



Photo by George Drake

LIBRETTO 🎵

January 2016

Symphony Village's Newsletter

Vol. XI No 1

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.



Russ and Vickie DeVibless
134 Opera Court

John and Cathy Olson
105 Symphony Way

Mark and Liz Yengle
129 Sonata Way

Brett and Christie Peterson
174 Orchestra Place

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COVENANTS – *Chris Pariseau, Chairman; and Irene Hoffman, Vice-Chair*

Think Spring!!

Even though weather hasn't been much of a deterrent so far this winter, we think of work around the house and in the garden as part of spring planning. The Covenants Committee would like to support your plans for your home this spring.

Please remember that any change to the exterior of your property requires the prior approval of the Covenants Committee. The Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. The deadline for submission of Exterior Modification Requests is the last Tuesday of the month.

Please bring the Request to the Clubhouse and leave it with Dennis Sesplankis, General Manager, or Cindy Clough, Assistant General Manager. The office will forward your Exterior Modification Request to the Committee chair for consideration. A committee member may contact you for additional information and/or for a meeting to "walk" the physical property. Be as complete as you can be in your application. Provide as much time as you can before the deadline so that the committee can complete its work on time.

Solar installations approved in 2015 required landscape plantings or lattice work to shield any outside inverter boxes from view. Members of the Committee will be making appointments with homeowners over the next several months to see the plantings or lattice work.

**HOA Board of Directors
Meeting**

Friday, January 29, 10 a.m.

The Architectural Guidelines and Terms of Reference are documents with which every homeowner should become familiar. They are found on the [SV Website](#) under Governance and Official Documents.

Contractors will be very busy as spring begins. Now is the time to contact them for plans to landscape and to make other changes to the exterior of your property. THINK SPRING!!

2015 Covenants Committee End of Year Report

During the calendar year 2015, residents/homeowners of Symphony Village HOA submitted 86 Exterior Modification Requests to the Covenants Committee. The exterior modification requests covered a variety of changes from painting, patios, and various landscaping jobs, to solar panel installations, storm doors, and satellite dishes. The Front Office management approved ten requests. Of the 86 requests, 18 were requests for solar panel installation. The Committee only disapproved three exterior modification requests. The Committee had three (3) cease-and-desist letters sent to homeowners by the HOA lawyer. We also updated and modified a section of the Guidelines, which will be submitted to the Board for approval.

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LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE – *Vinny Volpicelli, Chair, Randy Officer, Vice Chair and Pat Fox, Correspondent*

- **Happy Hour** – Saturday, January 23, – 6 – 8 p.m.
- **Ladies Happy Hour** – Thursday, January 28, -- 5:30 p.m. Bring \$5 for your meal. The drink of the day is \$1 and all other beverages are the usual price.
- **Happy Hour** – Friday, February 5, – 6 – 8 p.m. – Valentine’s Day
- **Super Bowl Party** – Sunday, February 7 -- 4 p. m. -- Game Time Kickoff -- 6:30 p.m.
- **Lifestyle Meeting** – Monday, February 1, – 7 p.m.
- **The Spirit of Harriet Tubman** – Friday, February 19, -- 7 p.m. See below.
- **Trivial Pursuit** – Sunday, February 28, -- 2 – 5 p.m.

Super Bowl Party

Join your fellow fans on Sunday, February 7, at the Clubhouse starting at 4 p.m.; game time is 6:30 p.m. The bar will be open, all TVs tuned in and a football pool hopefully in the making! Feel free to bring snacks and desserts to share. If anyone is inspired the group will order pizza. A very casual event with fun to be had by all!

COMMUNITY CLOSE-OUT! FINAL OPPORTUNITIES!

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*Restrictions Apply. Referral reward is offered to current Symphony Village residents only and is provided to referring party only. Referral is only valid for buyers who purchase with no other referral fees, such as realtor fees. Referral form must be completed and submitted to the Sales Manager with original contract. Referral payout will be made approximately two weeks after settlement. A W-9 is required for tax purposes. Ask Sales Manager for more details. Some photos used for likeness only.



The Spirit of Harriet Tubman: Friday, February 19



For a breathtaking hour, actor Leslie McCurdy embodies the "spirit" of Harriet Tubman and shares Harriet's empowering story woven with words said to have been Harriet's own. Leslie takes the audience through Ms. Tubman's childhood, her harrowing solo flight from slavery, her dedicated involvement with the Underground Railroad, her victorious rescue mission during the Civil War, and her commitment to others in her later years. This inspiring solo performance, by an artist described as being "of exceptional skill and grace," teaches about the faith and conviction that drove Harriet Tubman to follow her dreams, and the spirit of the past connecting with the present which inspired her charges to have the courage to do the same in envisioning their future.

Tickets: \$20 Adults/\$10 Students

Location: Todd Performing Arts Center Theatre

Mark your calendar for an exciting, one-woman show recounting Harriet Tubman, known for her dedication to the Underground Railroad and her own escape from enslavement. Harriet lived outside of Cambridge. This is a piece of Eastern Shore history. We are putting together a Lifestyle night, with carpooling to the college followed by a Happy Hour and dessert back at the Clubhouse. Please sign up in the Activities Book and write your check to Chesapeake College. You can put your check in the box or leave it at the front desk.

Our Gratitude Dinner

A special Happy Hour to honor Symphony Village Committee Volunteers will be hosted on Saturday, March 19. We will celebrate our neighbors who so willingly have put in the time to make SV a great place to live. Hopefully, the efforts of the volunteers will inspire others to do the same. We'll combine this event with some St. Patrick's Day celebration and libation as well. Mark this date in INK!! There is a sign-up sheet at the Clubhouse for both the volunteers and contributors. For information on how you can contribute, contact Zina Lichaa at zinalichaa@aol.com.

Queen Anne's County Storytelling Event



The Queen Anne's County Arts Council, in conjunction with Chesapeake College, will host a Storytellers' Weekend Festival on Friday, April 29, and Saturday, April 30, featuring national, regional, and local storytellers. They'll take you on magical journeys with stories reminiscing about the carefree days of childhood, showcasing humorous slice-of-life moments, and looking back on significant historical events and people.

Friday evening will feature short Opening Performances (aka Olio) by many of the storytellers who will be on stage Saturday. Saturday is the big day, with multiple performances taking place concurrently on three stages at Chesapeake College. The entertainment starts at 10 a.m. in various segments and goes to 5:15 p.m. There is a dinnertime Outdoor Concert and a round-up evening Olio. The last event of the night is

Ghost Stories!

Ticket choices will be for Friday night only, Saturday (10 a.m. – 6 p.m.), Saturday night only, or an "All Access Weekend Pass." More information and ticket prices will be available as event details unfold. Stay tuned.

Our County would like to make this a First Annual Storytellers' Festival, showcasing the Eastern Shore. Let's support this effort as a Village! For more information contact George Drake at georgerdrake@yahoo.com.

Events in the Planning Stage –

- Return to Glam Salon, April
- *Gypsy* – the Musical at Chesapeake College, Todd Performing Arts Center, April
- On the Run Theatre Company, Shirlington, VA, May
- Antiques Appraisal Road Show Return, 2016

Need Hosts for Happy Hours – Free Drinks and Food!

To keep the fun rolling, Lifestyle Committee members will be asking folks who attend these functions to please agree to host future Happy Hours! Happy Hour hosts and hostesses will now be able to drink for free and don't have to bring food! What a deal! Donna will give you a wild ride home in the golf cart if you imbibe too much.

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 may select a theme, 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 Margo Wagner to register. Lifestyle Committee members are always there and can help.



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OUTREACH – Bea Trotta, President

Sheehy Lexus to sponsor Card Party

To everyone in Symphony Village, Outreach is pleased to announce that Sheehy Lexus of Annapolis is once again sponsoring the Symphony Village Card and Game Party on Thursday, January 21, at the Clubhouse, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. A representative of Sheehy Lexus will be at the Clubhouse with cars for you to see and even test drive during the Card Party. Someone will be happy to tell you about the vehicles and answer any questions you have. You don't have to be signed up for the Card Party to check out the cars, so we encourage you to come up sometime that day. Outreach is very appreciative of Sheehy Lexus' support and also the support of Symphony Village.

The Seventh Annual SV Outreach Card and Game Party

(To benefit The UM Shore Emergency Center at Queenstown and Chesapeake Cats and Dogs)

Thursday, January 21, 2016

9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

At the SV Clubhouse

\$30 Donation per person (80% tax deductible)

Includes morning coffee & tea, lunch, and door prizes.

50/50 Raffle

Reserve a table on the sign-up sheets

In the Activities Book at the Clubhouse

Beginning December 7

(Deadline Friday, January 15)

Payment by check is due at sign-up

If you need help getting a group together, contact:

Lauren Rose at 443-262-8238 or swartz.lauren@gmail.com.

Other questions, please call Carlene Cooke at 443-262-8146 or carlene.cooke@gmail.com.

Bring your own cards and games for your game of choice.

(Bridge, canasta, poker, scrabble, mahjonn, etc.)

Once Again Sponsored by Sheehy Lexus of Annapolis

If you cannot attend the event, but would like to support the Activities of the Outreach Programs with a donation, please bring a check to Cindy in the Clubhouse, or mail to:

SVOPI, Box 642, Centreville, MD 21617. (This donation is 100% deductible.)

Please make all checks payable to **SV Outreach Program, Inc.** or **SVOPI**.

SV OUTREACH PROGRAM, INC. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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

FAQ

Perhaps you noticed a new page on the [Website](#) titled FAQ. Jim Arnts created this document that answers almost every question a person could ask about the Website or ECHOES. The committee members have field-tested the document and are amazed at how well constructed this is. Contact Jim with questions and comments.

Index

You may have also noticed this new page on the [Website](#). George Drake created the Index which lists almost every SV Website entry. This Index enables you to search for whatever information you are interested in finding simply by clicking on the Website line. We were unable to put some items in the Index at this time because they are password protected. Please try the Index. Let George know if you find an error or if you want something added.

ECHOES

If you are having any problems with ECHOES, please feel free to call Carol Hodges at 410-758-0591.

SNEAKERS— *Linda Farrar, President; Bea Trotta, Correspondent*

Santa Tree

A huge thank you to the residents of Symphony Village for their overwhelming and generous support of the Santa Tree this past holiday season. Due to your generosity, the children of five families received gifts such as sneakers, pants, coats, jackets, and toys and also gift cards to purchase food at local grocery stores.

Queen Anne's County High School

Sneakers gave \$4,000 in scholarships to graduating high school students in 2015. Both the students and the school administrators are grateful for our continued support. You, the residents of Symphony Village, make this possible.

Kennard Elementary School

There was a book giveaway on Monday, December 21, at Kennard Elementary School. Students were given a book of their choosing to take home over the holiday break. There will be a second book giveaway in April. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Activities Book in March.

November Gala

Save the date of Saturday, November 5, for our next major fundraiser. More details will be available over the coming months.

Next Meeting

Look for our next meeting date in the Daily Bulletin or the Calendar. We always welcome new residents to join us.

CLUBS AND CLASSES

Gazebo Garden Club and Victory Garden *by Jack Hennessey*



By the time you read this, the Merry-Go-Round lights covering the gazebo will have been taken down; and stored by Dan Battista, who did most of the work putting them up. We are planning an even better display in 2016. Many thanks to those who participated in the Christmas sing-a-long. In spite of the rain, we sang a total of ten carols, starting with Jingle Bells and ending with the traditional Silent Night. We will be doing this again next year, and will honor requests by residents to sing their favorite carols.



Don't forget! The Symphony Village grounds keepers did a great job of cutting to ground level all bushes except the anchor plants in each of the 20 flower beds. All residents are invited to participate in making the Gazebo Garden a showplace for the community and their guests. Call Jack Hennessey if you are available at 410-758-4872.

Due to the unusually warm weather, many weeds are sprouting in the Victory Garden. Some freezing temperatures and a little snow should take care of them. Dave Peterson is getting his tiller in shape and looking forward to the spring thaw. If Mother Nature cooperates, we will be ready for traditional planting by March 17, St. Patrick's Day. Two new residents, Barney and ReRe Stephens have requested a plot in the garden. I think that we have room for two more gardeners. Former gardeners must confirm their desire to have a plot in the 2016 season. Call Jack.

Someone asked me why we call our garden a Victory Garden. Many of us are old enough to remember the patriotic Victory Gardens of WWII. The others can call it a vegetable garden. In any case, Happy Gardening!

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Lunch Bunch--by Marge Strano

The February Lunch Bunch is scheduled for Scossa Restaurant and Lounge at 8 N. Washington Street in Easton on Thursday, February 4, 12:30 p.m. Hopefully, we will have a beautiful February day to stroll in the streets of downtown Easton after lunch. Remember to sign up in the Activities Book at the Clubhouse and enjoy great food, good company, and the opportunity to do some shopping. 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



I hope that everyone enjoyed the holiday break in December. Personally, I read "Twas the Night before Christmas" several times for my great-grandchildren. I must admit that I now have it memorized. Now, getting down to business, I reread *A Man Called Ove*, which I had recommended for our January 19 meeting. I had to wait three weeks to get a copy at the library, so I presume it was a good choice.

Ove is a 59 year-old "Grumble Gus." For him, rules are made to be followed and signs are meant to be obeyed. He is strictly against computers and mobile phones. His wife Sonia died four years ago, and Ove feels that without her, life is not worth living. Ove is intent on ending his life. However, several events, including a needy young couple with two and a half children moving next door to him, keep delaying his planned demise. Ove is kept busy helping to solve neighborly problems. One reviewer, Carol Haggas, feels that this book, by Swedish author, Fredrick Backman, deserves an award for Most Charming Book of the Year. It will make you laugh and cry!

The novel for our February 16 meeting is *Canada*, by Richard Ford. The main character, 15-year-old Dell Parsons, whose parents are bank robbers and eventually, murderers, is spirited out of the country to Canada by Arthur Remlinger, an enigmatic and violent American. The professional reviewer, Goodreads, states that this book is destined to become a classic. Richard Ford, the author, is a Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist.

Social Singles--by Carol Donnelly

Social Singles will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month. Our February meeting is in the conference room of the Clubhouse at 10:30 a.m. on February 9. Please come to help plan activities for the coming year. We will explore possible trips to Cape May and Ocean Pines. Please join us and bring your ideas for a fun-filled New Year.

Bird Club – Linda Blume



The Cornell Lab of Ornithology sponsors two live cameras at bird feeding stations: the [Cornell Lab Feeder Cam](#) in Ithaca, NY, and the [Ontario Feeder Cam](#) in Ontario, Canada. I saw some birds last year on the Ontario cam that I needed a Bird Guide to identify – nothing different yet this year, but I enjoy watching both!

The Eagle Cam at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is back in action at [Eagle Cam](#). The eagle pair has been seen tidying up the nest; eggs are expected sometime in January.

The Great Backyard Bird Count will be **February 12-15**. Participants of all skill levels are welcome. All the details are at [Great Backyard Bird Count](#).

If you aren't receiving email from the SV Bird Club and would like to, just sign up in the Activities Book (behind the Bird Club tab) or contact me.

CERT by George Drake

Revitalization

The SV CERT program is being revitalized in 2016 with new: ideas, members, speakers, films, and enthusiasm. We are seeking certification classes for new members and recertification for existing members.

Our Website is updated with our mission statement, history, members, accomplishments, on-going activities, the SV CERT Emergency Plan (still in revision), SV Homeowner Fire and General Safety information, the File of Life, the SV Emergency Information Form, and links to the CERT National Website, with links to Emergency Preparedness and Family Emergency Plans.

Check out the updated [CERT Web pages](#). You can also easily find us on the SV Website by checking the new Index and clicking on CERT.

Meeting Dates: CERT will meet monthly the third Monday at 3 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Easy to remember – 3 X 3. third Monday at 3. All past members and anyone interested in joining our CERT are invited to attend the first meeting on Monday, **February 15**, at 3 p.m. ANYONE – but especially prior firemen, EMTs, paramedics, doctors, and nurse – are encouraged to attend. We plan on having our new contact, Mr. David Rivett, Emergency Planner from the QAC Department of Emergency Services, in attendance.

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New File of Life magnetic holders with a blank form are available from Cindy at the Clubhouse.

Print out File of Life **refill forms** from the [File of Life website](#).

On the [Website](#), print out SV Emergency Information Forms.

You can also look for these items on the SV Website Index and click on the appropriate form.

“Baby it’s cold out there!”--by Victoria Weber



Does comfort food such as meat loaf, beef stew, chili, soup, and salad sound for this cold month? If so, come to our January Dining In. As mentioned in previous articles, this is a wonderful way to meet Villagers who live in different areas of Symphony Village. If you are new to the Village, please join us. We meet the fourth Sunday of the month. If you care to entertain occasionally, this is the fun group for you. It is simple. You can sign up as a hostess or a guest. If you are the hostess, just provide your home and the main entrée of your choice. If you are the guest, provide a vegetable, dessert, an appetizer or a wine of your choice. Yes, that’s all there is to “Dining In.”

The picture shown is from December’s brunch which was held at the home of Jim and Sharon Roe. What a wonderful way to start the Christmas Holiday! Everyone who attended either the Roe’s or Tom and Kathy McManus’ home enjoyed the start of the Holiday Season. Kathy said, “I can’t believe how easy it is to be the hostess.”

Quilting Group

Project Linus

The Quilting Group would like to thank the nice person(s) who left beautiful fabric, some already cut into squares or strips, in the Craft Room. On Tuesday, January 5, our first day back after the holidays, we worked on making Project Linus quilts; we were able to use the fabric for some beautiful quilts for the sick children and teenagers.



Project Linus is a charity whose mission is to “provide love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and Afghans, lovingly created by volunteer “blanketeers.”

After reading an article in *Parade Magazine* Christmas Eve, 1995, about a three year-old little girl with leukemia whose special “blankie” had helped her get through more than two years of intensive chemotherapy, Karen Loucks decided to provide homemade security blankets to Denver’s

Rocky Mountain Children's Cancer Center, and thus Project Linus was born. I think anyone who knows the Charlie Brown story could guess where the name originated.

There are chapters all over the United States, and the blankets can be sewn, quilted, crocheted, or knitted. The Symphony Village Quilting Group has made these a few times and our blankets go to the Anne Arundel County chapter, which serves our Eastern Shore. In closing, if anyone has bright solid fabric that they do not need and would like to donate, the group can use that also.

Quilters Donate 100th Quilt to Compass Regional Hospice

The Symphony Village Quilters recently reached a milestone by donating their 100th quilt for patients of Compass Regional Hospice. A dozen quilters meet twice a month at the Symphony Village Clubhouse in Centreville to work on projects that benefit organizations in the community. Pictured are (left to right) seated, quilters Amy Marotta and Courtney Pilgrim; standing, Courtney Williams, Manager, Volunteer and Professional Services, Compass Regional Hospice; quilter Cindy Backer; Marty Wash, Development Assistant, and Kenda Leager, Development Officer, Compass Regional Hospice; and quilter Marilyn Williams.



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Summer Picnics

It is only 135 days until the first of three summer picnics. There will be a BIG BIG planning session in early March. More information will follow. Think about how you can contribute.

Thank You!

I want to thank Symphony Village for all the support I have had in my illness. My right shoulder is getting better, but I recently had a setback with my left shoulder so I am still not well. Thank you for all the cards and gifts. I have enjoyed them all. I especially want to thank Concerto Avenue Neighbor-to-Neighbor, which provided me with such delicious meals after I left the nursing home. All the support from my neighbors has made me determined to get over this last problem. I am not able to write everyone, but please know I appreciate all of the support and help.

Dorthea Turek

I Rode My Bike Every Day this Year



A small but enthusiastic group showed up at the Clubhouse on New Year's Day to ride their bikes and get bragging rights to say "**I rode my bikes every day this year.**" After a short ride around the neighborhood, they returned to the Clubhouse for hot chocolate, coffee, and homemade brownies provided by Nancie Cameron. It's a good way to start the New Year so plan on joining them in 2017. Bragging rights are fun to have but the real rewards are Nancie's delicious desserts.

Ft. Row: Lloyd McAtee, George Drake, Nancie Cameron, Andrew Rowley, Pat Scheirer
Back Row: Don Cameron, Robert Rowley, Bill Rowley (photo by Brenda Stoltz)

The New Tree Planting

Have you noticed 44 new trees planted in December? It's a new look designed to:

- Improve tree health and longevity,
- Handle storm water runoff,
- Reduce maintenance costs, and
- Protect your investment.

You may ask how can this be accomplished just by planting new trees. Tree health and storm water management are improved by planting the root systems at the proper soil depth, allowing for healthy root formation. Healthy roots are not subjected to repeated cycles of drought. The new beds will create adequate room for the roots to grow and absorb moisture and nutrients without turf competition. These new beds create an environment where storm water will percolate through the nutrient rich composted bedding material, providing much needed food and water for the trees.

The size and shape of the new beds and material will be cost effective by reducing needs for yearly mulching, seasonal watering, and mowing while increasing aesthetics and monetary values of your home.



The desired new look



New planting at correct and increased bed area



Current shallow root development



Results in inadequate planting depth (surface root)

By: Robert Stanley, Consulting Arborist, Tree Keepers®, Bob@thetreekeepers.com

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Maryland Tree Expert
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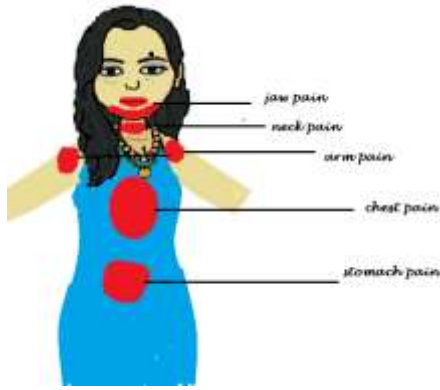
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Heart Attack Symptoms for Women--by Judy Webster



It was 3 a.m., December 9. I awoke with a sharp, stabbing pain in my left shoulder. I assumed I had been sleeping in the wrong position; but when it intensified and I also developed severe jaw pain, I suspected a possible heart attack. I remembered a cardiologist friend of mine telling me years ago that women have very different symptoms of a heart attack than men.

We went to the Emergency Care Center on Route 301 and after doing an EKG and some bloodwork, it was determined that I should go to Anne Arundel Hospital by ambulance for observation. Another EKG and more bloodwork indicated I had had a heart attack. Two days later I had a cardiac catheterization and a stent was inserted into an artery which had a 90% blockage. The doctor put me on Lipitor and Plavix and I have started

cardiac rehab. Diet and exercise are part of the rehab process.

Every woman needs to know about these different symptoms which, according to one of the nurses, can also include pain between the shoulder blades. Recognizing the symptoms saved my life.

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American Legion Jeff Davis Post 18

All residents of Symphony Village are welcome to attend the weekly **Friday Night Dinners** at the Legion Hall:

Friday, January 15: Sons of the American Legion's Hot Roast Beef and Gravy Dinner

Friday, January 22: Adjutants' Crab Cakes Dinner

Friday, January 29: Fried Oyster Dinner

Friday, February 5: American Legion Riders' Spaghetti and Meatballs

Friday, February 12: Sons of the American Legion's Four Soft Crabs Dinner

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

New Year's Eve Happy Hour

(photos by Brenda Stoltz)

Nearly 90 neighbors gathered in the Clubhouse to enjoy good company, tasty appetizers and desserts, and dancing to music provided by Randy Officer. At midnight, everyone donned their hats and picked up their noisemakers to ring in the New Year. Our thanks to the members of the Lifestyle Committee for providing another enjoyable event for their neighbors and friends.



Bowling -- by Pat Scheirer



You've never bowled? Or did you bowl in a league for years? Makes no difference as SV duckpin bowlers will attest. Scores are as erratic as the Dow Jones Average in any given week. We tell ourselves we're having fun and as it turns out, we truly are. It's all about the camaraderie. Here's the deal--for \$6 you get to bowl two games, rent shoes, and your choice of pizza or a hotdog and sodas for lunch. However, if you want pepperoni on your pizza, it will cost you another 25 cents. Men and women bowlers (and an occasional grandchild) meet in the SV parking lot at noon on Tuesdays to carpool to Chestertown. There is no need to read *Bowling for Dummies* on the way. You'll see duckpin bowling just comes naturally—or not!

Recipe of the Month

-- From the Kitchen of Carlene Cook

Hoppin' John



2 cups dried black-eyed peas

1 ham hock (or 3-4 slices bacon)

1 cup chopped onion

1 cup chopped green pepper

Salt and pepper to taste

1 cup rice

- Place peas in large pot and cover with water; let soak for 8 hours (overnight). Drain water and return to pot; add ham hock, onion, and green pepper. Cover with water and simmer covered, for 2 hours until peas are tender.
- Cook 1 cup rice according to package instructions. When peas are cooked, add rice and mix well.

Options:

- Canned or frozen black-eyed peas may be used instead of dried. Soaking is then not necessary.
- Making rice in oven: Preheat to 375 degrees, mix 1 cup rice and 1 2/3 cups boiling water in casserole dish. Cover and bake 25 minutes. Fluff and add to black-eyed peas.

History of Hoppin' John

In the southern United States, especially North and South Carolina, eating Hoppin' John on New Year's Day is thought to bring a prosperous year filled with luck. The peas are symbolic of coins. On the day after New Year's Day, leftover "Hoppin' John" is called "Skippin' Jenny," and eating it then further demonstrates one's frugality, bringing a hope for an even better chance of prosperity.

The first recipe for Hoppin' John was in a cookbook by Sarah Rutledge published in 1847, although the name is mentioned in *Recollections of a Southern Matron* in 1838.

There are several 'legends' as to where the dish got its name. Among them are:

It was the custom for children to gather in the dining room as the dish was brought out and hop around the table before sitting down.

A man named John came "a-hoppin'" when his wife took the dish from the stove. (I like this one!)

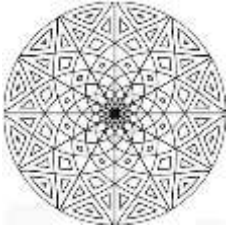
An obscure South Carolina custom was inviting a guest to eat by saying, "Hop in, John."

The dish was hawked in the streets of Charleston, SC, by a crippled black man who was known as Hoppin John.

So.... take your pick, enjoy the dish, and Happy New Year!

UPCOMING CENTREVILLE EVENTS

Coloring and Coffee



The Centreville Branch of the [Queen Anne's County Library](#) hosts “Coloring and Coffee” Mondays in January from 10 - 11 a.m. and Wednesdays in February from 5 – 7 p.m. Relax, rejuvenate, and create! Join the new adult coloring craze.

Stop by the Library for hot coffee or tea and coloring pages. No experience necessary; all supplies provided. Coloring outside the lines is encouraged! Not just for children anymore! (The library will be closed on Monday, January 18, for Martin Luther King Day.)

Downton Abbey Day



The Centreville Branch of the QAC Public Library will host Downton Abbey Day on Saturday, January 30, noon – 2 p.m. It’s the final season! Join us in celebrating our favorite

English show as we discuss the final season and enjoy tea and cakes and other activities. Advance registration is required – go to [Registration](#) or call 410-758-0980.

Exhibit: “Animals: Wild and Domestic”



The [Queen Anne's County Arts Council](#) will host an exhibit, “Animals: Wild and Domestic,” on February 5 – March 17. Expected pieces include creatures of land, sea, and air; domesticated pets to wild animals; diversity of animal life on our planet; and much more. Expected mediums include paint, clay, drawing, fabric, and “found object.”

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

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