

September 2018

WILLIAMSBURG'S

Next Door Neighbors[®]

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PRICELESS

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Art in Williamsburg

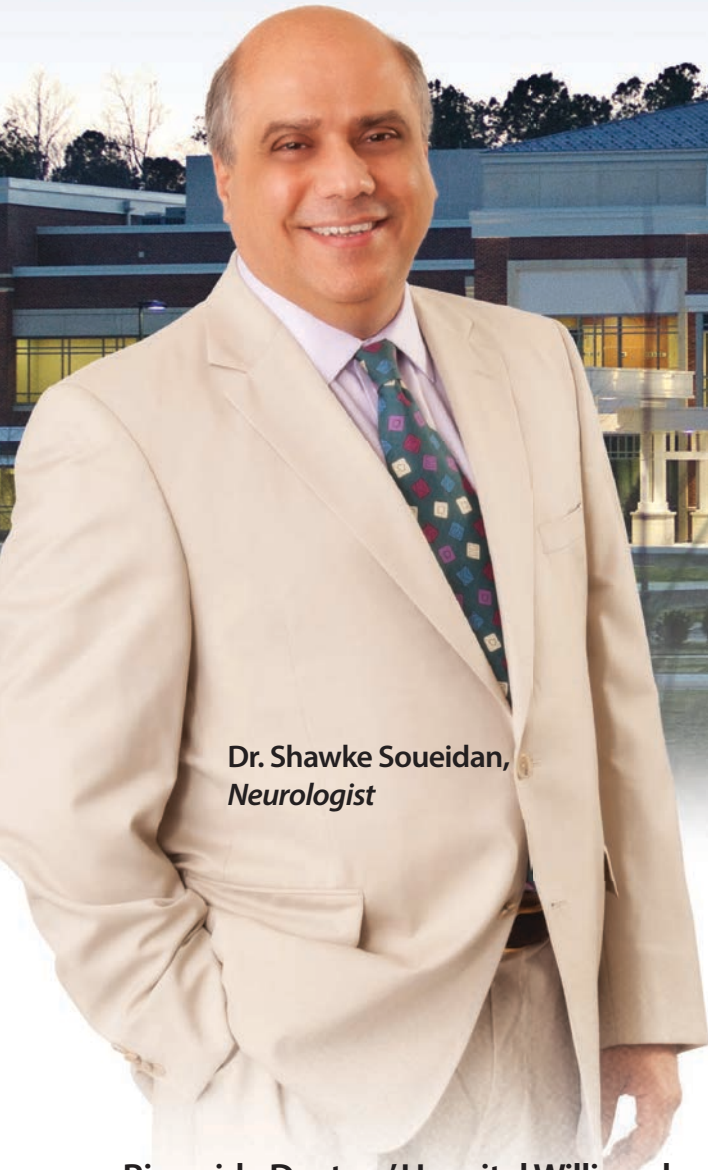
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Meredith Collins, Publisher

An Occasion for the Arts is Williamsburg's largest and longest standing event for celebrating the extraordinary creative talents here and well, almost everywhere. It is a great opportunity to explore all forms of art and music in one well-planned creative event with friends, family, and others.

I believe that everyone has some degree of artistic ability within them. It may be evidenced in how we tend our yard or decorate our homes, how we sing in the shower or dance in the kitchen when no one is watching. I believe that most people also have some degree of art appreciation. We can find grace and beauty in a sunset, a bird's song, or the way a meal has been presented to us. And when we are in the presence of real creative gifts, it is moving and rewarding to witness talent that soars above our own.

The neighbors who have shared their stories in this issue share their creativity with you and their passion for what they do. For them every single day is "an occasion for art." I hope you will enjoy our conversations with those who cultivate "Art in Williamsburg." NDN

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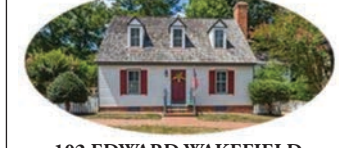
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AN OCCASION FOR THE ARTS

A Family Affair

By Alison Johnson

Forty years ago, Nancy Wigley was a young teenager helping her mother, then producer of An Occasion for the Arts, blow up balloons for decorations.

As the Occasion for the Arts turns 50 this year, the annual festival is again a major part of Nancy's life. Now Vice President of the event's Executive Committee, she returned to its volunteer ranks in 2010 and since has recruited two sisters, a sister-in-law, a brother-in-law and a neighbor to help each year. Meanwhile, her own husband, Steve, is a professional juggler who her mom, Kathy Pickering, used to hire as

an event performer years ago.

Nancy, a crafter who also has a son with autism with unique artistic talents, is simply a huge believer in the power of the arts.

"I cannot imagine Williamsburg in October without the Occasion," she says. "It draws so many people together. We now have artists from all over the country representing all forms of art, and the performing arts have wonderful diversity. Truly something for everyone."

This year, Nancy took the lead on organizing a standalone 50th Anniversary Celebration, set for September 22 at the Stryker Center on

North Boundary Street. The party will celebrate the volunteer-run event's rich history with a special focus on Carlton Abbott, a founder of the Occasion and the only artist to have exhibited for all 50 years. Abbott has created a poster for the 2018 show to recognize the milestone.

Planning for 175 guests, Nancy and her fellow celebration committee members have invited former board members, artists and many others who have been influential in the festival's evolution. Some tickets may also be available to the public.

The Occasion itself will run from October

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5th to 7th in Merchants Square, with a kickoff party Friday, exhibitions Saturday and Sunday and an awards ceremony Saturday night. All events and performances are free of charge. Visitors can buy artwork and food from local vendors.

As usual, the Occasion's booths will highlight an extensive range of visual artists, about 145 this year, representing categories such as painting, ceramics, glasswork, printmaking, jewelry, photography, sculpture and 3-D mixed media. Organizers also will offer a competition for youth artists from local schools. On the performance side, stages will host everything from blues, jazz and country music ensembles to magic shows and other kid-friendly acts.

"I think it's hugely important that people of all ages have access to the arts," Nancy says. "They're such an important piece of our shared culture. The growth of this event since it started, from one to now three days, just means more for all audiences."

The Occasion also has a significant economic impact. "It is becoming quite a nice draw for tourism. We have partnered with Colonial Wil-

liamsburg on promotion this year, and we always love hearing that we're bringing more people into Williamsburg and Merchants Square." Nancy, special events coordinator at the non-profit Child Development Resources, is proud to have left a few "personal stamps" on the event over the years. One is the more varied decorations that adorn its stages and tents.

"It used to be mostly just mums and pumpkins and, of course, balloons," she notes. "Now we've added items like lanterns, light strands, garlands and silk florals. There are many more fun visual aspects that still build around the idea of fall."

Born in Quebec, Canada, Nancy, 54, moved to Williamsburg at the age of three when her father, a chemical engineer, relocated for work. Her mother took the reins of the Occasion in the late 1970s, and Nancy has fond memories of watching magicians and barbershop quartets on its stages.

Nancy left Williamsburg in 1982 to earn a marketing degree at Virginia Tech, which she has used to build a 20-year career in marketing, special events and fundraising. After living in

Blacksburg until 2010, she happily moved back to the city she calls home and to the event she loved as a child.

"I knew I wanted to get involved in the community, and the Occasion just stood out for me as an iconic Williamsburg event," she says. "I felt my event planning and marketing skills could be very helpful."

Nancy had a deeply personal reason, too. Art has long been a passion for the younger of her two sons, Zac Newman, who is on the autism spectrum. Now 26, Zac began painting as a very young child, starting with watercolors.

"From the time he was about six years old, he could draw in perspective. You could tell something was in the distance in the background," Nancy says. "Then he began doing these amazingly detailed original drawings on a whiteboard. He had a whiteboard with him at all times as part of his school accommodations, and he still keeps one with him. He has always needed to draw." One recent masterpiece that Zac inked on his whiteboard, is the characters of the "Peanuts" comic.

Today, Zac and his mother also share a



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“hobby with benefits,” meaning they sometimes get paid for it, in crafting decorative signs with reclaimed pallet wood. Nancy makes the wood bases while Zac paints on letters, whether they spell out love messages, favorite quotes or home-themed sayings.

“He can literally paint any font and adjust the lettering for size on any piece of wood,” Nancy says. “People think it’s a stencil, but he does it all freehand.”

Zac lives with Nancy and Steve, who have three other adult children between them as well as one fur baby, their cat George. In her free time, Nancy also enjoys home renovation projects, vegetable gardening and refurbishing her collection of “rusty metal things” such as old heater grates or textile carts.

And in 2017, Nancy added dancing to her list of hobbies as a competitor in “Dancing with the Williamsburg Stars.” She was part of the event’s first same-sex couple. She and partner Denise Ridley-Johnston danced as Roxie and Velma from the musical “Chicago” and landed a cartwheel in 2.5-inch heels. That was after having both hips replaced, the first in

2015 and the second in 2016.

“I was a former gymnast, but I hadn’t done a cartwheel in years,” Nancy says. “Plus, you add in those shoes and the ground goes away real fast. I just had to work really hard and face my fears.”

Nancy and Denise ultimately finished in second place, and she raised about \$3,200 from supportive family and friends. “I didn’t like not winning the whole thing, because I’m very competitive,” she admits. “I had a blast, though, and I was proud that Denise and I broke a barrier.”

Describing herself as an outgoing, “open book” type of personality, Nancy has happily taken on multiple positions with the Occasion over the years, including publicity, marketing, décor coordinator, Secretary and now Vice President.

She has surrounded herself with family, too. In 2010, Nancy convinced her mother to return as Performing Arts Coordinator, a job that Kathy handled for two years before turning it over to Nancy’s sister, Julie Martin, who remains in that role.

Nancy’s sister-in-law, Beth Wigley, was Youth Arts Coordinator for three years and still pitches in during the weekend, as do both Nancy and Julie’s husbands and Nancy’s other sister, Deb Rosche, who travels annually from her home in South Carolina. Finally, Nancy’s neighbor, Melissa Gingras, serves on a Board of Directors that incorporates city, business, tourism and college representatives.

“We are all exhausted by Sunday evening, but we look forward to it every year,” Nancy says. “It brings us all together, and we’re also doing something that we feel gives back to our community.”

In fact, Nancy Wigley can’t imagine a time when she’s not involved with An Occasion for the Arts.

“This is an institution in Williamsburg,” she notes. “I’m just happy to be a part of it and help keep it going. I don’t see myself ever walking away from it.” NDN

For more information on the 2018 edition of An Occasion for the Arts, visit www.aofta.org.

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LAURA BARRY



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

CONNECTING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

By Narielle Living

Deep in the center of Colonial Williamsburg's Collections and Conservation building lies a huge array of paintings and decorative arts, all indicative of what life was like in our colonial past. Laura Barry, who is the Juli Grainger Curator of Paintings, Drawings, and Sculpture, has the privilege of working with this incredible assortment of art.

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EMPOWERING PARENTS PROGRAM

Made possible by a generous grant awarded to Literacy for Life by **IMPACT 100 Greater Peninsula**

When parents have limited English or literacy skills, they worry about things many others take for granted, such as how to give medicine to their children or how to support them in school. Through a generous grant awarded by Impact 100 Greater Peninsula, Literacy for Life is partnering with Matthew Whaley Elementary School to teach parents in four key areas: reading at home with children, interacting with schools, improving health literacy, and developing workplace soft skills.

Parents who could benefit from Literacy for Life's services struggle to make time for their own education when their highest priority is their children, and they frequently have difficulty securing affordable child care. The Empowering Parents Program alleviates these problems by delivering classes at the school where childcare is provided. The school offers a convenient, familiar setting and provides the support of an interpreter.

This summer, as part of the WJCC EL Summer Academy, the focus of the Empowering Parents sessions was "School Success: Navigating the School System." Maria (pictured with her children Jocelyn, Andres and Evangeli) participated in the class. She says that the class increased her confidence to ask questions of teachers, seek help from the school, and fill out forms. She also learned how to use ParentVue to track her children's assignments. She appreciated the opportunity to develop her English while also improving her ability to help her children in school. She was thrilled to receive a children's book at the end of each class and enjoys sharing those books at home with her children. Now that she is aware of Literacy for Life's services, Maria has chosen to continue improving her English by meeting with a one-to-one tutor at Literacy for Life.

Robin Ford, Principal at Matthew Whaley Elementary School, believes one of the greatest outcomes of the "School Success" module is parents becoming more confident communicating with staff, advocating for their children and embracing the partnership between schools and families.

Joan Peterson, Executive Director of Literacy for Life, is thrilled with the outcomes of the program. "We greatly appreciate the funding provided by Impact 100 Greater Peninsula which allowed us to create this program for parents in our community who struggle with English or literacy skills. We enjoy an excellent partnership with Matthew Whaley Elementary School, and would love to bring this program to other schools and community organizations as well."

The Empowering Parents Program is just one of several free services offered by Literacy for Life to adults in our community. One-to-one tutoring remains the heart of the program, and volunteer tutors are the lifeblood of the organization.



Robin Ford with learner Maria Alvarado and her children Joselyn, Andres and Evangeli

- An exciting new program that teaches parents four key areas: reading with children, interacting with schools, health literacy and workplace soft skills.
- "Anytime community organizations can successfully collaborate for their stakeholders, the community as a whole benefits. Partnering with Literacy for Life has allowed us to truly focus on the pillar of our work which builds on a foundation of healthy relationships within families and between home and school."
~Robin Ford



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As she walks through the collection that is currently in storage, Laura has a clear note of infectious enthusiasm in her voice. "We have all the framed materials for the collection here," she says. "My colleagues and I oversee the historic area buildings, their content and the two museums." She notes that they house a large collection of theorem art, mourning art and a variety of drawings. This variety is one of the reasons Laura's job is so interesting. "I'm learning something new every day."

Laura is originally from Pennsylvania, and she attended the College of Wooster in Ohio to get an undergraduate degree in art history. "I was very fortunate that the college I attended in Ohio had an undergraduate thesis program, and I had written mine on Edward Hicks, a Pennsylvania artist who is very well known by a lot of folk art enthusiasts." According to Laura, Edward Hicks is known for his series of paintings, The Peaceable Kingdom. Because Colonial Williamsburg has the largest collection of his work, in 1999 they had planned to have a large exhibition and a book

on the subject. Laura was able to connect with the director of the museum at that time, Carolyn Weekley. "When I graduated from college I connected with her, and I moved to New York in between and worked for the Museum of Modern Art. One day, I got a phone call asking me if I was still interested in applying for this position and 24 years later here I am. From intern to curating the material I came to intern."

She has lived in the area since the fall of 2004, and Laura and her family have thrived in Colonial Williamsburg. She received her Master's Degree in American studies from William & Mary.

"We love Colonial Williamsburg," she says. "I met my husband in a graduate class at William & Mary, but he works for the foundation as well. We're very committed. We're donors. My older daughter is a junior interpreter, and we lived in the historic area for about a dozen years until recently." Laura has visited Williamsburg from the time she was very young and has always felt a connection with this

place. In essence, this is a dream job for her. "I get to do the best of both worlds. I work in a museum environment, and I curate things in the historic area." In doing so, Laura is able to place things in their original context and also take them out and put them in a museum environment.

With all of Laura's experience in the art world there are still unexpected aspects of her job. "I am often surprised at the size of a painting when I go to an auction or exhibition. You can look online or in a catalog and see the written dimensions yet it doesn't compute until you see it in person. The folk art collection is kind of fun because you can see they were still working out how they were going to render a person on canvas." According to Laura, this type of art often showcases how an artist approached a problem on canvas.

Clearly Laura loves her job. One of the things she likes best is that she has the opportunity to research paintings. "I get to learn something every day about art and the artists who were here or inspired the people who

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lived here, and I get to take this information and share it with people. I think that's probably the best part of my job, sharing what we know about these objects." In sharing the art with the public, whether through a display or a lecture, there is the opportunity to share a piece of history. "You always hope that at the end of the day someone is picking up something they didn't know before," she says.

When a new piece of art is brought to the collection, it undergoes a process before it can be catalogued or placed in a building. "I'm really fortunate because we have a lot of specialists I get to work with every day, conservation colleagues," she says. "I work closely with a painting conservator who helps to inform me what we're looking at because she has the analytical tools to study the components of a painting. I do the research and she tests things." After the research and testing are complete, Laura and her colleagues examine the piece and discuss what they are looking at to help them to understand the condition, the age and the artist's technique.

Each time they test and research a piece of art there is something to be learned. "A lot of times we'll find out that an artist might have changed course during the process of painting a canvas," she says. They might even find that a painting has an untouched surface. "That's amazing, when we get a painting and unframe it and we realize that nobody has touched it, no conservator has touched it, it hasn't been relined, it hasn't been cleaned... Sometimes what my colleague is able to reveal is stunning because the colors were so vibrant, or we'll do a test, maybe take an x-ray and find that the artist had changed something considerable." Laura notes that they have paintings in their collection where they have found the artist to be "problem solving" and had painted over or changed the image on the canvas.

One of those paintings is a folk portrait with a child dressed in a plaid outfit. Based on the style, the outfit might be a uniform. "We looked at it under x-ray, and what we saw was that the plaid was completely changed. The child's hand was completely changed, and all

these architectural elements in the background were painted out by the artist." The conclusion was that this painting had not been changed by a later restorer who was covering something but by the artist himself. She speculates that it could have been the artist who decided to make the changes or the client who hired the artist had asked for the changes. "We'll never know fully what they're thinking about because there isn't a written trail, but we can look through these clues and develop an idea of maybe the exchange between the artist and the client or what someone was thinking. It's kind of fun."

For Laura Barry, the heart of her work is in relating the past to the present. "It is all about the stories," she says. "That's the human element, that's what connects people to what we do, that's what is relevant." Although we might not always understand the past, through the stories told within the art left behind we can connect with those who came before us. In doing so, we might find a way to relate to the lives who helped create the world we live in today. NDN

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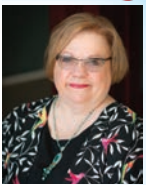
The Duchess of Sparkle

By Brandy Centolanza

Two years ago, Chawn Lambert took a leap of faith by turning her passion for jewelry design into a full-time business. So far, the decision has been paying off.

Chawn is owner of Duchess of Sparkle and makes necklaces, bracelets, earrings and other accessories inspired by The Great Artists. She describes her products as “museum worthy style

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art you wear.” The California native first became interested in art, stones and jewelry design while growing up in Los Angeles.

“My mother took me to museums as a kid, and that really instilled a love of culture in me,” Chawn says.

Chawn recalls spending time outside in the yard in search of rocks at eight years old.

“I was always looking for rocks that were sparkly, pretty, or had different textures,” she says. “I am a very tactile person and like crazy colors. I also had a lot of crayons and coloring books growing up and would color for hours. I used to draw jewelry on every person I colored.”

At 16, Chawn began a career in retail and spent most of her time working in the jewelry and accessories departments.

“I was never far from jewelry or art,” she says. “Helping people pick out accessories for an outfit is an art form. I learned a lot about gemstones through work and would educate people.”

Her interest in stones was further piqued when she moved to Northern Virginia in 1998 and discovered the museums at the Smithsonian Institution.

“My two favorite places at the Smithsonian are the National Portrait Gallery for the classic artists and the National Museum of Natural History for the gemstones,” Chawn says. “I would go to the Museum of Natural History over and over again just for the gemstones. I loved seeing the gemstones in their natural beauty and form.”

Chawn and her husband, Mike, whom she met in an online science fiction chatroom, relocated to Williamsburg in 2003. Two years later, doctors discovered she had an inoperable brain tumor, and she had to put her work in retail on hold.

“I started designing my own jewelry as a distraction from what was going on,” she says. “I would hunt for different pieces online. What I do is industrial romantic. I take industrial type pieces like cut metals and mix in different color palettes and beads and other things that soften the piece out a bit.”

The hobby quickly consumed her life. Eventually, Chawn felt confident enough to start selling her jewelry and opened Duchess of Sparkle for business in 2016.

“I am a Self-Representing Artist in Jewelry Design, which means that everything that I sell is designed and made by me,” she says.

Last year, Chawn entered her jewelry into Art on the Square, a juried art show that the Junior Woman’s Club of Williamsburg hosts each spring in downtown Williamsburg to benefit local community art initiatives. Chawn was pleasantly surprised when she won first place in her category.

“It was an amazing day, and it was also my birthday,” Chawn says. “I beat out some of the most talented artisans. It was my first big show and to be told that I was the best in my group fueled me. It was a wonderful sense of vindication. I felt like I could really do this.”

Most of Chawn’s pieces are available on her website, www.duchessofsparkle.com. Modvintique Interiors in Merchants Square also carries a selection of her jewelry, and Chawn is hopeful that two stores in Nags Head, North Carolina will also soon start carrying her brand.

Chawn works from home, spending her mornings on paperwork, documenting items and preparing them for shipment. Afternoons are spent on design and creation of her jewelry. She’s made more than 2,000 pieces



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since starting her business and has sold roughly 1,200 of them.

"I work a regular day like most people, though I really enjoy what I do, so sometimes I may work until ten at night," she says. "I like making long necklaces. I love, love earrings. Those are my favorite things to do. There is just so much you can do with earrings, so many colors and variations." Chawn also does custom work for patrons, including repairs.

"I do each piece by hand, and don't use any tools," she says. "I'll pretty much try to make anything. If there is a way to make something, I will find it. I always love a good challenge."

Her favorite stones to work with are kyanite and labradorite.

"Kyanite has a wonderful shimmer," she says. "The blue is my favorite."

Most of Chawn's design ideas are influenced by the work of other artists, particularly Vincent van Gogh. "You can find inspiration everywhere, but I find mine in the Great Artists," she says. "Van Gogh is my favorite. I can look at a picture of a van Gogh and see a piece of jewelry in it."

Inspiration also comes at any time, including late at night or in the shower. During Shark Week this past summer, she was inspired to adorn a pair of clay megalodon shark teeth with flowers and rhinestones. Chawn also creates pieces for children, for purses and for the home.

"I have post-it notes all over my bathroom mirror full of ideas," she says.

Chawn prefers to change her styles on a yearly basis. Currently among her collection of long necklaces is the altered dominoes series. Chawn recently collaborated with another artist in Oregon to create domino pieces featuring images from the Great Artists. Six months ago, Chawn wore an altered domino necklace with a picture by Pierre-Auguste Renoir while shopping at a clothing store. A woman in the store loved the necklace so much she offered to buy it from her right then and there.

"It was my favorite piece that I've ever made, but I couldn't say no," Chawn says.

Owning and operating a small business from her home leaves little time for anything else, but Chawn does find time for her husband and their two dogs, Pond and Willa. The couple are big Doctor Who fans and named one of their dogs after Amy Pond, a character from the popular long-running British science fiction show. The two dogs keep Chawn company on her long work days, which she breaks up by taking her dogs for walks throughout the neighborhood during her lunch hour.

"My husband and I also like to travel whenever we can," she says. "We've been to England and Spain and spend a lot of time in the Outer Banks. We need to have our beach time."

Chawn hopes to continue growing Duchess of Sparkle. "I still have the first piece I've ever made when I started this business as well as the first dollar I was ever paid," she says. "The dollar sits there to remind me that yes, you can do what you love doing and make a living doing it. It's a beautiful thing."

Chawn Lambert's ultimate goal is to design a line of jewelry to sell at the Smithsonian Institution. "Ever since I stepped foot in the Smithsonian, I just knew I had to be involved with it in some way," she says. "I want to see my jewelry carried in Smithsonian gift stores and that is what I am working toward. I found something that I am good at and as long as I am breathing, I'm going to keep doing it." NDN

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Finding a Home in Music

By Harmony Hunter



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Corey Pavlosky exudes energy and vitality at a steady hum, as befits his 22 years of age. As a fresh and gifted arrival on Williamsburg’s music scene, he has nothing but enthusiasm for the craft at whose threshold he stands.

Just two years ago, Corey began recording, producing and writing music in a small custom studio in downtown Williamsburg. Almost as soon as he was rolling, he knew it was where he was meant to be. “I’m super passionate. I always tell my clients, ‘If I were to win the lot-

tery tomorrow, I wouldn’t charge you at all. I’m only charging you because I have to eat,” he says.

Corey explains that music wasn’t his first adult venture, but it was his first love. After graduating from Lafayette High in 2014 he left to study Ministerial Leadership at Southeastern University. His original intent was to transfer to a four-year college and complete a bachelor’s degree, but school just wasn’t for him. “My parents actually pulled me aside and

said, ‘Maybe you should consider a different area,’” Corey says.

When asked if he hopes to return and complete his degree someday, Corey responds with disarming candor. He says, “If I ever go back to college, it’s because whatever I was doing didn’t work out.” However, he doesn’t believe the experience of higher education was a total loss. “The only thing I learned from college was how to do hard work. Stuff that I didn’t want to do.” This is a discipline that has served him

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well as he has begun to make his way in the music world, digging in for the daily work of running a small business.

With his parents' blessing, he dropped out of college and began work on his first album, *Atlas*, in earnest. "I locked myself in my room for about nine months straight, recording, producing and writing the songs. Then I emerged from my hovel and started working with different local artists, and it's been pretty much constantly busy since then," Corey says.

Corey is no stranger to the working musician's life. He's been drumming in bands since before he could drive himself to gigs. He began studying percussion in middle school and continued to participate in music programs through his church and other outlets as he progressed. Drummers were scarce as Corey was coming up, which put him in high demand when the older kids' bands needed someone to keep the beat. In this way, Corey became a seasoned performer familiar with the rhythm of shows on the road.

Over the years, he continued to drum with

a number of groups, only taking a stab at performing vocals when his band's frontman had to relocate and the act found itself short a singer. Corey remembers saying, "I'll give it a shot." This fluke chance would redirect the course of Corey's career, nudging him out of his specialty in percussion to pick up skills in voice, guitar and even keys.

As a solo artist, each song that Corey writes is distilled from a flood of observations, thoughts and notes that he collects in audio clips and on scraps of paper. Over time, these small snippets coalesce into a coherent vision. "I don't write a whole song at a time. A lot is just driving down the interstate, thinking of an idea. Whenever I have the time to record, I'll pluck through the chord progression and go from there," he says.

His songwriting process comes from walking through these notes, slowly putting flesh on the bones of his ideas. Experimenting with instrumentation tells him whether an idea has legs. "The nice thing about owning a studio is that I can layer the instruments on the spot. Like, I don't have to wait and wonder what the

drums are going to sound like," Corey says.

Sources of inspiration can be deeply personal, which was the case for the track *Better Days* on Corey's first album. The song grew from the experience of loss and the reflections on a first-hand observation of death and dying. But Corey knows that what's meaningful to him must be relatable more broadly in order for a song to connect with all of its listeners. He says, "The creative process is kind of a living, breathing thing in itself. Of course, the ego always comes into play. It kind of helps you get started. Then it's a matter of zooming out and making the idea more applicable to everyone."


He powers straight through writer's block, making an exercise of looking for ideas wherever he finds himself. He says, "If you're just paying attention to things around you, you can pull a characteristic from about almost anything that you can relate to. Then you can pick it apart and expand on it." Through this practice of keeping his pen moving Corey is able to keep creative slumps at bay.

When asked if he'd describe his music as a

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Christian album, he demurs, despite his deeply held faith. Rather, he believes that his own philosophies are embedded in everything he creates. "I'm a believer that, me being a practicing Christian, if my faith is as big of a deal in my life as it should be, whatever I'm writing should be pulling from that well of life experience, and my Christianity should be a part of that," he says.

Corey rebounded from a false start in college and constructed a well-received creative vision with his album, *Atlas*, but he still finds his greatest joy in producing and collaborating with other musical artists who come to his studio for help. "I've found my niche as a complimentary piece to whatever they're working on. I'm more in love with the craft of writing as a whole and getting to work with different artists. They'll bring in something half-written with a verse and a chorus, and we'll write it and produce it into a whole vision," he says.

He plans to keep recording his own material when he can, but the spark that's created when musical minds come together in the studio is

too addictive for him to turn away from. "I plan on putting records out as long as I'm able to, because it's fun. If it takes off: awesome. But doing the producing side of things is more viable, it's more realistic, and I get the chance to work with people I normally wouldn't get a chance to work with," Corey says.

With eager industriousness and a road-tested resilience, Corey is poised to learn and grow in the field where his soul and skill have found a home. He hopes to earn some prominence in the Williamsburg area while playing up connections as far afield as Nashville and Los Angeles. He is ready for whatever is next and tries to stay open to the unexpected avenues that circumstances can present. "I'm starting to realize that there are so many more aspects to being a musician than I ever knew. I don't want to close off anything. I don't want to shut off any potential opportunities," he says. **NDN**

Listen to full-length samples from Corey's debut album, Atlas, at www.coreypavlosky.com. His work also can be found on iTunes and Spotify.

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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

A Passion for Painting

By Kathleen Toomey Jobs

Lydia Hoffman has a passion and enthusiasm for painting in this area. “Have you ever been down Colonial Parkway in the springtime?” she says. She leans forward, bright-eyed, excited to share her passion for Yorktown onions, for plein air painting, for nature, and for being outdoors.

Plein air painting is derived from the French phrase “en plein air,” which translates as “in the open air.” The art form caught on after the Impressionists popularized the idea of artists leaving their studios, setting up easels outdoors and

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immersing themselves in the landscape to paint. The trend continues to grow with the advent of portable equipment and ready mix paints, providing artists the flexibility to capture the play of light in different natural settings.

“Leave Williamsburg in the springtime, about the third week in May, and drive south on the Colonial Parkway and chances are that somewhere around the halfway mark between Cheatham Annex and Indian Field Creek you’ll spot cars parked on the side of the road and people wandering through fields,” Lydia says. People are looking for the Yorktown onion, the ubiquitous plant that can be found on the side of the Colonial Parkway. The plant, not native to this country, has been granted protected status by county ordinance. “They’re sort of the calling card of Yorktown.”

Lydia should know. She has displayed and sold paintings of the slender stalks and delicate purple flowers for the last few years in art shows and galleries throughout the Historic Triangle. Her work is detailed, arresting and tinged with color and realism. She’s taken several art and ecology workshops and she keeps returning to the onions.

If she is outside painting onions on a weekday afternoon in May that means she’s finished the school day. While Lydia owns a home and lives in Williamsburg, she works as a second-grade teacher at Yorktown Elementary. Hence her familiarity with Colonial Parkway.

A career in teaching is what Lydia went to school for and what initially brought her to Virginia. “I love the inquisitive nature of children,” Lydia says. She looks for ways to bring art into the curriculum and incorporate it into regular activities. “Kids don’t often get that opportunity,” she says.

In Lydia’s classroom, students cut up the styrofoam meat trays to make prints and look at work by Georgia O’Keefe for inspiration before they begin their own drawings to honor the school’s butterfly garden. It’s all about trying something different, seeing connections. Lydia likes to expose her students to tools rather than technology. “I want them to try something I know they likely won’t do at home. It’s too easy for all of us to plug into devices and use a keyboard.”

Lydia jokes that her students will often angle for craft time, particularly during test weeks, by repeating to her the phrase she often uses with them. “I think we’ve had too much screen time today.” Lydia relishes the chance and the challenge to try something different and to see things from a new angle.

With a Master of Arts in Gifted Education from William & Mary, Lydia is always looking for ways to enhance her teaching and learn new things. She credits the W&M graduate program with luring her to Williamsburg. The program fit her needs in many ways. It ran “summer to summer” from May to the following August. She was awarded a graduate fellowship and immediately after graduation she was hired at Yorktown. “I teach a general ed classroom,” Lydia says, “even though I have my Master’s in gifted ed. The gifted students come in clusters. I like it.”

Lydia has been painting her whole life and can’t remember not painting. Born and raised in Pearl River, a small town outside of New Orleans, Lydia credits her mother, who painted porcelain, with introducing her to art. “There was always old china and brushes around,” Lydia says. “My mom would give me her old porcelain and brushes sometimes just to keep me busy. I loved it.” And Lydia kept painting. She took art classes through elementary and middle school then at Samford College in Birmingham, Alabama where she completed her undergraduate degree in education.



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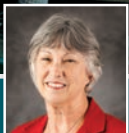
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Fittingly, Lydia was first exposed to plein air painting through teaching.

“There was an email from Chesapeake Experience [a summer program] about summer camps for students and also for teachers. I saw a plein air camp for art teachers or science teachers on the Eastern shore. I thought that sounded interesting,” Lydia says.

She contacted the camp organizer. “I told him I like art and I’m a teacher, can I come to the workshop?” Lydia says with a laugh. “The art teacher vouched for me.” Lydia was accepted. She headed off to the Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center of the University of Virginia on the Eastern Shore of Virginia where she stayed with fellow students in dorms.

Lydia credits the time on the Eastern Shore with introducing her to a new way of thinking about painting. “We would go out in the marsh, and then we got painting instruction. They would dig up the grass and teach us how the nitrogen worked to hold things together, and later we’d pull out our easels. It was so fun.”

Lydia has been returning to fall and spring workshop sessions every year since. After the first camp, Lydia and the art teacher who had vouched for her bought their own easels. “You have to work within a certain timeframe, otherwise you lose the light. You have about three-hour time blocks and then you’re finished. The light changes. There is this sense of accomplishment. You can actually be done. And you don’t have to go back to it. Once you’re done, you’re done.”

With her easel and sketch pad, Lydia has stopped to paint in many places along the Colonial Parkway as well as in Colonial Williamsburg. The onions captivate her in the springtime as do the sheep pens downtown. In the winter, she brings oyster shells inside her kitchen and paints them in still life. Other favorite outdoor scenes include Jamestown, the James River, New Quarter Park and downtown Colonial Williamsburg.

“It’s relaxing to be out in nature,” Lydia says. She stays true to that motto even when she’s not painting. She has a garden with vegetables and overflowing flowers. She jokes that the more she plants the less she has to weed.

Gardening or painting, Lydia enjoys being outside and experiencing new things. As soon as her easel is set up, she is a magnet. People stop to see what she’s doing. “It’s interesting to talk to people,” she says. “Some honk and wave. Sometimes, photographers and fishermen will stop to see what I’m doing or how it turned out if I’m still there when they’re coming back.”

Plein air painting provides a constant source of stimulus. You can paint in the same place every day but the scene will differ based on the light, the weather, the season, the background. “The more I paint, the more I learn about color,” Lydia says. She recalls a trip to the market the week prior. “The other day I saw something, and I thought what a good blue to use.”

In addition to painting, Lydia crochets, draws with pen and ink and stamps linoleum cut prints. She has regular bookings to sell her paintings, note cards and other crafts at the Watermen Museum Festival in Yorktown.

Lydia Hoffman’s work is delicate, reminiscent of natural journals, of photographs. Her paintings capture the airy, effervescent quality of the seasons, the fickleness of the wind and the richness of possibility. You can see some of her work on display for sale at the Colonial Folk Art Gallery in Williamsburg. NDN

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A FAMILY LOVE FOR THE *Arts*

By Dawn Brotherton

October is right around the corner. For longtime Williamsburg residents, they know that means An Occasion for the Arts will soon be blanketing the streets around Merchants Square. This year, the kickoff party happens Friday night, October 5, and the artists and musicians will be set up on Saturday, October 6 and Sunday, October 7.

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coming the expected visitors who will walk the streets that weekend, admiring the art, sampling local food, and enjoying the sounds of 26 musical groups.

Julie Martin and her family have been involved in An Occasion for the Arts for many years. Her mother, Kathy Pickering, was president of the organization in the 1970s, so naturally the whole family helped. "Here was this little 15-year-old, skinny kid stage managing, getting all these older men and women off the stages and on the stages at the right time. And that was my first experience of managing," Julie says.

Now she's hooked. She has been booking the musical talent for the show for the past six years. "[July] is my busy time with the Occasion because I'm getting all the contracts back and I'm getting all the scheduling done and coordinating with our web master to put everything in. It always makes me laugh that everybody else runs around like crazy on Saturday and Sunday and I just come cruising in and find a nice shady seat in the tent."

Julie was born in Alberta, Canada. Her dad was a chemical engineer who found work in Newport News when Julie was young. In sixth grade, her family moved to Williamsburg. She was part of the first class that went to James Blair Middle School and then went on to graduate from Lafayette High School. When she was 16, Julie went to work for Colonial Williamsburg as a visitor aide and ticket monitor in full costume. That's where she met her husband-to-be on a blind date. Stephen Martin was working at the powder magazine for Colonial Williamsburg. "After thirty years of dressing in costume, he retired last year from Jamestown Settlement," Julie says.

After seven years of working in the sun as a visitor aide, Julie decided to go to vocational school to become a secretary. "Then they developed the PC, and people didn't need other people to write their letters for them anymore. I went over to the Prime Outlets and worked retail while I was looking for another job. I fell in love with retail, and I've been working in various stores for the last 12 years." Julie likes meeting different people every day and making them happy.

Julie grew up with three sisters. One has moved away to South Carolina, but Nancy moved back to Williamsburg and is also helping with An Occasion for the Arts. "Six years ago, Nancy signed on to be the marketing person for the Occasion. She signed up and then she volunteered my mother to take over the performing arts. I helped my mom."

Julie and her mother computerized the tracking of the musicians, transitioned into email notifications and away from many tedious phone calls. When her mother was ready to pass on the reins, Julie took on the mantle of Performing Arts Coordinator.

"I absolutely love it. The artists are awesome people. I have some that I have used for the last six years. Some are new every year. We're trying to mix it up. This being our 50th year, we've got a lot of older groups who have been with us for a long, long time—Joe's Day Off, Runaway String Band," Julie says.

Months in advance, invitations go out to various musical groups who Julie has heard play or who have been recommended to her by her numerous contacts. She continues to seek out new talent. Although many are local bands, that isn't a requirement for Julie. She also gathers an assortment of genres. "The Williamsburg Harp Society will be performing

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Nik Baczewski is a gifted artist, an active member of The Arc, and is employed by Beverly Burgdorf, owner of Colonial Folk Art Studio & Gallery.

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Nik participates in The Arc's Literacy Program, a partnership with Pi Beta Phi at W&M; Bowling; The Arc's Arts & Culture Program; Recreational Therapy Program; and Open Art Studio, which is conducted each month at Colonial Folk Art Studio. Nik's participation led to private art instruction with Bev Burgdorf and ultimately a job! Beverly commented, "Nik works very hard and is a wonderful member of our staff."

The Arc clients who participate in Open Art Studio will have their work displayed once again at An Occasion for the Arts in October. Please watch for a special event on November 9 when an Open House and Reception will be hosted by Colonial Folk Art Studio & Gallery showcasing all The Arc artists' work and special holiday ornaments.

Nik Baczewski is The Arc.

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and the Higher Ground Jazz Band."

Although Julie loves music and listening to local bands, she does not play an instrument herself. Her husband is a musician who played with the Fifes and Drum for many years, so Julie is now learning the recorder. Working with An Occasion for the Arts has given Julie a new perspective on these talented professionals. "I appreciate music more. And I appreciate the artist more because I know, just from dealing with them a little, how much work it is to be a musician. They work their tails off. And for three quarters of them, it's a side job."

At An Occasion for the Arts this year, the stages will be located closer together. "I have a smaller stage by Baskin Robbins, and the big stage is in the Blue Talon parking lot. We have the stage area and then behind it is a food area with four or five food vendors, so you can grab food and go sit and listen to the music," Julie explains.

Julie says that last year, one of their performers Daniel Scruggs did a great job interacting with the crowd, ensuring everyone was involved. "He moved his drums so a child in a wheelchair could reach them. And that, to me, is An Occasion for the Arts. It's the whole community getting together. That touched my heart in a big way."

Not only does Julie volunteer with An Occasion for the Arts, she is also president of her homeowners' association which alternates between being extremely busy or absolutely slow. When Julie takes a break from work and volunteering, she enjoys country music at home. "If I'm mad about something, or if I've had a bad day at work, I've got Godsmack roaring," Julie admits. Brushing and petting her 14-year-old Maine Coon cat is another way she eases the tension of the day. "We found him wandering around the Yorktown Victory Center parking lot starving to death eight years ago, and we picked him up and brought him home."

Now that Stephen has retired, they are trying to catch up on things they couldn't do when they were both working. They appreciate the Dewey Decibel Concert Series at the Williamsburg Regional Library, listening to everything from symphonies to dance bands. Around the house, they usually have sports on the television. Julie is particularly fond of the New England Patriots and more specifically, Tom Brady. Julie hooked her husband on professional baseball, and now they support the Washington Nationals.

Julie is also a huge NASCAR fan and gets to the Dover International Speedway whenever she can. If she can't make it to the race in person, she is cheering in front of the television with her friends.

When it's time to hit the road, Julie's faithful traveling companion is her mother. "We've been to Scotland, Alaska, San Antonio, New Orleans, and Seattle. We also went to the northeast for Wines, Lobsters, and Food of New England." So far, Alaska tops the list as her favorite place to visit. She is hoping to get to Paris on her next mother-daughter outing.

She and her husband will be celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary in two years, and they hope the festivities will be in Cornwall, England. "My mother is actually from London, but you see all these TV shows with these places right on the coast. It looks so awesome."

But for right now, Julie Martin is looking forward to seeing returning musical talent and introducing Williamsburg to new groups in October at An Occasion for the Arts.

KATHY NELSON



Dancing the Rhythm of Ireland

By Susan Williamson

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

When Riverdance opened in 1995, interest in the sport and art of Irish dance swept the country. Kathy Nelson was in her forties when she first saw Irish dance. She had always been interested in physical exercise and dance so the energy of the dance appealed to her. She began taking lessons and within a short time was asked to help teach. Now, students from her Rose & Sword Academy of Irish Dance

perform to enthusiastic applause on Williamsburg's Second Sundays.

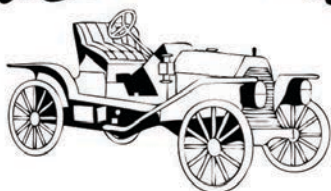
Kathy holds a TCRG, the abbreviation for the Gaelic Teagascóir Choimisiúin le Rinci Gaelacha and is equivalent to a master's degree, in Irish dance. Obtaining that status required three years of study with the World Irish Dance Association (WIDA). The curriculum involved testing in music, dance, time

signatures, knowledge of Ireland, performance and the ability to teach. She has 17 years of teaching experience and operates Rose & Sword Academy of Irish Dance with studios in Williamsburg and Yorktown.

WIDA is a large Irish Dance association. Her choice to be affiliated with WIDA came after careful consideration. "They are a very family friendly organization. All of their com-

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petitions are open to all dancers, regardless of affiliation. Costumes for beginners are modest and not elaborate. At the beginning level everyone dresses the same." Polo shirts and dark skirts or pants are the regulation outfit. WIDA is also known for being very friendly to adult dancers, offering more classes for adult competition. The organization has affiliated schools and competitions worldwide, including Ireland and the United States. It was founded in Dusseldorf, Germany in 2004, but Irish dance has its roots in early Celtic dance, with influences from English and Continental dance forms. In the 1700s and 1800s traveling dance masters taught the step dance throughout Ireland. The Gaelic League, formed in 1893, worked to promote Irish language and culture, including dance. Over time, various organizations have strived to promote the art form.

The Williamsburg Rose & Sword Studio offers classes mostly in the evening, Monday through Wednesday. The Yorktown classes are taught at the Virginia Regional Ballet Studio

on Thursday evenings, Friday afternoon and evening and Saturday morning.

Some students compete in WIDA or open platform Irish dance competitions about three or four times a year. Rose & Sword had 15 dancers at a recent competition, where one of her champion dancers placed first and several other dancers earned first and seconds. Champion dancer is the highest level of competition. To compete at that level, a dancer must score a first in all preliminary levels. Most of the dancers compete in Richmond although some travel farther. "There is no pressure to compete," Kathy says. "Competition is not for everyone. But most of my students like to perform."

In addition to Second Sunday performances in Williamsburg, dancers from her academy also dance at area independent care facilities as well as the Waterman's Museum in Yorktown. For school performances they wear the school colors of turquoise, silver, gold and black.

Children as young as three can begin Irish dance lessons. According to Kathy, "You are

never too old to learn Irish dance." One of her students is 72 years old. Students begin with soft shoe dancing because it takes time and practice to develop the fitness and strength of foot and ankle needed for the hard shoe style of dance, not to mention being able to dance in the heavy hard shoe. Soft shoe includes reels like light Irish Jigs. The light shoe dances have a different rhythm and a more flowing style with higher leaps.

Most students want to learn the hard shoe dance, having seen shows like Celtic Fyre at Bush Gardens, Riverdance or Lord of the Dance. One of Kathy's former students is currently dancing in the Bush Gardens' show.

Dances include light jigs, single jigs, slip jigs, treble jigs, horn pipe and traditional set dance. There is also a category of non-traditional dance in which the dancer creates steps set to specific pieces of music from a choice of 30 to 35 different tunes. A treble reel is danced to three-quarter time while a slip jig involves nine-eighth timing.

Competition involves very traditional dance

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forms with no arm movement. Students can compete in soft shoe or hard shoe divisions. In a competition, a dancer must perform two steps with eight bars to the left and eight bars to the right.

Performance styles, however, have changed over time and can involve body percussion, which includes things like clapping hands or slapping thighs, along with lots of arm movement. "Audiences love the body percussion," Kathy says. This trend in Irish Dance was made popular by The Fusion Fighters, a progressive dance company, and their "Create Not Hate" campaign which is now used to advocate for positive change and community projects.

"I love to see my students blossom and use their creative talents," Kathy says. She involves her students in the choreography of performance pieces. Pupils from ages 10 to 15 have helped to create various performance pieces, adding arm movements and otherwise embellishing traditional steps. "Being involved in the creative process helps them to develop as

dancers and helps to build confidence," she adds. Watching her students grow and progress is what draws Kathy to teaching and keeps her motivated.

Kathy incorporates physical fitness and exercise into her lessons. "Irish Dance is an extreme sport, and dancers have to be fit. The goal is to make it look easy."

Although Kathy welcomes dancers of all ages, adults are the minority and among the youth, boys are the minority, although boys often do extremely well. She usually has about 50 students over the summer with 75 to 100 during school months. She welcomes home school students, having been a home school parent. She would like to add more students, both youth and adults, so that she could stage larger and more dynamic performance pieces. She is working on a new dance for September called Shannon River Dance that includes a double jig and a slow treble jig. The faster steps for this are set to slower music.

Kathy grew up in Doylestown, Pennsylvania and first came to the area as an Army

computer specialist stationed at Fort Monroe. When she was assigned to transfer to Germany, her parents' deteriorating health caused her to request and be granted an early discharge. Dealing with her parents' health issues motivated Kathy to remain physically active. She says studies have shown that learning dance routines not only keeps the body in shape but also helps prevent mental deterioration and can even improve memory.

While living in the area, she met and married her husband, Benny, who is a 30 year NASA systems and security analyst. They lived in Newport News for two years before moving to Williamsburg. Although Benny still works full time, he provides support and often takes care of the music for Rose & Sword performances and competitions.

Kathy Nelson loves that the Williamsburg art scene is growing in both quantity and diversity of performances. "We have all types of bands and music and many types of dance. Belly dancing and other Middle Eastern types of dancing are also popular." NDN



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NATHAN LIENARD

Americana Music Finds Roots in Williamsburg

By Susan Williamson



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

If Tabbs High School alumnus Nathan Lienard's teenage dreams had come true, we would be watching him pitch in major league games. Nathan was in his sophomore year at Central Florida University playing baseball when he realized he wouldn't make the major leagues. "It really hurt my feelings," he says

with a rueful smile. He transferred back home to Christopher Newport University and continued to play college baseball.

"Being an athlete, it took me five years to finish school," Nathan says. "The way it worked out I was still eligible in my fifth year, and I had arranged my classes to have all of

my afternoons free for baseball. I got in the car to drive to the first practice and then shut the car off. I just couldn't do this anymore."

Nathan knew that the passion and time he had spent on baseball needed another outlet. He is wise enough to realize his life could have easily gone off the rails if he had chosen



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the wrong activities to fill his time. A friend wanted to practice drumming to the songs of the Dave Matthews Band. In order to do this, he taught Nathan to play acoustic guitar so that he could play drums. Along the way, Nathan started writing songs of his own.

His friend heard some of them and asked, "Did you write that down? You are going to want to remember that."

Meanwhile, Nathan finished school and married Jessica Turner, an ODU graduate whom he had met when she was a lifeguard and he was home from college, hanging out at the swimming pool. The couple have three children and, as Nathan jokes, his fourth child, an eighteen-month-old Dachshund, silver with black spots and a brown nose known as a dapple coloration. The dog was a family Christmas present. "The children had been asking for a dog and this puppy has been really good. He must have an old soul," Nathan says.

His first break came in 2009 when he posted a song he had written, "A Queen and Her

Fool," on Facebook along with baby pictures of his third child. Although he received congratulations on his son, followers were more interested in the music. People started contacting him to ask the origin of the song and were amazed to find out he was the composer. "The song was about my wife and my family," he says. That same year, an interaction with one of his wife's Facebook friends who owned a restaurant led to playing a gig at Ford's Colony Country Club.

Another Facebook connection was a musician from Jackson Hole, Wyoming who wanted to come perform in Williamsburg. He asked if he could open for Nathan. "I told him that he had it backwards. I was just beginning, but why didn't he come, and I would open for him." Nathan did, and the performances went well. Nathan now plays and sings two or three times a week around Williamsburg and nearby communities. He has been featured at Oceans and Ale, Berrets Seafood Restaurant and several other locations. He is a regular, on the third Friday night each

month, at Charly's Airport Restaurant and also has regular dates at Ford's Colony. He is scheduled to play September 7 at Brass Cannon Brewing, September 15 on High Street and September 16 at Berrets Sunday Blues Brunch.

Nathan doesn't write down the notes, only the lyrics and the chords which he finds by experimenting. "I don't know much music theory, so I just keep trying different chords until I find the one I want."

During the day, Nathan works in system to system sales for Ferguson Enterprises at their Newport News headquarters. He expedites purchase orders and internet sales to schools and agencies who buy from the company. He performs two or three nights a week at various venues. Nathan says, "My wife is my biggest fan. She stays with the kids and takes care of things at home so that I can play."

Their oldest child, Thomas, age 13, has an interest in piano, and their daughter, Annabelle, 12, is learning guitar. Both children attend the mSAM (Middle School Arts

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Helena S. Mock, Esquire

Magnet) at Queens Lake which includes being bused to Bruton High School for part of the day. The program has interdisciplinary studies in literary, theater and rhythmic arts. Their youngest, Owen, is 9. "We actually live in Queens Lake school district, but through the magnet lottery system the kids were able to attend Waller Mill which is the arts based elementary magnet school."

Nathan enjoys the comradery of local musicians and the fact that so many area restaurants want live music. "I especially like that they are open to original music, since that's mostly what I play." He also plays music from Jason Isbell, Robert Earl Keen, Jr and Gordon Lightfoot, among others. Nathan refers to the songs he writes, sings and plays as "Americana." The music is not really rock or country, but his songs resonate with everyday life experiences. Although Nathan's full-time job and family life keep him from spending a lot of time with other musicians, he says that he is getting to know them. If one of them

has a conflict, he might be asked to cover a performance.

He keeps an old guitar in the front seat of his car, and if he is stopped in traffic, he grabs his guitar and works on a song. He admits the heat and cold might not be the best thing for the instrument, but he likes having it handy. He wrote one of his songs, "The Train Song," while waiting for a freight train to pass on Henry Street. He used the rhythm of the train as a background for singing about living here and other places he might travel, but ending up at home.

Thanks to a gift of two hours of recording studio time from his wife, Nathan was able to cut a small CD, or EP, of six original songs. He joined CD Baby, an independent music distribution site. He also joined ASCAP. He sells music on YouTube, Amazon, Google Music and Spotify and receives royalties when his music is streamed. "I don't know how it happens," he says, "but I have sold songs to people in Germany and Australia." Through

work friends and other contacts, he is gradually landing gigs in Newport News and other places.

While Nathan isn't ready to leave his day job, he says the music income allows Jessica to be a stay-at-home mom except for the days she substitute teaches at the children's school. She is also active in PTA.

Although baseball was his first love, Nathan Lienard grew up in a musical household. His dad played guitar, mostly for church and youth activities and his mother played the piano, so his musical talent isn't a total surprise. He describes himself as an Army brat but was lucky in that his father managed to stay in the area long enough for Nathan to attend eighth grade and all of his high school years in York County. Because of that, this community is now graced with his talent. NDN

Information on Nathan's performances and music can be found on his Facebook page, www.facebook.com/NathanLienardMusic. He can be reached at nathanlienardmusic@gmail.com.

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TOM TRIMBLE



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

An Appreciation for Art and Life

By Gail Dillon

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roughly 350 pieces, each of which he framed himself. “My main thing is my passion for what I do. I’ve been doing it almost 50 years, and I’m learning every single day,” he says. “My philosophy is, you don’t talk the talk, you walk the walk.”

And walk the walk he does. He is particularly adept at French matting, an old technique using watercolor wash panels and ink lines around the edges of a piece of art. Tom uses latex paint and will often take an entire day, sometimes longer, to finish it. The result is beautiful, and the artwork looks as if it has been double-matted. This type of intricacy, painstaking attention to detail and dedication to high quality are his trademarks.

Tom did not formally train for this career but is something of a Renaissance man, seeming to excel in everything he attempts and self-taught in many subjects. As a child growing up in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Tom says he was a small boy with patches on his eyes and was often a magnet for bullies. His mother died when he was young, leaving his father to raise him and his younger brother. “My father was old school. He brought home the bacon but didn’t really raise the children,” he says. “So my brother and I raised ourselves, and everybody compared us all the time. When I graduated from high school, I was very, very small. I was always the butt of all the jokes.”

He left home to attend college in Springfield, Massachusetts where he studied anatomy, physiology, physical education and physical therapy. Soon after graduation he was hired to teach at various colleges and universities, including Old Dominion, University of Virginia and Lyndon State College in Lyndonville, Vermont. “I taught biomechanics, kinesiology, physiology of exercise. I had a good time.” He attributes much of his interest in art to his father-in-law who was a reputable art dealer for many years. “He had an extensive library of art books,” he says. “I can breeze through a book in an evening; I went through hundreds of art books.”

He adds that his late brother was a “fabulous” artist and his father, who managed a Sears and Roebuck store for years, also had an artistic bent. “He used to sketch out his display ad plans in three-dimensional drawings,” he says.

Although Tom is reluctant to dwell on the subject, he has a doctorate degree in chemistry which has given him the scientific knowledge needed to restore paintings. “I love the chemistry end of things,” he says. “It has helped me dramatically because I’ve developed probably 20 different chemicals that I now use in restoration.”

About ten years ago, he created a solution he dubbed “Trimble’s magic elixir” that has been his secret weapon in restoring oil paintings. Bringing old, faded paintings back to life is one of his greatest joys, and he is eager to point out some of his most memorable “before and afters.” There is one bucolic painting of sheep that he explains was particularly challenging because over the years, many of the sheep literally disappeared. Tom eventually found seven new sheep and brought the original rich shades of grass, trees and sky back.

He recalls that over his long career, only four people have been less-than-satisfied with the results of his work but only because the finished projects were deemed “too elegant” for their homes.

Tom’s wife of 30 years, Jane, works in the finance department for the City of Williamsburg. “I’m married to the girl of my dreams,” he says. “She’s the best thing that ever happened to me in my life. She looks out for me, she takes care of me.” He and Jane have transformed their once-

1,500 square foot house into 3,200 square feet of intricate artistic beauty. He has personally hand-carved areas throughout the house, as well as re-modeled one of their bathrooms, done crown-molding and wainscoting, and many other projects that far exceed most DIY abilities.

Tom speaks of his three grown sons with obvious pride. His oldest son owns Trimble Tavern Antiques in Whitestone. "He is a Civil War aficionado, anything to do with the Civil War," Tom says. "He re-weaves wigs and clothing. He has Indian clothing and arrowheads, he rebuilds muskets." His youngest son is also a small business owner. He and his mother run Lewis Trimble's Antique Mall in Kilmarnock, which sells art deco style furniture and artwork and does "a booming business." His middle son is a highly renowned auto mechanic who owns Scott's Auto Repair and Performance in Hartfield. "He is very well-known for being able to diagnose problems with people's cars," he says. "He can just listen to it and he fixes it the first time."

This talented man is clearly proud of his children. "All three of my boys. Their dad is absolutely bursting at the buttons with pride," he says. "Each one has his own little world that he is master of. I must've done something right."

Tom admits his work is so all-consuming and satisfying that he doesn't need any hobbies. He and his wife used to enjoy driving sports cars, and he has done his share of restoring old automobiles. As a young man, he was a talented skier, both water and snow, a proficient figure skater and a world-class gymnast. He was an alternate for the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, but his modesty keeps him from lingering too long on these athletic accomplishments. Instead, he swings the conversation back to his passion for restoring art and creating beautiful frames. "My business is based 100 percent on trust," he says. "People are giving me their oil painting that may have been passed on from generation to generation. They're trusting that I will do no harm."


He does all of the work himself because he knows he bears a heavy responsibility to his clients and doesn't want to let them down. Working alone doesn't bother Tom, in fact, he enjoys it. "I love working by myself upstairs," he says. "I don't talk a lot. When I talk, I'm usually nervous."

He seems to have a bevy of interesting stories to tell. He mentions being struck by lightning about 38 years ago while sitting in his living room watching television. "It blew me out of the chair," he says, adding that the lightning hit a tree outside of the house during a thunderstorm.

"I went upstairs. My wife and children were upstairs and they said 'dad, the whole house just shook.' They looked at me, and I was snow-white." He doesn't remember seeking medical attention. His doctor was on vacation at the time. "The next morning, I could not move. My kids had to literally spin me around and get me up." Despite taking years to recover fully, Tom says he never missed a day of work.

He was considered legally blind until middle school due to "lazy eyes" and wore thick glasses his entire life. That changed when he got cataract surgery about a year ago, and suddenly, his vision was perfect. "Somebody upstairs said, 'you put in a hard life. This is a little reward for the remainder,'" he says.

It is clear that Tom Trimble appreciates his work, his clients, his family and everything else in his life. "You're going around one time. I'm so grateful that people have trusted me for 45 years so I just live day to-day and love what I do." NDN



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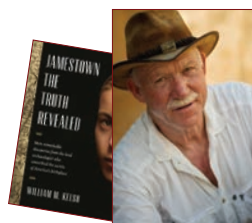
11:30 Poets Laureate on Stage, including 2018 laureate, W&M Professor Henry Hart.

1:00 What's Special about Southern writers? Featuring best-selling author Sheri Reynolds.



2:00 Making History Come Alive with African scholar and author Iyabo Obasanjo.

6:30 Tucker Hall Special event with featured writer, Dr. William Kelso, archeology director for *Jamestown Rediscovery*.



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A New Journey with Music

By Harmony Hunter

One of the most remarkable things about Deborah Soderholm is just how normal she is. As a wife and mother to four, she packs the requisite lunches, drives the scheduled drop-offs and locates backpacks and shoes just like every other mom. Once the children are off to school, she works part-time as a tour guide at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. Run-

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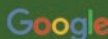
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ning a large household and coordinating kids' commitments is a full-time job with night and weekend work required, and it's an accomplishment to be proud of.

But Deborah has managed something extraordinary in addition to keeping her young family running. In the small spaces between the full-time work of nurturing and guiding her young ones, she's built a new career: a second act as a vocalist. That's what makes her story an inspiration to anyone who meets her.

Deborah's educational background and early career are impressive. She attended Brigham Young University and completed post-graduate work at the University of Oxford in England. After she earned her degrees, she taught high school social studies for nine years in Maryland. Music was always in her heart, but it wasn't a big part of her life. She says, "I started doing theater when I was a kid. When I went to college, I focused on my academics and set music and theater aside. But I always loved it."

She was married, working in a field she loved, and raising two girls when the course of

her life shifted painfully and she was widowed at the age of 30. In time, she found herself forging a new beginning with her second love, a widowed man with two young children of his own. They relocated to Williamsburg to join their crew under one roof and plant themselves securely in a supportive network of local family.

As they navigated the challenges of combining their households and getting settled in a new town, Deborah came to a decision. "It was a major change just moving to Williamsburg after losing my husband. I felt myself wanting to have that authentic experience of sharing my talent and developing it more. Things I had put aside as a kid. Feeling like life is a beautiful thing and we only have a short time here. I want to share that with people," she says.

Her career as a vocalist started small but has never stopped building. One of her first performance engagements was with the local community theater troupe, The Williamsburg Players. Today, she sings with her church, and last summer brought her first operetta,

Iolanthe. She often can be found singing the National Anthem at ball games, most recently at a Peninsula Pilots game. On July Fourth, she opened the diamond for the Richmond Squirrels, which marked the biggest crowd she's ever sung for. A recent project commemorating Hilton Village's Centennial celebration combined her passion for history with her love of music as she developed a program comprised of WWI songs and performed in period clothing.

"I am so happy to be in Williamsburg," Deborah says. "The arts community is really strong here. There are so many talented people and so many outlets and venues to share those talents. I really never dreamed or thought I'd be doing as much theater and music as I am right now, but you never know what life will bring you."

Though she's claimed every prospect that has presented itself, her commitment to her family has remained foremost. "The opportunities I have and I pick do revolve around my family life. I can't always do big commitments. I'm not quite there yet with bigger gigs, but I

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want to get to that point,” she says. Her solution has been to involve as much of the family as possible. She and the kids have performed together in everything they could manage, from *Cats* and *Oliver* to *The Miracle Worker* and Christmas shows at the Hennage Auditorium in Colonial Williamsburg. Even her husband has joined them on stage.

They’re a musical household, and songs are part of the rhythm of the day. “My husband will tell you I’m always singing. Our rule in the house is that no one can tell anyone to stop singing,” Deborah says. Whether they’re getting ready for school or clearing the dishes after supper, music is present. “I just think everyone should make a joyful noise, and if you have a song, you should let it out. It’s an expression of your feelings at the time,” Deborah says.

There’s something else she wants the kids to take away from this, and that’s the importance of cultivating their natural gifts with discipline and dedication. “The other aspect of the arts is teaching my kids about following their passion with hard work. You’re not just born with tal-

ent, you have to put the hours in,” she says. “I hope they see the value that Mom and Dad are doing things to be involved, share their talents and do things that bring them joy. When we get to be on stage together, that’s even more special.”

Deborah’s personal faith is integral to her renewed connection to music. “I feel like we should listen to the voice inside us that tells us what to do. I feel lucky enough to have a job right now where I do something that I love. It’s more than a hobby for me. It’s something I’m developing and growing into as a second stage of my career. I think God has led me to be in a certain place and given me opportunities and led me to meet people that help with them.”

Music has helped Deborah seize the joys that each day offers, but it also has comforted her through grief and transition, helping her to find some measure of peace after a painful loss. “I feel like performing and singing is my therapy. It brings me great joy. Again, it’s that authentic experience. You can have that connection with the audience.”

As her reputation has grown locally and regionally, she’s always kept an eye on the horizon for the next challenge. Beyond staying open to new jobs, she has some specific ambitions. “I hope to continue to develop new repertoire, singing for bigger and more varied audiences. I would like to share my World War I music program with museums or schools and work on combining music and history from other time periods to the present,” Deborah says.

“It is something I feel inspired and motivated to do. So, I follow that inspiration and doors have opened up to me. Sometimes it is scary and I have moments of self-doubt, but I work through that and continue to study and practice more.”

Deborah Soderholm’s new success has been a surprise to her as well as a joy. “I never thought music and performing would be as big a part of my life now as it has become. I believe it’s never too late to do something new. I don’t care if music never takes me off the peninsula, it’s fulfilling knowing I am doing something I love.” NDN



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Updated Retro for Everyone

By Lillian Stevens



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Jen Thurman jokes that she may have been born too late.

“My store is the store I would have shopped in when I was a teenager,” she says with a laugh. “And I’m about to turn 47!”

Jen launched Retro Daddio in 2010. Back then, the business was internet-based with a strong eBay presence. In 2013, however, her dream of opening a brick-and-mortar store came to fruition. There have been several lo-

cations for the venture but this past January, Retro Daddio moved into the Williamsburg Marketcenter, which is located on Mooretown Road across the street from Sentara Regional Medical Center.

“I had a great opportunity to move here,” she says.

Spacious and gleaming, the store sits between Ross Department Store and Home Depot. Parking is abundant and the location

suits Jen just fine. Merchandise includes a fun and delightfully funky array of goods. Record albums sit atop a repurposed hospital gurney, and there are displays of items on consignment by local artists and artisans. From jewelry and accessories, cards and paper products, to signs, posters and records albums, there is no shortage of nostalgia or pop culture.

“We carry items featuring Doctor Who, Star Trek, Edgar Allan Poe, Cthulhu, Marvel

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and DC Comics, Harry Potter, gaming, and more, plus used CDs and a huge selection of vinyl records.”

The store is open seven days a week and there is no staff, just Jen and a helper she depends on as necessary. So, if it sounds like a 24/7 kind of career, it probably is. But the rewards are many. In fact, according to Jen, there’s an old saying that goes like this: Entrepreneurs are the crazy people who work 100 hours a week so they don’t have to work 40 hours for someone else.

“It’s so true!” she exclaims. “I love the freedom and independence to do what I want and mold this into what I want it to be.”

For those occasions when she needs to be away at a Sci-Fi or Horror convention like MarsCon or RavenCon, she has another person who pinch hits. “The conventions are important,” Jen says. “I vend at them and do a good amount of business.”

While the name Retro Daddio might evoke a trip down memory lane for some of us, the

truth is that most of Jen’s customers are a diverse clientele, especially those who are into Sci-Fi, fantasy and gaming.

“Originally, I thought my customers would be baby boomers but I am primarily seeing customers who are late teens to mid-thirties. As I said earlier, I sell the kind of stuff I’ve been into since I was a kid.”

Though the initial focus was heavy on the Beatles, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, John Wayne, Audrey Hepburn, and Wizard of Oz merchandise, the predominant vibe has always been retro and nostalgia.

Retro Daddio also features local artisans and craftsmen selling their creations on consignment, including potters, basket makers and others.

“We aren’t a gallery, but we do try to showcase local talent,” Jen says. “I have pottery here made by local artists, as well as prints and other original work. Most of the artists also have full-time jobs. There’s an accountant, as well as others who work at Colonial Williamsburg, a

person who works at a timeshare here in town, and Busch Gardens. We also have a basket maker and a caricature artist.”

Jen enjoys any part she can play that enriches the local community, one that has been tremendously supportive of her business and small women-owned businesses in general. Still, this did not happen overnight.

“I think I knew from the time I was about nine years old that I wanted to ultimately have my own business, but the idea of what that business would be changed multiple times over the years,” she says.

As a young entrepreneur, the then 11-year-old would purchase large blocks of chocolate and mold them into suckers which she sold at her school. Then, in the late 1990s, she launched her first business: baking and catering. In 2005, after a decade of working at Colonial Williamsburg where she met her late husband, Ralph, Jen accepted a job in Las Vegas, managing an Elvis Presley museum. She and Ralph spent five years in the area.



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"I went out to Las Vegas to manage the Elvis museum for a couple years," Jen says. "From there, I went to work for Phantom of the Opera, overseeing their merchandise at The Venetian. I always had the desire to have something of my own, but I was working six nights a week for Phantom, plus I had a part-time job working on a boat magazine, and I was also working on my college degree."

Armed with a Degree in Marketing and Retail Management, Jen launched the online store, but it wasn't long before she was ready to take the leap.

"My husband had passed away about a year and a half earlier," she says. "So I sold the house and moved in with some family members here in town. I knew that it was 'now or never', and I knew I never wanted to look back and say 'I wish I had tried'."

Beyond the retail aspect, Retro Daddio is also a destination for fans of local art and music too. Jen is a stalwart supporter of both. "The recent push to make Williamsburg a culinary destination has been great. It's all about

supporting local art, local music and local artists. We are all about the Indie, the small, giving people a space."

There is even a stage in the back of the store and dedicated seating. "We have seating for 24 in the stage area," Jen says. "But we can always bring out more chairs."

She hosts an open mic night the third Thursday of every month, and there's a monthly gathering of Celtic music and poetry.

"We have the Poison Dwarf Trio coming. They are all local, which is great. We are great supporters of local music here. I hope to raise awareness that we do have a thriving local independent music and art scene in Williamsburg, and I encourage people to go out and support local artists and musicians."

In addition to music events, there are also regular story-telling gatherings. An upcoming line-up includes Anthony Burcher, a local humorist and award-winning storyteller, as well as Shel Browder, a retired Colonial Williamsburg blacksmith who tells both Gaelic and Appalachian stories. "In early September, we will

feature Sheila Arnold Jones, an amazing award winning storyteller from the peninsula."

Jen has another aspiration that involves expanding her on-site events to include perhaps a day-long event each month. "If we can do it, I'd love to have a food truck out here and, of course, music too."

Although running her business is a solo endeavor, Jen's boyfriend lends a supportive and steady presence while offering visionary and design help. "We have been friends for 20 years," she says. "We used to be neighbors, and we also worked together at CW many years ago."

While her boyfriend helped Jen design the store, the name for the business came from another inspiration.

"I was literally walking in a circle brainstorming words when I saw a cookbook titled Retro 50s Patio Daddio, and I liked the way it sounded." Today, Jen Thurman has created the kind of store that is both nostalgic and functional, providing the area with an arts venue with something for everyone. NDN



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Sports



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A COACH FOR ALL SEASONS

By Ben Mackin

It takes a special kind of person to volunteer for youth sports, either as a coach, official or board member. The amount of patience and energy that is required to help children be all they can be is not possessed by the average person. Luckily there are above average people like Bryce Lee who gladly step up. Bryce is somewhat of a busy man. In addition to coaching dozens of sports teams

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over the last fifteen years, he has also found time to be a husband, a father of three and a senior vice president and financial consultant for Wells Fargo in Williamsburg. While this might seem like a lot for any one person's plate, for Bryce it is second nature. "I do it because I love being around sports," Bryce said.

His love for athletics started early. "Growing up, I played them all. Every sport I could find under the sun," the Virginia Beach native says. "When I was in middle school, they implemented a program that enabled us to play several different games throughout the school year, as opposed to following the conventional three seasons. As a result, when I was in the eighth grade I think I played six sports, which was ideal for me."

With that middle school experience Bryce went on to Cox High School where he played football and wrestled. He stood out on the football field and was recruited by William & Mary as a wide receiver. After

redshirting his freshman year, a delay which allowed him to develop his skills and extend his eligibility, Bryce went on to become the second leading receiver for the Tribe. Bryce had earned his undergraduate degree in finance and math in 2001, but still had a year of eligibility so he played his final season of football while he was enrolled in the first year of W&M's MBA program. While it would be an accomplishment for anyone to juggle a graduate program and be a student athlete, Bryce did well enough in both to be selected as a Second Team Academic All American in 2001. "It was a fun experience," Bryce says of his collegiate days. "That last year of playing football and working on my MBA and having gotten married was interesting. Most of the assistant coaches were not even married yet, which was kind of funny."

Bryce graduated from the MBA program in 2003 and gained employment with Wells Fargo as a financial consultant. With his playing days behind him, he was not ready

to give up on sports completely. "As soon as I was done with football, I began working with the Young Life ministry here in Williamsburg. From there I was able to get connected with youth sports in the area," he says. "Through that I got a coaching job as the head coach for the Lafayette junior varsity basketball team, and I did that for a number of years."

Over the next several years while working and raising three kids with his wife Laurie, Bryce continued to step up and coach teams around the area that needed volunteers. "I had started coaching when I was in college for groups like the Neighborhood Basketball League which helps underprivileged kids form teams and compete," Bryce says. "I did that for more than ten years, but as my kids have gotten older, I have started coaching them in pretty much any sport that they want to play."

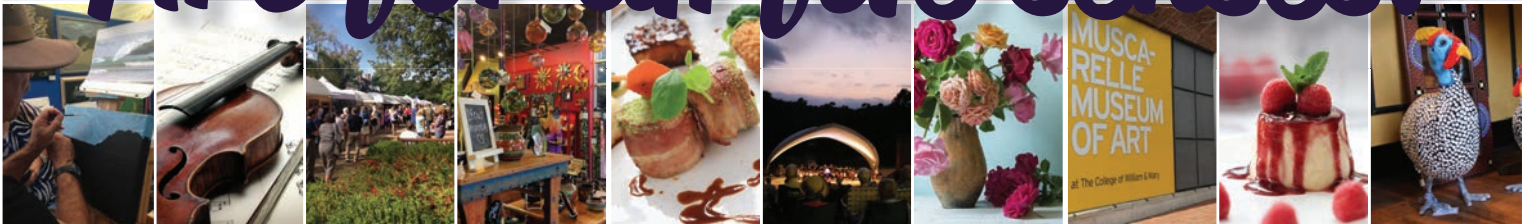
Much like in his youth, Bryce loves the prospect of coaching different sports from



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season to season. He can participate in soccer in the fall followed by basketball in the winter and then on to spring sports. “Whether playing or coaching, I have always loved the challenge of going in and out of sports,” Bryce says. “When I start a new season, I always try to see what I can pull from the sport I just left and figure out how to leverage that into a strength. There are some technical things you need to get up to speed on, but I love that part too.”

There has been a trend in youth sports during the last few decades for kids to specialize in just one sport. Bryce sees things differently. “In today’s world where you have travel and year long sports, it is getting harder and harder for kids to play more than one sport. I encourage the kids I coach to try all kinds of things.” At the end of the day Bryce’s coaching philosophy is pretty simple. “I tell the kids, ‘Lets have fun and also give one hundred percent effort.’ If you are not having fun playing the sport, then what are

you doing? Having fun and being focused is what carries over to every sport I coach.”

Another aspect of coaching that Bryce enjoys is the challenge of working with many personality types on the team. “I like helping kids get better and figuring out how to motivate them in a fashion that will get the best response.”

Bryce’s most recent coaching gig has been with the 12U All-Star team of the Williamsburg Youth Baseball League. “The league’s mission is to let any kid who wants to play, play ball,” Bryce says. “What is great about this league is that the best kids who are on travel teams play, and we also have a lot of kids who have never picked up a glove before playing in the leagues.”

At the 12-year-old level the league was able to field two different All-Star teams. One team competes on 70-foot base paths while the second team competes on 60-foot base paths. “In most leagues there is normally one All-Star team, but at this age there

are so many kids and a lot of interest in the Williamsburg area, I have coached the 60-foot group.” Bryce volunteered to take the second team because there were some excellent players who still wanted to play. “So starting in 2017 we pulled up my son and a few other 11-year-olds and formed a team that made it all the way to the regional tournament.” This year the league was again able to fill out two All-Star teams, with Bryce managing the 60-foot team. Again, they were able to make it all the way to the regional tournament in Fredericksburg where they lost in the semifinals.

For the future, Bryce Lee plans to continue coaching anything that his children want to play. For him, it’s about his kid’s interest. “With coaching, my goals from the very beginning have been to make sure the kids are having fun,” he says. “I also want to help them develop the tools they need to make a middle school or high school team if that is in fact something they want to do.” NDN

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Williamsburg's Contemporary Artists

By Linda Landreth Phelps



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center (WCAC) began in 1959 with conversations on a back porch where several artists met to brainstorm. They agreed upon a vision and contributed \$25 each as operating capital for their new nonprofit venture. The founders' dream was to establish a gallery that would add to the cultural life of their community and balance new art against the background

of 18th-century Colonial Williamsburg. As they've grown over the years, they've changed names and moved locations several times, but their mission has remained the same.

The gallery's first location was a tenement house on Nicholson Street and was called Twentieth Century Art Gallery. In 1971 they moved to Merchant's Square for a decade, then were offered free space on North Bound-

ary Street in 1982 by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. With the advent of the new millennium, they updated their name to This Century Art Gallery and continued to occupy that studio until early 2017. Now the artists have found a new home and a fresh name, Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center, both of which they hope will last indefinitely. WCAC's eye-catching, bright blue building



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can be seen easily by anyone driving past on Lafayette Street. In keeping with its emphasis on the contemporary, large modern sculptures decorate the parking lot space in front, attracting attention and drawing visitors in.

“Our present building at 110 Westover Avenue may not be as centrally located as we once were,” says co-op member Melody Loftheim, “but it’s fully handicapped accessible, which is a huge deal. If you want to offer a community art resource, then you must be able to include everyone.”

In Melody’s opinion, WCAC’s initials could just as accurately stand for “Williamsburg’s COMMUNITY Art Center”, as that is always their focus. As a fully fledged art center with classroom space for art education, it benefits the community by allowing children and adults to participate in art on every level as well as allowing local artists to be seen and appreciated.

In their eight annual exhibitions, both emerging and seasoned artists are featured. They work in mediums such as watercolor, oil

and acrylic paint, calligraphy, photography, and, especially in the last year or so, pottery, fiber art, woodworking and sculpting. “Years ago, most people thought about art as just something to hang on their walls, but statues, pottery, weaving and woodworking bring it into the third dimension.” Melody says. “I’m pleased to say we have a variety of these pieces now that we have enough room to feature them adequately in our exhibit space.”

Melody and her husband of almost 48 years, Kaare Loftheim, are both artists. Melody’s personal passion and artistic gift is for rosemaling, a Norwegian folk art, which is stylized painted embellishment of utilitarian objects. Kaare has just retired from his long career as Master of the Anthony Hay Cabinetmaker Shop where he crafted finely carved and inlaid furniture for Colonial Williamsburg.

Through the center’s diverse exhibits, all free to the public, WCAC hopes to inspire and encourage individuals of every age to explore their own artistic talent through instruction.

“I was lucky to have parents who were ar-

tistic, and I grew up in college towns with lots of exposure to cultural activities. I could walk to a free art museum, and my first official art lesson was at age three,” Melody says. “Having had those advantages, it’s important to me that other children as well as adults have an opportunity to be exposed to art.” She is especially proud of the WCAC’s outreach to children through summer camps and a program called “Buddy Art,” designed for special needs children. “It’s free to everyone and incorporates young volunteers helping their assigned ‘buddy’ learn a variety of personalized art activities, working one-on-one as needed.”

High school age students are not neglected by WCAC, either. Every January the organization hosts a popular show that pulls artwork from all of the schools in the Greater Williamsburg area, both public and private. Students submit their pieces to their art departments, and teachers select what is to be included in the juried show. Prizes are given, and WCAC encourages student artists by awarding scholarships to continue their studies.

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Another popular exhibit is the annual Members Show. Held in June, it features art produced by WCAC's own members, which is juried by recognized artists in each specific field.

"WCAC's commitment to art education means we offer a variety of affordable classes for both beginners and more advanced adult students," Melody says. "Our instructors are well-recognized, and in some cases have been teaching for decades." Workshops feature respected local and visiting artists who provide more intense, in-depth instruction in their specialty in a shorter period of time.

As a long-time member of the co-op, Melody has recently been involved in a special project for WCAC which has taken shape over the last year. The largely unused grassy space in the property's backyard is now paved, secured by a 6-foot wooden fence and landscaped with a colorful variety of carefully chosen plants. "We should have beauty wherever we are. Art is artistic expression in all its forms, and to me, that includes plants."

Melody recognized potential there for a pri-

vate, enclosed outdoor patio, and this idea was presented to the Board of Directors and approved. They applied for and got a grant and funding for the project, drew up plans and received approval from the historic neighborhood's Architectural Review Board. Some of the labor and materials was donated or discounted by generous people who support the community outreach mission of the co-op.

"Now we have this wonderful patio for plein air painting, art classes, or additional space when we have galas," Melody says with excitement. "There is a locking gate, again, wide enough for a wheelchair, which means you can have a class for children out here without worrying about security for them. It opens up all kinds of possibilities for us."

The peaceful backyard now equals the spruced-up front of the building in attractiveness. Williams Landscaping recently donated a complete makeover that included stonework and plantings which solve some former drainage issues as well as adding considerable curb appeal. Next on the list for renovation is a new parking lot surface, which landlord Brooks Re-

alty, happy with its tenants' beautification of the property, is inspired to undertake.

Grants from the City of Williamsburg and James City County, plus support by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, fund a significant portion of their programs, exhibits and operations every year. The future of the gallery, however, lies in the capable hands of its more than 200 member volunteers, who are the backbone, hands and feet of the organization and serve it in diverse ways. Melody is part of the Facility team, which keeps the center's interior and grounds looking and functioning at their best.

Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center does not exist for itself. The vivid blue building wants to open its doors to the people of Greater Williamsburg. This organization's deepest desire is to share and foster a love of art while serving their community, and Melody Loftheim is delighted to be a part of this experience. NDN

For more information, visit visitwcac.org.



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For a Healthy Life

By Erin Fryer

Caroline Fornshell lives her life by following one simple principal: Continuous Self Improvement (CSI).

As a seasoned Registered Dietician-Nutritionist, personal trainer, certified diabetic educator and owner of Longevity Wellness (LWell), Caroline knows about health. She may have a thriving business and excel at her role as a mother and athlete, but it's taken a lifetime of evolution to get where she is today.

"Nutrition was not a part of my life growing up," Caroline says. "I grew up drinking multiple sodas every day and having a lot of candy and Doritos. I would grab a handful of candy bars and that would be my lunch to take to school. I have come a long way, but I feel like I am still evolving. I don't think my journey to wellness will ever be complete."

Caroline says that sports really saved her. "I played soccer, lacrosse, rugby. I've run half marathons, full marathons, triathlons. You

name it, I've tried it."

Caroline graduated with her undergraduate degree in hospitality and tourism management from Virginia Tech and spent about five years working in the culinary field after graduation. She quickly found that environment was not conducive to her hobbies. "The restaurant scene was never going to work for me. They like to stay up late! As a runner, I get up early."

Because she was always athletic, Caroline was able to easily get into personal training. She had a flexible schedule to work around classes and began chipping away at the prerequisites she needed to go back to school.



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

After years of hard work, she obtained the Registered Dietician Credential and a Masters Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from the State University of New York at Oneonta. She completed the required clinical rotations through the Sentara Healthcare System throughout Hampton Roads.

Once she obtained the education and experience necessary to pursue her passion for wellness, Caroline began thinking of ways to execute her true calling: to elevate the existence of our community members through good health.

Five years ago she started LWell. From the

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very beginning, Caroline has stayed true to her mission. Whether people are self-educated about nutrition or they've never considered it, Caroline and her team of medical providers meet them where they are and elevate them from there.

Caroline says she is so thankful to be a dietician in this day and age when insurance companies recognize the pressing need for people with her experience. Insurance companies have started reimbursing for health coaching, and about 90% of what Caroline does is covered by insurance.

"Insurance companies are paying for the Diabetes Prevention Program I run through the YMCA," Caroline says. "They are also going beyond just diabetes coverage. Now we can cover a host of nutrition-related problems. I am so happy to be in this generation of dieticians with these resources."

Caroline's light bulb moment happened one day when she realized that 75% of the patients at the hospital where she was working had diabetes. This realization shook her to her core. "If I can prevent someone from getting diabetes, or at least help them manage it so they don't have to end up in the hospital, then that is literally my purpose for living."

Caroline admits that she is a bit of a science nerd. "I love understanding the nutritional biochemistry of every leaf. I want to know what's in it and how it works. I love to cook and love the science behind cooking. Before I went back to school, I had hit a wall in terms of what I could learn about cooking from a science perspective. I just wanted more information about food and missed learning. I didn't know what I was going to do when I went back to school for dietetics, I just knew I needed to be near it. I needed to continuously educate myself."

Well has grown to have eight providers including dieticians, therapists and one nurse educator. When Caroline first launched the

business, it started out as a small gym, but she quickly realized that that wasn't the best way to serve the greatest amount of people.

"I follow the CSI principal for my own evolution in wellness, but I am also doing it in my business," she says. "I am always aiming to improve what we do at LWell from a systems standpoint. We can serve so much of our community, and when we stop and do the math to add up how many years of quality life we have given back to our community, I feel so inspired."

You may be curious how an expert in health spends their days. Most of Caroline's mornings start between 4:30 and 5:00 a.m., but one day a week she wakes up at 3:00 a.m. to get some of the administrative tasks done for her business so that she can maximize her family time in the evenings. "No one interrupts me at 3 a.m.," she says with a laugh.

She always starts her day with a workout, usually consisting of a jog and then another workout using an app. Then, around 7:30 a.m., her three children begin to wake up for breakfast and their various activities or school.

Caroline's neighborhood has a trail but her main draw when she was moving to the area was the Virginia Capital Trail. "Some people want water, some want woods, I just wanted the Capital Trail," she says.

Then Caroline is back to work. In the office, after reviewing the files she needs to work on that day, she might hit the road to meet her clients at their various appointments, coordinate a "Lunch and Learn" program or lead her diabetes prevention program.

"I usually get home between 3:30 and 7:00 p.m., depending on what I have going on with the kids. At that point I focus on trying to initiate healthy lifestyles in my family. We take a lot of nature walks. My kids are involved in activities like swim team, lacrosse and flag football."

Caroline typically sits back down at her desk for about 30 minutes so she can keep up with text messages and emails, but she's always in bed by 8:30 or 9:00 p.m.

Caroline's main tip for people trying to live healthier lives is to not try to do everything at once. "The 'Start Monday' approach is the most common pitfall," she says. "Pick one new thing each week and master it. You'll find that taking small steps is the most effective approach."

If everyone could make one small change to better their health, Caroline's recommendation is very simple: laugh more.

"People ask me all the time, is it diet? Is it exercise? But the answer really is to eliminate as much stress as you can," she explains. "Take a deep breath. Stress will make any illness worse." Aside from laughter, Caroline recommends a daily outdoor walk.

For those looking to make positive changes to their nutrition, Caroline says keeping a food diary can work wonders. In fact, she may be a specialist and seasoned professional, but she still keeps a food diary of her own so she can determine when she may be overeating and when she may need to fuel more. "My food diary helps me learn about myself, my life, my stress, and my struggles. It's a useful tool for everybody. All you need is paper. It doesn't have to be fancy."

As for fitness, Caroline says we couldn't live in a better area to live a healthy lifestyle. "We have such a wide variety of extremely talented fitness professionals in Williamsburg," she says. "I have huge respect for the people who work here and serve the community."

As for Caroline Fornshell, her fitness goal is to be able to dive into any sport, at any time, and not get injured. "I like to run and jump and do all kinds of things. We live in the coolest area. You can do anything you want. I am so very thankful to live here." NDN

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September 8th

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Next Door Neighbors Home



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Providing a Community for the community

By Dawn Brotherton

The grounds of the Rolling Meadows Apartments are landscaped and well-maintained. Walking into the clubhouse, the warm, welcoming furniture near the fireplace invite comfort. Through the glass patio doors, the shimmering pool begs the residents to come play on a hot day.

The staff is equally welcoming. Jared Malec, community manager for Rolling Meadows since 2008, is proud and excited about the homes within their community. "It's affordable

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luxury living,” he says. “We have full-size tennis courts, a twenty-four-hour fitness center and a car care center.” The property stretches over 17 acres with 200 apartments: 150 two-bedrooms and 50 three-bedrooms.

Rolling Meadows is more than an apartment complex. Annual events for the residents include a pool party, holiday parties and an Earth Day egg hunt. A very well-attended event is National Night Out, complete with a visit from McGruff the Crime Dog. The community-building campaign promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Adults and children alike line the roads as the parade of police cars drive by. McGruff stops to pose for pictures with the kids. “We like doing lots of community involvement. Once a month we’ll donate to an organization like Heritage Humane Society,” Jared says.

Rolling Meadows opened its doors in 1993 and is managed by Grady Management Company. It was the first wave of the tax credit program housing and falls under the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. “This is success-driven housing in a sense because you’re allowed to be successful. You’re allowed to take new jobs and make more money without the chance of losing your housing.”

The LIHTC provides affordable housing choices for low-income families by providing rental assistance that allows families to reside in privately owned rental units. The public housing authority that administers the program pays the landlord the difference between a percentage of the household income and fair market rent prices. There are a few other LIHTC housing communities in this area, with consideration being made for more to be built.

In 2014, Rolling Meadows went through a major renovation including upgrades to kitchen appliances, cabinets, energy-saving windows and heat pumps. Replacing the half walls that previously lined the balconies with black iron railings allows more light to reach the apartment and give the courtyards an inviting look.

Jared is honored to announce that Rolling Meadows recently won the 2017 Hampton Roads Apartment Council Community of the Year award presented by the Virginia Department Management Association. They also garnered the 2017 SatisFact’s Resident Satisfaction Property Award Winner, in which input was gathered from the residents and measured

through the SatisFacts’ Insite and Annual survey program. This award means a lot to Jared because it is the residents who gave them such a high score.

“We’ve got a lot of long-term residents,” Jared says. The staff have also been working together for a while, a testament to the family-feel the residents receive when they need something from the office. They have a number of employees who have been at Rolling Meadows for more than eight years. “Even our short-term employees are going on three years. So that’s an achievement in itself for a group of people to work that long together.”

Jared’s favorite part about Rolling Meadows is the daily interaction with people. “Nobody wants to live in a complex. Nobody wants to live in an apartment unit. They want to live in an apartment home. What we try to really provide for people is a community,” Jared explains.

Jared has moved many times over the years and experienced different cultures. He understands what it means for residents to have a sense of community. While his father was in the Air Force, Jared was born at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. When Jared was still a baby, his family moved to Mildenhall Air Base, England, and he attended British schools until he was eight years old. He even picked up the British accent, bringing it back to Texas on their next move. Eventually Jared’s father retired out in San Antonio, Texas, where Jared lived until he was 21 years old.

Ready to expand his horizons, Jared moved to Arlington, Virginia, where he worked full-time in retirement communities while going to college studying for a Parks and Recreation degree. Over time, Jared learned the various aspects of property management. He worked in the recreation department, as a front desk manager, maintenance office manager, engineering office manager, maintenance supervisor and in sales.

He tried his hand in the hotel industry for a short spell but preferred the feel one gets working in a community rather than short-term stays. “Building long-term lasting relationships is really what drew me to the property management side. Getting to use those skills of asset management, like physical plant operations, facilities, it really felt like a natural fit,” Jared says.

As part of his career progression, Jared was drawn to the Williamsburg area and all it has to offer. “Being a parks and rec major, it’s like

living a dream out here. Everywhere you go, there’s National Park, historical and environmental stuff.”

Jared is a proud father of three school-aged children, Cassidy, Jared Jr (JJ) and Teddy River. He is very active in the community and encourages his children to be that way as well. As a family, they sponsored the Powhatan Creek Park clean-up and collected over 30 pounds of non-organic trash from the water. Jared also volunteers for James River Association to assist in monitoring the water quality.

“I would always take one of the kids with me and do the water samples. Being good stewards of the community and the environment is huge to us.”


As the kids got older, Jared switched his attention to the schools and is now the Vice President for the PTA in Laurel Lane Elementary School. He is a firm believer in getting involved with his kids’ activities. He is especially passionate about the King Penguin Program. “It’s designed to get men involved whether you’re a parent, an uncle, a grandpa or a neighbor. It’s about getting men in the school to volunteer.”

When he isn’t volunteering, Jared is an avid guitar player, and he’s teaching his kids to play. But the water continues to call him. He fishes year-round, and his father, who lives locally, just purchased a boat, so Jared is looking forward to teaching the kids more about boating.

For Jared Malec, one of the draws to Jamestown was the connection to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and William and Mary and the many programs they offer.

“We’re very outdoorsy people. We’re always down on the parkway, walking on the beach and collecting crabs. It’s one of the reasons we moved here. We want to be fully invested in the lifestyle. We can walk to the Jamestown Settlement Museum, and we do that three or four times a week. After dinner, we walk to the marina or the beach park.”

He believes learning opportunities are everywhere, with little need to go anywhere outside of Hampton Roads for a vacation.

“I’ve heard it said you’re only really building your intelligence or utilizing your intelligence when your imagination is on one hundred percent. One of those times is when you’re staring at water. The mind can’t block out the curiosity of what’s under the water; it’s like an innate sense.” 

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Hey Neighbor!

PORTRAIT SHOW

Through August 31, 2018

The Williamsburg Portrait Guild is exhibiting member works at the Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center's Main Gallery. 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 am -3 pm; Sun. noon-4 pm.

Hey Neighbor!

BRUTON PARISH BOOK SALE TO BENEFIT YOUTH MISSION

August 31 – September 2, 2018

Hours: Friday 9 am – 5 pm, Saturday 9 am – 5 pm; Sunday 10 am – 3 pm. Always low, low prices on 1000's of hardcover and paperback books, cookbooks, puzzles, CDs & DVDs. Sunday special: Buy one, get one same/lower price for free – fill a paper grocery bag for only \$7. Bruton Parish House, 331 Duke of Gloucester St., Williamsburg. Contact booksale@brutonparish.org or 757-229-2891.

Hey Neighbor!

WILLIAMSBURG FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays in September 2018

Enjoy the heart of Williamsburg from 8 am – 12 noon in Merchants Square while shopping in this producer-only market for produce, prepared food, fish, artisan cheeses, meats, cut flowers, and handmade soaps. The market includes live music (9-11 am), chef demonstrations (9:30 – 11 am) and children's activities. The market now accepts SNAP/EBT, credit cards and live music from 9 – 11 am.

Hey Neighbor!

KARAOKE IN THE PARK

September 1 & September 29, 2018

From 7-9 p.m. All ages, FREE! Chickahominy Riverfront Park, 1350 John Tyler Highway. Sing the night away while enjoying the park!

All ages welcome, 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Weather permitting/hotline 757-259-3232; jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation.

Hey Neighbor!

WCAC'S NEWEST MEMBERS' CO-OP SHOW

September 4-October 12, 2018

The Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center is holding its fourth 2018 Members Co-op Show. Featuring emerging and established artists with larger bodies of work, the Members Co-op Show offers a wide variety of 2D and 3D mediums and styles in the Main and Middle Galleries. Hours: Tues.-Sat., 11 am – 3 pm and Sun., 12-4 pm. For more information, call (757) 229-4949 or see www.visitWCAC.org. WCAC is located in the Blue Building at 110 Westover Avenue. Free.

Hey Neighbor!

MOVIE NIGHTS

September 7, 2018

From 6-8 p.m. FREE! Abram Frink Jr. Community Center, 8901 Pocahontas Trail. Bring a blanket/pillow and join us for family friendly movie nights held inside the multipurpose room. Popcorn and drinks provided. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Scheduled featured: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul (2017) PG; movie subject to change. Info: 757-887-5810; jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation.

Hey Neighbor!

UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

September 7, 2018

United Way's Day of Caring is a long standing tradition that kicks off the annual campaign and has joined caring volunteers with community agencies, schools and organizations in volunteer opportunities for years. Together, the partnerships create stronger communities and healthier people through a wide variety of service projects. This year's Day of Caring is set for Friday, September 7th, 2018. Help spread kindness and

make change this year by signing up to volunteer for Day of Caring 2018. For more information, a current list of projects, and to sign up to volunteer for Day of Caring, visit: www.uwvp.org.

Hey Neighbor!

DROOL IN THE POOL

September 8, 2018

From 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$10/dog. Chickahominy Riverfront Park pool, 1350 John Tyler Highway. This popular dog swim day is eagerly anticipated each year! Pool passes for your dog will be available onsite at the gate. Music, refreshments (\$) and goodies featured! All proceeds benefit the animals of Heritage Humane Society. Weather permitting/hotline 757-259-3232. For more details, visit heritagehumanesociety.org.

Hey Neighbor!

KIWANIS 39th ANNUAL SHRIMP FEAST

September 8, 2018

All you can eat shrimp, hush puppies, bean 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!

BOOK SIGNING: 'JUST BREATHE' JOURNEY OF A FRIENDSHIP

September 8, 2018

Barnes & Noble Book Store on the campus of William & Mary, 345 West Duke of Gloucester Street from 2-6 pm. Local authors, Judy Bernath & Alice Green, with Just Breathe non-profit organization.

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.hareandtortoisefunrunwalk.com. John M. O'Hare, Race Director, at john@hareandtortoisefunrunwalk.com.

Hey Neighbor!

WILLIAMSBURG

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

September 10, 2018

At 1 pm, persons with Parkinson's and their caregivers can hear from Dr. William Hackworth, of Peninsula Gastroenterology. His illustrated talk answers the question; "What's happening in the GI Tract with Parkinson's?" Join us as we learn and share our experiences. Refreshments will be served. Contact Jacob Hostetter at 757- 221-0160 or WPSG@cox.net for more information.

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 is conducted by former public school music teachers, Genrose Lashinger and Ann Porter. 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. A warm welcome to all who might be interested. Contact Ann Porter, aportermusic0@gmail.com or cell phone, 757-810-0068 for membership information.

Hey Neighbor! **WHAT IS THE BIBLE...REALLY?** September 12-14, 2018

At 7 pm in the Williamsburg Public Library Theater. The words of the Bible are used by so many to defend their positions, and make points in debate. But have you ever wondered if "that's what it really said" or what it really meant? Come and explore this incredible book in a free series at the Williamsburg Public Library Theater. We will be considering what's included in this ancient collection of literature, how we got it - from the work of ancient scribes to how the canon was formed, and then how to understand and apply it today. Contact Pastor Renee at 703-638-3428 with any questions about the event.

Hey Neighbor! **OPERA IN WILLIAMSBURG** September 12 & 14 & 16, 2018

Verdi's La Traviata, will be performed at the Kimball Theatre in Williamsburg. Details and tickets are available on Opera in Williamsburg's web site, www.operainwilliamsburg.org, at the Kimball box office, and at 1-800-249-0179. La Traviata is the most popular opera in the world today. The story is timeless - a woman who gives up everything for love, only to give up her love for the sake of her beloved. For details of the production and of the company, see www.operainwilliamsburg.org, or contact Naama@Operain-Williamsburg.org, or Dot Bryant at 757-871-3653.

Hey Neighbor! **HARVEST FESTIVAL & SCARECROW STUFFING** September 15, 2018

From 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission: \$5/ car (cash or check only); \$20/scarecrow (includes all supplies). Chickahominy Riverfront Park, 1350 John Tyler Highway. Come enjoy the

sights and activities at this annual event! Arts and crafts, food, games, inflatables and more! Scarecrow Stuffing will be back again! Make the biggest and the best scarecrow in your neighborhood! First come, first served while supplies last. Don't forget your camera! Weather permitting/hotline 757-259-3232; jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation.

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! Explore God with us and join the conversation. For more information, visit www.explorethegod.com/historic-triangle.

Hey Neighbor! **DISCOVERY LAB AT VIMS - MARINE CAREERS** September 18, 2018

Join us as we explore the variety of careers related to the marine environment - from fishing and crabbing, to shipbuilding, tourism, and research. Participants will get hands-on experience with "tools of the trade" associated with different marine-related careers as well as hear about how people in different careers and with different interests come together to support sustainable oyster harvests in the Bay. All Discovery Labs take place from 6-8 pm (presentation from 6:30-7 pm) on the VIMS campus in Gloucester Point. Registration is required due to limited space. Visit www.vims.edu/events or call 804-684-7061 to register and to find out more information on this and all upcoming Discovery Lab.

Hey Neighbor! **THE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF WILLIAMSBURG** September 18, 2018

The Attacca Quartet performs at 8

pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. Internationally acclaimed Attacca is one of the most dynamic ensembles of their generation. Attacca tours extensively throughout the United States and abroad and presents the ongoing Based on Beethoven series in Manhattan. For further information and tickets visit our website --- chamber-musicwilliamsburg.org.

Hey Neighbor! **WILLIAMSBURG MUSIC CLUB: ALEXANDRA KATLYN MULLINS, HARPIS** September 19, 2018

The Williamsburg Music Club proudly presents a solo performance by the outstanding Williamsburg musician, Alexandra Katlyn Mullins at the opening concert of the Music Club's 2018-19 season. Ms. Mullins will perform works by Mouille, Rota, Tailleferre and Spohr. Additionally, our guest harpist will present her own arrangement of the Liszt Liebestraum No.3, and conclude the program with Manuel De Falla's exciting Spanish Dance No. 1. The Music begins at 11 am in Lewis Hall of Bruton Parish, 331 Duke of Gloucester Street, next to the B&N bookstore. Meeting & Coffee at 10 am. www.williamsburgmusicclub.org, 757-291-9082.

Hey Neighbor! **WMCI FALL COMMUNITY COURSES AND EVENTS** September 20, 2018

The William and Mary Confucius Institute is offering a variety of language and culture courses from September 17 - October 11 (Session 1) and October 22 - November 15 (Session 2). The cost for each course is \$10/class, to be paid in full on the first day of class. In general, each session holds about 8 classes per course (\$80). W&M faculty, staff, and students always receive a 50% discount (e.g. \$40 for 8 classes). 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! **OLDE TOWNE MEDICAL & DENTAL CENTER 25TH ANNIVERSARY** September 21, 2018

Olde Towne Medical & Dental Center, founded in 1993, is a safety net community medical and dental clinic serving 5,500 patients annually who live and work in the greater Williamsburg area. Eighty percent of Olde Towne's patients are uninsured

however, no one is turned away for their inability to pay. At the Colonial Heritage Ballroom, Olde Towne will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a cocktail hour, four course dinner, music/dancing to Good Shot Judy and a Live/Silent Auction. Sponsorships and program advertisements are available. Individual tickets are \$125 each. Call Jan MacQueston, director of development, 757-259-3252, or contact Jan.MacQueston@jamescitycountyva.gov for additional information.

Hey Neighbor! **BLACK SETTLEMENT PRESENTATION & BOOK SIGNING** September 22, 2018

From 3-4 p.m. All ages, FREE! Freedom Park Interpretive Center, 5537 Centerville Road. Join Col. Lafayette Jones Jr., a descendant of those that lived on the Free Black Settlement at Freedom Park for a presentation and book signing. You'll experience 18th century life more than 60 years before the Emancipation Proclamation. Info: jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation.

Hey Neighbor! **AFTER HOURS LECTURE AT VIMS** September 27, 2016

Barrier islands and their marshes and bays are home to diverse ecological communities and large-scale infrastructure. Although they are a seemingly permanent feature of our coasts, these islands are among the most rapidly-changing landscapes on earth. Join us as Dr. Christopher Hein shares the geology, human history, and modern change seen along barrier islands in Virginia and around the world. All lectures take place at 7 pm in Watermen's Hall on the VIMS campus, 1375 Greate Road, Gloucester Point. Reservations to this free, public lecture are required due to limited space. Visit www.vims.edu/events or call 804-684-7061 to register or to find out more information about this and future After Hours lectures.

Hey Neighbor! **MOVIES UNDER THE STARS** September 28, 2018

8:30 p.m. All ages, FREE! Chickahominy Riverfront Park, 1350 John Tyler Highway. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and snacks. We'll bring the stars. Children 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Schedule feature: Sing" (PG); movies subject to change. Weather permitting/hotline 757-259-3232; jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation.

Hey Neighbor!

JAMES RIVER FEST

September 29, 2018

From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. All ages, FREE! Jamestown Beach Event Park, 2205 Jamestown Road. Family-oriented and environmentally focused, James RiverFest is an event celebrating and building advocacy for the James River, a major tributary to the Chesapeake Bay, and its environmental and cultural significance to our region. Hands-on educational activities for children, interpretive paddles hosted by the James River Association, a live archaeology dig and opportunities to reduce waste and improve water quality through innovative designs. Info: <https://jrava.org>

Hey Neighbor!

WESTOVER EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S AUTUMN PILGRIMAGE HOUSE TOUR

September 29, 2018

Celebrate history from 9 am - 5 pm. There are four beautiful plantations, Sherwood Forest, Westover, Shirley and Berkeley as well as River Pointe, Governor Wilders summer home, BarnStone a beautiful post and beam barn restored into a \$900 a night B and B, Dogham Farm 1637, and Westover Episcopal Church one of the oldest churches in Virginia. A total of 8 venues for advanced tickets are \$40.00, day of the event \$45. Box lunches may be ordered in advance. Brunswick stew, Pulled Pork, hot dogs and hamburgers for sale at the church. For more information call 757-561-6430 or visit westoverepiscopalchurch.org.

Hey Neighbor!

SCORE POINTS FOR SPRINGERS!

September 29, 2018

Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue (MAESSR) will host its sixth annual Captain's Choice golf tournament at the Kiskiack Golf Club in Croaker. Registration will open at 8 am with a Shotgun Start at 9 am. The entry fee, which is \$75 per individual and \$300 for teams, includes green fees, cart, practice balls, and cookout-style lunch. Hole sponsorship plus team is \$420. There will be raffles, free range balls, and other prizes. For more information, contact John Keegan at 757-869-3049 or Rick Larner at 757-645-7369. Online registration is available at www.maessr.org/specialevents.aspx.

Hey Neighbor!

5TH ANNUAL HISTORIC VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVANCY (HVLC) CREEKSIDE CONSERVANCY CELEBRATION

September 30, 2018

Please join us at The Williamsburg Winery from 4:30 - 7:30 pm in Wessex Hall and enjoy a casual fall evening of southern comfort food, live music with Smith-Wade the duo, wine, beer, raffle prizes and a pie bar! HVLC helped place conservation easements on 274 acres of the Winery, and with your support, we can continue to protect additional beautiful greenspace in our community. Tickets are limited to adults only. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit HistoricVirginiaLandConservancy.org or call 757-565-0343.

Hey Neighbor!

RESPIRE BENEFIT LUNCHEON

October 3, 2018

At 11:30 am at Williamsburg United Methodist Church, catered at no cost by Carrabba's Italian Grill. 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!

AN OCCASION FOR THE ARTS COMMEMORATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

October 5-7, 2018

Free and open to all. AOFTA provides an inspiring celebration of visual and performing arts in and beyond Merchants Square of Colonial Williamsburg. The juried show brings the work of talented fine artists, local youth artists, and lively performing artists together for an event that offers something for everyone. Virginia artist Carlton Abbott has created the 50th anniversary poster for AOFTA which will be available for sale at the show. AOFTA includes artists from virtually all media, including drawing, glass, printmaking, jewelry, fiber, metal, photography and more. There will be a champagne toast to commemorate the 50th show. The artist gallery and performance guide, as well as more information on special 50th Anniversary events, will be available soon at www.aofta.org.

Hey Neighbor!

WJCC COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY 50TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

October 12-13, 2018

At the Messmer Historic Triangle

Community Services Center at 312 Waller Mill Road. Gala Friday 6 - 10 pm, tickets \$20. Block Party Saturday, 11 am - 3 pm, free admission, games \$1. Proceeds support the WJCC Community Action Agency's Head Start, Project Discovery, Weatherization and support programs. Get your tickets at <https://wjcc-caa-dineandparty.eventbrite.com> or www.wjcc-caa. Contact Liz at 757-229-9332 to sponsor or book a Block Party table!

Hey Neighbor!

DIVORCE CARE SUPPORT GROUP

October 15, 2018

Divorce Care Support Group will meet on Mondays from 6:30 - 8:30 pm for thirteen consecutive weeks until January 14, 2019. It is open to all individuals who are in the process of separation / divorce. Divorce Care Support Group addresses the emotional impact you and your children are experiencing and the avenues of empowerment to continue a Healthy Christian Journey. It is Christian Based and is a Safe Confidential environment to share your feelings. Please consider joining us, or share with a friend who could benefit from this. Contact Registration information, Pat Boffardi, Patboff@Gmail.com or Office@KOGVA.ORG, 4897 Longhill Rd. Williamsburg.

Hey Neighbor!

WILLIAMSBURG MUSIC CLUB: ADAM SCOTT CLIFFORD, PIANO

October 17, 2018

For its second concert of the season, the Williamsburg Music Club proudly presents the gifted and virtuosic pianist, Adam Scott Clifford, from Hoboken, New Jersey. The fascinating Mr. Clifford will present his program: "Examining Character in the Music of Haydn, Beethoven & Chopin." Music begins at 11 a.m., business meeting and coffee at 10 am in Lewis Hall of Bruton Parish, 331 Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg, next to the B&N bookstore. www.williamsburgmusicclub.org, 757-291-9082.

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!

AFTER HOURS LECTURE AT VIMS - STRANGE BUT TRUE TALES OF THE SALT MARSH

October 25, 2018

Why do zombie crustaceans mindlessly wander the marsh? Why can't a snail let go of its past? Join us as Dr. David Johnson of VIMS answers these questions and shares stories of the strange animals wonderfully adapted to life in a salt marsh. All After Hours lectures take place at 7 pm in Watermen's Hall on the VIMS campus, 1375 Greate Road, Gloucester Point. Reservations to this free, public lecture are required due to limited space. Visit www.vims.edu/events or call 804-684-7061 to register or to find out more information about this and future After Hours lectures.

Hey Neighbor!

VIRGINIA THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL

November 4, 2018

From noon to 4 pm, celebrate the re-enactment of America's first Thanksgiving at Berkeley Plantation. The festival begins with a parade including horse-drawn carriages, fife and drum corps, festival entertainers and participants. First person re-enactors, musicians and magicians stroll the plantation grounds. It is an exciting, educational and enjoyable day for the whole family! For additional information call 804-829-6018 or 1-888-466-6018 or go to www.virginiathanksgivingfestival.com. There is a \$10 per car, \$5 per bike, and \$20 per bus parking fee to help support the festival and a charge for house and museum tours.

Hey Neighbor!

AVALON CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

November 2, 2018

Join us for the second annual golf tournament fundraiser - ticket proceeds support Avalon Center's mission to end domestic and sexual violence. Registration and information at avaloncenter.org/avalon-classic. Also seeking corporate sponsors!

Hey Neighbor!

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Ongoing

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!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ongoing

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. Contact: Diane Harrah, Program Assistant, Williamsburg F.R.E.E., 757-707-4741 or www.free-foundation.org. 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! **WILLIAMSBURG PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP**

Ongoing

Persons with Parkinson's and their caregivers meet at the Williamsburg Landing Health Club and Spa on the second Monday of each month at 1 pm. Join us as we learn from experts and share our experiences. Contact Jacob Hostetter at 757-221-0160 or WPSG@cox.net for more information.

Hey Neighbor! **MOM'S PRAYING FOR CHILDREN & SCHOOLS**

Ongoing

You can't be the perfect mom, but you can be a praying mom. Moms join together to pray for our children. No matter what age group, Pre-K to Graduate student, adult children and grandchildren. Now more than ever our children and our schools need the peace and power of prayer. Moms in Prayer International meets weekly every Wednesday at Calvary Chapel Williamsburg from 1 - 2 pm. Calvary Chapel is located at 5535 Olde Towne Road (behind Food Lion). Contact Info: Jeanne Hallman, 757-220-8400, Jeanne4J@cox.net

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. On the fourth Saturdays, the walks are always held at New Quarter Park. Join them 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.

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! **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! **GROVE COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Ongoing

Come grow with us!!! We are always happy to have volunteers come plant, prune, weed or water the garden! 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! **WHITE CLOUD ZEN MEDITATION GROUP**

Ongoing

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 designated 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 for details and fully updated schedule. 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 cost (per student) to put a student through the program and achieve their private pilot's license is approximately \$11,000.00. The student pilot pays nothing. Our program pays the total bill. Your donations to this program are tax deductible when you file your State and Federal Income Tax. Please make your check payable and mail to: Williamsburg Aviation Scholarship Program, 102 Marclay Road, Williamsburg, Va. 23185. You may also drop your check off at the airport in person.

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

Ongoing

The Monticello Woods Club House, 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 ASSOCIATION FALL SEMESTER MEMBERSHIP, COURSE, LECTURE, AND ACTIVITY REQUESTS**

Ongoing

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

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.

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

**EXPANSION
COLONIAL
WILLIAMSBURG
ART MUSEUMS**

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

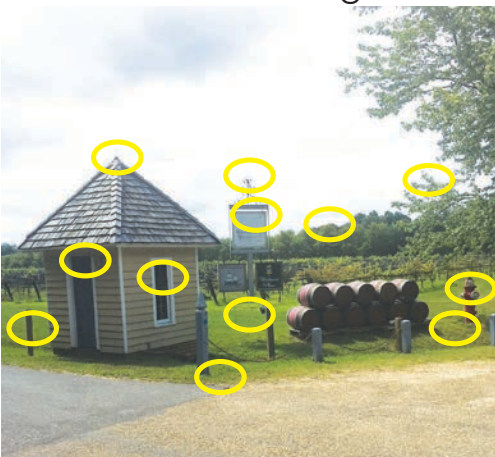
Enjoy!

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

AUGUST 2018
In the Neighborhood
Photo Challenge



INTERMEDIATE



Ripped, Torn, Sprained, Shattered



Pictured (l-r): John Barley IV, D.O.; Scott Kling, M.D.; Robyn Vargo, D.O.

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- Scott Kling, M.D.
Sports Medicine
- John McGee, M.D.
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- Jeffrey Levy, D.O.
General Orthopedics
- Rory Sandberg, M.D.
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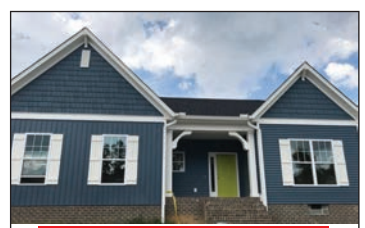
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