residents would choose a tag and purchase and wrap the gift. Each year, the schools would identify four or five families with needs. The Giving Tree continues to be a yearly SV event to this day.

Sneakers provided many books to students throughout the years. One of the first reading programs started with the Kennard Elementary School where Linda worked with a reading specialist to determine what types of books children might enjoy reading. The program included parent input with social events that encouraged parents to look through and choose a book with their children. Eventually, books were provided for all elementary schools in Centreville and more recently in Sudlersville and Church Hill.

Throughout the years, Linda's contacts with the local school districts made suggestions about the need for computers and other technology. *Symphony Sneakers* expanded the program to satisfy the additional needs at Queen Anne's High School. *Symphony Sneakers* also provided scholarships for students to attend Outdoor Education Programs and Grief Counseling Camps at Camp Pecometh in Centreville.

In order to find the money to satisfy all of these needs, the question of fundraising was addressed early in the process. Linda and the Sneakers Committee organized a yearly Silent Auction and Gala that became a central focus for the Symphony Village social life. The first Gala was in 2005. In a partnership with local business and Symphony Village residents, items for auction were donated. Local businesses were asked to sponsor the event. Invitations to the event were mailed to each SV resident. Tickets were sold for the Gala event and the proceeds from the sponsor donations, tickets, raffle proceeds, and the silent auction provided a pool of funds to be used for the local schools. Other fundraisers included golf outings and card parties.

Eventually, the needs for a fundraiser became apparent. That new fundraiser would be known as the Symphony Village HOA Raffle administered through the *Symphony Sneakers Program*. The raffle was designed with a limited number of tickets and a prize close to the hearts of SV residents—payment of the yearly HOA dues.

Linda worked along with SV residents on a yearly Halloween Party for grandchildren designed as a fun event with games, arts and crafts, storybook readings, and *Halloween Trick or Treat* goodies. She was also a contributor to the very first SV newsletter, *Symphony Sounds*. Do you remember *Symphony Sounds*? Do you have a copy of the very first edition? *Symphony Sounds* was published until our current publication, the *Libretto*, was introduced in 2006.

Linda was also a member of the first Lifestyle Committee. She worked on various programs such as the Holiday Helpers, wine and cheese events, the Christmas Parade, and the New Year's Party.

Linda and Bob have many wonderful memories of their years here at Symphony Village and the Sneakers Program, a program with a vision that became reality. The same theme kept cropping up in Linda's life—a focus on family and community. Linda's vision, planning, and work enriched the lives of the children who attended local schools over the last 18 years, their families, and the Town of Centreville.

Thank you, Linda, for giving your time, expertise, and effort to so many events enjoyed and appreciated by the SV residents and the Centreville community



CANNABIS GROWING STATUS

PAT FOX

On September 21 the Town Council tabled the ordinance restricting cannabis growing to the indoors—but only for 60–90 days. The reason was GTI stating they would work with the Town, meeting with neighbors like Symphony Village, and develop a plan to mitigate the odor inside and outside. This meeting was recorded on QAC TV with GTI also going on the record that they will not submit a proposal to the Planning Commission for more outdoor grow approval while this "moratorium" is in place.

We hope there is a technical solution to eliminate the odor, not just diminish it. This is for our sake, the rest of the Town who is stating they smell it too, as well as for the Town's ability to draw companies into the 45-acre Business Park behind Food Lion.

Currently 83% of the real estate taxes paid in Centreville are from us—residential homeowners—with 17% from commercial operations. That is out of whack with many other communities.

A Symphony Village meeting will be set up with GTI to review their plan once it is drafted. The Town Council will want to hear about our reaction. The Town Council has the date of January 4, 2024, on their schedule to tentatively readdress the issue if ready. Stay tuned.

Want Ad

The *Libretto* is looking for a resident interested in taking on the role of interviewing Symphony Village residents for our Neighbor of Note column. You would interview candidates and possibly get a picture or two to accompany the article. If interested, please contact the Publications and Communications Committee.

Send an email with your information to librettoeditors@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

CENTREVILLE HAPPENINGS

CENTREVILLE AREA HAPPENINGS PLUS

CHARLOTTE GODFREY

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







Kathy Sanetrick talking with a Chris Sacks band member at the Cascia Winery. Lots of Fun!

Sue Peterson with Pat and Howie Fox enjoying "The Addams Family" at the Garfield Center for the Arts

Centreville Day: Free family fall festival, Saturday, October 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Lawyers Row, Broadway, and Courthouse Green., p. 37 in October *Attraction*

Sunfest in Ocean City: One of the largest outdoor festivals in the region: arts, crafts, music, and food. Thursday, October 19, through Sunday, October 22. www.ococean.com

Chestertown River Arts Studio Tour: See fine art and crafts, meet the artists, and buy direct at studio prices. Pick up a tour brochure at the River Arts Gallery at 315 High St., Chestertown or view the schedule online at www.chestertownriverarts.com. The tour is free and is self-guided on Saturdays and Sundays, October 21–22, and 28–29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Select from more than 50 working studios throughout Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. Works include paintings, sculpture, furniture, glass, metalwork, pottery, fiber, woodcraft, jewelry, furniture and more. Studios vary and include artist's homes. It's fabulous! p. 12 in October *Attraction*.

2023 Waterfowl Festival: A three-day celebration of the culture of the Eastern Shore Friday, November 10, through Sunday, November 12, in Easton. Wildlife Art show, taste of the Chesapeake, outdoor activities. p. 66 in October *Attraction*, www.waterfowlfestival.org.

BoatoberFest: Kent Narrow Fall Boat Expo & Vendor Show. Friday, October 20, through Sunday, October 22, at SH Narrows South, Crab Deck, and Hyatt Place Docks from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., (also October 27 to 29). www.boatober.com

Walk To Defeat ALS: Sunday, October 22. Walk check-in is 9 a.m., walk starts at 10 a.m. at Rt. 18 Park, Centreville. www.walktodefeatals.org.

Chesapeake Bay Bridge Run/Walk: Sunday, November 12. Start time 7 a.m. w/waves every 15 minutes. www.thebay-bridgerun.com/Race/Register/?raceld=113571.

Church Hill Theatre: "God of Carnage" Friday, November 3, through Wednesday,

November 22. www.churchhilltheatre.org

Sudlersville Train Station Museum: Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. first Saturday of every month through December. **Tilghman Island Day:** Oysters, crabs and clams, local artisans, live music, boat docking and workboat races. Saturday, October 21, at 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Last 2023 Annapolis First Sunday Arts Festival: November 5 at 11 a.m.

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Oyster Festival: OysterFest, live music, guest speakers Saturday, October 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.cbmm.org

Mactoberfest in downtown Ridgely: Savor artisanal cheeses, craft beers, live music Saturday, October 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Christmas Shoppes: open at Old Wye Mills on Saturdays November 4, December 2 and 16. https://www.old-wuemill.org/.

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 (October 18) at 6:30 p.m. at the Center for the Military and Veterans in Stevensville. Email Eric Johnson at info@VAMSA.US

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

- Marsh Magic w/Shorebirds Class: Wednesday, Thursday, November 1–2 from 10 to 12:30 p.m.
- 3-D Show & Holiday Art Show: Thursday, November 2, through Friday, December 22.

Queen Anne's County Center for the Arts: open Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

www.queenannescountyarts.com

• "The Power of Art" – paintings by The Working Artists Forum, sale from Saturday, October 21, to Saturday, November 18.

Chestertown: www.townofchestertown.com

- **2023 African American History & Heritage Guided Tour:** Walking tour Saturdays, October 21 and 28, from 10:30 11:30 a.m., 98 Cannon St. (see website for more days)
- **Musical Theatre: American Idiot:** Friday, October 20, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, October 22, at 9:30 p.m. at the Gibson Center for the Arts
- Faculty Recital: Diana Golden, cellist, Monday, October 23, at the Gibson Center at 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

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

- Friday night dinners: 5 to 7 p.m.
- Cruise Night: Wednesday, October 25 from 5 to 8 p.m.
- Queen of Hearts Drawing: Sundays at 6 p.m.
- **Bingo:** Every other Wednesday at 6 p.m. (October 25, November 8)

Attraction (page numbers listed for reference in the October Attraction)

- Chalk Arts Festival in downtown Cambridge: See artists working on Saturday, October 28, and the finished works on Sunday, October 29. Enjoy local bands, food, art, and vendors., p. 9
- The Academy Art Museum's 26th Annual Craft Show: Features works from over 70 artists from across the United States, Saturday and Sunday, October 28 to 29, at the Museum in Easton. www.academyartmuseum.org p. 10.
- "The Fantasticks": Opening at the Oxford Community Center, Thursday, October 26, with seven performances through Sunday, November 5. p. 15
- Sultana Downrigging Weekend and Bluegrass Festival: one of the largest annual Tall Ship gatherings on the East Coast, Friday, October 27, through Sunday, October 29, at the marina. p. 41
- See shows at the Avalon p. 45
- **The American Spiritual Ensemble:** At the Church of the Holy Trinity in Oxford Thursday, October 26, 410-226-5134, p. 57.

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.
- Native Plants and First People of Maryland's Eastern Shore with naturalist Jenny Houghton Friday, October 27, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Centreville Branch.
- Family Law Clinic: At 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, November 2, at the Centreville Branch.
- Crime & a Cuppa: Join mystery reader extraordinaire Kathleen Wilson in an hour of mystery Saturday, October 28, at 10 a.m. at the Centreville Branch.

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

- Soup 'N Walk Sunny Meadows: Saturday, October 21, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Plein Air Adkins: Artists paint in the morning; exhibit in the afternoon Saturday, November 4, at 9 a.m.
- Native Plants & First People: with naturalist Jenny Houghton, Wednesday, October 18, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- **Nature Photography:** learn to achieve the best shots in the outdoors, Saturday, October 28, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Kaleidoscopes of Color, Sound, and Scent Walk: Sunday, October 22, from 1 2:30 p.m.
- **Healing Walks:** First Friday at 10 a.m., email jhoughton@adkinsarboreturm.org or call 410-6342847.
- 1st Saturday Walks: November 4 at 10 a.m., join a docent naturalist to explore the Arboretum's native plant habitats
- **Natural Dyeing:** Fall Kitchen Compost Edition: dyeing with recycled compost scraps and spices, Sunday, November 5, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Crime and a Cuppa, Arboretum Edition: with Kathleen Wilson Tuesday, November 14, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Markets:

- Centreville Farmers' Market: every Sunday through November 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Lawyers Row.
- Chestertown Farmers' and Artisans' Market: Saturdays year-round, 8 a.m. noon, High Street
- **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 New Dover Road and Artisans' Farmer's Market: Saturdays year-round, 9 a.m. to noon.

Learning Adventures

- **Institute For Adult Learning:** 45 courses, history, current events, brain & body health, literature, crafts and more. \$90 fee for unlimited courses. Brochures in Clubhouse. www.instituteforadultlearning.org
- **Chesapeake Forum:** Hybrid (in person + zoom), Zoom, Field trips, Recordings. 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

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