

September 2017

WILLIAMSBURG'S

# Next Door Neighbors

VO.11, ISSUE 9

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**Fall Arts**

**Shelley Weisberg**

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Choosing themes for each month of Next Door Neighbors is almost as much fun as finding and interviewing people for each issue. As you have probably noticed, there are just a couple of themes that we repeat each year. One of those is the Fall Arts issue. Why?

The arts in Williamsburg is growing in popularity and attendance of local events. Each year brings bigger and better exciting activities to showcase incredible talent in many different ways.

The number of Williamsburg artists and the extent of their creativity is endless. Operating in every medium imaginable - wood, paint, clay, music, and the written word - they craft amazing creations to appeal to all tastes and preferences.

In the month of September nearly all our artistic neighbors will be participating in events to showcase their creativity. This issue will familiarize you with some of our local talent and some of the happenings that you may enjoy attending. Williamsburg Fall Arts is a month-long celebration of the arts. Call your neighbor. Get out to enjoy and share in the fun. NDN



Meredith Collins, Publisher

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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

# The Power *of* Art

By Alison Johnson

Shelley Kruger Weisberg's lifelong passion for the arts began when she chose a pigeon-toed girl named Wendy as her best friend in kindergarten.

Wendy's parents wanted their little girl to learn to turn her feet outward, so they enrolled her in ballet classes. Shelley, then 5, tagged along.

"I immediately connected with dance," she says. "Dancing was so creative and freeing. And here I am, 57 years later, and the arts are still intertwined with every day of my life."

After a varied career as a movement therapist,

dance studio owner and museum educator and consultant, Shelley is now Chair of the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA), a state agency that champions a creative culture throughout the Commonwealth. The agency is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary, as recognized this summer by Gov. Terry McAuliffe at one of multiple special events.

VCA is working to redefine what the arts can accomplish in communities, a conversation that Shelley proudly calls "a game-changer."

"The arts are not just watching dancers on-stage and seeing if they do steps well," she ex-

plains. "It's about how the arts intersect with every aspect of our lives: as an economic driver, an intrinsic healing mechanism for veterans and people with many health challenges, a force behind the development of innovative new technology, a way to develop the creative thinkers needed for a 21st-century workforce."

Founded in 1968, the VCA awards more than 600 grants to non-profit and educational arts programs each year with funding from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The agency is guided by 13 commissioners, each appointed



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to a five-year term by the sitting Governor and legislature. Gov. Bob McDonnell nominated Shelley in 2014.

After serving as Secretary for two years, Shelley was elected Chair in 2016. This year's anniversary program includes roundtable discussions with leaders from many segments of society – business, government, healthcare, education and civic organizations – on how the arts intersect with their goals and activities. The VCA's "50 for 50 Arts Inspiration Awards" also is recognizing individuals and groups that have shaped Virginia culture over the half-century.

VCA's grants support a wide variety of arts genres for children, adults and seniors. In particular, the state has taken a lead with a national initiative known as The Creative Forces: The NEA Military and Healing Arts Network. This effort of state and national partners offers clinical and community-based arts programming for active duty and veteran service members and their families. "One in ten Virginians is a veteran, so our state's engagement and leadership is critical," Shelley notes.

Shelley has previously served with the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission, including a term as Chair from 2011 to 2012; Young Audiences of Virginia Board, which fosters arts education efforts for children; Leadership Historic Triangle Board; Preservation Virginia Board; Norfolk Society of the Arts Board and Chrysler Museum Council Board.

Her service history isn't surprising, given how much the arts have shaped her life. A Norfolk native, Shelley took classical dance classes throughout childhood and often spent her summers at dance camps. "I was lucky to find something I loved at such a young age," she says. "My dance training also kept me out of trouble."

Out of high school, Shelley was accepted to the prestigious Indiana University School of Music to study ballet. After two years there, however, she decided she wanted a program with more of an academic component. "I wanted a career where I could wear real clothes," she adds with a laugh.

Transferring to Chatham College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Shelley combined her interests in dance, psychology, kinesiology and service to complete a degree in the then-nascent specialty of Movement Therapy, the therapeutic use of motion to improve emotional, physical and cognitive health.

After graduation, Shelley worked with mentally challenged, autistic, psychiatric, deaf and visually impaired populations in clinical settings. Movement could reach each patient in a different way, she found. A deaf person who learned to feel a beat or rhythm in the floor, for example, could translate that skill into improving verbal cadence during speech therapy. In the psychiatric population, certain natural movement patterns could indicate a specific disorder and become a diagnostic tool.

For all patients, movement simply was healing, Shelley notes, "Movement is a non-verbal, spontaneous, creative way to communicate in a very uninhibited way. Movement enables your inner soul to be released without being trapped by words."

When Shelley and her husband of 41 years, Jeffrey, became parents to their first son, Clay, she transitioned to a new career by opening her own studio, Dance & Body Shoppe, in Chesapeake. With classes in cre-

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ative movement, ballet and body conditioning, the studio eventually grew to more than 200 students.

“I like to think of it as my middle child,” says Shelley, whose second boy, Zach, came along seven years after Clay. “My studio grew up with my kids.”

After 20 years, Shelley was again ready for a change. After turning her studio over to Old Dominion University, she ventured into the world of visual art by training as a docent at the Chrysler Museum. Quickly, she realized that movement again could be a tool, this time for education.

So instead of just looking at a statue, children could mirror its pose and then note how they were feeling. Take a famous Edgar Degas sculpture, *Little Dancer of Fourteen Years*, who stands with her chin up and her chest thrust outward. She was probably captured in a proud moment. The task of “mirroring” the sculpture requires creative and critical thinking skills, while considering spatial relationships can relate to mathematical concepts.

“It was so obvious to me that when kids were

just being talked at, they weren’t paying attention,” Shelley says. “If they could respond to artwork and objects through movement, they would get enthusiastic. They could have fun, create personal meaning for the art, and they would better understand the piece. I’ve seen many kids come back to a museum and teach their parents how to do the same thing.”

Convinced of the idea’s power, Shelley enrolled in graduate school at Lesley University in Massachusetts to earn a Master’s Degree in Education. She published a book, *Museum Movement Techniques*, and since has offered consulting services and workshops to museum educators, docents and classroom teachers both in the United States and internationally. She also has taught at Thomas Nelson Community College and the Joan Oates Institute at the University of Richmond.

One more transition came when Shelley’s children moved out of the house and she and Jeffrey, a dentist, decided to look for an adventure in the form of a new place to call home. Since Jeffrey would still be practicing in Chesapeake, they mapped out a 45-mile radius of

potential sites.

“Williamsburg hands-down was the choice, with its rich arts and intellectual culture and an active, vibrant lifestyle,” Shelley says. “That goes all the way back to the 18th century, the time of Thomas Jefferson. Everyone here is doing an amazing job of keeping that tradition going.”

A Williamsburg resident since 2004, Shelley regularly takes drawing and painting classes at the College of William & Mary. “My job as a Commissioner is to nurture creativity in our state, so I always want to keep pushing my own creative process,” she explains. “I enjoy the students. Taking classes with college students keeps me feeling edgy.” Other hobbies include “playing” at golf, biking and sampling wines.

While her VCA post is time-consuming, Shelley is very grateful to be a member of the team. “The arts have been a part of my life forever, and they are making a difference in so many ways,” she says. “Like our Governor, I feel so strongly that supporting a creative, innovative culture will benefit all Virginians. I see only good things coming from it.” NDN



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# WILL BELLUCCI



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

## Of Trees & Treasures

By Lillian Stevens

Will Bellucci feels a kinship with the trees that provide the material for his art.

“When we get a new tree, it’s like we’ve met a brand new friend and we can’t wait to work it,” Will says. “Trees are very much like people. Different trees have different person-

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alities. Some are smooth and friendly, and easy to work with. Others can be a bit more challenging.”

Together with his woodworking partner, Rachel Scheffel, Will operates Woods of Wisdom, LLC, out of a climate-controlled workshop in his York County home in Williamsburg. There, he is happily surrounded by his tools as well as hundreds of vessels in different stages of completion. Whether bowl, platter or urn, each piece is shaped to showcase the tree’s unique history.

“Once inside the tree, we see the colors, the age rings and grain patterns,” Will says. “No two are the same.”

Will often finds his treasures in the yards of farmers, homeowners and other individuals who are in need of having a tree removed.

“If we hear the music of a chainsaw, we’ll always stop by and find out the vital particulars,” he says.

Happily retired from the United States Air Force, he has the luxury of time to devote to his art. Will creates for the sheer joy of it. He sets his own schedule and follows no rules.

“I spent 26 years loading bombs onto air craft. In the military, there are rules for everything. In the art world, however, you have the freedom of just taking a deep breath. You can create what you want. There are no rules.”

Will says he always knew that he wanted to make something with his hands that would stand the test of time. “I love the idea of creating something that will be here for generations to come, something that will be appreciated long after I’m gone.”

That notion of time passing and art transcending time leads to a favorite story.

“My wife and I were living in Vermont, and I was walking by this guy’s house. I saw a wood pile and a tree trunk from a maple tree, so I asked him what he was going to do with that piece of wood. He told me that he was going to burn it.”

A Latin saying flashed through Will’s mind: *Ecce fugaces labuntur anni*. It means “behold the fleeting years go by.”

“I told the man that I wanted the tree trunk,” Will says. “I wanted to turn it and make it a piece of art. Here it was – this big

tree slated to be burned and that just hit me so hard.”

The tree trunk came home with Will, who then created from it a fabulous vessel adorned with maple leaves. On its lip, the Latin words that inspired the piece are painstakingly carved.

Every piece has a story, of course, and Will’s own works are rich in architectural elements, like the maple leaves. He doesn’t really have a particular favorite wood, although there are some he will avoid.

“Cedar splits too easily,” he says. “And pine has pitchy tar in it, so that’s bad. But there’s a tupelo that I love to carve. And cherry...just the wonderful smell of cherry.”

As a young boy growing up in Rochester, New York, Will first discovered a passion for wood working with his father. “My dad was a contractor who also did antique restoration, among other things.”

It’s a passion he has cultivated all his life, whether creating original works of art, high-end cabinetry or restoration work. Even during his military career, or perhaps because of it,

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DESIGNS by REGGIE AKDOGAN

real opportunities emerged.

After graduating from high school and joining the service, Will received orders to Bentwaters Air Force base in England. There two life-changing things happened. He met his wife, Launa, (also serving in the Air Force), and he met a master wood carver and craftsman who managed the workshop on base.

"I knew I would do whatever it took to stay in England," Will says with a hearty laugh.

In addition to his full-time military work, he took a part-time antique restoration job, working side by side with the master wood carver who ultimately became his mentor. The two worked together for 15 years, at the end of which Will was presented with a mallet.

"The mallet signifies that you have learned the craft," he says. "And it was given with encouragement to find someone else to teach what I had learned."

In 1999, he retired from the Air Force and returned with his wife to the United States, settling into the Green Mountains of Vermont. By 2003, Launa received orders to Alaska, so the couple headed west and settled in Anchor-

age. Will was running a woodshop there and teaching classes for all skill levels. That's where he met Rachel.

"Rachel was already an artist working in other mediums, but she signed up for a begin-

four-page spread in American Woodturner, one of the preeminent magazines of the art. The title of the article was "Embracing the Flaws."

"Wood is like humanity," Will says. "Each

"Wood is like humanity. Each piece has a different aesthetic with varying flaws. Each has its own unique personality. That article was huge for me because I wanted in my life validity. I wanted someone who wasn't related to me to validate my work. When that article was published, I experienced that." ~ Will Bellucci

ner wood turning class."

It wasn't long before she fell in love with the processes and art of wood turning and carving. As a military family, Will and Launa have moved many times since 2003, and Rachel has happily come along, soaking up all of the wisdom that Will has taught her.

To the unexperienced eye, their creations look perfect. They aren't. In fact, several years ago, Will and Rachel's art was featured in a

piece has a different aesthetic with varying flaws. Each has its own unique personality. That article was huge for me because I wanted in my life validity. I wanted someone who wasn't related to me to validate my work. When that article was published, I experienced that."

Even though there are no rules or limits to what Will can conceptualize and create, there are some pretty rigid processes that must be

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followed before the creative juices can flow. Some of it is fun (Will loves turning wood on his lathe) and some of it not so fun (sanding). Obviously, the first step is finding, or harvesting, the wood. If the wood is healthy, Will is happy to make arrangements for transport to his property. Once there, the tree is cut into manageable sections and appropriately sealed to slow the drying process until it can be turned the first time. Then comes the shaping (turning).

“We take a freshly cut chunk of wood and secure it properly to the lathe,” he says. “A lathe is nothing more than a machine that spins. It’s you, the wood and the tools. You take a piece of wood from a bumpy lump with bark all over it and turn it into a wonderful shape of proper balance and proportion.”

Next comes the hollowing part of the process to get a “rough shape” of approximately one inch thickness. It must dry for at least a year before it is put back on the lathe for reshaping – a critical step requiring tremendous attention to detail.

“Reshaping requires us to really focus,” Will

says. “Distractions and interruptions are kept to a minimum during reshaping so that we have an atmosphere that helps us create the best artistic piece possible. Then, we sand it in gradual increments until we have pieces that are as smooth as a baby’s butt.”

Finally, the embellishments are created and the final hollowing is completed.

“After turning a piece of wood, it is removed from the lathe and secured in a bench-mounted woodcarving vise. Then, the various decorative elements we carve are added.”

The final step is the artist’s gift to the owner. A signature flower is carved on the bottom where the artist’s name is also signed. Like the tree it came from, and like the piece itself, no two flowers are alike.

For the second year in a row, Woods of Wisdom will have art on display at An Occasion for the Arts where they hope to greet old friends and meet new ones. Last year, they fared pretty well, winning a “Judge’s Choice” award. As always, Will Bellucci embraces the opportunity to meet other artists from near and far. NDN

## Next Door Neighbors

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# Contemporary Artisans & Plein Air Painters

By Erin Zagursky

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Brandie Weiler appreciates the amount of work that goes into home repair. As the executive director of the nonprofit Housing Partnerships, she organizes and often participates in projects ranging from indoor plumbing rehabilitation to the construction of new homes.

She also appreciates the difficult work that is involved in creating art. Each year, she leverages the chance to showcase that work to support Housing Partnerships through two of the area's most unique art shows: Williamsburg Celebrates Contemporary Artisans and the Plein Air Festival.

Brandie grew up in Williamsburg and went to Lafayette High School before attending Columbia Southern University where she earned both undergraduate and master's degrees in business.

Although the plan was to teach business, she took a job as the volunteer coordinator at Williamsburg Community Hospital before getting the same position at Housing Partnerships.

Housing Partnerships provides housing-repair services to low-income, sick or disabled people in the Historic Triangle. It also offers a home replacement program and an indoor

plumbing rehabilitation program, which serves 18 counties around the state.

In the 11 years that Brandie has been with the nonprofit, she has moved from volunteer coordinator to program administrator to, just this July, executive director. During that time, she has seen the mostly volunteer organization make a substantial difference in the lives of countless local residents, many 55 and older, by providing vital repairs to their homes, or replacing their homes altogether.

"We still have homes in James City County and York County that don't have indoor

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plumbing, let alone the surrounding areas,” says Brandie, adding that being able to keep clients in their homes is among the top successes of the organization. “A lot of our clients have been living in their homes for years upon years. It was their parents’ home, and now they are elderly and living in the house they grew up in.”

Although Brandie has held administrative roles with Housing Partnerships, she is also often onsite, working on projects alongside volunteers, many of whom are college students.

“I can Kool-Seal a trailer roof in virtually no time at all,” says Brandie with a laugh. “I’m not scared to get on a roof. I would say my hammering abilities are not that great, but I will do it. I’ve done my share of working alongside the volunteers from simple jobs to more complex jobs.”

Through those efforts, Brandie has built close relationships with many of the clients, something she counts among the highlights of her job.

“A lot of them don’t have family, so they don’t have anybody, and they kind of look at us as, ‘What can you do? We need help,’” Brandie says.

In order to continue helping such clients at no cost to them, Brandie and her colleagues are always looking for new ways to raise funds. One such opportunity came to Housing Partnerships in an unexpected way: as a simple offer to sell snacks at an art show.

About seven years ago, Michele DeWitt, a member of the Housing Partnerships board as well as the Economic Development Authority, was looking for opportunities for the nonprofit to become better known in the community. She invited Housing Partnerships to sell snacks on the lawn of the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum during a new art show.

Brandie took Michele up on the offer, and the nonprofit began selling snacks each year at the Williamsburg Celebrates Contemporary Artisans show. As the years passed, the show grew, and Michele approached Housing Partnerships about taking it over from the EDA. The organization accepted, and now the annual event, which takes place each September on Duke of Gloucester Street near Barnes & Noble, has between 30 and 35 participants.

“The key is you have to demonstrate your art to engage the community,” says Brandie, adding that it’s a juried show so participants must apply to be included.

“It’s everything from potters to lace makers to an artist who repurposes scuba tanks into wind chimes,” Brandie says. “There’s another artist who takes utensils and makes them into statues and jewelry. We have a wood turner and he demonstrates, and the potters, they throw their pottery. It’s good. It’s all kinds of neat activities taking place.”

People attending the show, which usually takes place the same day as the Williamsburg Farmers Market, can return throughout the day to see each participant’s work progress. If artisans can’t demonstrate their work on site due to the equipment needed, they are asked to use a presentation board or other methods to show the different stages of their work.

Housing Partnerships makes money from the booth and application fees of each participant.

“And we’re still selling the snacks,” Brandie says.

The show runs alongside the Plein Air Festival, in which painters set up at locations throughout the Historic Area or William & Mary campus and paint scenes there.

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"We have signs made up wherever they're painting so people know what they're doing," Brandie says. "They come back at three o'clock in the afternoon, and they have their wet paint judged. They win prize money, and then we sell it right there. Housing Partnerships receives a portion of the sale. The plein air artists do very well selling their artwork. It's kind of

Whenever Brandie encounters an art show elsewhere, she gives index cards to the artists to encourage them to apply for the contemporary artisans show. She says she is still looking for a basket weaver and a blacksmith, but it's hard to find people with such skills in the digital age.

Although the artisan show continues to

"It's a gift. They are talented. Seeing the artwork they create and put together, from pottery to beading to the ladies that do the lace, I am in awe."

~ Brandie Weiler

neat. The paint's still wet, and people buy it."

Brandie has learned a tremendous amount about artwork through her involvement with the shows.

"It's a gift. They are talented," Brandie says. "Seeing the artwork they create and put together, from pottery to beading to the ladies that do the lace, I am in awe."

grow, the participants and organizers want to keep it somewhat small.

"If it does expand, we said we would not go to a two-day show," Brandie says. "We as a committee are committed to making this a personal show experience both for the artists and the community."

This year's Williamsburg Celebrates Con-

temporary Artisans and Plein Air shows are scheduled for September 16, a week before Housing Partnerships' biggest fundraiser: the Providing Indoor Plumbing for Everyone (PIPE) concert, which takes place at The Martha Wren Briggs Amphitheatre at Lake Matoaka.

It's a busy time for Brandie, who also serves as the assistant coach for the William & Mary cheerleaders. The art shows take place during Family Weekend for the college, which includes a football game. Brandie often finds herself literally running from Duke of Gloucester Street to the game.

Despite the workload involved with organizing the shows, Brandie, a mother of two, Madison, 12, and Mollie, 8, has enjoyed experiencing a new aspect of her hometown community and building relationships with all those involved. Brandie appreciates that the work of those who help support the important efforts of Housing Partnerships, all made possible through two unique art shows.

"Both events are my babies," Brandie Weiler says. "I've seen them from the ground up. It's been fun." NDN

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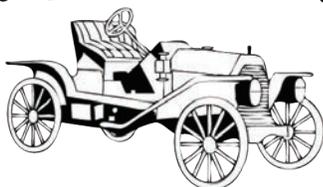
By Laura Lane

“Life has always been about art for me,” says Karen Bonday Williamson, who became a budding artist while growing up in Newport News. “My mother recognized that I had a talent, so I started private lessons in elementary school,” she says. After several years of classes in her neighborhood teacher’s garage studio, Karen’s desire to pursue art was cemented.

However, much of her attention was devoted to her family’s two businesses, a local bookstore

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chain called Book 'n Card as well as a newspaper distribution business. "It was always nose to the grindstone, so I painted in between," she says. "That's how we grew up. We were all working together, which was fun."

After graduating from Menchville High School, Karen studied fine arts at VCU in the early 1980s, with a focus on painting and printmaking, while continuing to work for her family. Just shy of graduating, she put her plans on hold. "My dad needed me to manage one of his bookstores, so I didn't finish my degree," she says.

Around age 40, she resumed with computer graphics courses at Tidewater Community College until she was interrupted again, this time by an ending marriage. "I learned everything I wanted to learn, but I never got my degree," she says.

Degree or not, the diversity of Karen's training combined with natural talent and passion sustained a lifelong dedication to art, from her first tiny oil painting sale as a child to her representation today at the Williamsburg Art Gallery, Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center and Peninsula Fine Arts Center. "I've always had that desire," she says, "but the way life dealt its hand, I haven't been able to paint full-time."

Though achieving 100%-artist status remains her ultimate dream, Karen still finds her nose to the grindstone, running her own concrete company. "Concrete Karen" stays solidly booked with local residential and commercial projects, from driveways and porches to patios and parking lots. "Each project becomes a work of art. I take extreme pride in what we do," Karen says.

Karen's craving for creativity led her to the concrete profession 14 years ago. At 45 years old, she found herself bored and discontent in her office job as a resort contract manager. Longing to work outside with her hands, she asked her friend Jim Lambert if she could help out on his construction jobs. "He said, 'Women don't do that,'" Karen says. "So, I just started showing up on my days off to learn. After five weeks, he said, 'you're on.'"

In 2011, after several years with Jim Lambert Construction, Karen founded her own family business and is now passing down her late parents' legacy to the next generation. In addition to loyal employees Ronnie Holmes and Brittany Scott, Karen's small crew includes her son, Caelan Williamson, daughter Meliszabeth McGuire, son-in-law Dale McGuire, and even sometimes her 11-year-old grandson, Braiden Wright, all Williamsburg residents. "I want to eventually step back and have them take over so I can become more involved with the local art scene," Karen says.

Daughter Meliszabeth is also now starting her own company, Houndcakes Bakery. "It runs in the family," says Karen of the entrepreneurship, and the art, that flows through their veins. Caelan is a candle maker and musician, and both of Karen's children enjoy photography, often a source of inspiration for her paintings. Their father, Jeff, was a self-taught painter and musician before pancreatic cancer took his life in 2009. Jeff and Karen's shared love for art often prompted them to paint together, even finishing each other's work. After they separated in 2000, Karen and her children moved from Hampton to Williamsburg, remaining here ever since.

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Having painted around town for years, Karen has always enjoyed plein air painting, an outdoor practice described by the French term meaning “open air.” Formally established by French impressionism, one of Karen’s favorite art forms, she explains it this way: “You are painting not only what you see, but the atmosphere—the feeling and energy of it.”

After depicting local spots from College Creek to York River State Park, Karen found her true inspiration amid the tropical colors of the Caribbean. During a 2014 trip to Rincon, Puerto Rico with her three brothers, Karen painted 19 plein air pieces and sold 11 to neighboring vacationers. “It was uplifting and empowering. People watched me paint and bought my art right then and there,” she says.

She returned to Puerto Rico’s west coast the next year with her brother, Chris, who she calls her biggest fan. “We rented a car, took off for 10 days and didn’t have a plan,” she says. “It was great. I couldn’t paint fast enough. We’d find little beach coves and I’d say, ‘Pull off the road!’” This time, she produced six in-depth paintings, selling three there, thanks in part to a Rincon art festival.

The second of four siblings, Karen is obviously close to her brothers, who say their sister got all the talent. Chris is a Williamsburg local, and Karen often visits Steve and Tommy on the Outer Banks. “I sit up in the dunes and paint. What’s fun is that the sand blows into the paint. Not only do you get the painting, you get a piece of the landscape too! That’s the thing about plein air. They’re fresh, they’re fast. I don’t spend a lot of time on them because it’s about capturing the moment.”

Though it’s sometimes a difficult task, prone to unpredictable disruptions like thunderstorms, the speed creates a unique authenticity. “When the light is changing and the clouds are moving, you have to capture that image before or as it changes,” Karen says. “It’s a good challenge. If I dwell on something too long, I muddy up the fun freshness of it.”

A capture-worthy moment can strike anytime. “I keep my acrylics with me in case I see a ‘stop-the-car’ scene,” she says. “I’m always looking for the next composition. The older I get, the more it’s an obsession. I’ll stop what I’m doing and get up to paint. I can’t not do it. It’s really an inner drive, so I try to do something creative every day.”

That includes studio painting, woodwork and sign work, too. Sometimes Karen uses her plein air acrylic studies as a reference to create a studio oil with the same feel. No matter the medium, “nature is my focal point,” she says, frequently composing landscapes, flowers and lately, even painting on rocks. “I feel like I can create nature whichever way I want to. It’s wide open. There’s no right or wrong.”

Karen’s original creations and fine art prints are sold through local galleries and festivals, like Yorktown’s “Art at the River” show, where she received a 2015 award. She plans on teaching at the Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center and has found her connection with the Williamsburg Art Gallery inspiring. “The owners, Gulay and Clyde Berryman, have been promoting art locally in a big way,” she says. “Williamsburg should be able to support a lot more visual art, and I would love to be able to collaborate with other artists and organizations.” NDN



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# Arts

By Cathy Welch

This year, Steve Mattheisen, of Mattheisen & Beers, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc., is one of the first time sponsors of An Occasion for the Arts along with his business partner, Bryan Beers. He is not doing it for the advertising opportunity, but for the joy of contributing to something that has been a special part of his experience as a part of the Williamsburg community he calls home.

Steve, born one of four children in Arlington, Virginia, earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in marketing from Old Dominion University. Today, he is married to Martha and has three adult children who live locally. Daughter, Erin, teaches at D.J. Montague Elementary School and her husband teaches at Berkeley Middle School. They have



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

one child, one-year-old Mason Lee, and are pregnant with their second child, a boy due in December. Son, Winston lives in Richmond and works in Williamsburg. Their youngest son, Graydon, graduated from The Apprentice School and is a foreman at the Shipyard. He lives in Charles City and is married and expecting their first child in December. Graydon married a Charles City girl, and they have

seven dogs, a "great big" garden, chickens and more.

Steve and his family have two wonderful dogs: a golden retriever named River, and a small black mutt named Ladybird. "Ladybird is my special child. She is smart as a whip and loves me," he explains. "She waits for me to come home every day and just doesn't want to leave me."

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In 1994, Steve and his family moved from Norfolk to Williamsburg. “We thought it would be a great community to raise our children,” Steve explains. “It exceeded our high expectations.”

Seven years ago, Steve and Martha, who lived in Kingsmill at the time, bought an older home in White Stone on Carter’s Creek as a weekend getaway. Three years later, their Kingsmill home sustained a massive amount of damage due to a fire that began in the attic. This unfortunate situation caused them to think differently about their living situation.

“It was May, and we were getting ready to open the pool at the river,” Steve says. “We thought, we’re just going to go to the river for the summer and the repairs will be over by fall.”

Ultimately, it was over a year before their Kingsmill home was ready to reoccupy. In the meantime, Steve got used to his cruise control commuting with no rush hour or traffic jams. Since their children had moved out by then they decided to make White Stone their full-time home.

“Now I commute an hour every day and I love every day,” Steve explains. “But, I would say Williamsburg is still home. It’s where we raised our kids and where I know so many people. But I have another home now.”

Last year, Stuart Honenberger, president of An Occasion for the Arts, and Leo Charette, the event’s artistic director, offered Steve a chance to be a first-time sponsor for their October 2017 season. “We have enjoyed all Williamsburg has to offer over the years, including An Occasion for the Arts,” Steve says of his family. “It was an easy decision to be involved with something we have enjoyed and benefited from.”

Steve joined business partner of seven years, Bryan Beers, to give a sponsorship to the nonprofit. Bryan and Steve are the partners in Mattheisen & Beers and Bryan is a native of Williamsburg whose father played football for William & Mary. “It is wonderful knowing that we are contributing to the improvement and sustainability of such a wonderful event.”

“How can you not love walking Colonial Williamsburg in early October with all the artists?” Steve says of An Occasion for the Arts weekend. “It’s hard to beat.”

He and his family have enjoyed the experience of the event more than anything else. “You’re seeing great artwork and buying something from time to time. Williamsburg is special already and to have all this artwork and the activity of the people is the biggest thing.”

Steve appreciates Williamsburg’s small town atmosphere, the fact that it is a college town and has such historical significance along with the added experience of art events. He sees this and other cultural events as part of what makes Williamsburg a great place to live. He also values the diversity of local happenings and wide-ranging commitments from so many different people that enhance life in the city. “You don’t have to be an art lover to go to downtown, walk, look at the art, see friends and listen to the music throughout the weekend,” Steve says. “Everybody’s going to appreciate it.”

In his free time, Steve likes to ride his jet skis and head out in one

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of his two powerboats. "When we lived in Williamsburg we'd run over to Smithfield Station in our boat," Steve says. "Now we cruise over to Tides Inn across Carter's Creek."

He enjoys fishing and just being outdoors. He and Martha also share a passion for travel. "We just spent two weeks in Europe, especially in Switzerland," he says. "While there, I reconnected with a Swiss friend from 35 years ago."

When Steve left for college, his parents moved to Switzerland. He spent the summers between semesters developing a circle of friends in Europe. "This one guy, Rob, was arguably my best friend," Steve says. "Those were the summers I'm most fond of in my lifetime."

During this year's reunion, at his buddy's recommendation, Steve and Martha took a side trip to Camogli, Italy, before returning to visit Rob again before heading back to the states.

But the Bahamas is their favorite destination. "More times than not, we'll go to the Abaco Islands in the Bahamas." They rent a house and a boat for a week. The watercraft is their only means of travel once they settle in. "You don't need a car," he explains. "If you need food you have to get on the boat and go into Hope Town."

Steve's love for life in Williamsburg fuels his passion to give back to the community. "We will always be fond of Williamsburg where we raised our kids and have so many wonderful memories," Steve says. "It's truly rewarding to have the opportunity to support the community we love and have enjoyed for so long." NDN

# Literacy for Life Launches New Work Skills Program



Literacy for Life is thrilled to announce the launch of its EmployEd Program.

"For over 40 years, we have been helping adults in our community with reading, writing, math and English language skills," said Executive Director Joan Peterson. "With the addition of the EmployEd program, we are now giving targeted help to our learners who wish to transition into living wage jobs so that they can support their families."

Meiber's story illustrates the program's mission and success. Meiber fled Venezuela with her husband and their young son. She came to the United States speaking almost no English. She immediately sought the services of Literacy for Life and studied English every day. As her English skills improved, Literacy for Life staff and tutors helped her connect with the American Job Center and focused on the English needed to become a certified medication aide (CMA).

Today, just three years after her arrival, Meiber is working as a CMA at a local clinic and looks forward to becoming a registered nurse. Meanwhile, the clinic benefits from its well prepared new employee, and the local economy benefits from another worker filling the "middle skill gap."

Middle skill jobs require education beyond high

school but less than college. These jobs make up the largest part of the labor market, but there are not enough workers to meet the need.

In Virginia, about 49% of all jobs are middle-skill, but only 39% of the workforce is trained to that level. This gap is costly to employers, who spend billions of dollars annually on training and remediation.

Through the EmployEd Program, Literacy for Life is building bridges between its learners and local training programs, services, and employers. Under Literacy for Life's roof, a single learner might identify a career goal; develop the reading, writing, math, English, computer and soft skills required for a chosen career; meet with a representative from the American Job Center to explore scholarship funding; apply for a credentialing program; receive individual tutoring over the course of the training; write a resume; and receive referrals to potential employers.

EmployEd learners have already transitioned into several local training programs including the Certi-



*Joan Peterson, Executive Director*

fied Nursing Assistant training at Heart to Heart; the ChefsGo program at Thomas Nelson Community College; and HVAC technician training at New Horizons Regional Education Centers. They have secured employment at local businesses including Williamsburg Landing, Greystone, and Olde Towne Medical Center.

Joan Peterson reflects, "Our mission at Literacy for Life remains to improve lives by giving adults the skills needed for self-sufficiency, better health, and meaningful participation in society. We are so excited to add the EmployEd program, which not only aligns perfectly with our existing mission but has the added benefit of meeting the needs of local employers and boosting our economy. Everybody wins."



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# Jamestown Jams

By Ben Mackin

Think about throwing a party. More specifically, think about the planning and logistics that even the smallest get together might require. Where is it going to be? What are people going to eat? What are they going to do? Now think about the guest list. How many people are coming to your party? Take that number and multiply it by a few thousand people. While some of us faced with such a daunting task would be hyperventilating at the thought, for James City County event coordinator Laura Messer it is just another day in the office. Laura has been helping put on events like Jamestown Jams concert series as well as helping showcase the various businesses throughout the county since 2008.

A native of Newport News, Laura matriculated from Denbigh High School to George Mason University where she discovered that she had a keen interest in communications. "I didn't know communications was a thing," she says. "I thought that there was English and there was journalism, and then I saw that communications was a hybrid between the two and



from there it was game over. It was everything I was good at and everything I enjoyed and I definitely wasn't a science or math person." Laura laughs. While earning her degree Laura took an active role on the student activities board where she got her first taste of concert and event planning.

After graduating in the mid-2000s Laura moved back to the area and began working with the marketing department at Busch Gardens. There she assisted with public relations and event planning before taking a position in the Economic Development Department with James City County. There she continued her passion

for marketing and event planning. Working with the county communications department, Laura played a role in establishing James City on Instagram. "I've helped grow the county as far as tourism and tourism related businesses and helping business owners with marketing," she says. In the time since she began working for the county she has seen the area go from a spring and summer tourist destination to one that is able to draw visitors in any season. "It has become a year round market," Laura notes. "We have this core Christmas season that we didn't have before. We have Williamsburg Fall Arts and Spring Arts. It was something we have

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been working towards for a while.”

In 2015, Laura was promoted to event coordinator. The job has taken on several facets, one of which is organizing the community events around the area. The other part of the job she enjoys is helping the smaller businesses showcase their wares and skills in the most effective manner.

“I’ve been really fortunate to work with so many great people in this role,” she says thoughtfully. “I help make sure their marketing is where it needs to be in terms of local websites, and I help businesses with event processes like the permits. They might not know the forms to fill out or who to talk to, so I am the conduit. They shoot me an email and I can link them with the right resources and people.”

One way Laura is able to help businesses get their names out there is through events such as Jamestown Jams. A four part concert series held at Jamestown Beach Event Park, the Jams have been picking up momentum with each iteration. Every show this summer has been dedicated to a different decade and features bands from around the area covering songs of the era. It kicked off in July with Richmond based Af-

firmative Groove playing cover hits from the 1970s. The August show featured The Deloreans, a Hampton Roads based ‘80s cover band. 1990s night is scheduled for September 1, with Party of Four playing the night away. On October 6th, the Lone Rangers will close out the series playing favorites from the early 2000s.

In keeping with her mission of helping local businesses, Laura is particularly excited about events like the Jams because it showcases what James City County has to offer. “One of the things that is fantastic about Jamestown Jams is that it is all free.” Laura notes. “We are really proud that we can offer this to the community and also visitors. We promote these to visitors as something to do on a Friday night after driving all day.”

With each show, the Jams has gained a bigger and bigger following. Almost 600 people showed up for opening night in July, and Laura is looking to top the head count in each of the following shows. The well-attended parties will help her with the other aspect of her job. “I really like the fact that we use local businesses,” Laura says of the events she plans. “We try to use local food trucks, as well as having non-

profit organizations pay for the beer and sell it. All the profits then go to them. These are great opportunities for the businesses to be seen by people who might not see them normally.”

This year James City County has teamed up with The Arc, which raises awareness and supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. “The Arc has been in the area since 1976, and we are so pleased to be working with them and to be able to give them this opportunity,” Laura says.

Going forward, Laura Messer has no plans of slowing down her pace. With a multitude of venues to choose from all over the county, events like the Jamestown Jams concert series, Williamsburg Taste Festival (formerly known as the Williamsburg Harvest Celebration) and various arts festivals there is no end to fun. “These events are community based and great for the area,” she says. “They’re low cost for those who want to come, great not only for visitors but for locals who want something to do.” With new businesses springing up all over the county and with the ever-present tourism factor, Laura is looking forward to growing the events already on the books. NDN

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# JENNY LOVELAND



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

# SOLDIER ARTIST

By Narielle Living

It's not often that people have what appears to be two very opposite careers during their life, but Jenny Loveland has done just that. Today, she is an artist who works with a variety of mediums to express her themes. She is also a Gulf War veteran who is retired from the Air Force. According to Jenny, however, the two are not mutually exclusive; a plethora of creative people are in the military. "They

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may not know they're artists, but I work with veterans a lot and they have a good facility for language," Jenny says. "You have to be imaginative in order to survive; you can't just rely on rules. You've got to be creative and think on your feet. Once people find that out, they kind of get set free and they just go."

Jenny's father was in the Air Force and her mother is Japanese. She decided to enlist because of her father's suggestion. "My dad was enlisted, and I know what he was thinking once I finished college," she says. First, he wanted to know where she would get health-care, and then he asked how she would pay back her student loans. "I tried to get a job but it was a tough time economically," she says. "I had no answer for how I would pay my loans back." She was presented with an opportunity to go to graduate school, but couldn't bear the idea of spending even more time immersed in nothing but books. Jenny was ready to do something more concrete.

"I was out of options for finding a job other than going to grad school, so my dad suggested the military. I didn't think it was a good

idea for me, but he said it would be fine. So, I thought, what's four years, right?"

During the 1980s, Jenny was stationed at Langley Air Force Base. She liked the energy of this area and decided to settle in Williamsburg after her service. "It just felt good here."

Jenny's journey to becoming an artist began when she was young. In the fifth grade, she became very sick with double pneumonia. "My parents were like many parents then, they came out of very hard times in both countries. They believed in not giving medicine right away, particularly to make a child's biology as strong as possible. They would wait until it was dire, and eventually it got dire for me."

After being admitted to the hospital, she began to heal. However, she was still unable to go to school, so when she was sent home it was with instructions on how to take care of herself. "The doctor sent me home with very strict instructions. He told me to visualize the white blood cells chewing up the whole black lung I had and visualize them working on this other lung too."

Of course, once she got home she had noth-

ing to do. Her mother gave her some paper and pencils, and that was it. It wasn't long until Jenny was immersed in the world of drawing. "We had these Disney cutouts, so I spent weeks and weeks figuring out how to draw Thumper," she says. "Mickey was the hardest. He was made from circles of different diameters, and finding the ratios was crazy. It took me a while to figure out that Disney characters were shapes, but once I got that I was all into it. I got really good at drawing Thumper."

Jenny did not return to school right away. Her parents turned a small closet into a library and filled it with all sorts of books. "We read all summer. I had a great childhood. Our house had a lot of artifacts from Japan, and when I look back now I realize it was a very rich, artistic environment."

Today, Jenny works with a variety of mediums, but when she first decided to go back to art she worked in watercolors. She met Betty Anglin, a local artist at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center (PFAC), who helped her find her direction.

"I wondered if I could still draw, so I

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went over to PFAC and Betty and I became friends.” Betty encouraged Jenny to continue her education in art, and Jenny then enrolled in the art program at Christopher Newport University. “Betty’s work is watercolor, and that’s where I started. I ended up going over into acrylics and then by the time I graduated I was really working with mixed media heavily and a lot of collages. I just let the themes emerge. It’s a very mysterious, wonderful and fun thing to do.”

She also began teaching but soon realized she felt a lack of confidence about paint. “It sounds weird, but I had a lot of people say to me that my acrylics looked like oil. They recommended going straight into oils. That was hard. I almost gave up, but then something happened. It was trial and error, but it also was a totally different way to look at material.”

Today, in addition to creating art, she works with veterans. “I hesitated before doing this because, only for myself, I really wanted to put that aside,” she says. She thought that her military background may have been clouding some of her thinking in relation to art. “There

are pretty deep ruts, a strict view of things, and art demands both but it also demands the ability to let go and not get so much into a lock step. You have to be aware of the opportunity, but what I realized was teaching has really helped me. Betty’s the one who encouraged me to teach at first, and I began meeting other artists. Teaching is a great way to learn how to do other things. Every moment is a learning moment.”

Jenny has begun using her writing as another tool with her art. She works on poetry, short stories and essays. “I write about the idea of imagery and how to interpret image. It’s a bridge and one pulls the other along.”

Color and color theory also figure prominently in Jenny’s work. She is intent on helping people put language and visualization together as a systematic way of thinking. “Instead of looking at an object and calling it the plate, we can go back to the idea of dark and light and shadow and mass. It’s a very old, classical way of doing it. People go through several doors to get there as they’re beginning to deconstruct the idea of what it means to draw to repre-

sent life on canvas. That’s what I’m working on right now, my color language, painting and teaching. I’m not trying to change the world, I’m trying to invite people to see as artists see. Not looking too much and trying to force something to be something. It’s an ephemeral idea, and it’s not easy to capture that.”

Jenny Loveland’s advice about art is simple. “If you really enjoy painting keep painting, keep painting. If you like paintings buy from local artists. If you want to see art in your community then you really do have to buy. It takes so much effort to deliver a piece of work to a gallery or a shop, and every frame, every canvas marks an artist’s sensibility about their work. It needs to be paid attention to.” She also advocates the practice of slowing down to appreciate our surroundings.

“We need to slow down and look. If we’re not going to slow down we’re going to become inhumane. That’s when we get into trouble. We need to be more conscious of our choices and have the capacity to build in empty space. I like art for that reason. Like a ‘physician heal thyself’, that’s what art is for me.” NDN

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# EDWARD LULL



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

## Naval Officer to Poet

By Christopher LaPointe

If you mention going to a poetry reading or analyzing poetry, there is a good chance you will hear a few groans. It doesn't have to be that way. Poetry doesn't have to be this abstract concept that only the indoctrinated few can comprehend. Williamsburg poet Edward Lull says, "Accessibility is something I focused on from the very first poem I wrote. It was important for me to not write quiz-

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zes that people will have to struggle with and come to different conclusions.”

Ed spent his formative years in the Northeast. Born in northeastern Pennsylvania, his family moved to upstate New York when Ed was only nine years old. After graduating from Lansingburgh High School in Troy, New York, Ed went off to the Naval Academy in Annapolis.

He spent the next twenty years of his life after graduation in the Navy working on submarines. At different points throughout his career, Ed did most officer jobs available aboard the vessels, weaponry, deck, engineering, among others. His final assignment before retiring in 1975 was the USS Halfbeak (SS-352), where he was the executive officer.

Along the way, he and his wife, Evelyn, had three children, a daughter and two sons. After his retirement from the Navy, Ed worked as a technology consultant in the Washington, D.C. area for nineteen years. His daughter and one of his sons attended the College of William & Mary. When Ed

and Evelyn decided to retire again, in 1997, they moved to Williamsburg to be closer to their children. The family has since grown to include spouses for all three children, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Ed's passion has been around for most of his adult life, though he had little formal training. He had always been comfortable writing. Whenever a project came up throughout his military and consulting careers, Ed volunteered for the task. He says, "I was always interested in writing, no matter what genre."

It was the desire to improve his writing that led him to the Christopher Wren Association at age 65. Ed was already familiar with the Christopher Wren Association at W&M because of his children's attendance at the school. He wanted to take a writing course so that he could finally get some formal training on a hobby he had been slowly cultivating for most of his life.

Unfortunately, there was only one writing class being taught that semester in 1998. It

turned out to be a beginning poetry workshop with Rita Durrant. This was a fortuitous event for the next two decades of Ed's life. Mrs. Durrant saw potential in Ed's writing. According to Ed, "At the end of the class, she asked me to bring a few poems to read at the Williamsburg Poetry Guild's next meeting. Afterward, they invited me to join the guild, which I did." Mrs. Durrant had been one of the founding members of the Guild. She was also the eastern region's vice president for the Poetry Society of Virginia. At her encouragement, Ed joined this organization as well.

Though Ed's poetry career was slow to get started, it proceeded at a very rapid rate once he met Mrs. Durrant. A few months after Ed joined the Poetry Society of Virginia, Mrs. Durrant's term as eastern region vice president was up, but she nominated Ed to take her place. Just six months later, the president of the Society resigned. The organization's bi-laws stated that one of the vice presidents must step in to serve out the rest of the term.

"None of the other vice presidents wanted

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to step in, so I did. I went on to serve four full terms as the president.”

Ed had been writing poetry for little more than a year before he was the President of the Poetry Society of Virginia. Despite his status as a relative newcomer, Ed was up to challenge. He moved the annual poetry festival to Williamsburg while president. He ran all the setup and planning for the three-day event for the next twelve years.

During his time as an active member of the Society, Ed started publishing books of his own, poetry as well as editing anthologies for some of the Society’s events. He recognizes the challenges of writing a book. When discussing the process of getting his first book, *Cabin Boy to Captain: A Sea Story*, he states, “Anything I’ve written has been a challenge, and it’s always been a worthwhile challenge.”

He describes that particular book as a historical novel written in blank verse (poetry with meter, but without rhyme). It is an epic, in the tradition of Homer, that follows a fic-

tional character throughout his life at sea, starting with his first experiences as a cabin boy and culminating in the Spanish Armada’s attack on the Royal Navy in 1588 where he is the captain of a ship. The genesis of the narrative began all the way back in 1955, during

“I just enjoy writing. I don’t focus in on one particular area. I got into it by focusing on the mechanics of writing. Meter and rhyme. They came very naturally to me.” ~ Edward Lull

Ed’s senior year at the Naval Academy. The story was nearly fifty years in the making.

Thankfully for Ed, not all of his books took slightly less than half a century to mature. Ed’s other five books include a textbook, of sorts, for writing various formal poetry styles, ruminations on history, philosophy, and his own experiences.

Many people get into writing poetry for the cathartic effect it has. They use the medium as a way to exercise their negative emotions. Ed recognizes the catharsis that results from the act of writing. However, he sees his involvement as something else entirely. He

says, “I just enjoy writing. I don’t focus in on one particular area. I got into it by focusing on the mechanics of writing. Meter and rhyme. They came very naturally to me.” These mechanics are often stumbling blocks for young writers.

Also during his time with the Poetry Society of Virginia, Ed took over responsibilities

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for teaching the beginning poetry workshop for the Christopher Wren Association. "It all came full circle for me about ten years after I got started." When he taught those workshops, he told his students that the most important thing to do is to get started. They didn't have to worry about the mechanics at first. Those formal parts of writing will come with time. He has seen a lot of people struggling with the meter. They go about it very mathematically. It is when they are struggling with it that they make matters worse.

Ed has an answer for the other big roadblock that holds writers back. When it comes to writing, the inability to start is the elephant in the room. So many people have great ideas for things that they want to write, but they cannot seem to get started. This is such a common complaint when it comes to writers. As a seasoned writer and facilitator of workshops, Ed has a bit of advice. "Don't think about the format. Just put some ideas down."

Like all great ideas, part of the allure is in the simplicity. If you are struggling to get started, don't start at the beginning. Ed wants to get people to put their ideas on paper. He recommends one of the numerous writing workshops in the area. They are held routinely and for almost every genre or style of writing imaginable. Ed recognizes that some people feel penned in by the restrictive nature of the workshop environment. "Most workshops are aimed at stimulating your writing." If you are considering a particular writing workshop and you are in doubt, it never hurts to ask people who have attended that workshop in the past.

It can be quite beneficial to just sit back and listen. Something else that Ed does in the community is the Saturday Poetry Series. Ed founded the program seventeen years ago. On the first Saturday of the month, between September and June, a group of loyal poetry fans gather to listen to the five poets Ed brings in. Each month, a whole new crop of

talent is presented to the group. Some of the guest speakers are locals, but others are from around the state or even further.

Each of the five poets will read some of their work for approximately ten to twelve minutes, though Ed is adamant about not being a time keeper. Some members will go out to lunch together afterward. The group has had to relocate for various reasons throughout the near two-decade timeline. This September, they will return to the Stryker Building on North Boundary Street during the Williamsburg Book Festival. In fact, on October 7, 2017, four of Virginia's poets laureate will be giving a reading at the book festival.

All of Ed Lull's work with the Guild, the Society, and the Christopher Wren Association has been to bring the creative use of language to more people. Whether it is writing, reading, reciting, or listening, the thing that can touch everyone in the audience is that language. NDN



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By Brandy Centolanza



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“I find it rewarding to help bring music to our area and to encourage younger people to listen to music,” shares Paul Try, president of The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League (WSOL).

The League is a part of the Williamsburg Music Association, along with the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra and the Williamsburg Youth Orchestras. Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1984 with the goal of exposing children to classical music, and has grown to be an internationally-recognized professional orchestra. For more than 30

years, members of WSOL have partnered with the orchestra, providing financial support and volunteer hours to assist the orchestra with its operations and educational efforts each season. Paul has been an active member of WSOL for a number of years, having first been introduced to it by his wife, Linda Kligman-Try. Linda heard about the organization through another member while attending a concert at Williamsburg Lodge shortly after the couple moved to the area in 2006.

“I really like the sound of the symphony, and I think their programming by music director

and conductor, Janna Hymes, is just outstanding,” says Paul. “They are wonderful at bringing in a variety of music. They have a high-quality sound, and I really wanted to be a part of it.”

The two main functions of WSOL are fundraising for the orchestra and providing volunteers who usher at concerts and offer transportation and other needs for soloists and musicians during rehearsals, performances, Master Classes and other events. Members of the league are dedicated music enthusiasts whose goal is to keep music alive for the next generation.

WSOL sponsors three main fundraisers

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each season. The first fundraiser is a series of Encore Affairs, roughly ten social events each year. These affairs may include receptions, dinners, or tours and lectures at local venues such as the Muscarelle Museum of Art at the College of William & Mary or the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Among the Encore Affairs planned for the 2017-2018 season are dinner at A Chef's Kitchen, dessert at Mad About Chocolate, Spanish food tastings at La Tienda, and drinks at Virginia Beer Company. The league's major fundraiser is a dinner concert held each spring featuring famed musicians. Local Broadway star Tiffany Haas headlined last year's concert, which raised nearly \$35,000. This season's concert is slated for April 21 and will feature Frank Cubillo, a Frank Sinatra tribute vocalist from Virginia Beach.

WSOL also has a fundraising program called Own Your Own Orchestra, which gives people an opportunity to make individual donations to the orchestra section of their choice. The program typically brings in \$5,000 a year for the orchestra.

"People who played an instrument in high

school may wish to support a specific section of the orchestra," Paul says.

Money raised through WSOL goes toward the orchestra's various educational initiatives. The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra's educational programs include Meet the Musicians, an in-school program for fourth graders conducted by professional musicians; Instruments for Kids, which helps provide instruments for children whose families cannot afford them; Guest Artist Master Classes, which gives talented young musicians the opportunity to work with world renowned musicians; and Instrumental Coaching, which sends professional musicians into local schools to work with small groups of students throughout the school year. Every five years, the league also helps bring in the popular Peter & The Wolf programming for local youth. Other funding goes toward paying for soloists and operational and other supporting costs.

One of Paul's favorite aspects of the orchestra is its youth outreach. "I am a big supporter of extra-curricular activities, whether it is the arts or athletics," he says. "It helps with social skills

and team work, and it broadens one's personality. I think such activities better prepare you for life, help you get along with others and lead to more personal enjoyment. Not everything should be about test scores, writing or arithmetic."

Paul's mother, Edna, was a vocalist and pianist, and his father, Foster, was a math teacher. Both influenced Paul throughout his childhood. He started playing the violin at age seven and also took up the trumpet and viola for a time. Paul played violin in the orchestra both in high school and in college.

"I liked being a part of the orchestra and performing," he says. "Classical music can be so uplifting and bright. I like all kinds of music."

Paul, who grew up mostly in the Midwest, attended Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, majoring in math and minoring in music. After graduation, he spent the next 28 years in the United States Air Force. He went on to earn a Doctorate Degree in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington. Paul spent much of his career in the field of meteorology, working first in the U.S. Air Force Air Weather

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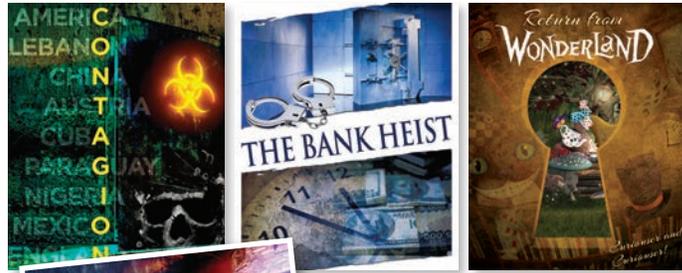
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Service, and later, in the Office of the Secretary of Defense in Washington D.C. There, he provided oversight management of all DOD research and development in the environmental sciences. Currently, he is Senior Vice President at Science of Technology Corporation (STC), Program Manager for support to the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM), and past Director of the NASA supported International Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX) Project Office.

Through the years, Paul continued to play violin in small community orchestras whenever possible. He was part of orchestras in Alabama and Arizona, and played with the McLean Chamber Orchestra in Northern Virginia. While stationed at Scott Air Force Base in St. Clair County in Illinois, Paul also dabbled in theatre, performing in a local production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

"They were looking for a real musician for the play, so I volunteered," he says. "I had to dress up in makeup and a beard, climb up a ladder and play on a roof. I didn't really know

what I was getting into, but it was a lot of fun." He packed up his violin decades ago, and now prefers to help promote the love of music through his involvement with WSOL. His roles throughout the league have included recording secretary and vice president. He is in his second season as president and also serves on the executive committee of the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra's Board of Trustees.

"As president, I basically see that everything gets done," he says. "Last year, was a banner year. We raised \$64,000."

Paul's wife is also passionate about music and the league. Linda is in charge of host services for WSOL, which schedules all transportation for the soloists. She also sits on the board of Opera in Williamsburg.

Paul, meanwhile, is also active with the American Meteorological Society. He once served as president of the organization and is currently chair of the society's Investment Committee for its endowment fund.

But it is the WSOL that takes up much of his time. Colonial Williamsburg's announcement of the closing of Kimball Theatre in July

was disheartening for all involved with the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra. The majority of the orchestra's concerts are held at the Kimball Theatre, including four performances of the popular Holiday Pops each Christmas.

"Losing the Kimball Theatre was devastating," Paul says. "Every community needs a gathering place, and I think every municipality has the responsibility to provide that. Kimball Theatre is the hub of Williamsburg. It's not only a loss of a cultural venue but a key location in downtown Williamsburg."

News that the College of William & Mary will lease the Kimball Theatre and keep it up and running has Paul hopeful this season's shows will still go on. He feels Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra and the league have much to offer Williamsburg.

"Williamsburg has a smorgasbord of cultural opportunities," Paul Try says. "You can do as little or as much as you want with what interests you, whether it is going to dinner, to see a show, a concert, to the symphony or the opera, to see a play, or a basketball game. Williamsburg has everything. We love it here." NDN

# Family Life Law



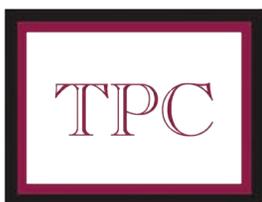
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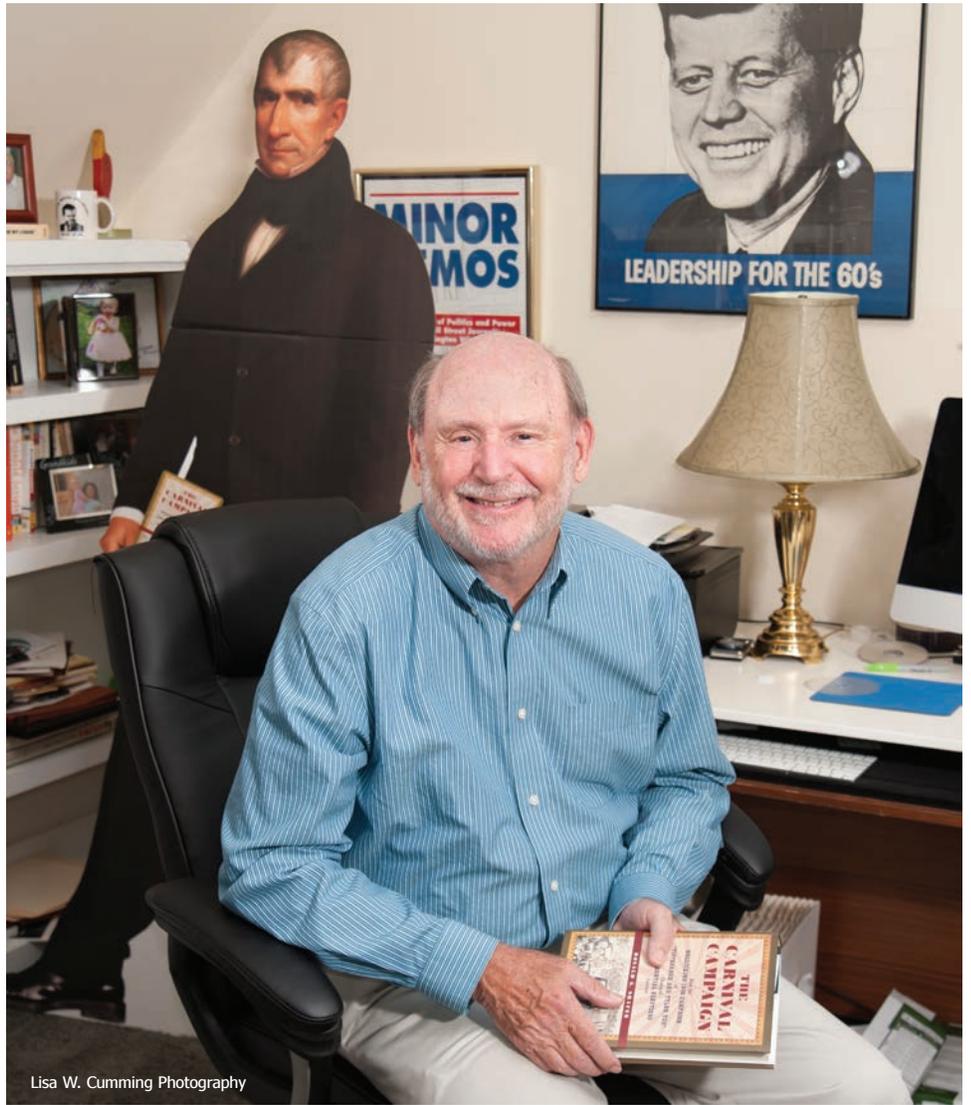
# SHARING HISTORY

One Story at a Time

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Retired Wall Street Journal editor Ron Shafer's life history has the feel of a Horatio Alger story. Not strictly rags to riches, but a dramatic arc from modest means and expectations to the rarefied world of internationally respected journalism.

Ron's dad was a railroad engineer and his mother, like most women in Columbus, Ohio in the 1950s, stayed home to care for their six children. "We were pretty poor, actually, though we didn't know it," Ron remembers. "I was the first to graduate from college, working my way through Ohio State back in the day when tuition was a hundred dollars a quarter." He worked in a department store for a dollar an hour; earned twice that as a mail carrier; drove both a cab and an ice cream truck; worked for the railroad and for the 11:00 news—whatever



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

it took to earn his way.

While in college, Ron joined the staff of the student newspaper and honed his writing skills. His big break came by way of a professor teaching magazine writing. The class assignment was a first-person true story. "I wrote about my experience as a Little League manager," he says,

"and the professor liked it well enough that he wanted me to submit it to a magazine. He said, 'Why don't we start with Sports Illustrated, and when they reject it, we'll send it somewhere else?'" To everyone's astonishment, the piece was accepted, and Ron received a check for \$200. "That success generated enough fame



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that they named me editor of the paper,” he recalls.

During Ron’s senior year, The Wall Street Journal came to campus to recruit graduates for the first time. “I had no interest in working for them,” Ron says. “I really didn’t want to write about stocks and bonds, but I went to the interview anyway. The Midwest bureau chief, looking over his resume, said, “Well, Ron, I never know who to hire for these jobs, but if Sports Illustrated thought enough of your work to pay you, maybe you could come to work for us at the Journal.”

In January of 1963 he started at the newspaper in their Chicago office, the first step for most new hires. The next stop was Detroit, where Ron spent five years covering the auto industry. “I met my first wife, Barbara, in Detroit. After I proposed, I got transferred to Washington, D.C., where we eventually bought a house and adopted two children, Ryan and Kathryn.” Ron became a reporter covering consumer protection and followed Ralph Nader. He also wrote humor articles, rubbing shoulders with columnist Art Buchwald, who became a friend.

“I never had to write about stocks and bonds as I’d feared,” he says with a smile.

In the course of his career, he flew in an F-15, and even got paid to drive drunk. “It was on the proving grounds in Detroit, and they kept pouring me liquor as I drove. I don’t even remember the last round, but the video showed me driving.” The point of that 1970s piece was that in half the states, Ron wasn’t considered legally drunk.

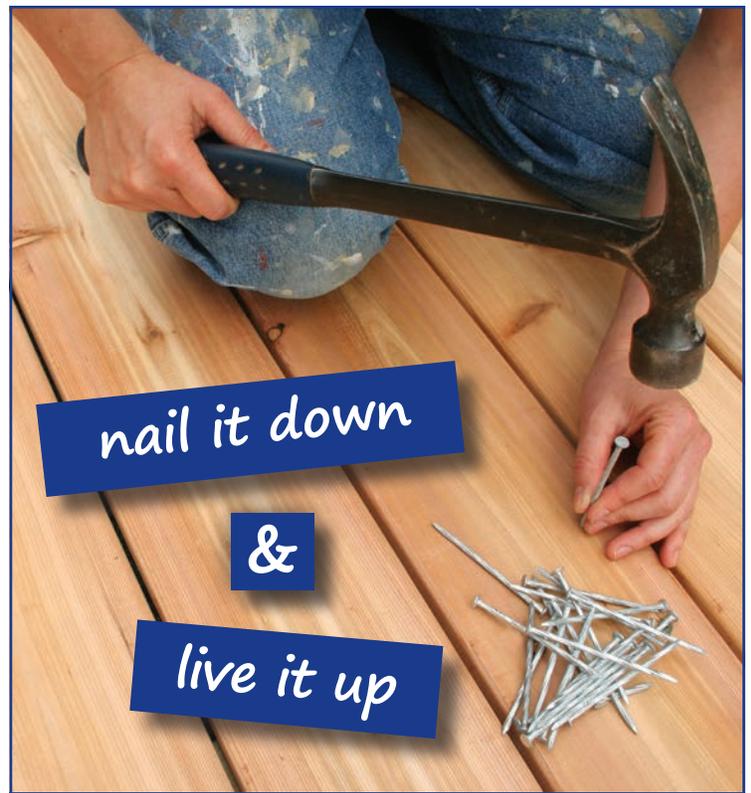
Eventually, Ron became the political features editor and also authored a weekly front page column, “The Washington Wire.” This column later led to his second book, Minor Memos, a pithy compilation of humorous political one-liners. “‘Dan Quayle thinks Roe v. Wade is alternative ways to cross the Potomac’, is the first one that comes to mind,” Ron says with a grin. He gradually found himself doing more editing and less writing as his career steadily progressed. While work was going well, tragedy was brewing at home.

Ron and Barbara’s beloved son, Ryan, became addicted to drugs as a very young teen. “Despite multiple rehab attempts,” Ron says with palpable pain in his voice, “when he was 16, Ryan took LSD, ran into traffic, and was killed. He was a great, funny kid, but I couldn’t save him.”

Ryan’s parents were determined to bring some good from tragic circumstances and started an effective anti-drug campaign in Ryan’s memory. “Take a Stand became a kind of reverse peer pressure; everyone wanted to join,” he remembers. As part of his healing process, Ron did what he does best, an article about Ryan’s struggle for The Wall Street Journal’s front page which led to his nomination for the Pulitzer Prize. “I wish it had been for a different piece, but I’m still involved with anti-drug groups,” he says. “I always will be.”

Four years later came more sorrow; Barbara died from breast cancer. These sad things certainly changed his life, but 20 years ago he met successful entrepreneur, Mary Lynch Rogers, and renewed his happiness. “Mary brought two kids into the marriage, our son Dan and daughter Katelyn,” Ron says. All three children of their blended family are now grown, successful and living in Virginia, and to date have produced two grandchildren for them to love.

Ron’s retirement after 38 years meant he was free to relocate to the



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small-town, traffic-free joys of Williamsburg. He and Mary designed and built an energy-efficient and eco-friendly house in Landfall at Jamestown where they both actively pursue their interests.

His last book, *When the Dodgers Were Bridegrooms: Gunner McGunnigle and Brooklyn's Back-to-Back Pennants of 1889 and 1890*, had been inspired by Mary's great-great-grandfather, pioneering manager Bill "Gunner" McGunnigle. Although fun to research and write, Ron returned to his political roots for his sixth book, *The Carnival Campaign: How the Rollicking 1840 Campaign of "Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too" Changed Presidential Elections Forever*.

Fakery, puffery and epic mutual mudslinging now reign in America every four years, but Ron wondered just how previous gentlemanly presidential campaigns devolved into contentious self-promotion. His scrupulous research revealed the election battle between Martin Van Buren and military hero William Henry Harrison ("Old Tippecanoe") as the genesis of our present political carnival.

"Since both Harrison and his vice-president, John Tyler, who succeeded to the presidency a month after Harrison's election, lived nearby, two presidential homes on Route 5, ten miles apart. There was an enormous amount of material about them at William & Mary's library," Ron says. "I was looking for first-person descriptions about the campaign from people who had actually been there, and they had wonderful resources."

Whig strategists portrayed wealthy Harrison as a man of the common people, living in a log cabin and sipping hard cider. For the first time, a candidate (Harrison) traveled the country and delivered speeches directly to voters instead of publishing letters. "This was unprecedented and considered improper," Ron says, "but Harrison drew massive crowds of 100,000 people and spoke for up to two hours." There were rallies and parades marked by bands, floats, a log cabin on wheels, and, to complete the carnival atmosphere, the world's tallest man.

Serendipitously, the timing of Ron's book couldn't have been better. "The 1840 campaign was almost exactly like Donald Trump's. They also had big rallies, colorful characters, lots of parallels there. During that election I was interviewed on C-SPAN, NPR, and was doing articles for Time Magazine online, The Daily Beast, and The Washington Post, comparing the two."

The Carnival Campaign is history at its best: readable, relatable, and especially for those of us who live in Williamsburg and love history, relevant. "Harrison's father was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, so when he was a boy, dinner guests included George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Can you imagine the conversations that took place at Berkeley Plantation, with little Billy Harrison soaking it all in?" Ron asks with wonder. NDN

*Ron Shafer has hundreds of stories, and all are fascinating. He'll be among the authors participating in the Williamsburg Book Festival at the Stryker Center on Saturday, October 7, so be sure to stop by for a cordial chat between 10:00 and 4:00 and pick up an autographed copy of one of his books. "History with detail combined with storytelling, that's what I try to do," Ron says. "I thought I knew history, but there's so much around here still to be found and revealed, and hopefully it will be done by those who live and write here."*



Corey Miller Photography

# QUALITY OF LIFE

By Greg Lilly, Editor

“One of the greatest assets that James City County has is its quality of life,” Amy Jordan explains. Amy is the new director of Economic Development at James City County. “We want to make sure we are maintaining and enhancing that.”

Location is important in attracting busi-

nesses and a varied, skilled workforce to the area. She says the county’s proximity to the Port of Virginia, the Hampton Roads market, the Richmond market, and the I-64 and I-95 corridors bring opportunities.

Within the county, the existing industrial parks have space available and areas that bor-

der the Williamsburg city limits have possibilities for enhancement. “For example, the New Town district is the area that has the greatest mix of uses, class A office space, retail, residential and entertainment,” Amy says. “We could look at attracting more technology industries. We can focus on headquarter businesses. There



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are opportunities for business development in that area. Also, New Town taps into the synergy of higher education with the College of William & Mary and Thomas Nelson Community College close by.”

An additional area where Amy sees great things happening is along the James River. “Speaking of quality of life, another fantastic gem we have is the Jamestown Events Park and Marina area. We’ll be looking at the best ways to utilize that space, enhance and really activate it. The brewery will open at the marina this fall and we’ll be looking at other improvements there, as well as the Ambler House across the street. We will work with the other stakeholders: Jamestown Settlement, Historic Jamestowne and the National Park Service so it creates a sense of place. People could spend the day there, going from one site to the next. The river is an integral part to the community’s history and identity, so we want to enhance that experience for both residents and visitors.”

Amy and the James City County team envision a gathering place along the waterfront. “There’s a discussion of a small amphitheater at the marina where we could have live music and enjoy a drink looking over the water,” she says. “We don’t really have an opportunity like that now.” She recommends a place that engages the public. With world-class entertainment options in the county like Busch Gardens, she thinks of the marina area as a smaller venue with a public or semi-public feel. “By semi-public, an example is the county leasing space at the marina to the brewery that welcomes the public.”

With the natural beauty of the county as a draw to residents and visitors, economic development sees opportunity, not just for industrial parks or shopping centers, but in promoting the variety of James City’s people and their creativity. “We are welcoming a diversity of investments by tapping into some of the rich arts and culture we have in the community. That is something the greater Williamsburg area has strength in compared to other parts of the Peninsula and Hampton Roads.”

Amy’s schooling and career have given her first-hand insight into the other areas of the Peninsula and Hampton Roads. “I am a Peninsula native,” she says. “I have lived and/or worked in seven different localities in Hampton Roads.” Born and raised in Newport News, she graduated from Tabb High School in York County. After two years in northern Virginia at George Mason University, she transferred to Christopher Newport University to earn her B.A. in Political Science.

“After college, with a Degree in Political Science, for every one job I could find here, there were probably ten in northern Virginia,” she says. “I went there for a year to work then I came back and earned my master’s degree at Regent University.” Amy interned at the Newport News Planning and Economic Development offices. “I worked two years for the City of Suffolk as a city planner and the last twelve and a half in Hampton as the Redevelopment Manager.”

She has deep ties to James City County and Williamsburg. Her parents, Tom and Linda Butler, now residing in Hampton, spent 15 years in James City County after she graduated from high school. “Their friends are here. My mother’s circle group is here. My father still works a few days a week in James City County. My mom is involved in some of the ladies groups at Walnut Hills Baptist Church.” Amy’s grandfather was born in Williamsburg in a home that later became property of W&M.

Her great-grandfather was the lamp lighter for the City of Williamsburg, and her great-great-grandfather was the town blacksmith. “My husband, Thomas, and I were married at the Jamestown Chapel on the island and had our reception at Jamestown Settlement. We are both able to trace roots back to Jamestown. It’s interesting how things come full circle.”

Before taking the position as Director of Economic Development at James City County, Amy served as Hampton’s Redevelopment Manager. “I focused on Master Plan areas where I implemented several public-private partnerships. My largest project was the Peninsula Town Center, which was the redevelopment of the Coliseum Mall into a mixed-use, 1.1 million square foot center. As the Redevelopment Manager, I served as the project manager, taking the projects from vision to implementation.”

For the past decade, any project around the Coliseum Central area would have had Amy’s involvement. “I worked on projects throughout Coliseum Central, Downtown Hampton, Buckroe and Phoebus, that included office,

retail, multifamily, hospitality, entertainment and mixed-use development along with public infrastructure.”

When she considers the localities where she’s worked (Newport News, Suffolk and Hampton), she says that James City County is most similar to the City of Suffolk. “Because there is more new development and greater fiscal strength, but overall, James City County stands apart. Each municipality is very unique. Newport News is very different than Hampton. The politics are different; the needs have a different emphasis and focus. James City County has tremendous amounts of opportunity and wonderful assets to build upon and that’s what is so exciting.”

When she looks to drawing new employers to the county, she recognizes a shift in the demographics of the workforce. “As we try to attract and retain young talent, either graduating from our local universities or bringing back those born and raised here, it’s not only having the jobs, but having a community where they desire to live with the things that meet their needs. We think about designing spaces for all

walks of life and all ages and a variety of demographics when we think about the spaces we’re creating in the county.”

Working in economic development can be a stressful and all encompassing career, but Amy Jordan loves it.

“It’s being able to take a project from vision to implementation,” she says. “I’m able to tangibly see the fruits of that labor. A great example for me was right after the Peninsula Town Center opened and had the first Coliseum Central Holiday Parade wrap through it. My son was just a toddler then. He was in his stroller and so excited about the parade and the activity around him. I watched all the people engaged, so happy and elated. It was a place where people could make lasting memories. It was a place that had a significant impact on the community. Whether it’s creating an events park atmosphere in which people are able to engage or a place where someone is able to have their first job and get their start in a great career, being able to have a positive impact on your community and neighbors is really the most rewarding part of the job.” NDN



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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

# STAND-UP PADDLE BOARDING

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Stand-Up Paddleboarding (SUP) is a sport most people see at the beach or along the sound side of the Outer Banks. No need to head to the Atlantic because the Williamsburg area's creeks and rivers make a great spot to learn and develop SUP skills. Lori Erwin has taken the sport to the next level with Paddle Yoga, Paddle Fit and guided events.

"It's a full body workout if that's what you want to use it for," Lori says. "But it can also be calming. The water is so big, so peaceful. You hear nature around you. You see owls flying by. You see blue herons, crabs, turtles and



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huge fish. You never see the same thing twice. It's constantly changing. Then you end with a sunset. That's wonderful."

Lori grew up in New Jersey, loving the water sports that came with being near the ocean. She went to the Art Institute of Philadelphia and studied merchandising and management. While she and her husband, Brian, lived in Pennsylvania with two young sons, they decided they wanted a different lifestyle. "We had a list of what we were looking for," Lori explains. "Brian's brother and sister-in-law lived here in Williamsburg, and we would come and visit. As we thought about places, we considered Williamsburg. It had everything on our list. We moved 15 years ago and have been in the same house in Ford's Colony since. We love it."

When they moved to Williamsburg, Lori

worked part-time while the boys were young. "About three years ago, I stopped working because I was with my younger son as he attended the summer lacrosse camps. At the end of the summer, I realized I didn't want to work for other people anymore."

By that time, Lori had been paddleboarding

"I have had several older people come out for lessons or yoga – balance is important as we age. This is a great way to work on balance." ~ Lori Erwin

for about four years. "I grew up by the ocean in New Jersey and love water sports, the beach and the water. Water has always been very calming for me. I was out paddleboarding with a friend of mine at Jamestown Beach. So many people were interested in the paddleboards, wanting to try them out, asking us questions

about them. At the end of the day, I knew I wanted to start a stand-up paddleboard business." She thought about it for a while and then mentioned it to her husband.

"Once I voiced it to Brian, it became reality. That's when I went to a mentor friend of mine, Katy Henderson at Studio South." Lori takes

yoga at Studio South and bounced the idea off Katy. "She was encouraging and gave me some things to think about. The idea grew from there." By the next spring, Lori had opened Paddle On of Williams-

burg.

When she decided to offer paddle yoga, she found she first had to be trained for studio yoga and then be trained on paddle yoga.

"From the paddle yoga training, I found out that I wasn't paddling the correct way. No one had taught me," Lori says. She learned the cor-



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rect and safe method of using a SUP. “I became a Level 1 instructor through the World Paddle Association so I could instruct others how to paddleboard.”

Learning the correct technique avoids injury and instructs beginners on the needed safety equipment, such as life jacket and a leash. “First, it could be dangerous if you don’t have basic instruction,” Lori says. “Secondly, you might not have a good experience and that stops a person from doing paddleboard. I decided I needed to include paddle lessons so people have a good experience and the paddling community grows.”

Paddleboard lessons are popular for Lori. She thought renting the paddleboards and paddle yoga would be the biggest draws, but instruction is most requested. “A lot of people take the lessons to understand the correct and safest way to paddle, the rowing technique.”

One of her favorite locations is the Chickahominy Riverfront Park. “It is beautiful to paddle. The ‘Chick’ is usually very calm. We cross over and go into Morris Creek and back around. We also go to Powhatan Creek and continue to Back Creek.” She launches from Jamestown Beach as well to paddle out onto the James River. “We do paddle fitness there. It’s a good challenge because of the movement of the water. For lessons, I stay on Gordon Creek because it is calm water.”

Calm water is also needed for the guided yoga on paddleboards. “Even if someone has never done yoga or paddleboard, they can try it. We can stay on our knees to paddle and drop anchor. These are modified yoga poses. It’s a very low and slow yoga style with on the board modifications. You have to engage the core more and focus on your breath and focus

on the poses.” Lori explains. “You have to be mindful of where you are and mindful of your breath.”

Paddle yoga is a major workout, Lori says, because the person engages their core. “Just as you do in studio yoga, but on the paddleboard you are on an unbalanced board, so you are engaging it that much more. You have to really take that breath and move it along, plus you have to keep your focus.”

Paddle fitness is a fast-paced workout. A

“It’s a full body workout if that’s what you want to use it for. But it can also be calming. The water is so big, so peaceful. You hear nature around you. You see owls flying by. You see blue herons, crabs, turtles and huge fish. You never see the same thing twice. It’s constantly changing. Then you end with a sunset. That’s wonderful.”

~ Lori Erwin

course is set on the water with a series of buoys. Sprint paddling starts with a warm-up on land and then on the paddleboard. Then the paddleboarders paddle the course laid out by the instructor. “Back at the home buoy, each participant does a set of exercises on the board (not anchored). After that, the class does a distance paddle then a cool down,” Lori describes. “It is an hour and a half of workout. You work on the proper stroke, the speed, the turns, plus you’re working out the body.”

The people that Lori sees paddleboarding in the area range in age from the early 20s to the late 70s. Lori has taught kids as young as eight years old at the 4-H Camp. “I have had several older people come out for lessons or yoga – balance is important as we age. This is a great way to work on balance.”

She admits that the training for being able

to present a paddle yoga class was the hardest thing she had ever tried. “Three full days of paddling,” she says. “By the end of that first summer, I felt so strong and so good,” she adds, “healthy, strong and happy. That is what I see with people that go out and do this, whether doing it for sport or for fun.”

Trying a new sport is rewarding, a great accomplishment and confidence booster. As sports enthusiasts certain activities become more difficult for the more mature body, like jogging or running. “I’m a strong believer in not sticking to just one sport; we need to cross train with other sports we enjoy, working different parts of the body. Paddleboarding is good for runners that might have issues with their knees, but still want to be outside with their sport. Take it outdoors. Try other things, bike, swim, paddleboard, kayak. Use the different parts of your body.”

Lori is looking into a Williamsburg chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. Currently the closest chapters are in Virginia Beach and in Richmond. “The non-profit does a lot with water cleanup, preserving beaches, rivers, creeks and other waterways. We’ll help keep the waterways and beaches clean.” Starting a chapter in Williamsburg will build the paddling community. “That community includes SUP, kayakers, canoers, anything on water.”

The stand-up paddleboard sport is growing fast along the oceans and here in our rivers and creeks as well. “All this water around us,” Lori Erwin says, “and few people have been on these creeks to see the views and experience the waterways. I want people to know the proper way, the safe way of being out on the water on a paddleboard so that it is fun and they enjoy it and want to do it again.” NDN



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

# Pocahontas Facts & Folklore

By Greg Lilly, Editor

“Pocahontas was a Powhatan Indian girl who became a remarkable young woman. She was just 22 when she died. She really was a diplomat. She crossed those cultural barriers. There was relative peace between the two cultures when her marriage to John Rolfe took place. It illustrates what diplomacy can do,” Pam Pettengell explains. Pam is Director of Programs and Partnerships for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and her team created the Pocahontas Imagined exhibit at Jamestown

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Settlement.

Pam's interest in history sparked when she and her family visited Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown when she was five years old. The family lived in northern Virginia and the Historic Triangle was a favorite destination. "Those vacations got me interested in history. We came down here about three times a year. My parents loved it and I loved it. I always found the ships, the fort and the Indian village really powerful. I watch little kids get excited about it today, just as I did."

She says that before the site used the name Jamestown Settlement, there was Jamestown Festival Park. "It started back in 1957 for the 350th commemoration. The Jamestown Festival Park added to what the island had to offer at that time. When the commemoration was over, people kept coming. Gradually, the decision was made to turn the park into a museum with real artifacts and tell a fuller story of Jamestown. It's been around for a long time and has evolved."

Her family moved to Florida, and Pam

majored in history and art history at the University of Florida. "I knew I didn't want to go into classroom education, but I wanted to be in the educational field. My art history interest had me thinking about working in museums." Her father retired and moved the family to Williamsburg. Pam went to graduate school at William & Mary for a degree in museum education.

"I started working at Colonial Williamsburg, first part-time while in graduate school, then full-time for about 22 years. I did everything from selling tickets and leading tours to being a supervisor, manager and director of programs and operations in the historical area." She joined Jamestown Settlement in 2004. "I've been really fortunate because I've done a lot of things in museums. It's never been boring. I always had new challenges and worked in different areas."

Her job of managing large projects for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation includes exhibits like Pocahontas Imagined, supported by a grant from James City County. This year is

the 400th anniversary of Pocahontas's death.

"We wanted a topic that was more educationally focused toward our young visitors. Throughout history, people have been fascinated with and have wanted to be associated with Pocahontas. She has a good vibe that way. I know that there were times that the exploitation of her image and the exploitation of her story have been controversial. But she is someone everyone has heard of, and kids love her story. Little girls imagine her as a beautiful princess. I remember reading about Pocahontas when I was little. But with this exhibit, we want visitors to know there is much more to her story and her legacy."

The exhibit highlights her life as a Powhatan Indian girl, her interactions with the English colonists, and her celebrity status when she and John Rolfe travelled to London. But the main focus of the exhibit is to illuminate the reasons behind her enduring legacy and her impression on popular culture and art, including commercial advertisements and entertainment. The exhibit walks visitors chronologically through the

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life and afterlife of the legend of Pocahontas. Pam and the exhibit planning team wanted fun activities for children to experience the things that Pocahontas might have done as a child. In the children's area, hands-on weaving and clay pot decorating (on a pot-shaped chalkboard) tap into Powhatan arts and crafts, while a puzzle helps kids understand the daily activities for young girls such as farming and gathering food.

"Kids receive an activity card, 'Pocahontas's World, Up Close', that shows object patterns that were around in Pocahontas's day and found in the artifacts galleries, Powhatan Indian village, ships and the James Fort. It's like a scavenger hunt for the kids," Pam says.

Teens and adults will be interested in how Pocahontas's legend grew over the years and became folklore of the new colony, both here and in Europe. "Displays of how her likeness were used to market everything from tobacco to oranges to Bab-O Cleanser." The Bab-O television advertisement from 1952 runs on a loop in the exhibit illustrating that without

the cleaner, Pocahontas could not have finished her housecleaning chores in time to save John Smith. "It was the 1950s," Pam says with a shake of her head.

Pam explains that the marriage of Pocahontas to John Rolfe in the reality of early 1600s Virginia was likely more diplomatic than romantic. "There was probably a feeling among the Native Americans that when the English first arrived, there wouldn't be that many of them. Her father, Powhatan, was the paramount chief of more than 30 tribes. He saw this group of English people arriving and they had things Powhatan didn't. He could see advantages to befriending them as long as they were going to be friendly. Many historians believe that the whole 'saving ritual' could well have been some sort of adoption ritual. Powhatan may have been adopting them as another tribe. Having Pocahontas marry another leader in that group would cement that relationship," Pam explains.

"Marriage was one of the ways that Powhatan established relations with other native

groups. He had many wives, and he would marry women from these different tribes all across Virginia to create alliances." Native tribes here were very much the same as the European monarchies, forming alliances through marriage across countries or kingdoms.

A display that Pam is especially proud to have in the exhibit is a series of contemporary images of young Pamunkey and Mataponi women, by photographer Glen McClure, and their thoughts on what Pocahontas means to them today.

Along with the exhibit that runs through January 28, 2018, Pam and her team and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts present three free public evening lectures: "Pocahontas in Image and Myth" (Sept. 5); "Reel Indian: The Portrayal of Native Americans in Film" (Sept. 13); and "Corrective Lens: Native Women Photographers and the Debunking of the 'Vanishing Race' Myth" (Oct. 3).

Pam's goal for visitors to the Pocahontas exhibit is twofold. "First, I'd like someone walking out of the hall saying, 'Gee, I didn't

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know that.’ The story of this woman is far more involved than the simple things we think we know about Pocahontas. I want them to think about her as a young girl and what she went through. Her story is more complicated than most people know. Secondly, her death spawned her legacy, good or bad. I do hope visitors leave thinking she was an admirable person. I like what the contemporary Virginia Native American girls said about her, that she was brave. You can see inspiration in her as a cross-cultural symbol.” For the youngest visitors, Pam hopes they have fun with the activities and remember that Pocahontas was more than a cartoon.

As Pam and her team put together the exhibit, her perceptions changed. “I didn’t realize the extent of the artwork that uses Pocahontas’s image. We tried to put it into context and figure out the motives of the artists. Sometimes it is extremely innocent. That’s how some imagine her - innocent. There’s affection there. But there are also extremely sexualized versions of her that we didn’t explore in a family exhibit.

People used her image for so many personal motivations. I think that’s what really surprised me most.”

In an exhibit for visitors of all ages, Pam wanted to have activities for children that help them learn. “We get such little kids sometimes,” she says. “An exhibit that they can have

of Jamestown in detail. Jamestown was founded by men, so people tend to think of Jamestown as a fort with men. But the first English women arrived in 1608. Mistresses Forrester came to join her husband, and she brought along her maid, Anne Burras.

Here they would encounter other women,

We get such little kids sometimes, an exhibit that they can have fun in and learn from can be a challenge. We use art and games. We know that if we can get kids interested in history by the age of seven or eight, the chances of them being museum goers as adults are much higher.” ~ Pam Pettengell

fun in and learn from can be a challenge. We use art and games. We know that if we can get kids interested in history by the age of seven or eight, the chances of them being museum goers as adults are much higher.”

With Pocahontas Imagined hosting visitors now, Pam Pettengell is planning the next project. “We have not told the story of the women

Powhatan Indian women and girls such as Pocahontas. We have many more stories to tell.” [NDN](#)

*Reminder: Residents of James City County, York County and the City of Williamsburg receive free admission to Jamestown Settlement with proof of residency. Students also receive free admission to Jamestown Settlement with proof of residency.*



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# Launches New Bereavement Resources

Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg (HHSCW) announces the launch of a new online library made possible by the generosity of The Huston Foundation. The Hospice House catalog of library materials is now organized and stored in Librarika, a library management software, thanks also in large part to more than 40 hours of cataloging support from Hospice House volunteers. A website design specialist worked with Hospice House to integrate the Librarika account into the Hospice House website. The new HHSCW online library provides quality end-of-life and bereavement resources to a wider population, allowing patrons to review and search for book resources and request book check-outs at the click of a mouse. Since 2002 Hospice House has loaned the Williamsburg community hundreds of titles specific to end-of-life and bereavement.

Books range from grief memoirs to caregiver guides and children's books. Book purchases have been supported by small grants from organizations and



donations from individuals over the years, many of whom have found the resource they donate to be beneficial to them in their grief journey. To view the HHSCW online library and to register as a patron, visit: <https://williamsburghospice.org/online-library/>.

Included in the online library is a new

publication written and produced by Hospice House staff members. A Survivor's Guide: What to Do When Your Loved One Dies is a step-by-step guide to navigating the practical, physical, emotional and spiritual challenges that accompany a death. The production and printing of the guide was funded by a generous

gift from the Richard and Mary Ann Sleece Foundation, Inc. The guide includes features such as: a list of all documents to have on-hand after a death, tips on finalizing a loved one's estate, suggestions for sorting through possessions, and counsel on embracing the emotional rollercoaster that is grief. To download a PDF copy of the Survivor's Guide, visit the Hospice House website: <https://williamsburghospice.org/print-resources/>.

Hospice House Chaplain Hannah Creager is available to speak to community groups about the Survivors Guide and the online library as well as other HHSCW programs and services Hospice House & Support

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**For more information please call Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg at 757-253-1220 or visit [www.williamsburghospice.org](http://www.williamsburghospice.org).**



Corey Miller Photography

# For Karen's Fight

By Greg Lilly, Editor

John O'Hare explains that his wife, Karene, had abdominal pain that wouldn't go away. Doctors couldn't explain the soreness. They speculated it could be a pulled muscle or an abdominal tear. Karene had been an active woman, enjoyed running, ate a healthy diet and monitored her health. A former nurse and volunteer at Lackey Free Clinic, Karene knew her body tried to tell her something.

"She was back in the hospital again. I can't give dates," John says. "My mind protects me. I used to be able to recite the date and type of every operation. But she was back in the hospi-

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tal. It was a Sunday afternoon, about 4:30. The doctor said he knew what it was: ovarian cancer. He was pretty sure it was malignant.”

John explains that the doctor had been trying to put together as much information as he could, not wanting to go into another surgery until he could balance what the previous tests didn't show with what he could conclude by ruling out possibilities. “He went in and was able to determine it was ovarian cancer. From there it was two years of fighting this thing, two rounds of chemo, ten operations, in and out of the hospital,” John describes.

John met Karene on a blind date. Both he and Karene grew up in Missouri. John graduated from college in Kansas City when a friend explained that the local nursing school, the College of Saint Teresa, had a dance coming up. “This friend of mine, his sister was a nurse, and she was looking for dates for a couple of gals. One was Karene. We met in May and were engaged by December and married by the following June. We were married for 55 years.”

John went into the Army about two months after they were married and served for two years. “I came back home and went to law school.”

With his law degree, John began working for a company called Bendix. “It's now part of Honeywell,” he says. “I worked in Kansas City until 1964. I ended up at corporate headquarters in Detroit and stayed there until 1984.” A merger between Bendix and Allied Corporation gave John and Karene the opportunity to move to Northern Virginia. That company, AlliedSignal, merged with Honeywell. “I was there from 1984-1989. They decided to move the sector headquarters to the west coast. I thought about that for a few seconds,” John says with a smile. “I'm a mid-west guy, already in the east. I didn't want to go to the west coast.” Some of his friends managed a consulting company in Williamsburg, so John and Karene moved here. He worked with that company until he retired.

“I did a heck of a lot of volunteering for a lot of organizations,” he says of his life in retirement. Both he and Karene volunteered at Lackey for a number of years, among other non-profits and participated in choirs, community and church organizations. “That went on until Karene's cancer. That turned things in a different direction.”

Ovarian cancer is a symptoms disease, John

explains. “Doctors are able to diagnosis it by the symptoms, that is doctors who have worked with patients with ovarian cancer. Not all doctors have experience with it. If those symptoms persist, it's the frequency of them and the fact that you have those symptoms, go to the doctor's office and don't leave there until he can convince you that you don't have ovarian cancer. You have to be your own best advocate.”

Some of the symptoms that John says women need to be aware of include: bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, feelings of being full quickly from eating or difficulty eating, urgent or frequent urination, fatigue, indigestion, painful intercourse, constipation, back pain and menstrual irregularities. “Discuss these with your doctor,” he stresses. “That's the hurdle with the diagnosis. These could be symptoms of many different health issues.”

Karene passed on October 8, 2008. That Christmas, John, their children, spouses and grandchildren talked about how to honor the memory of Karene and how she would have wanted that energy focused on helping others. They created the Karene O'Hare Ovarian Cancer Run/Walk. It is also known by the name:

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the Hare & Tortoise New Quarter Park Run/Walk.

Now in its ninth year, the event takes place on Saturday, September 9 in New Quarter Park, near Queens Lake. It consists of a one mile fun run/walk, a 5K run/walk and an 8K run/walk. The money raised is used to combat ovarian cancer with education and with early detection at Lackey Free Clinic and at Olde Towne Medical and Dental Center.

"I wanted to make sure that the money raised helps catch the disease early and saves lives. We've done that," John says. Both Olde Towne and Lackey have reported that they've diagnosed ovarian cancer in its early stages in their patients thanks to the O'Hare Fund.

"Not caught early, the statistics are against us," John states. "At a stage three or four diagnosis, the chances of walking away are as low as 29 percent. But if the diagnosis is early and the cancer is confined to the ovary, the survival rate is over 90 percent."

John serves as race director for the Hare & Tortoise Run/Walk. "I'm 85 years old," he says, "and from about April each year, I'm out gathering volunteers and talking to organiza-

tions and businesses about sponsorships for the event. I work with Geri and Jim Elder at Colonial Sports on this race fundraiser, and they keep telling me the same thing, that I need to find a replacement. I've been concerned about a successor. My kids are out of town. It wouldn't be possible for them to take it on. I want to make sure this continues." He and his family have ensured the funds will continue by working with the Williamsburg Community Foundation to set up the Karene O'Hare Ovarian Cancer Memorial Endowment.

John looks forward to seeing his children and grandchildren run in the race, if their schedules permit. John and Karene's son, Denis, is a Tony award-winning actor. "Denis comes and signs autographs and takes pictures with people," John says. "Out of the eight races we've had, he's participated about five or six times. He's out of the country filming now. I'm not sure if he can make it this year." Denis O'Hare recently received an Emmy nomination for his work in the television show "This is Us" on NBC. "He was in 'American Horror Story' and 'True Blood' and he won a Tony on Broadway," John says. "We were there that night he won the

Tony. That was our 50th wedding anniversary. The whole family was up there. Karene and I got to go to the awards ceremony. It was something!"

Today, John has remarried. "Nancy was a friend of Karene's. They sang together. I've known Nancy for a number of years. It's one of those things; I didn't expect it to happen. The kids were okay with it. Her kids were okay with it, too. It's been six years. I have four children. We had five but lost a daughter. Nancy has two children. We're a big, extended family."

Ovarian cancer is a battle that John O'Hare doesn't want other families to experience. "Karene would be proud to see us raising awareness and funds to help our neighbors. The people who participate in the Hare & Tortoise race are people who are ovarian cancer survivors, their family and friends, plus people who may not have been touched by it, but want to help. When you help," he adds, "you help someone's wife, daughter, mother, aunt or grandmother. It's for the women in our lives." NDN

*September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness month. For more about the Hare & Tortoise Run/Walk: [www.hareandtortoiserunwalk.com](http://www.hareandtortoiserunwalk.com)*

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Corey Miller Photography

# Local Birder

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Growing up in LaGrangeville, New York, Jeanette Navia would explore the stream behind her family's house. "I loved to play around the stream, looking at the frogs and birds that stopped there," Jeanette says. "My eyesight wasn't very good then. I have Marfan syndrome, which is a connective tissue disorder. The connective tissue throughout the body is weak. The tissue holding my lenses in place was weak, so my lenses weren't quite in the right place, and my pupils and lenses didn't line up perfectly as they do in most people. I could see well enough for daily life,

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but things were a bit blurry.”

From elementary school to high school, Jeanette’s interests changed from the sciences to literature. “As I got older, I was more into reading and literature. I wanted to write novels when I grew up.” She came to her mother’s alma mater William & Mary to study literature and psychology.

“I got a job in Richmond with a psychologist after graduation. But I was friends with Keith (her future husband) and other people here, so I was driving back and forth from Richmond to Williamsburg for social things.” Eventually she moved back to Williamsburg. She took a job at the Williamsburg Regional Library and worked there for 35 years, retiring last year.

At their home, Jeanette and Keith keep a birdfeeder outside the kitchen window. The birds congregated around the feeder. A robin built a nest, and Jeanette observed the fledglings. In 2006, Jeanette had surgery to help correct her vision. The world opened up.

She decided to go on a bird walk with the Williamsburg Bird Club. The club has twice-a-month bird walks at New Quarter Park. “I went on the bird walk and saw a green heron and an osprey through borrowed binoculars. That just blew me away. I got involved with the Williamsburg Bird Club after that.”

While talking with the members of the club, Jeanette mentioned that she liked working with computers. The president of the club drafted her to maintain the group’s website and membership lists. “That’s how I became so involved with the organization. I’ve been the membership chair about the whole time I’ve been a member.”

The club has members of all ages. “From the 20s to Dorothy who is 97,” Jeanette says. William & Mary students and members of the Virginia Master Naturalists attend the meetings, lectures and bird watching walks. “We have parents bring their children to the club’s bird walks at New Quarter Park. The walks are open to the public, and we love it when kids show up,” she adds.

This September marks the Williamsburg Bird Club’s 40th anniversary. Jeanette says there are several original members still participating, including the current club president, Bill Williams. Dr. Mitchell Byrd will be the

speaker at the September meeting. He’s an early supporter of the club and was a biology professor at W&M. “He does eagle counts in a plane,” Jeanette says, “looking for eagle nests. Nowadays bald eagles are getting pretty common. When we go on bird walks, we often see them. There is a bald eagle that lives on Jamestown Island, way out on the loop. There’s another one that lives on the Colonial Parkway, past College Creek toward Jamestown. When we go to New Quarter Park, we usually see one or two bald eagles there.”

She explains that the 40th anniversary presentation by Dr. Mitchell Byrd will be especially interesting since his aerial counts of bald eagles showed there were no nests on the James River 40 years ago. This year, the club reported in their newsletter, *The Flyer*, there are around 300 active James River nests, with seven counted on Hog Island in Surry County.

For neighbors interested in joining in on the club’s bird watching walks in New Quarter Park, Jeanette says the two-hour bird walks start in the early mornings because the birds are most active then. “The leader points out various birds there at the beginning, even the common ones so that everyone, long-time members and new visitors, can get acclimated. If you don’t have binoculars, you can borrow a pair. Then we shuffle along to the different places in the park.” New Quarter Park has different habitats for birders to spot a diverse range of birds: tidal marsh, open creeksides, hardwood forests, swamp and open meadows. “At the water, there are two or three osprey nests in the spring and summer. There are often great blue herons, sometimes an egret or two. We try to find clapper rails. They are very secretive. Seeing a clapper rail isn’t that rare, but they hide in the marsh. They’re pretty cool.”

On the walks and around the neighborhoods, birders use both their eyes and ears to identify birds. “I’m only now learning more calls,” Jeanette says. “Since I retired, I have time to learn the bird calls. It is hard, but once you learn them, it’s easy to identify them.” Someone new to birding can learn the visual clues and the songs of different types of birds during the twice a month bird walks. “That’s a good learning experience. Bill Williams con-

ducts a Christopher Wren class on birds. That is a very good class. I took it last year. I know a lot of people take that and then join the bird club.”

Over the past ten years of being in the club, Jeanette says her favorite bird is a common one to the area: the Carolina wren. “They are so cute.” She also likes the American crow. “There are fish crows and American crows,” she explains. “The only way to tell the difference is when they make noise. An American crow will go: caw, caw. A fish crow will go: uh-uh. So, if you want to know if a crow is an American crow, you ask him. If he says ‘uh-uh,’ he’s a fish crow!” She smiles at her ornithological humor.

Ornithology is the study of birds. The Williamsburg Bird Club is a member chapter of the Virginia Society of Ornithology and sponsors scholarships to W&M ornithology graduate students to assist their research into bird behavior, populations and habitat. The club also sponsors scholarships for local young people to attend a summer nature camp.

For the 40th anniversary celebration, the club asked local school children to create artwork that incorporated a bird and the number “40” in the work. Jeanette says the artwork is displayed at the James City County Library, Wild Birds Unlimited in Settlers Market on Casey Boulevard, Backyard Birder at Quarterpath Crossing and the Yorktown Library.

Although, she doesn’t like to travel very often, as some birders travel around the country seeking out different birds, one of the activities that Jeanette enjoys is attending the Virginia Society of Ornithology’s annual meetings around the state. “That’s my highlight of the year. The long weekend includes field trips, speakers and a banquet. It’s fun to get together with people from across the state that enjoy the same things you do.”

Jeanette struggled to see the world around her for many years because of issues with her eyes. Now with her vision corrected, she delights in the beautiful, diverse environments around Williamsburg, watching and learning from the vast variety of birds that visit our neighborhoods throughout the seasons. NDN

*To learn more about the Williamsburg Bird Club: [www.WilliamsburgBirdClub.org](http://www.WilliamsburgBirdClub.org)*

# Hey Neighbor!

Please visit

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

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**Hey Neighbor!** for a complete list of current community announcements.

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

[heyneighbor@cox.net](mailto:heyneighbor@cox.net)

## Hey Neighbor!

### WHEN PARENTS DIE: A GUIDE FOR ADULTS

September—October 4, 2017

A New Bereavement Support Group for adult children who have experienced the death of a parent. Registration required. Every Wednesday, 7 – 8 pm. At Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg, 4445 Powhatan Parkway Williamsburg. To register, contact [bereavement@williamsburghospice.org](mailto:bereavement@williamsburghospice.org).

## Hey Neighbor!

### CONCERT IN THE WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

September 1, 2017

From 6 – 8 pm, performed by the W Quartet. Unique Sound. Exceptional Performance. Started in the summer of 2016, our quartet quickly developed from just talk between a brother and sister into the fully functioning musical ensemble it is today. Not only do we play for weddings and events, but we also enjoy giving back to the community and sharing our music through venues such as the Grove Christian Outreach and the Williamsburg

United Methodist Respite Care Center. This quartet features three violins and one cello. All members are high school students in the immediate area. Bring your own chair. Suggested donation \$5. Wine and Beer available for purchase.

## Hey Neighbor!

### PATRIOTIC AND SACRED MUSIC CONCERT

September 3, 2017

The Schola from the Ward Centre of Richmond will present a Patriotic and Sacred Music Choral Concert. These young children will sing a Mass at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal, on October 13, during the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Marian Apparitions. The concert is free with donations accepted to assist them on this trip. Light refreshments will follow. Time: 12:30 pm at Saint Bede Catholic Church, 3686 Ironbound Road. For more information, call 757- 229-3631 or visit [www.bedeva.org/concerts](http://www.bedeva.org/concerts).

## Hey Neighbor!

### WILLIAMSBURG CHORAL GUILD AUDITIONS

September 11, 2017

The Williamsburg Choral Guild, a mixed SATB chorus, is holding auditions for its 2017-2018 season of three concerts. Auditions will be held by appointment on Monday, September 11, from 5 - 6:30 pm. Conducted by Artistic Director Jay BeVile, the auditions will check an applicant's basic musicianship, ability to match pitch, sing in tune and read a simple piece of music as well as demonstrate his or her voice quality and blend. At St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 1333 Jamestown Rd. Contact membership chair Deidre Lenderking at [info@williamsburgchoralguild.org](mailto:info@williamsburgchoralguild.org) or call 757-220-1808. For information about the Guild's programs and events, visit [www.williamsburgchoralguild.org](http://www.williamsburgchoralguild.org).

## Hey Neighbor!

### THE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF WILLIAMSBURG

September 12, 2017

The Chamber Music Society of Williamsburg presents the Miró String Quartet Tuesday, September 12 at 8 pm

in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. For further information and tickets visit our website: [chambermusic-williamsburg.org](http://chambermusic-williamsburg.org).

## Hey Neighbor!

### FALL 2017 BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

September 12—November 21, 2017

A support group for any adult in the community who has experienced the death of a loved one. Registration required. Every other Tues. 10 am – 12 noon. At Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg, 4445 Powhatan Parkway Williamsburg. To register, contact [bereavement@williamsburghospice.org](mailto:bereavement@williamsburghospice.org).

## Hey Neighbor!

### ON & OFF THE CANVAS OPENING RECEPTION

September 14, 2017

Williamsburg Book Festival presents "On & Off the Canvas" art exhibition at the Williamsburg Library Theater Lobby. From 5-6:30 pm, the Book Festival presents stories told through acrylics, watercolor, mixed-media and clay - on & off the canvas. Artists

include Joanne Limric, Frank Iseman, Anne Grossman, Elma Dirolf, Greg Lilly, Annie Cacioppo, and Al Lilley.

## Hey Neighbor!

### LANDSCAPE LOVE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Through September 15, 2017

Need free advice with problems in your home landscape? The James City County/Williamsburg Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners are offering to residents of the county or city, a free consultation on landscape best management practices at individual residences. Applications for the Fall 2017 session will be accepted until September 15th, by visiting [www.jccwmg.org](http://www.jccwmg.org) and clicking on the Landscape Love Registration button. Spaces are limited and applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Actual visits to the homes will be scheduled from late September through October. Additional questions? Contact the VCE James City County office at 757-564-2170.

## Hey Neighbor!

### THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN: STRATEGIC PLANTS THAT ATTRACT AND RAISE BUTTERFLIES

September 16, 2017

Freedom Park Interpretive Center, 10 am, open to the public. Master Naturalist and experienced butterfly raiser, Joni Carlson, will cover butterfly life cycles and let us know how to grow plants that sustain a variety of butter-

fly species. Her focus will be on the importance of native plants, especially milkweeds, and on a “natural” rather than a manicured garden in order to support butterflies. In addition, Joni will have information and samples on some of the many moths in the area. She also will speak on how you can become a citizen scientist to monitor and tag monarchs, and what it takes to turn your yard into a certified monarch way station. Joni will use live samples to illustrate butterfly life cycle stages. If possible, after the program, monarchs will be tagged and released in the Garden. This event is part of the Learn and Grow Educational Series sponsored by the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. The program is free, although a \$5 donation to help the Garden grow is appreciated. For more information, email Joni at [waystation7576@gmail.com](mailto:waystation7576@gmail.com). After the program, Master Gardeners will be in the Garden to answer questions and talk about what is in bloom.

## Hey Neighbor!

### MOODY FOR HOSPICE HOUSE

September 17, 2017

Sponsored by Cochon on 2nd to support the work of Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg. Includes BBQ, beer, live music and games. 4 -7 pm. Tickets: <https://moody-for-hospice-house.ticketleap.com/>

## Hey Neighbor!

### WILLIAMSBURG MUSIC CLUB'S NEW SEASON

September 20, 2017

The Williamsburg Music Club kicks off its 2017-18 season with a performance by Alexandra Katelyn Mullins, Harpist, at 11 am at Bruton Parish Lewis Hall. The Music Club meets every third Wednesday from September through May. All programs are free and open to the public. Additional information on the Club and its upcoming programs can be found at: <http://www.williamsburgmusicclub.org/>

## Hey Neighbor!

### WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MASTERWORKS CONCERT: “FROM THE NEW WORLD”

September 25 & 26, 2017

Kimball Theatre, 8 pm. Music Director, Janna Hymes. Featuring Jennifer Koh, violin. Dvorak's New World Symphony will be performed. Tickets are available by phone at 757- 229-9857. Website: [williamsburgsymphony.org](http://williamsburgsymphony.org).

## Hey Neighbor!

### WOMAN'S CLUB WELCOMES PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

September 27, 2017

Women interested in finding out more about The Woman's Club of Williamsburg-GFWC are welcome to attend our September meeting to meet us and learn more! We meet September 27, 11:15 am-1:30 pm, at Ford's Colony Clubhouse, 240 Ford's Colony Dr., in Williamsburg. The meeting includes lunch (\$17) and a presentation by

invited speaker Sue Mowry, GFWC Tidewater District Presentation, who will discuss GFWC Programs. To attend, please email us at [info@womansclubofwilliamsburg.org](mailto:info@womansclubofwilliamsburg.org).

The non-profit Woman's Club of Williamsburg-GFWC is a group of women with a common interest in community welfare and philanthropic projects. The Club provides financial support for a variety of local, national and international humanitarian organizations. Visit [www.womansclubofwilliamsburg.org](http://www.womansclubofwilliamsburg.org) for more information about our club's activities!

## Hey Neighbor!

### SCORE POINTS FOR SPRINGERS

September 30, 2017

Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue (MAESSR) will host its fifth annual Captain's Choice golf tournament at the Kiskiack Golf Club in Croaker. Registration will open at 8:30 am, with a Shotgun Start at 9:30 am. The entry fee, \$75 per individual and \$300 for teams, includes green fees, cart, practice balls, and cookout-style lunch. Hole sponsorship plus team is \$420. There will be raffles, free range balls, and other prizes. Single golfers are welcome. For more information contact John Keegan at 757-869-3049 or Rick Larner at 757-645-7369. Online registration is available at [www.maessr.org/specialevents.aspx](http://www.maessr.org/specialevents.aspx). MAESSR is a volunteer-based 501 (c) (3) animal welfare organization dedicated to rescuing and re-homing English

Springer Spaniels through rescue, rehabilitation, training, humane education, and community outreach.

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **SHOOT FOR THE MOON**

October 1, 2017

An art exhibit to benefit Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg. Includes big band music. From 1:30—4:30 pm. At the Linda Matney Art Gallery, 5435 Richmond Road, Williamsburg. Visit <http://lindamatneygallery.com/> for more information.

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **FOURTH ANNUAL LACE EXHIBIT OF THE COLONIAL LACEMAKERS**

October 1-31, 2017

At the Williamsburg Regional Library, 515 Scotland Street. From historical laces to contemporary designs based on doodles to jewelry incorporating beads, thread has never looked this good. On Oct. 28, join the lacemakers to learn some of the secrets of this art during hands-on demonstrations from 2 – 4 pm.

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **MEN'S CHARITY TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

October 6, 2017

A tennis tournament sponsored by Middle Peninsula Insurance & Financial Services and hosted by Men's Charity Tennis to benefit Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg. From 9 am—4 pm at Two Rivers Country Club. To register visit, [www.menscharitytennis.com](http://www.menscharitytennis.com).

Spectators welcome, includes silent auction & reception. Rain location is McCormack-Nagelson Tennis Center.

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **28TH KING OF GLORY CHILDREN'S CONSIGNMENT SALE ACCEPTING CONSIGNORS**

October 6-7, 2017

Sign up to consign/volunteer by emailing [ccs@kogva.org](mailto:ccs@kogva.org). Accepting fall and winter items. Friday, October 6, 11 am – 7 pm, and Saturday, October 7, 8 am – 12 noon.

Consignors can make up to 75% of their sales depending on their volunteer hours.

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **WILLIAMSBURG BOOK FESTIVAL**

October 7, 2017

The 2017 Williamsburg Book Festival celebrates the best in books in our region and beyond. Over 40 authors – both nationally-renowned and emerging – will meet readers and sign their books. Four Virginia Poets Laureate will read their work in the Presentation Room. Other sessions include topics for book groups, the art & craft of writing, and the business of publishing. Headlining the festival is bestselling author Kathryn Aalto. She will sign and discuss her book: *The Natural World of Winnie-the-Pooh: A Walk through the Forest that Inspired the Hundred Acre Wood*. The acclaimed book was a New York Times Best Seller and featured on NPR and was a People magazine "Best New Book

Pick." The Stryker Center 10 am -4 pm. For more information: [info@Williamsburg-BookFestival.org](mailto:info@Williamsburg-BookFestival.org).

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **REGISTER FOR THE Arc 5K!**

October 7, 2017

The 8th annual Williamsburg Landing 5k Run for The Arc online registration is now available at [www.thearcgw.org](http://www.thearcgw.org). For sponsorship information, contact Pam McGregor at [pam.mcgregor@thearcgw.org](mailto:pam.mcgregor@thearcgw.org).

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **FALL 2017 OPEN HOUSE**

October 11, 2017

From 4-6 pm. Drop in to tour the Hospice House, and to learn more about our services and volunteer opportunities. Open to anyone in the community. Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg, 4445 Powhatan Parkway Williamsburg. Questions? Contact Kerry Mellette, [kmellette@williamsburghospice.org](mailto:kmellette@williamsburghospice.org).

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **FALL FEST AND ROAD RACES**

October 15, 2016

Hit the trails for a day of exercise and fun. Join us virtually or join us for a challenging combination of roads and beautiful nature trails through the Warhill Sports Complex and adjacent areas. This race welcomes runners and walkers of all ages from all over. Some participants choose to run or walk the 5K or 10K alone or with their own 'team'

of friends. If shorter distance is more your style, join the action with a 1 mile fun-run before the 5K and 10K. Before and after the event, participants enjoy a community fall festival, breakfast, entertainment, awards, food samplings, pumpkin painting, face painting, henna, and an expo of sponsors and community partners. All participants will receive a dry fit t-shirt, medal, Calendar to Live By 2017, and admission to the festival. Create a team, dress up, pink out, and show your support! Registration fees increase \$5 on October 1. Proceeds benefit Beyond Boobs! Beyond Boobs! promotes breast health education and early detection and support for young women diagnosed with breast cancer. To find out more about Beyond Boobs! and their mission, visit us at [www.beyondboobs.org](http://www.beyondboobs.org). 8:00 am - 1 Mile Fun Run (\$20 registration). 8:30 am - 5K Run (\$30 registration). 9:15 am - 10K Run (\$40 registration). Registration fees increase by \$5 on October 1. Fall Fest 8:30 am – 12 noon.

## **Hey Neighbor!**

### **WE SHOULD BE DANCING**

October 20, 2017

From 6-10 pm, the Auxiliary of Sentara Williamsburg's annual fundraiser, "We Should Be Dancing," highlights the golden era of Rock & Roll with songs you know by heart from the 50's, 60's and 70's. Joe Hertzler and Linda George Hertzler, local community leaders and dance

enthusiasts, are the Honorary Chairs of this year's Dance held at McAuley Hall at Walsingham Academy, where a retro style gym will magically transport you back in time. Even non-dancers will enjoy the "comfort food" from Shorty's Diner, the great music and the dance exhibitions. Find more information about this TGIF event on our Sentara Williamsburg Hospital Auxiliary Facebook page and purchase tickets online on the website [www.auxiliaryswmc.org](http://www.auxiliaryswmc.org). \$75pp (\$40 tax deductible). Reserve tables of 8 for a fantastic and memorable evening. The Auxiliary has added two new patient-oriented initiatives this year: a first of its kind in Virginia, "Mobility Park" for patients of all ages with mobility issue plus a partnership with the Family Maternity Center to support our most vulnerable mothers and babies.

### **Hey Neighbor!** **YOGA TEACHER TRAINING**

November 2017

Shanti Garudasana Yoga School, a Williamsburg non-profit, has a few openings in their 300 hour yoga teacher training program. The program is Yoga Alliance certified and proceeds of the program provide scholarships for William & Mary students. If you would like an application or have any questions please contact - Cindy Crace, Program Director at [info@shantigarudasana.org](mailto:info@shantigarudasana.org).

### **Hey Neighbor!**

### **INAUGURAL AVALON CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT**

November 3, 2017

Whether you're a golfer or sponsor, we hope you will tee up with us for the inaugural Avalon Classic at Ford's Colony Marsh Hawk Course! Register a team or golf solo to benefit Avalon Center, the region's accredited agency on ending domestic & sexual violence. Registration is only \$100 per golfer and includes 18 holes, cart, snacks and beverages on the course, plus post-tourney buffet! 11 am-registration and 12:30 pm-shotgun start/Captain's Choice with BBQ and awards following the tournament. Register online at <http://www.avaloncenter.org/avalon-classic>, before we sell out! Don't want to register online? Email [Priscilla@avaloncenter.org](mailto:Priscilla@avaloncenter.org) or call 757-258-5544 for more options.

### **Hey Neighbor!** **COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG EMPLOYEES ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW**

November 18-19, 2017

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation employees, volunteers and retirees will once again combine their time and talents for their annual Fall Arts and Crafts Show from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The show and sale will be held at the Historic Triangle Community Services Building, located at 312 Waller Mill Road. Admission and parking are free and open to the public. Each crafter uses his/her spare time and talents to create unique

handmade gifts. Several media are represented during the show and sale, from jewelry and textiles to woodcrafts and photography. Fabulous jams and handmade textiles are only a portion of the treasures available for personal enjoyment or as a special gift for that certain someone.

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

December 9, 2017

Join us from 9 am – 3 pm at the Bruton Parish Hall, Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg. All proceeds benefit homeless animals at the Heritage Humane Society. You'll find unique gifts and stocking stuffers for all the people and pets on your list. Come early for the best selections of gourmet soups, baked goods and "jar foods" for your celebrations. We have themed baskets and handcrafted gifts, as well as a wide selection of jewelry, scarves, books, stuffed animals, holiday decorations and more! Your favorite pets will enjoy toys, togs and treats in their holiday "critter baskets". Try your luck at our raffles, with a chance to win exciting prizes.

### **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 2017 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 14. 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!** **VCE MASTER GARDENER REGISTRATION**

Ongoing

The James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners' Program is accepting applications for the Class of 2018. The entirely community based volunteer program is under the guidance and leadership of the Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Tech and has been providing horticulture based programs for James City County and Williamsburg for over 20 years. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 am – 12 noon, January 9-March 27. For application and more information, contact the VCE office at 757-564-2170 or visit [www.jccwmg.org](http://www.jccwmg.org).

## **Hey Neighbor!** **CHRISTOPHER WREN ASSOCIATION FALL SEMESTER MEMBERSHIP, COURSE, LECTURE, AND ACTIVITY REQUESTS**

### Ongoing

The Christopher Wren Association is a self-funded, volunteer-led organization dedicated to adults of all ages who seek opportunities for learning and enrichment of their lives. This fall CWA will be offering over 150 courses, one-time lectures and activities, including the popular Town & Gown Lecture series. Classes are filling quickly, and students are encouraged to submit their course requests online as soon as possible. For information about becoming a member and to view the current catalog, visit our website: [www.wm.edu/cwa](http://www.wm.edu/cwa). Questions? Call the office at 757-221-1506.

## **Hey Neighbor!** **WMCI FALL COMMUNITY COURSES AND EVENTS**

### Ongoing

This fall, the William & Mary Confucius Institute will be offering a variety of engaging language and culture courses, including: Chinese Level I, Chinese Painting I, Walking into Today's China, and Erhu I for Session I; Chinese Level II, Chinese Calligraphy, Chinese Painting II, and Erhu II for Session II. Additionally, Chinese cooking classes will be held on Thursdays from October 19 - November 9. A Taiji course will be held

over both sessions, beginning September 5 and ending November 14 (no class October 17). We will also host a variety of lectures and scholarly events. For more information, please visit our website at: <http://www.wm.edu/sites/confuciusinstitute/index.php>. If you have any questions, call 757-221-1286 or email [wmci@wm.edu](mailto:wmci@wm.edu).

## **Hey Neighbor!** **THE TIDEWATER VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (TVHS)**

### Ongoing

TVHS offers unique tours, lectures, social events, plus behind-the-scene adventures during 2017-18. "History in your own backyard" takes on a new meaning when you know what all TVHS has to offer. 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. Bill Kelso, everyone's favorite archeologist, says, "You can read about history in a book but you can walk thru it here." To learn more contact us at 757-259-9134 or visit us on the web: [www.tv-hs.org](http://www.tv-hs.org) or [info@tv-hs.com](mailto:info@tv-hs.com). Lectures are open to the public. Call or visit the website for more information. Everyone is welcome.

## **Hey Neighbor!** **WILLIAMSBURG YOUTH CHORALE OPEN FOR NEW MEMBERS FOR THE FALL SEASON**

### Ongoing

The Chorale is open to treble voices, boys and girls, grades 3-12. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm at the Bruton Parish House choir room. Rehearsals begin on September 19. The Chorale is featured in the concerts of the Williamsburg Choral Guild and the Williamsburg Women's Chorus. Contact Ann Porter, [aportermusic0@gmail.com](mailto:aportermusic0@gmail.com) for information.

## **Hey Neighbor!** **WILLIAMSBURG FARMERS MARKET**

### Saturdays

Enjoy the heart of Williamsburg in Merchants Square while shopping in this producer-only market for produce, prepared food, fish, artisan cheeses, meats, pasta, cut flowers, and handmade soaps. Hours are 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. The market includes live music from 9-11 am. Chef demonstrations, Master Gardener exhibits, and exhibits along with local shops and restaurants. The market now accepts SNAP/EBT, credit cards and W&M Express. For information, call or contact 757-259-3768, [www.williamsburgfarmersmarket.com](http://www.williamsburgfarmersmarket.com). September 2 - Live Music by Phil Casey; Café Provençal will be at the Chefs. September 9 - Live Music by LCV. September 16 - Live Music by Timothy Seaman. Sweet Tea & Barley is at the Chefs Tent. September 23 - Live music will be performed by So'lach. Berret's Seafood is at the Chefs Tent. September 30 - Live music by Stephen Christoff. Waypoint is at the

Chefs Tent.

## **Hey Neighbor!** **CELEBRATE RECOVERY Ongoing**

A Christ-centered, confidential recovery group for anyone who has trouble dealing with life's hurts, habits, or hang-ups. We meet on Tuesday evenings at 6 for dinner. Our meeting starts at 7. Williamsburg Community Chapel - 3899 John Tyler Highway, Williamsburg. For information, contact (Men) Gale King, [rgking10@gmail.com](mailto:rgking10@gmail.com); (Women) Sheryl Buckner, [sbuckner88@gmail.com](mailto:sbuckner88@gmail.com).

## **Hey Neighbor!** **VIRGINIA THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL**

### November 5, 2017

Celebrate the re-enactment of America's first Thanksgiving at Berkeley Plantation. The festival begins with a parade including horse-drawn carriages, fife and drum corps, festival entertainers and participants. First person reenactors, musicians and magicians stroll the plantation grounds. The Chickahominy Tribal Dancers perform, as well as The Itinerant Band, playing songs and tunes heard in 17th century America. Families participate in Colonial period games, dancing, crafts, activities and a corn maze. Vendors showcase their food, arts, crafts and jewelry. The re-enactment of the landing, moderated by Tim Timberlake, begins at 3 pm. Following the re-enactment, the Chickahominy Tribal Dancers invite everyone to

join them in their traditional friendship dance. Brock's BBQ will continue the tradition of offering Thanksgiving Dinner in a glass along with other food items. It is an exciting, educational and enjoyable day for the whole family! For additional information call 804-829-6018 or 1-888-466-6018 or go to [www.virginiathanksgivingfestival.com](http://www.virginiathanksgivingfestival.com). There is a \$10 per car and \$5 per bike parking fee to help support the festival and a charge for house and museum tours.

**Hey Neighbor!**  
**CHAIR YOGA AND MEDITATION CLASS FOR ADULTS 60 AND OVER**

Ongoing  
 Every Monday, 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! At the Messmer Community Services Center, 312 Waller Mill Rd., Williamsburg, (Off Bypass Rd.). 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!**  
**THE WILLIAMSBURG WOMEN'S CHORUS OPEN FOR NEW MEMBERS FOR FALL SEASON**

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 in December. Rehearsals for the fall season will begin in September. If interested, contact Beckie Davy at [bdavy@brutonparish.org](mailto:bdavy@brutonparish.org) to set up an informal audition.

**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](mailto:NAACP@yjcwnaACP.org)

**Hey Neighbor!**  
**WILLIAMSBURG YOUTH CHORALE OPEN FOR NEW MEMBERS FOR THE FALL SEASON.**

Ongoing  
 The Chorale is open to treble voices, boys and girls, grades 3-12. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm at the Bruton Parish House choir room. Rehearsals begin on September 19. The Chorale is featured in the concerts of the Williamsburg Choral Guild and the Williamsburg Women's Chorus. Contact Ann Porter, [aportermusic0@gmail.com](mailto:aportermusic0@gmail.com) for information.

**Hey Neighbor!**  
**ALL-AMERICAN TEA PARTIES**

Ongoing

Colonial Williamsburg invites guests of all ages to take time to go back with its All-American Tea Parties the first and third Saturday of each month until August 19. The events, hosted by Mrs. Campbell herself at Christiana Campbell's Tavern, feature a special blend of tea and sippets of mid-day fare to be shared. Guests are encouraged to bring along their period-inspired dolls and partake in the midday festivities. All-American Tea Parties begin at 1 pm and last until 3 pm. Tickets are \$39.95 per person and are available at [colonialwilliamsburg.com/tea-parties](http://colonialwilliamsburg.com/tea-parties) or by calling 855-296-6627, along with additional information, which is also available by following Colonial Williamsburg on Facebook and @colonialwmsburg on Twitter and Instagram

**Hey Neighbor!**  
**BIBLE STUDY**

Ongoing  
 There is a comprehensive and in depth bible study and question answering session held at the Williamsburg library in Norge every Monday night starting at 6 pm, with questions such as where did Cain get his wife and what was the mark placed upon him or what is the mark of the beast and his number 666 mean or what is the unforgivable sin. So, if your bible study is lacking the quality of study that you need to answer such questions, you are invited to join us. Contact 757-253-0172 or 757-604-6649

**5 Reasons to Advertise in Next Door Neighbors MAGAZINE**

- Monthly community magazine with all local interviews, in its 11th year of business
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# Summer is almost over!

## This has been a good year so far.

As we look forward to fall and the kids heading back to school, we may feel blessed for the vacations we've had, the family time we've enjoyed, and the moments with friends we cherish.

The publishing of this issue is the 9th issue of the 11th year we have been serving the Williamsburg community. It could not happen without the talented folks who help create this magazine each month.

There are many awesome folks who create Next Door Neighbors each month for your enjoyment - **from our Editor, Greg Lilly, to:**

**Writers:** Linda Landreth Phelps, Rachel Sapin, Brandy Centolanza, Alison Johnson, Ryan Jones, Lillian Stevens, Narielle Living, Chris Jones, Morgan Barker, Susannah Livingston, Cathy Welch, Erin Fryer, Christopher LaPointe, Michael Heslink, Naomi Tene' Austin, Gail Dillon, Lauren Plunkett, Ben Mackin, Laura Lane, Erin Zagursky

**Photographers:** Lisa Cummings, Corey Miller.

**Graphic Designer:** Sue Etherton.

**Proofers:** Al White, Ginger White.

**Advertising Sales & Service:** Anne Conkling.

**Courier:** Gay Forloine.

**Administrative:** Carol Evans.

**And most importantly my husband, Joe, for editing the entire magazine late at night and for creating the photo challenge each month on the inside back page.**



## We enjoy being a part of our community.

Be sure you use our Hey Neighbor! feature to let our community know how they can be a part of events and more...

## Hey Neighbor!

Hey Neighbor! is a service provided to non-profit organizations, civic groups and churches. It is intended to inform Next Door Neighbors readers about community events they may want to attend, volunteer for or make a donation to. Hey Neighbor! submissions should be typed in this sample format:

### Hey Neighbor! AUCTION TO BENEFIT LITERACY FOR LIFE Month 00, 2017

Starts at 7pm. Silent auction begins at 7:45. Hundreds of items of value. W&M Schol of Education. For more information call (757) 000-0000 or visit our website at LiteracyforLife.org

**Email your submission to:**  
[heyneighbor@cox.net](mailto:heyneighbor@cox.net)

**Note:** Hey Neighbor! listings are for non-profit organizations, churches and civic groups only.

**Direct Mail Circulation: 41,242**  
**Remaining Issues for 2017**

### OCTOBER ISSUE Getting Better

*Surviving tough times health challenges can bring.*

- In Home Date: September 28, 2017
- Advertising Deadline: Tues, Sept. 12th

### NOVEMBER ISSUE Thankful

*What we're thankful for.*

- In Home Date: October 26, 2017
- Advertising Deadline: Tues, Oct. 10th

### DECEMBER ISSUE Williamsburg Holidays

*Neighbors making the holiday special.*

- In Home Date: December 7, 2017
- Advertising Deadline: Tues, Nov. 21st

757-560-3235

Next Door Neighbors

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

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

**“GEORGE” AT  
WILLIAMSBURG  
NATIONAL GOLF  
COURSE**

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

**Enjoy!**

**Look for the answers**

August 2017  
In the Neighborhood  
Photo Challenge



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