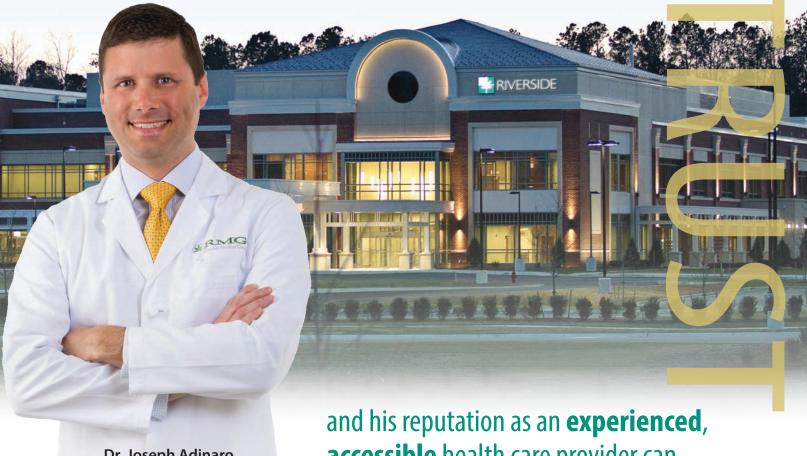




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Meredith Collins, Publisher

When we visit Busch Gardens, Colonial Williamsburg or really, any number of our local businesses, we just know that there is an entire support network working behind the scenes to make the experience for the customer the best it can be.

For this issue, we went looking for some of those people who work behind the scenes to keep our community moving forward in a similar fashion. This led to some very interesting and fun interviews

that we are delighted to share - a little peek into what we call "Hidden Williamsburg."

Obviously, these people are not hidden to everyone. Family, friends and colleagues are certainly aware of what they do. Their lack of visibility to the general public has no bearing on how important and how far reaching their contributions are. Without their efforts and expertise, we would experience a noticeable change in the quality or availability of that customer interaction. Learning about these neighbors and what they do will give you an insight into at some of our neighbors that are busy working behind the scenes in our community. Enjoy! NDN

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# A Recipe for Success

By Linda Landreth Phelps

Allison Patterson, now 39, began her career climb at the tender age of 14 on the bottom rung of the ladder to success. She's come a long way from washing dishes in a pizzeria to program coordinator for a culinary workforce development program at Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC). Despite a detour or two along the way, she's essentially followed the hospitality track she began as a teen. Allison's degree in Culinary Arts and Bachelor's Degree in Food Service Management from Johnson & Wales University is complemented by experience in Human Resources (HR) and accounting. Her present job blends her accumulated talents like a fine béchamel sauce melds tasty ingredients.

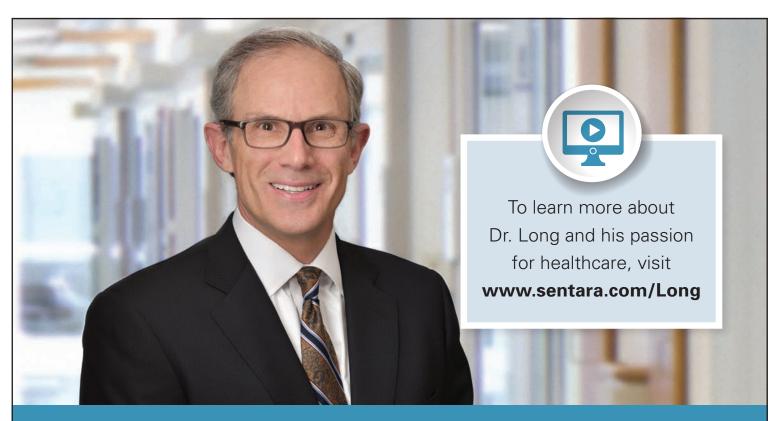
ChefsGO 1.0 is a culinary kickstart program designed to fill an ongoing need. "It's probably one of the most successful workforce development models because we directly place students with employers," Allison says. "The employers have a vested interest in it and are part of it from start to finish." Allison makes sure her predecessor, Robin Carson, is given full credit for creating its curriculum, structure and logistics. "Since she and I worked together well at Kingsmill Resort, when she decided to take a step back, Robin tapped me as her successor and continues to support me as needed."

Allison has support at home, too, from a husband who knows the business first-hand.

After their move back to Williamsburg in 2016, Mike Patterson took a break from his own hospitality career when their daughter, Riley, was born. After caring for their daughter for 2 1/2 years, he's now ready to re-enter the workforce and is seeking his own employment opportunities.

After 25 years of experience, catering and event management for high-end hotels and restaurants, plus accounting and managerial experience, Allison has all of the tools needed to keep the myriad facets of the ChefsGO 1.0 program polished. It feels like a calling as well as a job to her.

"There is a demonstrated need for workforce training," she says. Virginia Employ-



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ment Commission research shows that the labor market for culinary occupations in the Greater Williamsburg region is expected to grow 11.2 percent through 2024. "Anyone in the restaurant business knows that getting and keeping well-trained staff is their major headache. Chefs struggle to find that entry-level cook who knows the difference between parsley and basil and a fryer and a frying pan."

Since it's such a constant challenge, individuals from top restaurants such as Adam Steely from Blue Talon Bistro, Chef Hans Schadler of Waypoint Seafood & Grill, and Kate Sipes from the James City County (JCC) Economic Development Authority met in 2015 and put together a plan. They approached JCC and TNCC, and in partnership with other industry leaders and organizations developed ChefsGO 1.0. The innovative pilot program was launched in 2017, and a measure of its success is that all six original students are currently employed in local restaurants, with one being accepted into the American Culinary Federation apprenticeship at the Williamsburg Inn

without meeting their minimum one year's experience requirement. Another student plans to enroll soon at the esteemed Culinary Institute of America.

The 2018 contingent consists of 13 students, almost evenly divided by gender. Community sponsorship means that scholarships have been made available for those in financial need. They range in age from 18 to 61 and represent five different countries. Two are high school students, one going on to the University of Mississippi to study Agriculture and Culinary Arts.

"As part of the application process, we give prospective students a tour of one of the participating restaurants," Allison says. "Some have never seen what goes on in a typical professional kitchen, so it helps them decide whether they want to expend the time, effort and money to become a part of the industry."

It's not necessary to be a student at TNCC to enroll in this stand-alone program, and a high school diploma is not required. Allison says the program has two English as a Second

Language (ESL) students this year. "One is an actual food scientist. Mr. Moon was an instructor at a South Korean university for 25 years. His written English is probably better than mine, but he needs help in speaking it, so he came to us through Literacy for Life."

They also work closely with an Adult Education Instructor who assesses each student and assists with improving the math, reading and writing skills needed to complete this program successfully. "Cooks need to be able to read a recipe and measure, double or triple its ingredients without mistakes, as well as communicate clearly with the staff," she says.

Classes are held at TNCC, and Warhill High School is used for labs. Each student has their own work station and is provided with donated uniforms and personal knife sets. During a typical lab session at Warhill, the chefs give an hour of lecture and then begin the hands-on instruction. Knife skills are part of every class, an ongoing topic for lessons because it's an important foundational skill. These chefs donate most of the food that's







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It takes about eleven weeks of the program before the instructors are certain the students will be safe in a kitchen. At that point, students are paired with restaurants where they'll be mentored. "My job is to take into account the preferences of both the chefs and students. Students list their top three choices and chefs have input if they've got their eye on a particularly promising mentee. It's a little like matchmaking," Allison says with a laugh. "The ideal is that both parties are happy with the arrangement!"

Up to this point, class members can still be working at their regular jobs as long as they're able to schedule around the four-hour, Monday through Wednesday instruction, a total of 150 hours of classroom and hands-on training. Once the 15 weeks of mentorship starts, they're required to devote their full attention to it, putting in full work weeks at a minimum of \$10 per hour compensation. "If you do the math, you'll see that what they're earning actually covers the approximately \$2,500 cost of the program," Allison says. "It's a true bargain.

Thanks to community sponsorship, we're able to keep the costs low."

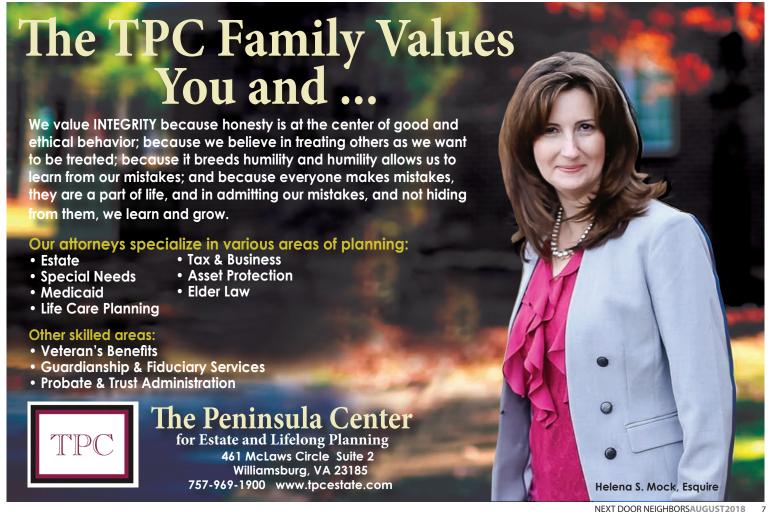
Field trips are also part of the curriculum. "We held the fruits and vegetables lecture right inside the Harris Teeter produce department. They had a fine-dining experience at Waypoint Seafood & Grill, where they gained an understanding of the service, presentation and guest satisfaction associated with the food they'll be preparing." Another trip was to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Chef's Seafood Symposium, where scientists and chefs spoke about everything from fisheries issues and seafood science to cooking techniques. Students volunteered at events that benefit Meals on Wheels and others, giving back to their community while being exposed to the event aspect of the culinary business.

These field trips introduce students to the numerous career pathways possible to them. "The culinary industry is like a tree, with the branches leading into specialties, sometimes unexpectedly," Allison says.

Students are fully prepared to enter the workforce after graduating from ChefsGO 1.0. They will have earned a Certificate of Completion from TNCC, and they'll also be certified in CPR and the use of a defibrillator or the Heimlich maneuver. In addition, they'll have their Food Handler's Card from the Virginia Department of Health. "In short, they're good to go and can enter the workforce confidently as a line cook." The program's graduates often stay with their mentors for full-time employment, with the option of moving to some other aspect of the hospitality industry.

"It's really cool to be able to help people navigate life," Allison says. "Not everyone is a scholar by nature or can afford the college experience. Why saddle yourself with debt for a degree which may not be as useful as the intensive training available within a chosen vocation?"

There are different recipes for success in this life, and ChefsGO 1.0 allows the opportunity to sample a culinary career within the framework of community-supported education. "It's a win/win for the people and businesses in Greater Williamsburg," Allison Patterson says. "I'm excited to be a part of it!" NDN



# LARRY CHRISTIAN Maintaining a Constant to eserve By Harmony Hunt Lisa Cumming Photography

If Larry D. Christian is doing his job right, you'll never know he's been working. As Manager of Operations and Building Automated Systems for Colonial Williamsburg, he controls temperatures and humidity to the tenth of a degree along Duke of Gloucester Street, across priceless museum collections and throughout the Foundation's offices.

"We have 15,000 building automation points. I can touch buildings from where I sit from here to Merchants Square. I can turn on or turn off a unit from where I sit. Our job is to monitor and control the temperature and humidity in all those buildings, but the guest never knows we're there," Larry says.

Discreet sensors and thermostatic controls are seeded throughout the Historic Area's build-

ings, but they must be camouflaged seamlessly into their environments so that the guest experience is never interrupted by modern intrusions. Paint colors are painstakingly matched. Small devices are tucked into inconspicuous places. "All monitor and control points have to be concealed and invisible. We are reading the building at all times, but the guest never sees it," he says.

Nothing escapes Larry's notice. Diminished airflow readings in the upstairs hallway of the Coke-Garret house can mean too many bedroom doors are closed. A spike in temperature followed by an activated exhaust fan at the Raleigh Tavern Bake Shop kitchen means fresh cookies are about to come out of the ovens.

To instrument this sensitivity, Larry's team

collaborates with representatives from Collections, Historical Research and Architecture and Engineering. It's a partnership that Larry has come to value deeply. "You become their biggest advocate and they become yours. It's a benefit to the whole Foundation."

Since 1986, Larry has been helping to regulate conditions within Colonial Williamsburg's buildings. From those early days up through the present, his challenge has remained the same, to maintain conditions that will preserve the buildings and their contents while keeping guests and occupants comfortable.

This is a task made particularly complex by the nature of the buildings that line Colonial Williamsburg's historic Duke of Gloucester Street. There are 88 original buildings dotting





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the Historic Area. These colonial-era structures are rare survivors from the 18th century and are irreplaceable historic artifacts in themselves, from their layouts to their construction materials and methods. The Governor's Palace, the Capitol, the Magazine and the Courthouse are just a handful of the originals that still stand.

"The buildings have no insulation whatsoever. When we air condition, the buildings sweat on the inside. We have to minimize that so they don't deteriorate on the outside but still maintain good condition on the inside," Larry explains. "Outside air goes right through the wood, so you're actually controlling that space as well."

The struggle can extend past a building's walls. Even the floors can be a concern. "Some of these buildings actually sit on the ground and you have to stop them from wicking on the inside while maintaining comfort for the occupants inside," Larry says.

A steamy Southern climate adds to the complexity of the task. "It's tough, because Virginia is humid. All the systems are working all the time to dehumidify and pull out moisture. That's critical for us to maintain humidity set points. In winter we're putting humidity back in. Our job is to maintain certain levels, and it's always a constant battle," Larry says. "Every

point has the potential to come into alarm."

The Foundation's energy consultant, Synergistic, worked hand-in-hand with Larry's group and a team from Conservation to predetermine points for temperatures and humidity that would maximize energy efficiency. Thermostats are programmed twice a year with temperature and humidity parameters for the season, and most units are shut off at 6:00 p.m. and turned back on at 5:00 a.m. the following morning. Lights and monitors are shut off, all in an effort to reduce energy consumption.

"The energy savings is not the primary issue. The main issue is maintaining the building so that it will be here when I'm gone, in perpetuity. That's the goal. So, the buildings are kept at the conditions that are determined to be best for the structure," Larry says. "Our job is to maintain the infrastructure of the building."

This delicate balance can be just as important in Colonial Williamsburg's modern buildings, like the museum galleries which house priceless and singular works of art and craftsmanship. Museums must be kept at a constant temperature of 72 degrees with humidity at 45 percent. This keeps the guests comfortable, but more importantly, it prevents environmental strains on sensitive materials like wood, textiles and canvas. If a unit has to go off in an exhibit space,

Conservation is notified so that precautions can be taken if needed.

With a sophisticated automated climate control system, Larry and his team can monitor individual rooms in buildings across Colonial Williamsburg with the click of a computer mouse. It hasn't always been so seamlessly managed.

"It used to be a lot more legwork. When I first got here, there were three buildings online. Basset Hall is one of the first that came online. That's the one that becomes your baby. It has evolved a long way from what you see today. When I first started, there were just two of us working in the basement at the Franklin Street Offices. Now I can bring up the Foundation's systems on my desktop, or in my pocket with my iPhone," Larry says.

Virtually all of the older buildings are online now and are monitored throughout the day and night year-round. "Gradually we are migrating more and more buildings on the system. With new construction at the galleries, 25,000 new points will be added."

After three decades of service and a career that has seen generations of change, Larry Christian remains grateful to contribute. "This has been a heck of a nice place to work," he says with a smile. NDN



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# **JORGE RIVAS**



# Bridge for Language

By Alison Johnson

As a language interpreter, Jorge Rivas' job is to break down barriers for everyone from young students in schools to elderly patients at their medical appointments.

Jorge, the Community & Medical Interpretation Services (CMIS) Administrator at Child Development Resources (CDR), knows exactly what it feels like to need extra support. He once was an overwhelmed 11-year-old boy transplanted from his native Peru to New Jersey.

Entering the sixth grade, Jorge spoke no English other than being able to count from zero to 10. His first best friend was a kid from Poland who also didn't know the language, or





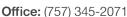
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Spanish, for that matter, but was happy to play without talking. A deacon at their Catholic school pulled the two boys out of classes for English lessons, starting them off with books for kindergarteners.

"It was very difficult, very challenging," Jorge recalls, now 47 and fully bilingual. "It took me three or four years to really grasp the language. So, I know what some of the families I help are going through."

Jorge's job is to assist people who make phone or online requests for Spanish-speaking interpreters from CDR, a nonprofit that serves children, families and early childhood professionals in Williamsburg, James City County, York County and Poquoson. He either handles assignments himself or calls one of several contracted translators who live locally.

Most of the work is at public schools or with health care providers, particularly Olde Towne Medical Center. The CMIS program also offers document translation services, with reasonable rates and quick turnarounds if necessary.

Common school situations include parent-teacher conferences, special education meetings, open houses and any communication between families and administrators, nurses or other staff. Jorge often works closely behind the scenes with individual families, sometimes for years. One of his most rewarding cases, in fact, involved a teenage girl from Central America who became pregnant not once but twice during high school but still managed to graduate this past year.

"Her father reached out to me to talk to her and her educators," Jorge says. "There were many times she wanted to quit, but she had the drive to finish and was able to do so with that support. At the end, she had a huge smile on her face because she had accomplished something so big." School translation services are critical in keeping parents invested in their kids' success at school. "If they don't feel a divide, they will be much more open to participating in their child's education, and teachers also will feel much more confident about their ability to communicate with those parents."

At medical appointments, translators can help patients accurately explain symptoms and understand advice and treatment recommendations from doctors. That communication can prevent misdiagnoses, boost compliance and increase the odds that a patient will continue seeking medical care, including for chronic conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure or cholesterol.

In his five years at CDR, Jorge also has watched 30-plus babies be born as he helped guide women through natural childbirth and Caesarian sections, taught new parents about infant care and breastfeeding, led parenting classes for first-time fathers, gone on home visits with CDR staff and assisted local social workers. "It's a good feeling to be there for people when they need me," he says.

CMIS was created under the auspices of CDR to support compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or natural origin in any program or activity that receives federal financial assistance.

All of CDR's current contracted translators offer Spanish services, covering Historic Triangle residents who have come mostly from Central America. "In the past, we have had Korean, Italian and French, but the need was minimal," Jorge says.

Jorge is grateful for programs such as English as a Second Language classes, which were not available to him as a child. He had stayed in Peru with his grandparents after his father immigrated to America in the early 1970s, and his mother later followed, aiming to create a better life for their family. Jorge's dad found work at a machine and tool company, and his parents eventually had two more children.

Their oldest son, though, was in no hurry to leave Peru. "They visited me," he says. "They could have brought me to America much earlier, but I was used to my grandma and didn't want to leave her. Really, that was the greatest thing that could have happened to me, because it made me truly bilingual. If I had come earlier, I probably would have lost a lot of my Spanish."

In 1981, Jorge finally made the move to New Jersey and became a United States citizen. At age 18, he joined the Air Force for what would become a 21 year career in the medical field. He worked alongside doctors as an Aerospace Medical Technician, served as a helicopter rescue crew member and was an interpreter on several humanitarian missions in Central America. He met his wife, Mary, while stationed in Missouri. His international travels included a 1996 assignment to help refugees at Guantanamo Bay.

"I sat with doctors and patients there for 12 or more hours a day," he says. The military accustomed him to being on call 24/7. "People don't only need language help from 8a.m. to 5p.m., so I don't mind being available around the clock. It's the right thing to do, and it's nothing new to me."

Jorge has earned certifications and degrees in several fields over the years, including emergency medical care, interpreter training, health sciences and business. He holds a Master's Degree in Health Care Management from the Florida-based Saint Leo University.

As Jorge's military career neared completion in 2009, he and Mary, a registered nurse at Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center, moved to Toano with their three children: Ryan, now 18, Stephanie, 16, and Emily, 11. "We loved the area, its rich history, quiet setting and equally important the people," Jorge says.

Jorge quickly connected with his new community. In 2014, he joined the Williamsburg Regional Library's Board of Trustees, where he has helped develop the library's strategic plan. "One of my interests is seeing how advances in technology reshape the way in which information is exchanged and used by everyone at the libraries."

With his son, Jorge also has been very active in Boy Scouts. He recently put his woodworking hobby to good use on Ryan's Eagle Scout project, which involved rebuilding a bridge and doing some landscaping work with garden boxes at Stonehouse Elementary School. At home, he enjoys crafting wooden picture frames. "I definitely like to stay busy," Jorge says.

So busy, in fact, that he hasn't been able to get back to Peru lately. He was happy to see his older kids sign up for Spanish classes in high school; Ryan, for one, did it so he could better communicate with Jorge's parents on their visits. Jorge hopes they'll keep practicing and learning, both inside and outside the classroom. "The thing about languages is, you have to use them regularly or they'll just disappear."

With his ability to interpret a conversation simultaneously in either English to Spanish or Spanish to English, Jorge Rivas is happy to help integrate a diverse mix of families into the local community.

"I enjoy giving back," he says. "Sometimes, bridging those communication gaps is what ultimately leads to some great success stories." NDN



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# REBECCA VINROOT WAKING CONNECTIONS By Harmony Fig ater Lise Curreling Photography

James City County's Department of Social Services exists to bolster up some of the most vulnerable local populations when they fall on hard times. Getting the word out about the assistance that's available is at the top of director Rebecca Vinroot's list. "As an agency, we do so much, but a lot of people don't know what we all do. I really see us as a safety net," Rebecca says.

Matching citizens to service providers in the community is key for Rebecca and her team, and knowing what resources already exist in Williamsburg is half of the battle. "I really see us as being kind of the funnel of information. So, if we know what is going on out there in the community, then we can help guide the people who are coming to us for services. There are a

lot of resources in the area that provide services for children and for families and the elderly and provide basic needs assistance. We are a clearinghouse to connect folks."

When community resources aren't enough, Social Services provides a suite of assistance programs designed to help people out of tough situations and restore them to self-sufficiency whenever possible. Their support falls under three broad categories: benefits, assistance and housing.

Financial Assistance might come in the form of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP. "It's really meant to be a supplement for people's basic food needs. People qualify based on their income and how

far they are from the poverty level," Rebecca says.

Individuals can research their healthcare options at the offices on Olde Town Road. A bank of computers sits in the reception area to assist locals with applying for Medicaid. Eligibility is determined based on a set of federal guidelines.

Another financial stopgap the state can provide is Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF. Income level and family size are assessed so that cash can be offered to help a family in a tight spot. "Something that people don't know is that we offer TANF for biological parents and their children, but we also do that for relatives who are taking care of minor children. When that is the case, we're not looking at the relatives' income, we're just looking at the need,"





Rebecca says.

The TANF program is paired with Virginia's Initiative for Employment not Welfare, or VIEW. The VIEW curriculum is required for biological parents receiving welfare, with exceptions for those with a child under the age of one or a medical exemption. In these classes, county residents are supported with an array of tools to assist them in finding not just a job, but a career.

"The goal is to get them back into the workforce. We provide job training, job search assistance and career development. We help to match employers to employees. A lot of folks have a lot of barriers to finding employment on their own. Knocking down those barriers is a lot of what we do," Rebecca says.

One of the more well-known areas of assistance Social Services provides is Child Protective Services, or CPS. They run a 24-hour hotline at 757-259-3201 for people who need to report suspicions of abuse or neglect. When this information is received, CPS will conduct an investigation and work to provide services to ensure child safety and prevent further abuse and neglect.

The hope is that families can be healthy together, but sometimes kids need to be moved to temporary care for their safety. That's where foster families come in, and Social Services is at

the helm of that program. Preparing families to welcome children who have survived tough situations is a big job, and Social Services wants to provide all the assistance it can.

"We do training for people in the community who want to be foster parents, and we place kids with families for a limited amount of time. Then we reunify the kids with the families or we move them on to adoption. We support the families post-adoption, because kids who end up in care have experienced some kind of trauma, so we support them. It doesn't necessarily end when the adoption is final," Rebecca says.

The same protections extend to senior citizens, who comprise a significant percentage of the James City County community. "We have a large elderly population. We're one of the highest in the area and it's getting higher. Right now the residents over the age of 60 make up 24 percent of our population," Rebecca says.

Isolation can be one of the worst afflictions the elderly suffer. Emotional health is strongly linked to physical resilience, and loneliness can weigh on seniors living alone. Practical concerns become troublesome as well. A person living alone might be stranded when a simple fall leaves them unable to get up. This particular problem led to an innovative partnership between Social Services and the Fire Department.

"The Fire Department had been getting a lot of calls from people in their home for what they call Community Service Calls, which might be lift assist or another non-medical emergency. They fall and call 911. And they might call every few days," Rebecca says. "But the Fire Department was wondering what else could be done. So we started to go out with them to say, 'You don't have a medical emergency but you do have healthcare needs, so how can we connect you with resources?""

This initiative is called Program Connect, and through it, seniors living alone can be matched with home visiting programs or local support like the Peninsula Agency on Aging. "The senior population might not realize they can get help. They aren't abused or financially burdened, but they still need assistance. There are many providers, but some might not know they exist or how to access them."

Rebecca Vinroot appreciates that the work of providing a safety net for the community and implementing new programs to meet the changing needs of its citizens is a job that takes many hands. "My staff are the most dedicated group of professionals that I have had the pleasure of working with. They make it easy to lead and ensure we fulfill our mission of helping others help themselves to become self-sufficient." NDN



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# Enjoying the Sights and Tastes at the Busch Gardens Smokehouse

By Narielle Living

Busch Gardens is a sensory experience of movement, lights, sounds and tastes. In certain areas of the park, the mouthwatering aroma of smoked meats wafts through the air, enticing visitors to dine on world class food. Todd Dawkins, assistant manager of Trapper's Smokehouse, is constantly looking for ways to improve on that already amazing taste extravaganza.

Todd's focus is using the smoker for the entrée meats. That includes the spareribs, baby back ribs and chicken. "This time of year our shifts alter," he says. "I'm usually here for the



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late shift but during the year it changes. During the off-season I'm only here from 9 to 5."

Busch Gardens is closed during January and February, and opens to the public in March, staying open for the remainder of the year. But just because they're closed doesn't mean the staff isn't there. Todd and his coworkers are usually busy with all of the things they do not have time for when the park is open. "We're winterizing, and we work on recipes and plans for the next season."

Traditionally, Trapper's Smokehouse changes their menu with the seasons. "We serve different foods at different times of the year. During Christmas, we'll have a slightly different menu. We'll still have options that allow you to get ribs and chicken, but maybe not the baby back ribs, and there have been years when we've had turkey or ham. Sometimes we'll adjust it from year to year, it will be more Christmas themed." Todd says that they try to pair flavors and foods with holidays. "For example, right now on the grill we're the Brazilian kiosk. There's different countries for food and wine, so we're Brazil

and we're serving Brazil-based items. During Howl-O-Scream we'll serve items like turkey legs, sausages and hot dogs and maybe grilled corn."

Todd is no stranger to the Busch Gardens family. He began working in the park on June 25, 1983 when he was 17 years old. How does he remember the exact date? It was the day before his birthday. "I was there until after midnight that day, so my birthday happened in the smokehouse. I turned 18 in the smokehouse. This was my first job."

Although he went to college and worked part time for a while, Todd never left Busch Gardens. "It's kind of rare, but I appreciate the fact that they've allowed me to focus and get really good here. I still have much to learn," he says. Todd is always looking to learn more about the art of barbeque and loves the fact that he has ample opportunity to expand his culinary expertise. "There are people who barbeque across the country who can teach me things, and then our very own Chef Justin has taught me a lot about barbequing and smoking."

Todd's father was in the military, and his family moved to the area when he was around 4 years old. "My family was Air Force, and we moved here from Hawaii." Todd attended college at James Madison University for 4 years, a time when he, like most young adults, was searching for his path in life.

"My father was in computers, so I started at JMU in math and computer science. Computers weren't as computer friendly then as they are now, it was a whole different thing," he says. Uncertain about whether this was the right choice for him, he switched his major to English and Philosophy, the subjects he really enjoyed. His father, however, did not agree.

"That is what I loved, but my father said I was not going to get a job with that major. So I went into the business school, marketing and management." During his time at college Todd continued to work at Busch Gardens. "I worked here in the summer. I always came back to this until it was a full time thing and I did it year round."

With a lifetime of returning to the same job, there must be something at Busch Gar-



dens that Todd loves. "Absolutely. This is family," he says. "People who have been here for more than a couple of years will tell you there's a draw here. There's people you see year to year that you have a connection with them. My vice president, for example, Franz Kitenko." Franz is the culinary operations Vice President and has been with the park for around 40 years. "Others have been here longer than me. We recognize each other, and there's a bond."

In the 35 years that Todd has worked at the park, he has seen some changes. Some of the changes are in the form of different roller coaster rides, and some are policy changes. "We have more safety procedures in place," he says. "I'm on the safety committee for culinary. I think we're a lot more aware, and we've learned more about how a small situation can turn into a major situation if you don't prepare for it." Previously, his kitchen relied more on common sense than policy, but today they take preventative measures to avoid injuries and food mishaps. In addition, the park has changed ownership since Todd first started. "We used to be owned by An-

heuser Busch, and we were more tied in with the brewery. For example, we used to have a monorail in the park that carried us into the brewery. There was a tour, and if you were old enough, you'd get a couple of free samples of any beer you wanted. It's a different atmosphere now. The focus is still the same. It's still about promoting fun and promoting memories that will last."

A few years ago the executive chef, Chef Justin, introduced a food and wine festival. According to Todd, that has become a very high profile event. "He's taking recipes and foods from all over the world and he's plopping them right down here in Williamsburg. Before we were serving your standard fare, burgers, hot dogs, but now we've expanded on that. People really enjoy the food and wine festival." Todd notes that the park has adjusted to the demand and incorporated a number of new events since he first started, which is part of what makes his job so interesting.

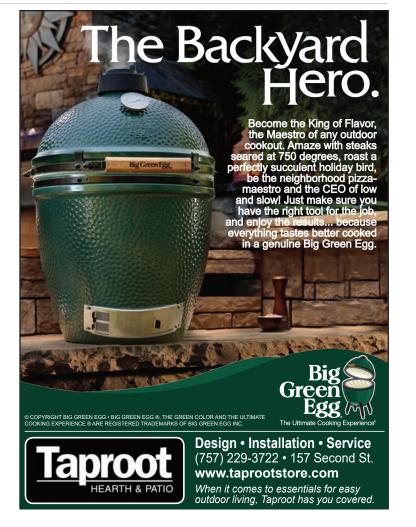
"In the past, maybe the first 20 years I was here, we weren't even open during Christmas. Now we're open for Christmas and we alter the menus and have the lights."

Todd reiterates that there is that one thing that is his favorite part of working at Busch Gardens: "The people, without a doubt. Like I said, you develop bonds with people. You're going through good times together but you're also going through tough times together, and there's a bond that's established because of that. People who used to work here come back to visit. People remember this because this is a time when they're growing and they're learning things together and that stays with you."

Todd Dawkins is often behind-the-scenes working the smoker, but he has a message for anyone visiting the park.

"I'm always a big proponent of our food and what we do here. I want people to know that smell they're smelling. There's something special going on here, and I'd like for them to come by and see us anytime. The smokehouse is one of the biggest food attractions in the park. All of our food is good but we pride ourselves on having the best food we think in the park and hopefully in the area. I want people to come and really enjoy what we do here."





# BEHIND THE SCENES FOR THE COUNTY By Narielle Living

Patrick Teague is the ultimate behind-thescenes person for James City County. He is the director of Human Resources. In addition to hiring decisions, his department deals with employee relations, benefits, incentives and development.

"My job is when they call and say we need to dig a new well, and we need a hydrologist. We have someone on staff who can do that but we don't know what to pay them or how to make that happen," Patrick says. He then works out all the details. "That's my job, behind the scenes to figure out what should you pay the hydrologist, how we are going to pay them when their normal job pays a specific rate but this job pays a different rate. But I have a great team to work

with.

Originally from Oregon, Patrick came to Williamsburg in 2008. His partner at that time had gotten a tenure track job with William & Mary, and he made the move to Virginia without ever having been here.

When they arrived, the recession was just beginning. All of his careful plans for immediate employment fell through. "When I was in Oregon I was online, reaching out and setting up interviews for jobs here. Every single one of my interviews got cancelled. Every. One. Of. Them."

Determined to make the most of his time, he began dividing his days into time spent looking for a job and time spent improving his outdoor living space.

Prior to moving here, Patrick had worked for the state of Oregon. "I was the Benefit Payments Division Administrator within the Oregon retirement system. My department was in charge of issuing payments and retiring people. My background is mainly in social services, and most of my time for the last 15 years has been in child support, Medicaid, food stamps, assistance to needy families, child protective services, and foster care."

Patrick began working in the child support division, then moved to Social Services to be part of the bigger picture. "I felt that I only had one piece of the safety net picture. Child support is a piece of it but I felt like I didn't have



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those other pieces, such as Medicaid, Medicare, seniors, at-risk children, that type of thing. I wanted the whole picture."

Eventually Patrick ended up at what he calls a "one-stop," which is the term for a center that addresses all the needs of the community from one location. They dealt with unemployment, job vocational services, child support, temporary assistance to needy families, food stamps and Medicaid. "We had a dress for success closet. We had a public health nurse. It was really neat to run a center like that because you get to work with so many different community partners and figure out different ways to do what we did."

In Williamsburg, Patrick had gone on a couple of interviews but was having no luck getting hired. Finally, he found a part-time position in marketing and development with the Williamsburg AIDS Network. He continued searching and then found what he calls one of the best jobs he ever had in his life with the Williamsburg Book Exchange. "It was heaven! I worked with other book nerds, and we talked about books all the time. I loved that. That got me through 2008 – 2009, and then I interviewed and got a job as an HR analyst at the Jamestown/Yorktown Foundation."

The job opportunity with James City County came up for Patrick in an odd way. He had

previously applied to work there but had not received a response on his application. As he was considering a move from the Jamestown/Yorktown Foundation, he decided to apply to James City County again for the position of Assistant Director of Human Resources. "I got called for an interview and was offered the job. I thought it was perfect!" Patrick was excited to learn the mechanics of the county. "When you do human resources for a museum, you have a finance department, curatorial, interpreters. You have a village." But compared to a village, James City County was akin to a city. "Now I had sewer, water, police, fire and each have their own requirements, their own protective rights, each is its own unique piece. They work different schedules, they retire at different points."

Learning about his new job was exciting for Patrick. He had only been working in this position for around a month when the director left and moved to Florida. Patrick's coworkers asked if he was going to step up and take the job. The uncertainty of the situation did not leave him daunted. "I'd only been here for a month. The person who hired me was gone. I had a rough idea of what I was supposed to be doing. Part of me wanted to take that slow track, have somebody else take the brunt and be in charge, and I could be behind the scenes and really dig into

stuff." But that wasn't meant to be. Patrick became the interim director for six months before being hired permanently.

He is clear about his reasons for taking the job, though. "I don't think I would have stepped up if it weren't for the team I work with, because it's a good mix of folks. Some have been doing HR for a while in other places, some have just started in HR and some have been with the county for 30 years. It's that perfect mix where we have a different perspective on everything, and we can blend it together really well."

Patrick truly enjoys helping others solve a workplace related problem. "I feel like my job is to help people see the situation in more than one way. That's when I feel like I'm doing my job. When you, as the employee, can leave the room and say that's another way to think about it. I'm not telling people what to think or how to feel, but giving them an option to look at the world a little different way."

Patrick Teague loves working and living here and truly enjoys working with all the different departments. "James City County is the greatest opportunity for someone who wants to make a difference in their community. It's a county that's ready for new, exciting ideas and employees who really want to see their community reflect the best of everyone." NDN

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# YORK COUNTY Les Cumming Photography

# A Dedication to Life

By Narielle Living

When most of us think of the fire department, an image of firefighters using a hose to douse flames comes to mind. However, Williamsburg resident Leslie Haynes knows how much more is involved when working at this job. As a firefighter with the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety, she is involved in many aspects of public safety, sometimes even doing things that the public does not recognize until a need arises.

Leslie was born and raised in Williamsburg,



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a local girl who loves this area. She went to Jamestown High School and at that time had considered a career in public safety. However, because of her parent's urging to continue her education, she enrolled at Thomas Nelson Community College. "From there I transferred to Christopher Newport University, and that's where I received my Bachelor [Degree] in Studio Art." According to Leslie, studio art is the process of creating art within a variety of mediums. "My focus was in painting and chalk pastels."

After graduating college with an art degree, she got a job. "I had a job with parks and recreation, working with kids, and I loved it," she says. But tragedy intervened, and Leslie's father died suddenly and unexpectedly. "After that I kind of stepped back and reevaluated my life and realized I wasn't very happy in my career. I started to understand that the art was more of a hobby for me."

At an emotional loss and searching for something more, Leslie cast about for her true calling. That's when she began to remember her initial desire to work in public safety. "I'd always had really fond memories of my dad talking about his years as a volunteer in the fire department and the rescue squad. He was junior volunteer rescue squad and junior volunteer fire department with Fredericksburg, which is where my family is from. So I enrolled in an EMT course with the James City County rescue squad, and I started volunteering with them." That was when she became involved with the fire department as well. Her passion for this type of work was reignited and her decision was made. "I reacquired my love for it and continued from there and never looked back."

Leslie feels fortunate to have the career she loves in the area she loves. "My family is all here, and it's a good place to grow up. I love the small-town feel of Williamsburg, the area and the history of the area especially. I love that you can drive a couple of minutes down the parkway and be at the beach but then there are some really nice trails, too. I also love the parks around here."

York County Fire and Life Safety is a combination department, which means that they handle both fire and EMS medical calls. "A majority of our calls are medical calls, but other than that we do a lot of public safety stuff," Leslie says. "We do smoke detector replacement, we've been to schools, we've been out for public education. A couple of weeks ago we were out at Chick-fil-A letting kids walk around the ambulance."

The firefighters consider each station to be community fire stations and strive to be as involved in the community as possible. They are often guests at birthday parties, neighborhood parades and schools. They also provide EMS services for high school football games. Customer service is important to them, and the firefighters are all dedicated to being a positive role model within the community. In fact, they take that role so seriously that they will often stop and assist people regardless of whether they have been called or not. For example, they recently stopped on Interstate 64 and helped someone change a flat tire.

Leslie has decided that she wants to branch out within the depart-

ment and take on a role on a specialty team. There are several official specialties within the department and each requires an extra level of training. The drone team, which is overseen by the deputy chief, is now able to fly in restricted areas. The hazmat team, which is out of Station 5 where Leslie works, responds to chemical spills and hazardous situations. The technical rescue team is at Station 4, and the marine team is a Station 6. In addition, there is a medical response team who holds a cache of equipment and responds to medical disasters on the Southside.

None of these, however, are what interests Leslie. Instead, she is hoping to do K9 Search and Rescue and has begun training for this. She is working with an outside group, Greater Atlantic Rescue Dogs (GARD K9). GARD is a Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) certified, professional volunteer Search and Rescue (SAR) resource available to assist authorities with lost, or missing people in urban, wilderness or disaster settings as well as human remains detection and recovery.

One of her coworkers, Max Frayser, is a member of GARD K9, and he and his dog, Pinta, are available for Search & Rescue with the fire department. Currently the York County Fire and Life Safety department does not have other people trained to do Search & Rescue work, so it's generally only available when K9 Pinta is on duty.

What initially drew Leslie to working K9 Search & Rescue was her love for animals. "When I came here and met Max and Pinta, I thought it was really cool," she says. "People were asking me what specialty teams I was going to be involved in, and I thought Search & Rescue dog would be awesome."

A typical workday for Leslie lasts 24 hours. "For 24 hours this is our home. Typically, we arrive at 8a.m. We usually get here a half hour early, grab some coffee and talk to the shift before. We call it a turnover. We talk about the calls we went on. Then we put the gear that we're using on the trucks for the day. We start our morning by checking our trucks and our gear and make sure everything works. We do our morning breakfast and then after breakfast we typically have a free morning or afternoon to do training or read up on EMS things."

Leslie acknowledges that this only happens when they are not out on a call. "A lot of us like to work out during the day so sometimes we'll work out together. In the evenings we'll make dinner, and we like to eat together as a family. From there we'll watch TV or movies together." Leslie says that one of the most important aspects of her work life is the fact that there is a good sense of family at the station. "Doing things as a team, or as a family, is really important to us." By 10p.m. everyone is retired for the night, only to wake for calls.

Leslie Haynes loves her firefighting career. "It really does hold true that when you love what you do, you never work a day in your life. I absolutely love it. I'm glad of that. I've had some unfortunate things happen in my past but it definitely steered me in the right direction. It's nice being able to turn a bad situation into something that made me thrive." NDN



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It's not the easiest of topics. Deep inside, it's human nature to want to remain in one's own home for as long as possible. But what happens when that is no longer feasible?

Williamsburg is a vibrant and diverse community, one that is extremely family-friendly and quite popular with retirees. This is a decided plus in our favor because it affords numerous options for those next chapters. Even so, for many of the community's aging seniors, finding that special place can be an extremely overwhelming and stressful process.

Thanks to Dawn Michelle, there's no reason to go it alone. Dawn is a Senior Care Adviser with Richmond-based Choice Connections of Virginia. Her territory covers at least 60 different types of housing communities between Williamsburg and Hampton.

"I assist clients with all senior living options," she says. "I work with communities that range from independent living to assisted living to memory care and continuing care retirement communities."

Continuing care retirement communities provide all of the above, as well as nursing care. Her role is to help seniors and their families explore and also understand the most appropriate care options. With a vast array of resources, she provides personal guidance through the options, and there are many, in senior housing.

Since Choice Connections is a communitybased service, she has extensive knowledge of local senior care options within her territory.

"My goal is to reduce time and minimize stress on seniors and their families when searching for options," she says. "We accomplish this by determining what makes each of them unique and then providing guidance so they may find a 'perfect fit' home that best suits their individual situation."

Dawn's service usually starts with a referral, often from the adult child of a senior, but she's receiving more direct calls these days as well.

"I might get a call from an older individual, or from the spouse of a person with dementia," she explains. "The first thing I do with them is to go through a very in-depth profile to get a feel for their lifestyles, any activities of daily living that they need help with, and their budget. As I gather information, I'm able to

eliminate places that may not be a right fit for them."

Once the needs assessment has been conducted, Dawn is then able to guide seniors and their families through what can feel like a labyrinth of available options. She narrows the search to two or three places that will fit their specific needs, then she arranges and attends tours of the appropriate communities with them.

"I literally hold their hands through the entire process. I don't make decisions for them. I just take them to the places that fit the criteria they have provided me."

Dawn sometimes finds herself fielding phone calls from individuals who need to find a community pretty quickly, but whether it's a crisis situation or working with families who are already thinking ahead, she will do her level best to help.

"It's always good if you can be proactive," she says. "The problem with working in a crisis situation is that your choices are going to be more limited."

Another problem she sees is simply one of stereotype. People who haven't been inside a

modern assisted living community lately may not be aware of just how nice they can be. Some still harbor the outdated image of a socalled "old folks" rest home. Dawn wants to dispel that image.

"There are beautiful, amazing options here," she says. "I'm 51 and would have no problem moving into some of these communities right now. There's no maintenance to worry about, meals and housekeeping are taken care of, plus there are so many social activities from which to choose."

There are different communities set up for different needs and budgets. Neither Medicaid nor Medicare covers any type of assisted living, and Medicare does not cover a nursing home. Therefore, Dawn suggests that people consider a long-term care insurance policy to help defray costs.

"Medicaid will only cover a nursing home if you qualify medically and have exhausted your resources and don't have the funds to pay privately," she says.

Another option that is increasing in popularity on this coast is the private or group home setting.

"This is an amazing option for some people

who need more one-on-one attention but can't afford private duty care on their own," Dawn says. "You see a lot of it out on the west coast and it's finally starting to catch on here, too."

As she works with her clients, she endeavors to help them find the solution they are most comfortable with, putting them in touch with the right resources. "For instance, there may be military veterans in Williamsburg who don't realize that if they have served in a time of war, they and their surviving spouse may be eligible for financial assistance through Veterans aid and attendance benefits."

If an individual comes to Dawn at the beginning of a search, the service she offers comes at no cost. She is paid through referral fees from communities in the area. However, she wants to stress that her loyalty is 100% to her client and as such, she works with each one to find the perfect fit.

Dawn is a buffer between the community and the client until that individual has decided to share their contact information. Her goal is to narrow the search for them. This, in turn, is beneficial to the clients as well as the communities.

When she talks about her career and the

families she has helped, a broad smile stretches across her face. It's truly more of a calling than a career. Dawn grew up in Reno, Nevada where she knew from a very young age that she had a soft spot in her child's heart for older people. "I loved my grandparents so much," she says. "And I have always absolutely loved the stories I hear from older people, especially the love stories."

When she was about twelve years old, she would ask her mom to drop her off at the nursing home down the street just to visit the residents there.

"They loved that, I think. But for me, the takeaway was priceless. It just felt so good to be there."

As a youngster, however, Dawn had no idea that her affection for older citizens would lead to a career change in her own middle age.

"There is no other feeling like knowing that you have helped someone at a crossroads in their life," she says. "When I'm talking to an adult child or the client themselves, often I can hear the frustration or anxiety in their voice. Once they realize that someone is there to help them, I can sense the relief. It's an amazing feeling." NDN

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# **JACK HORNER**

# TEACHING SAFETY for all

By Brandy Centolanza

When Jack Horner's oldest daughter graduated from high school a few years ago and was about to head off to college in North Carolina, Jack was, naturally, concerned about her safety while on campus. From those worries as a father sprang the idea for the self-defense program BMG Safe.

Jack owns the business Bravo Maritime Group, which includes BMG Safe as well as BMG Clear. While BMG Safe focuses on personal safety, BMG Clear conducts threat assessments on homes, churches, and businesses in the area and helps them improve their safety and security measures throughout their buildings. For example, BMG Clear recently assisted a church with implementation of an active shooter policy.

"BMG Clear is about the bricks and mortar while BMG Safe is about how to keep a person safe," Jack says. "I think people are more aware of what is going on in the world today, and they want to be prepared."

The BMG Safe program involves a three-hour seminar that teaches basic safety and awareness tips and skills including basic open-



hand techniques as well as more in-depth defense in the event of an attack from someone carrying a knife, a gun, or any blunt object such as a baseball bat or pipe.

Jack and his team of instructors cater their self-defense courses to various groups. There are general defense classes that are typically co-ed but can also be female or male only; classes on campus safety for college students; classes for missionaries focusing on how to stay safe during their travels; and mobile work safety classes for people who go into other people's homes or offices to conduct business such as realtors, accountants or those who travel for work. Classes are held at BMG Safe's office on Ironbound Road, or instructors will go to a specific location such as a church or business to teach the

program. BMG Safe also offers classes on improving security that is already in place within a business and will soon launch a self-defense kids' program in four age groups: 2-4 years old; 5 to 8 years old; 9 to 12 years old; and 13 and older with a parent.

"We are not a traditional martial arts program," Jack says. "Our program is unique in that we tailor to the clients and their needs. Our classes vary. We also give a lot of presentations and talks on personal safety and security."

During the first half of the BMG Safe program, participants learn basic safety tips as well as open-hand strikes in order to get away from any dangerous situation. Then, the students get to practice being in different scenarios with instructors to demonstrate that they can actually





get away using the techniques.

"A majority of our program focuses on the mental aspects," Jack says. "We talk a lot about situational awareness and how to apply a proper mindset as well as threat recognition, what a bad area looks like."

Jack, who grew up in North Carolina, has extensive expertise in the field of defense thanks to the years he spent in the military. After graduating high school in 1991, Jack joined the United States Coast Guard. During his time with the Coast Guard, Jack became a federal law enforcement officer and, later, a law enforcement defensive tactics instructor. He also spent three years as part of an International Training Team, traveling to 31 different countries on peace-keeping missions. He was unable to carry any weapons on those missions so he had to learn other ways to protect himself from harm.

"That's where we really honed our skills on threat recognition and how to avoid getting caught up in something as well as how to keep ourselves safe," Jack says.

Jack and his family, his wife, Valerie, whom he met at home back in North Carolina while on a military leave, and their two daughters, Taylor and Amber, moved to Williamsburg in 2002 when Jack was stationed in the area. They loved it so much they decided to make it their

home.

Jack started teaching self-defense classes for women at local martial arts dojos when his daughters enrolled in Tae Kwon Do, a Korean martial art emphasizing kicking skills. Both daughters went on to earn their black belts in the sport. Jack first opened BMG Safe in Richmond and then relocated the business to Williamsburg in 2014.

"We work with all kinds of people," he says. "I've taught males, females, people who've been victims who are trying to get their power back. Recently, I had a 14-year-old girl in a class with her mom, and we've also had people in their 60s and 70s." His favorite part of the job is witnessing the culmination of everything that people have learned during the final hour of the seminar when they are able to escape from one of the first scenarios. "They see how easy it is to get away from an attacker. I like watching that light bulb come on."

During an attack, "Everybody forgets to breathe," Jack points out. "So, I teach people to repeat the phrase 'Not Here. Not Now. Not By You.' When you are speaking, it gets you breathing. I also teach people how to always be aware of their surroundings and who is around them and the proper mindset. No matter what happens, you can get out of it."

There are simple ways people can keep themselves safer. For example, runners or joggers shouldn't exercise alone with both earbuds in their ears, and shoppers should stop and look around as they head into the parking lot.

"Take a moment to pause and breathe, and if you forget where you are parked, always hit the lock button of your vehicle instead of the unlock button," Jack says.

In addition to heading up BMG Safe and BMG Clear, Jack, who retired from the military four years ago, has returned to college at the College of William & Mary. He hopes to graduate with a bachelor's degree as a government major in 2021 and then expand his business. This fall, part of that expansion hopefully includes incorporating his defense program for kids into local schools with an eventual goal of also bringing his defense program for college students onto college campuses across the country.

Jack takes pride in keeping others safe through BMG Safe. "It's important to ask when was the last time you had a professional look around and check for any safety or security issues you might not be aware of," Jack says. "We don't leave a footprint with what we do. The best job we can ever do is when you don't even realize that we've been there."

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## CHARLOTTE PRICE



# A Guide to all Living Things

By Susan Williamson

Empathy should be Charlotte Price's middle name. She refers to herself and her business as Canine Ambassador, but the local pet sitter has an affinity for all animals as well as nature in general. Her business provides services for all household pets.

The Chicago native comes by her attraction to animals naturally. "I was an only child and my mother taught me to love animals," she says. When her parents separated, she and her mother moved across the country to Westport, Connecticut with a dog and two turtles. Her mother was active in Audubon Society and wrote a newspaper column, "Birds Over Westport" in



the local newspaper. Charlotte says her mother was also an artist and adds, "But I didn't inherit that talent." Westport was quite the art center, and her mother enjoyed having parties and being a part of the local art's scene. A portrait of Charlotte as a sixth grader, painted by one of her mother's artist friends, hangs in Charlotte's dining room.

When Charlotte was growing up, she spent time at a farm camp with sheep, horses, goats and chickens. She learned to ride and fell in love with horses when she attended the Greer School in Tyrone, PA for high school.

Charlotte started her business seven years ago, after she moved to Williamsburg. She considers herself a goodwill ambassador for all pets. Her pet sitting services are done in the owner's home and can include walking, feeding, administering medication, taking animals to the vet and overnight house and pet sitting. Pets can stay in their familiar surroundings instead of a pen in a boarding facility. Owners don't have to worry about taking and picking up their pets at a certain time. One price includes all of the pets in the home. She also teaches dog obedience. For several years she owned a kennel and dog boarding business in Virginia Beach. She has twenty years of experience caring for animals.

Her business is a member of Pet Sitters International, a North Carolina organization which provides education, certification, insurance and other support to professional pet sitters.

There is no charge for an introductory visit to meet the pet and learn its routine. Charlotte and her employees have all passed stringent background checks. Most of the pets she cares for are dogs or cats, but among the more unusual ones was a boa constrictor, fortunately well fed. On one visit she met a Great Dane who was very much the master of the house and tried to move her off of the couch, a very Dane-like behavior.

Charlotte now has three to four clients per week and is already booked for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. As Charlotte is talking, her three German Shepherds manage to open a door and join us for companionship and affection.

Charlotte volunteers with Virginia Shepherd Rescue but can no longer take in rescued Shepherds because of one of her current dogs. This dog spent a long time being chained before he was rescued and is very wary of and aggressive toward unfamiliar dogs. She still helps with adoption events in Williamsburg and Newport News. She also works to connect rescued dogs to foster and adoptive homes.

She believes strongly that the only reason to breed a dog is if you have an individual which you think will improve the breed. She bred German Shepherds when she had a kennel and anyone who purchased a puppy had to promise to return the dog if he or she was unable to keep it. Only one puppy was returned over a period of several years. The new owner realized the combination of a new baby and a new puppy were more than she could handle.

Charlotte's own dogs reflect her love of animals, and her garden reflects her interest in nature and gardening. Lush flower beds and specimen trees surround her home. A deep, fenced yard behind the house gives her canines plenty of play space. "This was all overgrown when I moved in," she says.

She completed the Virginia Master Gardener training at Norfolk Botanical Gardens. She enjoys almost all outdoor activities including swimming, kayaking, hiking and especially tennis which she considers one of her passions. She has taught tennis lessons, and she and her now deceased husband, a tennis pro, were ranked tournament players in Connecticut. Now she enjoys playing tennis once a week for fun.

In addition to running her pet sitting business, Charlotte works as an interpreter and



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outdoor educator at the Jamestown Settlement Powhatan Village. She acknowledges being a "people person" as well as an animal lover and enjoys meeting and talking with visitors. Being a gardener, she spent time on the hottest day of the year pulling weeds around the village. When she uses handfuls of nuts to discuss what the Powhatan tribe members ate, the squirrels come begging and try to steal the nuts.

"But we're not allowed to feed them," she says. Like a modern Dr. Doolittle, her quiet demeanor attracts animals. While she enjoys her work at Jamestown, she hopes to grow her pet sitting business enough that it will become her full time occupation. She plans to limit her services to Williamsburg and not branch out beyond the city and immediate surroundings.

Charlotte married young and later decided to pursue a degree in physical education. When she found that jobs teaching physical education were scarce, she completed a degree in special education and counseling. She worked as a vocational counselor for special needs students. As circumstances resulted in moves to various locations, she also worked as a freelance writer, tennis instructor, pet sitter, and a docent at the Biltmore House.

"You never know what's going to happen,"

she says, "but that's what keeps us young."

Charlotte's empathy is not only for animals. Her face lights up when she talks about her son, now thirty, whom she and her husband adopted as a two-and-a-half-year-old from San Salvador. They had applied to adopt a child and were on a waiting list. Charlotte says, "This little boy was escorted to the United States to be adopted by a military family who thought they were getting an eight-year-old. They were unable to care for such a young child, so the agency asked us if we were interested."

She asked when they were looking to place the child, and the answer was, "Now."

A very small, pot-bellied, needy child came into their lives. He had hearing and speech difficulties among other challenges. They welcomed the child immediately, and while he had the proper documents to enter the U.S., it was many years before they could finalize a legal adoption. He is now 30 and works as a cook at Camp Perry. When he's not working, he cooks for her as well. Charlotte says he is also a wonderful artist and occasionally helps out with her business.

She speaks proudly of his loving spirit, a spirit nurtured by Charlotte's love of and for people, animals and all living things.

# Next Door Neighbors

Publisher	Meredith Collins
EditorNarielle Living,	narielleliving@gmail.com
Copy EditorsGinger V	White, Amber Hatfield
PhotographersLisa C	umming, Corey Miller
Graphic Designers	Sue Etherton
Account Manager	Anne Conkling

### Writers

Linda Landreth Phelps, Rachel Sapin, Brandy Centolanza, Alison Johnson, Susan Williamson, Lillian Stevens, Melanie Occhiuzzo, Morgan Barker, Susannah Livingston, Erin Zagursky, Cathy Welch, Erin Fryer, Christopher LaPointe, Michael Heslink, Naomi Tene' Austin, Gail Dillon, Lauren Plunkett, Ben Mackin, Laura Lane, Dawn Brotherton and Tryna Fitzpatrick, Greg Lilly, Harmony Hunter

### Advertising Information Meredith Collins

(757) 560-3235 meredith@williamsburgneighbors.com www.WilliamsburgNeighbors.com

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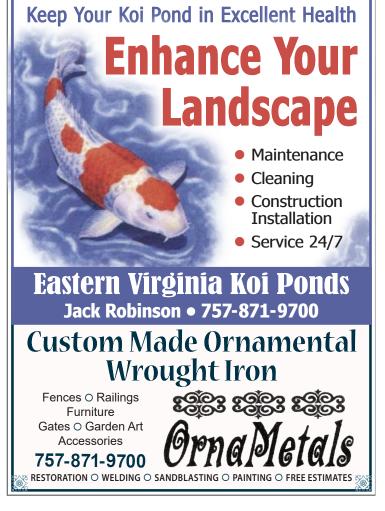
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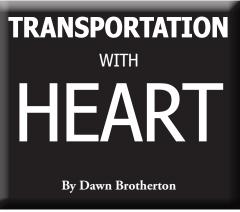
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Ryan Bonney wants to make a positive difference in the lives of the Williamsburg community.

As the oldest of eight children from Centreville, Virginia, family is important to him. This is especially clear in what he does for a living. In 2010, he started a business: Colonial Transit. His goal was to help people like his grandparents. When traditional transport methods like buses and taxis aren't an option, Ryan might have the solution. Colonial Transport is a nonemergency medical transportation company specializing in transporting people that need extra care and attention from one place to another.

Ryan was frustrated with the companies that his grandfather had to use for transport as he got older. "I saw how late people were picking him up, and they didn't even call ahead. I knew that if I just did the basic things like show up on time, do what I say I'm going to do when I say I'm going to do it, call when I'm running late, or pick up luggage, normal, common sense things, I would be far ahead." There are other



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transport companies in Williamsburg, but not as many as there used to be.

Ryan asks his clients many questions before taking them on, ensuring they are making the most efficient decision to meet their needs. "I see what their health status is and help them determine what they need. Sometimes people are just way too healthy for me, and they love that."

The client base that Ryan serves is typically people who have medical issues. "Most of the people who use our services are wheelchair bound or even on stretchers," Ryan says. In addition to routine doctor's appointments, Colonial Transits caters to those wanting to attend family functions, or who just want to get out of the house for a while. "We also do long-distance transfers like somebody moving to Florida or New York City." Ryan's Toyota Sienna is fitted with a ramp and tie down hooks to accommodate wheelchairs, stretchers and Geri chairs.

Ryan met his wife, LaVonne, while in college at Longwood University in Farmville. After he received his communications degree and she her sociology degree, they married in 2006 and returned to Centreville for a few years. They moved to the Hampton Roads area in 2008 when the birth of their daughter, Pryor, brought on the desire to be closer to family. La-Vonne grew up in this area and graduated from Tabb High School, so for her it was like coming home. They settled in Williamsburg in 2010 because they loved the community feel.

LaVonne now works as an officer manager for an engineering firm in Williamsburg. Ryan started out as an insurance salesman before discovering Colonial Transit. When the opportunity to buy an existing transit company came along, Ryan didn't think twice about switching careers. Thoughts about how this service could help people like his grandparents locked in the family's decision to invest in their own business. Working from home and being able to manage his time was an added bonus. "I like people,"

he says. Sometimes it's hard because he gets attached to his clients, and they aren't always in the best of health. "I always hope they recover and won't need my services anymore."

Having worked in insurance before, Ryan understands the ins and outs of dealing with insurance companies when it applies to medical transport. Long-term care insurance may pay for transport, but only under certain situations. Ryan took that into account when he determined his price schedule for Colonial Transit. He set his prices to be affordable even for people who don't have long-term health insurance.

His attention to detail and customer service are especially reassuring for families who do not live nearby and are trying to care for aging parents from a distance. He has long-standing clients who have become like extended family. "They know who I am and what I stand for," Ryan says. "I have a lady I've been driving for about two years, three days a week. I got to know her and her family. They trust me. When they go out of town, I can still tell them what's going on with their mother and things of that nature."

Retirement communities often have transport solutions on site, but many rely on Colonial Transit to be their backup contingency for long-distance driving or for times outside of their normal hours. "They've obviously done their research and realize that we're their next best option when they don't have any drivers. They have limitations on distance and I don't," Ryan explains.

To his clients' delight, Ryan works seven days a week. That is sometimes a sticking point for his wife and their nine-year-old daughter. "My family realizes that my plans change all the time. Luckily, my daughter now knows that I will 'more than likely' pick her up from school, and she accepts that sometimes I have to work."

His work hours don't leave much time for additional hobbies. "My daughter does gymnastics and that takes up most of our off-time." They spend a lot of time at the pool, Busch Gardens and Water Country. When he isn't working, Ryan likes to cook for the family. He specializes in barbeque. "I'm not an expert or anything, but I judge restaurants by whether or not they can barbeque better than I can," Ryan says. Since starting his own company, he hasn't been able to take week-long vacations, but he and his family make the most of their time together. They enjoy weekend getaways and like to visit places like Harper's Ferry.

Eventually Ryan may grow his business. He definitely sees the need for the niche he fills. "There are companies in this area that can move wheelchairs, but they won't do stairs. They won't do long distances; they won't do weekends; they won't do holidays; and they won't do after hours. I fill that that gap there."

Colonial Transit has recently expanded their service to include drivers for an individual's personal vehicle. "We have some clients who don't need the van for transportation but would rather not drive themselves on the highway. We can drive them in their car, and the cost is much lower than a taxi," Ryan says.

This service also extends to snowbirds who would like to have their car with them in Florida or elsewhere for the winter, but don't want to drive it that distance themselves. "We drive them where they need to be in their car, using their gas, and their insurance. Then they have their own car to drive around town for the winter." When it's time to come home, Colonial Transit will send a driver to retrieve car and passenger.

Ryan Bonney's goal of helping people who have transport needs combined with medical issues has been realized. For families struggling with caretaking, he is ready to help with both transportation and a listening heart.









Dictionaries define adventure as an "unusual and exciting, typically hazardous experience or activity" and "especially the exploration of unknown territory." Adventure demands attention and energy, much as a plant needs sunlight and water. Wayne Hay is an example of a life lived well, with each undertaking a fulfilling and usually exciting addition to his memory bank.

"I had never driven west of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and now I see America at 10 miles per hour," he says. His transportation is a very special bicycle, made by Salsa Vaya, a big investment but one that can last indefinitely with proper maintenance and necessary repairs. He can ride alone or with a group, see the sights, eat locally and support the economy, all while visiting much of

the country.

Wayne rides about seven hours a day and usually starts at dawn, especially on hot days. When he goes on bike trips, he generally carries a fairly large load with him: all the necessary tools for repairs, spare tires, camping equipment, food, clothing and gear. Out of necessity and to ensure he is able to withstand the intensity of this type of ride, Wayne works out at a gym two days a week to build upper body strength.

For anyone who is riding the distances that Wayne rides, carrying his tools and spare tires are necessary. The wide tires of his bike carry 80 pounds of air, and with a smile he says, "I have never had a flat tire on the road, but I have right here in town."

Raised in Norfolk, Wayne rode a bike everywhere when he was a child, including to school. Later, he ran cross country until his ankles gave out. As he rediscovered biking, he began to explore. His cross-country trips are legendary, and he keeps a daily conversational blog to stay in touch with family and friends, including the Williamsburg Area Bicyclists, of which he has been a member for 13 years.

2008 was a pivotal year for Wayne. Despite the financial chaos swirling through the country, he and Nancy married, moved to Williamsburg and began their new life together. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 2014 after serving as a supply officer. His twenty year career had been structured and regimented, with many rules and



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expectations from the Navy. His retirement, on the other hand, is free, flexible and sometimes spontaneous. With no headphones or computer on the road he is able to partially unplug from daily technology.

Wayne's best memory of his bike travels is seeing the beauty of the Grand Tetons and Old Faithful, images he had only seen in textbooks. "Everything is better and more beautiful than I expected," he says. Ironically, his worst memory occurred on the same trip in 2015. "It was a 78 day trip through 10 states, and homesickness set in after about 10 days. So, my wife met me in Kansas, and from then on thirty days is my limit," he says. On another trip he encountered a pack of nearly rabid wild dogs in Kentucky who were very territorial about their space, and he is always cautious of bear when riding through terrain where they may live.

During his trips, Wayne makes it a habit to visit historical societies to learn about the area. He also is certain to check out the local breweries. When at home, he brews his own beer.

In 2016, Wayne biked from St. Augustine, Florida to Virginia. The next year he followed the old Erie Canal path, from Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Although the two towns are barely 70 miles apart, his route around the canal covered 1,400 miles. Although a lot of his road time is spent alone, he does meet other riders. Kansas, Missouri and Illinois are filled with hospitable people who are accustomed to seeing bicycles crossing the country in both directions. They are helpful in bad weather too, and on several occasions he has been offered shelter if and when the tornado siren sounds. One family opened their home while a police department offered a public shelter. Other riders have useful information, and many carry maps with excellent notes for what to expect.

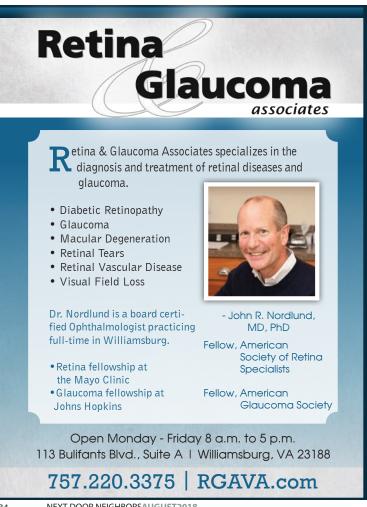
According to Wayne, a steep climb can make use of the granny gear, which is the lowest gear on the bicycle. His favorite road is asphalt with a three foot shoulder. Highways with bike lanes? "Magnificent," he says.

Williamsburg is home to a friendly, supportive and active family of riders who make up Williamsburg Area Bicyclists. They do group rides six days a week, volunteer with the annual Pedal the Parkway event, help teach new riders and enjoy an active social life together. Pedal the Parkway is done in cooperation with Colonial National Historical Park and involves numerous community volunteers.

Wayne is a trail ambassador for the Virginia Capital trail, a 52 mile multi-use trail which takes bicyclists from Jamestown to Williamsburg and then to Richmond. In his role as a trail ambassador Wayne assists riders with first aid when needed, minor bike repairs and safety advice. He is also able to advise users on the amenities located on the trail, such as water stops, views and tourist spots.

In a number of states, old, abandoned railroad tracks have been converted to hard top trails which are ideal for walkers or riders. This Rails to Trails program affords long distance adventures and a chance to meet and greet new friends. Wayne believes one of the best trails is the Great Allegheny Portage, which takes people from western Pennsylvania all the way to Maryland, where people can then go by C&O canal boat into Washington, D.C. without ever using a car. Wayne's attitude is that adventures can be tailor made in this sport if you take the time to explore.

This summer Wayne Hay heads to Portland, Maine and begins a scenic ride back home to Williamsburg. The fall will again find him hunting deer and bear. During whatever real winter we get this year, he will make laborious and hopeful plans for the summer of 2019. Detailed planning is vital to his success each year. His hobby fills his days with delight and his travels with incredible memories, and his blog makes armchair travelers of many who might never see the sunset over Old Faithful or fall leaves along the Potomac. NDN







According to Taylor Jackson, you do not need to be in a leadership position to be a good leader. Though she may have only just graduated from Jamestown High School in June, Taylor is a trailblazer and leader in her own right who has made a significant impact on the various community groups that she is a part of.

One group that Taylor holds particularly close to her heart is the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums. Taylor joined the group while she was a student at Berkeley Middle School and ultimately moved up the ranks to Senior Corps. Having just graduated from the Corps in July, Taylor's graduation march was a

historic moment for the organization, as she is the first African-American female to graduate from the Fifes and Drums.

"It means a lot to me because I wouldn't have thought I would be the first," she says. "It's been 60 years and 1,000 members, and I'm the first. It wasn't until last year when I started getting ready for my senior year and it occurred to me that we have seen African-American females come in the Corps, but we've never seen them graduate. It's surreal to think I would be the first one after all of this time."

Taylor's inspiration to join the Fifes and

Drums came from her uncle, Anthony Jackson. A 2000 graduate of the Corps, Anthony went on to pursue a degree in criminal justice at Virginia Commonwealth University. Taylor remembers watching him perform in Colonial Williamsburg and dreamed of one day joining the group. She will follow in his footsteps yet again when she begins her freshman year at VCU in the fall.

Taylor has dedicated a significant amount of time to the Fifes and Drums, which requires hours of practicing and performing, but also time in the classroom learning new tunes and about the history of the Corps.





In addition to her talent on the fife, Taylor also played the drums with the Jamestown High School marching band, another talent that was inspired by her uncle.

As one can probably imagine, juggling marching band on top of a busy Fifes and Drums schedule (not to mention school) was a hard routine to maintain, but with the help of her supportive family, Taylor was able to strike a balance.

In addition to playing the fife and drums, Taylor is also a talented pianist, though that instrument has taken a back seat to the others. "I've always loved music," she says. "I got my start with the piano around third grade, and my mom played piano so she would teach me lessons. When I got more serious about it I started taking formal lessons but wasn't able to keep up with it on top of everything else."

Though she is still busy here in Williamsburg, Taylor is anxiously awaiting her move to Richmond. "My decision to go to VCU was inspired by Richmond itself," she says. "I love the city because my uncle lives there. Whenever we visit him it's always fun. He went to VCU for graduate school for criminal justice and is a detective. He inspired me to join Fifes and Drums and to become a drum major in school because he was too. I want to be closer

to him and continue to follow in his footsteps."

When it comes to majoring in criminal justice, Taylor admits she is a fanatic for watching crimes unfold on television. "I know it's not real life, but it is interesting to figure out how criminals work and see how things fall into place when you are figuring out a crime."

As for where she hopes to land after college, Taylor says she has no idea what she wants to be initially, but her ultimate dream is to pursue a career with the FBI.

During her graduation march in July, the whole senior corps marched together, and the graduates got to section lead and pick the tunes for their march. After playing the tunes, the graduates and staff gave speeches.

"My speech was a reflection on what Fifes and Drums has done for me and what I hope for the people who come after me," Taylor says. "Fifes and Drums taught me that you don't have to be in a leadership position to be a leader. People in leadership are not always the best leaders and even if people are the highest rank, there may be a better leader that people can look up to."

As a student at Jamestown, Taylor was in FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America). Though she has no plans to pursue a future in business, she found that she really enjoyed the

club and actually placed third in her district's final competition.

As she begins looking toward the future and what she will get involved in at VCU, Taylor thinks music will take a back seat for now, though she plans to volunteer with the Fifes and Drums when she is back in town.

While her final weeks at home are packed with activities, Taylor still finds the time on Sundays to attend church with her family and volunteer. They are members of Life Church, and it just so happens that the pastor is an old Fifes and Drums friend of Taylor's uncle. Taylor and her mother volunteer in the toddler room where Taylor is the head teacher.

In the little free time she has, Taylor spends time hanging out with her fellow fifers and drummers and prepping for her move to Richmond

As she prepares to leave her hometown behind, Taylor Jackson admits there are some things she will miss, especially the community that she grew up around at James River Elementary School where her grandmother is still a teacher. "I attended James River and the people there have always supported me," she says. "James River is my favorite part about Williamsburg. It's where I got my start and where I most feel at home." NDN







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#### Next Door Neighbors

Health

Working in the same profession as your father isn't for everyone, but Dr. Adam L. Wilding can't imagine a more satisfying or interesting career choice. "I help the body function better so it can heal itself," he says. The 44-year-old chiropractor and owner of Commonwealth Family Chiropractic can still recall the moment when he knew he wanted to do what his dad did.

"He got a call on a Saturday. For some reason he took me with him," Adam says, adding that he was about 10 years old at the time. "So, I went to his office and I saw him go out to the car and we watched a man carry his wife inside. I was in the reception area waiting for about 25 minutes and she came out walking on her own. I thought, 'that's pretty cool!"

He says neither of his parents pushed him to become a chiropractor, which he appreciated. "I think they were really careful not to." His father, Dr. A.L. Wilding, opened Williamsburg's first chiropractic business on Merrimac Trail back in 1972 which then moved to Old Towne Road in 1980.

The elder Dr. Wilding still adjusts patients once or twice a month in the "mini-clinic" he set up in his home. The perception of doctors of chiropractic and what they specialized in was very different then than it is today, Adam explains. In some cases it was viewed with outright



# Taking Care of People

By Gail Dillon

skepticism and suspicion.

"The AMA (American Medical Association) tried to eliminate the profession back in the early 1970s and went to court (over it) in the '80s," he says. "Fortunately for me, things are

now changing," he says. "I have a very good relationship with the doctors in town and I even treat some of them."

The profession, which officially was born in 1895 when Daniel David Palmer of Iowa performed the first spinal adjustment on a janitor, is loosely defined as using the hands to manipulate the spine and other parts of the body. It has come a long way since those primitive days, Adam says.

"The AMA and the FDA (Federal Drug Administration) have both endorsed the treatment of spinal manipulation for lower back pain, the number one thing I treat," he points out. "It's what we do, and it's what we're good at."

Adam was born and raised in Williamsburg. He grew up as the eldest of four with a sister two years younger and a brother and another sister born when he was a teenager.

After graduation, he attended the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, majoring in economics with a biology minor. At the time, he was seriously considering becoming both a chiropractor and a medical doctor but soon changed his mind. "I thought about the number of years

and the amount of debt," he says with a wry smile.

He met his wife Jomie, short for Josephine Marie, while attending UVA. The couple has two children: Martha who is 16 and a 14-year-old son Hayden.

# WEALLHAVE QUESTIONS Come Join the Conversation September 16 - October 28, 2018 exploreGod.com

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11828 Fishing Point Dr, Ste 100, Newport News, VA 23606 134 Professional Circle Williamsburg, VA 23185 After finishing chiropractic school in the Chicago area, Adam returned to Williamsburg in 1998 and began working in his dad's clinic. Calling those three and a half years "challenging" due to being in his father's professional shadow, he also admits that he had ample freedom to make clinical decisions on his own and that he learned a lot about running a business.

His approach to treating patients is conservative yet results-based. "Ideology only takes you so far in health care," he says. "At some point you have to have outcomes. I think we do a good job at that. I tell my patients all the time, I am not opposed to drugs or surgery when necessary."

People might be surprised by some of the maladies he treats. Although lower back pain is by far the most common, he also sees patients for neck pain, jaw pain and headaches, as well as carpal tunnel syndrome and bursitis. One of his favorite problems to solve is plantar fasciitis. "If you can help someone's foot pain that hurts every other step, that's meaningful to them," he says. "Plantar fasciitis is truly a condition of bio-mechanical dysfunction. You're not walking correctly, and (walking is) a very complex, rhythmic process. If it doesn't happen properly, there's usually a problem."

Adam says he doesn't like to take credit for "fixing" anyone. "It goes back to my true belief

that the body has an innate ability to heal itself and I'm just the facilitator," he explains. "I'm pretty humble when it comes to that kind of stuff."

He has strong opinions on the state of health-care in the United States, saying that because Americans tend to rely on "crisis care," we often don't catch problems early enough. "It's why we're the richest country in the world but we're, last time I checked, 18th on health," he says. "I think the mood is going more toward preventative though."

He would rather have a person who is suffering with lower back pain come in for an evaluation and a spinal adjustment than rely heavily on anti-inflammatories and pain relievers.

"Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (such as ibuprofen) can cause intestinal bleeding if overused," he warns. "They tax your gastrointestinal system, your liver and your kidneys." Opioids, he adds, can be equally if not more dangerous. "Opioids do nothing for pain. They just make the patient not care about it," he says. "I'm in the business of changing that perception before it gets to the brain. I work on the synapses, the pain track, before it gets there." However, he caveats that by saying there are circumstances when opioids are necessary. For example, his friend's wife fell down the steps

carrying a basket of laundry and fractured her sacrum. "There's not much you can do for this but the patient's going to be in a lot of pain," he says. "If there ever was a case where opioids were appropriate, this is it."

Helping people overcome their pain is deeply rewarding. "Give me an acute sacroiliitis case (pain where the lower spine and pelvis connect) any day," he says. "You adjust the patient once and they get up and feel pretty good." Oftentimes there is a "popping sound" during spinal manipulation caused by small pockets of air that are in the synovial fluid surrounding the joints, similar to the sound of cracking one's knuckles.

In addition to running a busy and successful chiropractic business, Adam also volunteers at the Old Towne Medical Center every third Tuesday of the month. "I do it at a steep discount, and I really enjoy doing that," he says. "The patients I've seen over there, they want to feel better and they need to feel better because they're living on the margins as it is."

Dr. Wilding credits retired surgeon Dr. Rennie Howard with giving him both wise and useful advice about running a successful chiropractic business. "The only thing you have to do to have a successful practice is to take care of your patients and they'll take care of you," Adam says. "I'm just trying to take care of people."







The Colonial Gardens Bed and Breakfast is hidden from the road by lush gardens and greenery. Sitting in the back sunroom, it's difficult to imagine the city of Williamsburg is only steps away. Evening brings the hooting of the Great Horned Owls and croaking of tree frogs. Karen Watkins has been the innkeeper there since 2006, and she never tires of watching the baby birds who are hatched in the same fern for the last 10 years.

"There's not a window you look out that you don't feel like you are in a park. It's beautiful. The nature's gorgeous," Karen says. "We have owl perches, and they will sit and watch me do dishes. Sometimes they are on my car when I go outside."

When the Air Force brought her family to the Langley area, they fell in love with Williamsburg. They bought a house and Karen enjoyed six months of exploring the area. Quickly, she knew she needed more in her life than sightseeing, matinees and tennis lessons. As a military spouse, Karen is used to being resourceful and innovative. She has been a flight attendant, done restaurant work and owned her own neuromuscular clinic in North Carolina.

Before deciding her next career choice, she sat down and made a list of the things she really liked to do. "I love to entertain, love to host people, love to decorate, love to cook, and I love to go out. And then I had in this other column,

things I didn't want to do anymore. I didn't want to sit behind a desk all day, and I didn't want to wear high heels to work anymore," Karen says.

She has always enjoyed hosting her military friends throughout the years, so she came up with the idea that would put her domestic skills and business brain together. "I thought it would be so nice to roll out of bed, put my hair up, put on the coffee and make a great breakfast. To enjoy coffee and conversation with the guests at a B&B and get paid for it because we did it all the time in our house with family and friends."

Karen was a businesswoman and liked the prospects for a bed-and-breakfast in Williamsburg. She did research and settled on the Colonial Gardens because of the allure of the gardens. Karen and her husband Ron purchased the house from Will and Diane Phillips, who had run the guest house for the 12 years prior. She gathered much of the history from previous owners.

"The house was originally built in 1965 by Joel Shepherd who built it for the Dean of Law at William & Mary at the time, James White," Karen says. "James got the bricks from the Williamsburg Colonial Foundation because these were the original courthouse bricks for Williamsburg that was erected, I believe, in the late 1600s or early 1700s. But these bricks were made by the indentured servants at the time, and some of them still bare initials, although they're three

hundred to four hundred years old."

The original courthouse would have held witch trials and proceedings over Blackbird the Pirate's men. Karen claims that along with the bricks came a few ghosts. "We just think of them as visitors, unpaying tenants." She insists they aren't creepy ghosts but are actually more playful. Some guests have claimed to see or hear the unexpected visitors, but no one has been scared away by them.

There is a lot more than ghosts that make the Colonial Gardens Bed and Breakfast special. "It had been a bed-and-breakfast for twelve years before I bought it, and the décor was completely colonial. So, I made a clean canvas and decided to go a little upscale, old-world, European." All the rooms are en suite, with Turkish towels and high-end sheets that are hand-ironed for the guests. Breakfast is served on china and is plated, not buffet. "We want to give people something a little more elegant but still casual," Karen says. The upstairs suites have fireplaces, plush robes and flat screen TVs, while the downstairs common areas invite guests to enjoy wine, tea or coffee on the sunporch with a good book from the lending library. Strolls through the gardens are highly encouraged.

Karen enjoys hosting weddings and events within the house and even offers special meals for these occasions. "We do probably sixty weddings a year on the front lawn. There are different packages for different sizes. If someone does a pearl package, which is twelve people or less, we can do a sit-down meal for them—filet and lobster tail or whatever they want." Renting out the whole house with family or close friends adds a special touch of togetherness with the elegance and pampering everyone needs sometimes.

"When we first bought this house twelve years ago, there were twenty-eight other B&Bs in Williamsburg. Now there are eighteen." The onset of Airbnb may have hurt the industry but Karen believes it will come full circle. "People that are looking for B&Bs are looking for an experience that they can't find elsewhere," she says.

"What makes this house special are the people who grew up here and the guests who come here." Before the house was a bed-and-breakfast, it was home for three boys and their parents. Unbeknownst to them at the time of purchase, Karen and Ron knew one of the boys who grew up in the house. "Scott was a Navy Seal. He worked with my husband." A few years back, two of the brothers and their wives stopped by for a visit. "We really enjoyed talking to them about the stuff they did in the house growing up. My bedroom is the old family room, and it has a very nice fireplace. That's the room they played in all the time when they were little. They

showed me the windows they would climb out of in the middle of the night when they weren't supposed to. This house has a history," she says with a smile.

Karen has also had a large selection of guests through the house. "We've had some authors, actors, some musicians, some interesting people, like the lady who invented EMDR." Francine Shapiro began the psychotherapy of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing that enables people to heal from the symptoms and emotional distress that are the result of disturbing life experiences, like PTSD. "This really kind of hit home for us," Karen said. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is common in the military, and they have known many people who have benefitted from this treatment. "You get to sit and talk to guests about where they came from and their contribution to the world, which is really cool."

Karen describes how she has made this business work for her. "We have a check-in/check-out period between four and six that I guarantee somebody will be here to greet the guests." That way, she isn't tied to the house when she may have other events or appointments to attend to. "After six o'clock, it's a self check-in package that explains where everything is. We'll greet them

personally at breakfast."

When they want to go out of town, Karen hires an interim innkeeper to take over the hosting duties. "These people are professional innkeepers. They're certified to know several different management software systems. They obviously know how to cook and oversee management of housekeeping and things like that. We usually spend a half a day training them and showing them around. The essential thing is to hire the right people." With this set-up, Karen and Ron can get away and recharge without having to shut down the business while they're gone. "You design it to work for you. I think that is the key to longevity in this business and enjoying it."

Ron has retired from the Air Force but continues to work on Langley Air Force Base as a civilian for the Department of Defense. Karen and Ron are considering retiring in 2020 to travel more. They have two grown sons, Brian and Christopher, who they are looking forward to spending more time visiting in the near future.

Karen Watkins has plans for her future. "We want to travel and spend more time with our grandkids. I actually want to write a book," Karen says. The Colonial Gardens Bed and Breakfast is now up for sale as Karen and Ron start to rediscover the next phase of their lives. NDN





www.williamsburgkiwanis.org



Please visit

www.WilliamsburgNeighbors.com,

Click on 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

#### Hey Neighbor! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have an urgent need for a few volunteers with trucks/trailers and who are able to lift slightly heavy equipment like wheelchairs. It is a once or twice a month volunteer opportunity to pick up equipment from donators' homes in the Williamsburg area. It is on an as needed basis but the commitment would be no more than 2 times monthly. Diane Harrah, Williamsburg F.R.E.E., (757)707-4741 www.free-foundation.org

#### Hey Neighbor! WHISTLE BELLY 2018: A VIR-GINIA BEER & MORE FESTIVAL August 4, 2018

The 4th annual Whistle Belly comes

to Merchants Square. Craft beer festival whose mission is to raise money for the Junior Women's Club of Williamsburg (JWCW) as they benefit local non-profits and scholarships to high school students. General Admission is \$50 and includes all food and drink. Entrance time: 7 pm. V.I.P. tickets are available for \$70 and include VIP ONLY beers as well as an early entrance time of 6 pm. Tickets are required and can be purchased at www.whistlebelly.com or at Hair of the DoG Bottle Shop. Sign up at www.whistlebelly.com and click on the Volunteer tab.

#### Hey Neighbor! 4TH ANNUAL BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

#### August 4-5, 2018

From 9 am - 4 pm, Rain or Shine. Williamsburg Botanical Garden, located within Freedom Park. 5537 Centerville Road, Williamsburg. Walk through 2 tents filled with live butterflies and learn about their amazing life cycle! Children's crafts and activities, speakers, and displays. Free event co-sponsored by the Williamsburg Botanical Garden and the Green Spring Garden Club. Request Garden eNews at http://bit.ly/WB-GeNews or by texting WBGAR-DEN to 22828.

#### Hey Neighbor! 3RD ANNUAL WOMEN OF THE MOOSE GOLF TOURNAMENT August 4, 2018

For information to register for a 4-person Captain's Choice (singles are welcome - we will pair you up) please contact Patti at poolstarter@msn.com or call 757-561-8947. Proceeds benefit The Arc of Greater Williamsburg, Mooseheart, and Moosehaven organizations.

#### Hey Neighbor! EMPLOYEES IN TRANSITION CAREER CLUB

August 14, 2018

9-10:30 am. Join the Experienced Employees in Transition (40-and-Over) Career Club. This program is provided by the Peninsula Agency on Aging for speakers, workshops, networking, emotional and resource support throughout your job search!

## Join us for the 9th Annual Williamsburg Landing

5k Run for The Arc







## Saturday, October 6, 2018

1-Mile Walk , 5k Run/Walk Options! Everyone is welcome!









Register online at thearcgw.org

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The Arc has proudly served adults with disabilities since 1976.

August Topic is The Efficient and Effective Job Search System: Use the S.M.A.R.T. goals system to get the job you want. Location: Community Services Building- 312 Waller Mill Road, Room 801, Williamsburg, VA.

#### Hey Neighbor! SUNSET – MOVIE IN THE PARK August 17, 2018

New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr, Williamsburg. Join us as we watch movies under the stars! Movie will begin at sunset. Bring chairs or a blanket for seating. Concessions will be available. For more information on movie titles and event updates go to https://www.yorkcounty.gov/1921/Movies-in-the-Parks or call 757-890-3500. Free.

#### Hey Neighbor! TIPS ON GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY August 18, 2018

10:00 am - 11:30 am. Freedom Park Interpretive Center, 5547 Centerville Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188 John Whistler, local gardener, photographer, will give those gardeners who want to capture photos of the flora and fauna in their gardens or elsewhere basic and advanced suggestions to improve their images. FREE but LIMITED SEATING, so register to guarantee your spot at www. bit.ly/growaug18. A \$5 donation at the door is suggested to help the Garden continue its mission. For eNews delivered right to your inbox, www. bit.ly/wbgnews or text WBGAR-DEN to 22828 to sign up.

#### Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG FRIENDS OF IANDS MONTHLY MEETING

August 25, 2018

11am to 1 pm. Williamsburg Friends of iANDS (International Association of Near Death Studies) will hold its monthly speaker meeting at the Williamsburg Regional Library at 11 am to 1pm in the Schell Room. Our speaker, Ginger Garvey, will be speaking about her near death experience. All are invited. In these meetings we listen to the speaker, ask questions, share, and gain wisdom and perspective. Visit our website www.williamsburgfriendsofiands.org for information on our mission and to find out about monthly speakers. Rev. Hannah Creager, Chaplain of Williamsburg Hospice House, will be speaking the last Saturday of October.

#### Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG PORTRAIT GUILD

Thru August 31, 2018
The Williamsburg Portrait Guild

is exhibiting member works at the Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center's Main Gallery now through August 31. If you are thinking about commissioning a stand-out, affordable portrait that outlasts generations, this is a great opportunity to explore different artists' styles in mediums that include oil, acrylic, pastel, and pencil. 110 Westover Ave. Tues.-Sat. 11-3; Sun. noon-4.

#### Hey Neighbor! UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

September 7, 2018

This year's Day of Caring is set or Friday, September 7th, 2018. Help spread kindness and make change this year by signing up to volunteer for Day of Caring 2018. Projects completed through United Way's Day of Caring will allow local agencies to complete projects most groups could not undertake on their own. Every project is a change to make connections to create a better place to live. For more information, a current list of projects, and to sign up to volunteer for Day of Caring, visit: www.uwvp.org.

#### Hey Neighbor! KIWANIS 39th ANNUAL SHRIMP FEAST

September 8, 2018

All you can eat shrimp, hush puppies, beans and slaw. Virginia Beer will be featured again this year as well as InBev beer. The ticket price is \$35 and \$40 at the door. VIP tables are available for \$250 or an Oasis Tent for \$900 and VIP parking passes. Billy Joe Trio will be the entertainment. Tickets can be purchased from any member of the Williamsburg Kiwanis Club or go to our website and purchase them on line. www. williamsburgkiwanis.org.

#### Hey Neighbor! ANNUAL OVARIAN CANCER RUN/WALK

September 8, 2018

The 10th annual Karene O'Hare Ovarian Cancer Memorial Run/ Walk will be held at New Quarter Park on Saturday, September 8. Race day registration begins at 7:45 am, a 1-mile fun Run/Walk at 8:30 am, a 5K Run/Walk at 9:00 am and an 8K Run/Walk at 9:10 am. The entry fee is \$30.00 until August 31 and \$35.00 thereafter. The Run/Walk is conducted in partnership with the Williamsburg Community Foundation. You can register online, become a sponsor or make a donation at our web site at: www.hareandtortoiserunwalk.com. John M. O'Hare, Race Director. john@hareandtortoiserun.com

#### Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BEGINS ITS 35th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

September 10, 2018

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) is pleased to announce that its 35th season will begin on Sept. 10, 2018. The 2018-19 concert season will feature a number of guests artists that include Stefan Jackiw (violin), Sterling Elliott (cello) and Tessa Lark (violin). Music Director Janna Hymes will return for her 15th season.

#### Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG YOUTH CHORALE 2018-2019

September 11, 2018

The Williamsburg Youth Chorale, founded by the Williamsburg Choral Guild in 2010. Membership is open to interested singers in grades 3-12. The Chorale offers wonderful opportunities in developing choral skills, performing in beautiful venues, and having fun with a group of very special youngsters who love to sing. The Chorale meets at Bruton Parish House in the choir room on Tuesdays, beginning September 11, 5:30-6:30 pm. Contact Ann Porter, aportermusic0@gmail.com or cell phone, 757 810-0068 for membership information.

#### Hey Neighbor! 2018 EARL "TUGGY" YOUNG GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 15, 2018

As Bacon Street Youth and Family Services celebrates our 46th year of service to youth and families, we are gearing up for the annual golf tournament! In memory of Earl "Tuggy" Young, this golf tournament is coming soon at 9 am at Ford's Colony Country Club. Early Bird Rate! \$475 for a Foursome and \$120 per person. After September 1st, Foursomes are \$500, or 125 per person after September 1st. Visit http://baconstreet.org/golf/ for more information or to sign-up!

#### Hey Neighbor! WE ALL WONDER...WE ALL HAVE QUESTIONS

September 16-October 28, 2018
7 Questions You Won't Want to
Miss! Come Join the Conversation
www.exploregod.com/historic-triangle

#### Hey Neighbor! RESPITE BENEFIT LUNCHEON October 3, 2018

At 11:30 am at Williamsburg United Methodist Church catered by Caraba's. Tickets must be purchased in advance for \$18 each. Entire ticket proceeds to support Respite Care of Williamsburg United Methodist Church which offers an enriching, social afternoon program for adults with special needs, in a safe and supportive environment, while providing a necessary break for their caregivers. Contact: Carolyn Yowell, Executive Director, Respite Care of WUMC, 757 229-1771.

## Hey Neighbor! GREATER WILLIAMSBURG CHAMBER AND TOURISM ALLIANCE TRAVELS!

October 18, 2018

For information, visit our website: www.williamsburgcc.com. Greece 4 day Cruise and 4 night Hotel! Referral program! Contact Victoria at 757-476-7322 or Victoria@Williamsburgcc.com

#### Hey Neighbor! 18TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

December 8, 2018

9AM-3PM, at the Bruton Parish Hall on Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg. You'll find unique gifts and stocking stuffers for all the people and pets on your list. All proceeds benefit the homeless animals at the Heritage Humane Society. Come early for the best selections of gourmet soups and baked goods for your celebrations. We have crafts, fabric creations and gift baskets-and a wide selection of jewelry, scarves, books, puzzles, 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. Please see www.heritagehumanesociety.org for more information.

#### Hey Neighbor! HOST HIGH SCHOOL EX-CHANGE STUDENT

We are looking for families interested in hosting a high school exchange student for the 2018-19 school year. Experience the world from home! Contact c.dani.international@gmail.com 757.585.4009=

#### Hey Neighbor!

THE WILLIAMSBURG WOMEN'S CHORUS REGISTRATION 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 to noon. We will be preparing for our Winter Concert which will be held

in December. Rehearsals for the fall season will begin September 6, 2018. If interested please contact Beckie Davy at bdavy@brutonparish.org to set up an informal audition.

#### Hey Neighbor! FLUTE FRENZY SUMMER CAMP 2018

Ongoing

Come One, Come All and join Flute Frenzy Summer Camp "Under the Big Top"! Camp is open to all flute players entering grades 6-12. We will explore music with a "Circus theme" and players will have the opportunity to play the piccolo, alto, and bass flutes. Camp will be daily from 9:00-12:30at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 7479 Richmond Road, Williamsburg. Tuition: \$135. Needbased financial aid available. Registration forms: www.flutefrenzy.org Sponsored by Flute Frenzy, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

#### Hey Neighbor! BIRD WALKS WITH THE WILLIAMSBURG BIRD CLUB

2nd and 4th Saturdays

8-10 am. On the second Saturday of every month, the Williamsburg Bird Club leads bird walks different parks in the Williamsburg/James City/ York area. The second Saturday is at a different park each month. Please check the calendar at williamsburgbirdclub.org to find where these walks are held. Join us for upcoming walks to observe hawks, eagles and songbirds that live in the area year round and those that migrate in, out or through the area. 1000 Lakeshead Dr. in Williamsburg near the Queens Lake Neighborhood.Meet in the parking lot. Bring binoculars or borrow some from the office.

#### Hey Neighbor! BIBLE STUDY IN NORGE

Ongoing

There is a comprehensive and in depth ongoing bible study and question answering session held at the Williamsburg library in Norge every Monday night starting at 6 pm. We also use the teachings based on the Shepherds Chapel for those that study with them. If your Bible study is lacking the quality of study that you need to answer such questions then you are invited to join us, see you there. Contact: 757-253-0172 or 7576046649

#### Hey Neighbor! GROVE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Ongoing

Come grow with us!!! We are always happy to have volunteers come plant, prune, weed or water the gar-

den! Or just come by and see what is growing! There are over 900 bulbs in bloom right now! The garden is coming to life and you can help! All are welcome! Volunteer!!! No amount of time is too small! Check out our new fence and expanded planting area, sign up for a plot! For info call Rob Till @757-332-3361.

## Hey Neighbor! JOB POSTING: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LACKEY CLINIC, FULL-TIME WITH BENEFITS Ongoing

This full-time leadership position is responsible for the business operations of the Clinic including strategic planning, administration, employment of personnel, financial management, fundraising and community relations. The Executive Director, in conjunction with the Medical Director, represents and supports the Clinic Mission and ministry in the community. Education and Experience Bachelor's degree required, preferably in Healthcare Administration, Business or Related Health field; Master's degree in Healthcare Administration or Business preferred. Must have minimum of 5 years progressive leadership experience preferably in healthcare or other non-profit. Must have 3-5 years of Development/Fundraising experience with excellent interpersonal communication skills. Must have Budget Development/Management and Data analysis experience. Must be detail-oriented with strong writing skills and professional judgment. Demonstrates initiative and ability to function independently. Preference will be given to candidates with the following desirable skills: Public speaking and presentation skills preferred, marketing or outreach experience, grant writing experience. Qualified candidates are invited to submit a letter of intent and resume for consideration to Tricia Connell, Human Resources: HRVolunteer@ lackeyhealthcare.org. **MISSION** STATEMENT - LACKEY CLINIC: To provide skilled, compassionate healthcare and counseling to the medically disadvantaged in a manner that honors the name of Jesus Christ.

## Hey Neighbor! WHITE CLOUD ZEN MEDITATION GROUP

<u>Ongoing</u>

On Sunday mornings from 9 -11, we offer a formal Soto Zen service which includes sitting and walking meditation, sutra chanting, and a discussion period. On Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30, we offer sitting meditation and study group. There are also des-

ignated hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday when we are open for you to join in silent meditation. Feel free to call Dr. Joseph Garcia at 912-677-3076 or see our Practice Schedule at www.whitecloudzen. com We are located at 1126 Professional Dr., Williamsburg 23185.

## Hey Neighbor! MATURE SINGLES GATHERINGS Ongoing

The Mature Singles Network an organization for single Williamsburg area residents who are 55+ holds a no-host Social Gathering on the third Saturday of every month. For more information email maturesinglesnetwork@gmail.com.

#### Hey Neighbor! THE WILLIAMSBURG AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Ongoing

The Williamsburg Aviation Scholarship Program is based at Williamsburg Jamestown Airport in Williamsburg. Our sole purpose is to train high school students to be pilots. Students must be at least 16 years old and in the 10th, 11th, or 12 grade. The student pilot pays nothing. Our program pays the total bill. For donations please make your check payable and mail to: Williamsburg Aviation Scholarship Program, 102 Marclay Road, Williamsburg, Va. 23185.

#### Hey Neighbor! REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB

Ongoing

Location: The Monticello Woods Club House, Time: second Monday of the month at 6:45 pm. HTRW is the only local Republican Women's club that meets evenings. For more information visit our web site: Welcome to Historic Triangle Republican Women or look us up on Facebook

#### Hey Neighbor! HOPE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

Ongoing

Monday- Thursday 10:30 am – 3 pm. Wednesday 6:30 - 8:30 pm by appointment. All services are free and confidential- no insurance needed. We serve all women with unplanned and unexpected pregnancies. We also accept donations of new or gently used baby clothes up to 2T, as well as maternity clothes. Located at 1315 Jamestown Road, Suite 202. Phone: (757) 229-6472. Visit: www.hopewilliamsburg.org.

#### 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; (Women) Sheryl Buckner, sbuckner88@gmail.com.

#### 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.

#### Hey Neighbor!

#### CHRISTOPHER WREN AS-SOCIATION 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 & Samp; 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. 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 To-

day'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.

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

TVHS offers unique tours, lectures, social events, plus behind-the-scene adventures during 2017-18. 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. To learn more contact us at 757- 259-9134 or visit us on the web: www.tv-hs.org or info@tv-hs.com. Lectures are open to the public. Call or visit the website for more information.

#### Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays, Ongoing

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.

#### Hey Neighbor! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ongoing

National Historical Park (consisting of the National Park Service at Historic Jamestowne and Yorktown Battlefield) continues its mission, preserving and protecting the interests of the public since 1930. The Park operates two visitor centers and several historic homes. However, like all national parks, Colonial relies heavily on volunteers. A need exists for regular volunteers four hours a day, one day a week, orienting visitors to the park and the area. We also need

volunteers to conduct tours for the public and operate historic homes. Consider becoming a steward of your wonderful national parks, and begin at Colonial National Historical Park, (Historic Jamestowne or Yorktown Battlefield) by contacting Mike Byrd at 757-898-2422. Come make a difference!

#### Hey Neighbor! NORGE DEPOT MUSEUM

Ongoing

At the JCC Library, 7770 Croaker Rd, Norge. The Depot is open from 10 to noon on Saturdays and 2 to 4 on Sundays. See railroad and local historical exhibits including artifacts, photographs, and clothing. A model railroad layout is running and a wooden railroad is available for children. Take their picture with our caboose! Free, but donations appreciated. More details at norgedepot.org.

#### Hey Neighbor! HEAD START OPEN ENROLL-MENT

Ongoing

Williamsburg James City County Community Action Agency's Preschool Program for Children ages 3 to 5. Serving income eligible families including children with special needs. Apply by phone 757- 229-6417 or in person at 312 Waller Mill Road, Williamsburg.

#### Hey Neighbor! CHRISTOPHER WREN ASSO-CIATION COURSE, LECTURE, AND ACTIVITY REQUESTS

Online and 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 has over 150 offerings, including a wide variety of courses, activities (including the Town & Down; Gown Lecture series), one-time lectures, and special events. The semester is already underway, but students are able to submit new or additional requests for courses and activities throughout the fall. For information about becoming a member, contact us at www.wm.edu/cwa, or 757-221-1506

#### Hey Neighbor! HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Ongoing

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

#### Hey Neighbor! BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP

Ongoing 1

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

#### Hey Neighbor! COLONIAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Ongoing, first Monday

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

## Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG RESTORE EXPANDS FACILITY AND NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

Ongoing

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

## Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG MOOSE LODGE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS Ongoing

We are a charitable group of men and women that "do good" for neighborhood causes (as well as for MooseHeart and MooseHaven). Just this past year, at the local level, we have donated to Beyond Boobs, A Gift from Ben, all three local Fire Departments, Hospice House, Historic Triangle, and others. We also host many events at our lodge that donate to other causes and charities. Contact us for more information: Joe Roney, administrator (757) 565-5149 or Williamsburg Moose Lodge #757 at 757-565-9807 Moose757@ cox.net

#### Hey Neighbor! CALL FOR THEATRICAL VOLUNTEERS

Ongoing

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

#### Hey Neighbor! F.R.E.E. OF WILLIAMSBURG

**Ongoing** 

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

## Hey Neighbor! ABUNDANT LIFE GROUPS MEETINGS

Ongoing

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

#### Hey Neighbor!

#### JAMES CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Ongoing

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

## Hey Neighbor! MULTI-FUNDED NON-PROFIT AGENCY SEEKING TO FILL DIRECTOR OF FINANCE POSITION Ongoing

Applicant must have financial experience working in a non-profit multigrant environment and meet the following requirements: (1) Supervise financial and human resources staff. (2) Strong experience in developing and managing budgets annually. • (3) Proficiency in the use of QuickBooks (QB) for Non-Profit Organizations. (4) Ability to explain how transactions would be distributed among different grants. (5) Proficient use of Microsoft Word and Excel to produce financial reports utilizing downloads from QB. (6) Ability to work with spread sheets. (7) Ability to communicate effectively financial matters with staff, board members, grantors and others. Prior experience working with Federal, State and local grantor agencies is a plus. Experienced with grant audits. Requirements - BS degree and/or MBA in accounting/business with at least 5 years working in a multi-funded nonprofit financial office. EOE. Send resume to – Attn: Human Resource Department Williamsburg-James City County, Community Action Agency, 312 Waller Mill Road, Suite 405, Williamsburg, VA 23185.757-229-9332. Salary Range - \$55,000 to \$60,000.

#### Hey Neighbor! VOICES OF CHANGE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Ongoing

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

com/VoicesofChangeWilliamsburg.

#### Hey Neighbor! BIBLE STUDY AND WORSHIP

Ongoing

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

#### Hey Neighbor! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: WILLIAMSBURG AREA FAITH IN ACTION

Ongoing

Faith In Action relies on volunteers to transport care receivers to doctor's appointments, the grocery store, bank, pharmacy, etc. Right now, the demand for transportation is increasing. Faith in Action offers a flexible schedule for its volunteers. "Our organization was built on the idea of people helping people," Smith said. "If you have a few hours to dedicate to someone who may just need an arm to lean on to get to a doctor's appointment, then we have a spot for you. "If you are interested in volunteering, call the Williamsburg Faith In Action offices at 757-258-5890.

#### Hey Neighbor! VIRGINIA AERONAUTICAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY (VAHS)

Ongoing

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

#### Hey Neighbor!

MEETINGS – THE COLONIAL AREA REPUBLICAN MEN'S ASSOCIATION (CARMA)

<u>Ongoing</u>

CARMA meets on the third Thursday of each month at Giuseppe's Restaurant at 11:30 am. For more information, please go to their website at: www.carmagop.com.

#### **Hey Neighbor!** MESSY CHURCH

Ongoing

Are you looking for an innovative worship time that is fun, interactive, reflective, musical, creative, delicious and prayerful? Then come

to Williamsburg United Methodist Church the second Tuesday of every month from 5:30-7:30 pm for Messy Church! Each month we celebrate a different theme. This experience is called Messy Church because we will be learning about God through active means as well as Bible teaching. Snacks, crafts, games, music and fun, followed by dinner are all a part of worshipping God together. Messy Church is free and for people of all ages, all denominations, and all abilities. For further information, go to www.williamsburgumc.org or call 757-229-1771 and ask for Cindy, Kay or Andy. Williamsburg United Methodist Church is located at 500 Jamestown Rd across from the college in Williamsburg.

#### Hey Neighbor! COLONIAL CHURCH NOW MEETING

Ongoing

Join Pastor Dennis Fox and members of the Colonial Independent Baptist Church as they meet weekly on Sundays for worship at 10:30 am in the Potomac Room of the Holiday Inn, 515 Bypass Road, Williamsburg. The hour-long service includes prayer, hymn singing, and preaching from the KJV. Bible study is held Wednesday eve at 7 pm at 3695 Bridgewater Drive. For more information, call 757-585-7181 or visit ColonialIBC.org. All are welcome.

#### Hey Neighbor! WCAC ART SHOWS AND GALA—NOT TO BE MISSED!

Ongoing

Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center's inaugural regional juried show featuring a diverse collection of 2-D and 3-D art, is now underway through Nov. 9. Next up - Small Works & Holiday Show, featuring small and holiday-themed art, from Nov. 14-Dec. 22. November 12 - Fall Gala featuring an auction of high-end items and entertainment by the Three Jolly Coachmen. Admission \$75 per person - contact Janis Wood, WCAC President, at 757-220-2217 or jleewoodart21@msn. com, or visit www.visitWCAC.org.

#### Hey Neighbor! FREE ENERGY SERVICES TO HELP REDUCE YOUR ELECTRIC BILL.

Ongoing

Pre-qualification is required. For more information, contact the Williamsburg-James City County Community Action Agency at 757-229-9389 or visit our Website www. wjcc-caa.org to download an application.

## Hey Neighbor! PROJECT DISCOVERY PROGRAM

Ongoing

Williamsburg-James City County Community Action Agency is currently accepting applications for the 2017-2018 Project Discovery Program. This program is offered at W-JCC Middle & High Schools. To register, visit www.projectdiscovery. org. For more information about this program, please contact our office at 757-229-9332.

# To find a complete list of events and happenings, go to williamsburgneighbors.com and click on Hey Neighbor!

These listings may contain more information than those printed in the magazine.

#### **ABOUT**

#### 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 and submitted in the manner in which you see on these pages.

Email your submission to: heyneighbor@cox.net

Deadlines for Submission	
<u>ISSUE</u>	DEADLINE
SEPT	Aug 14, 2018
ост	Sep 11, 2018
NOV	Oct 9, 2018
DEC	Nov 20, 2018

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

#### WILLIAMSBURG **WINERY**

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

#### **Enjoy!**



INTERMEDIATE

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

JULY 2018 In the Neighborhood Photo Challenge





## Personalized Care for Every Stage of a Woman's Life



## Christina Cox Lebreton, M.D.

Dr. Cox Lebreton offers individualized care through all phases of a woman's life. She believes that her role is to establish teamwork with her patients and medical partners in order to provide the best possible care, education and support. "One of the things I enjoy the most is that I have the privilege of being involved in my patient's lives," says Dr. Cox Lebreton. Creating lasting relationships with her patients as they navigate many exciting and challenging events is her driving force.

#### **Areas of Service**

#### **General:**

- Annual Gynecological Examinations
- Contraception Counseling
- Hormone Replacement Therapy
- Incontinence Therapy
- Endometrial Ablation

#### **Gynecology Services:**

- Pelvic Pain
- Acute and Chronic Infections
- Menopausal Symptoms
- Osteoporosis
- Pediatric Gynecology

#### **Obstetrical Services:**

- Infertility Evaluation
- 3D Ultrasounds
- Pre-conception counseling
- High risk pregnancy evaluations
- Post-partum support and care





Partners in Women's Health

757-276-7847

120 Kings Way, Suite 3400 Williamsburg, VA 23185



Read about Dr. Cox Lebreton and her patients at riversideonline.com/coxlebreton

Next Door Neighbors Collins Group, LLC PO Box 5152 Williamsburg, VA 23188 (757) 560-3235

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#### **4035 MILL DAM COURT**

In Longhill Station 4BR • 2 ½ BA • 2,500 sqft WELCOME HOME! This home boasts beautiful Brazilian teak floors, gorgeous formal dining, bright sunny sunroom! Coffee in the morning or wine in the evening on the pretty patio or deck!

Offered at \$315,000





#### **6008 RICHPRESS DRIVE** 4 BR • 3.5 BA • 2,676 sqft

Fall in love with this beautiful Cape Cod on a beautiful private wooded 3 acre home site in Wexford Hills. One level living at its best with 4th Bedroom / Bonus Room with ensuite BA on 2nd floor. Spacious deck and screened porch. \$449,000





4636 MINUTEMEN WAY

Liberty Crossing • \$250,000 Beautiful 3-story, 2,320 sqft 3BR, 3.5BA overlooking pond and green area.

2nd level open floor plan eat-in kitchen w/granite & familiy room. http://4636minutemenway.info MLS #1822860



757-784-4317

Deelyn@lizmoore.com dianebeal@lizmoore.com charlotteturner@lizmoore.com

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