Westbury World

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A Life Plan Community

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Oktoberfest

SVWC's first-ever Oktoberfest was held in the Bistro on October 6 with much merriment and entertainment by a German band. Beer flowed, and the German menu was a huge hit with residents. Henning and his marvelous staff pulled off a most entertaining evening highlighting the season.









Photos by Bill Young

A Message from Our CEO



When people say that time flies…they are not kidding! It is hard to believe that I am sitting here writing my article for the November edition of Westbury World. I always enjoy this particular article because it gives me time to reflect on the past 10 months at SVWC and all the things I am grateful for.

2026 has certainly been the year of renovations. A new two-story storage/dining addition was completed in the interior courtyard. Renovations to the common areas of Blue Ridge Hall and the Health Care neighborhoods were completed in October. These areas are so much brighter, and the transformation has been well received by the residents. An Open House was held on October 13 to showcase these newly renovated areas. I am grateful for the bright, open areas that residents can enjoy.

Renovations continue in Dining Services as we come down to the final stretch for our Bistro and Tavern areas. A huge thank you to all our residents and staff for your patience during these past few months. I am grateful that the end is in sight!

SVWC also experienced some unfortunate changes to our Clinic staffing that had an impact on the community. I am very encouraged by recent events, and we hope to announce soon our new path forward in the Clinic. I want to give a huge thanks to Wendy Burner and the other ladies in the Clinic for their unfailing dedication

and service to our residents and team members. I am so grateful for teamwork!

SVWC revised our Mission Statement and developed a Vision Statement early in the year. The new statements are a great way to honor our past as we look to the future. I am grateful for the ability to work closely with our Board and residents on these important endeavors.

In October, SVWC had its five-year CARF re-accreditation survey. Team members and residents did an outstanding job of preparing for and executing the survey. SVWC had spent the past year getting ready for this survey, and I was grateful when it was over.

Through the support of the Foundation, SVWC was able to purchase a trishaw for our residents. SVWC developed a phenomenal partnership with Cycling Without Age, and the smile on the residents' faces when they are on the bike is priceless. I am grateful for our community partnerships.

From our SVWC family to your family, blessings for a safe and happy holiday season.

Jeannie Shiley

Welcome to Our New Neighbors

Brawner and Judy Cates moved into Shenandoah Hall, Apt. 520 from Winchester, VA.

Dianne Wake moved into 600 Feldspar Court, Apt. 203 from Winchester, VA.

Maureen O'Mara moved into Shenandoah Hall, Apt. 220 from Winchester, VA.

Ralph and Carolyn Gregory moved into 1440 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 202 from Middletown, VA.



Blessing of the Animals



New Library Books for November

Fiction

The Parisian Chapter Janet S. Charles
Birds of Prey Harlan Coben & C.J. Box
The Barman of the Ritz Philippe Collin
The Shadow Friends Tess Gerritsen
A Killer Clue Victoria Gilbert
Getting Away with Murder (LP) * Shari Lapena
The Pirate Queen Ariel Lawhon
Sunrise Tea Obreht
Hollow Bones Jodi Picoult
Fury in Death J. D. Robb
This Changes Everything (LP)* Lisa Scottoline
The Big Cats Dance Party Alexander McCall Smith
The True Meaning of Love (LP)* Danielle Steel

Non-fiction

Project Maven Katrina Manson
The Renoir Girls Catherine Ostler
The Unexpected Journey Emma Heming Willis

*A Copy in Wappacomo Library

Thursday Night Programs

November 5: Budapest to Prague Travelogue Presented by Ray Leonard
November 12: 80-Stop Tour Guide of Civil War Sites Presented by Jonathan Noyalas
November 19: Celtic Dance Music Presented by Jill Hazelbauer
November 26: No Program-Thanksgiving

SU Environmental Studies Students at SVWC



You may have seen a young man fishing in the Villa ponds or a young woman working along the built stream. Dr. Darrin Hunt, Assistant Professor of Environment and Sustainability at Shenandoah University, chose the SVWC campus as a field site for his Stream Restoration class.

With support from Mother Nature's Team, students are investigating the census of fish in the Villa and Goff ponds and whether the lined year-round stream can eventually support fish.

At an initial visit, no fish were found in the Villa ponds; macroinvertebrates, visible insect larvae, were found in the built stream. These organisms offer clues about the stream's ecology and water quality and can be compared with findings from other built streams, including a restoration project on the SU campus.

Fishing at Goff Pond is continuing for four weeks. When the work is complete, students will share their findings in a report. Stay tuned!

Judi Booker



Chaplain's Message



In my family on Thanksgiving Day, we have a tradition of going around the table and each of us sharing something for which we are thankful – often some event from the past year we feel is worthy of our appreciation, thankfulness, and recognition.

These are generally expressions of gratitude, and when I think of thanksgiving I think of gratitude (in fact, the terms are pretty much synonymous), and I try to take some time every day to think about those things in my life for which I am thankful – to give thanks to God for the blessings in my life, and to recognize and give credit and recognition to God for all the items on the list.

It is sometimes difficult, however, to have gratitude when we find ourselves overcome (even temporarily) with challenges and struggles, which seem to sap us of 80 to 90 percent of our emotional energy. And I understand that. There have been many times in my own life when my ability to show gratitude has been greatly compromised by present circumstances.

So how do we adapt to an attitude of gratitude during times of struggle? We do what the psalmists often did: we acknowledge and affirm our challenges, our hurts, and our frustrations – the very act of which can have an almost cathartic effect – and then, unincumbered, we turn our attention toward those things for which we are grateful.

This step of acknowledgment and affirmation is important, but, unfortunately, is often passed over amidst a well-intentioned thought like, "Oh, don't worry about that; think of all the things you *should* be grateful for."

During this season of thanksgiving, may God's Spirit fill our hearts and minds, helping us to be more grateful during difficult times.

Bill Everhart

From the Archives

Building the croquet court, as reported in *Westbury World* for November 2006:

Her Dream Come True

Later this fall, the click of blue, red, black, and yellow balls being hit by croquet mallets will be heard in a new location. Due to Farley Massey's persistent enthusiasm, David Goff's endorsement, and Ernie Racey's supportive cooperation and know-how, our real croquet court is under construction. It will be located just south of the Residents' Garden, east of Wappacomo Hall and west of the new apartments. The ring road will enable residents to drive to both the garden and the croquet court.

On September 20, Ernie gave Farley a copy of the Site Engineer's proposed plan. On October 12, he phoned Farley to report that, weather permitting, the land would be leveled on the 19th, loads of topsoil would be distributed, and grass seed would follow. The obstructing apple tree has been cut down, and the red maple has been replanted.

Our thanks to Sam and Pat Rose for allowing 26 of us to develop our enthusiasm (and skill?) for croquet as we played in their side yard on Sunday afternoons.

Colonial Virginia
Christmas Luncheon

Thursday, December 10
12:00 p.m.
The Abbey

Ticket Sale
November 4
11:00 a.m.
Canterbury Cafe

Proceeds Benefit the
Fellowship Fund

New Lawrence Gallery Exhibits

November 7, 2026 to January 7, 2027

Artist Reception
Saturday, November 21
2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Artist Talks: 2:30 p.m.
Lawrence Hall lobby



"Our Valley: From the River to the Mountains" by the Potomac River Artist Guild (PRAG)

PRAG is an association of 15-20 fine artists in the northeastern regions of West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia working across diverse art media and styles from Old Masters realism to Impressionism and Abstraction. The guild was formed to help emerging and established artists to develop, expand, and promote fine art talents.

"Jingle all the Way" by Ginny Hamme

Ginny has worked in many craft trends over the years – quilting, macrame, jewelry, and card making. Six years ago, she began making Christmas dioramas and shadow boxes, and she was hooked. She has always worked on a small scale and enjoys the "cute" factor leading to Christmas themes, treasured memories, and the magic of children. Save some space in your holiday preparations for a few of Ginny's magical artworks.

Marty Matheson

Bistro Concert



Caleb Nei returns to the Bistro on Friday, November 13, with his signature gentle, melodic jazz piano. A longtime SVWC favorite who has performed here many times, Caleb's thoughtful, understated style is always a hit with audiences. For this performance, he will be joined by three fellow musicians who add bass, percussion, and featured solo performances to the evening's program.

Originally from Huntington, Indiana, Caleb attended Huntington University before studying jazz piano and jazz arranging at Shenandoah University. His extensive teaching experience includes private piano instruction, music camps, serving as an adjunct faculty member in Shenandoah University's jazz department, and teaching jazz at PAVAN, the Virginia Governor's School. An active performer, he appears at more than 200 events annually, including performances at venues throughout the Winchester area.

Although jazz is central to his musical identity, Caleb's interests extend well beyond the genre. His work encompasses classical music, contemporary church music, arranging, composition, and ambient and neoclassical styles. The Loudoun Jazz Society describes his music as "having a melodic approach and swinging feel, with a repertoire centered on jazz standards and love songs."

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $10, payable in cash at the door. A portion of the proceeds benefits the SVWC Fellowship Fund. Bistro Concerts are sponsored by Atlantic Union Bank.

October Outings

Photo by Teresa Barton



Hill High Farm – Corn Maze

Photo by Teresa Barton



Sideling Hill Geology Lesson

Photo by Marie Ottaviano



Greenbrier Resort

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.

Resident and former Thomas Jefferson High School English teacher Pam Curtis returns in November with her team of performers to present live readings of two plays along with discussion guided by Pam about the background and meaning of these plays. This is a four-session series, and we hope you can attend all four, but you are welcome to attend as many of these sessions as you can. **November 2, 9, 16, and 23**.

Here is Pam's description of these sessions: "Do you think old plays by Sophocles and Aristophanes have nothing to say to us today? Come to Lifelong Learning in November to find out. Over four Mondays, attendees will experience a talk on Greek drama and two famous plays, ***ANTIGONE,*** tragedy, and ***LYSISTRATA***, definitely comedy, in Readers Theater—similar to ***W;t*** last year. Again, this is a return to English class as these plays were always in the world literature syllabus."

November 30 is a preview of the eight 2027 FPA Great Decisions sessions within the context of **"The Evolution of United States Foreign Policy."** The world has seen the Marshall Plan, "cold war," fall of U.S.S.R., rise of China, and other global developments. What are the policies of the U.S. today? How do they apply to the eight topics scheduled for discussion in early 2027?

Bob Bolan

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Fiber Folks reception for the “Baltimore” quilt made by Rea Mueller.
Pictured is Rea Mueller (left) and Carol Barker, Fiber Folks member.

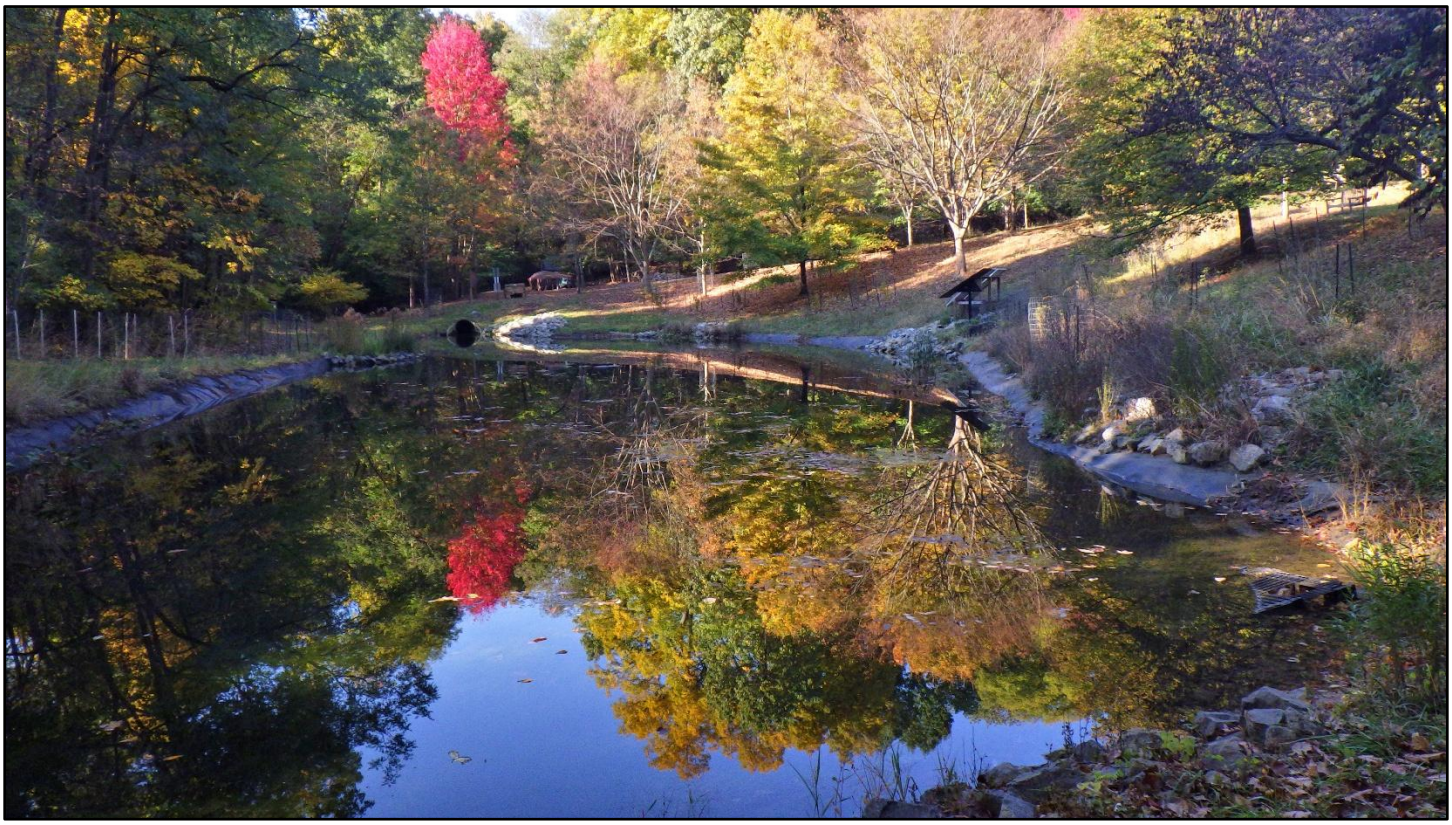


Halloween Parade



Pumpkin of Bistro Renovation
created by Rachel Comfrey

Photos by Bill Young



The colors of autumn.

Photo by Bill Young

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