

December 2016

WILLIAMSBURG'S

# Next Door Neighbors®

VOL. 10, ISSUE 12

PRICELESS

Discovering the people who call Williamsburg home

## Williamsburg Holidays

Greg Selby

TURN TO PAGE 42  
FOR A LIST OF LOCAL  
HOLIDAY EVENTS!

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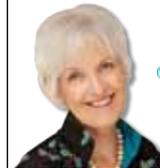
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The holidays can be a magical time. For many of us, the sights and sounds of the season are something we look forward to every year. There are so many opportunities to get involved or to selectively become a spectator. The sights and sounds of these festivities can be captivating.

The holidays are also a spiritual time. A time for reflection. A time to be introspective about our lives, our beliefs and what we want for our future and for our family.

In this issue, we interviewed various individuals about their experiences at this time of year. You will find many opportunities to learn from them, especially when it comes to giving and gratitude. Many of the advertisements also connect you to upcoming happenings. The holiday event calendar on page 42 provides a partial listing of local events, thanks to the Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce. On page 60, you will find Hey Neighbor! with additional listings of upcoming events and activities.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Next Door Neighbors. NDN



Meredith Collins, Publisher



## Inside

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3. Greg Selby              | 39. Joy Johnson         |
| 8. Kimi Vlahakis           | 42. Holiday Calendar    |
| 12. Charvalla West         | 44. Judy Bradby         |
| 16. Jim Mundy              | 48. Martin Vickerton    |
| 20. James Chamberlain      | 51. Peggy Arnett        |
| 23. Randy & Elaine Emory   | 54. Deanna Cosby        |
| 28. Anna Buck              | 57. Stefanie Pifer      |
| 31. Susan Woodcock Tisdale | 60. Hey Neighbor!       |
| 35. Rebecca Davy           | 63. In the Neighborhood |

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Cover Photo by Lisa Cumming



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

# Sidecar Santa

By Alison Johnson

Quite possibly, Greg Selby is the only man in the country who can't wait for his hair, and especially his beard, to turn white.

Since 2012, Greg has had a second name: "Sidecar Santa." On weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Greg cruises around the Williamsburg area on his big red motorcycle with a sidecar attached, handing out small stuffed animals to children for hours on end.

Last year, he delivered more than 3,500.

"This is what makes Christmas for me," he says. "The look on a child's face as Santa roars up and hands them a toy is indescribable."

At 50, Greg, who is retired from the Coast Guard, still has to wear a costume beard and wig with his Santa suit. But he's got the character down, from his hobby of carving wooden toys in his backyard shed to his reliance on a

Mrs. Sidecar Santa, his wife Michele Rae, for help with the whole operation. He also has "elf" friends to ride along in costume and help manage crowds that swarm wherever he appears.

Greg collects new or gently-used Beanie Babies, along with similarly-sized stuffed animals, year-round. He picks up some at yard sales but mostly relies on donations to keep his sleigh-

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on-wheels full. Between his sidecar and a bag, he can carry about 300 toys at a time. Any boy or girl lucky enough to spot him on the streets can get one, no matter what their family circumstances.

“I would never turn down any child,” Greg explains. “I also do not turn down the young at heart who have asked for a toy. It’s Christmas, and we all want to be kids again.”

One of his best moments came two years ago, when an awe-struck little boy asked if he was the real Santa. “I replied by asking him if he thought that I was,” Greg recalls. “He took a step back, looked me up and down and shook his head, smiling. That told me that I was doing a good job.”

The only downside, he says, is that a few parents are too wary to let their kids approach him: “They think I am selling something, or they cannot believe that something can be given with no strings attached. It saddens me to see children being pulled away from Santa. One man informed me that he was from New York and it would cost \$10 just to take a pic-

ture with me there. I am proud that I can help represent the area and spread cheer to both locals and visitors.”

Born in Hagerstown, Maryland, Greg and his older brother grew up with parents who put up a Christmas tree and a few decorations and took their boys to the mall to see Santa, in other words, nothing extensive. “I really didn’t get into Christmas until I became a parent,” says Greg, who has two grown daughters. “I have enjoyed decorating and celebrating with my kids most holidays.”

After earning an Associate’s Degree in Criminal Justice from Hagerstown Community College, Greg enlisted in the Coast Guard. During a 22-year career in the service, his duties included maritime law enforcement; search and rescue work along the East Coast and in the Caribbean; and multiple humanitarian missions off the coast of Haiti.

Greg’s life as Santa began in 1989, when he was stationed on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Coast Guard members there worked with a local organization that collected letters to Santa.

The week before Christmas, they would call each child and talk, as Santa, about what he or she had written.

“The excitement in their voices as we spoke about their families and pets made it so real to both them and me,” he says. “I have continued to look for ways to spread that cheer wherever I could.”

Greg and Michele, who had honeymooned in Williamsburg back in 1987, moved to Virginia in 2004 when he was stationed in Yorktown and decided to stay after his retirement five years later. “Maybe we were destined to live here,” Greg says.

Greg now works for the Harbormaster office on Fort Eustis as a transportation assistant. In that post, he handles traffic control for vessels within the port area, does security patrols on the James River and helps with pollution prevention measures. He also is studying for a bachelor’s degree in American History via American Military University’s online program.

In 2011, in what some have called his

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midlife crisis, Greg bought his motorcycle. Not long after, he had a Santa suit and was cruising around town, waving and posing for pictures. At one stop, someone suggested he start handing out candy canes.

“I liked the idea of giving the kids something, but then I didn’t want to put parents in the position of having to take candy away because they weren’t sure it was safe,” he recalls. “After all, they don’t know me. The stuffed animals were the next idea.”

As it turned out, Michele, like many former stuffed animal collectors, had a box of Beanie Babies in a box in their attic. When those proved popular, Greg began gathering them by the hundreds; he checks each one to be sure it is clean and in good condition. He tried including other donated toys such as Matchbox cars one year but found those often arrived in worse condition than stuffed animals.

Sidecar Santa travels mainly to corners in and around the Colonial Williamsburg area. Although Greg is on work duty every other weekend, he takes some vacation time during the holidays so he can go in later in the day and

spend three or four hours as Santa. On days off, he might ride for five or six hours, or as long as he still has toys. When he runs out of one load, Mrs. Santa or a friend bring more to him.

Greg has made solo drives before but much prefers having someone along to help. Michele, his daughters, Melinda and Christina, and numerous friends have volunteered. “I can easily become surrounded by 30-plus people, both adults and children, who want Santa’s attention,” he notes. “A helper also makes pictures run a little easier. Children can become intimidated by a Santa sitting in a chair. When he shows up on a motorcycle, it can become a little much for some.”

Assistants also provide a measure of safety. “I need the extra set of eyes to make sure I do not pull out and drive away from a child who is trying to get to me. Traffic can be interesting enough before you throw me and excited kids into the mix.” (Speaking of safety, Sidecar Santa always wears a helmet. His red hat just fits around that.)

Greg is careful not to spoil Santa for children who believe he is the real thing. “If I need a

drink, I always go somewhere out of the way and look around to be sure no one is watching, and I pull my beard down and back up very quickly,” he says.

At home, Greg enjoys woodworking and making toys. When his daughters were young, he made them rocking horses; he also has crafted wooden cars and planes and, for the past four years, pinewood derby cars for local events. “I got into that when one child showed up at a race with a car that he had used a kitchen knife to carve, because there was no father figure at home,” he relates. “I wanted to make sure his car was something he could be proud of.” And for Halloween, he made a full-sized coffin to put in his front yard, where he can hide and jump out to give kids a scare.

As for Christmas and Sidecar Santa, Greg Selby plans to keep riding every year for as long as possible. He is grateful for the community’s support, noting that one couple alone gave him more than 400 stuffed animals. “Without the help of these behind-the-scenes elves, I could not do what I do,” he says. “It’s really an easy way to spread a lot of happiness.” NDN



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# KIMI VLAHAKIS



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

## Christmas IN GRAND STYLE

By Linda Landreth Phelps

Incredible? Exuberant? Eye-popping? Trying to settle on just one adjective for Kimi Vlahakis' fabulous Christmas decorating style is frustrating because they're all equally true. The door to Nick and Kimi's house in Governor's Land is flanked by a matched set of toy soldiers topping six feet tall who both guard the entrance and set the tone. Be aware...you're entering a magical place. The round foyer features a massive nativity set on a central table and fresh wonders appear as you wander the

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stately home's 8,500 sq. feet with its artificial forest of glittering Christmas trees in green, blue, white and red.

"Depending on who's coming for the holidays, I'll have between ten and twelve large trees," Kimi says. "If any of our seven grandchildren are with us, we put trees in the bedrooms, too." The star of the seasonal show is a soaring fifteen-footer, one of four in that room alone, a giant that doesn't come close to scraping the vaulted ceiling of her massive living room. Its ornaments are appropriately oversized, too, and viewing the tree's 2,500 lights may require sunglasses. Kimi's keen artist's eye and active brain leads to ideas which leave no area of her home unembellished with decorations ranging from the sacred to the secular. There's even a spot for the fun, spike-heeled, thigh-high red vinyl boots signed by the cast of the Broadway hit, "Kinky Boots," evidence of the music loving couple's support of the arts.

How does the diminutive owner do it all, you may well ask? Kimi has a secret weapon in friend, designer and fellow Christmas fan Michael Clements.

"Michael lives in Louisville and designs big window displays for various stores, including Victoria's Secret," she says. "We fly him in every year to help." The trees and countless boxes of decorations and ornaments, tucked away neatly in their attic storage area for most of the year, are retrieved with the help of the home's elevator. "We couldn't do it without that!"

Everything is assembled over the span of four or five labor-intense days. "Michael and I work hard, and then we play hard afterwards," she says with a smile. "Nick just tries to stay out of our way."

Soon after they finished building their home in Williamsburg in 2004, Nick and Kimi started a tradition of throwing a party for their friends and neighbors between Christmas and New Year's. Like most of their holiday concepts, it's grown more elaborate over time, becoming a celebration of wine and food from many different countries. Last year's party theme was Greece. "I'm from a Greek family myself," says Nick with a chuckle, "and I can tell you that until recently we didn't have much in the way of good wines. The food and the dancing were great!"

Kimi, whose ancestors hail from Spain, has thoroughly embraced Nick's cultural heritage as well. Even before they married and she retired in 2000, Kimi was fascinated by icons, which is artwork depicting religious subjects done in the Byzantine and Orthodox Christian tradition. She has traveled to Russia and Italy and studied under several Master Iconographers. Her home's walls are hung with examples of her own glowing, stylized images which have attracted international acclaim. Even Kimi's kitchen boasts its own icon, St. Euprosynos, the patron saint of cooking. Her home art studio, impeccably neat and organized, features examples in all stages of production.

It's an elaborate process, beginning with a wooden board prepped with rabbit skin glue (a type of sizing) and linen, then using the tempera paint which Kimi mixes herself with hand-ground pigment, wine, and egg yolk, finishing with pure, 24 karat gold leaf and semiprecious stones. A typical painting can take four months and consume \$500 in materials alone. "It's an expensive hobby, and when I sell them, I'm not really pricing

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them to reflect my labor,” she says. There’s a marked difference between Kimi’s work and other modern icons done with acrylics. “Using Renaissance materials and techniques like Michelangelo’s, her art will last for centuries,” proud husband Nick says. Some of the icons are commissioned works destined for Williamsburg’s St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and will be used in its celebration of the feast days of various saints.

“For me, painting is like meditation and becomes an act of worship,” Kimi says. “I begin every session with this prayer: ‘Oh Lord, bless my humble effort and let my every labor be for the salvation of my soul and for the glory of your most holy name.’ It really helps me focus.” An intricate nativity scene featuring angels, wise men, shepherds and animals encircling the central figures of the Virgin and child in the manger stands out from the rest. “You can find a smaller version of this at the Williamsburg Art Gallery,” Kimi says.

In a more fanciful vein, her studio also contains a dollhouse which Kimi delights in furnishing and, you guessed it, decorating for Christmas. The door is hung with a berib-

boned wreath and twinkling lights. “Try the doorbell,” she says with a smile, and laughs with delight when it chimes. “I had so much fun doing this. See those little tables? Those are plastic pizza box inserts, painted black.” After seeing Kimi’s artwork, her inventive attention to detail doesn’t surprise, but is still amazing. The dollhouse’s kitchen pantry and refrigerator are well stocked with enough miniature groceries to prepare a holiday feast, and even the bathroom’s minuscule roll of toilet tissue has an elegant folded point. “My granddaughters love to play with it, and so do I!” she says.

Kimi’s dog, Lola, a friendly little Shih Tzu, keeps her company while she works in the studio. Lola occupies her own puppy chaise lounge done with zebra-striped upholstery. A throw pillow announces its owner’s well-deserved “Pampered Pooch” status.

Nick and Kimi met in Salt Lake City, where Nick was working for an aerospace defense company and Kimi was a paralegal. “We were together off and on for years,” she remembers. “Nick was being transferred so often as he was being promoted that it was hard to settle down. Nick says he worked his way backwards

in technology from making rockets to manufacturing bullets by the end of his career.”

With Nick focused on work and early retirement, Kimi came to Williamsburg to oversee construction of their new home, the one they got to keep after building, and selling due to company transfers, two others.

After that experience, they were sure of what they wanted in their retirement home. In addition to Kimi’s art space, Nick has a full recording studio that’s the source of a lot of pleasure for him, as well as a media room where the white sloped ceilings are painted with more of Kimi’s artwork, minimalist silhouettes of vintage movie greats.

This Christmas will be very different for the Vlahakis family. Since everyone gathered in Williamsburg this summer for Kimi’s 60th birthday, instead of hosting their usual party for the holidays, the family will all meet in Orlando to celebrate Christmas through New Year’s at Disney World. If anybody can top Kimi Vlahakis in the Christmas decoration department, it would be Disney. “I predict I’ll come home inspired, full of new ideas for next year’s display!” she says. NDN



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# Lend a Helping Hand

By Erin Fryer



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Families in Williamsburg that wouldn't otherwise experience the joy of Christmas morning will get that opportunity this year because of Charvalla West and the United Way of Greater Williamsburg.

Though their reach in the community spans an entire year, the holidays are special for the

United Way because while they're still focusing on the needs of the community, they get to bring joy to the children by ensuring families in need have the opportunity to receive gifts.

Through the Holiday Giving Program, families, groups and organizations sponsor a local family. They also organize a holiday food dis-

tribution program where they give out turkeys, and even partner with the DAV to offer full meals for veterans.

More than anything, Charvalla is looking forward to participating in the annual Christmas parade in Colonial Williamsburg. Several children in the holiday sponsorship program

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will also be participating. "I go to the parade every year, so it will be so much fun to be in it this year with our kids," she says.

A few years ago, Charvalla took a leap of faith that would change her life forever and bring her one step closer to fulfilling her life's mission. For more than nine years, Charvalla worked as a manager in the timeshare industry where she found great success and generally loved her job, but most of all she loved her team. She put so much effort and energy into motivating and taking care of them that she began to wonder if she focused her talents on giving back to the community in some way, maybe she would feel more fulfilled.

Charvalla decided to use the skills she built while working at Wyndham and the qualities that are unique to her to help more people. She became certified as a life coach and decided to start her own business, but quickly realized the entrepreneur lifestyle was not for her. Then came her leap of faith.

She put in her resignation at Wyndham and prepared to set out on her new career, though she didn't know what it would be just yet. Just two weeks before her last day in the timeshare industry, where she was making good money and received great benefits, she found out she was pregnant with her second child. Instead of playing it safe and taking back her resignation, Charvalla took a big risk and has never looked back.

As a life coach, part of Charvalla's responsibilities were to build credibility within the community, so she started volunteering at Avalon Center as an advocate.

Naturally, she had to take time off to have her child. After the



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birth of her son, Charvalla made the tough decision to return to time-share work, because unfortunately volunteering doesn't pay the bills. The Saturday before the Monday she was meant to go back to work, Charvalla got a call from Avalon that they had an opening for an administrative assistant.

Charvalla took another leap of faith and started work at Avalon where she was able to dive into every aspect of the agency. She learned the ins and outs of managing a shelter, from funding to certification. She eventually became the volunteer coordinator and developed a desire to become a case manager.

"When I thought about my life experience; working in timeshares, training as a life coach, I knew it all had to be for a reason," Charvalla says. "I just had to figure out how to put it all together."

An opening finally came up to be a case manager. Charvalla jumped at the opportunity and did that for a few months before her true calling, to be manager of the United Way's Community Resource Center (CRC), presented itself.

It is a match made in heaven. The CRC serves the local community by offering programs, resources and information that can help homeless, impoverished and vulnerable people receive assistance and obtain the tools they need to make a change in their lives. "I absolutely love it here. It's where I am supposed to be," says Charvalla. "I still get to do a lot of case management, but I have also had the opportunity to really reevaluate how we are serving the community."

When she started working at the CRC, Charvalla felt like they were just slapping Band-Aids on bullet holes. "People were coming in panicked because they couldn't pay a bill and we were just giving them money to help with that one problem, but that doesn't solve anything," she says. Though she's only been at the CRC for about a year, Charvalla has made sure that they aren't just slapping Band-Aids on bullet holes anymore. "We provide assistance but we also provide accountability support for people to be self-sufficient," she says. "If someone needs assistance, we first look at how they got in that situation and then evaluate if they will be able to maintain on their own in the future. So instead of slapping Band-Aids on bullet holes, we are taking a more holistic approach by looking at the big picture."

Charvalla and the CRC team do everything they can to help without enabling people, and also help show the community how they can lend a helping hand. "The CRC gives organizations and individuals an opportunity to give to those in need," she says. "People don't always know how they can help, especially if they aren't surrounded by people in need."

Charvalla is inspired to give back to the community that she has called home since she was 11 years old because of the times in her life when people have shown her mercy when things didn't go the way she planned. "People have always been there for me when I needed them, even when I didn't know how to ask and when I didn't deserve it."

It's because of this that Charvalla's mission in life is to show others the same mercy and grace that she has received. Her days consist of making sure people in the community have food to eat and clothes to wear, but she stresses the point that it's just supplementary. "We can't be the pro-

viders of these items,” she says. “It’s our mission to help them along the way to being able to provide these things for themselves.”

One thing that weighs heavily on Charvalla’s heart is the homelessness issue in the community. Though she says the community has done a good job at recognizing the fact that homelessness is a big issue, there is work still to be done when it comes to eradicating it. “Our community has become too focused on making homelessness more comfortable,” Charvalla says. “We have shelters but when the people leave, they are still homeless. We have to embrace the housing first model which is proven to work.”

Charvalla argues the point that the homeless people in our community have a hard time finding jobs because it’s difficult to have clean clothes, a place to bathe and brush your teeth and charge a cell phone when you have nowhere to go.

“If there is anything I can do to change the stigma associated with poverty, that’s what I want to do. We have so many talented, smart people in this town that are homeless. We are not all given the same opportunities, and we are all just a breath away from being in their shoes.” ~ **Charvalla West**

The CRC is not a housing provider, but Charvalla finds herself working with the homeless on a regular basis. At the moment, her mission is to get the community on board with eradicating homelessness and not just making it easier to be homeless. “That’s why I come here everyday,” she says. “I am determined to be a part of that change.”

When she was growing up she had someone there for her at every turn. She wants to be that person for the people in this town. “If there is anything I can do to change the stigma associated with poverty, that’s what I want to do,” she says. “We have so many talented, smart people in this town that are homeless. We are not all given the same opportunities, and we are all just a breath away from being in their shoes.”

While most of the year is spent working with adults and helping them get back on their feet, Charvalla looks forward to working with the children during the holidays. “It’s nice to think about toys and adorable little outfits,” she says. “I can’t wait to see the kids in the parade in their cute little costumes.”

For anyone in the community looking to give back either during the holidays or anytime throughout the year, Charvalla West says there are countless opportunities. Whether it’s dropping off an extra packet of socks at the CRC or volunteering at one of the shelters, there’s always a way to help those in need. NDN



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# JIM MUNDY



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

# CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

By Cathy Welch

“Probably the most wonderful aspect of the Christmas Bazaar held annually at Bruton Parish Hall is the community support,” Jim Mundy says. “Nothing but smiles on everybody’s faces because it’s a very happy day.”

Born in Erie, Pennsylvania Jim is one of three children. His brother is a school teacher in Baltimore and his sister is the “head honcho” at Sprint in Kansas City. Jim’s parents were antique enthusiasts. His father collected antique locks and clocks. “In his retirement he had a shop to repair tall case clocks,” he says.

Jim earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Interior Design at the University of Cincinnati. Since it was a co-op university, he spent a year working for a Louisville, Kentucky design firm where he remained for a number of years. Later, Jim worked for a design firm that worked on the Philadelphia mainline, an expression for the bedroom communities reached by the commuter railroad going out from the city.

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“Basically, it was where all the wealth was,” he explains.

Jim moved to Colonial Williamsburg in 1983 to pursue the interior design position for the new Craft House on Duke of Gloucester Street. “It turns out that I was overly qualified,” Jim says. “A New York designer came down to open the shop, and I worked for him for a number of years.” Jim opened his own shop, called The Golden Strawberry, in 1985.

“I worked on a strawberry farm when I was younger to earn money for college,” he explains. “I’ve always loved strawberries. My parents bought me a golden vermeil strawberry at Tiffany on my 21st birthday. Playing, I said, if I ever have my own design business it’s going to be called The Golden Strawberry.”

The business, mostly a residential design firm, was located on Jamestown Road. His visibility in the community was part of the reason for his involvement in his current community work. “Because of my love of animals, I felt that there were so many areas in Williamsburg that were well covered,” he said of local charity efforts. “But the animals needed a voice also. That’s my love.”

He determined to point direction to animal

welfare, so he joined the Heritage Humane Society Auxiliary (HHS). “We are basically the fundraising arm of the shelter,” Jim, who is on the Board of Directors and past-president of the Auxiliary, says. “I’ve been involved with HHS for a little over 30 years.”

Jim is also a member of Bruton Parish Church which has graciously allowed HHS Auxiliary to hold their Christmas Bazaar at their highly-visible location since 2001. The fundraiser was originally called Under Santa’s Hat. The Auxiliary spends approximately 11 months out of the year working on the event held in Bruton Parish Church on Duke of Gloucester (DoG) Street. This year’s event will take place on December 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

People begin to line up for the bazaar at 7:30 a.m., and there will be Starbucks coffee offered outside for a donation to the Auxiliary. Last year, the fundraiser made \$800 on coffee alone.

“Last year we raised slightly over \$30,000,” Jim says. “The beauty of the Christmas Bazaar is that it’s incredibly fine quality in all aspects.” Almost everything featured at the bazaar is handcrafted. For the bake sale nothing is store-bought. Prior to the event, volunteers

spend two days beautifully packaging everything. “We probably raised \$6000 of our total amount last year through the bake sale,” he says. “That’s impressive.”

In addition to the bake sale, items offered at the bazaar include: books, jewelry, scarves, gifts of all types for pets and people and exciting raffle prizes. There is also a 50/50 raffle.

One of the main highlights of the Christmas Bazaar is the gourmet “soup kitchen” introduced in 2004. All of the soup is donated by 15 local chefs this year. For \$25 a person, shoppers get their choice of seasonal soup, an imported pottery bowl and a baguette graciously donated by Panera Bread.

Jim’s primary responsibility for the Christmas Bazaar is event setup, designing and decorating the outside and entrance. He also acts as an ambassador with the cashiers on event day and helps with writing up sales.

Another great feature of the bazaar is the selection of theme baskets. “For this year’s bazaar, I have created a Harry Potter basket, complete with all the films, books, scarves, socks, toys and candy,” he says of the baskets that will be raffle prizes and available for purchase. “That’s one of the things the Auxiliary does well, put-

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ting exciting theme baskets together.”

The approximately 100-member Auxiliary meets once a month for the entire year. The event is completely run by the volunteers with a link to HHS’ executive director, Kimberly Laska.

“The Christmas Bazaar makes the holiday special because it’s a fun event and there’s something for everyone,” Jim says.

Last year, there was a surprise visit from a Norfolk hockey team mascot. “He walked in and was wandering around and asking us what he was supposed to do,” Jim explains. “We were trying to figure out why he was here and it turns out he was supposed to do a children’s Christmas breakfast for Colonial Williamsburg.”

When the mascot realized his mistake, he offered to stay. “He was so wonderful and wandered around talking to the children and taking pictures with them.”

HHS is supported by other fundraisers throughout the year. In October, Colonial Williamsburg’s dog, a Briard named Liberty, led a dog walk down DoG Street along with a dog costume contest.

“Several of our shelter dogs who were up for adoption accompanied him and everybody else

walked behind them,” Jim says. “That was fantastic! A couple of the dogs actually got adopted that day and all the donations went to HHS.”

The other major fundraiser is a September golf tournament held at Colonial Heritage Golf Course. “We made about \$30,000 on that and had over one hundred players,” he says.

Jim’s love of animals certainly inspired his lifelong passion for one of Hungary’s national dogs, the Vizsla which has only been in the United States since 1965. His current Vizsla is six-year-old Roman. She is the fifth Vizsla he has raised. “I love Vizslas because of their personalities,” he explains. “They have always been raised within the family environment so they have great emotional qualities.”

Most of Jim’s exercise routine is walking Roman. “We don’t go on dog walks, we go on squirrel patrol,” he says. “If it’s a bad day, she chases two up a tree. If it’s a good day maybe four or five, and I almost have a dislocated arm.”

Jim loves theatre and all forms of art. He also loves antiques and shopping at thrift stores. Normally, he likes to vacation anywhere near water and his favorite countries are France and Italy. But, his upcoming Christmas vacation is

something out of his usual travel mode. “I’m going to South Korea for Christmas,” he says.

His friend and family, formerly stationed at Fort Eustis are now stationed in Seoul, South Korea. “We’re going to see The Nutcracker two days after I get there. I’m a big Nutcracker fan.”

He did the same thing for them last year, taking them to see the Richmond Ballet’s performance of the Christmas Classic.

Jim does enjoy life in Williamsburg.

“I think one of the most interesting facets of this area is that there are so many creative and talented people in the area,” Jim explains. “Someone painting a house might have an incredible background. I always tell my clients to realize that sometimes the people that are doing the electrical work or the floors or the plumbing might have college degrees and be very talented.”

Jim finds great reward as a volunteer for HHS Auxiliary.

“From my perspective, it’s giving back to the community,” he says. “Williamsburg is a very generous community when it comes to charities, and I felt the animal shelter needed my help more than other areas. Our four-legged friends need representation too.” NDN

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# JAMES CHAMBERLAIN



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

## Brass Craftsman

By Ryan Jones

*Without craftsmanship, inspiration is a mere reed shaken in the wind. - Johannes Brahms*

Fine craftsman James Chamberlain, originally from western Pennsylvania, has enjoyed living and working in the Williamsburg area for over thirty-two years. The unique atmosphere of the locale provides a favorable backdrop for



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both his brass making business and his holiday celebration. From a business perspective, Williamsburg's tendency to draw repeat visitors is a good fit for his niche as a craftsman. The Christmas season finds the streets teaming with sundry guests hoping to capture a different twist on the holiday, many of whom are in search of fine crafts to give as gifts. Local artisans such as James, combined with 18th century traditions and a smorgasbord of free local events help brand Williamsburg as a top destination in the United States to visit for the holidays.

Among the many celebrations that James enjoys attending is Christmas in Williamsburg, a fine arts and crafts show hosted the first weekend in December at William & Mary's Trinkle Hall. Free to the public, the event offers a gala display of holiday arts and crafts, including live music by Ardie Boggs and exhibitors from six states showing and selling handcrafted work such as fine art, jewelry, American folk art, shaker boxes, tin lighting, theorem paintings, oil paintings, Santa carvings, wearable art, baskets, pillows,

photography, quilts, Christmas décor, and, of course, James' hand-wrought brass work. This year, as in years past, James will have some of his best creations on display as part of the celebration.

"Year after year people come to the art show to purchase their gifts for the season," he says. "People look forward to choosing the perfect brass creation for their Christmas present. As far as we know, I am the only artist to create items such as candle holders, snuffers, cannons, and other objects out of solid brass."

The brass work James produces year-round is not easy to replicate. He says that each object, whether it be a mug or wine rack, bedroom clothes tree, bedspread holder, or other work of brass is formed without the use of molds or patterns during production.

"All of my work is hand wrought solid brass," he explains. "Each object is created on a lathe and a milling machine and then polished to perfection. The length of time required is different for each design, ranging from two hours for a straight modern candle holder to three-hundred hours for a cannon."

Yes, cannons. James creates several exact replicas of cannons that fire black powder, such types as Dahlgren, Brooke, Spanish and Revolutionary War cannons.

Although brass is not a precious metal, (such as gold or silver), James says it has been popular for thousands of years. He explains that, while brass was mentioned in sacred texts such as the Bible, the metal spoken of therein was probably bronze. True brass was used by the Romans to produce coins as early as 20 B.C. Several hundred years later, early Europeans were producing small quantities of brass and it was commonly used in England by the 16th century.

Given the influence of Colonial Williamsburg on the town culture and its emphasis on colonial-era trades, James concedes that much of the interest in brass locally includes its use during the 18th century.

"Most of the brass used in Colonial America was imported in sheets or ingots from England," he says. "The need for brass in the manufacturing of navigational instruments such as compasses, quadrants and sextants,



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spurred the development of the brass-working trade, the brazier, and, soon brass was used to produce many common items including bells, pins, clock parts, buttons, nails, and, of course, candlesticks, candle snuffers and wine racks.”

While brass objects do require a bit of care, a few tips from James make his creations more durable. “Depending upon the ratio of copper to zinc, brass has a wide range of colors (from pure copper color through yellow and to white) and malleability,” he says. “Brass will eventually tarnish upon exposure to air. Lacquering is not recommended as it will discolor in time and is difficult to remove. Instead, brass may be easily cleaned with a commercially available cleaner.”

While James says that he creates a variety of brass objects year-round, his orders for the holiday season tend to favor those that garnish the dinner table. “Many people order napkin rings and candle holders to give as gifts to friends and relatives,” he says, “but many also order them as gifts for themselves.”

James remembers one order that was particularly difficult to craft, a five-candle candelabra that took hundreds of hours to make. “But there was one happy person who received it,” he says.

When he is not busy making holiday gifts for guests and residents, James and his wife,

Juliet, enjoy taking time out to savor the sights and sounds of the season. “One of our favorite pastimes is getting out to see the natural Christmas decorations favored by Colonial Williamsburg residents,” he says, and with good reason. People from all over the country travel each year to walk the streets of the

“Most of the brass used in Colonial America was imported in sheets or ingots from England. The need for brass in the manufacturing of navigational instruments such as compasses, quadrants and sextants, spurred the development of the brass-working trade.”

~ James Chamberlain

historic area and take in the holiday decor. Though most of the decorations on Duke of Gloucester street and surrounding areas are more typical of the 1930s restoration period than the Colonial era, Colonial Williamsburg has won accolades year after year for the creativity exhibited by residents and staff in the production of homemade Christmas garnishes. Hand crafted wreaths and swags are hung on the doors and windows of restored colonial houses and decorated with everything from fruits and vegetables to herbs and nuts, some in spectacular fashion. Putlog holes, used during the 18th century to secure scaffolding in

the construction of brick buildings, are garnished with fresh apples. Particularly festive and elaborate wreaths are awarded prizes by a panel of judges in acknowledgment of the creative effort required to fashion and maintain the designs. “This tradition,” James says, “along with the Grand Illumination and the art show at Trinkle Hall are at the heart of the Christmas Spirit for us.”

To cap things off with a flourish, James says his holiday celebration culminates in a family dinner that mirrors one of the more popular Sunday meal selections in Old England, a traditional English roast served with a side of Yorkshire pudding (made from batter consisting of eggs, flour, and milk or water and then served with a gravy made from the beef drippings). “It brings all of us together,” he says.

Over the next few weeks, James Chamberlain will likely continue to stay busy in his brass shop, filling Christmas orders that will accentuate the holiday spirit for his clients. Whether he is crafting one of his custom-designed brass objects, strolling the streets of the historic area in search of hand-wrought Christmas décor, or enjoying a second helping of Old English repast, James says he looks forward to enjoying this holiday season as he has in many years past, in the company of family and friends. NDN



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# RANDY & ELAINE EMORY



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

## Winter Wonderland

By Brandy Centolanza

Frosty the Snowman. Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer. Charlie Brown. Mickey Mouse. They all like to hang out each holiday season on the lawn of Randy and Elaine Emory's home.

In 2006, Randy and Elaine created a scenic outdoor walk-through holiday lights and decoration display that has grown throughout the

last decade to include movies, music and holiday magic. Each Christmas since then, families, neighbors, friends and others in the community have trekked to the couple's home at 112 Timberwood Drive in Croaker to soak in the sights and sounds of the season. The house, dubbed "Emory's Winter Wonderland," has become a holiday attraction along the lines of

Busch Gardens' Christmas Town.

"I love Christmas," shares Randy, who grew up in Chesterfield County, Virginia, and is the mastermind behind the Wonderland. "When I was a little kid, my dad was always outside decorating. My parents always made Christmas so special."

Randy continued with the tradition of out-

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door holiday decorating well into adulthood. He's been at it for more than 30 years and was actively involved with the Tacky Lights Tour in Richmond for a few years before relocating to Williamsburg in 2006 after reuniting with Elaine, his high school sweetheart.

Elaine happily embraced Randy's obsession with Christmas decorating.

"I've also always loved Christmas," she says. "There are five of us in my family, and it was always a joyful time. I love when the family all get together, and I also love decorating for the holidays. Randy and I really encourage each other."

The Emorys started the display small, but it has grown steadily every year as they've added more lighting, signage, characters, inflatables and other décor. Randy scours end-of-the-season sales, shops the Internet, and even makes his own decorations for the yard.

"I love seeing people enjoy it so much," Randy says. "It keeps getting bigger and bigger each year. This is just my way of giving back to the community."

Their Winter Wonderland gained even more exposure in 2011 when WAVY News 10 declared it the winner of the station's Hampton

Roads Holiday Lights Contest.

"They flew a helicopter out here and got an aerial view of the house," Elaine recalls. "That was fascinating. We got a kick out of it. People saw it on TV, and then more people started coming around. It's been pretty neat."

Her husband calls winning that holiday lights contest "a real honor."

Randy is quite proud of all of the effort he's put into his Wonderland. About an acre of the property is adorned with holiday images. The yard is divided into sections with various themes. There is the North Pole with Santa Claus and his elves; Penguin Island, with numerous hand-made penguins (Randy made the penguins from plywood cutouts that Elaine later painted); a carnival scene with snowmen riding a Ferris wheel and bumper cars; and a more recent addition, Misfit Island featuring the characters from the holiday classic Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

"I love our Misfit Island," Elaine says. "Rudolph has always been my favorite Christmas cartoon."

As for Frosty, Charlie Brown, and Mickey Mouse, they can be found chilling in the backyard, along with Big Bird and Cookie

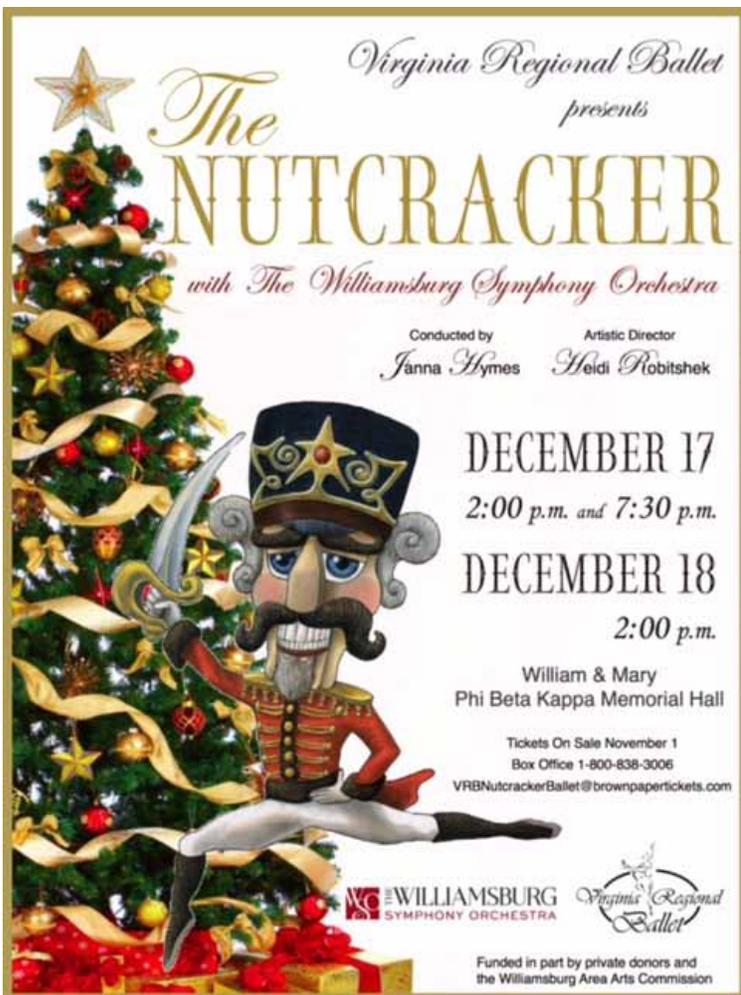
Monster from Sesame Street, and other pop culture characters. Santa Claus is also out back, fishing in an inflatable boat in the swimming pool.

"I think people like it so much because they can get out of their cars and walk around," says Randy, who has expanded the walkway through the years as more people started to visit. The walkway is wheel-chair accessible.

The Winter Wonderland also boasts Santa's workshop, a toy shop, a train station with snowmen riding along on movable trains, a life-sized gingerbread house, which Randy made from an old children's playhouse; and a movie theatre that broadcasts a holiday movie on an old movie projector with dolls in the audience who hold ticket stubs as well as bowls of real popcorn.

"I make the popcorn each year and put it in their little hands," Elaine says. "I put it in baggies so the squirrels don't eat it. We also made movie tickets for them. It's those little details that we like to add to it."

There is, of course, a Christmas tree: a 22-foot tree that stands in the garden, shimmering with 5,000 lights. At the center of it all, the Emorys have set up a Nativity scene in the



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middle of a flower bed in their front yard.

"That is the most important part of all of this," Randy states.

In all, the Emorys use more than 200,000 lights for the display. "Our light bill is in the four digits for the month, but it is worth it," Randy says.

Randy and Elaine begin decorating for the season on October 1. That's when they pull out all the attractions, which they store in an old horse stable in their backyard. The pair receive plenty of help from about a dozen or so family and friends, including Randy's brothers and nephews. Some travel down from the Richmond area to assist with the set up. A 16-year-old granddaughter who recently moved in with the Emorys is also eager to chip in. "She's very excited because she gets to help out this year," says Elaine.

Randy is responsible for all the wiring, while Elaine works to replace any broken or burned out light bulbs. It takes 17 circuit breakers to give the Wonderland its shine.

"I try to hide the extension cords because I don't want things to look too cluttered," Randy says.

"We have people who drive by as soon as we

start decorating in October to see what we may have that is new for the year," adds Elaine.

When they finally turn on the lights over Thanksgiving weekend, the fun begins. Weather permitting, the Emorys' head outside when guests arrive each night to greet them and experience the dazzling sights along with them.

"We have a bonfire going, we hand out candy canes, and we talk to people in the driveway," Elaine says. "We have a ball. Some people come with their kids in their pajamas on Christmas Eve because that is their tradition. We've watched children grow up over the years as they come back with their families, and that is special. Some people without kids also come to see it because they love it."

Locals and tourists from all over the country visit the Emorys' Winter Wonderland annually. Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops as well as nursing and retirement communities plan field trips there during the holiday season. Santa Claus even pays a visit on the last Saturday before Christmas Day. (This year, he arrives on December 17).

"They all have a blast," Elaine says. "It is always so much fun."

In 2014, Randy and Elaine were unable to

open their Winter Wonderland due to health issues, which disappointed Randy. "It was heartbreaking," he says. But, Randy and Elaine came back in full force last year with new decorations and determination.

"Last year, we had a Command Sergeant Major who told me that he had been all over the world and that this was the prettiest thing he had ever seen," Randy says. "That made me feel so good. We also had a little girl who told me that she had been praying all year for my health so that I could get better and do this again. I couldn't even speak when she told me that. That is what makes this all so worth it."

The Emorys' Winter Wonderland runs this year from November 27 through December 30. The couple asks visitors to bring a canned food item for donation to a local food bank or an unopened toy for Toys for Tots.

Randy and Elaine are gearing up for the new season. New features this year will include a holiday Star Wars area as well as new additions to the penguin display, the train station, the movie theatre, and Misfit Island. "Who know what else might appear in our yard before the lights go on," Randy says. "I just love Christmas. It is such a happy time of year." NDN



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When Sinjin Unnam was born at a mere 26 weeks, his parents were unprepared for the arduous journey ahead of them.

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*"Our therapists never made any promises to us. What they did do was show us how to help our son reach his potential."*

**Sinjin's mom, Vasu**

With the tireless support of his parents, along with CDR's speech, occupational, and physical therapists, Sinjin rose to the many challenges facing him. By the age of 2 1/2 he had learned to crawl, walk, run, and talk. "The joys of seeing your child reach traditional milestones is invaluable," says Vasu.

"I would not wish having a child with a disability or developmental delay on any parent," Vasu says. "But if they find themselves in that circumstance, I would wish that their child was taken care of by such kind and knowledgeable professionals as those at CDR."

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*Sinjin as an infant*



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# YOUNG & OLD



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

By Gail Dillon

Anna Buck remembers when her toddler, daughter Afton, was six months old and how she would smile at older women when they went to Trader Joe's. Afton continues to make people smile every week at Patriots Colony at Williamsburg, where Anna takes her on a weekly basis. "I thought that if she made independent people that happy at the grocery store, she would bring even more joy to people who were away from their families," she says.

Anna's older sister inspired her to volunteer at a nursing home with Afton. When her sister's own daughter was an infant, she took her to visit a local convalescent center in Hampton. The idea came to her after a woman from her church mentioned doing it. "It just sounded like a good way to give back," Anna says. "Because you can't volunteer too many places with a baby."

Originally from Virginia Beach, Anna and

her husband, Michael, moved to the Williamsburg area about five years ago, soon after they married. They met at Virginia Tech as college students, where Anna earned a Degree in Sociology.

"I'm interested in people and why they do what they do in groups," she says, explaining that she previously worked for a research company as a data collector. "We would interview drivers. We would go to car crashes and ask

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them questions.” The study focused on drunk driving, so Anna and her team worked closely with the Virginia Beach Police Department to gather the information. “It could be stressful,” she admits, although to her surprise, many people were willing to participate.

More recently, she worked gathering data for a national roadside survey which had her visiting different states and interviewing a large number of people. Anna says she believes there’s a connection between her love for sociology and volunteering at Patriots Colony.

“Sociology taught me that all groups within a community are significant,” she says. “It is easy for some to see the elderly as ‘role less,’ but I believe it is important to interact with them and that we can learn a lot from those inter-

actions, even if just a heightened appreciation for getting to know a group of people that can seem so different from ourselves.”

One of the reasons volunteering at Patriots

“Sociology has taught me that when people feel more connected to their community, the community thrives, and also that every group within a community is important.”

~ Anna Buck

Colony was attractive to her. It was the marriage of convenience and the benefits of helping out in the local community. “I found it to be a great way to get involved in the communi-

ty again, which can be hard as a stay-at-home mom with a small baby,” she says. “It’s great that we can do this, and I think it’s been equally rewarding for Afton and the residents.” She had previously volunteered at the James City County Social Services for a few months, as well as the Heritage Humane Society and enjoyed both places but knew she needed a setting more conducive for a baby once Afton came along.

About ten residents gather in the common room when Afton and Anna come, usually on Tuesday afternoons around 3 p.m. Most are struggling with either dementia or Alzheimer’s disease, which affects their ability to remember things, but Anna says it really doesn’t matter in the long run. “I think that when we first started going, it sometimes made me sadder knowing the residents didn’t



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remember us from week to week or even what we had talked about a few minutes prior, but as I got to know their personalities better, I no longer felt this way because I knew how to talk with them and the things I could ask.”

Anna’s mother was diagnosed with dementia a few years ago, and at 60 years old, requires near constant care from her husband, Anna’s father. Her mother isn’t as severely affected as most of the residents they spend time with at Patriots Colony but she knows it’s just a matter of time.

“I’d say in the last year, she has gotten worse,” Anna says. “It was initially hard to see people further down the road with their dementia knowing my mom will have similar problems one day, if not quite yet. But, now that I know some of them a bit more, I see them as the people they are instead of ‘other people with dementia’ who remind me of my mom.” Anna says she has heard the same stories repeated often, such as how one of the male residents used to earn money in the winter shoveling snow but that “kids don’t do this anymore.”

I do sometimes get quizzed on what he tells us but the fourth time we hear a story, I’m pretty good at answering his questions,” she says with a laugh. Afton looks forward to their weekly visits with the Patriot Colony residents, often laughing and saying “woohoo” when they stop at the security booth.

Besides dancing and exuding her abundant little-girl charm, Afton and the female residents often play with baby dolls together or toss a beach ball back and forth. She also gives

hugs and kisses to many of her admirers and basks in their attention. During the holidays, Anna dresses Afton up a bit more than usual and says the festivity of the season makes visiting even more fun. “The nursing home itself is always decorated for the holidays, and they will sometimes play music,” she says. She’s not sure the elderly people know why there are decorations and parties but suspects they grasp the spirit of the season. “I think some of the residents are aware of the holidays, or at least benefit from the extra events and fun going on.”

Anna is nearly nine months pregnant with her second child, another girl whom they’ll name Ivy. She says this pregnancy has been more challenging for her than the first one, but now that she’s in the home stretch, she feels optimistic and excited to meet the new addition to their family. Volunteering at Patriots Colony with two small children will be more complicated but Anna plans to continue the tradition after a few months of “nesting” at home.

“Coming back to Patriots Colony with two kids will hopefully be a comfortable way to ease back into getting out of the house for an enjoyable activity,” she says. “I’m sure Afton will be happy to see her friends again, and we will all benefit from the social interactions. Ivy will be their youngest volunteer yet!”

Looking far into the future, Anna says if she’s ever in a nursing home, she would most likely love having babies and small children visit. “I think any visitors would be appreciated, but of course, cute babies even more so,”

she says. “It’s also nice because we would not all have to try to carry on conversation when it may be mentally or physically challenging. Smiling and playing are enough when a baby is involved.” She points out that on several occasions a resident who rarely speaks would smile and greet Afton. “Babies and small children have a way of reaching people more than we can sometimes.”

Spending time with elderly people has helped Anna Buck see beyond their outer facades and discover the interesting lives they’ve lived. “We have met veterans, former teachers, police officers and mathematicians,” she says. “While they don’t remember much of those old days, I believe it’s important for Afton and myself to know how involved they were in their communities, and that while we may witness them in different moments now, we know they lived full and rich lives.”

“Sociology has taught me that when people feel more connected to their community, the community thrives, and also that every group within a community is important. I think it’s necessary we do not forget about the elderly population, even though many think they do not have as important a role within society. Engaging them helps them continue to feel happy and needed, and by volunteering with them, we have learned from them as well. At PC we have met veterans, former teachers, police officers, and mathematicians. While they don’t remember much of those old days, it’s a positive thing for both Afton and myself to learn how important and involved they were in their communities.” NDN

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# First Night

WILLIAMSBURG



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

By Wynne Bowman

On December 31, 2016, a Williamsburg tradition will ring in the New Year as it has for more than two decades. With the help of Susan Tisdale, a Virginia native who has found her home in Williamsburg, First Night Williamsburg will welcome the year 2017 with a revitalized momentum. Scattered around town, neighbors and visitors will find profes-

sional musicians, captivating story-tellers, local cuisine and bright fireworks, and Susan is helping to make it all possible.

“My hope for this year’s event is that more people who have never experienced it, will be able to experience it this year,” she says, inviting everyone to join in on the fun. “I really want people to understand there is going to

be something for everybody here.”

Susan, grew up in Richmond and graduated from Longwood University with a Degree in Business Administration. After spending time in Washington D.C. working for Dominion Power and the Department of Energy, Susan relocated to Williamsburg in 1995 after she married. She happily lives in Williamsburg to-



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day with her husband, now business partner, Richard Tisdale.

“When I first started volunteering, I tried to learn as much as I could from the volunteers who had worked before me. I didn’t realize how hard everyone worked for this event until I got involved. It’s been amazing to be a part of it,” she gratefully explains.

Susan began volunteering for First Night Williamsburg in October 2015 and has been a significant contribution to the upcoming event. As the vice president of marketing and communications for First Night Williamsburg, she has not only been responsible for promoting the event through social media, marketing packages and word of mouth, but she is also in command of First Night’s website development.

Susan’s 20 years of experience in website development, which are currently benefiting First Night Williamsburg, come from Web Development Technology Partners, Inc. (WDTP) - a company that Susan started as an out-of-home graphic design business in 1996.

Around this time, Richard was working as a

mechanical engineer for Fleet Technical Support Center Atlantic when he became interested in web application development. After Richard decided to join Susan in her business endeavor, the young couple gained their first web client in 1998. “The client list just continued to grow,” she explains, and in a suite off Jamestown Road, WDTP serves as a business that continues to gain momentum in the Williamsburg area. “He is the reason why it has been so successful,” Susan says humbly about her husband of 21 years, who was born and raised in Williamsburg. Together, the couple has two daughters, one, a freshman at Longwood University, the other, a freshman at Jamestown High School.

Family-friendly fun, which she seems to carry with her, is a big motivator for Susan. “I love that First Night keeps a family-friendly focus,” she says. “This is definitely something that attracted me to be part of the event.”

With winter approaching, Susan has her mind on First Night, but also on the ski slopes. “I like to snow ski and I love to travel.” Her family spends time on the slopes of

Seven Springs, Pennsylvania. However, there is another place that has a strong hold on her heart. “I love Disney World and Universal Studios,” she says, smiling. “I used to use the kids as an excuse to go, but now that they are older, I have had to fess up.” Susan has been to “The Happiest Place on Earth” more times than she can count. Her ventures to Disney World will remain consistent regardless of her daughters’ ages, but Susan’s ventures at home have grown with her family.

“As the kids have grown older,” she explains, “I have realized I have more time to spend volunteering and helping out the community.” Susan found the opportunity with First Night Williamsburg through Volunteer Williamsburg, a volunteering database created in 2006 by WDTP.

Because Susan was one of the creators of Volunteer Williamsburg, she had established a “test-user” account which was never deactivated. It was typical for Susan to receive an alert for each entry to the volunteering database, but in October 2015, one alert grabbed her attention. “When I saw the marketing po-

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sition with First Night was open, I had this desire to help move the event and website into a new direction,” says Susan, who almost immediately became a member of the Board of Directors for First Night Williamsburg.

“I didn’t feel they were getting the exposure they could,” she says, speaking about one of the highest volume ticketed events in Williamsburg. When responding to the volunteer opportunity online, Susan noticed the First Night website had a potential that it had not yet reached. “I really wanted to help.” And she did. [Firstnightwilliamsburg.org](http://Firstnightwilliamsburg.org) is updated in style with any information needed.

Susan’s favorite part of her work for First Night is the chance to build an event that benefits people of every age. “We’ve really worked on a ‘rebranding’ this year. Our focus is on diversity and making sure everyone feels welcome.”

“I love Williamsburg,” she says while describing the amazing experience it has been to help coordinate First Night. Susan gets her inspiration from the people and energy around her:

“Everyone here has ended up dedicating so much of their own time to make this event a great one, and it’s been amazing to see.” The board is made up of 14 people, and they meet every month throughout the year. These volunteers are responsible for establishing contracts and meeting with facilitators to make sure the event runs smoothly.

To assist First Night Williamsburg in taking on a new energy, Susan collaborated with local non-profit, CultureFix. CultureFix is a newly established non-profit that focuses on the vitality of the Greater Williamsburg area. “Being able to provide a culturally diverse program in this area is really gratifying,” she says happily.

As President of WDPT, Susan was able to provide, at no cost, a new logo and new button design, a re-vamped website, social media management and an array of print materials used for banners, advertisements and more.

First Night Williamsburg is a volunteer-based event that is funded by donations, grants and the volunteers themselves. “My goal is to make this event community sup-

ported,” Susan explains, welcoming anyone who wants to join the team. The alcohol-free event runs from 3:30 p.m. to midnight on New Year’s Eve, with tickets available online and at participating locations including the CW Visitors Center, Kimball Theatre, the Williamsburg Regional Library and more.

This year, with Susan Woodcock Tisdale’s drive and the dedication of other volunteers, First Night Williamsburg will be a celebration that spans over ten local venues, showcases 30 professional entertaining and musical acts, and provides plenty of tasty treats supplied by food trucks. Susan has worked for more than a year to assure that all of Williamsburg is welcome to the party, which will end with a bang of fireworks at Zable Stadium. NDN

*For anyone concerned about cost, there is no need to worry. Those who volunteer for just two hours at any point during the event will receive free admission to all acts. Check online for information on volunteering, admission, and more: [FirstNightWilliamsburg.org](http://FirstNightWilliamsburg.org).*



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## Building A Career in Music

By Lillian Stevens

Rebecca Davy says that she cannot imagine the holidays without music. "To me, music is such an important part of Christmas," she says. Indeed, music has been and will always be a central part of Rebecca's life.

Many locals know her as the organist and

choir director at Bruton Parish Episcopal Church on historic Duke of Gloucester Street. Earlier this year, Rebecca was named director of the Williamsburg Women's Chorus. She also heads up the Sir Christopher Wren Chapel historic organ concert series, playing about 90

percent of those concerts herself.

For those living in greater Williamsburg, or visiting over the coming weeks, there will be many occasions to experience some of the music that is near and dear to Rebecca's heart. From Saturday concerts at the Wren Chapel, to

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Sunday services at Bruton Parish, opportunities abound. She especially looks forward to the annual holiday concert that the Williamsburg Women's Chorus will perform on Tuesday, December 6 at Walnut Hills Baptist Church.

She's a busy lady, year-round.

At Bruton Parish, Rebecca heads up three adult choirs and a hand bell choir. She also plans liturgy, serves as organist for weekly services, and oversees more than 130 Candlelight Concerts each year. With the exception of two months (January and February, when they cut back slightly), the Candlelight Concerts are held every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday night. "We bring in musicians from all over, even from Europe, who come to perform here," Rebecca says.

As their name suggests, the concerts are held under candlelight, include an hour of classical music and are quite varied.

"Next week I will play with a recorder and a Baroque cellist from Seattle. In November, I'll play with an oboist. Then, in the spring, we tend to have choirs that come to perform."

At William & Mary, just a stone's throw from Bruton Parish, Rebecca oversees and plays weekend organ recitals in the Wren Cha-

pel. The Chapel organ, which is on loan to William & Mary from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, is a valuable eighteenth-century instrument which is uniquely suited to the space. The terms of the loan stipulate that wedding organists must be selected from the Foundation's list of approved organists. Rebecca is one of five such organists.

In the 1950s, the magnificent pipe organ was purchased by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Initially, it was kept in the Governor's Palace, then the Williamsburg Lodge.

"It came to the Chapel in 1970," Rebecca says. "CW was very much about making sure this organ gets heard, so they came up with the idea of Saturday morning concerts. The concerts have faithfully continued for many years now."

"My predecessor, Jack Darling, began the Wren concert series 46 years ago, when the instrument was brought to the Wren," she says. The Wren concerts, which are open to the public without charge, are held every Saturday morning from 10:00 to 10:30.

Ask her what her real musical love is, though, and Rebecca will tell you that it's choral music, so it's not surprising that she has been steadfast

member (now director) of the Williamsburg Women's Chorus.

This group traces its roots back to 1965 when twelve members of a group then called the Wednesday Morning Music Club decided they wanted to see more of one another, and maybe try some singing. The women began gathering in one another's homes two mornings a month, borrowing music from local libraries for soprano and alto voices.

By spring of the following year, the choral group had attracted more members and more attention, performing for the Woman's Club of Williamsburg and on campus at W&M in the Wren Chapel.

Today, the Williamsburg Women's Chorus is over 50 women strong. Many things have changed over the years, but one thing has not changed, the sisterhood and joy they experience each week when they come together to unite voices in glorious, spirited song.

"I joined the choir several years ago to have the opportunity to sing," Rebecca says. "There are varying levels of abilities in the group, from near professionals to rank amateurs. Members have to be able to match pitch, have a pleasant voice, and generally be able to read music be-

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cause it is challenging music that we do.”

The Chorus performs two large concerts each year, one in May and the holiday concert in December.

“Our holiday concert at Walnut Hills Baptist Church will also include the Williamsburg Youth Chorale,” she says. “We’ll also have Barbara Chapman, Virginia Symphony harpist.”

The main program includes Britain’s Ceremony of Carols which is done with harp, followed by other holiday and winter pieces. The Youth Chorale will sing some pieces then all will join together for a few pieces, including some caroling with the audience joining in.

In addition to performing, directing and singing, Rebecca teaches a free veterans’ piano class at W&M every Saturday. “This is something that is very important to me,” she says. “I teach especially with the idea in mind that some return from the battlefields with scars we can’t see. These classes are funded through donations, so they are free to our veterans.”

It sounds like Rebecca has a lot on her plate, but music is a passion that dates to her childhood.

“We had a piano,” she says. “It was an up-

right baby grand that belonged to my grandmother, so, I started with piano lessons when I was nine.”

Rebecca says that neither of her parents were particularly musical. They did believe, however, that each of their five offspring should have some musical education. So, at the age of nine, she began piano lessons. By age ten, she knew the organ beckoned. It’s pretty unusual for a 10-year old to take on the organ, as budding organists tend to have a substantial amount of piano background before beginning organ lessons.

“We lived in a very small town of approximately 400 people,” she says. There was a lady in our church who took occasional organ lessons in Spokane, which was 100 miles away. She told my parents if they would find me an instrument to practice on, she and her husband would pay for my lessons. My parents bought an electronic organ, and this couple paid for my lessons all the way through high school and my parents drove me 200 miles round trip every week for organ lessons in Spokane.”

By the time she was 11, Rebecca was playing for church services in her home church, start-

ing with services during Lent. “It was a small church,” she says with a laugh.

After high school, Rebecca went on to earn her Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance at the University of Puget Sound, followed by two master’s degrees (one in organ performance, the other in music history) from the University of Southern California (USC), where she completed additional theory and history studies, concentrating on early 20th-century music.

USC is also where Rebecca met her husband, Greg. The couple has three children, all of them musically and artistically inclined. “Our son took lessons and is working in theater,” she says. “We have a second child at VCU studying trombone, and another in high school who loves to sing.”

As her children spread their own wings, Rebecca looks forward to the years to come. She doesn’t envision any dramatic changes.

“This is a gem job,” Rebecca Davy says. “I feel we have a very supportive church and a very supportive community. There are so many opportunities to perform, and the culture here in this small town is just remarkable.” NDN

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# Santa Calling

By Ryan Jones

Do you believe in Santa Claus? Joy Johnson does. Many adults in the Williamsburg area may recall shuffling through long department store lines as children, waiting a half hour or more for a turn to perch on Santa's knee. Some may also recall that he was wise enough to enlist the help of a few of his elves to tend the masses. Though Santa has a remarkable knack for remembering the jumbled Christ-

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mas wishes of hundreds of children, he needs a bit of assistance from time to time in organizing his schedule. In Williamsburg, he has no greater ally than Joy. As the Special Events Coordinator for James City County Parks and Recreation (JCCPR), Joy is able to join in the Christmas celebration with many local families as she heads up two popular events, "Breakfast with Santa" and "Santa Calling."

"Both activities are so much fun," she says. "I feel like the events we plan are great additions to the community, along with the many other holiday attractions throughout the area."

The Breakfast with Santa event has caught on well in Williamsburg and James City County, as evidenced by the speed at which the registration list fills up. Despite the fact that there are similar activities around the area, Joy says she sees repeat visitors attending the JCCPR breakfast year after year.

"Yes, spaces fill very quickly," she says. "The event features Christmas carols sung by the Tono Middle School Hart Beats while families enjoy a buffet style breakfast. Afterward, Santa and Mrs. Claus read 'Twas the Night Before

Christmas and each child gets a photo with Santa and a special gift to take home."

Unique to the area is the Santa Calling event. This activity offers a personal touch to the holidays that is hard to emulate in a group setting. It is one thing to enjoy a few hours with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the company of others. It is an entirely different matter for a child to pick up the phone and find that the person on the other end is Santa himself.

"No other organization that I am aware of offers calls from Santa and Mrs. Claus," Joy says. "For this event, we seek between 16-18 adult volunteers and couples to play the part of Santa and Mrs. Claus. Volunteers make calls to children ages nine and younger living in James City County and Williamsburg. Registration forms become available on November 1 through the JCCPR website. Registration can also be completed at all Parks and Recreation payment locations or through the JCC schools online flyer distribution system."

The origins of the Santa we recognize at events like Breakfast with Santa and Santa Calling can be traced back to a kindly bishop

named Saint Nicholas who lived in Asia Minor during the 4th Century. Having garnered a large inheritance after the loss of his parents, Saint Nicholas became widely recognized for his propensity to help the poor and bestow secret gifts. While modern day Santa has evolved into a piecemeal concoction of different legends across the globe, the mindset behind the folklore remains consistent with its original spirit: It is better to give than receive. While Joy is happy to play a key role in the implementation of activities that reflect such values, she says that the Christmas spirit she shares with her co-workers is not limited to event planning.

"I love how festive our office gets during the holidays," she says. "We have an annual Grand Illumination within the office where everyone decorates their doors and the common areas. We put up two Christmas trees and bring in ornaments to decorate them, and of course, we recycle the older garnishes. It's a great time. We also have an Elf on the Shelf that makes an appearance on December 1. He causes a great deal of mischief throughout the office. Good times!"



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Juggling work and family during the holidays while also attending weekend events can be demanding, especially since Joy and her husband, Eric, are expecting a new addition to the family. Joy says she manages the diverse roles she plays using the same skill set she relies on for planning events.

“Time management is key,” she says. “This year will be a bit easier since I will be out on maternity leave. However, my co-workers are truly like family to me. We do have a couple of events in the month of December, one of them being on a weekend, but I love to work them. The events help to keep the holiday spirit alive for Williamsburg and James City County residents.”

Joy says her zeal for helping other people feel the spirit of the season has roots in her own childhood experiences. A native of northern Virginia, she remembers looking forward each year to her family’s holiday drive to the mountains in the far-western quadrant of the state.

“My favorite Christmas memory would have to be the long drive to Martinsville to visit my grandmother,” she says. “Because of the ter-

rain, it really was ‘over the river and through the woods’ as we listened to a variety of Christmas music in the car. My favorite music hand-down was the Chipmunks Christmas CD. And we always stopped halfway along the drive at a Dairy Queen for snacks. They have the best hot dogs and ice cream ever!”

These days, Joy says she enjoys creating her own traditions with her husband and daughter.

“Now that I’ve started my own family, we have different holiday pastimes. One tradition Eric and I started with our daughter is to give her a Christmas Eve box. The box includes her favorite snacks, a movie and pajamas to wear that night through Christmas morning. She loves it.”

Joy says the holidays in Williamsburg are made unique, and unpredictable by the shifting weather patterns in the area. Coastal climate tendencies play a major factor in determining the severity of the winter season in southeastern Virginia. Many residents, especially transplants from colder locales, might agree that Christmas in Williamsburg can be visualized with both snowplows and sunscreen,

depending on the mood of the prevailing wind currents.

“Celebrating Christmas in the area is unique because you never know what the weather will be like,” she says. “You are never guaranteed a white Christmas. In northern Virginia and Martinsville, you have to bundle up because both areas are cold, cold, cold!”

As Joy continues to count down the days until Christmas, she will likely enhance her enjoyment of the season as she did as a child, with family, friends and music. Front and center of her focus will be the anticipated arrival of a new son or daughter. With so much to look forward to this year, Joy may find herself a bit wistful when the tinsel comes down and Christmas music gives way to “Auld Lang Syne.” Does she have a favorite carol that she feels will help her capture the moment?

“Of course!” Joy Johnson says. “You know my favorite carol has got to be ‘Joy to the World.’ But one thing I always try to remember to set the tone for the holiday spirit is that old adage many have heard before: It is better to give than receive.” NDN



  
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## HOLIDAY CALENDAR



You and your family can enjoy the magic of the holidays by experiencing many of the wonderful things there are to do right here at home. Enjoy this convenient sampling of holiday happenings.

**Please visit the website above for additional events, specific information on admission, times and location.**

### **CHRISTMAS TOWN AT BUSCH GARDENS®**

November 25 thru January 2

Venue: Busch Gardens Williamsburg 1 Busch Gardens Blvd., Williamsburg, VA 23185  
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### **STAR OF WONDER: MYSTERY OF THE CHRISTMAS STAR**

Now thru December 31, 2016

Venue: Virginia Living Museum 524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd. Newport News, VA 23601  
Experience the journey of the Magi around you in the Virginia Living Museum's state-of-the-art digital planetarium theater! Since 1965, the museum has journeyed in the footsteps of the Magi. Over the years, the scientific thinking has changed, archaeology has revealed new clues, and our understanding of who the Magi might actually

have been has grown. The show was completely revised in 2008 to offer a truly immersive look at the journey of the magi while examining the latest clues and seeking once more to understand the appearance of the Star of Bethlehem. Recommended age 8 and above. Days and times vary. \$4 in addition to museum admission. Detailed schedule at thevlm.org. The museum is closed Thanksgiving, Dec. 24 and 25.

### **LASER HOLIDAYS AT THE VIRGINIA LIVING MUSEUM**

Now - December 31, 2016

Venue: Virginia Living Museum 524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd. Newport News, VA 23601  
Get into the holiday spirit with the music of the season and dazzling laser effects in this laser program at the Virginia Living Museum! Featuring classic holiday favorites like Burl Ives' "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," modern hits like Randy Travis' "Jingle Bell Rock," and unique reimaginings of timeless songs like Enya's beautiful "Oiche Chiun (Silent Night)," this delightful program is fun for the whole family. It's an animated Christmas light display like no other you've ever seen! Recommended for ages 6 and above. Days and times vary. \$4 in addition to museum admission. Detailed schedule at thevlm.org. The museum is closed Thanksgiving, Dec. 24 and 25.

### **HOLIDAY EVENING AT THE VIRGINIA LIVING**

### **MUSEUM PLANETARIUM**

November 26 & December 17

Venue: Virginia Living Museum 524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd. Newport News, VA 23601  
Experience the journey of the Magi around you in the Virginia Living Museum's "Star of Wonder: Mystery of the Christmas Star." Presented since 1965, the show was completely revised in 2008 to offer a truly immersive look at the journey of the magi while examining the latest clues and seeking once more to understand the appearance of the Star of Bethlehem. Get into the holiday spirit with the music of the season and dazzling laser effects in "Laser Holidays! Featuring classic holiday favorites like Burl Ives' "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," modern hits like Randy Travis' "Jingle Bell Rock," and unique reimaginings of timeless songs like Enya's beautiful "Oiche Chiun (Silent Night)," this delightful program is fun for the whole family. It's an animated Christmas light display like no other you've ever seen! See "Star of Wonder" at 5:30 p.m. and "Laser Holidays" at 6:30 p.m. Shows \$6 per person.

### **DOMINION PRESENTS LIBERTY'S ICE PAVILION**

Now - February 20, 2017

Venue: Colonial Williamsburg-Duke of Gloucester Street Williamsburg, VA 23185  
Enjoy a family-friendly activity this holiday season on historic Duke of Gloucester St. Join us at Liberty's Ice Pavilion sponsored by Dominion. Experience

the sights, sounds and smells of the holidays with a few turns on the ice. Even if you don't skate, you can still enjoy watching the skaters, sipping on a cup of American Heritage Hot Chocolate or Chowning's hot cider and relaxing to the sounds of musical performances from many local and area choirs and music ensembles.

### **A COLONIAL CHRISTMAS AT JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT**

December 1 - 31, 2016

Venue: Jamestown Settlement 2110 Jamestown Road Williamsburg, VA 23185  
Experience centuries-old holiday traditions and, December 23-31, festivities featuring period musical entertainment and appearances at Jamestown Settlement by the Lord of Misrule. A Jamestown Settlement holiday film and interpretive programs compare and contrast English Christmas customs of the period with how the season may have been observed in the difficult early years of the Jamestown colony. Save 20% with a combination ticket with the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Free parking. Tickets and packages are available with other Williamsburg attractions. Visit the gift shops and dine in cafes. Closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

### **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

December 2, 2016

Venue: Riverwalk Landing 331 Water Street, Yorktown, VA

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A tradition that began in 1945 continues with the Yorktown Tree Lighting. Evening highlights include a 7 pm performance by the Fifes and Drums of York Town at the Victory Monument, festive music at Riverwalk Landing, the procession of lights through the historic village, and the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus. Free. 757.890.3500

**GREATER WILLIAMSBURG CHAMBER & TOURISM ALLIANCE 2016 CHRISTMAS PARADE!**

December 3, 2016

Venue: Richmond Road Williamsburg, Va 23185

Join us for the annual Williamsburg Christmas Parade. This year our theme is "The Night Before Christmas". This wonderful tradition includes all the things you remember from your hometown parade. High School bands, floats, antique cars, animals, and a surprise guest complete with his sleigh. Come join Greater Williamsburg as we kick off our Christmas season with this time honored tradition. The parade will start at Brooks Street & Richmond Road proceed down Richmond Road to the first block of Merchants Square

**THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY POPS**

December 3 - 4, 2016

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra presents its annual Holiday Pops Concert during Colonial Williamsburg's Grand Illumination weekend. Come enjoy a festive program of seasonal music to delight the whole family. Conducted by Music Director Janna Hymes. December 3 & 4, 2016, at 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm each day. Tickets \$30. Order tickets through Colonial Williamsburg at: <https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/do/kimball-theatre/>

**CHRISTMAS TOWN DASH 8K AND FUN RUN**

December 4, 2016

Venue: Busch Gardens Williamsburg 1 Busch Gardens Boulevard Williamsburg, VA 23185

Enjoy the sights, smells, and sounds of Christmas as you wind your way through the world's most beautiful theme park in this exciting 8K run through the wonderfully decorated Christmas Town at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, VA. 8K Registration includes: Long sleeve shirt, Finisher medal that doubles as a Christmas ornament! Chick-fil-A coupon, 50% ticket for Christmas Town, Day Pass for 2017 Summer Season, Post-race food & hot chocolate.

**THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY POPS**

December 3 - 4, 2016

Venue: Kimball Theatre in Merchants Square 24 W. Duke of Gloucester St. Williamsburg, VA 23185 The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra presents its annual Holiday Pops Concert during Colonial Williamsburg's Grand Illumination weekend. Come enjoy a festive program of seasonal music to delight the whole family. Conducted by Music Director Janna Hymes. December 3 & 4, 2016, at 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm each day. Tickets \$30. Order tickets through Colonial Williamsburg at: <https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/do/kimball-theatre/>

**HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AT THE WILLIAMSBURG WINERY**

December 4, 2016

Venue: Williamsburg Winery 5800 Wessex Hundred Williamsburg, VA 23185

The holiday season is a time to create lifelong memories with friends and family. Join the Williamsburg Winery for a memorable afternoon of wine, food and live music with the Holiday Celebration at the Williamsburg Winery. Enjoy holiday-themed small plates inspired by the world-class bounty of Virginia and toast the season with delicious Williamsburg Winery wine all while the 504 Supreme

sets the mood with live holiday jazz. The transportation provides round-trip transfer from our Holiday Celebration at The Williamsburg Winery, Sunday, December 4th, to the Grand Illumination in Colonial Williamsburg. No worries about where to find parking!

You may attend the Holiday Celebration and the shuttle transfer or select what best meets your needs.

**TEA WITH KLARA AND HER NUTCRACKER FRIENDS**

December 4, 2016

Venue: Williamsburg Community Building 401 N. Boundary Street Williamsburg, VA 23185 The Virginia Regional Ballet presents its 2nd annual Tea With Klara and her Nutcracker Friends. Enjoy refreshments, crafts, and dancing with Klara and many other characters from the beloved "The Nutcracker" ballet. A treat for children and their chaperones to interact with ballerinas who will perform the Nutcracker on December 17th and 18th, 2016, at William & Mary's Phi Beta Kappa Hall. Tickets \$18; on sale November 1, 2016, through Virginia Regional Ballet at: <https://dancevr.com/tea-with-klara/>

**COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG GRAND ILLUMINATION**

December 4, 2016

Venue: Colonial Williamsburg-Palace Green Williamsburg, VA 23185

Join Colonial Williamsburg for this special day by strolling the Revolutionary City and viewing all the unique decorations. Enjoy musical performances from multiple stages and delight in the fireworks displays from the Capitol, Magazine and the Governor's Palace.

**ORIGINS OF CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AND SONGS**

December 8, 2016

Venue: Hennage Auditorium 326 W. Francis St. Williamsburg, VA 23185 The way we celebrate Christmas has developed over many centuries and borrowed from many different traditions.

Discover musical examples from several centuries with fiddler John Turner and multi-instrumentalist Kelly Kennedy. (1 hour) \$7 program ticket required in addition to museum admission

**THE KING'S SINGERS**

December 17, 2016

Venue: Williamsburg Presbyterian Church 215 Richmond Rd. Williamsburg, VA 23185

Enjoy an extraordinary evening of holiday music by this peerless male vocal ensemble! The Grammy Award winning King's Singers have thrilled audiences around the world and won a place in the Gramophone Hall of Fame. In these eagerly anticipated performances, the group will perform holiday classics from across the centuries, from medieval sacred music to seasonal favorites from the Great American Songbook—interspersed with dramatic readings that summon the spirit of the season. Experience an ensemble "unmatched for their sheer musicality and ability to entertain" (The Times, London). Tickets are limited—order now!

**THE NUTCRACKER BALLET WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

December 17 & 18, 2016

Venue: Phi Beta Kappa Hall at William & Mary 601 Jamestown Road Williamsburg, VA 23185

Virginia Regional Ballet, a not for profit organization comprised of Virginia Regional Ballet Academy's most promising student and area professionals will be performing it's 10th annual production of The Nutcracker Ballet on December 17th and 18th with The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra and guest principal dancers from the New York City Ballet at the College of William & Mary. Former artistic director of The Chamber Ballet for 35 years and VRB's artistic director since 2006, Heidi Robitshek's Nutcracker production has been a Williamsburg tradition for over 35 years, each year more magnificent than the last. <http://dancevr.com/nutcracker/>

Visit [ChristmasinWilliamsburg.com](http://ChristmasinWilliamsburg.com) for an up-to-date list of local happenings.



Corey Miller Photography

# BREAKING GROUND IN CHILDCARE

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Judy Bradby worked as a home health nurse when her son was young. “Because of my specialty in pediatrics and the experience I have with babies and children with special medical needs,” Judy explains, “the other home health nurses, who were reluctant to work with the babies, passed those visits to me. I would visit

the children at home with feeding tubes, NG (nasogastric) tubes, all kinds of tubes. Those babies can’t go to a daycare. The parents are home with the baby until those tubes are removed, which can be up to a year. I wondered how many of those kids are there.”

Her entrepreneurial curiosity started buzz-

ing. She visited local doctors’ offices to investigate the number of children with tracheostomy tubes, feeding tubes or any type of special medical needs. The answers startled her. “The average was nine each!”

She wondered if the parents of these children would benefit from daycare or a few hours

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of respite care to run errands. “The response from the offices was overwhelming. Before I knew it, I had CHKD on the phone.”

A couple of years ago, Judy had participated in Start Peninsula, an entrepreneurial pitch conference. Her pitch was a concierge nursing service for tourists at their hotels. “I came in the top ten of the presentations,” she says. “I met a lot of people while doing Nurse Call. It didn’t work as well as I thought, but I made connections in the medical community.” And the medical community knew Judy from her nursing career. With the new idea of a service to children with special medical needs, she had encouragement from the doctors and parents.

Next she looked to see if a similar service was already in place. “I went to every daycare facility, posing as a parent, asking if I could place a child who had medical needs during the day. Then I researched the inspection reports to see where the daycare facilities had challenges, so I could plan for those within my own daycare.”

Judy created The Playhouse Daycare. “We’re a regular daycare with the additional advantage of having a registered nurse on staff the entire time we’re open to help with special medical needs of the child. If they need feeding via g-

tube (Gastrostomy Tube), we can do that. If they need a respiratory treatment or blood sugar monitoring throughout the day, we can do that. Or even a child that has fallen out of a tree and broken his leg, we can take care of him with his cast.” She also has installed the Watch Me Grow streaming video service so parents can see their child throughout the day using an app on their smart phone.

Judy first became interested in the nursing profession at the age of ten. Born and raised in Sussex, England, she experienced the shock and worry of her father suffering a massive stroke. He was whisked away to the nearest highly skilled hospital in London. “My mom didn’t drive,” Judy says, “so we didn’t see him for the longest time. The place we lived was in the country, one dairy and one pub. The school was four miles away that we walked to each day. That’s where we lived,” she says, frankly. “Dad was away in London in the hospital. I was ten and my sister was eleven. Eventually, he progressed and was brought closer to home, and we could go visit him. I used to watch those nurses in their stark white uniforms and hats. It was the hats that fascinated me more than anything, the fact that those hats didn’t move

no matter what they did or how far the nurses would bend.” She laughs at the memory of the nurses’ hats. “They were there, answering bells and doing everything that needed done. That’s what I wanted to do at [age] ten.”

By the age of 17, Judy started as a nurses’ aid at the local hospital while still in school. “That was a tiny, tiny hospital with six male beds and six female beds. That was the hospital where I was born. Leaving the village, I went to Gloucestershire in the west to do my training. That was a huge step to move so far from home, 250 miles away.” She graduated with her Bachelor’s Degree, specializing in Child Psychiatry.

“When you become a nurse, back then [in 1987], nurses were maidens who were barked orders by doctors. The money wasn’t great unless you diversified into something specific.” The options at the hospital for the nurse specialization were: labor & delivery, psychiatry or orthopedics. Psychiatry seemed to be such an unknown quantity. You couldn’t see it, feel it or measure it. You didn’t even know if the patients were telling the truth! It was so immeasurable. It was the biggest challenge for me. It was a mind-blowing experience to know that people

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suffered in such enormous ways in things you couldn't even see."

Judy worked with the adult population with psychiatric illness, and then with children and adolescents with psychiatric issues and developmental issues. "I fell into autism. I spent a long time running three wards of teenage autistic children who were on the very low functioning end of the spectrum."

Judy's path to Williamsburg came with the rise of the Internet. "It's kind of crazy," she says with a laugh. "I bought my first computer and hooked it up. I fell into AOL Chat Rooms quite by accident. English television is no good. Americans are so much more exciting than English people! Having fallen into AOL Chat Rooms, I became almost addicted to watching people talk to each other. But what I didn't know was that they were watching me because your name would be on the side of the screen. I received an e-mail one day from somebody who said they saw me in the chat room and thought my profile sounded interesting. I thought the KGB was after me, or maybe the FBI."

She pulled the cable out of the back of the computer and called her sister in a panic to see

if that would keep people from seeing her online. "After about a week, I plugged it back in, and there was another e-mail from him. You know Americans will say anything to anybody," she adds with a wink. "I thought it would be okay to say hi. We started talking then phone calling. After about seven months, I came to see Dale." Her future husband met her at the airport with roses. "I stayed three weeks, went home and packed everything up. My family thought I had lost my mind. I moved here. That was 12 years ago. We now have a nine year old son, Steven. My family thought I was insane."

With Judy Bradby's can-do spirit, she opened The Playhouse Daycare. "We don't just service children with special medical needs, we service all children," she stresses. "I believe that kids should mix with kids with issues to get them to learn that everyone is normal. Some kids just have different things to deal with. I say, show a child that another is just like him, but breathes through a tube and they become friends. I want to normalize it for the kids who have never seen it, and I want to normalize it for the kids going through it. It's okay. It's not forever. It's normal." NDN

## Next Door Neighbors

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# Goal!

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Martin Vickerton, coach of the Tidewater Sharks, says the winter season of indoor soccer and Futsal leagues at the WISC (Williamsburg Indoor Sports Complex) keep the players conditioned plus add an opportunity to hone their skills throughout the cold weather months.

“Many clubs have a winter program,” Martin says. “That keeps the players in shape. We

provide a winter program that includes team training, the indoor league and the Futsal tournament.”

In the United States, many soccer clubs engage Futsal, an abbreviated soccer for indoor arenas. “Futsal is typically played on a hard court. We’re lucky enough to have indoor turf, and on a smaller field, [with] five players on

each side. [It’s] played with a heavier ball, so it doesn’t bounce as much,” Martin explains. “Futsal is played a lot in South America and Europe. Many of the world’s best players grew up playing Futsal. It’s fast-paced. The players get more touches on the ball. You have to think quicker. The kids love it.” With the faster play, the kids develop agility, changing direc-

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tion, going after the ball with less running up and down the field.

“Those quicker movements, not running as far and getting the ball much more mean they make more decisions in the play. When you make a decision, you are learning.”

With the indoor soccer and Futsal league falling between the fall and spring seasons, the players stay fit. Martin says he can tell which players take the winter off, doing no sports, until the spring season. “With that said, we don’t force the kids to play because we want them to try other sports that they might enjoy like basketball or skiing. Try different things,” he suggests.

One factor that Martin and the other coaches discuss in both the Sharks and at the WISC meetings is the players’ focus on the whole person. “We want to develop a well-rounded individual, more than just a great player in a specific sport because we are teachers. We try to teach them to be good people.”

Being a team sport, soccer has a social side with each player having a responsibility to the team. “You have the camaraderie,” Martin adds. “I still stay in touch with team-

mates from playing soccer back in England, Longwood University and Canada. We go through a lot together, the ups where you’re laughing, loving, celebrating; the downs where you struggle, defeated. Not many people go through that as a team.”

Martin started his career in soccer in his hometown of Derbyshire, England. He joined the Nottingham Forest Academy, a soccer academy, when he was eight years old. “I was there until the time I moved to America.” He began in the youth development of the academy and was offered a youth team scholarship at the age of 16. “That’s three years where I left home and moved in with the other players, kids from Ireland, Belgium, France, all over England. We lived together and trained at least twice a day. Then we would study in the afternoons. I earned a sports science diploma and an A-level in business. In those three years, I progressed from the U-17 (under 17 years of age category) into the reserves for the Nottingham Forest team. I made two appearances for the first team of Nottingham Forest, as well. That was exciting for me. But, unfortunately after the three years they make the decision

whether I get a professional contract or I don’t. They decided not to offer me a contract.”

He began exploring his options. His teacher at Nottingham Forest, Brian Smith, urged him to think about studying abroad, specifically in America. “I had trials with other clubs in England and did fairly well with some of the lower leagues. I came to America and looked over a few schools. I chose Longwood University. I met some of the players on my recruiting trip, met the coach and really enjoyed the team environment. I was studying business, and they had a good business program.”

At Longwood, Martin met his future wife, Rhonda. “She’s from Williamsburg, had graduated from Lafayette High School, so we visited here often.”

The soccer team at Longwood had a few international students, but most of the team was from the Richmond and northern Virginia areas. “The Longwood coach is English, Jon Atkinson, who is still there. We had that connection that helped me choose the university. I had a tremendous experience there. A lot of my best friends in America are from when I played there.”

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During his college years, Martin played on a summer PDL (Premier Development League) team in Ottawa, Canada. “That’s mainly for college players, not professional players, to keep us fit.” He also played for Great Britain in the 2007 World University Games in Bangkok, Thailand. “We made it through to the quarter finals, and I was lucky enough to score a goal against Morocco. That was a really good experience.”

After graduating from Longwood, Martin furthered his education at West Virginia Wesleyan. “That’s a Division II school and the start of my coaching experience. We made it to the Elite Eight with a great group of players and coaching staff. I earned my MBA. During those two years, I joined Mid-State Soccer and coached the youth there.”

His coaching career had begun. He admits that not all great soccer players make great coaches. “You have to be very patient and provide the communication where the kids can understand you. A lot of soccer terms I used in England aren’t used here. The kids wouldn’t understand it, and I had to adjust.” He used his own experience growing up in soccer to relate to the different age levels he coached. He thought about the coaches he liked and enjoyed playing for, then incorporated those coaching techniques into his. “I wanted to be a coach where kids enjoyed practices and games, and I wanted to instill the culture and environment that I ex-

perienced.”

After earning his MBA, Martin and Rhonda lived in Richmond, while he looked for coaching positions. The Tidewater Sharks club had just started when he graduated. “I joined the club in 2012 as it was newly started with 12 teams. Now there are 33 teams.” Martin’s fam-

“It takes work to get good at something new. It’s good to fail because in life there will be times where you don’t always get first place, you get knocked down. How do you respond to that? As a coach, we have a responsibility to help them through that. With hard work, you can push forward and improve.”

~ Martin Vickerton

ily has expanded as well. Today, he and Rhonda have new twins, a girl and a boy, born in July.

Regarding his players as well-rounded athletes and individuals, Martin ensures he teaches discipline, time management and the ability to focus on the task at hand. He wants the players to feel safe in their environment and to enjoy the work of practice and the excitement of the game. Achieving results is important to move forward, but players quickly discover that the first attempt isn’t always successful.

“It takes work to get good at something new. It’s good to fail because in life there will be times where you don’t always get first place,

you get knocked down. How do you respond to that? As a coach, we have a responsibility to help them through that. With hard work, you can push forward and improve. We don’t focus on just results. We want our kids to compete and win, however if they’ve put everything out there and played the right way, the other team might be better. It happens – then comes good sportsmanship. Don’t make excuses. Don’t be a sore loser. After every game, go shake the opponent’s hand, shake the ref’s hand, say ‘good game’ and keep moving forward.”

The Tidewater Sharks are young, Martin says. “We still have a long way to go to meet our long-term goals: to keep developing kids as whole people, good people, and to provide opportunities for high-level players and developmental players. Everyone deserves an opportunity if they want to play. As our players get older and they want to play in college, we’ll provide the opportunity of helping them get in front of college coaches if they want that route.”

Martin Vickerton’s coaching philosophy is about developing successful, respectful young people. As soccer players, they will have the technical skills to succeed on the field, but the overall life lessons are the traits they take forward in life.

“I’m very lucky doing something I love. I come to work every day excited for what we can provide for the kids in the area.” NDN



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# NATURE & ART

By Greg Lilly, Editor

“I love when the leaf is broken because it gives it more character,” explains artist Peggy Arnett. “I like when nature has split the leaf in half. It gives it more depth and character.” Peggy paints images on leaves she has collected and dried. When other artists use square or rectangular canvases, Peggy turns to the woods and her backyard for her material. “Imperfection is

perfection.”

Peggy grew up in Vermont and lived there for 29 years. She moved to Connecticut, married and had two children. She says she held many different jobs over the years, but always had a deep interest in the arts, including music and drawing.

In 2005, she was going through a divorce.

“I felt like I needed to ‘get out of Dodge’ and Terry was going through the same thing,” she explains. Terry, her current husband, worked for a power plant, which manages a plant here. He transferred his job, and they settled in Williamsburg.

“We started our life together down here.”

Peggy was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis

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(MS) in 1989. MS affects the central nervous system. Nerve impulses to and from the brain and spinal cord are distorted or interrupted, causing a large range of progressive symptoms. Peggy knew her physical abilities would change.

"I set out to do everything that I could imagine, creating a Bucket List. Anything that came across my path that was a challenge, I signed myself up for it before I couldn't physically do it."

Williamsburg felt like a new beginning for Peggy. "I started playing music again. I hadn't in 25 years," she says. "I played until two and a half years ago." She made a CD of her music covering her favorites from folk songs to bluegrass to show tunes.

"My arm strength was taken [by] my MS, and I couldn't hold the instruments anymore, guitar and electric autoharp. Then MS took the pitch from my voice so I couldn't sing anymore."

She still needed to have an artistic outlet. One holiday season a couple of years ago, she

worried about gifts for her and Terry's families. "We have a pretty big family between us, and I thought 'What am I going to do? I have all the gifts to buy.' Terry's sister collects lighthouses.

"That's when the leaf speaks to me. People have asked if I ever paint on a canvas. I did it once. I didn't enjoy it. I don't like squares and rectangles. I like things that are odd. I like uneven spaces. I like the individuality of the leaves. Why would I use a canvas when I have leaves?"

~ Peggy Arnett

I was riding on the bike path on my scooter to catch the bus. I saw a leaf. I thought I'd dry it out and paint a lighthouse on it. I had already quilted a lighthouse throw for her and created other things with lighthouses on them.

I couldn't sew anymore. I saw this pawpaw leaf and knew it could hold an image of a lighthouse. I'd frame it and that would be one of her presents."

When she finished the painting on the pawpaw leaf, she took a photo of it with her phone and sent it to Terry at work. His co-worker saw the photo and thought it was a distinctive idea and skilled painting. He wanted to buy the painting on the leaf. "So, I did another leaf," Peggy says. Her unique painting medium started attracting attention.

"Every time I did a painting on a leaf, I sent it to Terry at work. He'd pass them around and more people wanted one. I was having a hard time keeping up. I decided this was my artistic outlet instead of music."

Over the past couple of years, she has perfected her process, finding ways to preserve the leaves and making them stronger. Terry builds the frames that house the leaf paintings for

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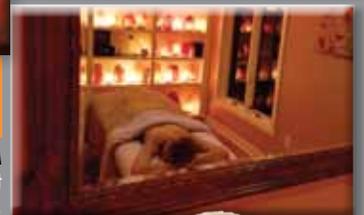
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Peggy. "Terry is my best friend," she adds with a smile.

Peggy says she receives the same satisfaction from delivering the leaf paintings to people as when she would play music and sing for an audience. "I'd see them cry at certain songs," she explains. "When I paint someone's pet that has passed away, I receive the best compliment when they see it and start crying." It's not that she wants the person to cry over the loss of their pet, but the ability to reproduce that emotional response from a piece of art she created is deeply fulfilling to her as an artist. "I love seeing the reaction of people."

Her images are so detailed that some people, on seeing the finished painting, have argued that those are not leaves, but a photograph cut into a leaf shape. She laughs and assures that it is a painting on a real tree leaf.

"Each leaf is so different. Some bend, some break. Each leaf I find is earmarked for a picture. I'm really careful when painting them. If it's a flimsy leaf, I use a softer brush. It's a little challenging because they are brittle."

Her favorite types of tree leaves include oaks, pawpaws and magnolias. "Oaks are hardy and strong and the easiest to paint on," she says. "Redbuds fall apart, but I use them anyway.

Some I can only get in Florida, the more tropical leaves, which are interesting shapes."

Her process is to start with the leaves. She keeps books of dried leaves that she has found interesting and will flip through it when commissioned to create a painting. "Certain leaves speak to me," Peggy explains. She looks through the books until she finds one leaf that seems right for the job.

"Sometimes, the wrinkles, the veins and breaks in the leaves will distract from the picture. Other times, they add to the image."

Her favorite subjects for the paintings are sunsets, birds and animals. "The sunset at the end of our street is exceptional. I do more of that than any other. Also, Florida sunsets with palm trees are nice. I love doing mountain ranges. I love doing scenery. Flags are popular around here. I did a Betsy Ross flag for the bottom of a serving tray."

The irregular surface of the leaves and the one-of-a-kind appeal of nature keep the painting exciting for Peggy. "That's when the leaf speaks to me," she says. "People have asked if I ever paint on a canvas. I did it once. I didn't enjoy it. I don't like squares and rectangles. I like things that are odd. I like uneven spaces. I like the individuality of the leaves. Why would

I use a canvas when I have leaves?"

Some of her clients have brought leaves from their own yards to have images painted on them, their houses, pets, favorite birds, creating a connection with the art to what grew and lived in their yard.

Recently, while she exhibited at Second Sunday Art & Music Festival in downtown Williamsburg, a man spent a particularly long time examining her work. "He told Terry he was with National Geographic, and he said he'd never seen work like mine." The man took her card and commented that she might be hearing from him in the future. "That would be so exciting to have a mention in National Geographic," she says.

She still has her Bucket List, but it has become very short. "The only thing on my Bucket List that I haven't done is jump out of a plane! Not sure if I could find somebody to tandem jump with me. I might make them nervous."

Peggy Arnett takes on her challenges creatively and resourcefully. "Most people say 'I'm so sorry you are in a wheelchair.' If it wasn't for this chair, I would be in some stupid job. I got stuck in this chair, and it opened up a whole new life for me. It's been a blessing. Now I have a legacy." NDN



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Corey Miller Photography

# Foster a Hound

By Greg Lilly, Editor

The health benefits of owning a dog include stress reduction, increased companionship and a steady date for exercise, yet many neighbors find their lives too busy to commit to a full-time dog relationship. Deanna Cosby with Homes Fur Hounds, a local non-profit rescue organization, has a solution that works

for many people, especially retirees who love to travel – fostering.

“Fostering has a lot more flexibility than owning a dog,” Deanna says. “For retired people who might travel part of the year, they could foster a dog for several months. Then when they plan to be away for a couple of

months, let me know so I can find another foster home for the dog until it is adopted. That would be rewarding to the people, having the love and companionship of a dog, but not the costs or the long-term ties that keep them at home.”

For those who live alone, fostering or adopt-



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December 31, 2016

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ing a dog can add a new dimension to life. “We know that if someone has lost a spouse or is moving to a new place it can be really stressful,” Deanna explains, “and having a dog as a companion to watch TV with, possibly sleep with and take for walks is good for stress and lowering blood pressure. It also helps get a person out of the house, who might otherwise not go anywhere. Walking a dog is great exercise. The owner will possibly meet new people and socialize more if they have a reason to get out. We have adopted dogs to a several widows or widowers who told us later that adopting the dog gave them a reason to get up and out again. That makes it worthwhile. We feel like we helped give a new life to both the dog and the owner.”

Deanna grew up in Minnesota, where her grandfather had beagles. “I fell in love with beagles,” she says. “Eventually, I ended up in Florida, where I met my husband, Tom.” Tom and Deanna run a healthcare consulting and technology training firm, Intelligent Solutions Group. Deanna worked at a client’s site in Richmond for awhile, and she and a friend decided to go to lunch. “We got lost, pulled

on to I-64 and ended up in Williamsburg. I thought it was the most beautiful town. Tom and I decided this is where we wanted to come to get married.”

They were still living in Florida at the time after they married. Later Deanna’s sister transferred from her job in Texas to Richmond. Since the sisters had been so far from each other in Florida and Texas, the move seemed like an opportunity to get closer. “Tom and I decided to move to Williamsburg, to be close to my sister and because we loved the town so much.”

Always the beagle enthusiasts, Deanna and Tom had two beagles when they moved to Williamsburg in 2002. “Both in Florida and in Williamsburg, people would see us walking our dogs, and if they had found a lost dog or heard about a lost dog, people would ask us to help or bring the dog to us. We have a fenced yard, and they know we love dogs.” When they had their office on Scotland Street, Deanna would walk her dogs through downtown and around Colonial Williamsburg. “A woman stopped me saying she had a dog that she needed to find a home for. I had to help.”

Within a few of years of moving to Williamsburg, Deanna took in a dog every couple of months, keeping them at their house and trying to find homes for them. Tom, always supportive, never refused another foster dog in their house. “We decided to start a non-profit to help find homes for these dogs. We had three or four dogs of our own, so we could only take one at a time. Now we have people to help foster the dogs while we find them homes.”

Homes Fur Hounds maintains a great relationship with Heritage Humane Society. “They will call us when they have an older dog or smaller dog that doesn’t fit in the shelter environment.” Deanna has a process of bringing in a dog for foster care and for adoption just as Heritage Humane Society does. “They help us, too. I pull dogs from rural shelters in North Carolina and Virginia. We had a shelter call us that had two pregnant beagles, ready to deliver. If they delivered in that rural shelter, they would immediately euthanize the litter because they don’t have the funds for immunizations and taking care of the puppies until they’d be old enough for adoption. We went

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to get them. I called Heritage and they took them because they can place puppies, where our rescue has a hard time since we're all foster homes. I'm on the Heritage Humane Society Auxiliary and help with the fundraising and the Christmas Bazaar."

Homes Fur Hounds started off with beagles, but Deanna and Tom have two beagles, a Maltese and a Yorkie in their home. "When people started calling with surrenders other than beagles, like someone going into a nursing home with no family member to take the dog, we started taking in Shih Tzus, Yorkies, Maltese, so really the 'hounds' in our name is a generic term for dogs now. We take any dog that is 30 pounds and under. We focus on medium to small dogs."

Giving up a dog is difficult. People, who have to move to assisted living or nursing homes, may not be able to take their dog with them. When a person dies, the family may not take the pet. In many of these cases, the dogs are surrendered to the shelters.

There is a difference in processes depending on if a dog is surrendered or if it is found roaming. "If a dog is found, the shelters have

to hold the dog for seven days to give the owner a chance to reclaim the dog," Deanna explains. "For an owner-surrender and in many rural shelters, not Heritage Humane Society, but in smaller, rural shelters, the time limit to hold the dog is 24 hours. Even the costly purebreds will be put down if no one adopts them. With only a few kennels in these smaller shelters, the dogs that they have to hold for seven days take priority for the space, so the surrenders will be put down quickly."

The smaller shelters with limited space keep an e-mail list of the area rescues and notify them when a dog is surrendered, hoping that a rescue can take the dog before it has to be euthanized. "If we have room for them, we'll go get the dog."

Deanna says that for a foster family, all they need to provide is a good, loving home for the dog. "Homes Fur Hounds pays for the food. We give the family the crate, the leash, the bed, everything needed for the dog. We ask them to make appointments and take the dog to the vet, but we pay the vet bills."

With the amount of work and expense of running a dog rescue organization, Deanna

says it is her calling. "I have no children and have had a passion for animals for as long as I can remember. When I started doing this, I realized that the job I get paid for doesn't always bring the satisfaction I want. I do a good job and get paid, but I don't get the same good feeling as I get when I do the dog rescue."

The rewarding part about fostering is living through the dog's progression, especially ones that may have had little human companionship.

"Taking a dog that has never been around people, terrified of everything," Deanna says, "taking hours to get him to come into the house for the first time, and then in a month or two to see that dog walk up to you and nudge your hand to get petted, or in another month jumping up on your lap to sit while you watch TV. That is such a rewarding thing. We've had several like that. Sitting on our lap and then the dog gets adopted out, that's the best accomplishment of helping a fellow living thing. Knowing you had something to do with the success of the dog's socialization, that makes it all worthwhile." NDN

[www.HomesFurHounds.com](http://www.HomesFurHounds.com)

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Corey Miller Photography

# Unraveling the Tangled Threads

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Sitting alone on the steps of her Portland boardinghouse, Stefanie Pifer contemplated her direction in design school. “I said, ‘God, I’m not an angry, catty designer. I’ll never be. I see my classmates and instructors, some very clever, some incredibly driven, some just plain

mean. I have some combination of that, but nothing on the level that they do. What am I doing? Where do You want me?’ He sent me a memory.”

Stefanie remembered something she saw on “Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood” television show

as a child. “Mr. Rogers went to a costume shop where they had beautiful dresses and a happy, happy woman who told him about the dresses,” Stefanie describes. “Mr. Rogers had gone to the milliner’s shop in Colonial Williamsburg. Janea Whitacre was there, and still is. As

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Mr. Rogers interviewed her, she couldn't stop smiling. He couldn't stop smiling because of her enthusiasm, and as I watched it, I couldn't stop smiling because I shared the same love of clothes and of history. She said she had the best job ever. As a little kid, I knew that was the kind of job I wanted. That was before I could dream, before I knew that good things could happen to a person like me. But, the Lord reminded me of that on those steps and that I could make a living creating costumes. That was my a-ha moment!"

Stefanie is one of eight children. Her father was a pastor. Her mother homeschooled the children. "We were not exactly like the Duggars (from the TV reality show '19 Kids and Counting'), but similar to that," she says. "I was the second one to get out. There were some wonderful and amazing things my parents taught me, but there was a lot we missed because we were isolated." During that time, Stefanie took delight in helping with the Christmas plays at the church and helping anytime there was an occasion for the kids to wear costumes.

"My very first introduction to sewing was my grandma making a quilt for one of my brothers' birth. I was six at the time. She had us drawing squares on fabrics to be cut out for the quilt. That was my earliest memory of sewing." She took sewing lessons from a woman in her father's church, but much of what she knew of sewing, as a child, was self-taught.

"We used to live in Seattle, where I was born. Then we moved to southern Oregon when I was seven. My dad was called into the ministry. That's when they started having all the kids. We moved down with three kids and moved out with eight."

She explains that her family suffered from chronic depression. They moved from southern Oregon to Portland, where Stefanie started college and met a variety of people, unlike the church community of her youth. "I began to realize that there was more out there than my family ideology. I found joy for the first time. That has been so huge. I realized that I am absolutely loved beyond question regardless of my behavior. That lit something in me that had

been dormant and quiet my entire life. In my family, that had been dormant and quiet. We were very religious. We worked very hard to look very good. Everyone felt 'We're not righteous like they are.' We looked really good, but we were dying inside, just empty because we worked so hard trying to please God."

She began community college and met a young man. A year later, they started dating. "My sister left my dad's church. That created some waves. She needed out badly. There was so much toxic thinking. My boyfriend helped me to find a different church. That's when I learned about grace, and the fact that it really doesn't matter what your behavior is, but that you are loved and delighted in many ways. My brain broke!" After "being religious" her whole life, Stefanie realized she didn't have to put effort into being "valuable." She already was and had always been.

Her boyfriend asked her to marry him. "I said yes because I didn't think I could do any better." She admits there were many good things from the relationship, like him encour-

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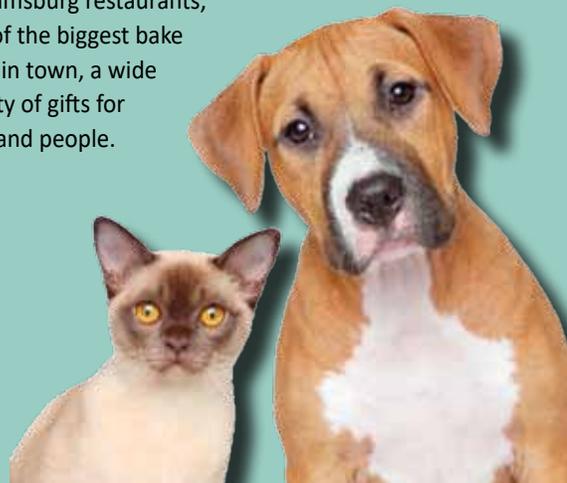
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## HERITAGE HUMANE SOCIETY AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

December 10, 2016

The Heritage Humane Society Auxiliary presents the annual Christmas Bazaar from 9 am – 3 pm at Bruton Parish Hall on Duke of Gloucester Street in Colonial Williamsburg to raise money for homeless shelter pets. Come early for the best selection of gourmet soups from fifteen fine Williamsburg restaurants, one of the biggest bake sales in town, a wide variety of gifts for pets and people.



For more information, visit  
[www.heritagehumane.org](http://www.heritagehumane.org)  
All proceeds benefit the Heritage Humane Society.

aging her to start counseling. "In counseling, I started unraveling the tangled threads of my existence. I realized that I did not need to be in this relationship. Three weeks before the wedding, I postponed it. He gave me a lot of things I needed at the time. Then it was time to move on."

Her ex-fiancé had encouraged her to go to design school. A mutual friend had gone to the Art Institute of Chicago, and when she talked about her classes, Stefanie was enthralled. "She talked about classes like textiles and fashion history. I almost went through the roof 'What? Those are classes I can take?' I didn't think I had been so jealous in all my life. I wanted to take those classes. I light up when talking about clothes. I light up when talking about history. That's what got me to fashion design school."

For a year and a half program, Stefanie took five years to finish because of the other aspects of her life that counseling had uncovered and needed her attention. "I had an entire lifetime of depression and religious behaviors that were taxing my energy," she says. "I had certain amounts of religious PTSD to deal with and the break up with my ex. It took me five years. I'm so proud that I completed the program." She didn't let anything stop her from the classes that she loved, the passion she felt for that direction in her life.

"It would be very difficult to see a resemblance of who I am now with who I was six years ago, just in terms of the amount of healing and growth that has happened."

In school, with a year and a half left, she sat on the stairs of the Victorian boardinghouse in downtown Portland. "While coming through the process of counseling and healing, God taught me how to thrive." She knew she would one day teach other women how to thrive. "Coming out of a place of bondage," she describes, "and realizing we're human and we can flourish." She spent her last term of school focused on studying 18th century clothing. Her

school advisor told her she needed to send her portfolio to several different employers, but she said she didn't need to. There was only one place for her to work, Colonial Williamsburg. (CW).

"I graduated, spent a year being depressed and getting healing. I was suicidal at times, but my community gave me support and the hope of

"Being here [CW] and being asked to create a historical outfit, that is the best. Taking everything I've learned up to this point and putting it into practice for my company knowing that someone is going to buy it and be thrilled, knowing I made a difference. That is huge."

~ Stefanie Pifer

the Lord. I talked with one of my counselors at the school. I was trying to get an interview with CW. He called for me to help arrange an interview." She was hired and moved to Williamsburg, without ever living farther east than Colorado.

That job was in the Costume Design Center (CDC), where she maintained the clothing that the historical interpreters wear. Then she transferred to the Historic Area Sewing Room. "In the sewing room, we make the clothing that is rented or sold to customers in the shops. We do production sewing. I trained as a production seamstress before, and we concentrate on high quality and efficient production." She refers to the sewing room as "family" and adds, "It's the perfect place to learn and grow."

Stefanie says her work can be found in the historic area shops. "At Mary Dickinson Shop, we have mitts of wool, frilly caps with bows, petticoats and silk gowns that are hand-stitched. Those gowns are hard to keep in the store. We had a peacock turquoise one that was gorgeous and sold right away. At William Pitt, there are a lot of children's clothes that are

popular." She adds that the hats are always a hit with visitors and created in their department. "Also the dog costumes from 'Dogs on DoG Street' are very popular."

At the recent American Girl doll event, Felicity's Tea, Stefanie designed and created a riding habit for the doll. "Felicity is the 18th Century doll. I had a Felicity doll growing up. They asked me to create a riding habit. I took pattern making. I took fashion history. I worked at the CDC. I have all these skills. It's wonderful to move in your career to a place that uses all you've learned. I had so much fun making those. It's a tiny tailored garment. I love tailoring."

Her love of the sewing classes and the history classes have come together in her job at CW. "Being here and being asked to create a historical outfit,

that is the best. Taking everything I've learned up to this point and putting it into practice for my company knowing that someone is going to buy it and be thrilled, knowing I made a difference. That is huge."

In Williamsburg, Stefanie says she is learning what it means to have a supportive community. She is part of the church community of Relevant Church and Agape Mission Church. "Both have been instrumental in my transition to the east coast," she says. "They are all about living loved, instead of living by a list of rules. I am so very thankful for them both." She's involved with assisting other women in need of healing and support through the work of Sam Meyyar and Shannon Farino.

"I came to Williamsburg," Stefanie says, "because the Lord invited me to run away with Him. I said okay. I didn't have anything else I was attached to. He's the only constant in my life; the only one who has provided what I needed consistently. When I came here, I knew I was coming on purpose and doing the right thing. I was able to cope by crying out to the Lord. He's provided everything." NDN

# Hey Neighbor!

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To submit your non-profit event to Hey Neighbor! send a paragraph with your information to:

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November 24-26, 2016

The holiday season begins on Thanksgiving Day with a three-day event that explores food ways of 17th- and 18th-century Virginia and centuries-old cooking and preservation methods. At Jamestown Settlement, historical interpreters demonstrate how food was gathered, preserved and prepared on land and at sea by Virginia's English colonists and Powhatan Indians. At the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, programs examine typical soldiers' fare during the American Revolution and trace the bounty of a farm from field to kitchen. Learn more at <http://www.historyisfun.org/jamestown-settlement/foods-and-feasts/>.

## **Hey Neighbor!** **A COLONIAL CHRISTMAS**

December 1-31, 2016

Holiday traditions of 17th- and 18th-century Virginia are recalled throughout the month with special interpretive programs and, December 23-31, period musical entertainment and daily appearances at Jamestown Settlement by the Lord of Misrule. A Jamestown Settlement holiday film compares and contrasts English Christmas customs of the period

with how the season may have been observed in the difficult early years of the Jamestown colony. Visitors to the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown can hear accounts of Christmas and winter in a Continental Army encampment and glimpse holiday preparations at a period farm. Learn more at <http://www.historyisfun.org/jamestown-settlement/a-colonial-christmas/>.

## **Hey Neighbor!** **THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS ANNUAL HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT**

December 3 - 4, 2016

Kimball Theatre, 424 W. Duke of Gloucester St. at 1:30 pm and 3 pm each day. A festive program of seasonal music to delight the whole family during Colonial Williamsburg's Grand Illumination weekend. Guest singer Brett Cahoon, conducted by Music Director Janna Hymes. Tickets \$30. Order tickets at <https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/do/kimball-theatre/>

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December 4, 2016

The 2016 Christmas Concert will feature John Rutter's glorious setting of Mary's Song of Praise, known as

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## **Hey Neighbor!** **HERITAGE HUMANE SOCIETY AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

December 10, 2016

The Heritage Humane Society Auxiliary presents the annual Christmas Bazaar from 9 am - 3 pm at Bruton Parish Hall on Duke of Gloucester Street in Colonial Williamsburg to raise money for homeless shelter pets. Come early for the best selection of gourmet soups from fifteen fine Williamsburg restaurants, one of the biggest bake sales in town, a wide variety of gifts for pets and people. For more information, visit [www.heritagehumane.org](http://www.heritagehumane.org). All proceeds benefit the Heritage Humane Society.

## **Hey Neighbor!**

## **4TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GALA**

December 11, 2016

Latisha's House Foundation 4th Annual Christmas Gala at the Kingsmill Doubletree Hotel Ballroom, Williamsburg. Dine on gourmet food, enjoy fine wine, finish your Christmas shopping at the silent and live auction, and dance to the Hullabaloo's. Guest speakers will share their stories, all this for a great cause. Tickets \$150 per person; Corporate tables of 4, \$1000; Corporate tables of 8, \$2000. Visit [www.latishashouse.com](http://www.latishashouse.com) to purchase tickets and make dining selections; or contact Lauren at (757) 777-0647. A portion of your ticket is tax deductible.

## **Hey Neighbor!** **FIRST NIGHT WILLIAMSBURG**

December 31, 2016

A family-oriented, New Year's Eve celebration of the performing arts presented throughout the City and on the campus of the College of William & Mary. Join us for new acts and new culinary experiences New Year's Eve. This will be an exciting year to be part of the fun! Limited tickets available, so buy early. See you New Year's Eve! <http://www.firstnightwilliamsburg.org/>

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## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **SEEKING VOLUNTEER TAX PREPARERS**

Ongoing

Williamsburg AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to assist seniors and low/moderate-income taxpayers in completing their 2016 Federal and Virginia tax returns. IRS certification training is provided during classes in early January. Basic knowledge of tax return preparation, as well as the ability to do returns on a computer, are needed. We help over 2,500 local taxpayers each year take advantage of tax credits and tax law changes, resulting in refunds of over \$3 million. The service will be offered at the Williamsburg and James City County Libraries in 2017 from February 1 to April 15. We also need facilitators for each session to register and do an initial screening of our clients. Please email District Coordinator George Richmond at [grichmond4@live.com](mailto:grichmond4@live.com) if you are interested in becoming a Tax-Aide volunteer.

## **Hey Neighbor!**

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## **COURSE, LECTURE, AND ACTIVITY REQUESTS**

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### **BARTERING FOR A CONTINENT: HOW ANGLO-INDIAN TRADE SHAPED AMERICA**

Ongoing thru December 10, 2016

Special exhibition, Jamestown Settlement – The importance of trade between American Indians and English colonists, from the founding of Jamestown through the American Revolution, and the role of Virginia in the development of a new world of exchange in goods and commodities in North America is explored in this six-month special exhibition. Visitors are encouraged to join in the bartering adventure with interactive experiences. Admission to Jamestown Settlement is \$17.00 adults and \$8.00 ages 6-12. Children under 6 are free. Museum hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Jamestown Settlement is located on Route 31 South in Williamsburg. For information, call (888) 593-4682 toll-free or (757) 253-4838, or visit [www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org). (Direct URL: <http://www.historyisfun.org/jamestown-settlement/bartering-for-a-continent/>)

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS**

Ongoing

Historic Jamestowne seeks volunteers to greet and engage guests as well provide accurate information about this premier historic site. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available, including Visitor Center greeters, Fort Site interpreters, and Docents in our archaeological museum, the Archaearium. Volunteer shifts are available Monday through Sunday, 9:30 am – 1 pm and 1 – 4:30 pm. Training sessions will be held in the Spring and Fall. If you are interested in volunteering at Historic Jamestowne, please contact Kelly Williams at [kwilliams@preservationvirginia.org](mailto:kwilliams@preservationvirginia.org).

## **Hey Neighbor!**

**WILLIAMSBURG WOMEN'S**

## **CHORUS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

Ongoing

The Chorus is open to women of all ages and voice parts. Rehearsals are held on Thursday Mornings at Bruton Parish House from 10 am - noon. We will be preparing for our Winter Concert which will be held on December 6 at 7:30 pm. Rehearsals for the fall season will begin September 8 @ 9:30 am. If interested please contact Beckie Davy [atbdavy@brutonparish.org](mailto:atbdavy@brutonparish.org) to set up an informal audition.

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **YOGA AND MEDITATION CLASS FOR ADULTS 60 A& OVER**

Ongoing

Every Thursday, 1 – 2 pm. The Peninsula Agency on Aging has partnered with Breathing Space, Inc., a non-profit promoting mindful movement, to offer a free weekly Chair Yoga class. People with chronic pain and challenges with balance are welcome. Caregivers and their loved ones are encouraged to attend! This program enables family caregivers to participate in a yoga class while their loved ones participate in gentle chair yoga at the same time. At the Messmer Community Services Center, 312 Waller Mill Rd., Williamsburg, (Off Bypass Rd.) in Room 801. No registration needed; just drop by. Call (757) 345-6277 or email [Information2@paainc.org](mailto:Information2@paainc.org) if you need more information.

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **BIRD WALKS AT NEW QUARTER PARK**

Ongoing

2nd and 4th Saturdays, The Williamsburg Bird Club leads bird walks at New Quarter Park every month on the second Saturday from 8 - 10 am and on the fourth Saturday from 7 - 9 am. Join them for upcoming walks to observe ducks, hawks, and eagles as well as songbirds that live in the area year round and those that are migrating in, out, or through the area. New Quarter Park is located at 1000 Lakeshead Dr. in Williamsburg near the Queens Lake neighborhood. Exit the Colonial Parkway at the Queens Lake and turn right. Travel a short distance to Lakeshead Drive and follow the signs to the park.

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **GOT BIBLE QUESTIONS?**

Ongoing

Not getting enough from your bible study or church group, then perhaps you should join us at the Williamsburg Library in Norge every Monday at 6 pm to get your biblical questions answered. Hope to see you there.

## **Hey Neighbor!** **BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP**

Ongoing

The Williamsburg/Newport News Brain Injury Support Group invites all area brain injury survivors and their families to join them for discussion, socialization, support, information, friendship, and encouragement. The Support Group meets twice each month on first and third Thursdays. The first Thursday meeting is held at Riverside Doctors' Hospital Williamsburg from 3 – 4:30 pm and the third Thursday meeting is held at The Denbigh House, 12725 McManus Boulevard, Suite 2E, Newport News, from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. For more information, contact Sara Lewis at [slewis@cox.net](mailto:slewis@cox.net) or (757) 784-0344 or Lisa Kavitz at [lisa@kavitz.com](mailto:lisa@kavitz.com) or (757) 784-0952.

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **GROVE COMMUNITY GARDEN CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Ongoing

Located behind the James River Elementary School, Grove Community Garden is a quarter-acre plot growing fruits and vegetables for the families in the Grove Community. The Garden has communal beds and family beds for growing and recently became a 501c3 non-profit organization. We would welcome any individuals who would assist with a mower or rototiller, and ongoing garden maintenance. Please contact Rob Till, garden manager, at (757) 332-3361 or email [grove.va.garden@gmail.com](mailto:grove.va.garden@gmail.com).

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **TEACHER'S ASSISTANT/BUS DRIVER POSITION AVAILABLE**

Ongoing

Assist teacher in classroom; drives school bus on field trips or as necessary and fulfills transportation requirements. HS or GED diploma required. CDA or Early Childhood Education AA program required. Must have or able to obtain commercial driver's license with satisfactory DMV driving record. Bilingual (English/Spanish) and certifications in First Aid, CPR, and MAT preferred. Employment is subject to satisfactory background checks and Human Resource processing. All applicants please submit resume to: email [headstart@wjccactionagency.org](mailto:headstart@wjccactionagency.org) or come in person to 312 Waller Mill Road, Suite 400, Williamsburg, VA 23185. EOE.

## **Hey Neighbor!**

**WJCC COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY HEAD START OPEN ENROLLMENT**

### Ongoing

A Preschool Program for Children ages 3 to 5, serving income eligible families, including children with special needs. To apply, call (757) 229-6417, or visit us at 312 Waller Mill Road, Williamsburg, VA in Suite 400.

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **MEETINGS - COLONIAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB**

##### Ongoing, first Monday

We meet the first Monday of every month at the James City Library on Croaker Road at 6:30 pm. The club is one of the few photography clubs in the area and has been in existence for over eight years. We have about 60 members with skill levels ranging from novice to nationally recognized. The club web site is [www.cnpcva.org](http://www.cnpcva.org)

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **WILLIAMSBURG RESTORE EXPANDS FACILITY AND NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

##### Ongoing

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore needs your help! We are looking for volunteers who would like to help fulfill Habitat for Humanity's mission of providing affordable housing for local families in need. We want you to be part of the ReStore family. 100% of the proceeds from the ReStore go towards building homes in your community. We need volunteers to help assist on the sales floor, processing donations, repairing furniture, processing recyclable materials, and customer service. Any amount of time you can volunteer at the ReStore is a huge help. Please contact Kristin or Diane at (757) 603-6895 X5662.

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **YJCW-NAACP MEETING**

##### Ongoing

The York-James City- Williamsburg NAACP meets the second Monday of each month (except July) at First Baptist Church, 727 Scotland Street, Williamsburg. Branch meetings begin at 6:30 pm. For more information, contact NAACP@yjcwnaacp.org

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **WILLIAMSBURG MOOSE LODGE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS**

##### Ongoing

We are a charitable group of men and women that "do good" for neighborhood causes (as well as for MooseHeart and MooseHaven). Just this past year, at the local level, we have donated to Beyond Boobs, A Gift from Ben, all three local Fire Departments, Hospice House, Historic Triangle, and others. We also host many events at our lodge that donate to other causes and charities. Contact us for more information: Joe Roney, administrator

tor (757) 565-5149 or Williamsburg Moose Lodge #757 at (757) 565-9807 [Moose757@cox.net](mailto:Moose757@cox.net)

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **CALL FOR THEATRICAL VOLUNTEERS**

##### Ongoing

Williamsburg Players Theater is looking for volunteers to help in all areas of the theater. There are so many ways to get involved! No experience necessary. Please go to [williamsburgplayers.org/volunteers/](http://williamsburgplayers.org/volunteers/) for more details. Come have some fun!

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **F.R.E.E. OF WILLIAMSBURG**

##### Ongoing

F.R.E.E. is a non-profit that gifts mobility related equipment to adults who are uninsured or under insured and have no other means of obtaining needed mobility equipment such as canes, walkers, bed rails, hooyer lifts, wheelchairs and power scooters. Equipment gifted also includes bathroom transfer aids such as shower chairs, tub transfer benches and bedside commodes. If you or someone you know is in need of equipment or would like to make a donation, call (757) 707-4741, visit our website [www.free-foundation.org](http://www.free-foundation.org), or find us on Facebook.

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **ABUNDANT LIFE GROUPS MEETINGS**

##### Ongoing

Are you a vegetarian, vegan, raw food or just curious? Join us to taste new recipes and foods, get educated and share ideas around plant based living for a healthier you! You don't have to be plant based to join the fun. 1st Sunday of each month at 7 pm. Email [AbundantLifeGroups@gmail.com](mailto:AbundantLifeGroups@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **JAMES CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH**

##### Ongoing

"A Door of Hope" James City Community Church is located at 4550 Old News Rd., Williamsburg. Services: 9 am (Nursery provided) and 10:30 am (Nursery and Children Classes). Visit our website at [www.jccchurch.com](http://www.jccchurch.com). Come join us and make yourself at home, and feel free to participate as much or as little as you feel comfortable. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, we're glad you're here.

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **MULTI-FUNDED NON-PROFIT AGENCY SEEKING TO FILL DIRECTOR OF FINANCE POSITION**

### Ongoing

Applicant must have financial experience working in a non-profit multi-grant environment and meet the following requirements: (1) Supervise financial and human resources staff. (2) Strong experience in developing and managing budgets annually. (3) Proficiency in the use of QuickBooks (QB) for Non-Profit Organizations. (4) Ability to explain how transactions would be distributed among different grants. (5) Proficient use of Microsoft Word and Excel to produce financial reports utilizing downloads from QB. (6) Ability to work with spread sheets. (7) Ability to communicate effectively financial matters with staff, board members, grantors and others. Prior experience working with Federal, State and local grantor agencies is a plus. Experienced with grant audits. Requirements – BS degree and/or MBA in accounting/business with at least 5 years working in a multi-funded non-profit financial office. EOE. Send resume to – Attn: Human Resource Department Williamsburg-James City County, Community Action Agency, 312 Waller Mill Road, Suite 405, Williamsburg, VA 23185. (757) 229-9332. Salary Range – \$55,000 to \$60,000.

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **VOICES OF CHANGE TOASTMASTERS CLUB**

##### Ongoing

Develop your leadership and public speaking skills in a safe, friendly environment with the Voices of Change Toastmasters Club of Williamsburg. Visitors are welcome; this is an open club. We meet every Friday at 12:05-1:05 pm in the second floor conference room at EVB (formerly Virginia Company Bank), 1430 High Street, Williamsburg. For more information, visit [www.voicesofchange.toastmastersclubs.org](http://www.voicesofchange.toastmastersclubs.org) or [www.facebook.com/VoicesofChangeWilliamsburg](http://www.facebook.com/VoicesofChangeWilliamsburg).

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **BIBLE STUDY AND WORSHIP**

##### Ongoing

Informal, interactive Bible study and Holy Communion worship each Wednesday evening, 6:30 pm, at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 612 Jamestown Road, right across from the campus of the College of William and Mary.

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: WILLIAMSBURG AREA FAITH IN ACTION**

##### Ongoing

Faith In Action relies on volunteers to transport care receivers to doctor's appointments, the grocery store, bank, pharmacy, etc. Right now, the de-

mand for transportation is increasing. Faith in Action offers a flexible schedule for its volunteers. "Our organization was built on the idea of people helping people," Smith said. "If you have a few hours to dedicate to someone who may just need an arm to lean on to get to a doctor's appointment, then we have a spot for you. "If you are interested in volunteering, call the Williamsburg Faith In Action offices at (757) 258-5890.

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **VIRGINIA AERONAUTICAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY (VAHS)**

##### Ongoing

Every third Wednesday of the month, the Williamsburg chapter of the parent VAHS headquartered at the Richmond Airport Aviation Museum meets with aviation related speakers, programs and field trips. Everyone with an interest in aviation is encouraged to attend meetings in the second floor conference room of the Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport terminal building. Come for the camaraderie and learning experience, which comes with expanding your interest in aviation – past, present and future. Point of contact: (757) 258-0376

### **Hey Neighbor!**

#### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS**

##### Ongoing

The Tidewater Virginia Historical Society, TVHS, offers unique tours, lectures, social events and behind-the-scenes adventures. TVHS opens doors to "off-the-beaten-path" and "not-open-to-the-public" historic sites. Lectures by experts in their field provide information prior to tours to complete the experience. A recent archeological dig took place at New Quarter Park. A video dedicated to the dig, "Joys of Discovery" is currently running on the Cox community channel 46 at 3 pm daily. An Infomercial is running several times a day. Another dig that will be open to the public will be held in August. To learn more contact us at (757) 28-5587 or visit us on the web: [tv-hs.org](http://tv-hs.org) or [info@](mailto:info@tv-hs.org)

To see all listings,  
please visit:

[www.WilliamsburgNeighbors.com](http://www.WilliamsburgNeighbors.com)

Click on: **Hey Neighbor!**

**For information about  
Hey Neighbor!  
download the Media Kit.**

*Williamsburg's*  
**IN THE**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD**  
 photo challenge

At  
 The Thrift Depot  
 in Toano

Find the 12 differences  
 between the original  
 photograph (top) and  
 the altered photograph  
 (bottom).

Enjoy!

Look for the answers  
 in the next issue of  
 Next Door Neighbors

November 2016  
 In the Neighborhood  
 Photo Challenge



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