

# Westbury World

*Published by Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury  
A Life Plan Community*

Volume XXX Number 7

July 2026

## SVWC Develops New Mission Statement & Vision Statement

In 2025, SVWC developed a new Strategic Plan that will serve as our road map for the next few years. The first strategic initiative was to refine our Mission Statement and develop a Vision Statement.

Before I share the statements, it's helpful to understand what they are, and what they are not intended to do. The statements are intended to set direction, not define every detail. They highlight priorities, not every activity. They work together with other pieces of the organization. The statements are part of a bigger picture that work alongside values, strategy, and operations.

It was important to everyone that the statements be shaped by voices from across the SVWC community. To start the process, a survey was sent to residents, team members, and Board of Trustees last February asking for input on mission and vision. These results were compiled and shared at the first working session which contained stakeholders from all three of these groups.

It did not take long for certain themes to start emerging. There was the desire for a more concise Mission Statement, while preserving a sense of relational culture, trust, and security. The group dissected each word with the intent to develop a strong mission that was clear, enduring, and meaningful. The goal was to keep the heart of our mission by strengthening the language.

I am beyond pleased to share SVWC's new Mission Statement: **SVWC is a faith-inspired, wellness-focused community empowering purposeful, dignified, and joyful living in a natural setting.**

The process of developing a Vision Statement seemed easier because SVWC did not have such a statement. A strong vision inspires

action today and endures for decades. It is designed to be remembered and lived. SVWC's new Vision Statement is: **A caring community where all thrive.**

So, what do we do now? We continue to build on the Mission Statement to provide a welcoming, thriving, faith-inspired community where all can flourish. This happens when we share our gifts, engage fully, and care for others.

I want to personally thank the team from Greystone for facilitating this process. They provided insight, direction and encouraged all to speak their minds. Stuart Jackson came back for the grand unveiling of the statements to our residents. He

walked everyone through the various steps that were taken and answered questions. Much of the information for this article came from that presentation.

The next strategic initiative is to determine the future of wellness and healthcare services at SVWC. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting topic over the coming months.

Jeannie Shiley



## Residents' Association Officers



Newly elected Residents' Association Officers: Pam Curtis, *Vice President*, Gina Hammond, *Treasurer*, Ray Leonard, *President*

Photo by Bill Young

## SVWC Veterans Attend Honor Flight Event



Photo by Jeannie Shiley

On May 30, nine residents participated in the Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C.

Front Row: Jim Mueller (Army), Donna Gwyer (Army). Back row: Jim Anderson (Air Force), Bill Wortley (Army), Robert Ingraham (Army), John Sterle (Air Force), Frank Brauch (Air Force). Missing from the picture are Kent Stevens (Navy) and Bob Bolan (Navy).

A special thank you to the Top of Virginia Honor Flight for making it possible for our veterans to visit and reflect at the various memorials.



## BLOOD DRIVE

**Monday, August 3**  
**9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Apple Blossom Room**

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or go to [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter westminstercanterbury, or contact Donielle Palmer at 540-665-5916 (Ext. 2916) or [dpalmer@svwc.org](mailto:dpalmer@svwc.org)

## Welcome to Our New Neighbors

**Susan Samuels** moved into 1461 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 300 from Alexandria, VA.

**David and Carole Baxa** moved into 1450 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 103 from Winchester, VA.

## Fiber Folks Donate to Local Charities

Members of the Fiber Folks at SVWC used their sewing and crafting skills for recent donations to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Winchester Medical Center, the Valley Health Cancer Center, and the Community Cat Alliance (CCA).

Members sewed 20 froggies and 17 patchwork quilts for the neonates. Froggies are specially shaped, padded cloth pockets used to stabilize repositioning of neonates in their incubators. The quilts are used as incubator covers to shield the babies from light and noise. Two loops were added to the quilts to help prevent the quilt from dislodging as the incubator cover is opened and closed.

Other members knitted or crocheted chemo caps for oncology patients during their treatment. For the CCA, members sewed 20 covers for the cat cages, which help calm the animals as they are being transported.

Fiber Folks continue to craft and donate items throughout the year for these groups and other local charities.



*Carol Barker*



Photo by Bill Young



## New Library Books for July

### Fiction

Scavengers	Kathleen Boland
A Murder in Hollywood	Michael Crichton
A Founding Mother: Novel of Abigail Adams (LP)	Stephanie Dray
Mad Mabel	Sally Hepworth
A Deadly Episode (LP)*	Anthony Horowitz
Chasing the Clouds Away (LP)*	Debbie Macomber
26 Beauties (LP)*	James Patterson
The Last Mandarin	Louise Penny
The Final Target	Nora Roberts
The Calamity Club	Kathryn Stockett
The Things We Never Say	Elizabeth Strout
John of John	Douglas Stuart

### Non-Fiction

Monsters in the Archives: My Year of Fear With Stephen King	Caroline Bicks
This Vast Enterprise: A New History of Lewis and Clark	Craig Fehrman
Ulysses S. Cat and Other Animals I Have Known	Scott Simon

\*A Copy in Wappacomo Library

### **Westbury World**

Published and distributed by  
Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury  
300 Westminster Canterbury Drive  
Winchester, VA 22603 - - - - - [www.svwc.org](http://www.svwc.org)  
Phones: 540-665-0156 800-492-9463

\*Co-Editor & Layout: Beverley Simpson  
Co-Editor-Photo-Journalist/Archivist: Bill Young  
Staff Liaison: Sue McKenzie  
Elizabeth Harp - Nancy Merriner - Cathie Russell  
Hartley Schearer  
\* Contact Person

## Lawrence Gallery Exhibits July 4 – August 28, 2026

Artist Reception, Saturday July 18, 2 - 3:30 p.m.  
Artist Talks, 2:30 p.m., Main Lobby

### Fiber Craft Art

**Charlene Shipp**, resident, comes from a long family tradition of fiber artists and arts, including cut-work embroidery, knitting, crochet, quilting, and fashion design. An ardent self-taught student from an early age, she has made a



habit of reading and learning the fundamentals of many handwork crafts. After retiring from teaching English for 32 years and moving to the Shenandoah Valley, Charlene set new goals for her craft work, creating work to donate to orphanages, veterans, and animal rescue services. Her exhibit includes many examples of different types of embroidery.

### Creating a Children's Book



**Tara Bell**, resident, in partnership with Cathy Baldau, a friend, has written and illustrated two children's books featuring Harpers Ferry. Her display follows the journey of those books from the first scribbled manuscripts to story boards matching words to sketches, to illustrations, publisher approvals, and last-minute changes. Her exhibit brings the creative journey and real work behind the process to our gallery.

*Marty Matheson*

## Greenwich Village Jazz in the Bistro

The Bistro Concert on Friday, July 17, will feature Justin Lees, jazz guitarist, Peter Revell on double bass, and Charles Mitchell, percussionist. The trio will offer a jazz style heard frequently in Manhattan.

Justin has performed at Birdland and the Blue Note and plays routinely at other notable New York City jazz spots. He played at some of Washington's leading jazz venues, including the famous One Step Down, some years ago. In the past, we have called Justin's music "Greenwich Village Jazz." It is meant to point to his virtuosic, nuanced, easy-swinging style that typifies the sophisticated jazz often heard in the Big Apple. Many in the Bistro audiences have been astonished by the brilliance of his playing.

Boston-born Peter Revell has been a bassist on the DC and Baltimore scene since the early 90s, studying with the great Steve Novosel while still in college. Until he retired from the Navy in late 2021, he was a bassist in the US Navy Band for 26 years, serving in both the Commodores Jazz Ensemble and the Sea Chanters Chorus.

Charles Mitchell has worked with many artists in the DMV. He spent five years touring with Relix Recording Artists Solar Circus. After touring he played in the DC area and started a group Wildman that played extensively around the DMV. He taught percussion for sixteen years in Alexandria, VA.

The concert will feature what Justin calls "a straight-ahead approach to jazz steeped in the fifties tradition of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie." The feeling of Swing and the Blues is a constant. These will be familiar melodies with pleasant, even delicate musical embroidery.

Friday's performance begins at 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public. Admission is \$10 cash, payable at the door. The concert series is sponsored by Atlantic Union Bank.



Bob Brock

## Lifelong Learning

SVWC Lifelong Learning organizes 60- to 75-minute sessions open to all residents, futures, and guests in The Abbey every Monday, starting at 2:00 p.m.

On **July 6**, Rev. Bill Everhart will present a program he has presented at Winchester Medical Center and Shenandoah University: "**Hope in the Midst of Hopelessness: Getting Unstuck and Moving Forward.**" This presentation examines the concept of hope from an emotional, cognitive, and spiritual perspective, describing what it means to be hopeless and suggesting ways to find hope in order to move forward.

For **July 13**, we will turn to something entirely different: "**The Music of the 60s and 70s.**" What did the popular music of that era tell us about our evolving culture?

On **July 20**, we return to the topic of AI to address "**Artificial Intelligence: What guardrails should be put in place and by whom?**" We'll consider the Pope's recent encyclical, the U.S. executive order, the European Union's AI Act, and discuss what would be best for the safety of the public.

"**Agriculture: Food for the World**" is the topic for **July 27**. Six nations are responsible for producing much of the world's food. How safe and secure is this?

*Bob Bolan*

## Take Me Out to the Ballgame!



Cheering On Our Hometown Team  
At Jim Barnett Park

### Campus Highlights



Photos by Bill Young

Cottage Resident Dinner on the Pergola to Celebrate Our 250th Birthday



Smiley's Annual Visit Brings Smiles!

## Chaplain's Message

In the 22nd chapter of Genesis, we read about God testing Abraham. God tells Abraham to take his son Isaac, go to the land of Mariah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains. Shockingly and obediently, Abraham gets up in the morning, saddles his donkey, and sets off.



This story, sometimes called the Binding of Isaac, is one of the most difficult passages in the Abraham saga, if not the entire Old Testament. It raises so many questions, one hardly knows where to begin. Why would God test Abraham in such a terrible way? Or, why would Abraham go along with such a radical request? And, of course, you can't help but think about Isaac. What was going on in his mind while all this was happening? Questions like these can be troubling and, frankly, adequate and sensible answers seem hard to come by.

In the end, Isaac is spared. And while the story presents several themes, at the end of the day the Binding of Isaac is a story about relationship, and covenant and trust, and about how trust is the basis for any successful, fulfilling relationship. It's also very much about how out of trust grows faith. And that could be faith in ourselves. It could be faith in one another. But most importantly, it's about our faith in God from which flow all other relationships in our lives.

It was Isaac's trust and faith in his father, Abraham, that allowed him reluctantly to go with his father that day. Likewise it was Abraham's trust and faith in God that allowed him to do what otherwise might seem unthinkable. And it is with that kind of trust and faith that we too are called to live our lives and to go out into the world.

Ultimately, it's all about the trust and faith we have that comes in response to, and as a result of, the provision that God has already made for us in Christ's sacrifice, a sacrifice that frees us from sin's power in our lives and sets us free to live new lives, trusting that God

is always with us, loving and caring for us — a love and care we are called to share with each other.

The story of Abraham and Isaac is a father and son story, a story about a trusting child who trusted in and had faith in his father. It's also a story of a trusting father who placed his faith in God. In many ways, it's our story, as well. Amen.

*Bill Everhart*

*From The*



The first Westminster Open Golf Tournament at SVWC, as reported 15 years ago in the *Westbury World* for July, 2011:

### The First Westminster Open

The first **Westminster Open** took place under ideal conditions on our putting green Tuesday, June 14. The event was conceived, planned, organized, and directed by resident Bengt Farnstrom.

With balloons flying from the gazebo, sixteen "putters" teed off (without tees), seeking the cash-equivalent of a "green jacket." A light breeze allowed the skills of the contestants to be unaffected by windage. Tension built as the successive rounds narrowed the field to eight, then four, then two. Several "aces" were cheered by the gallery. Rim shots spun away from the cup, dimming the hopes of some and elevating the spirits of their opponents. In the final round, Jim Mueller won the first place "green" by defeating Lucia Barbour. Marcia Winfield and Farley Massey shared third prize.

Participants praised Bengt for providing this event and expressed the hope for future repeats. Meanwhile, the putting green is always available to residents and their guests for practice and enjoyment.

*David Greene*



Happy Birthday to America!

Photo by Bill Young

## Westbury World

Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury  
300 Westminster Canterbury Drive  
Winchester, Virginia 22603  
(540) 665-0156  
[www.svwc.org](http://www.svwc.org)

