

BETHESDA METRO AREA VILLAGE

Your home Your neighborhood Your future

From the desk of Bruce Coolidge

With signs of spring all around and COVID-19 vaccines widely available, it feels like a new start! The BMAV volunteer and services committee members are raring to go. Hanne Caraher recently moved from chair of the volunteers committee to chair the membership committee. As the incoming chair of the volunteers/services committee, I am excited to try to live up to her standards.



I've been a volunteer at BMAV for more than four years, and for me it has been one of the most rewarding parts of membership in the village. I'm looking forward to the challenges of chairing the committee.

Full-service members of BMAV enjoy a wide range of support services that can help you stay in, and stay connected to, the community that you live in and love. The committee and volunteers are committed to that mission, and we are delighted that we have now resumed offering the full range of services for members if they have been vaccinated for COVID-19: rides to and from medical appointments and other destinations, in-home and phone-friendly visits, light repairs or errands in and out of your house or apartment, tech assistance for your computer or other electronics, house monitoring during vacations, nonmedical respite services for primary caregivers, and more.

We are also happy to report that the BMAV board has expanded its services to include three new ones for full-service members:

- home repair companions – company at your home while third party repair persons are working;
- garbage and recycling bin curb placement and return – either by a volunteer directly helping you or by assisting you to obtain a county exemption from the curbside placement requirement; and
- in the winter, “safety” snow removal services in limited areas around your home, such as porch, stairs, or path to your car.

If you aren't sure whether we can help, don't hesitate to ask. You can call the main BMAV number at 240-630-2628, or you can email our executive director, Elizabeth Haile, at director@bmavillage.com, or me, at bruce.coolidge@gmail.com.

Help spread the word about BMAV

Several village members are displaying BMAV yard signs on their property, as you can see in the photos below. If you'd like to help spread the word about our village by hosting a lawn sign, just let us know and we'll drop one off to you.



Whether you host a lawn sign or not, if you love being a member of BMAV -- attending events, seeing familiar faces now when you shop or take a walk, making new friends, knowing you have company and are not alone -- *tell your friends*, neighbors and acquaintances about the benefits of membership and encourage them to join.

BMAV is open!

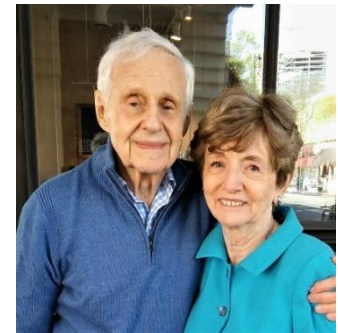
BMAV is thrilled to announce that we are resuming offering all services for our full-service members who have been vaccinated for COVID-19. For full-service members who haven't been fully vaccinated, we continue to offer more limited services, such as rides with safety protocols in place, outdoor tasks, and deliveries, on an as-available basis. When requesting a service, the requesting member and responding volunteers will be asked if they have been vaccinated for COVID-19.

Even more exciting, BMAV also is resuming limited in-person gatherings for this spring and summer. RSVPs for these small group events will be required, and attendees will follow CDC guidelines. For everyone's health, we are requiring that attendees of all in-person social gatherings be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and sign a waiver. Everybody's safety is our first concern.

Finally, BMAV remains committed to continue offering many events on Zoom for those members who feel more comfortable participating virtually.

Interview with Fred Philips and Connie Hickey

Fred Philips and Connie Hickey admitted that being interviewed for the BMAV newsletter outside the Bethesda restaurant they'd chosen was the first time they'd been out of their neighborhood to do something "social" since the pandemic was declared over a year ago. They're fully vaccinated now and looking forward to easing into more of the outside world.



Fred is a native New Yorker and graduated from Columbia University as a Navy midshipman, part of a program the Navy had then. He served aboard an aircraft carrier in the Korean War and in the Mediterranean and Pacific.

Following that, his career turned to the news business and related positions in government and industry. He began as general assignment reporter with UP (later UPI) in New York, covering everything from the mundane to the exciting. He briefly interviewed Marilyn Monroe and Arthur Miller as they returned from their honeymoon, asking them, "How do you like being

called ‘Beauty and the Beast’?” Her response, “He’s not a beast at all,” resulted in a story that appeared in many local newspapers, “to my chagrin all these years later,” Fred says.

Fred’s next posting with UP was in London, where he covered topics that touched on military, diplomatic and Middle East issues and more local news, such as Prince Charles’ entry into public school. After three years in London, Fred and his English wife returned to the US and settled here.

For three or four years, Fred was associate editor of an aviation magazine, then moved to the FAA, where he was information director of a government-industry program to build a supersonic airliner. After that, he moved to the Commerce Department as speechwriter for the Secretary and then to the Smithsonian Institution, where he set up a new central public information office and was its first director.

Fred then took a year-long sabbatical in Spain, where he studied liberal arts at the University of Madrid. He and his wife traveled extensively within Spain, absorbing its art, culture and history.

Upon returning to the US, Fred worked for Martin Marietta (later Lockheed Martin) in New York, then moved with the company to Bethesda. He retired after 20 years as an “in-house scribbler” of speeches for successive CEOs, congressional testimony, the annual report and a corporate magazine.

Fred’s ambition as a child was to “do stuff.” He thinks he’s done that and says he has “enjoyed the sheer adventure of being on this planet.”

Connie grew up near Cambridge, MA. She came here to attend Trinity College in DC. Her first job after college was with the Navy, which trained her and many other young women to be computer programmers. She left after four years to marry and start a family with her husband. During her stint as a stay-at-home mom, she developed an interest in women’s issues and volunteered to serve as the workshop chair for the Women’s Fair sponsored by the Montgomery County Commission for Women. She ultimately served a three-year term as a commissioner.

Connie eventually returned to the job market as a programmer for a contractor but got bored. She got a law degree from AU law school. With law degree in hand, she served for two years as a government attorney-advisor with the Department of Agriculture, then with the Board of Veterans Appeals. Ten years later, she left federal employment to spend more time with her husband, especial to travel in Europe, including England, Ireland, France, Sweden, Austria, and Italy.

Fred and Connie, who met at a bereavement group for widowed persons, have been together for about 10 years. In non-pandemic times, they spend their summers in Chappaquiddick, MA, where she has a family home, and their winters near Palo Alto in California to be near Connie's daughter and grandchildren. Now that they're vaccinated for COVID-19, they plan to return to Chappaquiddick this summer for at least July. The rest of the year, they're in Bethesda and visit frequently with Connie's son, who lives in DC. They do try to take advantage of what the capital area offers, particularly visiting museums and attending performances at the Kennedy Center.

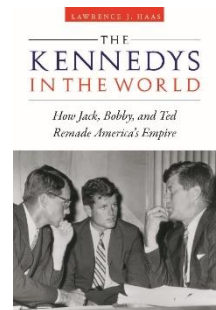
Fred's introduction to Bethesda Metro Area Village was through neighbors. He joined BMAV and has become an active participant in the village's bi-weekly men's lunches. Connie's interest in village activities has focused on museum trips. She particularly enjoyed Glenstone. She and Fred both appreciate the number and variety of village activities and greatly enjoy the people they've met among the members.

Upcoming events

Registration by members for virtual events is not required. The Zoom link is sent to members by email for each event. For BMAV events that are open to the public, registration instructions for non-members are noted below.

[Beginning chess](#), Sundays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2-3 pm. BMAV members enjoy a free online chess class taught by a high school chess expert.

[The Kennedys in the World: How Jack, Bobby, and Ted Remade America's Empire](#), Tuesday, May 4, 10-11 am. Join us for a conversation with Lawrence Haas on his new book about the Kennedy brothers, who, for more than six decades, shaped broad issues of war and peace, as well as the U.S. response to almost every major global challenge of their times. Open to friends and neighbors. RSVP to director@bmavillage.org for Zoom link.



[Night Train Memories: Sounds of the Cities](#), Tuesday, May 4, 3-4:30 pm.

Introduction to Urban Vocal Group Harmony (including Doo Wop) 1950s to mid-1960s. Richard Kwatnoski, aka "Squire," a radio producer for over 20 years for Radio Fairfax, will help us explore, through slides and music, the who, what, when and where of this very popular musical art form, accompanied by recordings. Co-sponsored by BMAV and Connie Morella Library. Join us via [Zoom](#) or dial 301 715 8592; meeting ID: 915 8864 1092. Open to the public.

[There is always a way](#), BMAV virtual book club, Monday, May 10, 4–5 pm. "There is always a way" is the mantra Mike May, an amazing man who is the subject of the book *Crashing Through* by Robert Kurson. He lived in a basement apartment in Edgemoor while working on his master's degree and was the first blind employee of the CIA. Join us to hear him talk about his incredible

life, including traveling to Ghana with his guide dog to help build a school, serving as consultant to President Obama on national initiatives on adaptive technology, and being inducted into the US Association of the Blind Hall of Fame.

[Tech Tuesday](#), May 11, June 8, 2-3 pm. Volunteer Tony Mastria talks with BMAV members the second Tuesday of every month at 2 pm to answer their questions about computers, smartphones, anything tech-related. You can drop in on as many sessions as you'd like, but an RSVP by the day before with your question will be most helpful to give Tony time to prepare.



[Pizza making](#) (rescheduled), Sunday, May 16, 4-5 pm. BMAV member Bruce Coolidge has invited members into his kitchen via Zoom to show how easy it is to prepare delicious homemade pizza. You'll get an overview of pizza making, tips about ingredients and kitchen equipment, and watch a short video of pre-bake steps. Then, Bruce will bravely assemble and bake his pizza live during the Zoom call -- without a net!

[Social change reflected in art](#), June 14, 3- 4:30 pm. A docent from the Smithsonian American Art Museum will take BMAV members on a virtual tour of how American artists responded to moments of significant social change across the history of our country. Examples include the Indian Removal Act of 1830, slavery and Jim Crow, the portrayal of women, and Native American identity. Via Zoom.

[Show and tell](#), Wednesday, May 19, and Monday, June 21, 4-5 pm. Join other BMAV members for our monthly show and tell to learn more about each other. Bring (or have a photo) of a memento, piece of art, homemade piece, or any item that is special for you. You'll show it on screen and tell us about it. If you would like to show a photo, you can screen share, or send it to [Stephanie Sutton](#) so she can show it for you. Hosted by Jan Bill and Stephanie Sutton.

[Garden tour](#), Monday, May 24, 4 pm. BMAV's gardening shared interest group has planned a small group tour of three members' backyard gardens. RSVPs are required and numbers will be limited. Contact [Ann Labriola](#) for details.



[Trivia night](#), Wednesday, May 26, 7:30-8:30 pm. Trivia night is back! BMAV members come with 3-4 trivia questions (and answers) you think may stump other guests, but don't make them too hard. Questions can be in the world of sports, history, or anything that interests you. If you can't think of any, come anyway! Host Chris Palmer will have extra questions in his back pocket. Also bring paper to write your answers on and a drink if you'd like. We'll keep score and declare a winner for the night.



[Glenstone Museum visit](#), Thursday, May 27, 10:30 am. BMAV has reserved five tickets to the Glenstone museum for members and volunteers. The indoor and outdoor pavilions and outdoor dining are now open. Enjoy the large and spectacular expanded exhibition space, including outdoor sculptures in fabulously landscaped spaces designed for the collection. The gallery is showing a traveling exhibition of works by Faith Ringgold while the pavilions feature new installations by Glenn Ligon and Tacita Dean. RSVP required. Free. Please see the [museum website](#) for the new safety precautions.

[Bring the wild beauty in!](#), Tuesday, June 8, 2-3 pm. David Cohen, a writer and photographer whose work has appeared in books, magazines, newspapers, and online, will talk about how he came to photograph birds from North America to Australia. (See his wildlife photos [here](#).) This will be a 30-minute illustrated talk, 20 minutes for discussion, and a 10-minute closing slideshow to music. Open to friends and neighbors. RSVP to director@bmavillage.org.



[Delegate Marc Korman](#), Saturday, June 12, 4:30-5:30 pm. Marc Korman, District 16's delegate to the Maryland General Assembly, was born and raised in Montgomery County, attended Montgomery County public schools, and has been a strong advocate for Bethesda and Western Montgomery County. He'll talk about the recent legislative session and its impact on our area. Co-sponsored by BMAV and Connie Morella Library. Join Zoom [here](#) or dial in 301 715 8592; meeting ID: 970 8702 2243. Open to the public.

[Tour of Phillips Collection 100th anniversary exhibition](#), Friday, June 18, 10 am. A limited number of BMAV members will be able to visit The Phillips Collection in person for a tour of *Seeing Differently: The Phillips Collects for a New Century*. This centennial exhibition marks the first major celebration of the museum's permanent collection in over ten years. RSVPs required.

[Ridge Line to Red Line Bethesda walking tour](#) - 200 hundred years in the life of downtown Bethesda, Saturday, June 26, 9:30-11:30 am (rain date June 27). Was there really a Civil War Battle of Bethesda? How much of Bethesda's history survives amidst the high rises that line Wisconsin Avenue? The answers are (a) yes; and (b) more than you probably think. Hank Levine, head of the Heritage Trail and Tour committee of the Bethesda Historical Society, will lead a tour for BMAV, exploring Bethesda's past and learning how and why our town came to be what it is today. RSVPS are limited to 12.

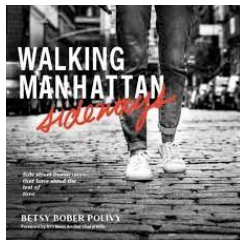
Take us out to a ball game! By June, Montgomery County is likely to have approved allowing one-third capacity, or 250 fans, at Bethesda Big Train collegiate baseball games and other outdoor sports events. *Washington Post's* Marc Fisher calls Big Train baseball “the ultimate small-town fantasy.”



If you'd like to join a BMAV group for a 6 pm picnic dinner on a weeknight in June at Shirley Povich Field, with a talk by Big Train founder and BMAV member Bruce Adams, followed by a 7 pm Bethesda Big Train baseball game, please email Bruce at bruce@greaterwash.org. We'll be masked except while eating. Seating will be in socially-distanced pods of two, three and four people each. For background on Big Train baseball, please go to www.bigtrain.org.

Recent happenings of interest

Knitting, Needlework and Friends shared interest group donated eleven knitted baby blankets and eight hats to the Greater DC Diaper Bank. Contributors were Sandra Ross, Alice Padwe, Diane Goldman and Eugenia Covarrubias.



March book club. Sixteen BMAV members enjoyed hearing Betsy Bober Polivy talk about her “Manhattan Sideways” project and her resultant book, *Walking Manhattan Sideways*. She shared her love of the many NYC shops hidden away on side streets, such as button stores, specialized cupcake shops, and hand-made dollhouse shops, and the inspiring immigrant stories of their owners. Betsy’s passion for building community was a message that resonated with our village members, some of whom are planning to visit Manhattan to see some of the shops featured in the book.

Armchair travelers. On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, BMAV members went virtually to, where else, Ireland! Melissa Watts flew us around the southern half of the Emerald Isle, stopping for views of dramatic cliffs, picturesque sheep, and 360 degrees of verdure. She also showed us the spectacular Old Library at Dublin’s Trinity College, which dates back to 1592. Several travelers shared their own fond memories of Ireland, and Melissa offered tips to help the rest plan future trips. Elyse Jacob provided music from the Daly family innkeepers of Doolin.



Happy Hour attendees on March 26 shared their favorite songs and vocal groups, including “Dream, Dream, Dream,” Diana Ross and the Supremes singing “Stop! In the Name of Love,” and The Beatles’ “I Want to Hold your Hand.” *Happy Hour* meets each Friday at 4 pm to chat. The host (Susan Gorman and soon Barbara Brown) often poses questions to share so everyone can get to know each other better.

Talk by Congressman Jamie Raskin, “It Takes Your Village,” on March 15, hosted by Montgomery County senior villages. Nearly 200 members of area senior villages in Maryland, Virginia, and DC joined a Zoom session with Rep. Raskin. He discussed general issues in American life and government today and then responded to over two dozen questions submitted by village members on the economy, COVID-19 relief, education, inequality, governance, postal reform, the ERA, environment, DC statehood, and civic education. It was an informative and fruitful discussion.

April book club. Author Richard Cross read his in-progress short story, “Love to Ashes, Dreams to Dust,” and encouraged a lively conversation critiquing it. The opportunity to help him improve his story was an honor and wonderful fun. He since reported that he has begun to make changes based on book club feedback. He’ll return on June 1 to read his published autobiographical short story, “Days Like Wine,” set in the ‘60s.

Shared interest groups for members

Aging Well. This group meets monthly. Each session focuses on an interesting question. The one for the next meeting (Sunday, May 2, 4-5 pm) is, “What are one or two unusual experiences in your life?” Written summaries of members’ contributions from these meetings are on the BMAV website in the [Forums](#) section (accessible to members only). Hosted by [Chris Palmer](#).

Armchair travelers. Travel virtually via Zoom with BMAV friends the second Wednesday of each month. Our next adventure is Monday, May 12, 4-5 pm. Do you have photos from an interesting travel experience? Let [Diane Goldman](#) know if you would be willing to talk about it at a future meeting of our newest shared interest group. Diane is willing and able to help you share any photos you have to illustrate your trip.

Birding. [David Moulton](#) hosts birdwatching sessions and sends email updates with photos and descriptions of birds to keep a lookout for. Contact him to be added to his list.

Book club. Meets every other week on Tuesday mornings to discuss their favorite works in any genre. Authors also join the Zoom events to discuss his or her books. Hosted by [Jane Boynton](#).

Bridge. Meets daily for afternoon games via computer program and in person. If you'd like to join, contact lead [Marilyn Kerst](#) for more information.

Coffee talk. Members gather on the first and third Thursday mornings of the month by Zoom, mugs in hand, to share tips, activities, and inspiration. Hosted by [Ann Labriola](#) and [Naomi Collins](#).

Film fans. On Monday, May 17, 3-4 pm we'll discuss Oscar-nominated "Mank" and "Father." [Diana Kitt](#)'s film group shares names of recommended films and holds monthly Zoom meetups to review films together. All members welcome.

Gardening. [Ann Labriola](#) hosts a group that meets to share gardening tours, tips, questions and answers. The next meetups are May 24 and June 28.

Happy hour. BMAV members meet online for lively conversation and good cheer every Friday afternoon at 4 pm. Bring your own drinks. All topics welcome. Hosted by [Susan Gorman](#) and [Barbara Brown](#).

Hardy Hikers. [Ann Bennet](#) leads the BMAV hiking club in monthly weekday morning hikes at locations throughout the metro area. Contact Ann for more information.

Knitting, needlework and friends. Members meet the first and third Fridays on Zoom to share what they are working on. The next session is May 7, 2-3 pm. Contact [Sandi Ross](#) for login information.

Ladies' lunch. Members meet monthly for lunch, conversation and camaraderie. The next lunches will be on Tuesday, May 25, and Wednesday, June 30. Hosted by [Lynn Barclay](#).

Men's lunch. A dozen or more men join [Bob Berish](#) for lunch and discussion every other Thursday at 1 pm. The next one is May 6.

News you can use

- The Jane E. Lawton recreation center in Chevy Chase has reopened on a limited basis. Individuals, or households, now may schedule a time to use the fitness room, gymnasiums, or take classes. There's also an option of playing sports, such as pickleball or badminton, with one other person. There currently are no team sports or doubles play. You can register for a slot [here](#).
- Register to participate in the 55+ virtual "Walkers in Motion" challenge. Track your steps from May 1 through May 21 using your personal fitness device or a paper-tracking record. Log into Zoom sessions on Mondays: May 10, May 17 and May 24 at 9 a.m. with your step totals. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners will be announced on National Senior Health and Fitness Day. Register at ActiveMONTGOMERY.ORG (Activity 120254) Free. Call 202-450-8057 for more information.

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