



Photo by Gil Hoffman

LIBRETTO

April 2017

Symphony Village's Newsletter

Vol. XI No 4

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.

HOA

The HOA Board has had a productive month. If you have been wondering about rulings, see Secretary Pat Fox's [brief summary of actions taken](#).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COVENANTS – Chris Parisaeu, Chair; Kathy Mizer, Co-Chair

At the Covenants April committee meeting, several exterior modification requests were approved. I would like to correct last month's committee article: Dave Gallop is still an active member on the Covenants Committee.

The exterior modifications approved in April are:

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 109 Sonata Way | Porch addition | 240 Harmony Way | Tree planting |
| 371 Overture Way | Tree removal | 611 Harmony Way | Tree planting |
| 303 Opera Court | Awning installation | 105 Symphony Way | Landscaping |
| 615 Harmony Way | Tree planting | | |
| 142 Sonata Way | Awning installation | | |

We want to thank all the residents who submitted their exterior modification requests on time. If you have any exterior modification request, please make sure the front office receives it one week prior to the committee's next meeting. All requests should be submitted by April 25 for the next committee meeting on May 2.

The Committee continues its efforts to update and revise the [Architectural Guidelines](#) as well as update the awning selections and paint book of colors for the community. If you would like to join this Committee, we would welcome you with open arms.



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I know many people read last month's article especially about bird houses and bird feeders. I am glad to see that people are reading the *Libretto*. The reason we put snippets from the Architectural Guidelines in the *Libretto* is to remind people of what is in that document. Many people were not aware of the limitation on bird houses / bird feeders. The Committee is reviewing and revising the current guidelines. I want to caution all residents that the guidelines exist to protect the community and help it maintain its beauty. We cannot pick and choose what rules we enforce.



What one person may like – another may not. The guidelines try to maintain a balance for what is best for the Community. The original guidelines were not written by any of the current members of the Committee. The guidelines were updated in December 2014 and again in April 2016. The Committee is looking at the guidelines once again. This is not an easy task. We created a subcommittee to tackle this special task.

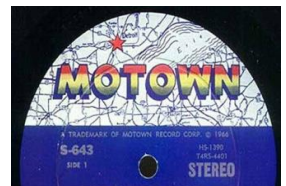
I want to invite any resident who would like to see changes made to the current guidelines to submit your recommendations in writing. Please submit any changes to the General Manager who will compile them and give them to the committee for consideration. We have received comments from Linda Blume – Bird Club – with respect to the bird house/feeder issue. We will be seeking her input with regards to bird houses/feeders – when that guideline is being reviewed by the subcommittee.

LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE – Randy Officer, Chair; Susan Rayner, Vice-Chair and Secretary; Mary Colling-Officer, Treasurer; Laura Bittenger, Correspondent

The spring calendar is jam-packed with activities! Last month will be hard to follow - two themed Happy Hours (see picture of Jack Hennessey taken by George Drake at the Birthday Happy Hour) and a full house for the screening of the award winning movie, “Hidden Figures.” Several community members have also presented fun and informative program ideas to the Lifestyle Committee for upcoming months. If you have a program or activity idea, please contact a Lifestyle Committee member. We welcome, and need, your input!



- **Motown Happy Hour** - Saturday, **April 15**, Join hosts Debi and Bill Wells, Mary Officer, and DJ Randy Officer for a fun-filled night of food, music, and dance. Enjoy the hip music from the “Motor City” as we celebrate the sound that changed America and became a remarkable force for social and cultural change. Bring an appetizer or dessert.
- **Sunday Brunch** - Sunday, **April 23**, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Clubhouse. Enjoy a delicious, relaxed Sunday Brunch without leaving your neighborhood! Dine on sweet and savory dishes and all the trimmings, along with a special brunch bar menu. Please see Activities Book for details and to sign up. **\$5/person at the door**
- **On the Run Theatre**, Shirlington, VA – “I Ought To Be In Pictures” by Neil Simon, Sunday, **April 30**. **Details and sign-up sheet in Activities Book.**
- **Lifestyle Committee Meeting** - **May 1**, 7 p.m., Clubhouse.
- **Happy Hour** - Friday, **May 5, Happy Cinco de Mayo!** Nancy and Bill Paschak, Jessie Gibson, and Ron Peterson, hosts.

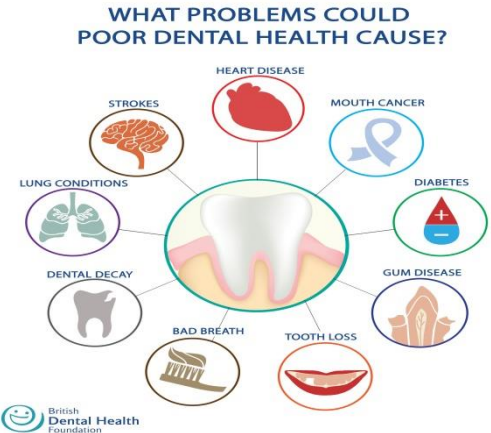


- **Happy Hour** - Saturday, **May 20, Symphony Village Resident Art Show**, Sue Canfield and Zina Lichaa are hosts. Resident art work will be on display at the Happy Hour on May 20. Clubhouse artwork will be replaced with the masterpieces of your friends and neighbors. You'll be surprised by all of the talent within your community!
- **Movie Night**, Saturday, **May 27**, 7 p.m., Clubhouse. Movie to be announced.
- **Memorial Day Picnic**, Sunday, **May 28**, Clubhouse. **Details and sign-up sheet coming soon to Activities Book.**



Dental Health Presentation, Wednesday, May 24, 6 p.m., Clubhouse.

Holsinger and Higgins, DDS will discuss why oral health is important and can be an indicator of systemic health issues. Learn how your teeth and gums affect your overall health and what you can do to improve your dental hygiene. The discussion will also include the importance of your dentist being aware of acute and chronic illnesses, particularly in patients with cardiac histories.



Church Hill Theatre

The group, who attended the matinee of “Witness for the Prosecution” on April 2, reported having a wonderful time. Church Hill Theatre offers a generous discount for SV groups. An outing is being planned for Sunday, **June 11, 2 p.m.** to see “**You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown.**” The show is a 1967 Broadway musical comedy based on the comic strip “Peanuts.” **Reduced admission \$15/per person if 10 people sign up. See Activities Book for details. Sign up by May 5.**

Live Concert - Save the Date

Coming in June! Our first LIVE CONCERT, a Beatles Tribute. Save **June 10, check the Activities Book for details.**

2017 Trips

Miss Saigon, New York, Wednesday, **June 21**, \$199 per person. Includes orchestra seating, bagel breakfast, catered deli dinner, bus transportation, and all taxes and tips. 6:45 a.m. departure from SV. **See Activities Book at Clubhouse, payment in advance by April 21.**

Bronx Tale, New York, Wednesday, **August 9**, \$205 per person. Includes orchestra seating, bagel breakfast, catered deli dinner, bus transportation, and all taxes and tips. 6:45 a.m. departure from SV. **See Activities Book at Clubhouse, payment in advance by May 1. Please note - this venue has stairs to navigate.**

9/11 Memorial and Museum, New York, Saturday, **October 14**, Children 2-17 - \$120 per person, Adults - \$130 per person, Seniors (65+) \$125 per person. Trip includes Museum entrance and private guided tour, bagel breakfast, bus transportation, and all taxes and

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tips. You will also have time to explore the museum on your own before departure. Dinner stop on your own as we travel home. 6:45 a.m. departure from SV. **See Activities Book at the Clubhouse, payment in advance by August 1.**

Hosting

The slots in the Activities Book are filling in - thank you for signing up. We are now looking ahead for fall 2017 hosts. Remember, Happy Hour hosts and hostesses are able to drink for free and don't have to bring food. This is a very easy assignment and a great way to meet fellow residents. Please review the sheet in the Activities Book which includes the step-by-step guide. You can select a theme if you wish which we will advertise. You will greet people as they arrive, enjoy yourself through the evening, and help with simple clean-up at the end. If interested, please sign up in the Activities Book or contact Carolyn Harty or Zina Lichaa to register. Lifestyle Committee members are always there and can help.



Yard Sale News

If the road traffic was an indicator, the Spring Yard Sale was a big success! Thanks to everyone who participated, both sellers and buyers. If you weren't able to join in this time, or have more "treasures" to sell, a Fall Yard Sale is being planned for Saturday, October 14.

Events in the Planning Stage

- Antiques Roadshow, Saturday, **June 10**, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Todd Peenstra returns to appraise your treasures.
- Sunset Sail, Annapolis, Thursday, **July 20**, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Enjoy an evening of local music while watching the sun set over the Chesapeake Bay. Read upcoming *Librettos* for details.
- Ice Cream Social, Sunday, **August 20**.

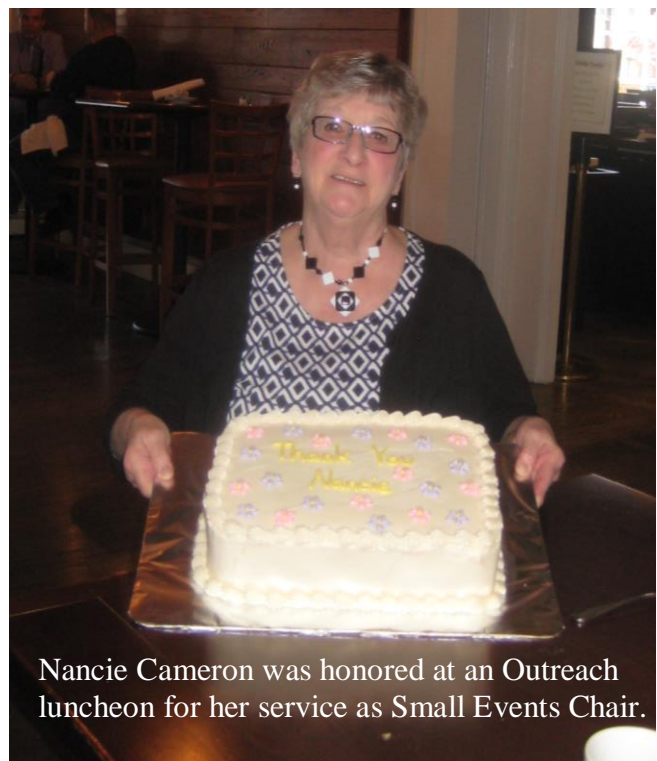
OUTREACH – *Bea Trotta, President*

April/May/June BINGO



Since April 14 was a holiday, Outreach has rescheduled monthly BINGO to the following **Friday, April 21**, still 7 p.m. in the Concert Hall. No one won the jackpot in March, so the April jackpot is **\$200** and 56 numbers will be drawn. Hope to see you there!

May's BINGO night will be **Friday, May 12**, and on **Friday, June 9**, BINGO will have a special "**Baseball Night**" theme – stay tuned for all the exciting details! You'll want to mark your calendars for an especially fun evening before the summer hiatus!



Nancie Cameron was honored at an Outreach luncheon for her service as Small Events Chair.

Join Us FOR
"YOUR TEETH AS A WINDOW
TO YOUR HEALTH"

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 6:00 P.M.
SYMPHONY VILLAGE CLUBHOUSE

Presented by:

Rowland S. Holsinger, D.D.S.
and
Patricia E. Higgins, D.D.S.



We all know that brushing, flossing, and regular dental checkups are important. But how many of us truly understand that good oral health can greatly impact overall health? For more than a decade research has been mounting that suggests a connection between bacteria in the mouth and systematic diseases such as heart disease, stroke and diabetes.

Join us for this informative and entertaining presentation by two leading regional dentists who are committed to helping their patients get the smile they've always wanted, and keep their teeth healthy throughout their lives!

Light refreshments.

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Kathie Smarick, President of Friends of the QAC Library, received a check from Outreach with Linda Blume, Jinny Guy, Loretta Quigley, Margo Wagner, Nancie Cameron, Candi Nilsson, Willie DiLaura, Brenda Kelly, Bea Trotta, Dot Abbot, CC Terrv, and Marge Strano in attendance.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS – Carol Hodges, Chair; Linda Blume, Vice Chair

New P&C Webpage

The Publications & Communications Committee announces its new [P&C webpage](#) to better serve the community. This page gives you information on our committee members, meeting times, and what we do for you. Just as important, there is an opportunity for residents to give us feedback on what we could do better. You can directly submit items like recipes or restaurant reviews for the *Libretto* and pictures for posting on our Gallery webpage. You can also advise us of new residents or renters, submit new or updated pictures for our online picture directory, alert us to new advertisers, or post a new event. You can do most of these through blue underlined “hotlinks” that send the information directly to the appropriate P&C member(s) via email or just fill out an online form which is also available. You can access this new page from “P&C” on the dropdown menu that has been added to “Governance.” The old Governance page is now available from that dropdown menu as “Overview” under “Governance.”

Computer Help Necessary

The Committee is in need of someone to manage the Recipe web page and the Photo Directory on the Website. Charlene Smallwood Brown has the software all set up and we just need someone to make the entries. She is willing to help the person get started.

SNEAKERS – Linda Farrar, President; Bea Trotta, Correspondent

Silent Auction

Sneakers’ 12th Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, November 4, at the Clubhouse. Lovely themed gift baskets and restaurant gift certificates will be available for you to bid on and so much more. Delicious gourmet hors d’oeuvres and tasty sandwiches will be served. Also, an assortment of homemade desserts and a variety of beverages will be available. Look for additional information over the summer. Remember to mark your calendar so you don’t miss this fun-filled evening.

Kennard Elementary School

Thank you to those residents who participated in the Pastries for Parents earlier this month at Kennard Elementary School. Your interest and participation make these events possible. Look for updates on the end-of-year book giveaways. Once these dates are finalized, we will post sign-up sheets in the Activities Book at the Clubhouse.

Next Meeting

Sneakers next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 17, at 3 p.m. at the Clubhouse. New members are always welcome.

CLUBS AND CLASSES

Gazebo Garden Club – by Jack Hennessey

The gardens around the Gazebo will be eliminated. Many of the former gardeners have saved their favorite plants for home use. If you would like a plant, get it soon. I have been advised that all timbers will be removed and the whole area will become a grass plot maintained by the grounds maintenance crew. The killdeer which normally nest in that area will have to find a new nesting place; however, the purple martin advance scouts have been sighted. We hope to have a full house by the end of April.



A new roof will be installed on the gazebo. Two contractors have already submitted bids on the roofing. Residents are encouraged to continue using the gazebo as a picnic area. A new fan has been installed for summer use. Mowing and ground maintenance is scheduled to begin on April 10.

Goodbye to the beautiful zinnias and other flowers! Boo-hoo!

Bunco Bunnies – by Debi Wells

Bunco Easter Bonnet made and worn by Amy Landen - beautiful!



A couple of Symphony Village's four Bunco teams enjoyed an Easter theme this month. Wearing pastel colors and donning an Easter bonnet (instead of the usual Bunco winner tiara), players had lots of fun. We want to give a special thank you to Amy Landen for providing Bunco score cards for all four teams every month this year. Amy, thank you!

If you would like to try Bunco, please sign up in the Activities Book in the Wall Street Room of our Clubhouse. It's easy to play and a great way to

meet new friends. If you have any questions about the game, just call or email debwells2011@gmail.com.

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***** Note: You do not have to be present to win. *****

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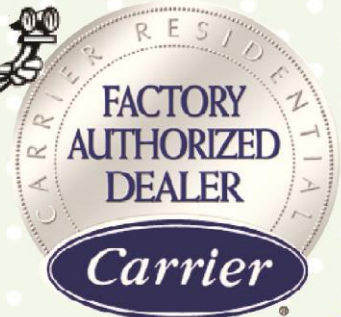
6:00 p.m. Grand Prize - \$10,000 Cash
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Bird Club – Linda Blume



It's time to hang your hummingbird feeders. The Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds typically arrive in our area April 15 – 30. The timing seems to depend on what kind of winter we've had. I make my own nectar by combining 1 part white sugar to four parts water (e.g., ¼ cup sugar & 1 cup water) and bring it to a boil to completely dissolve the sugar. Let it cool, and it's good to go. My feeder is red so hummers are already attracted to it, but if your feeder is clear, add some red food coloring to attract their attention. I clean the feeder and add new nectar once a week. If you have never watched their antics while chasing other hummers away from "their" food source, it's

really fun to see. I've also watched them sitting on my shepherd's hook in a gentle rain taking their own personal shower!

Delmarva Birding Weekends

The schedule for the [Spring Delmarva Birding Weekend](#), April 27 – 30, is online. There are trips and activities scheduled throughout Delmarva. Read all the details, and reserve your spot, by looking on the website. I don't see anything in Queen Anne's County this year, but many activities aren't that far away.

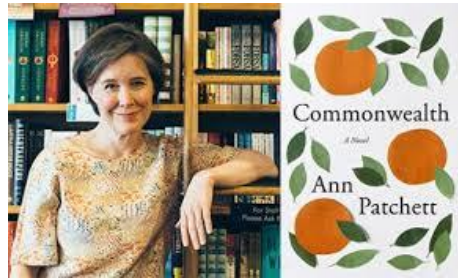
Lunch Bunch – Bea Trotta & Marge Strano



The May Lunch Bunch is scheduled for the **Severn Inn** in Annapolis on **Thursday, May 4, at 12:30 p.m.** The [Severn Inn](#) is located at 1993 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard on the eastern side of the Naval Academy Bridge next to Jonas Green Park. Enjoy a wonderful lunch and panoramic views of Annapolis and the Severn River. Shopping in downtown Annapolis is only a 10-minute ride away from the restaurant. **Sign up on line by using the [Lunch Bunch Sign-up Link](#). If you sign up on line, please do not add your name in the Activities Book. Only sign up in one place.** Please call Bea Trotta at 410-758-0332 or Marge

Strano at 410-758-2511 if you have a question or need a ride.

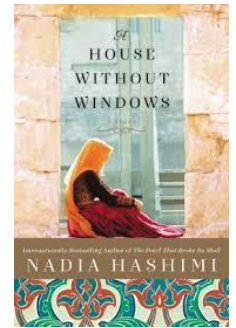
Reading for Fun Book Club – by Jack Hennessey



At our March 21 meeting, we reviewed the book *Commonwealth*, by Ann Patchett. She also wrote *Bel Canto*, one of our previously highly-rated books. The story begins at Franny Keating’s christening party, where an uninvited guest, Bert Cousins, shows up with a bottle of gin. He seduces the beautiful Beverly Keating. Bert leaves his wife and four children and marries Beverly. Franny Keating takes his two children and marries Teresa Cousins, Bert’s ex. Spanning five decades, the novel reviews how the six children end up sharing a

genuine affection for one another. When in her twenties, Franny begins a relationship with Leo Posen, a celebrated author. He writes a book entitled *Commonwealth*, which is essentially the story of Franny’s life. The ever growing cast of characters will keep readers on their toes. On a scale of 1 to 10, this novel, selected by Joan Hennessey, was rated 7.2.

The book for our April 18 meeting is *The House Without Windows*, by Nadia Hashimi, recommended by Lee Ettman. The setting for this novel is in Afghanistan, and the book is based primarily in a women’s prison. The primary characters are Zeba, who is suspected of murdering her husband, and her three cellmates who are all guilty of sexual offenses. Zeba is defended by Yusuf, an American lawyer, born in Afghanistan. The prevailing attitude is reflected in the statement—“A woman’s account is only worth one-half that of a man’s.” There are several surprising revelations in the story. You can expect to see a very high rating for this novel!



CERT – by Debi Wells

Helicopter Emergency Services – At Our Back Door!

This month your SV CERT, along with guests from our neighborhood, visited the Maryland State Police at Easton Airport (ESN) to better understand vital medivac (helicopter) equipment. George Drake, CERT lead, coordinated our visit. His point of contact at ESN for our learning was Brian Francis. (Brian, we later found out, went the extra mile to request his work shift hours be changed to accommodate our visit.)

We learned there are seven strategically located medivac stations within Maryland, the medivac at ESN is one and is the home of Trooper 6 (the Eastern Shore medivac). It primarily serves Queen Anne’s, Caroline, Talbot, and Dorchester counties, but also serves Anne Arundel County when needed. This central location (at ESN) allows fast transport for Eastern Shore patients to both Shock Trauma in Baltimore (a 20-minute flight) and the Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury (a 15-minute flight).



Medivac (Trooper 6) on runway with pilots and MSP personnel.



MSP Sgt. Brian Francis



CERT members John Olson (left) and Bill Wells (right) in Trooper 6.

CERT Lead, George Drake taking control (as usual) in Trooper 6.

Trooper 6 Radar Antenna

There are ten Maryland medivac helicopters and sometimes they are used to help other states; in turn, those states also help Maryland during a crisis. Crews on each helicopter consist of two pilots and two Maryland State Police Paramedics. Brian Francis, a talented paramedic and Maryland State Trooper Sergeant who also teaches water-crisis egress, provided valuable information about medivac use, which exceeds critical medical care. With the helicopter's Forward Looking Infrared Radar (FLIR), the medivac is also used to track criminals on foot or in a car, and assist critical search and rescue missions.

Brian briefed us on Advanced Life Support equipment within the medivac, it provides life-saving services (that include trauma, heart attacks, and more) while transporting patients rapidly via medivac to area hospitals. The inside of the medivac was larger than we had envisioned, and while it is designed for two patients, Brian explained, (if needed) he can transport as many as six patients by eliminating some of the medivac's equipment. It was an incredible two hours of interesting and helpful information.

We, in Centreville, are fortunate to have talented pilots and medical personnel so close to support us. In addition to Brian, three others with impressive backgrounds and careers with the Maryland State Police and Trooper 6 supported our learning - Aaron Clark, David Eldredge, and Jim Prince. All CERT members attending left the briefing awed by the four personnel we met and the state-of-the-art equipment we saw. We felt fortunate to have had this opportunity and commented on how comforted we are to be in such good hands!

ESN is located two miles north of historic Easton, Maryland. It is owned and operated by Talbot County and was originally constructed for military use during World War II. You may be surprised to know it is one of the busiest general aviation facilities in Maryland. And, in March 2008, the FAA named ESN 'Eastern Region General Aviation Airport of the Year.' Annually, ESN hosts Easton Airport Day. This year, Easton Airport Day (also known as the 'Rubber Chicken Drop') will be held on September 30. If you view the link it may entice you and your family to attend: <https://eastonairportday.com/>



Next Date: April 30 at 6 p.m.
Sign up in the Activities Book by April 20.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



My family and I were humbled by the overwhelming outpouring of sympathy and love received from our wonderful Symphony Village neighbors and friends upon the death of my beloved husband Rich. The prayers, flowers, and visits coupled with the tremendous contributions of food will be remembered forever. With amazing speed the same wonderful neighbors assembled a reception to match. I can never hope to thank each one of you individually, but please know your generous and thoughtful attention is very much appreciated.

*Sincerely,
Maggie Kovack*

American Legion Jeff Davis Post 18

The public is always welcome to attend Friday Night Dinners at the American Legion, and the Post especially appreciates SV participation! Dinners are 5:30 – 7 p.m., or until sold out. Upcoming dinners:

Friday, April 21:	The Sons of the American Legion will host a Lasagna Dinner, \$15
Friday, April 28:	Fried Oyster Dinner, \$16
Friday, May 5:	Shrimp Stuffed with Crabmeat Diner, \$18
Friday, May 12:	The American Legion Riders will host a Spaghetti and Meatballs Dinner with salad, \$10

Call the Post at 410-758-3584 if you have any questions.

Queen Anne's Chorale – by Jan Withers



Queen Anne's Chorale (QAC) is bringing classic pop songs to life in its upcoming spring concert, "**Juke Box USA.**" Favorites will be featured from The Beatles, Elvis Presley, Louis Armstrong, and others in a musical hit parade that will take you from the Roaring 20s through the Swinging 60s. The concert takes place at **7 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, at Chesapeake College Todd Performing Arts Center.**

"This will be a really fun, family-oriented experience with lots of variety," says QAC Artistic Director Robert Huntington. He has chosen a selection of songs that will delight audience members of all ages. The concert also features well-loved movie songs, including "Moon River."

A unique feature of QAC performances is audience participation. In addition to solving several juke box-related trivia questions, the audience will be joining the chorale members as they sing a rousing rendition of Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World." Given our age group, I believe our Symphony 'Village people' are especially equipped to know most of the answers, don't you?

I have appreciated every minute since moving here to SV last May. One of the highlights has been participation in Queen Anne's Chorale. I love to sing but I wasn't able to pursue that joy for the past 20+ years, so it is particularly delightful to experience it once again. Our director is especially talented and skilled in inspiring and drawing the best out of our choir members.

Seventeen talented 'Village people' are members of Queen Anne's Chorale for this spring season: Diane Briggs, Jack and Ruth Denny, Willie DiLaura, Gail Jinar, Kathryn Marchi, Joe Marotta, Betty McAtee, Joyce Ordun, Terri O'Connell, John Parham, Luann Sackrider, Helen Shultz, Tom Scull, Eleanor Strietman, Jack Walsh, and Jan Withers.

Please come and enjoy the concert! Tickets are \$15 for adults and can be purchased at the door or from a QAC member. You may check the SV phone and address list and contact any one of your Chorale neighbors for those tickets. There is free admission for children through high school, provided they are accompanied by an adult. The venue is handicapped accessible.

The concert will be followed by a reception, where attendees can mingle with QAC members and enjoy free refreshments.



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Spring Chicken Dinner



The Centreville Methodist Church (608 Church Hill Road) will hold a Spring Chicken Dinner on **Wednesday, April 26**, 3 – 6 p.m. Dinner (take-out only) will consist of ½ chicken baked over a charcoal fire, salad, dressing, applesauce, and a roll. All for only \$7. For tickets, contact Villager Tom Scull, 410-758-8658.

Platoon 22 Fundraiser



[Platoon 22](#) will hold a fundraiser on **Wednesday, May 10**, 6 – 9 p.m., at Doc's Riverside Grill (511 Chesterfield Avenue) in Centreville. Ten percent of the profits that

evening will be donated to Platoon 22, and there will also be a silent auction and a 50/50 auction.

What is Platoon 22? Platoon 22 helps veterans at risk for suicide. It is a non-profit organization referring to the estimated 22 veterans who commit suicide each day. Platoon 22 is dedicated to funding necessary research in order to better understand Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and its impact on the Military Veteran

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community. This research is critical so that we can understand effective diagnosis and potentially identify ways to improve the process and accuracy of diagnosis. Research is also needed to better understand what treatment options are working for these Veterans and which are not.

Catching Up With Galileo – The Armchair Astronomer

Although Hans Lippersy of the Netherlands is credited with inventing the Optical Telescope in 1608, it was Galileo of Italy who first employed it to gaze at the stars in 1610, so if we haven't been looking up at the stars, we are about 417 years behind him! His first version provided only 8x magnification, but later refined versions provided about 20x! Today, most binoculars achieve at least 7x and small optical telescopes about 30x.



Galileo's first observations were of the moon's craters, Jupiter, Venus, and the Milky Way. His finding that there were bodies that revolved around Jupiter, as opposed to Earth, destroyed the Polemic "geocentric" belief that everything revolved around Earth and that the Earth was the center of the universe (supported by the Church). His observation that Venus has phases, much like the moon, further supported Copernicus' of Poland, 1514 theory that the planets revolved around the sun and that the sun was another star!! If you have a pair of binoculars or a small telescope, you can observe Venus's phases over a period of months, and the moon's craters (best observed when the moon is in a phase where the craters provide shadow relief for contrast). More importantly, you can observe the four "Galilean satellites" as they orbit Jupiter, over a period of hours. You'll get a huge thrill if you observe two of the satellites simultaneously as their shadows cross the Jupiter surface. You may also observe the satellites themselves off to the side of Jupiter. Dust off your telescope and look for these events:



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This will catch you up with Galileo!!

Several other objects you can observe over the next several months are:

Venus, in early May, at magnitude 4.7 looking south or east in the early a.m.

Using the App “Sky Guide” you will find Comet 41p/Tuttle, Orion Nebular, Betelgeuse

Aquaria Meteor Shower—all-night, May 5.

Coming Soon, Symphony Village’s Astronomy Club

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IS YOUR GARDEN SOIL HEALTHY? – by Betty McAtee



All gardeners know that “good” soil in the garden is important, and that determination is typically based on color, texture, and organic material. But, good/healthy soil doesn’t just “happen.” It depends on a crucial interrelationship between soil microscopic organisms, namely bacteria, fungi, protozoa (one-celled organisms), and nematodes (tiny round worms), plus plants. The fungus is called “mycorrhizae,” from the Greek words *myco* (fungus) and *rhizae* (roots). This relationship is called *symbiosis* since both the microbes and plants benefit.

By the photosynthetic process, plants use atmospheric carbon dioxide to produce sugar which is not only needed for plant growth but is also released from plant roots into the soil and feeds the nearby microbes. In turn, the microbes are able to use minerals (in clay, rocks, sand) to provide important nutrients for the plants.

Hidden from view below the soil surface is an intricate web of fungi that form interconnections among plant communities; the fungal mycorrhizae network shares water, carbon, and nutrients with plants. As a result of this underground network, the many trees in a forest live as a single unit. Also, the fungi can release certain chemicals to attract tiny nematodes that fight off an invasion of insect pests.

“Good” soil acts as a “carbon storage sink” since the microbes take in and store the sugars produced by plants. However, if not properly managed, soil can lose carbon into the air due to excessive tilling, lack of cover crops leaving bare soil, a lack of biodiversity in the landscape, and overuse of pesticides and herbicides. These practices will disturb the balance of microorganisms underground, allowing carbon to be released (as a gas) into the air. A decrease of soil carbon leads to decreased soil productivity. This is an important agricultural issue in underdeveloped nations. Responsible human gardening/agricultural practices can help keep soils “healthy” and productive, and prevent excessive release of carbon into earth’s atmosphere.



(The image shows fungal hyphae strands among soil bacteria.)

What/Where Shall We Visit This Week?



Looking for something to do now that warm weather is here? County tourism websites are a place to start: [Queen Anne’s County Tourism Office](#), [Anne Arundel County Tourism](#), [Caroline County Tourism](#), [Kent County Tourism](#), and [Talbot County Tourism](#). A few towns also have a tourism website:

[Annapolis](#) (Anne Arundel County), [Denton](#) (Caroline County), [Downtown Denton](#) (Caroline County), [Chestertown](#) (Kent County), [Rock Hall](#) (Kent County), [Easton](#) (Talbot County), [Oxford](#) (Talbot County), [St. Michaels](#) (Talbot County), and [Town of St. Michaels](#) (Talbot County).

Restaurant Review - Frix’s

Fire Grill – by Susan Rayner



We may be the last residents to visit Frix’s Fire Grill, but it won’t be our last. The Eastern Shore is a treasure trove of eateries, all trying to outshine one another and we are the beneficiaries. Larry and I went for lunch and were mesmerized by the menu, first because we couldn’t pronounce anything and second because it was unique. For anyone

lactose intolerant, the menu was heaven sent for its use of goat cheese and coconut milk. We had three small plates and shared.

Filezinho: Sautéed strips of petit tenderloin with green pepper, onion, and demi-glace served with slices of toasted

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)baguette. The beef melted in your mouth and had a unique flavor all its own. This is also served as a sandwich called Brazilian Steak and Cheese.

Camarao com Maracuja: six lightly crusted fried jumbo shrimp with a passion fruit and Thai chili sauce. OMG, it was ambrosia to my taste buds and my favorite of the three dishes.

Abacate Marajo: Ripe avocado halved and stuffed with chunks of tender shrimp, tomato, cilantro, red onion, green pepper, and cilantro ranch dressing. This dish is a zesty burst of rich flavors melded together for a fresh warm day small plate.

While some of the menu items are recognizable, like the French Dip Sandwich and the BLT Flatbread, I'm so glad we opted for the unusual. This would be a great place for Happy Hour with discounted appetizers or on Thursday evenings when they offer \$5 hamburgers, which I can bet have a twist to them (fried egg, ham, and corn). Hope to see you there soon.

1533 Postal Rd, Chester, MD 21619; [\(410\) 604-2525](tel:4106042525)

Recipe of the Month

From the Kitchen of Zina Lichaa

CHOCOLATE STRAWBERRY CAKE

Cake:

Follow the directions on a Duncan Hines Yellow Cake Mix. Substitute 1 cup fresh orange juice for the water. Place in two 8 inch square pans (or two 8 or 9-inch round pans if desired). Bake according to directions and then cool to room temperature.



Ganache:

- Chop up (with a knife) 4 ounces of bittersweet chocolate.
- Add ¼ teaspoon vanilla, ½ teaspoon instant coffee granules (or ½ tablespoon of strong coffee), and a pinch of salt.
- Heat ½ cup of heavy cream in a quart-sized pan until it just begins to simmer (be careful not to allow cream to boil over).
- Pour cream over chocolate mixture and stir until melted. Use some to glaze the top layer of the cake. Allow the rest it to come to room temperature, approximately 2 hours. Once at room temperature, place in the bowl of a stand mixer and whisk on high for 2 to 3 minutes. Spread beaten ganache in between the two layers.

Whipping Cream:

- Beat one pint of whipping cream in a cold bowl. Then fold in one tablespoon sour cream to allow it to stabilize for a longer time.
- Frost sides of cake with the whipping cream, on top if desired.

Glaze for strawberries:

- Mix together 1 tablespoon white sugar and ¼ tablespoon cornstarch in a small saucepan. Whisk in the ¼ cup orange juice. Bring to a boil over medium heat; boil gently for one minute. Remove from heat and allow to cool.

Strawberries:

- Use 1 pound of strawberries washed and cut in half. Lay the strawberries on top. Use a brush to paint the top of the strawberry with the glaze. Optional - put Pirouettes around the sides. (If you are insane, you can dip them in melted chocolate).

Note: Zina made this cake for the Happy Hour Birthday Party in March. Someone suggested that it be called the Mexican Wall Cake. Servings/Yield: 12 servings

Travel Article

Trip to Antarctica – Bob & Debbie Hardy

“*Antarctica*? For vacation? Why would you ever want to do that??” It all happened one sick day and a bunch of newly arrived travel brochures. With all the options before us, we kept coming back to the same trip over and over—Antarctica. We had been to the other six continents and the siren call had been sounded and the telephone was just begging for us to reach out and “call for more information.” Within an hour, we had booked with and given all of our money to Vantage Travel to spend time within an icy place with more penguins than you ever thought possible.

As with most exploration cruises to Antarctica, we began our trip in South America. For us, it was in Buenos Aires, a place we enjoy. We met up with our Vantage Travel group—18 in all and spent two days visiting the normal tourist sites. We stayed in the Emperador Hotel and we were very pleased with the rooms, service, and food.

Then off on our flight to Ushuaia, where we spent waiting time walking around the “windy city.” We ate lunch in a tourbook-recommended restaurant but weren’t impressed with the food, but the atmosphere was nice. Other people in our group found a seafood restaurant (yellow house/green roof) fairly near the dock and had a great king crab lunch for a reasonable price.

That afternoon, we boarded our ship, the ms Fram, a Norwegian ice-reinforced hull vessel that is also used as a long distance ferry in Norway. She was much smaller than the Holland America ship in port, but was significantly larger than the National Geographic ship that was also departing the same day. The pictures I had seen while combing the internet, really didn’t prepare me for the ship. I had expected a more rugged atmosphere. It was really quite nice and comfortable—well, except for the camper-size bathroom. And then the Drake Passage...

Everything that you’ve ever heard about the Drake Passage is true. We actually had a fairly calm beginning, “fools we.” Even mundane things like brushing your teeth became a challenge in trying to brace yourself so you could hold on with just one hand. Everyone survived, but a lot of people did have trouble. But the reward at the end is well worth it, truly. You have to wonder how those early explorers in much smaller boats made it.

We have great respect for the inventor of the stabilizer.

And then—there it was! A white, mountain range against the bluest, blue water and sky and, yes, cold! As we passed icebergs and barren rock formations, we had a hard time convincing ourselves we were really there. And when we say icebergs, we mean the ones the size of an aircraft carrier, above the water!

Going ashore is handled very efficiently and in an environmentally conscious way. No more than 100 people may be on the shore at anytime. You are limited to 45 minutes or so in order to let everyone have an equal chance. It was a crazy scene as a whole group of



First close-up glimpse of Antarctica

people scrambled into the special boots and the lifejacket with all of their other gear on in a small space, to then get whisked away in Zodiac-like boats. This was, by far, the coldest parts of the trip, the race to and from the shore.

Our first landing had a little snow but a very rocky shore, and then there was our first adorable penguin, a gentoo, then hundreds more entertained us. As with all of the rest of the landings, nature is at her pristine best. Each landing was very different from the other, with little to show that man has inhabited any part of it at one time or another. We did visit remains of the whaling industry and Argentinean and British bases that are manned, but they were small and spent a great deal of effort not to disturb the delicate environment around them.

When you go, be prepared to attend several mandatory lectures on safety and good stewardship. It is not a joke nor is it a nuisance to attend these meetings. For instance, a gentleman either forgot or ignored the warning about wearing high SPF sunscreen, even on an overcast day. After only his allotted 45 minutes on shore, he looked as if someone had taken a hot iron to his face, it was so blistered. Everywhere we landed we saw penguins and usually seals. It is easy to get so caught up in witnessing their lives that you forget that they live and survive in very harsh conditions. We were there in the very early summer (November) but were able to see nesting penguins and other sea birds and some baby seals. We also were awakened at 4



a.m., by shrill boat alarms that had us worried at first that we had actually hit an iceberg. But it turned out to be an event that we probably would never see again in our lives. Adult orcas (killer whales) were teaching a baby how to overturn an ice flow to get a seal for “breakfast.” This was happening right outside our window. It is almost 24 hours of light by that time of the year, so it was easy to see. Fortunately for me anyway, we were spared the actually dining part.

There are many opportunities to explore nature on these cruises. Kayaking, exploration cruises in small boats, polar plunging, hiking, and camping overnight on shore were offered although we only took advantage of the expedition cruises. Some of the landings had the exploration crew carving out ice steps up the hill for us. I’ll admit to a lot of difficulty with the ice stairs as the “carvers” were young and 6 feet tall, so the “steps” were very large (think 2 at a time at home) and, of course, icy. We didn’t always go ashore as there were usually two stops a day, but when we didn’t, we had a wonderful view of the activity ashore with a pair of great binoculars in the observation lounge/bar.

Overall, we saw four of the six types of penguins that live in Antarctica: Gentoo, Macaroni, Chinstrap, and Adelie. We saw leopard, elephant, crabeater, fur, and Weddell seals, with the elephant and crabeaters in the greatest numbers. For birders, this would be a trip of a lifetime with many bird species only seen there. Although there was limited whale-watching, (besides the orcas) we did pass by humpback, Minke, and fin whales and as we neared South America on the return trip—dolphins.

All too soon, we were crossing a very mean Drake where it was even difficult to stay in bed, spending a few hours in Ushuaia, a day in Buenos Aires, and then the long flight home. And now we have about 2000 pictures to show you...

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UPCOMING CENTREVILLE EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt



The Centreville Lions Club will host an Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 15**, 11 a.m., at Millstream Park in Centreville. For more information, call 410-758-2788. Rain date is April 22.

Easter Egg Hunt



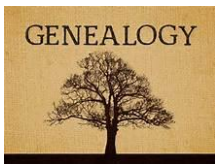
St. Paul's Episcopal Church (301 S. Liberty Street) in Centreville will host an Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday, April 16**, following the 10 a.m. church service. For more information, call 410-758-1553.

Centreville Farmer's Market Opens



The [Centreville Farmer's Market](#) will open for the season on **Wednesday, April 19**, 2 – 6 p.m., and **Saturday, April 22**, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The market continues through **October 24**. The market is located on Lawyer's Row and Commerce Street. Varied produce and value-added products will be offered for sale.

Genealogy and Local History Club



The first meeting of the [Genealogy and History Club](#) will take place on **Wednesday, April 19, 5:30 – 7 p.m.**, at the Centreville Branch of the Queen Anne’s County Library. Genealogists and local history buffs are invited to come with questions and their research to discuss and share with others.

Family Law Clinic



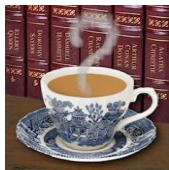
The Centreville Branch of the Queen Anne’s County Library will host a Family Law Clinic on the **third and fourth Thursdays** of each month, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Volunteer lawyers are available for consultation on how to represent yourself and complete forms for divorce, custody, visitation, and modification of child support. Please arrive early to sign in and complete intake forms. For more information, please visit [Family Services Clinic](#) or call the library at 410-758-0980.

Matinee Movie: Rogue One: A Star Wars Story



The Centreville Branch of the Queen Anne’s County Library will host a [Matinee Movie](#) on **Friday, April 21, 2 – 4 p.m.** The Rebel Alliance makes a risky move to steal the plans for the Death Star, setting up the epic saga to follow. Snacks will be provided by the library.

Crime and a Cuppa



The Centreville Branch of the QAC Library begins [Crime and a Cuppa](#) on **Saturday, April 22, 2 – 3 p.m.** Join others for the first of a new series of book talks featuring murder, mystery, and mayhem with a distinctive British flavor. Enjoy a cup of tea while Kathleen introduces you to a variety of authors and series that you might have overlooked in your library browsing. Who knows you might discover a new favorite detective. Registration suggested (go to the website).

Spring Wreath Craft



The Centreville branch of the Queen Anne’s County Library will host [Spring Wreath Craft](#) on **Monday, April 24, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.** Make a beautiful spring-themed wreath to decorate your front door. The event is free, and all materials will be supplied by the library. Advance registration is required – go to the website.

Arbor Day Celebration



Come join the Town of Centreville and the Centreville Park Advisory Board as they celebrate [Arbor Day](#) on **Friday, April 28**. The event begins at 10 a.m. on the Millstream Trail behind Centreville Elementary School. Free. For more information, contact Town Hall at 410-758-1180 or townhall@townofcentreville.org.

4th Annual Cash Bash



The [Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company](#) in Centreville will host a Cash Bash on **Saturday, April 29, noon – 6 p.m.**, in the firehall. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold, for \$100 each. There will be 145 cash drawings every 2.5 minutes ranging from \$125 to \$3,000 with the final drawing of \$6,000 at 6 p.m. Ticket holders may bring one guest, with additional guests for \$30 each. Free food and beverages. Purchase tickets on the fire company website via Pay Pal, from fire company members, or from John Cvach, 443-262-8009.

Project Clean Stream



The Corsica River Conservancy (CRC), in partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Town of Centreville, will sponsor project Clean Stream on **Sunday, April 30**, 9 a.m. – noon, rain or shine, at sites in the Corsica River Watershed. This year's sites are Millstream Park (416 S. Liberty Street), the Centreville Wharf (101 Water Way), and Northbrook (301 Trickling Brook Way). Gloves and trash containers will be provided. For more information, contact CRC President, Steve Miller, 443-621-4008 or email to CorsicaRiverConservancy@gmail.com.

Museum of Eastern Shore Life



The [Museum of Eastern Shore Life](#) will open on **first Saturdays, April – October**, 1 – 4 p.m. The museum is located at the 4-H Park (126 Dulin Clark Road) in Centreville, and it gives visitors a glimpse of rural life in the past in Queen Anne's County. There is a unique collection of antique farm implements and tools, equipment used by watermen to harvest from the Bay, Indian artifacts, and household items. There also is a reconstructed blacksmith shop.

Historic Sites Consortium of Queen Anne's County - Historic Sites Open House



The [Historic Sites Consortium of QAC](#) opens historic sites on the **first Saturday** of every month from **April through October**. Site hours vary, so check the website. Docents inform visitors of the history of each site. Sites include Wright's Chance and Tucker House in Centreville. A Tour Brochure for the historic sites in QAC may be requested by calling 410-758-2502.

Windows of the Past Art Auction



The [Windows of the Past Art Auction](#) will be held on **Saturday, May 6**, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., at the Queen Anne's County Centre for the Arts (206 S. Commerce Street) in Centreville. The event will feature a live auction of window art created by local artists. The windows were taken from the 100-year-old farmhouse that has been transformed into the first phase of Chesapeake Cats & Dogs' Tree of Life Pet Sanctuary. These Windows of the Past will allow CC&D to move forward into the future. In addition to the live auction, there will be refreshments, wine, beer, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. There are a limited number of tickets for this event. Go to the website to purchase tickets online.

To see a list of tourism and local attraction websites, press "Event Source Links" on the [Sources](#) page on the SV Website.

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