SOUTH
COASTAL
VILLAGE
VOLUNTEERS
Helping Older Adults Live Independently

FALL 2025

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Claudia Thayne

Gratitude and Change

The holidays are just around the corner, and reflecting on my initial year as SCVV chair, the first thought I have is ***gratitude.*** So many people contribute to the success of helping older adults live independently and safely as vital members of our communities. There aren't sufficient words to express my appreciation for the support, guidance, positive attitude, comfort, and friendship extended by our members, volunteers, donors, and community.

My second thought is ***change.*** We just celebrated five years of service! What an accomplishment (see the story below about the Fifth Anniversary Gala). Shortly before that event, the IRS sent a determination letter approving SCVV's application as an independent nonprofit. I'll admit that I became emotional when I called Vice Chair Donald Sheridan and Chris Powers, our former chair, and the Membership Committee co-chair to give them the good news.

With the encouragement of our Steering Committee, composed of men and women who know how to get things done, and volunteers who have forgotten more than I'll ever know about accounting (thank you, Amy Gorman and Kathy Johnson), we are growing into an organization poised for the future.

It starts with a terrific staff including Service Coordinators Dar Lewis and Steve Ricks, Operations Manager Diane Strobel, and Care Manager Jeannie Rubacky. Add Donald Sheridan, who no sooner finished a massive software migration than he plunged into a project with Chris Powers and me: to work collaboratively with the Village Volunteers transition team members to construct a memorandum of understanding separating the business between SCVV and VV and continuing to look for ways to work together on a shared mission.

Strategic Partners also were instrumental in our independence. David Green and John Robbert always made time to provide advice and give us guidance. Thank you for your wisdom and generosity.

As these big changes occurred, our delivery of services to SCVV members continued, thanks to our staff and volunteers. We began chair yoga, continued our book club, put up a booth at the fall Boardwalk Arts Festival (which produced new volunteers), enjoyed two fun Dine & Donate events, offered two flu clinics, celebrated a wonderful fifth-year dinner party, and planned for the future.

What's next? "Set up shop" as an independent entity, ensuring that all of the i's are dotted and the t's are crossed. We also want to offer more—programs promoting physical and mental health, collaboration between like-minded nonprofit groups, and community outreach for social engagement. We do what we do because of the support we receive. Thank you for believing in SCVV.

Is there a program you would like to attend? Do you have a talent or a skill to share? I'd like to hear from you at Chair@SouthCoastalVillageVolunteers.org.

SCVV Chair Claudia Thayne and Vice Chair Donald Sheridan got into the fun at the welcome for the new McDonald's on Route 26—which included a sizable donation to the South Coastal Village Volunteers. See the story below under Development Team.

JOIN OUR
TEAM

The South Coastal Village Volunteers is looking for a few good people to join our outstanding team of volunteers. We need experienced people who could be our:

- **Treasurer**
- **Board secretary**
- **Event planner**
- **Newsletter writer**

If that's you, please contact:
Chair@SouthCoastalVillageVolunteers.org
or 302-500-1281 (office)

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Above: SCVV's fifth anniversary was the focus of our Gala dinner on October 23.

Gala Celebrates SCVV's Fifth Anniversary

Ferne Cooper and Kathy Green

The South Coastal Village Volunteers celebrated its fifth anniversary on October 23 with a lively gathering of sixty-four guests and three band members at Cripple Creek Golf and Country Club. All were greeted with a glass of Prosecco as they entered the candlelit blue, silver, and gold-decorated venue for dinner, a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction, and toe-tapping music by 5th Avenue. These annual dinners raise funds that enable SCVV to provide programs and services helping local seniors age in place.

Claudia Thayne, SCVV chair, opened the evening with gratitude as she thanked members, volunteers, friends, family, donors, and supporters for their encouragement, advice, and financial support. VIPs in attendance included Lieutenant Russell Carter of the Ocean View Police Department and his wife, Lisa. Also at the dinner were Beebe nurses Krista Henshaw and Logan Jarrell, who are valuable partners and a resource for SCVV. A special thank you went out to Sharon and Paul Dillon, our sponsors at Cripple Creek Golf and Country Club.

Claudia acknowledged Jackie Sullivan, a special person in SCVV's growth and success since 2020. The former executive director of Village Volunteers in Lewes, Jackie worked from the start with our earliest volunteers to ensure that the new organization had a strong footing. SCVV began with community members Ron Kerchner, Chris Powers, Liz Bolton, Lois Pastore, Kathy Green, and Joan and Jack Gordon. From an initial membership of twenty-three, the group has grown in just five years to 97 members and 183 volunteers. Over that time, our members have received more than 9,500 services and 15,500 volunteer hours.

Top: A silent-auction winner, Sharon Padbury, joins past SCVV Chair Chris Powers, former Village Volunteers Executive Director Jackie Sullivan, Development Team leader Kathy Green, and Chair Claudia Thayne.

Below: SCVV Chair Claudia Thayne, left, and dinner speaker Patty McKeown, right, address the guests. (All gala photos by Ferne Cooper and Lauren Caro)

Looking to the future, Claudia shared her vision of how SCVV will grow to

- Provide practical assistance to our members
- Offer connections through services and programs
- Collaborate with other community groups
- Help reduce isolation for older adults
- Advocate for our members
- Learn from one another

Adding to the evening's excitement, the SCVV chair recounted that just before Labor Day good news came from the IRS—announcing that SCVV has become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, independent organization. The South Coastal Village Volunteers joins three hundred Villages across the United States and Canada; it is now the second independent Village in Delaware, with both located in the coastal area of Sussex County where many retirees have chosen to live.

Top row. Left: Lenore Thommes, Wanda Nason-Raleigh, Sue Cutter, and Liz Bolton. Center: Frances Woznicki, mother of Chamber of Commerce leader David Szumski. Right: Peggy Comerford, Carol Selig, and Ken and Marilyn Sheetz.

Bottom row. Left: Member Coordinator Betty Martin. Center: David Green and Linda Kulin. Right: Dale and Elaine Smith with Ron Kerchner.

Betty Martin, SCVV member coordinator, welcomed the evening's keynote speaker, Patty McKeown, and her husband, Tom. In a moving speech, Patty shared their family's deep personal connection to the South Coastal Village Volunteers. She spoke of the vital nature of companionship, friendship, and true connection that gave their Uncle Joe a sense of purpose and engagement. Without a doubt, she related, this helped give him a longer and healthier life.

"Tom and I have witnessed first-hand the profound difference SCVV makes and are deeply grateful to the volunteers who bring the mission of the organization to life." Patty concluded her remarks by emphasizing how vital is the gift of friendship and connection that the South Coastal Village Volunteers gives to our members. Never underestimate that power in making people's lives better, she stressed.

Helping make the evening a huge success were SCVV's sponsors and silent-auction donors. Thanks go to our Gold sponsors: Anonymous, Beebe Healthcare, Chris Powers and Alvin Ross, Rita and Clay Ewell, Ferne and Jeff Cooper, Kathy and David Green, Pohanka Automotive Group of Salisbury, Scott and Shuman PA, Sharon and Paul Dillon, and David Szumski and James Carfagno. Bronze sponsors were Beach Liquors, Charles W. Brooks, Jr., Chesapeake Legal Counsel LLC, Jayne's Reliable, Karen Taylor, and Mary Lou Tietz.

The evening's silent auction donors also deserve our sincere appreciation: AfterGlo Beauty Spa, Common Ground Hospitality Group, Darleen Herring Jewelry, DiFebo's Market and Restaurants, Good Earth Market/Flavor, High Tide VR, Hocker's Family Restaurant and Crabhouse, Mickey's Family Crabhouse, Natelli Custom Homes and Renovations, Oceanova Day Spa, Patti's Hallmark Shop, Ria's Jewelry Creations, SoDel Concepts, Su Casa, Summer Salts/Flip Flops, Surfin' Betty's Burger Bar, Tickled Pink, and Treasure Island Fashions.

Proceeds from the fundraiser support existing SCVV offerings—from flu shot clinics, chair yoga, and subsidized memberships to educational programs. The organization continues to offer transportation, shopping, home visits, telephone check-ins, errands, technology support, and small household tasks.

BETHANY BEACH
EST 1901
SU CASA

Top row. Left: Dottie Schmitt and Lauren Caro of the Development Team. Center: One of the auction items. Right: Peggy Comerford, the lucky 50/50 winner.

Bottom row. Left: Development Team leader Kathy Green displaying the winning 50/50 number. Center: The sparkling table settings. Right: Kathy Jankowski of the Development Team, SCVV Operations Manager Diane Strobel, and Kathy Green.

Chamber Nominates SCVV and Green

CHAMBER
Bethany-Fenwick

Gathered together to receive nomination certifications from the Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce are, from the left, SCVV's Kathy Green, Chamber Membership Director Emily Mais, incoming Chamber President David Szumski, SCVV Chair Claudia Thayne, and SCVV Vice Chair Donald Sheridan. The ceremony was held during the launch of the new McDonald's on Route 26.

The South Coastal Village Volunteers and one of its leaders—Kathy Green, the head of the Development Team and a longtime Steering Committee member—have been separately nominated by the Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce for this year's awards.

SCVV was named in the category of Community Spirit—Nonprofit, which is presented "to a nonprofit organization that has taken every opportunity to engage with and serve in the local community, lifting up other businesses and individuals, all while accomplishing their chosen objective."

Kathy Green was nominated in the separate category of Community Spirit—Inspiring Person. This award is presented "to an individual who works, leads, serves, and cares in such a way that motivates and catalyzes others to follow the example they display."

Kathy was chosen for her work with SCVV as well as the Friends of the South Coastal Library.

"We are delighted with the selection of both the Village and Kathy as candidates for these honors and the recognition they give us," said SCVV Chair Claudia Thayne.

Awards are due to be presented on November 13 during a celebration at the Coastal Kitchen at Bear Trap Dunes.

Boardwalk Arts Festival Attracts Volunteers

During the fall Bethany Beach Boardwalk Arts Festival that took place on Saturday, September 6, SCVV representatives Jan Gibson and Dar Lewis let passersby know about services of the South Coastal Village Volunteers. "Our umbrella broke, but we did not let the heat or the sun or the wind stop us from our calling!" said Dar afterward.

As she relates, "Lots of folks stopped by and took flyers, brochures, and business cards. The names of potential volunteers filled three sheets of paper. Several have signed up with us and are already volunteering. It was a very fun-filled day," added Dar, an SCVV service coordinator. "We had a blast!"

In addition to Dar and Jan, others working at the festival included Jeannie Athan, Liz Bolton, Joan Doody, Romas Laskauskas, Tim Shaw, and Martha Strickland.

Jan Gibson and Dar Lewis handed out information on SCVV services and were so persuasive that many new volunteers signed up on the spot.

South Coastal
Village Volunteers

Fins Dine & Donate Draws a Big Crowd

An outpouring of SCVV volunteers, members, and friends made Fins Ale House come alive on September 17—too many to individually name (see photos above and below). The restaurant in the Sea Colony Marketplace proved an enticing attraction for an event to raise funds for the South Coastal Village Volunteers, which are used to provide services to SCVV members. Thank you to all who turned out, once again, to support the vital work we do.

Flu and Covid Shot Clinics Are a Hit

The South Coastal Village Volunteers held the first of two clinics for both flu and covid shots at the Ocean View office on September 19. These clinics are made possible by SCVV supporter Susie Sullivan, a pharmacist at the Giant Food in Millville. Shots were available to SCVV members and volunteers and to Ocean View employees as well. About thirty shots were administered. The second clinic was held on October 24.

SCVV is grateful to Susie Sullivan for her generous services, which enable us to offer these clinics each year. They make it easy and convenient for our members and volunteers to have these vaccinations and help them stay healthy.

Top left: Ocean View employee Jill Oliver fills out a form. Top right: Pharmacist Susie Sullivan administers a shot to Steve Ricks, an SCVV service coordinator. Above: Member Elizabeth Ursine is assisted by Chris Powers, SCVV's past chair.

First Smoothie Event Goes … Smoothly!

Liz Bolton, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers for the South Coastal Village Volunteers had a gorgeous day on September 26 to be treated to our first-ever Smoothie Event. Romas Laskauskas—aka The Smoothie King—prepared two delicious recipes for fruit smoothies: strawberry-banana and blueberry-banana. Autumn-inspired homemade cupcakes rounded out the menu. Ocean View police officers were also invited to share the treats. Our volunteers enjoyed meeting other volunteers and sharing wonderful stories.

Above: From the left are the smoothie team members Romas Laskauskas, Liz Bolton, Dar Lewis, Sheila Bower, Jack Lewis, Lee Metzger, and Steve Ricks.

Member Spotlight: Regina Cavalluzzo

Joan Gordon

Sitting in her Salt Pond home looking out on woods and a pond, Regina Cavalluzzo is surrounded by books and family photographs. Protected by her eight-year-old rescue beagle/Dachshund, Frankie, Regina recounts how she maneuvered her husband, Joseph, into going to the Brandywine Valley Animal Shelter. When Joseph, who waited in the car, was surprised when she came out with the dog, she retorted, "Did you think we were here to take a tour?" Wisdom and humor are both obvious trademarks of Regina's personality.

SCVV memer Regina Cavalluzzo in her longtime home in Bethany's Salt Pond.

Born and raised in rural Bayside, Long Island, Regina was the youngest of four girls, born when her sisters were teenagers. She was seven when her father died, so she was raised by a strong single mother. Regina remained in the Bayside area after she married and raised her children there. She refers to her son, Joseph, and her daughter, Tina, as "Irish twins," given that they were born in the same year.

Regina worked for twenty-five years with struggling students in a remedial reading program designed to prepare them for required New York State tests. "It was a tough school—trilingual—and I was a minority." After starting part-time, she transitioned into a full-time position and also taught reading at a private clinic.

When her husband was unexpectedly encouraged to retire in 1995 ("They made him an offer he couldn't refuse") and they had an opportunity to sell their home quickly, the Cavalluzzos moved to Bethany—where Tina and her husband lived. Although it was a fast and difficult transition, they found Bethany to be "a breath of fresh air." Regina came to love the area.

The Cavalluzzos played golf at the Salt Pond and Cripple Creek Country Club and enjoyed traveling, especially to Ireland and Italy. They volunteered for Meals on Wheels and at St. Ann's Catholic Church. Regina worked part-time at Nature's Touch in downtown Bethany, where she loved to talk to the customers and spent most of her paychecks on the clothing for sale.

Joseph died in December 2023, but Regina remains surrounded by family. Her son Joseph lives in Salisbury with his wife, Diane. Tina and her husband, Greg, still live in the Bethany area. Regina has three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, who are the light of her life. One of her grandsons even shares her April birthday.

An avid reader and book lover since she was a girl, Regina also enjoys listening to music and describes herself as a spiritual person. She goes to mass when she can or watches it on TV. She loves to keep up with old friends. As she philosophizes, “Life is a journey with hills and valleys, and we should focus on the good things and record them in a journal.”

Regina learned about the South Coastal Village Volunteers from Dick Fox, whom she recognized from church when she kept seeing him at the grocery store. She thought that he was just being a wonderful husband, but then she learned from his frequent shopping that he was performing services for SCVV. Realizing that she could use the help the Village offered, Regina joined in 2023. “South Coastal Village changed my life by letting me expand when I didn’t want to,” she says. Regina makes use mainly of transportation services because she is no longer able to drive. She loves the volunteers—especially because they have a sense of humor and the ability to relate.

“I’ve learned to accept the different stages of life as they come along. Things come your way that you don’t expect,” she notes. With her wisdom and her sense of humor, Regina is gracefully finding the best in her life.

Volunteer Spotlight: Michele Bell

Diane Maddex

“Just do it!” says Michele Bell, one of SCVV’s dedicated volunteers. “Don’t say you’ll ‘try’ to do it. Just do it. Get involved and never give up,” she adds about the challenge—and the rewards—of helping members of the South Coastal Village Volunteers.

Michele herself was new to our beach area when she drove cross-country in 2021 with her dog from Livermore, California, in the Bay Area, to start a new life on the East Coast. Her son, Ian, remains there. “I miss him stopping by,” she admits. “But I didn’t feel that I could afford to retire there.” Because she grew up on the Jersey Shore, she relates, “I wanted to go to Jersey, but its taxes are too high. My main target was the beach. I hoped to be on the bay, but after I witnessed Sandy’s destruction, I didn’t want to be that close to the water.”

As Michele confesses, “I didn’t know more than two people here, high school classmates.” But she is gradually acclimating—she doesn’t love our weather but there are other tradeoffs. When she saw an SCVV flyer, she reached out, “and there I went.” Spreading her enthusiasm, Michele also volunteers with the Millville Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary.

Hers is literally a rags to riches story: In California Michele was sales manager for a company that sells industrial rags. “I was the ‘Rag Lady,’” she discloses. For three decades she helped the business provide products for tasks such as spill containment and other safety needs. Her ebullient, kind demeanor obviously went far in that business. “You marry your customers!” she laughs—a trait that has likewise endeared her to the SCVV members she now serves.

Among her new “clients” here is Lynn Gordon, whom she accompanies to the grocery store, to the dentist, and to her hair and nail appointments. “I’ll drive her anywhere because she’s like family.” Another of her other special people is Dave Bartges, known to her as Boss Man; she began by watering his plants and teases that he is a Mean Boss. “I don’t go there just to water the plants, although he calls me his favorite plant lady.” When another volunteer signs up to serve one of her clients, her reaction is: “How dare they?!”

Michele’s preferred service call is “anywhere I can talk to members. I like to chatter.” She recently bought a new car and worries that it is a bit high for some older people to navigate. “It’s even hard for me to get into it! But I don’t want to use a stool that’s unsteady.” Michele also participates in SCVV’s craft activities, making seasonal goodies for our members. “I love to get together with other volunteers. I do more here than I ever did in California.” In December she is going on a CHEER trip to New York City with some of these new friends.

As for the rewards of volunteering, Michele quickly answers that an important one is “when members say thank you. Developing a relationship is key. It works both ways.” Her kindness extends even to fellow customers in stores such as Walmart, she discloses. Michele does not hesitate to ask someone burdened by packages if she can help them inside the store or outside to load up their cars. “I’ve definitely become more outgoing,” she admits.

And as Michele reiterates: “Just do it! Don’t just try. Never give up. Put one foot in front of the other.” She enthusiastically exclaims: “I give my all—3,000 percent.”

Above: Michele Bell stands outside the Evans-West House, part of the Coastal Towns historic area near the SCVV office in Ocean View. The Gothic Revival house, built about 1901, joins an assemblage of other historic structures in the Historic Village in Ocean View.

The Development Team Gears Up

The SCVV Development Team

Lauren Caro, Ferne Cooper, Kathy Green, Kathy Jankowski,
Kathy Johnson, Dottie Schmitt, and Donna Swain

Tito's Handmade Vodka
SOUTH COASTAL VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS
NS ALE HOUSE & RAW BAR

Development Team members Kathy Jankowski, left, and Ferne Cooper, right, greet the diners who came to Fins Ale House in support of SCVV’s Dine & Donate event on September 17, including Robert Maddex and Scott Swain on the right. For more photos of the Fins Dine & Donate, see the main feature above.

Fifth Anniversary Gala Dinner. Read the lead story near the top of this newsletter for a detailed account of SCVV's annual gala—our largest fundraising effort of the year. This popular event shows the tremendous impact we have in our community. Thanks to each and every one of you who contributed time, auction items, money, and your support.

GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday. *It's coming December 2!* The South Coastal Village Volunteers will once again participate in Giving Tuesday, a global day of generosity that promotes the positive impact of support for nonprofit organizations in their mission to make a positive impact on communities. Watch for an email from us as part of our end-of-year appeal. As always, your generosity is what makes the South Coastal Village Volunteers a true force for good for seniors in our area. See www.southcoastalvillagevolunteers.org and our Facebook page for periodically updated information on Giving Tuesday.

Donation from McDonald's. The South Coastal Village Volunteers got a takeout from the newest area McDonald's, located in Clarksville—and it wasn't a Big Mac. But it was another Big Check! Celebrating the opening of the 27th McDonald's on the Delmarva Peninsula, the owner Meoli Companies gave SCVV a generous donation of $2,500. Speakers at the event included Sen. Gerald Hocker, Rep. Ron Gray, Sussex County Council President Doug Hudson, and David Szumski, incoming president of the Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce.

Pay to the order of South Coastal Village Volunteers
$ 2500
Dollars
Memo

Present for the check donation were Kelli Meoli, left, and her husband, Michael, on the far right, owners of the area McDonald's. Between them are Lynn Jordan, an SCVV member-volunteer, SCVV Vice Chair Donald Sheridan, and SCVV Chair Claudia Thayne. In the back are Kathy Green and Liz Bolton of SCVV. Both Claudia Thayne and Donald Sheridan offered remarks during the ceremony.

If you would like to join the Development Team, please let us know. We are a lively bunch with lots of ideas and welcome even more. And don't forget to join us for our fundraising events. We could not do what we do without you, and we thank you!

SOUTH COASTAL CONNECTIONS

Helpful Village Is Simplifying Tasks

Donald Sheridan, SCVV Vice Chair

Our new software system, Helpful Village, has simplified some administrative tasks since its virtually seamless launch in mid-July. For example, training our volunteers how to access the system and remain on it previously took a lot more time. In the earlier system, we also had to perform some complex data analysis to obtain performance measures. These tasks are now much simpler and straightforward.

"Many processes are now easier," observes Office Manager Diane Strobel. "Volunteer training is simpler and reduced by about fifteen minutes because of Helpful Village's streamlined processes. Now that events are listed in the system, all volunteers are taught during training how to locate upcoming events. Administrative and office hours are easy to add, giving us a clearer picture of the hours we offer the community. All reports are easier to access and easier to review. We continue learning about all of Helpful Village's benefits for our volunteers and our efficiency," she notes. "It was a good change for us to make."

SCVV will gradually introduce more tools and enhancements. For example, as Diane referenced, Helpful Village enables our members and volunteers to sign up online for events and activities. In the past, they had to call the office.

Currently our volunteers and office staff are the primary people regularly logging in. From our volunteers' perspective, one of the helpful features is a map showing the route from the volunteer's home to the member's residence or destination. This allows volunteers to look at the time and mileage involved before committing their time. Helpful Village can also load a request into an electronic calendar; then, the day after each task, an email prompts volunteers to enter their time and hours into the system. Now the office does not have to contact volunteers to record their hours and mileage. An email is also sent to each member, informing them that their request has been filled.

As is common with new software, some challenges may arise as we learn the new system. If you have any questions or concerns, or need help, please text 302-500-1281. SCVV is looking forward to using this new tool to help us help our members and the community.

HELPFUL VILLAGE

Beware Computer Scams

Joan Gordon

As we become more and more dependent on our computers, the number of scams designed to take advantage of us increases. Although I have learned to be careful over the years, I let down my guard recently and almost lost a substantial sum of money.

My problems started when I clicked on a link in an email supposedly from a friend sending me some photos. I've avoided clicking on links like this before, but this was from someone who regularly sends me photos for this newsletter. Lights flashed, and all sorts of beeps came from my computer. The screen instructed me to call the number displayed for Microsoft.

I won't go into detail, but after spending a lot of time on the phone with these scammers and giving them access to my computer and some banking information, I finally came to my senses and stopped. A call to my bank, a trip to take my computer to a tech person, and a change of passwords got me to the point where only my pride was damaged. But I'm sharing my experience, along with some advice from professionals, to serve as a warning.

One set of advice is to STOP:

- **S**tay cautious
- **T**ake your time
- **O**nly trust verified sources
- **P**rotect your information

Another credit card company tells us: Always protect your account by enabling multifactor verification. Verify your contact information so that the credit card company can inform you in case of suspicious activity. Use strong passwords combining numbers, symbols, and upper-case and lower-case letters. Don't share your personal information by never opening suspicious hyperlinks or emails. Don't connect to an open network, but always connect only to trusted networks.

If anything suspicious comes up on your computer or telephone, call a friend or a relative to ask for advice. Better safe than sorry.

SCVV Now Offers Chair Yoga

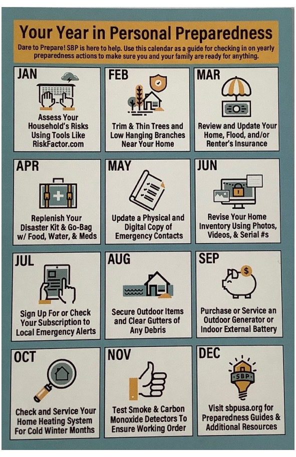
SCVV is excited to offer chair yoga to our members and volunteers on the third Friday of each month. The first session, bringing together fourteen members and volunteers, was offered on September 19. Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced while seated or using a chair for support. It is ideal for those with limited mobility or balance issues, offering modified poses, breathing exercises, and relaxation techniques.

Lori Roe, a professional yoga instructor, offers classes throughout our area, including at the CHEER Center. Learn more about her on her website: www.loriroe.com.

Sign up on the SCVV website (www.southcoastalvillagevolunteers.org) or call the office (302-500-1281) to enroll in the next class, to be held on November 21.

Are You Ready? Be Prepared!

Diane Maddex



Your Year in Personal Preparedness

Dare to Prepare! SBP is here to help. Use this calendar as a guide for checking in on yearly preparedness actions to make sure you and your family are ready for anything.

JAN Assess Your Household's Risks Using Tools Like RiskFactor.com

FEB Trim & Thin Trees and Low Hanging Branches Near Your Home

MAR Review and Update Your Home, Flood, and/or Renter's Insurance

APR Replenish Your Disaster Kit & Go-Bag w/ Food, Water, & Meds

MAY Update a Physical and Digital Copy of Emergency Contacts

JUN Revise Your Home Inventory Using Photos, Videos, & Serial #s

JUL Sign Up For or Check Your Subscription to Local Emergency Alerts

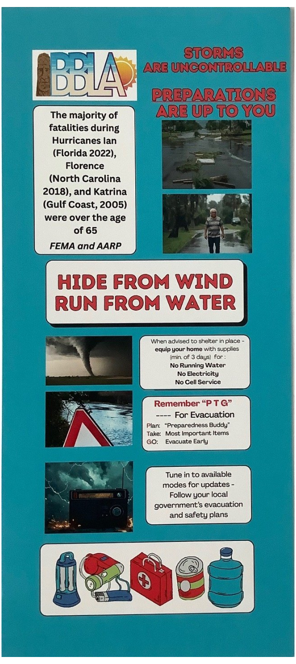
AUG Secure Outdoor Items and Clear Gutters of Any Debris

SEP Purchase or Service an Outdoor Generator or Indoor External Battery

OCT Check and Service Your Home Heating System For Cold Winter Months

NOV Test Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors To Ensure Working Order

DEC Visit sbpusa.org for Preparedness Guides & Additional Resources


BBLA
STORMS
ARE UNCONTROLLABLE
PREPARATIONS
ARE UP TO YOU
HIDE FROM WIND
RUN FROM WATER

The majority of fatalities during Hurricanes Ian (Florida 2022), Florence (North Carolina 2018), and Katrina (Gulf Coast, 2005) were over the age of 65

FEMA and AARP

When advised to shelter in place - equip your home with supplies (min. of 3 days) for:
No Running Water
No Electricity
No Cell Service

Remember "P T G"
---- For Evacuation
Plan: "Preparedness Buddy"
Take: Most Important Items
GO: Evacuate Early

Tune in to available modes for updates - Follow your local government's evacuation and safety plans

Did you know that older adults are disproportionately exposed to natural disasters? That half of Bethany's full-time population is over sixty-five to seventy-nine years old? That a high percentage are over eighty years of age? And do you know your disaster evacuation zone? These and related issues were raised during a disaster preparedness workshop held by the Bethany Beach Landowners Association at the Salt Pond clubhouse on October 9. It was one of three the BBLA sponsored to advise area residents how to prepare for disasters.

"Our population is aging, with more older people in high-risk and over-built areas such as this," said Danielle Swallow, a coastal hazards specialist with Delaware Sea Grant, a program of the University of Delaware. "Older adults," she noted, "often have few relatives nearby to help in an emergency." Swallow and Timothy Cooper, deputy director of the Sussex County Department of Public Safety, spoke to a full audience—with a nor'easter threatening our area that day. The timing was perfect.

Swallow outlined the "why" of disaster planning, noting that, "More extreme weather and overbuilding expose us to more risk. Emergency preparedness is critical to aging in place and resilience." She urged residents to assess their own risks, among them the elevation of their property, which evacuation zone it is in, its storm readiness, your ability to evacuate on your own, and whether you have pets or dependents.

Timothy Cooper provided tips for the "how" of preparedness. He cited a dozen hazards, from flooding to nor'easters and thunderstorms to terrorism and cyber threats. To start, he urged attendees to use their smart phones: "Sign up to receive alerts from DEMA.Delaware.gov. He also advised, "On your phone, go to Settings and enable Notifications." On Facebook, residents can follow the Sussex County Emergency Management Division.

Plentiful federal, state, and county resources are available to guide residents in planning for disasters—whether natural or otherwise. See the tips, contacts, and publications below. Make a plan, build a kit, and stay informed. Then you will be as ready as possible.

Emergency Tips

Assess your risks
Know your zone (A, B, C, or D)
Follow the reliance formula of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery
Select a preparedness buddy
Make a kit
(water, food, items for a power failure)
Secure your documents in a safety box
Engage a support network
Run from water
Hide from wind
Avoid crowded public shelters
(go outside the zone)

Disaster Planning Contacts

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Timothy Cooper, Deputy Director
Sussex County Department of Public Safety
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Ed Donnelley, CERT Coordinator
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DE Disaster Preparedness Resources

Sussex County
Emergency Management Agency
facebook.com/Smart911
302-855-7801

Supply key household information
Smart911.com

Find your zone (A, B, C, or D)
PrepareDE.org/Know-Your-Zone

Sign up for emergency alerts
PrepareDE.org

Delaware Emergency Preparedness Voluntary Registry
de911assist.delaware.gov
http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/disabilities
http://www.allreadyde.org

Preparedness Buddy
DE Health and Social Services
Office of Preparedness
302-223-1720, 302-855-7801

Delaware Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards
Delaware Sea Grant College Program
www.deseagrant.org

Are You Ready? An In-Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness (P-2064)
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Click to Contact SCVV

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Celebrating 5 Years
Helping Adults to Live Independently

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Steering Committee
The Steering Committee is responsible for completing the day-to-day tasks of organizing the South Coastal Village Volunteers.

Claudia Thayne, Chair
Donald Sheridan, Vice Chair
Ron Kerchner, Finance
Betty Martin, Secretary
Elizabeth Bolton, Outreach and Volunteers **.** Ferne Cooper, Development
Joan Gordon, Communications and PR **.** Kathy Green, Development and Marketing
Kathy Jankowski, Development **.** Romas Laskauskas, Outreach
Chris Powers, Membership **.** Diane Strobel, Operations Manager

Strategic Partners
Our Strategic Partners are a group of area professionals who have special skills to contribute to the development and operations of the South Coastal Village Volunteers.

Bonnie Burnquist, MD **.** Christine Connor **.** Cliff Graviet **.** David Green
Maureen Hartman **.** Carol Houck **.** Charlie Kopay **.** Diane Maddex **.** Michele Morgan
Zita Pennypacker **.** John Robbert **.** Susan Ryan **.** Eileen Scerra

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SOUTH COASTAL VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS, INC.,
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Village Volunteers and South Coastal Village Volunteers now are separate and independent nonprofit organizations. Whether through joint initiatives, strategic alliances, or co-development efforts, both organizations look forward to working together to drive innovation and mutual growth in helping older adults live independently in southern Delaware.

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