

Community Players of Salisbury

Monthly Meeting Agenda

April 1, 2026

Call to Order

Approval of March 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report

President's Report

Committee Reports

- Concessions: Brenda Allen
- Costume Committee*: Lynne Bratten
 - *Needs to be approved as a formal committee
- Facilities Management: Ken Johnson
- Fundraising: Matt Bogdan
- Grants: Matt Bogdan
- Historical: Bonnie Bosies
- Hospitality: Rusty Mumford
- House: Betsy Metzger
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Sharon Benchoff
- Marketing: Rusty Mumford
- Membership: Melissa Dasher
- Nominating: Sharon Benchoff
- Patrons: Kel Nagel
- Performance Space: Kel Nagel
- Production: Kyle Hayes
- Program/Program Advertising
- Publicity: Pete Cuesta
- Scholarship: Lynne Bratten
- Tickets/Season Tickets/Box Office: Rusty Mumford
- Social Media: Cass Dasher/Mary Cathell

Old Business

- Code of Ethics-Kyle Hayes
- Website Update-Darrell Mullins

- Capital Campaign
- Other Old Business?

New Business

- 1776 Auditions: Darrell Mullins for Sharon Benchoff
- All County Musical Request-Ken Johnson
- Summer Plans-Ken Johnson
- Set Construction-Ken Johnson
- Other New Business?
- 2026-2027 Season Vote

Adjournment

Committee Reports for April 1, 2026

Concessions - Brenda Allen No Report

***Costumes – Lynne Bratten** Several donations of quality items have been received by Community Players, including military items from a college friend's Navy Academy husband and her father. Items from member family Pete and Kim Cuesta. Jewelry items from a church friend of Tom Robinson. All donations have been offered a written acknowledgment if requested.

Costume regrouping and organizing will be a priority in June and July 2026. Dates and times will be announced closer.

We would welcome donations of colonial outfits suitable for the production of 1776. Contact me if you have something in your closets that could work. We do not currently have space for additional colonial female outfits.

Several members have requested items from the inventory and have not returned them. Remember that bringing them back, clean and ready to be put into inventory, is part of the plan. Please contact Lynne at 443-880-3543 to set up a mutually convenient time to process the return of items. Never leave them on a table without checking them in. Failure could cause privilege to be revoked or if item goes missing the member could be held liable for the outfit. We use Zipps for dry cleaning when needed but check with Lynne if you have cleaning questions.

Facilities Management - Ken Johnson No Report

Fundraising - Matt Bogdan

1. Our second annual Spring Craft and Vendor Fair was held Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Community Players' Theater. Thanks to all who were involved in this fundraiser, especially Wendy Stever for coordinating the event and David Allen for his work with getting the vendors in their places.

2. We are looking for teams to compete in the Community Players' Friendly Feud Fundraiser to be held April 23-26 at Community Players' Theater. We need 16 teams to compete for the grand prize of \$500, with a second-place prize of \$250. Each team will consist of five members (friends, family, coworkers), answering survey questions with the aim to score more points than the other team. The first set of eight teams will battle it out on Thursday, April 23, from 7 to 10 p.m., and the second set of eight teams will battle it out on Friday, April 24, from 7 to 10 p.m. Winners advance to play on Saturday, April 25, from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday winners advance to the semifinals and finals, to be held on Sunday, April 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. Cost of registration is \$100 per team. If you do not want to enter a team but would like to watch the teams battle it out, admission is \$10 at the door. If you are interested in entering a team, contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com. The Friendly Feud Fundraiser is sponsored in part by Guardian Pest Control. We thank them for their support.

3. *America 250: A Birthday Celebration* will take place on June 26 and June 27 at 7:30 p.m. and June 28 at 2 p.m. at the Community Players' Theater. Sponsored by the Wicomico Historical Society in cooperation with Community Players, a two-act presentation of patriotic speeches, songs, poems, stories and slides will celebrate America's 250th birthday. The band WW2's, who played in last year shows commemorating the men and women of the Eastern Shore who participated in WW2, will be playing, as well. Admission is free; donations accepted. If you are interested in being in the production as a speaker or singer, contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com. Auditions to be held at Players on May 3 at 2 p.m. for dramatic readers and singers. No memorization required.

Grants - Matt Bogdan

1. The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore granted the Community Players an award of \$2400 to be used to help pay the stipends of counselors at the Summer Youth Drama Workshop to be held in July 2026. The

Coastal Association of Realtors also contributed \$1000 toward the cause. We thank these organizations for their support.

2. As noted in our last newsletter, the Community Players has been awarded a \$150,000 Challenge Grant from the Richard A. Henson Foundation so that Players can complete renovations on the Community Players' Theater at 5109 Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury. Renovations include installing handicapped bathrooms, dressing rooms, and costume storage. In order for Players to receive the \$150,000, we need to raise \$150,000. One way to donate to this worthy cause is to go to our website at Sbyplayers.org. On the home page click on the donate button which takes you to the Players' Capital Campaign page. There, donations can be made by credit or debit card. If you prefer to write a check, make the check out to Community Foundation of The Eastern Shore, with Community Players' Capital Campaign fund on the memo line. Mail the check to Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, 1324 Belmont Ave., Suite 401, Salisbury, MD 21804. All donations will be acknowledged and tracked by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, who will verify compliance with IRS and other regulations. Your donation will be instrumental in helping the Community Players' mission of encouraging education, interest, and participation in theater and providing quality theatrical productions for local audiences. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kel Nagel, Capital Campaign Chairperson, at 410-726-0670.

Historical - Bonnie Bosies No Report

Hospitality - Rusty Mumford No Report

House - Betsy Metzger No Report

Lifetime Achievement Awards – Sharon Benchoff Nothing to report

Marketing - No Report

Membership - Melissa Dasher Nothing new to report

Nominating - Sharon Benchoff Nominations are now open for officers and board members. Nominations will close at the end of the May meeting. All who are nominated must be up to date with their dues.

Patrons - Kel Nagel No Report

Performance Space - Kel Nagel No Report

Production – Kyle Hayes No Report

Program / Program Advertising - Tom Robinson No Report

Publicity – Pete Cuesta No Report

Scholarship - Lynne Bratten At this time 3 students have completed applications on file and the deadline has passed. The applications will be sent to board members for scoring prior to the May meeting. It would be my intention to have scores ready to present at the May meeting, followed by a vote of the board to confirm the choice. Players awards two \$500 awards to senior students attending public, private or homeschooling programs. All applicants must have participated in Players programming and be attending a college or university program in the fall of 2027. The three applicants have all met these criteria.

Season Tickets & Box Office - Rusty Mumford No Report

Social Media – Cass Dasher & Mary Cathell No Report

Memo

To: Board of Directors, Community Players of Salisbury

From Kyle Hayes, Production Committee Chairperson

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CC: CPOS Production Committee: Kate Adkins, Mary Cathell, Melissa Dasher, Robin Finley, Judy Hearn, Bob Herbertson, Emma Limbeck, Will Townsend

Date: March 4, 2026

Re: Recommendation for 2026-2027 Season

The Production Committee reviewed a total of 14 submissions for possible inclusion in next year's season. Those submissions were as follows:

Musicals: *Come from Away, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Newsies, Snoopy, Sweeney Todd*

Dramas: *All My Sons, Birthday Candles, Murder on the Nile*

Comedies: *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery, Buddies, Clue: On Stage, FAILURE: A Love Story, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, The Moors*

The Production Committee used the following criteria for determining a well rounded and effective season:

- Technical Demands
- Financial Demands
- Audience Appeal and Name Recognition
- Content of show
- Acting, Singing, and Dance abilities
- Diversity in casting opportunities

Based on those criteria, the Production Committee recommends the following slate for the next season:

November: *Come From Away*—directed by Sharon Benchoff

January/February: *Buddies*—directed by Todd Ristau

April: *Birthday Candles*—directed by Kim Cuesta

June: *Clue: On Stage*—directed by Ken Johnson

The Production Committee wishes to emphasize that a number of submissions demonstrated potential to be part of an excellent season.

We recommend that the Board of Directors, at the April 2026 meeting, conduct a vote that includes the options listed below. The recommended season is listed first in bold, followed by all other possible choices for each

time slot in descending rank order. Rank order was decided by averaging individual committee members' ratings of each show. These show ratings were based on criteria listed above, discussions by the Committee, and various other factors to create a cohesive season.

At the April Board Meeting, board members can select one show per time slot.

November	January/February	April	June
<i>Come From Away</i>	<i>Buddies</i>	<i>Birthday Candles</i>	<i>Clue: On Stage</i>
<i>Birthday Candles</i>	<i>Birthday Candles</i>	<i>Laughter on the 23rd Floor</i>	<i>Come From Away</i>
<i>Laughter on the 23rd Floor</i>	<i>Laughter on the 23rd Floor</i>	<i>Buddies</i>	<i>Birthday Candles</i>
<i>Buddies</i>	<i>Clue: On Stage</i>	<i>All My Sons</i>	<i>Laughter on the 23rd Floor</i>
<i>Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery</i>	<i>All My Sons</i>	<i>Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery</i>	<i>Buddies</i>
<i>The Moors</i>	<i>Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery</i>	<i>The Moors</i>	<i>All My Sons</i>
<i>Failure: A Love Story</i>	<i>The Moors</i>	<i>Failure: A Love Story</i>	<i>Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery</i>
<i>Sweeney Todd</i>	<i>Failure: A Love Story</i>	<i>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</i>	<i>Snoopy</i>
<i>Newsies</i>	<i>Snoopy</i>	<i>Snoopy</i>	<i>Murder on the Nile</i>
	<i>Murder on the Nile</i>	<i>Murder on the Nile</i>	<i>Newsies</i>

Here is a link to a Google Drive file that has all of the scripts submitted so that you can review them before our April meeting.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1Y6uYd-6hp5B-AL03XfJpmVbIMGnJaCNw>

The Production Committee Chair, Kyle Hayes, wishes to thank the committee for the due diligence they demonstrated throughout the process.

Addendum

Per the request of the Board last year, this committee has prepared some more specific thoughts on the recommended season to further clarify the reasons for the choice. The qualities of the shows discussed here do *not* mean the other shows lack those qualities. This committee felt the recommended season showed the greatest potential in those areas. Every show that was pitched was a show that this committee could see CPOS doing at some point.

Come From Away

The committee knows this will be well received with its huge name recognition and the fact that it's a recently available show to put on. Coupling this with the fact that it will be the debut in the region, it lines up with the 25th anniversary of 9/11, and it has a big cast size opportunity, it is a strong opening choice for the season.

Buddies

We were drawn to how new/fresh this play felt. The playwright opportunity opens up a number of possibilities in terms of advertising and outreach. The messaging felt timely and while it is about a younger generation, the story is relatable to multiple generations.

Birthday Candles

We gravitated towards the messaging and relatability perspective of this show as well which we feel will resonate with and reach a wide audience. This is a unique show that poses a number of unique acting opportunities (one actor aging over time, baking an actual cake, actors playing multiple roles, etc.)

Clue: On Stage

This is another big name recognition show that we feel will help bring an audience in for a time slot that is traditionally difficult to fill seats. There is a good variety in cast members and we feel a comedy would be a great close to the season.

Overall, we feel that to be bookended by high name recognition shows is a great strategy to start and finish strong for the 2026-2027 season. Having two middle shows that are newly-discovered but are strong in their messaging and relatability to the audience give excellent balance for the season for the second and third slots.