# 

Discovering the people who call Williamsburg home

# Michael Steen

ar

entene

www.WilliamsburgNeighbors.com



# Swing Free from Your Hip Pain

Riverside's network of orthopedic specialists use the latest technology so you can get back to the active life you love.



Orthopedic Specialists

riversideonline.com/ortho

Welcoming new patients! Call for an appointment: 757-243-1565

# **PICK YOUR PANORAMA** IZ MOORE



HW flooring, eat-in area, keeping area & a wet-bar. Gracious master retreat offers en-suite BA & large walk-in closet. Screened porch overlooks huge fenced backyard. Centrally located to all Williamsburg has to offer with low taxes!





FORD'S COLONY 4 bedrooms • 3.5 baths • 3647 sqft Immaculate home in gated Ford's Colony overlooking golf course & water. Features 4 BRs, bonus room & 3.5 BAs. First level offers formal DR w/butler's pantry. LR can serve as formal area or study w/built-ins. Spacious kitchen w/abundance of cabinets & island which overlooks sunroom & eatin area filled w/windows. This area extends to family room w/ gas FP, built-ins & amazing views. Spacious deck! \$639,900.







Let's Get Started Today! ist with Leigh Ann LEIGH ANN FISHER, **REALTOR®** 757-784-3230 leighannfisher@lizmoore.com **107 ELTHAM • FORDS COLONY** 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2,500 sqft, \$400,000 Your guests will be envious of the curb appeal of this beauti-ful home! A fantastic floor plan that will fit any lifestyle. Roof, HVAC and major systems all upgraded. Just move in! carter Integrity • Energy • Hard Wor 757-645-2144



4500 BASSWOOD WAY Powhatan Secondary • \$265,000 A great design for easy living! Perfect patio home for downsizing, 1st time home-owner or vacation home. This home has been meticulously maintained: beautiful wood floors, new carpet & freshly painted say welcome home! It is a 2 bedroom home with a fabulous sun room all on the first floor...no steps! A great community close to shopping, dining, medical, New Town, William & Mary, & interstate. A must see!





## Let Us Help You Navigate Your Financial Future

#### **PRODUCTS & SERVICES**

- Investment Planning & Asset Management
- Retirement Planning
- Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds & ETFs
- Long Term Care & Life Insurance



Let's talk about your financial goals!

Tom Vitaletti Wealth Strategist/Program Manager thomas.vitaletti@lpl.com

4139 Ironbound Road | Williamsburg, VA 23188

#### OldPointInvestmentServices.com 757.728.1865

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor, member FINRA/SIPC. Insurance products offered through LPL Financial or its licensed affiliates.

The investment products sold through LPL Financial are not insured Old Point National Bank deposits and are not FDIC insured. These products are not obligations of Old Point National Bank and are not endorsed, recommended or guaranteed by Old Point National Bank or any government agency. The value of the investment may fluctuate, the return on the investment is not guaranteed, and loss of principal is possible.



Meredith Collins, Publisher

For many of us, when we think of warm weather, we think BEACH! Even when we don't have the time or resources to visit a beach nearby, we can always find a body of water. After all, Williamsburg is surrounded by water.

The people we meet in this issue seem to have water in their veins, inspiring them to celebrate the aquatic life and act as ambassadors spreading the word on the joys of safely enjoying Williamsburg's vast water resources. I

can relate. I have enjoyed the water my entire life - swimming, fishing, jet skiing, water skiing and just about any other water-based activity you can name. I'm a good swimmer and I enjoy the water. It is another reason I love Williamsburg. There is a creek or lake or river or pool or other form of water around every bend.

Our guests in this also issue temper their enthusiasm for offshore recreation by stressing the importance of taking precautions and enjoying the water safely. It makes good sense and does not take much effort for it to become a lifesaving move. So, once you are properly and safely prepared, go for it! If you have friends, family, and neighbors and are looking for some memorable fun, it's a simple recipe. Just add water!

# Inside

- 5. Michael Steen
- 8. Chris Woodfin
- 11. Hank Moseley
- 14. Steve Living
- 16. Kayla Jones
- 19. Ron Cagle
- 22. Pamela Mason
- 25. Ben Knecht
- 27. Trevor Barker

- 29. Martha Hunsucker
- 31. Neighbor to Neighbor
- 32. Molly Gareis
- 34. Kim Viniard
- 36. Marika Hopkins
- 38. Sonya Thomas
- 41. Liz Sword
- 44. Hey Neighbor!
- 47. In the Neighborhood

© 2020 Collins Group, LLC. *Williamsburg's Next Door Neighbors* is a community publication solely owned by Collins Group, LLC. It is published monthly for Williamsburg area residents. The stories within this publication are intended to introduce readers to their neighbors and are not endorsements for those individuals, their abilities, interests or profession.



#### **MICHAEL STEEN**



From an office overlooking the York River, Michael Steen, the Director of Education for the Watermen's Museum, schedules upcoming classes, prepares lesson plans and writes grants. But he does more than just the planning portion of the classes and events. Michael can often be seen out on the beach teaching people how to use a seine net or helping to build boats or talking about the history of the Native Americans in this area. His job is varied and he loves every aspect of it.

Originally from Annapolis, Maryland, Michael was raised on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. His educational credits are impressive and highlight a man who loves both research and learning. He attended the Virginia Military Institute where he earned a Bachelor's degree in History, then went on to earn a Master's Degree in Tourism from the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). His education continued at VCU as he conducted his PhD work in Public Policy and Administration. He is also a Virginia Natural Resource Leadership Institute fellow with the University of Virginia.

Michael's work history is colorful and varied, ranging from working with the Yorktown-Jamestown Foundation, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the National Park Service, Chesterfield County and Rappahannock Community College. Along the way he learned and grew and did what he loved: educating people about history and natural science.

In 2009, things changed for Michael.

"Dave Niebuhr, a good friend of mine who I've done education programs with for over 35 years, came on here as the new director of the museum," Michael says. At that time, Dave contacted Michael to persuade him to work with the Watermen's Museum, an offer Michael accepted. Since 2009, Michael has served as the Director of Education.

One of the aspects Michael loves about his work with the Watermen's Museum is that he is able to combine his love of history with his passion for environmental science. "Working here allows me to meld the two together, which I've been pushing forever," he says. "You can't study history if you don't study the environment. You can't study natural history, or the history of evolution of the environment, unless you put the human factor in there also." He notes that often school systems have to pull those subjects apart and not discuss them at the same time, whereas he is not bound by the same limitations and can present the material in a more integrated manner.

"The focus here is the history of Chesapeake Bay," he says.

Today, Michael runs a large number of educational programs from this location. From summer pirate camps to programs such as the Captain John Smith Water Trail, Michael and the team at the Watermen's Museum work diligently to ensure that all visitors have access to many ongoing programs.

"The goal here is to teach the history and show how the history evolves and melds together. Until recent history, everything traveled by water. So, life along the waterfront is integral to Virginia history, then US history, for that matter," he says. Part of their programming ensures that people understand the consequences of overfishing, a practice which depletes the stock and has a variety of consequences for the marine environment. "No one ever talked about what has happened to all the shellfish and all the fish; they've pretty much gone away. We're completely wiped out. Overfishing is part of the story, but pollution is the other part of the story. There's all kinds of things that meld to-NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORSAPRIL2020 5 gether to cause that horrendous problem, but overfishing was definitely part of it."

To illustrate what they teach, Michael and his team take kids down to the shoreline so they can look into the water. "We take a seine net and we look for fish, which leads into the conversation of what fish do we have and what's missing. Why aren't there any big fish anymore." These conversations also lead to talks about replenishment efforts, including the oyster reef that they are creating.

"We're doing living shoreline projects with the kids, trying to rebuild the dunes and create habitat on the waterfront." Michael says that the history aspect of what they teach is necessary in order to understand how our culture has evolved into what it is today. "You have to know the history of what comes before you. So we have to know about the Native Americans in order to understand with the colonists did. You have to know what happened in American Revolution and the Civil War, and all those other big technological impacts. If you don't understand those things you can't understand how we ended up here today."

Michael and his wife enjoy living in Williamsburg, and he manages to stay very active outside of his work at the Watermen's Museum.

"When I am not at the museum, my other main cause is Relay for Life," he says. He is part of Team Shenanigans who host monthly small music programs throughout the year at Retro Daddio's, Billsburg Brewery, and Second Sundays. "The big one is Tartan and Tye Dyes on April 18 from 11 to 9 p.m. at the Billsburg Brewery. There will be 15 bands on three stages, and everybody is performing to raise money for the American Cancer Society." In addition, he is working on putting in a dance floor this year for the cloggers and Irish dance groups to perform on. "Volunteers are always welcome to come out and help!"

His work at the museum is generally very busy. In addition to hosting field trips for Virginia schools, Michael organizes summer camps, numerous programs either ongoing or in the planning stages, monthly events including folk jams, storyteller sessions, TGIF events and weekly summer concerts. They host numerous other events throughout the year, such as the Annual Oyster Roast and Annual Chili Cook-Off.

Being on and near the water and educating people about what is around us is all part of a way of life that Michael embraces. "People need to get out here and experience water and experience the environment," he says with a smile.

Michael Steen is passionate about what he sees happening in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay as well as the world's oceans. "I start thinking about what's actually going on, whether it's a 1,000 year cycle or it's all caused by us or some divine intervention is punishing us. Whatever the cause, it's happening. The fish migrations have all changed; there are species such as shad that have pretty much left the bay. The rock fish, who ate the shad, are leaving the bay too, and the small fish are migrating in a month and a half earlier. So, the rockfish are here in August but we can't fish for them in November, they're already gone." He stresses that the changes are becoming more obvious. "The water's getting warmer. We have seahorses on the rocks up here. There are starfish moving into the bay. There are pods of dolphins 20 at a time on this river daily. Manatee are going to Baltimore. The small species in the marshes are disappearing. Because the water is changing, we don't notice the two inch rise. We don't notice the three degree change in temperature, it doesn't affect us, but it affects everything else. You have to get out, you have to think about it, you have to embrace what you have and start planning for the future." NDN



# **Destination Recreation** *Our Waterways*!



James City County's waterways are a paradise, attracting settlers from around the world since 1607. Within our historic, scenic and recreational settings are priceless national resources, including seven parks along the shorelines of the James and Chickahominy Rivers. We are preserving our history and protecting our precious environment, and there's room for so much fun! Come out and play!

#### **Brickyard Landing**

\*boat ramp

#### Chickahominy Riverfront Park

\*outdoor pool & splash pad, canoe & kayak rentals, launch ramp, fishing, boat/RV storage

#### **Diascund Reservoir Park**

\*boat ramp (electric trolling motors only), fishing

#### James City County Marina

\*full service marina, canoe, kayak, standup paddleboard & bike rentals, kayak launch, boat storage

#### Jamestown Event Beach Park

\*beachfront, fishing, ADA-accessible observation pier, kayak & standup paddleboard rentals, paddlecraft launch area, paddlecraft storage

#### Little Creek Reservoir Park

\*fishing, an angler's paradise! Jon boat, canoe & kayak rentals, boat launch ramp (electric trolling motors only), paddle craft storage

#### Powhatan Creek Park & Blueway

\*access to the James River at Jamestown Island, scenic views of tidal marshes and wildlife, unique, small non-motorized boat/ canoe/kayak launch, parking for 20 vehicles, five observation/fishing piers.

#### **Contact Us!**

For the complete list of Parks & Recreation programs, parks and facilities, visit us online at jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation or call 757-259-4200.

The Winter/Spring Destination Recreation Activity Brochure is available online, at County offices, park facilities and at the Williamsburg and James City County libraries! Look for the Summer edition on April 29!

Brickyard Landing 990 Brickyard Road (off Forge Road) • 757-259-5360

Chickahominy Riverfront Park 1350 John Tyler Highway • 757-258-5020

Disascund Creek Reservoir Park 9551 Diascund Reservoir Park • 757-259-5360

James City County Marina 2054 Jamestown Road • 757-565-3699

Jamestown Event Beach Park 2205 Jamestown Road • 757-259-5360

Little Creek Reservoir Park 180 Lakeview Drive (off Forge Road) in Toano 757-603-7853

Powhatan Creek Park & Blueway 1831 Jamestown Road • 757-259-5360

In the event of inclement weather, please call 757-259-5360.







## **CHRIS WOODFIN**



# A Fisherman's Dream

One might expect the owner of a bait and tackle store to be a knowledgeable fisherman, but not also a retired pharmacist. Chris Woodfin, the owner of Hooker's Bait and Tackle, is both knowledgeable and passionate about fishing. "I grew up fishing in farm and country By Susan Williamson

club ponds in Pittsylvania County." His family owned Woodfin's Pharmacy in Chatham, and an opportunity to invest in a local pharmacy brought his family to the Williamsburg area when he was in college. His dad came out of retirement to open a pharmacy with his brother-in-law. At one time, they owned Five Forks Discount Drugs in Williamsburg which was sold to Eckerd in 1998, as well as Denbigh Pharmacy in Newport News.

Neither Chris nor his older brother planned to follow their dad and other relatives into phar-



maceutical business. Chris graduated from Old Dominion University with a degree in financial management and began to make a living. His older brother earned a degree in electrical engineering and was working as an engineer, when the brothers thought about their future. Looking at the big picture caused both Chris and his brother to decide on going to pharmacy school.

"I had a year of pre-requisites to take and then I went to pharmacy school at the Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University." His older brother didn't decide to take the same step until three weeks later, and he ended up in the next year's class.

Not only did Chris earn a Degree in Pharmacy, he also met his wife, Kim. Chris says, "I always liked fishing, but after I got out of school, I tried tournament bass fishing. I was addicted." Chris and his wife live in Croaker, and he often visited Hooker's Bait and Tackle in nearby Toano for fishing supplies.

"The gentleman who owned the business was named Hooker, so that's how the store got its name. It was first located on Jamestown Road,

then Merrimac Trail before moving to Toano," Chris says. "Hooker wasn't really a fisherman. He had a store that sold fishing licenses, so he kind of fell into the business." When Chris visited the store, the owner often talked about selling the business. But Chris didn't think he was really serious.

Then in February 2017, he offered the business for sale and Chris bought it. For the first year, he continued working at Denbigh Pharmacy which he co-owned with his brother. The brothers found a buyer who would maintain the store as an independent pharmacy for their clients. Chris retired from the drug store and became the full-time owner and operator of Hooker's Bait and Tackle, but he keeps his pharmacy license current. His brother also retired and bought a farm.

Since that time, Chris has updated the inventory considerably. The store is full of fishing equipment along with general boating supplies. Rows of neatly hung artificial lures, standing fishing poles and other needs line the aisles. Tanks in the back room hold minnows and eels. Nightcrawlers and red wigglers are also available along with frozen fish, squid and shrimp. Chris says, "We tell people, if we don't have it, you probably don't need it." Most of his customers are fresh water fisherman who fish in the Chickahominy and James Rivers as well as the local reservoirs. The majority are bass fishermen who practice catch and release fishing, although a few may catch catfish and walleye for the dinner table.

Although most clients plan to fish fresh water, he does keep bait for saltwater fish. The saltwater-freshwater line moves from year to year depending on the climate. "Right now, you don't find saltwater until the James River Bridge because of all the rainfall. Years ago, we had several dry years, and there were flounder and even occasional dolphins all the way to Richmond."

Fishing regulations vary with each body of water. He has heard charter captains complain that reduced limits on striped bass in the ocean from two to one fish per day as well as size limits on the fish they can keep have hurt the



# www.warwicktravel.com SERVICE, INC.

Williamsburg 757.229.7854 Newport New 757.599.3011



TERMS & CONDITIONS: All fares and offers are per person in U.S. dollars, valid for residents of U.S. and Canada, based on double occupancy for new bookings only and may be changed or withdrawn at any time. Not all promotions are combinable. 2-for-1 Fares and Early Booking Savings or Bonus Savings are based on published Full Brochure Fares; such fares may not have resulted in actual sales in all suite categories and do not include optional charges as detailed in the Guest Ticket Contract. Early Booking Savings and Bonus Savings are per suite and are reflected in the fare. Air Credits featured are per person and reflect Business Class Air on Intercontinental flights and Economy Air on Domestic flights. For additional details, terms and conditions, please go to https://www.rssc.com/experience/all-included.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises® specializes in creating aweinspiring moments beginning with lavish pampering by a professional crew, enhanced by gourmet cuisine and culminating with intimate excursions that highlight the culture and sights of the world's most coveted destinations - all of which are included.

- FREE Unlimited Shore Excursions
- FREE Pre-paid Gratuities
- FREE Specialty Restaurants
- FREE Unlimited WiFi

**Premium Spirits** 

- FREE Unlimited Beverages, Including Fine Wine &
- FREE Roundtrip Business **Class Air on Intercontinental** Itineraries
- FREE Roundtrip Economy Air on Domestic Itineraries
- FREE 2 or 3 Night Land Programs
  - FREE 1 Night Hotel Package

NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORSAPRIL2020

sport fishing business. There are also limits on commercial fisherman, but those are tonnage limits.

Largemouth bass are the most targeted species locally with a 13 pounder being the most recent large catch, taken from an undisclosed location.

Chris quotes a fisherman's saying, "Ninety percent of the fish are in 10 percent of the water, it's just a matter of finding that 10 percent location." Chris says the area fish supply is good thanks to a state stocking program that began in 2005, stocking a variety of Florida stream bass that have adapted well to Virginia waters.

Due to Chris's love of tournament fishing, he hosts the Hooker Bait and Tackle Team Tournament Trail series which runs March through October. The tournaments are launched from the Chickahominy River Front Park at first safe light. The fisherman pays \$110 in advance for a one-day tournament. The five biggest fish are counted toward total weight. The prize money depends on the number of entries but is usually around \$1,100 for first place, with eight total

places awarded. There is also an award for the largest fish. "But," Chris says, "with the money spent on boats and equipment, a win is mostly for bragging rights."

Team standings for each tournament and throughout the season are posted on the website. Only artificial bait can be used in the tournaments and fisherman use plastic worms, crank baits, bladed baits, jigs, top water baits and swim baits. In recent years, larger swim baits have become popular.

Since this is catch and release fishing, there is a one-quarter pound penalty per dead fish brought to the scales. "I have a group of competitive, dedicated sport fisherman who help with the tournaments," Chris says. His son Ben, an environmental studies major at Randolph-Macon College, serves as secretary and takes care of the computer tournament website and listings. Chris' daughter, Beth, graduated from Randolph-Macon with a degree in biology and works in a science lab in Richmond doing analytical testing. He thinks she will eventually go back to school for a PhD in genetics or immunology. "We were lucky to have two smart, hard-working kids," he says.

Although the original Hooker Bait store sold fishing licenses, Chris does not. "You have to put up \$1000 to be able to sell them and whether you get that back depends on your volume. Most people just buy a license with their smartphone and then they always have it with them."

When asked if he ever has time to fish, Chris says, "I have one fellow who works Saturdays and Sundays, so I take off then." Fishing in Virginia is a year-round activity. "I have broken the ice with my boat, heading out to open water."

Chris Woodfin chats easily with his customers, discussing the merits of a particular fishing rod or someone's latest catch. He shares his knowledge and enthusiasm for the hobby that became his occupation. The customer service skills he learned by running an independent drug store translate well to his new career. Living in an area surrounded by water is a dream come true for this passionate fisherman. NDN



### HANK MOSELEY

# <complex-block>

#### Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Hank Moseley considers himself fortunate to be able to work at a job that combines two of his passions. He is the marine maintenance technician for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation at the Jamestown Settlement and First Mate of the official fleet of the Commonwealth.

As the son of an Air Force officer, Hank

moved around a lot when he was young, spending over eight years in Germany. It wasn't until he attended Gloucester High School that he became involved with Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and got interested in the water.

After graduation, he worked full time at Jamestown Settlement as an interpreter in his-

toric clothing while also taking a full class load at Christopher Newport University working toward a degree in history. He finished his degree in 1997 and continued his work at Jamestown.

"I left the museum in 2000. By then, I had my history degree, and I'd worked here for a couple years more, but I'd also gotten a little

# Not sure how to help your teenager file college applications?



Pam Rambo, Ed. D. pamela.rambo@cox.net Experience in admissions, counseling, scholarships and financial aid. We can help! Get expert assistance with: • Choice of college major • Choosing the right college • College admissions applications and essays

• Scholarship identification and applications





of the sailing bug, both from our program here. In 1998, I went to sail on a ship called the Rose. I sailed from Miami to Bridgeport, Connecticut, with them for three weeks. I really enjoyed it. By 2000, I left and spent about fifteen years sailing full time," Hank says.

"The Rose is a reproduction of a sixth-rate British frigate for the Royal Navy. The original ship was built in 1757. She served all the way up into the American Revolutionary War and eventually ended up being scuttled down the Savannah River in Georgia to prevent the French fleet from coming up and attacking the British there in Savannah," Hank says, falling into teaching mode. "That ship, the reproduction, was built in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, in 1970, and it had a long life all of its own. But when I was aboard in 1998 and then in 2000, it primarily took paying passengers sailing. They brought folks on board for about a week, and they got a chance to experience what it's like to live on a reproduction royal frigate and go sailing."

They would sail with passengers from New

England down to Bermuda and the Caribbean, then back up to Nova Scotia. In the fall of 2001, Hank was offered a unique opportunity.

"We took the Rose through the canal and over to the west coast and helped make the movie Master and Commander. If you are really quick with the pause button on the remote, you may catch sight of me for a few seconds as a deckhand with a wig and sideburns." His real purpose was assistant to the directors. "I helped the second unit directors with the background shots. Any time the Rose sailed, I would go with them and help set the shots. I worked between the directors and the ship's crew to make sure that we were getting the sailing scenes proper and to make sure everything went smoothly," Hank says.

The community of people sailing historical replicas is small. Tall Ships America is a nonprofit, educational organization focused on preservation of maritime heritage of North America. The organization supports the industry and helps bring together people who run different reproduction ships throughout the country. "When you start carrying passengers, there's a lot of regulatory stuff that comes into play, so they try to look after that and provide training for the organizations and support for them as well," Hank says. It was through this organization that he was able to find various ships to sail on short-term contracts.

When he left the Rose, Hank went to work with the Ocean Classroom Foundation. "That's really where my passion lies, working with the high school and college students." He sailed two vessels, the Spirit of Massachusetts and the Harvey Gamage, from 2003 to 2006. "We sailed anywhere from nine weeks to four month trips with high school and college students, starting in New England and sailing to the Caribbean with the students on board. And then we'd start in the Caribbean and do the reverse and go into New England in the springtime."

Professors taught maritime history, maritime literature and an earth science-based or geology program. The crew taught students the seamanship and navigation side which



#### For more information call today! 757-565-6505



Williamsburg Landing is among 15% of accredited Life Plan Communities in the U.S.A. Williamsburg Landing's beautifully-crafted and newlyrenovated homes are maintenance-free and pet-friendly. Downsize in style in an engaging community. Enjoy resort-style living with guaranteed healthcare if ever needed. At Williamsburg Landing, we take care of it all.



tied in the math. They also taught basic knot tying and sail handling and engineering and the navigation side of it: how to use a chart, how to use a compass for navigation and how to use a sextant for celestial navigation.

Hank first met his wife, Kaia, while working at Jamestown Settlement, but the romance didn't begin until years later when their paths crossed while sailing. Hank was sailing north on the Harvey Gamage and Kaia was on the Godspeed as they sailed from Maine to Jamestown. They met up off the coast of New Jersey when Hank took a longboat over to the Godspeed to visit. Both ships later ended up in the Boston port together. Shortly after, Hank and Kaia officially began dating.

Hank continued to sail with various ships even after they married in 2007. Kaia joined Hank sailing on the Virginia for a while before they started a family. At that point, she went back to Jamestown Settlement where she is now the ship site supervisor.

When their third child was born, they decided it was time for Hank to stay closer to home. In his current position with the Jamestown Settlement, he mixes his love of history and the sea by maintaining the Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery for visitors.

Every winter, the marine maintenance team down rigs two of the three ships and brings in the sails and yards for repair. Volunteers strip and sand the wood that holds the sails and apply coat after coat of varnish to protect it for the year ahead. Sails are inspected and tended. Wooden blocks, or pulleys, are scraped and sanded, and ropes are tarred. All three ships are kept in sailing order.

Two or three times a year, Hank takes the ships out for a ride. His favorite is Norfolk HarborFest which has over 52 ships of various time periods and styles. The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation also takes the ships anywhere the Commonwealth of Virginia has enough water for them to dock. "Fourth grade is Virginia studies for the school systems. A lot of those schools come to the museum to visit us, but sometimes the school system can't get to us; they have transportation issues. So, if they've got a port that's close and we can get there, we go. We try to pick a different port every year," Hank says.

The ships from Jamestown are reproductions of the 17th century ships. "There's no difference between the way we sail the ships today and the way they sailed them four hundred years ago. That being said, we have modern navigational equipment and all of those safety features you would want to have as a good mariner."

Hank Moseley is kept busy when out sailing one of the ships. "When we sail, we shift from maintaining the ships, and I am the chief mate on board."

The chief mate, or first mate as it's also known, is second in command to the captain. Hank takes care of the administrative side of sailing, makes sure the safety equipment is operational and leads the watch to give the captain a respite. In addition to all these duties, if they have students on board, Hank teaches one of the many educational programs. He wouldn't have it any other way. NDN

# Needing extended care may be scary. Not being able to afford it could be a nightmare.



Help protect your family with Long-Term Care Insurance from the Knights of Columbus.

LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

Financial Advice, Founded in Faith KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS THE ABBATE AGENCY



Max Abbate, FIC Field Agent 757-495-1492

Contact me today to learn more:

max.abbate@kofc.org



#### STEVE LIVING

# Access to the Outdoors By Brandy Centolanza

Steve Living has always had an appreciation for wildlife, nature and being outdoors, especially on the water. As an employee for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), he is working to ensure others have the opportunity to do the same.

The DGIF is the responsible agency for the management of inland fisheries, wildlife and recreational boating for the commonwealth. Steve is DGIF's Lands and Access Manager for Region 1, which includes the coastal plain region. His duties include overseeing the department's boat ramps for his area as well as the state's Wildlife Management Areas.

There are 65 boat ramps under his watch. Locally, Steve and his staff maintain the Fox Hill boat ramp in Hampton along the Chesapeake Bay, one ramp in West Point, two in nearby Charles City County along the Morris Creek as well as the boat ramp at Diascund Reservoir Park in James City County.

Diascund Reservoir Park is operated jointly by the DGIF, James City County and Newport News. It is open to the public for boating and fishing. Guests can launch power boats as well as paddle craft such as canoes and kayaks from the site. The park is a popular scenic destination for wildlife viewing and fishing, as the reservoir has an abundance of largemouth bass, bluegill, chain pickerel and black crappie.

Steve works with localities to assess safety and access conditions of the ramps and helps with maintenance as needed. The boat ramps are open year-round with the exception of extreme inclement weather, and Steve and the lands and access team are on or around the water on a weekly basis making sure everything is running smoothly.

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

"We see a lot of fishing in the winter, a lot of waterfowl hunters and recreational boaters," Steve says. "The joy of my position is that there is never a dull moment. Every day brings interesting challenges."

Steve also oversees wildlife habitat management on roughly 50,000 acres of land. This includes monitoring game species such as deer, turkey and waterfowl as well as endangered species like the red-cockaded woodpecker. Lo-



## **Certified Public Accountants**



Rodney W. Bolyard, CPA 1209 Jamestown Rd. Williamsburg, VA 23185 757-810-6606 rbolyardcpa@mossandriggs.com

Our focus is on you, the client, helping you to achieve the fullest potential in your business, professional and personal financial affairs.

- Tax Services Consulting Compliance
- Accounting

Moss & Riggs, PLLC Certified Public Accountants

www.mossandriggs.com

cally, Steve is at the helm of the Ware Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in New Kent County as well as Chickahominy WMA in Charles City County.

Ware Creek WMA is a forested area that sits on 2,600 acres along the York River in Barhamsville. Visitors can hunt, fish, boat, birdwatch and take in the scenery. Ware Creek WMA is home to waterfowl, marsh birds, songbirds and raptors like bald eagles and ospreys as well as turtles and snakes.

Meanwhile, Chickahominy WMA is a mostly wooded area where visitors can fish as well as hunt for deer, turkeys, squirrels, rabbits, doves and waterfowl. Chickahominy WMA is also a popular spot for hiking and observing and photographing a variety of wildlife.

"Chickahominy is a great place with a diversity of wildlife," Steve says. "It's exciting to work there. It's very rewarding to play a direct hand in the conservation of our natural resources and provide a connection for all Virginians to those resources. I really believe in our mission: to conserve, connect and protect."

Steve had plenty of access to nature of his own while growing up in Connecticut. His neighborhood was bordered by woods where he often played as a child, and he was fortunate to be able to spend a lot of time on the waters of Long Island Sound.

"I've always been most comfortable being outside," Steve says. Naturally, this led to a lifelong interest in wildlife, nature and the outdoors. But it was a few years before he decided to translate that love into a career. Steve first received a degree in English literature from the University of Connecticut, but he realized he was meant for a career in science. He returned to college, earning both a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Biology from Southern Connecticut State University. His first job post-graduation was as a naturalist and educator at Earthplace, a nature discovery center in Westport, Connecticut. "When I was a kid, we used to go to Earthplace a lot," he says. "It was like coming full circle for me."

Steve and his wife, Narielle, whom he was introduced to by a mutual friend, relocated to Virginia about a dozen years ago. At that time, he had accepted a job with DGIF as a watchable wildlife biologist. In this position, Steve helped develop and promote programs that supported wildlife conservation through ecotourism. One of his favorite programs was a festival that had been held each October known as the Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival held in Cape Charles, Virginia. Although that festival is no longer in existence, he is still able to work with a number of other similar local events held on or near the water including the Virginia Beach winter wildlife festival. He was promoted to his current position in 2013.

Steve points out that Virginia is unique in that it offers a combination of wildlife species that can be found in the northeast as well as those that can be found in the southeast. "As a biologist, the mid-Atlantic region is a great place," Steve says.

"Being on the water for me is all about the connection to being outdoors," he says. "It's quiet, and you are away for a while and connecting with nature and the people who happen to be with you on the water. It's a great time to especially connect with my kids."

Steve and Narielle have three children: Morgan, Austin and Lilly. He relishes the time he spends in the outdoors with his children. All of his children have developed a love of nature and the outdoors. Morgan prefers boating and hunting, Austin likes to fish, and Lilly is enthusiastic about fishing and birdwatching.

Steve Living believes that being outdoors is a key aspect of being a more centered and healthy human being. "Being outside connects us to the world around us and makes us realize that we are a part of something bigger than what we are." NDN



for over 27 years

#### **KAYLA JONES**



It's been said that those who are lucky enough to live on the water are lucky enough. For many, just the thought of waterfront property conjures up images of open spaces, walls of windows that offer sweeping views of the water and a fabulous home with plenty of indoor and outdoor space for entertaining.

Kayla L. Jones of Long & Foster Real Estate is one of the area's experts on the topic. Even though waterfront living can feel like a perpetual vacation, she encourages clients to be sure to do their homework.

Kayla recently joined Long & Foster's Williamsburg office in New Town, but she has been involved in real estate for about three years.

"I started in this business as a marketing intern for a great real estate team during my years at Christopher Newport University," she says. "That's where I attended college. After graduation, I was able to work there as the digital marketing manager."

Soon after that, Kayla completed the required class, sat for the Commonwealth's real estate exam and secured her real estate license.

"I love working in real estate!" she says. "I like interacting with people, helping them find just what they are looking for. Owning a home is part of the American Dream."

Kayla offers some tips to keep that dream from becoming a nightmare.





For clients who have their hearts set on waterfront living, she says it's important to invest some time educating themselves so that they make the most informed decisions. For instance, climate change and rising sea levels remain a hot-button topic. Hurricanes are becoming stronger and flooding in this area is a year-round risk. As potential buyers zero in on an area they love, they will want to research the history and future of the shoreline.

"With time, change can come," Kayla says. "There is the potential of the shoreline to move up, causing you to lose property."

Even so, Kayla doesn't see rising sea levels scaring off buyers.

"I think if your desire is to live on the water, that's probably what you're going to do. If that's your dream, you will find a way to make it work. Just do your homework."

In some instances, a shoreline can even be affected by a manmade element such as a dam. "Be sure you know what your potential responsibilities will be," she says.

Shorelines aside, Kayla says it's important for potential waterfront dwellers to make sure the property they are interested in fits their lifestyle.

"I'm not just talking about the house," she says. "I'm talking about the whole property. From the views to the depth and quality of the water. If you own a boat, is there a dock? Is the water deep enough to accommodate your boat? Keep in mind that a long dock doesn't necessarily mean deep water, and you can run aground at low tide."

What if there is no dock, but you want to build one?

"This is something you will want to research and consider before committing to a property. Imagine buying a property only to find that you cannot build a dock or install a pool. Again, it's important to do your research. In our area, the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act will likely have an impact on what you can or cannot build or do."

Enacted by the Virginia General Assembly in 1988, the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act was intended to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. It provides for the use of effective land management and land use planning and was designed to enhance water quality and still allow reasonable development to continue. Local governments are charged with the responsibility of land use decisions.

It is heady stuff, but so important to learn these things in advance.

"Beyond the property itself, people should also think of the other costs that are often associated with outdoor living," Kayla says. "I imagine an outdoor kitchen/living room, boats and jet skis may be some things on your list, but you'll want to check with the municipality regulations for the latter."

For those who love to swim, consider the water. Is it fresh water or saltwater? Is the water murky? And who does the water belong to?

"A deed will specify what part of the water is yours," she says. "But if the property is in an HOA or community, there may be shared rights to the water. Homeowner's Association documents or deed restrictions connected to the property should be thoroughly researched to determine exactly what water property rights will be associated with the property."

## Why Should I Choose an Audiologist for My Hearing Care?

Developing an ongoing relationship with a local audiologist is just as important as finding a trusted primary care physician and dentist.

Audiologists are health care professionals educated not only in our physiology, but also on the technology of hearing devices and the science behind what hearing devices do for our hearing. This symbiosis along with the obligation to meet annual continuing education requirements makes them uniquely qualified to prevent, diagnose, manage and treat hearing and balance issues from birth through adulthood.

At Colonial Center for Hearing, our Doctors of Audiology proudly deliver life changing hearing solutions by offering comprehensive hearing health care. This consists of thorough diagnostics and patient education, personalized hearing aid adaptation process and regularly scheduled follow up care.

Award Winning Doctors. World's Best Hearing Aids.



NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORSAPRIL2020



**CHANGING** 



Bear in mind that larger bodies of water will likely have more activity than smaller ones. Kayla also suggests that potential buyers drive by the property, and neighborhood, of their dreams at different times of the day, even different times of week.

"Before I take clients to view the inside of their desired property, I encourage them to drive through the neighborhood at different times of the morning, day and night. It's surprising how much a waterfront community, especially one with a lot of traffic and activity can change at different times of the day, or on a weekend day."

While some clients dream of waterfront living, others see a home on the river as investment potential. Kayla says that for those individuals considering a waterfront home as a vacation home, the idea of renting it out can put them at an advantage.

"Renting out a home can help offset the costs of ownership," she says. "It also keeps the home occupied."

Typically, waterfront homes have an increased risk of flood damage and hurricane risk, so Kayla recommends that clients secure a quote for insurance in their desired area(s) prior to launching a full-on search.

"If a property is in a flood zone, it more than likely will add to your cost, as well as other maintenance needed for waterfront homes, to name a few: sand, wind and moisture."

Kayla says that her favorite body of local water is probably the York River. "I love the vibe of Yorktown Beach," she says. "It's close to home so traffic isn't so bad. My dad and brother love to fish, and we'd go out there when we were younger. They fished under the poles to the Coleman Bridge while my mom and I played in the sand."

Kayla was born and raised in Williamsburg. Prior to attending CNU, she graduated from Bruton High School.

"Both of my parents went to Bruton High School," she says. "They were high school sweethearts, and now they both teach there." Her brother, Daniel, also graduated from Bruton and is currently attending the University of Richmond.

"Williamsburg is home to me," she says. "I

know a lot of people here, and this is where I want to be. Living and working here is the best, and I get to help people find their dream home."

Whether your dream is to live on the water in a community like, or on an expanse of acreage along the mighty York River, take the time to educate yourself about these topics. Also consider enlisting the help of a Realtor. There are many online tools like Zillow and Trulia, but Kayla encourages homebuyers, waterfront or not, to reach out to a Realtor.

"We are real people," she says. "You can find an estimated home value on Zillow, but they aren't taking you through the homes and they won't have comps. You want to be able to communicate with someone who has been through the classes and has a great broker to help as needed."

Home buyers, sellers and Realtors alike always look forward to spring season, and Kayla Jones notes that this year will be no exception. "The market is definitely coming back," Kayla says. "With winter behind us, we're excited for spring." NDN



Creative Creatures.



Perfect spring adornments. Nature lovers delight in Reggie's 18K gold handcrafted pins, artistically accented with colored gemstones and diamonds.

## THE · PRECIOUS · GEM

Merchants Square, Williamsburg + 757-220-1115 Open Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m.- 6 p.m., Sunday noon - 5 p.m. thepreciousgems.com + Like us on Facebook

#### DESIGNS by REGGIE AKDOGAN

NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORSAPRIL2020

## **RON CAGLE**



A typical day for Ron Cagle can range from a search and rescue operation to investigating boating accidents to teaching a boater's safety course. Everything he does, however, has one thing in common: it's all linked to the water.

Ron is a 1st Sergeant with the Virginia Marine Police, a position he loves and has grown into over the years. Originally from Gloucester, Ron enlisted in the Navy when he was younger. "I spent over 20 years in the Navy," he says. A portion of the time he also worked for the Gloucester County sheriff's department as an auxiliary deputy. "I did 15 years, non-paid, just donated my time. When I retired from the Navy, they offered me a job." He considered it carefully but came to the conclusion that he wanted to go in a different direction. He lived, after all, in an area surrounded by water. "I wanted to work on the water again, so the marine police seemed like a logical place to go." He applied for and got a job with the Virginia Marine Police, and his career quickly grew. "Once I got established there, I was able to get in the boating safety course and start doing a lot of programs that they hadn't been doing." From that point, according to Ron, "it just exploded." Today, he is in high demand as a speaker and teacher for water-related classes.

Ron teaches a boater safety course, a class that the Virginia Marine Police are not required



Providing implant, sedation, and general dental services to patients of all ages for over 16 years.

Schedule online 24/7 www.williamsburgdmd.com



to do but one in which he feels strongly about. As assistant supervisor for the dive team, he has seen many situations that did not turn out well for boaters. This led him to want to teach people to take preventative measures and stay safe on the water. "I've been involved in a lot of recoveries, unfortunately, throughout the state."

He has compiled a comprehensive list of safety concerns for boaters. This list grew from his years of experience both personally and in law enforcement. When he responds to a law enforcement issue on the water where someone is hurt, he looks at the incident and determines what went wrong.

"I take that experience and do a lot of research about what happened. What were they wearing, what went right during our response and what went wrong. Then I look at how I can incorporate that into my training."

Each year he modifies what he teaches based on what he has learned. "I have a list posted on Facebook about kayak safety," he says. The list contains information ranging from how to be prepared for all kinds of weather to safety issues that might occur. "It has around 20 items on there about sunscreen and PFDs [personal flotation devices] and safety."

Sometimes people learn things the hard way

in order to know what not to do. On one of Ron's first fishing excursions alone, he went out on a warm day. Because he was hot, he decided to remove the zip-off portion of his pants so he could be in shorts. "Within an hour, I had second-degree burns all over my legs." In this case, the boat had amplified the rays of the sun, making his burn worse than it would have been on land.

After this mistake, Ron began to consider what others might be doing. "I started researching sunburns," he says. "Getting tan is not really getting tan, it's damaging your skin." From what he learned he began to inform others the importance of eye protection and long sleeves.

Sun isn't the only weather danger on the water. "We had a fishing tournament where there were really heavy winds, and they wanted to cancel it." The organizers asked Ron to speak to the group about the importance of staying safe during heavy winds on the water, and he agreed. After giving his talk, it was received so well that others approached him about speaking to different groups. Today, he keeps extremely busy teaching and lecturing on boating and water safety.

He recently taught the boater safety course at the Quarterpath Recreation Center. "It's something I took an interest in, but we aren't required to do it," he says. The agency responsible for boater safety classes is the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, but Ron works with them to teach people what they need to know about being on the water.

One of Ron's favorite water activities is kayaking. He is currently on the board of directors for the Tidewater Kayak Anglers Association (TKAA) and participates in many of their fishing tournaments. "We hold a lot of charity tournaments, and we do some paid tournaments as well," he says. TKAA hosts a variety of fishing tournaments, including catfish, panfish, bass speckled trout and redfish. "We usually do what the members want," he says. Tournament proceeds generally go to organizations such as Heroes on the Water (HOW) which supports therapeutic programs for veterans, active-duty military, first responders and their families, or Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, which is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through flyfishing.

Most days Ron loves everything about his job. He is fortunate, he says, to be able to interact with people who are out on the water and



Catherine E. Sears, Esq. (Back Row) Helena S. Mock, Esq., Managing Attorney Meredith H. Maust, Esq. (Back Row)

## WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY "We Feel Very Confident"

"We had a great experience. The staff is friendly. We were given detailed instructions. Everyone is willing to answer questions. We feel very confident in our estate planning." - Randy C.



#### The Peninsula Center for Estate and Lifelong Planning

461 McLaws Circle Suite 2, Williamsburg, VA 757-969-1900 www.tpcestate.com

#### Our attorneys specialize in:

- Estate Planning
- Special Needs Trusts
- Medicaid Applications
- Long Term Care
- Estate Litigation
- Guardianship Services
- Fiduciary Services
- Probate Administration
- Trust Administration
- Life Care Planning

enjoying themselves. In addition, he describes his job as being more proactive than reactive.

"Most of the people are on their boats to have a good time." He notes that this is a major difference from what he did with the sheriff's department as an auxiliary deputy. "It's a lot more enjoyable to meet people when they're having a good time than when they're having their worst day," Ron says.

"As a deputy, usually the only reason you're going to somebody's house is because they called 911. You're meeting them at probably the lowest point in their life. Here, I'm out there meeting a family who might have brought the kids. We're going to check for catch and make sure everything's right, make sure they have their safety equipment, and usually we leave them with a more memorable experience, so it works out good. The commercial waterman that I work around understand my philosophy. I'm not out there to give them tickets, I'm not out there to give them a hard time. My guys are out there to ensure compliance with regulations, and if they comply with regulations, they're fine. Most of the people I deal with are pretty nice."

Perhaps the most important aspect of what Ron teaches is the importance of wearing a PFD, or personal flotation device. "It does no good inside the boat. It only works if you're wearing it," he says. He often has people tell him they can put their life jacket on if they get into trouble. "By the time you're in trouble, it's too late." He shakes his head and emphasizes his point. "I never pulled anybody dead from the water who was wearing a life jacket."

In addition, he adds that choosing a PFD should take some thought and care and advocates against buying the least expensive one. "How much is your life worth to you? Can you put a dollar amount on your life? Your life's priceless, so get the best one you can afford." Ron has a PFD he wears during the day and another he wears at night so he can rotate them. "I keep them clean, and I do maintenance on them. People use poor storage containers, and they can get mold. Are you really going to trust your life to that?"

Wear a lifejacket. Plan for inclement weather. Use sunscreen. Wear sunglasses. These are just a few of the things Ron teaches, but when he is not teaching or working, he can be found out on the water in a kayak. This is his time to relax, watch birds, watch people and recharge so he is ready to go out and help a boater in need.  $\overline{NDN}$ 

## Next Door Neighbors

Publisher	Meredith Collins
EditorNarielle	Living, narielleliving@gmail.com
Copy Editor	Ginger White
Photographers	Lisa Cumming, Corey Miller
Graphic Designer	Sue Etherton
Account Manager	Anne Conkling

#### Writers

Linda Landreth Phelps, Caroline Johnson , Brandy Centolanza, Alison Johnson, Susan Williamson, Lillian Stevens, Melanie Occhiuzzo, Morgan Barker, Susannah Livingston, Erin Zagursky, Cathy Welch, Erin Fryer, Christopher LaPointe, Michael Heslink, Naomi Tene' Austin, Gail Dillon, Lauren Plunkett,

Ben Mackin, Laura Lane, Dawn Brotherton, Elara Strand, Anne Conkling, Harmony Hunter, Wheston Chancellor Grove, Ashley Smith, Kathleen Toomey Jabs, Page Brotherton, Kristine Hojnicki and Cynthia Fellows Rich

#### Advertising Information Meredith Collins

(757) 560-3235 meredith@williamsburgneighbors.com *nnn:WilliamsburgNeigbbors.com* 

Next Door Neighbors is a monthly, directmailed magazine serving the residents of the Williamsburg area.

Circulation: 43,000



PO Box 5152, Williamsburg, VA 23188



3000 Ironbound Road • Williamsburg, VA 23185 • ColemanNursery.com • Follow us on Facebook!

#### PAMELA MASON

# Protecting Virginia's Living **Shorelines**

By Kristine Hojnicki

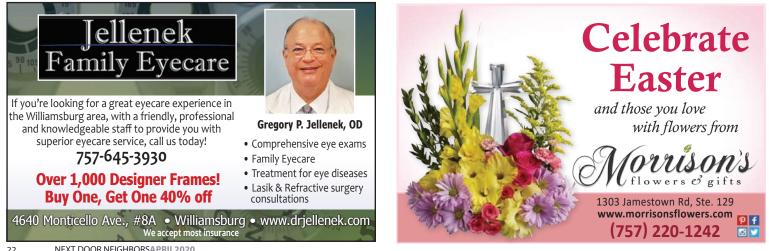
From her second-story office window at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), Pamela Mason watches the York River and its wildlife pass by daily. As a Senior Research Scientist at the VIMS Center for Coastal Resources Management, Pam has spent nearly three decades researching, educating and advocating for policies that protect Virginia's living shorelines, specifically tidal and non-tidal wetlands.

The New Jersey native grew up west of the Meadowlands ecological complex on the Hudson River, and she has always had a reverence for unconventional coastlines.

"I love looking at marshes. I think they're beautiful," she says. "We used to go to the Jersey Shore when I was a child and to get there you have to cross over the large expanses of wetlands. I remember thinking there's something kind of sorrowful about them. I know that sounds weird, but they're just so vast and open, and they make me happy."

Lisa W. Cumming Photograph

Pam earned her Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Delaware before attending William & Mary as a graduate student studying Marine Science. At the time, she was interested in both the areas of fisheries and wetlands but after a faculty review, she was as-



signed to the wetlands research department.

She moved to Richmond after graduating with her Master's of Science degree and worked for several state agencies before being offered the opportunity to return to VIMS to work on shoreline management policy, specifically advising local governments on the importance of tidal wetland ecology and how to best manage tidal wetlands located in their districts.

"I was always interested in science policy," she explains. "Having grown up in a highly impacted landscape, I always felt that maybe we weren't quite doing it the right way. When I moved to Virginia, I was not as aware that their resources were at risk because resources at the time were plentiful. I wanted to help communicate what will come from the changes that occur as resources become scarcer due to changes we as humans have made to the environment."

Though her daily work has shifted to focus more on working with grants and contracts, Pam is still heavily involved in applied research on wetlands including tidal wetlands, non-tidal wetlands and shoreline systems. She works with the Virginia Coastal Policy Center at William & Mary's Law School and the economist faculty in William & Mary's public policy department to integrate science, ecology and social sciences into larger-scale projects which look at shoreline resources from a holistic perspective to determine the ramifications stakeholder groups can have when making decisions that impact the area's natural resources. Pam is responsible for communicating the value and services tidal wetlands, non-tidal wetlands, beaches and dunes provide for water quality, ecological habitat, coastal resiliency and mitigation.

"The permit process for impacting tidal wetlands is a local-state cooperative process. In Virginia, tidal wetlands are almost all owned privately and they're protected by the law," she says. "The law requires you to seek a permit to have an impact on a tidal wetland, and there's guidance on how you make decisions about those protections."

According to Pam and the Virginia Tidal Wetlands Act of 1972, a tidal wetland is defined as an area of land that is subject to the tides below a certain elevation and is home to certain vegetative plants. In Virginia, private property ownership extends to the water elevation's mean-low waterline as opposed to most other coastal states where ownership stops at the mean-high waterline, which means tidal wetland owners may be adversely affecting the ecosystem without intending to.

"The things that we do in the upland area above the mean-low waterline, which is known as the riparian buffer, can have either adverse or positive effects on your wetland depending on what it is," she says. "If you're changing the oil in your car and you go to the edge of your wetland and dump the oil, that will have an adverse effect."

"It's also not uncommon for people to mow their wetlands or put their lawn debris in them. If you do these things, you're changing the amount of productivity that the vegetation has which reduces the amount of materials that are available to support fisheries productivity and the estuarian food web."

Pam says that residents who own tidal or non-tidal wetlands can learn more about good stewardship practices by contacting their local governments, local wetlands boards, area watershed groups and even VIMS.



# Keep Your Lifestyle and Your Neighbors!

Continue living a full, independent life in your own home with a comprehensive care program designed to fit your needs as they change as you age.

- Prolong your independence with the support you need.
- Access to your own Personal Services Coordinator.
- Help covering longterm care costs.



Powered by Riverside and Williamsburg Landing

**Start planning now!** Join us for a free lunch and learn event, call **757-578-8898.** 

**ChooseHome.com** 





## there's fun new fun instore

2200 Richmond Rd., Williamsburg, VA · 757.258.1002 · yankeecandle.com/village



**ree** personalized label with purchase of a large candle

Offer valid until 6/30/2020 at Yankee Candle' Village, Williamsburg only. This is a one-time use coupon and must be presented at time of purchase. Limit one coupon per transaction. Higher price prevails; limited to stock on hand; no substitutions or rain checks. Applies to pre-tax purchases only, excludes shipping & handling. Offer cannot be combined

with other specials, discounts, sales, coupons or clearance merchandise. Not redeemable for cash or gift cards, nor is it valid towards previous purchases. Discount is applied to all qualifying items purchased on a prorated basis, as shown on receipt; any applicable refunds will be given in the prorated amount. Offer does not apply to Elevation Collection with Platform Lid, WoodWick<sup>®</sup>, Chesapeake Bay Candle<sup>®</sup>, ALEX & ANI, Pandora<sup>®</sup>, and sale scenter merchandise. She believes that civic engagement at the individual level can help to promote good practices and reduce the amount of adverse impacts on area wetlands.

The largest impact on tidal wetlands, however, has been development. Scientists have known for decades that wetlands move in the landscape relative to sea level rise. But with rising sea levels due to climate change coupled with the "coastal squeeze" caused by construction of roads, buildings, sea walls and other manmade barriers, Pam says tidal wetlands are disappearing because they have nowhere to move to naturally and are essentially drowning.

"There have been people who tried to estimate the losses of wetlands nationally, on a state level or on a smaller scale," she says. "Some agencies estimated that Virginia may have lost as much as half of its original or colonial-era wetlands. Most of the losses occurred because of development."

In addition to public sector conservation and education efforts, the private sector has created a bank system in which credits may be bought to counteract the impacts on wetlands in one area by expanding a larger wetland complex in an adjacent geographic area.

"For some of the processes that wetlands provide, bigger is better. A large wetland complex can provide a lot of area for blue crab forage, space for smaller fish to escape predatory animals or an increased capacity for nutrient transformation," Pam says. "Smaller scale wetlands, however, also provide certain benefits by creating green corridors on our waterways enabling transportation corridors for animals to move along. It's a trade-off, and it depends on what the service is of the wetland to determine which is most valuable."

When she's not advocating for the preservation and protection of area wetlands, Pam enjoys spending time on the water with her husband, a paraeducator for special education teens at Yorktown High School and her two sons, ages 22 and 19. She also recently added the title of elected official to her resume and was sworn in for a four-year term in January as the Director for the Colonial Soil Water Conservation District of York County.

"I'm looking forward to this new role," she says. "There's work to be done in recognizing that the tidal shorelines including living shorelines as a practice can improve water quality, habitat, fisheries and more. By working in what's called the non-agriculture space to help those involved with developing residential, commercial or industrial properties to apply conservation practices and exercise cost-sharing measures, we can implement preferred practices on their lands to conserve soil and protect water quality."

Pamela Mason hopes to have an impact by educating and encouraging developers to use wetlands as a method to protect against soil erosion instead of a sea wall or bulkhead, which will again, ultimately serve to protect the living shoreline as it experiences the effects of climate change and rising sea levels. "I think there's a lot of opportunity there," she says. "I'm excited to move forward and recognize some of those practices which have proven to explicitly to have adverse effects on fisheries productivity and wetlands and get more positive practices implemented on the ground." NDN

#### **BEN KNECHT**



Ben Knecht is the kind of person who prefers sitting in the outdoor section of a restaurant if the temperature is in the fifties. "Sometimes people say no way, they want to be inside, but I much prefer the outdoors. If it's even a little warm, I like to sit outside." His love of being outside explains his current position working as the park supervisor for Chickahominy Riverfront Park.

Ben was born and raised in Chester County

in southeastern Pennsylvania. "Chester County is two counties west of Philadelphia. That's where I grew up and went to high school. I came down here to go to William & Mary."

He studied history at W&M and, although he returned home for summers and school breaks, Ben eventually decided that this was the area he wanted to live in. After graduating from W&M, he stayed. "I didn't really know what I was going to do," he says. "It took me about four months and then I started working at Colonial Williamsburg." While working at Colonial Williamsburg, Ben met his wife, Ellen, who is now a realtor with Liz Moore.

He worked for Colonial Williamsburg for 18 years before leaving. "They were downsizing, and my position got eliminated." He was disappointed but found a home with James City County Parks and Recreation in a position that seems to have been made for him. "I've al-





ways enjoyed being outside," he says. "When I worked at Colonial Williamsburg, I would go for walks all the time. Now I can really do that as part of my job instead of as a break."

Most of the time, Ben can be found at the park. "Our park has unique hours. The office is open from 8 to 5 almost every day, although we close for some holidays. During the summer months we will be open on Fridays and Saturdays until late, but the park itself does not close." The reason for this is simple: in addition to people who come in to fish and put their boats out like before dawn, Chickahominy Riverfront Park is a campground, so they stay open to accommodate the campers' needs. "We have people coming from really far away, and sometimes they're arriving at 11 o'clock at night. If you've ever camped, you know that some places basically lock the gate at a certain time and if you're not in, you're in trouble." He points out that if campers find themselves in need of an emergency supply, they cannot leave the park if the gate is locked. "The only time the park is closed is due to inclement weather. By inclement weather, I mean hurricanes."

Chickahominy Riverfront Park sits on Route 5, just before the bridge over the Chickahominy River leading out to Charles City. "If you go out to the fishing pier, you can just see the James River," he says. Depending on the weather, the river can get very choppy. On one recent windy day, Ben remembers the river churning like the ocean. "The waves were two feet high, and usually it's very calm and gentle."

The river is not the only water surrounding the park. "We are also bordered by Gordon Creek which is fairly large." Ben notes that when he thinks of a "creek," he thinks of a smaller body of water than Gordon Creek. Gordon Creek can be another great place for kayaking or canoeing.

In addition to being a campground, Ben says that Chickahominy Riverfront Park has many other activities, especially because it's on the water. "Lots of people put their boats in here. We also rent canoes and kayaks, and we have a 300foot fishing pier that goes out on the Chickahominy River. People are out there all the time, even when it's raining or cold. I would say 90 percent of the days people are out there, even on days when you wonder why anyone would want to be outside."

According to Ben, the people who fish off of the pier are, for the most part, fishing for catfish. "The Chickahominy River is one of the premier places in the world for catfishing," he says. "I've seen a catfish that was around three feet tall caught by a teenage girl here." In addition to catfish, people also enjoy crabbing off of the pier. "We have a lot of fishing tournaments out of the park. They're mainly fishing for bass, so it's in the offshore area that's more for catfish but there aren't a lot of places for boats to get in the water." Ben says that the advantage of putting a boat in the water for a tournament there is that people can go farther. "If they want, they can get halfway up to Richmond fishing for bass and then come back later."

One of the components of Ben's job involves ensuring everything in the park is prepped and ready when there is the potential for a hurricane or tropical storm. Fortunately, that doesn't happen very often.

Ben says that James City County has an outstanding park system. "They put a lot of money into the park system. I think a lot of times peo-

> Excludes Alcohol Coupon Expires

Excludes Alcohol

Coupon Expires 5/31/20

Lunch or Dinner

unch or Dinner

**Authentic Mexican Cuisine** 

Authentic Mexican Cuisine 135 Second St. • 757.259.0598

3048 Richmond Rd. • 757.253.2939

135 Second St. • 757.259.0598

3048 Richmond Rd. • 757.253.2939

ple may have been to a few of the parks but do not realize that there are other parks out there that have a lot to offer that they might not have experienced. Before I started working here, I'd never been to Upper County Park. I live in Lightfoot, so it's not far from where I live but it's a nice park." He says that many of the parks run by James City County were not conceived as parks and were later developed as such. "They started out being something else. Chickahominy Riverfront Park was a campground resort. The James City County Marina was a private marina. They've taken a lot of existing properties and made improvements to them. They also have good partnerships. At our park, we have the Williamsburg Boat Club. William & Mary runs a program out of there for middle and high school and also for adults. I've been there for three years, and it's gotten bigger every year. And there's Go Ape at Freedom Park, which is great. I think I've done that one three times."

Chickahominy Riverfront Park is slated for upcoming improvements, which Ben is looking forward to. "We're going to be working on a shoreline restoration," he says. "Right now, we have a lot of erosion and undercutting."

Ben Knecht is glad to live and work in this area, especially because the weather here lengthens the amount of time he can spend outside. "I came from southeastern Pennsylvania, and I remember going home for spring break. It's Pennsylvania, so there is literally two to three feet of snow, but here it's a nice day. My wife came from Michigan, so she enjoys this weather too." Add in the great area restaurants, Colonial Williamsburg, historic Yorktown and nature activities, and both Ben and his wife Ellen are happy to call this place home. NDN



135 Second Street, Wburg 757.259.0598 • Fax: 259.0548

3048 Richmond Rd., Wburg

757.253.2939 • Fax: 253.2112

OPEN 7 DAYS

**Takeout Available** 



Carrell Blanton

Ат-

NEYS-

TREY T. PARKER

Phone: 757.220.8114

NCIPAL

Fax: 757.220.8029

#### **TREVOR BARKER**

# LOVE of Fly Fishing By Caroline Johnson

For Trevor Barker, living on the water has always been a part of his plan. Born in Pasadena and raised in Walnut Creek, California, Trevor hails from the West Coast. A graduate of the University of Southern California with a degree in business, it was in California where Trevor met his wife, Jaena. The two have been happily married for almost 29 years.

After getting married, Trevor and Jaena moved to Colorado as they hoped to raise their kids in an area that was less congested and offered lots of outdoor activities. It was here that their three boys, were born. At the time, Trevor worked in the tech industry, finding himself in high-stress jobs and an ever-changing market. "I decided it was time to get into something different," Trevor says. "I was found by a recruiter for State Farm, went through all the training and then was able to pick anywhere in the fifty states to live."

This search led the Barker family to Williamsburg, which they have now called home for the past three years. "One of my criteria was to live somewhere on the water," Trevor says. "We looked from Seattle to Texas and Maine to Virginia before we settled on Williamsburg." After coming out to visit, they knew this would be their home. Trevor and Jaena wanted to not only be near the water but on it. Jaena was excited about living near the beach and ocean again, and Trevor was excited about the freshwater streams and being near the Chesapeake Bay. They found just that at their new home in King's Point. "We see bald eagles, ospreys, snapping turtles and more from our back porch. We can sit there all day and watch."

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Whether they're exploring the water in kayaks or observing their new local ecosystem, Trevor has enjoyed getting back to life on the water. They've met friends who have taken them out boating on the Chesapeake, showing



them more about the "salt life" this region is known for. "They've made this West Coast guy understand boating, crabbing and enjoying the water," Trevor says. Their proximity to the water also allows Trevor the luxury of being able to focus on his favorite hobby: fly fishing.

Growing up, Trevor and his brothers were taught how to fly-fish by their father. "My dad would take us to the Eastern Sierras of California where I first learned to fish," Trevor says. "I started fly fishing in Idaho and continued to grow my love for it in Wyoming and Colorado." As he gets used to life in Virginia, Trevor is always on the lookout for new streams to try in the state. "It's something I hope to pass on to my sons, too."

Fly fishing is more than just a hobby, though. It's an opportunity to unwind, learn new skills and spend time away from the hustle and bustle. "I like to go places where cell phones don't work," Trevor says. "If I could fish every day, I would. It doesn't even matter how many fish I catch." He understands why some jokingly call fly fishing a form of meditation, as it gives him quiet moments on the water. "I like to fly-fish alone when I can, but I make sure to wear a bell on my fishing vest to not surprise any wildlife," he says. "I remember fishing in Wyoming in the Wind River area and seeing moose as often as I'd see people."

While it may be easy to compare fly fishing to fishing, the techniques between the two vary greatly. "Fly fishing is the art of deception," he says. "It's truly a wonderful activity as you learn how to make a bunch of feathers and fur tied on a hook look like an insect." Fly fishermen learn how to assemble bait to resemble insects located in the region in which they are fishing, learning how to make everything from mosquitos and moths to tarantulas! Trevor prefers dry fly fishing, in which after the cast the fly stays on top of the water, luring the fish to rise to it. "There's an art to it," he says. Though Trevor always does catch and release with his fish, he does have a favorite to catch. "I love trout. That's what I'm after. That's what I grew up catching: Rainbow, Brooks and Brown Trout. They may not be the biggest fish in the world, but they do run."

While fly fishing is a great way to spend the weekends and time off from work, Trevor's days are spent cultivating relationships with others as a State Farm agent and owner, working with policyholders both current and prospective. Living on the water has given him unique insight into managing insurance needs for homes near the water, such as flood insurance. "Flood insurance is an important part of homeownership for owners, landlords, investors and renters who are concerned about their investment near known flood plains or who just want peace of mind knowing their homes are protected." In fact, flood insurance is typically excluded from homeowner insurance policies for homes on land that is normally dry.

"I enjoy working with people and helping them understand what insurance is really about," Trevor says. "It's not just about dings and dents. It's ultimately about setting expectations and avoiding catastrophic financial loss."

In his free time, Trevor enjoys yard work and gardening, coaching youth lacrosse and anything college football, especially when it's USC, his alma mater. He and Jaena take walks down Dog Street with their two dogs, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and a French bulldog. They like taking part in local favorites like the farmers market, going across the ferry to Surry Seafood Company and spending time at Precarious or the Williamsburg Winery with friends. NDN



Williamsburg, VA 23188 (757) 229-3822 www.bucktrout.net



NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORSAPRIL2020

#### MARTHA HUNSUCKER



# Supporting the Coast Guard

By Dawn Brotherton

After having lived and boated on the water most of her adult life, Martha Hunsucker discovered the fellowship of the Coast Guard Auxiliary right here in Williamsburg.

"My husband and I had a house on the Chickahominy, and we had been on the water for fifteen years. When he died, which was three years ago, I didn't have anybody to go on the boat with." That's when she reached out to the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

She had taken boating and safety classes led by the Auxiliary in the past, so she was familiar with their mission. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is an all-volunteer force who contribute to the safety and security of citizens, ports, waterways and coastal regions. They balance the missions of recreational boating safety and Coast Guard support with Maritime Homeland Security.

Williamsburg has a flotilla of 32 to 35 people ready when the Coast Guard needs additional hands. "We have people who go to the Coast Guard base and stand watch on the cutters that come in, so that the crew on the cutter can all go home to their families," Martha says. "When they need somebody to monitor the radio for whatever reason, whether it be an emergency situation or illness, we have people who are qualified to run the current radio system."

The Auxiliary spend most of their time in the riverways and leave the open water to the Coast Guard. "We help the Coast Guard when they need help finding lost boaters or rescuing people," she says.

# **Professional Service**. **A Better Wash-For the Right Price!**



## **Professional Pressure Washing,** & Soft Wash Systems



Williamsburg, VA Local, Family Owned & Operated (Fully Insured) Rite-Wash is an Extension of Wind-Mart, LLC



The helpful place. 6 Locations to serve you! Midtown Row, 210 Monticello Ave. Williamsburg (757) 229-1900 • 4511 John Tyler Hwy Suite L, Williamsburg (757) 220-9362 • Grafton, 4914 George Washington Mem Hwy. (757) 898-3040 • 12490 Warwick Blvd, Newport News (757) 594-9890 Hampton Towne Centre, 7 Towne Centre Way, Hampton (757) 864-0970 2098 Nickerson Blvd, Hampton (757) 850-0544 NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORSAPRIL2020 For anyone who spends time on the water, Martha recommends you download the Coast Guard app to your phone. "You can find out where you are, rules of the road, report suspicious activity, report pollution, report when a buoy marker is out of place and much more."

She recently received a commendation from the commandant for her work as the public affairs officer. Using her degree from Columbia in French and Spanish, Martha is also an interpreter for the Coast Guard. "Every single one of us are in this because it saves lives. That's what we do. We teach people not to fall out of their boat. We teach people how to keep their boats in good shape. We teach people what to do in emergencies. We can all do first aid and other things."

All the boats in the Auxiliary are personally owned but donated for use by the flotilla. "I have to keep the insurance and all the regular things that a boat owner has to do, plus a lot of extra stuff because I have to be prepared to be able to tow another boat, to rescue somebody or to put out a fire on somebody else's boat."

Martha originally came to Williamsburg in 1969 to teach French at William & Mary. She met her husband in the swimming pool at the apartment complex. At that time, she had already decided all men in Williamsburg were young college students or married men, so she didn't pay him much attention at first. When he finally worked it into the conversation that he was single, Martha decided to give him a chance. He invited her to join his friends for steamed crabs. "I didn't know how, so he picked my crabs for me. He did it for ten years after we were married. After ten years, he said, 'you ought to know how to do this by yourself now." Martha and her husband James were married for 47 years.

Commuting to Blacksburg from Williamsburg, Martha received both her Master's Degree and PhD in French and Spanish from the University of Virginia. Then she accepted a teaching position at Hampton Roads Academy, followed by time as an adjunct professor at Old Dominion and Christopher Newport University.

Martha was born in a French hospital in New York and believes that may have contributed to her ear for languages. "The first language I ever heard was French," she says. At one point, she considered being an interpreter for the United Nations. "In those days, women didn't have as much opportunity as we have now. You were either a teacher or a librarian. My sister was the librarian, so I became a teacher." Although her husband didn't like to travel, Martha enjoyed seeing the world. Her linguistic prowess opened many countries to her. "It's hard to pick a favorite because each one is different." She enjoyed visiting her brother in Costa Rica where he had a lodge in the rain forest and taught graduate students about ecology.

"Unfortunately, he died in 2017. I lost my husband in 2016, and I really needed something to do."

Now she is fully engaged in the Auxiliary and welcomes others. "I teach the safe boating portion. I inspect vessels to make sure they have everything they need. I also go around to various places like marinas and businesses and encourage them to put information about safe boating where people can get it. And we're about to start a new paddle craft class."

To remind people of the importance of wearing a life jacket, there is even a Wear Your Lifejacket to Work day on May 15. Martha encourages people to take a picture and share on social media with the hashtags #lifejacket2work and #safeboating. Anyone interested in becoming involved with the Coast Guard Auxiliary can find them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/WilliamsburgFlotilla67) or visit Martha at her booth at Second Sundays in Williamsburg. NDN



# hbor to neighbor neigi





The year 1970 left some lasting cultural marks. The first Gremlin hit the road. Legislation was signed to ban smoking in television ads. The Beatles parted ways, the movie MASH saw its theatrical release, and Casey Kasem hosted his first episode of American Top 40. The voting age was lowered to 18, and a rocket named Apollo 13 shot into a history it hadn't anticipated while it waited on the launch pad.

Williamsburg was changing in 1970, too. A small group of William & Mary faculty and local parents wanted to give their children a different kind of preschool experience. They founded a co-op that year, little expecting that it would be an idea so loved by the Williamsburg community that it would continue to nurture

the town's young for the next 50 years. It was to be a non-profit, non-denominational, nondiscriminatory school, run by a parent board: all distinctions which it holds to the present day. The Williamsburg Parent Cooperative Preschool, affectionately known as "the Co-Op," is still a cornerstone of the early childhood years for more than 72 local families each year.

At first, the little school was housed in a church near the W&M campus. In 1979, they moved to their current location in St. Martin's Episcopal Church on Jamestown Road, trucking their playground equipment with them down the town's main street in a farm tractor in what must have been a whimsical spectacle. The swings and slides have seen some upgrades in the decades since, but the same chords resonate through the school now as they did at its inception. "Learning through play" is the watchword today, just as it was 50 years ago.

Currently, the co-op's director is Molly Gareis, a teacher by trade and Williamsburg native since 1993. Molly first began educating Williamsburg's children as an eighth-grade teacher at Toano Middle School, and she taught sixth and third grade in turn before taking a break from her career to have her own children. Molly first became acquainted with co-op in 2002 as the parent of a three-year-old. The fit was perfect. "When I came here as a parent, it was just so wonderful. I saw and learned so much here. I was a teacher who had always been around kids,



but I hadn't had my own, and that's a whole different experience than being a teacher. It was great for me, because it gave me a little time just being in the classroom, which I loved. And the other parents I met became great friends. I was like, 'wow, this is the way preschool should be,' and I loved it instantly," she says.

While the co-op centers on play-based learning, its teachers are tasked with serious business. "We have a curriculum that that we follow, and we have 50 objectives that we're very much looking at to make sure children are doing. So, everything we bring out, all the manipulatives, all the art projects, everything serves a purpose toward our goal. But to the kids, it looks like it's out for fun. Maybe we want them to work on fine motor skills or early literacy, but there is a reason behind everything that we're doing. We want our children to go to kindergarten very well-prepared cognitively, socially and emotionally," Molly says.

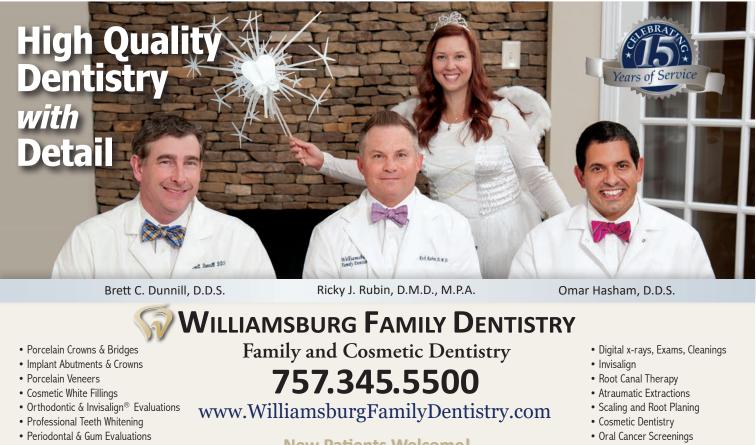
Although the school was new to Williamsburg in 1970, the idea of a co-op was long established around the world. The co-op model's hallmark is parent involvement, from its parent board oversight to parents working alongside teachers in the classroom every day. This arrangement has a practical benefit of keeping tuition low and delivers a trove of intangible rewards to the families involved. "The heart of co-op really is the sense of community, with everybody working together for the benefit of these children who come to us. And that has never changed; it's still at the core of everything we do," Molly says.

Parent involvement in school offers powerful benefits to children. "Last August, the Wall Street Journal published an article stating that new research shows parents volunteering in their child's classroom '...yields benefits from better grades to lower rates of depression." In addition to data from scientific studies, Molly and other co-op parents can observe firsthand the advantages of being present with children in their early learning experiences. Moms' and Dads' presence can reassure a hesitant child, even if he's not their own. Parents can observe what kind of behavior is typical in their child's age cohort, and witness the magic of kids learning to play, relate and communicate together.

It's a tremendous privilege for a parent to spend time with their child in school, to know their first friends, and to understand the rhythm of their day. But more valuable still are the skills a parent can learn by observing how co-op's trained teachers gently guide their charges through cognitive, social and emotional milestones. Each of their six teachers holds a college degree, and four have Master's degrees in education, in addition to Virginia teaching licenses. Molly says, "I personally learned far more about working with children from my time as a co-op parent assistant than I ever did taking classes, even for my Master's Degree in Early Childhood education."

Co-op boasts an alumni base of over 3,500, which is an impressive swath of Williamsburg. It's an organic feature of the community, and a mark of its character as a place that values small-town bonds and thoughtful childrearing. Co-op alumni are a connected group, and many keep their ties with the school for years after their children have moved on.

Co-op is a community, a village unto itself where the parents watch over all the kids in turn. It's a bond evidenced through dinner sign-ups for families with new babies, emergency babysitting for a dash to the doctor, or a lightbulb idea shared by someone else who knows exactly what it's like to be in the trenches with a three-year-old. NDN



MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED

**New Patients Welcome!** 

EMERGENCIES SEEN PROMPTLY

Michael Commons • 213 Bulifants Blvd., Suite E • Williamsburg VA 23188 (across from Williamsburg Sentara Hospital)

NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORSAPRIL2020 33

# Next Door Neighbors Sports

# BRINGING OUT THE BEST ON THE COURT

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Our Williamsburg community is built upon families and the way we serve each other. Sometimes, the most beautiful things are created out of a simple desire to support someone we love. The Williamsburg Volleyball Club (WVC) has Kim Viniard's daughters to thank for their new president. Kim has had a long journey from being a team mom to the director of the board, and it all began with her eldest daughter Maggie joining the club in middle school.

"Maggie has been in the program since she was eleven, and she played all the way through eight teams," Kim says. Kim, who never got the chance to join any serious sports teams as a kid, was astounded by the scope of a junior athletic club. "I never knew much about traveling teams at all, so it was really eye-opening to see all the opportunities that were there for our youth."

When Maggie was twelve years old, her team won a large tournament that qualified them for nationals, which was in Atlanta. The emphasis and encouragement of their sport for young athletes was incredible to Kim, as was the trip itself. "They got to play where the Olympics are played. It was just immense."

Since her sister played, it seemed natural that Samantha, Kim's younger daughter, would pick up the torch when she was seven and join what Kim calls the Grassroots program. "It's those young players who are just learning 'what is volleyball?" she says. With such a young player in the program, Kim was invited to try coaching, By Paige Brotherton

and she jumped at the opportunity to be there for her daughter.

That was the beginning of a string of teams Kim would coach for the next few years, from the seven-year-old players to the 14-and-under team. In that time, she's gotten to know the program very well and become familiar with many of the families involved. "The community that it brings is like a WVC family."

As a coach, Kim watched her teams practice and compete for six months, culminating in the South Atlantic Championships in Richmond and, if they're fortunate, the national competition in June. It's a long road, but Kim begins the trek with a goal sheet she hands out to all of the players, asking them to write down their



academic and athletic ambitions in hopes that clearly defining objectives will give young players something to work toward. "It helps me get to know the player and guide them to make their personal goals part of the team goals." If the team strives to make a certain number of passes every match, a player can appreciate how their own personal improvement adds up. "It helps them see how they contribute to the team goal, and that's our measure of success."

Kim is competitive and likes to win but like any good coach, that's not her top priority. She wants to see young athletes working toward their own improvement and for the players to see losses as an opportunity for growth. "Sometimes you're going to play tough competition and that might not be your day, but that doesn't mean you're not successful. But we may have to work on things so we can get past that team next time," she says. Her hope is that they come away from the season with more than a killer serve. "I like watching the individuals grow into a team. What's very rewarding as a coach is helping them make those bonds."

Despite her past successes as the team coach, Kim is trying something new. "I'm not coaching this year, and I miss it terribly." She's given up the title to undertake a new position as board director. This year, Kim is channeling her love of volleyball into WVC's committee of nominated members who organize club functions and help the season run smoothly. Although she doesn't get the on-the-court action of recent years, Kim appreciates the influence she still has in shaping young athletes' experiences.

As director, she says, "The breadth of impact is broader. Instead of working with my ten or twelve girls, I can work with 120 girls."

Her biggest task will be planning the club's annual Revolutionary Rumble, a colossal tournament WVC hosts at the end of April. For two days, around 180 teams from the region and beyond fill almost every gym in the town, renting nearly 32 courts and promoting sports tourism. Most importantly, it brings people together from across the area to compete in the game they love most. As with any project so big, Kim is a little nervous. But she's navigated a couple of obstacles of her new position so far, and her experience as both mom and coach gives her various perspectives to pull from.

Although she's worked hard to ensure her daughters had a safe and dependable club to support their athletic goals, Kim did not have the same opportunities growing up. Her parents were in the military, and she moved around constantly as a child. She was born in Puerto Rico, and she's lived in the states and as far as Japan. "I was a military brat, so I don't claim a single destination as home," she says. Even when she settled down at one high school, she lived on base, but transportation stood in the way between Kim and the school's volleyball team. "I wanted to play," she says. "I made it to the tryouts and made the team, but when they had practice, I couldn't get to school."

It wasn't until after she graduated from the American Military University with a Bachelor's Degree in Intelligence Studies that she got to play competitively on teams in the Air Force.

Now, Kim and her husband, Samuel, live in Williamsburg and have three kids, Stephen, Maggie and Samantha. One of the first things that caught their eye about the area was the educational opportunities. More than anything, Williamsburg has brought her a place to use her skills to support her family and countless others in the pursuit of something they love.

Regardless of her late beginning into competitive volleyball, years of helping others set goals have taught Kim Viniard a couple things of her own.

"It's not always about where you're starting, but the journey to the end." NDN



#### Our Advisors Specialize in:

- Medicaid Spenddown
- Veteran Benefits
- Arlington National Cemetery Service
- Funeral Services
- Cremation Services
- Memorial Services
- Catered Receptions
- Certified Funeral Celebrants
- We Operate our Own On-Site Crematory



Pre-arranged funeral plans are 100% transferable throughout the United States and Canada. If you should relocate, your funeral plans go with you. For those that travel away from home, we offer worldwide away from home protection that brings your loved one home, if a death occurs over 75 miles from their home.

3785 Strawberry Plains Road • Williamsburg, VA 23188 • 757-565-1141 • nelsenwilliamsburg.com



#### Dr. Nordlund is a board certified Ophthalmologist practicing full-time in Williamsburg.

- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Glaucoma
- Macular Degeneration
- Retinal Tears
- Retinal Vascular Disease
- Visual Field Loss

#### John R. Nordlund, M.D., PhD specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of retinal diseases and glaucoma.

Credentials:

Retina fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, Glaucoma fellowship at Johns Hopkins, Fellow, American Society of Retina Specialists, Fellow, American Glaucoma Society

Open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 113 Bulifants Blvd., Suite A | Williamsburg, VA 23188

757.220.3375 | RGAVA.com



With over 17 years' experience designing kitchens, Amy Ahearn knows the nuances of a kitchen remodel. She will guide you through the process of design, cabinet and materials selection and installation with expertise. Call to schedule a complimentary in-home consultation.



Amy Ahearn, Principal + Owner 757-378-2785 Main/757-561-6592 Mobile amy@decoratingden.com amy.decoratingden.com



# **Picturing Beauty** By Susan Williamson

Upon walking into Howard and Marika Hopkins lovely Ford's Colony home, one notices an exceptional, large family portrait with a realism that invites the viewer into the scene. This is Marika's work, her photograph heat-pressed onto canvas, then sealed with hand painted, clear acrylic brush strokes and framed without glass. The finished portraits can be cleaned with water and Windex.

Marika grew up fascinated with her father's photography hobby. He worked as a surgeon in her native Russia, but took pictures with a film camera and developed them in his home darkroom. Marika never tried taking photos then. She studied linguistics and psychology at her university and starting at the age of nineteen, traveled frequently to the United States.

"We were working in Silicon Valley, at an amusement park," she says, "but there was not much there to interest people our age." So, the group decided to travel to Las Vegas and obtain jobs. She worked in a gift shop and came back the next year. After she graduated from college, she came back to the United States to work and travel. During her travels, she met her future husband, Howard Hopkins, in Delaware. He was planning to open a restaurant in Williamsburg which became Food for Thought.

After the couple moved to Williamsburg, Marika worked at the restaurant and then at an office in Richmond and taught Russian at Virginia Commonwealth University. It wasn't until her first son was a year old, eight years ago, that she picked up a camera. "That's when I started experimenting with photography and learning all I could soak in about it. I explored different genres from newborns to food photography until I discovered my passion for outdoor, natural light portraits. I just love how nature helps me bring out the personal beauty of my subjects."

She opened her business, Marika H Photography, in 2015, specializing in high school senior and family portraits. She also does professional branding sessions. Since first picking up a camera, she has attended workshops and conferences, eventually earning her professional certification from the Professional Photographers of America. Marika is proud of earning this certification which required classes, two-hour tests and demonstrations of her work. She continues to invest in her professional education to stay up-to-date with the new trends and gain inspiration.

When Marika prepares to photograph her clients, she first meets with them in person to learn about their interests, hobbies, and personalities. They get to know her so that they will be more relaxed during the photo shoot. At this time, she makes a mental note of their expressions, good angles and personal style. Then she selects the site. She loves Williamsburg because the area has an abundance of natural beauty that she uses for her settings.

To get the light she prefers, Marika schedules her sessions to begin three hours before sunset. Although she has reviewed the site, sometimes a particular idea will occur to her, and she includes it in the poses. A dancer may want to be pictured dancing, a pet lover with her dog or an equestrian with her horse. The background may be a beach, a river, a field of flowers, and is generally a compliment to the subject and the colors she has chosen for his or her outfit. One of her favorite photographs was taken when it began to rain. They were near Marshalls, so Marika ran over to the store and purchased umbrellas. The girl's best picture shows her under a clear umbrella, surrounded by apple blossoms, raindrops glistening around her.

Her subjects are usually photographed in a variety of different outfits. The session may take up to three hours, but the time goes quickly. "We have fun," she says. Her business has grown by word of mouth when one senior or family shows off their portraits to another.

"Our culture is so influenced by Hollywood," Marika says. "Women and even teenagers are convinced that they don't look good in pictures, based on a selfie they took with their phone." She enjoys dispelling that idea by showing them what the right lens, good light, flattering angle and a pose can do. She helps build self-confidence when she shows them how they appear in the back of the camera.

Once the pictures are taken, Marika works with her clients to decide which and how many poses they wish to purchase. "I take a picture of the wall where they plan to hang the portrait and I have software to show them how a particular size will look on their wall." Marika also provides frames for her work and has framed some larger works herself.

In this age of digital photos stored on phones, Marika feels that families seldom have family portraits. They may feel that portraits are vain. But, she says, "No one ever says, 'What a beautiful digital file!" Often a mother will take pictures of her children, but feel that she is ten pounds too heavy or out of shape or whatever and not wish to be photographed. Years from now those children won't think that; they will be happy to have a picture of their family. She feels that portraits should be displayed and enjoyed every day. For this reason, she collaborates with high-quality printers and craftsmen to create fine products which her clients can treasure for a lifetime. When her prints arrive, she carefully scans them for any imperfections. Large prints may require master retouching because a detail that wasn't visible in a smaller print may stand out when the print is enlarged. Prints that are not prepared for hanging are displayed in beautiful wooden photo boxes.

Marika Hopkins' love of her career comes through when she talks about finding the perfect setting for each person and the gift of confidence she is able to bestow through her work at important times in her subjects' lives. NDN



I enjoy being here because I have the freedom to come and go as I please. I still drive at 73. I enjoy being able to help the community in any way I can. I have built the raised flower beds, various benches around the community and other things. I enjoy being able to do that and remain independent as long as I can.

- Ed Worley, Resident of 3 years



To learn more about the Edgeworth Park Difference call (757) 345-5005.

5501 Discovery Park Blvd. • Williamsburg, VA 23188 www.edgeworthparkatnewtown.com



Next Door Neighbors





By Alison Johnson

When Sonya Thomas leads her fitness classes for seniors, she doesn't feel like the painfully shy child she was decades ago. She's long past the woman who was once obese and partially bedridden by an inflammatory lung condition.

Sonya also doesn't see her participants' health challenges as roadblocks, whether they have a chronic disease or mobility issues.

"There's so much they can do," Sonya says. "My class members are incredible and amazing, and I'm told by some of them that they are able to do things they haven't done in years, just because they're moving more. I absolutely love them."

A Toano native and grandmother of seven, Sonya, 57, has specialized in working with seniors for nearly eight years. She has turned a newfound passion for healthy living into a career as a qualified instructor with Tivity Health, a national company that offers a variety of fitness, nutrition and socialization programs often covered by Medicare.

Sonya, who also works part time for the James City County Recreation Center, leads 16 classes a week. She teaches line dancing and

Call us to get started today!

NCUA

SilverSneakers Flex, a program that incorporates aerobics, flexibility exercises and strength training with bands, balls and weights.

All of Sonya's classes aim to increase muscle mass, range of motion, balance and coordination for handling daily living activities.

"People tell me, 'Guess what? I got up out of my chair last night! I just popped up!" she says. "That's a huge milestone. Or maybe they can get in and out of a car easily, or open a jar or water bottle without having to ask anyone for help. These are not small accomplishments for them. They develop a spark and self-confidence that they didn't have before."

As an independent contractor, Sonya travels outside traditional fitness centers to locations such as retirement communities, assisted living facilities and recreation centers. Her current students range in age from 60 to 98, although she once taught a woman older than 100.

Some participants are in wheelchairs or can't stand for long periods. Others have serious health problems such as heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder or diabetes. Yet if cleared by a doctor, all can exercise safely with the right modifications, Sonya stresses.

"We can make a class beneficial for each person," she says. "I have people come in from all walks of life, so I have to learn each individual and what they can and are able to do."

Sonya also rejects the common misconception that no one can get a good workout from a chair: "I want to challenge people. Moving more will help you feel better in so many ways. Try it! You will be absolutely amazed at the benefits."

Classes also are designed to be fun. Sonya usually cranks music from the 1920s to 1960s to help get people into action. "Their smiles are contagious," she says.

Even as a child, Sonya remembers being drawn to older people. One of six siblings, she was so shy that she would cling to her mother's leg during outings.

"Staying with her, I was around adults a lot and listening to them talk," she says. "As I got older, I found I still loved their wisdom and just hearing their stories. Even though many of my students are a lot older than me, I feel like I found my tribe."

In school, Sonya rarely spoke. In fact, she hardly talked to anyone except close family members. When her former third-grade teacher joined one of her classes, the older woman was stunned at Sonya's confidence in a leadership role.

"It's really been a total transformation," Sonya says. "Anyone who knew me from way back when would not believe it."

How did her transformation happen? Sonya credits a lifelong desire to help people and the power of her deep faith in God.

After graduating from Lafayette High School, she planned to become a social worker and took classes at Virginia Union, Norfolk State and Thomas Nelson Community College. Although she never earned a degree, she kept her drive to make a difference.

Thirteen years ago, Sonya began pastoring at Fresh Start Ministries in Williamsburg after hearing a calling from God. Not long afterward, in 2010, she was diagnosed with sarcoidosis, a disease that causes collections of inflammatory cells to grow in different parts of the body,



## If you remember wearing these



### you probably need a colonoscopy n Could Save Your Life! Colonial Gastroenterology Associates is an

independent GI practice providing compassionate & comprehensive care to the community for almost 40 years. We perform office endoscopy in a state of the art accredited facility. Our practice also performs advanced endoscopic procedures such as ERCP & EUS. Our goal is to provide exceptional patient care. Call today. 757-534-7701.



# Start Your Career in Healthcare with Agapé Training Center Become a Nurse Aide Classes Start April 20<sup>th</sup>

Six week training program

- ✓ Choose from day or night classes
- Find fulfillment helping others



Call Today or Visit our Website AgapeHomeCareVA.com most commonly the lungs, lymph nodes, eyes and skin.

Sonya's disease mainly impacted her lungs. She had struggled with periods of coughing, chest pain and shortness of breath for about five years before her diagnosis, but the symptoms eventually grew so severe that she was partially bedridden for more than a year. She often had to pull off the road while driving and was forced to close a day care business she was running.

"My legs worked, but my lungs didn't," she explains. "I had no energy. I was also very overweight, which put even more stress on my body."

One day, Sonya was lying in bed when she says God spoke to her and told her to get up and walk. She dragged herself to an outlet mall and walked for just five minutes before she had to rest on one of the benches.

"I didn't think I could keep doing it, but I'm not a quitter," she says. "I kept going back. Before I knew it, I was up to 10 minutes, then 15 minutes, and then one day I did a mile. When I walked my first mile, I couldn't believe it."

Gradually, Sonya built up to walking 15 to 20 miles every day outside, starting before dawn and continuing even in rain, snow or heat. She lost 100 pounds, and in 2017, her doctor told her that her disease was in full remission. "The Lord healed me," she says.

Sonya's longer walking route took her past the R.F. Wilkinson Family YMCA, where an instructor noticed her and was impressed by her commitment. When Sonya later joined the YMCA to begin water workouts, the instructor encouraged her to take classes to teach SilverSneakers.

"It's one of the best things I've done for myself," Sonya says. "I look forward to it. I still get kind of nervous, but I say, 'Lord, give me confidence,' and He always does. In the mornings, I'm waiting for the sun to come up so I can go teach."

A mother of three grown children, Sonya also enjoys crafting, reading the Bible and any inspirational stories, and traveling. She and her husband, Tony, especially enjoy cruises, where Sonya faithfully continues her exercise routine at onboard fitness centers and on top-deck tracks. She thinks about her students back home, too.

"I don't like to leave my classes," she says. "I miss my tribe, and I wonder how they are doing."

At home, Sonya still walks about five miles every morning, in addition to the classes she teaches. The former fast-food devotee fills up on steamed vegetables and lean meats that she cooks in an air fryer.

"This is my lifestyle now, and it has made me feel 100 percent better," she says. "I never want to go back to how I was before."

Along the way, Sonya has inspired several of her relatives to overhaul their diet and exercise routines. In fact, her mother was a participant in one of her classes before she passed away in 2015 at age 85.

Whether it's family members, friends, churchgoers or former teachers, Sonya Thomas will never stop pushing people of all ages to live healthier lives.

"I finally found my passion, and it's so rewarding," she says. "It just makes me feel so good." NDN

NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORSAPRIL2020



# Wall to Wall Craftmanship

By Ashley Smith

Liz Sword took a circuitous route to her calling. Born in Richmond and raised in Petersburg, Virginia, Liz experienced several employment opportunities after graduation from Petersburg High School. Instead of attending college, she joined the workforce almost immediately. She waited tables for several years, worked for a financial company and then a truck transfer company.

"I did a little of everything," she says. By far, the best thing that happened to her while she was still in Petersburg was meeting the love of

To submit a person's name that you think we should interview, email our Editor, Narielle Living, at: NarielleLiving@gmail.com

Next Door Neighbors



# Every day your property sits vacant, You lose money

Enjoy 45 Days Lease Out + 2 Year Lease & Tenant Replacement Guarantee.

# REAL FOR RENT

Your local **Real Property Management** office will help you protect your investment, provide professional service, minimize your costs, and maximize! You can count on our local knowledge and expertise, supported by systems and processes developed over the past 30 years.

- The trusted leader in Residential Property Management and Leasing
- Professional Management Team Platinum Award 2019, Virginia Peninsula Association of Realtors
- The Property Manager of the Year 2019 Award- Virginia Peninsula Association of Realtors.
- Top Rating Residential Property Management Company in Williamsburg
- Full and customized service offered
- Optional premium benefits: Rental Home Maintenance Plan & Eviction Protection Plan

#### NOW LOCATED AT 1001 A Richmond Road, Williamsburg 757-251-9188

AGEMENT®

**A PENINSULA** 

Each office is independently owned and operated.

Comparison Unwavering Integrity. Unquestioning Reliability.

www.rpmvapeninsula.com





Laser welding is utilized to repair your delicate or intricate items or heat sensitive gems. We repair platinum, gold and sterling silver.

Ring Sizing
Diamond & Gemstone Setting
Prong Repair
Polishing & Refinishing



2023 RICHMOND RD., SUITE E

757-206-1100

Open Ion - Sat 10am - 6 her life, Gary, at a dance club called The Farmer's Market.

"We met one night and have been together ever since. It was love at first sight. We've been married for 32 years."

Finally, she landed a job in commercial real estate that allowed her to travel. Liz's profession in shopping center management and marketing started with the Chesterfield Town Center that she was with for five years, and that led to other opportunities in Vermont and Cincinnati, Ohio. Liz managed the large retail spaces and created programs and events to market various malls. Her husband Gary had a construction career as a rod buster, and they moved often to accommodate each other's work commitments.

"Commercial real estate is an exciting career; things are always changing."

When she began, indoor malls were popular but since that time she's seen them fall out of favor more than once. Now, outdoor retail spaces, such as New Town and High Street, are once again booming. Despite the adventure afforded by the travel and the challenging industry advances, the upheaval of constant transfers was not the best environment in which to raise a family.

Once Liz and Gary started their family, they decided to settle in one place for stability. They chose Williamsburg and never looked back. At first, Liz continued to work in real estate for two different firms in Newport News but after a while, she was laid off. In the meantime, Gary founded Sword Hardwood Flooring.

"Instead of searching for a separate job, I just went to work with Gary." Thus, they established a family business that has become part of the fabric of the Williamsburg community for the past twenty years.

Liz now spends her days meeting new people and building trust with clients. "My favorite part of the job is people, meeting new people and crafting a product that satisfies our clients."

She enjoys transforming homes with each installation. Often, the new flooring creates an entirely different interior without any other work necessary. On any given day, Liz can be found in her truck, driving from home to home, to ensure each client receives her personal care and attention.

"On a project, I might be in a home six workdays or more. It requires a level trust and relationship that takes time to develop. Several clients have become friends, and most of our business is due to referrals." As a team, Liz and Gary work hard to cultivate quality relationships with customers and with employees. "We invest in our staff, as well, and it has engendered loyalty." She even brought her assistant, Becky, with her when she left commercial real estate. Liz is thankful to be able to offer their employees full benefits and views it as an investment in not just the company but in people. She oversees estimation, customer service, ordering and networking for the company. Gary manages the team and the Colonial Williamsburg Museum projects. The ups and downs are not quite as severe as they often are in the retail industry but they've experienced highs and lows as a company and exciting advances in their field, though now they center around dust containment procedures instead of fancy retail spaces.

The Colonial Williamsburg Museum is one of Liz's favorite worksites.

"I love our relationship with the museum. It's truly an amazing partnership."

Recently, the museum added several new galleries as part of an expansion, and the opportunity to be a local company involved with the renovation is a source of pride for Liz. This project has allowed Liz and Gary to become an even more permanent fixture in Williamsburg and build on their reputation as local, Williamsburg-based craftsmen, a designation that the Swords take seriously. Though the initial phase of the expansion has finished, the Sword family will continue to maintain and clean the floors, so their friendly faces will be regular fixtures at the museum. "It's a beautiful new addition so make sure to visit," she says.

The description as a craftsman fits Liz perfectly. In addition to the beautiful hardwood floors that help her transform homes and business into works of art, she has found myriad avenues to express her creativity.

"I enjoy artsy, crafty things," she says with a warm smile. "We are always redoing our floors, too." Often, she'll see something she loves in a client's home and recreate it in her own or Gary will have a new idea that he wants to try at home. In addition to the home renovations, however, Liz loves to scrapbook, and her lush garden boasts herbs, vegetables, and flowers. She eagerly anticipates planting season's arrival later this month, and she's already planned this year's garden.

The Sword home is an older farmhouse filled with craftsman style charm. Here, Liz and Gary both work and live peacefully. Their retail offices are located just across the gravel driveway in a building left from the former owner. Theirs is the only commercial building in the subdivision, but it blends in seamlessly with the surrounding homes.

"Older homes have such character," she says. Her favorite space in their home is a room she designed herself, from the serene lavender decor to the cozy nook filled with inviting furniture. It is a peaceful oasis where she can visit with clients and friends or enjoy another passion, essential oils. "I believe in discovering natural remedies whenever possible," Liz says simply. The shelves in "the room," as she calls it, are filled with neat rows of oils. She also spends time with her three exuberant Basset Hounds: Odie, Ernie and Maggie.

Liz believes strongly in the importance of giving back to her community. In the past, she's been involved with the March of Dimes effort in Williamsburg and a supporter of the Olde Towne Medical Center. Currently, she serves on the planning committee for the Williamsburg area Meals on Wheels Foodapalooza: A Festival of Taste, scheduled to take place April 24th. Local chefs will be serving small plates and cocktails while patrons dance the night away. The event is part of the Scrumptious Festival, as well as a major fundraiser for the local Meals on Wheels organization.

The Swords love their life in Williamsburg.

Liz remains grateful for the success that the community has provided and wishes to continue serving Williamsburg and the surrounding area for years to come as an indelible part of the community. Whether she's designing a flooring masterpiece for a new client or crafting a memorable event for a nonprofit, Liz Sword plans to keep investing in people, one conversation at a time. While she may have taken a less traditional path to figure out what she was going to do with her life, now she can't imagine a different life in any other city. NDN

### Exceptional Medical Care for the uninsured



The mission of Olde Towne Medical and Dental Center is to provide free or low cost preventative care and early intervention services to a vulnerable and disadvantaged population.

Everyone deserves quality and reliable medical and dental care.

Olde Towne Medical & Dental Center provides primary medical and dental care to citizens living and working in the greater Williamsburg and surrounding areas.



5249 Olde Towne Road, Suite D • Williamsburg, VA 23188 • (757) 259-3252 www.oldetownemedicalcenter.org

# When Only the Best Will Do!



THE LARGEST SHOWROOM OF AREA OUTDOOR PATIO & CASUAL FURNITURE IN WILLIAMSBURG & HAMPTON ROADS



# Hey Neighbor!

Please visit

www.WilliamsburgNeighbors.com,

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

To submit your non-profit event to Hey Neighbor! send a paragraph with your information to: heyneighbor@cox.net

#### Hey Neighbor! NASHVILLE-BASED SINGER/ SONGWRITER March 27, 2020

Buddy Mondlock will perform with bassist, Mike Lindauer, in a coffeehouse setting at St Martin's Episcopal Church, 1333 Jamestown Rd. Dessert, coffee and nonalcoholic beverages will be served. Doors open 6:30 pm. Admission \$15 cash at the door. RSVP: arts@ stmartinswmbg.org.

#### Hey Neighbor! SUSTAINABLE TURF UNIVERSITY

March 28, 2020 Join regional turf grass experts to

learn how to sustainably care for your lawn while protecting the environment around you. Call Robyn Goad at (757) 645-4895 to register. Offered in partnership with James City County and the James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners.

#### Hey Neighbor! THE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OF WILLIAMSBURG April 4, 2020

The Neighborhood Council of Williamsburg will hold its monthly meeting at 8 am at the Quarterpath Recreation Center, 202 Quarterpath Road. All residents are invited to speak about their neighborhoods. The program will feature representatives from the 2020 Census Bureau. Meetings are attended by residents of the various neighborhoods in Williamsburg, as well as members of the City Council, including Mayor Paul Freiling. For more information contact Jim Joseph at 565-1549 or at jimjoseph120@gmail. com.

#### Hey Neighbor! 1ST ANNUAL H-E-A-R-T 5K RUN/WALK FOR CHARITY April 4, 2020

The WISC. All proceeds will support H-E-A-R-T whose mission is to provide hope for victims of sexual assault. Visit their website, https://h-e-a-r-t.org/. Fun Run beginning at 8 am is free and 5K Run/Walk beginning at 9 am is \$25. Packet pickup at event starts on race day at 7 am. Visit to register https://runsignup.com/ Race?raceId=86176.

#### Hey Neighbor! WCAC: TEXTILE & WEAVING EXTRAVAGANZA

Through April 10, 2020

The Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center's Textile & Weaving Extravaganza show is underway. This wildly popular show debuted last year and features a variety of textile & weaving works by numerous artisans, along with live demos and workshops. Hours: 11-3 Tues.-Sat.; 12-4 Sun. 110 Westover Ave; 757-229-4949; www.visitWCAC. org.

#### Hey Neighbor! IN THE GARDEN WITH WRL AND MASTER GARDENERS April 11, 2020

From 11 am - 12 noon at the Williamsburg Regional Library, 515 Scotland Street. Find out which cultivars grow best in our area from VCE Master Gardener Harriet Parsons as she shares her experience and knowledge about growing tomatoes. This FREE program is part of the "In the Garden" series sponsored by the Williamsburg Regional Library in cooperation with the James City County/Williamsburg VCE Master Gardeners.

#### Hey Neighbor! EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE ON JAMESTOWN ISLAND April 12, 2020

7 am. All are welcome to celebrate Easter under the cross at Historic Jamestown. There is a 10 minute walk from the parking area, so plan to arrive early. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a chair and blanket. Please note that public bathrooms may not be available. For more information call (757) 525-9282

#### Hey Neighbor! TAXES, FISCAL IMPACTS OF CENSUS ARE TOPICS AT NARFE LUNCHEON

April 14, 2020

Lara Overy, Commissioner of Revenue for the City of Williamsburg, will discuss taxes and the fiscal implications of the 2020 census at the luncheon of the Williamsburg Chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Association. Colonial Heritage Restaurant, 6500 Arthur Hills Drive. Lunch is served at 11:30 am following a social gathering at 11. Cost is \$20 per person. For reservations contact Penny Kell, pzkell@cox.net, no later than Tuesday, April 7.

#### Hey Neighbor! FLIGHT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION WINDOW IS OPEN!

Through April 15, 2020

The mission of the Williamsburg Aviation Scholarship Program is to create career opportunities in aviation, help build and sustain local aviation interest, and support national programs designed to do



the same. WASP addresses our nation's pilot shortage by funding flight training for high school age students who desire to pursue an aviation career. Apply at https:// www.waspscholarship.org/application. No longer high school age? Become a supporter! https://www. waspscholarship.org/donate.

#### Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG MUSIC CLUB April 15, 2020

"Musical Theatre Love Songs from the Golden Age to Today" will be highlighted by mezzo-soprano Phaedra McNorton at the Williamsburg Music Club beginning at 11 am and preceded by "Coffee & Conversation" at 10 am in Bruton Parish Hall, 331 Duke of Gloucester Street. The Williamsburg Music Club presents monthly programs free as a gift to the community. Website: www. williamsburgmusicclub.org.

#### Hey Neighbor! HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RE-STORE ANNIVERSARY EVENT April 18, 2020

The Habitat for Humanity Re-Store, located at 1303 Jamestown Road, will hold a daylong event to celebrate the 8th Anniversary of the store's opening. From 8 am – 6 pm, there will be food, giveaways, and special discounts on 1000's of items. Additionally, the store will offer various specials throughout the month of April. The ReStore is a non-profit fundraising arm for Habitat for Humanity. Habitat builds new, quality homes for local families with modest incomes. Shop. Donate. Volunteer.

#### Hey Neighbor! CASA FUN FAIR FOR THE FAMILY

#### <u>April 18, 2020</u>

Colonial CASA invites our community families to participate in our 3rd annual CASA Fun Fair from 11 am – 2 pm in New Town's Pecan Square! Celebrate and honor National Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month with a special day of free family fun. Pony rides, petting zoo, photo booth, Fun Bus, Kiddie Train, face painting, games, prizes and a very special visit with Beauty and the Beast.

#### Hey Neighbor! GREATER WILLIAMSBURG DUCKS UNLIMITED BANQUET April 18, 2020

Join the Greater Williamsburg Chapter of Ducks Unlimited in celebrating the restoration and enhancement of more than 67,535 acres of wetlands in Virginia. Fords Colony Swim Club. Doors open at 5:30. In addition to the buffet style banquet, activities will include raffles and live and silent auctions. A limited number of tickets are available at \$75 for a single ticket or \$110 for a couple. Go to www.greaterwilliamsburgdu.org or call Brad Stewart at (757) 667-1560 for additional information.

#### Hey Neighbor! 21ST ANNUAL 2020 WILLIAMSBURG BRITISH & EUROPEAN CAR SHOW

<u>April 18, 2020</u>

Open the 2020 car show season by visiting the 21st Annual British and European Car Show sponsored by the Williamsburg British Car Club at Revolution Golf & Grille in The Shops of High Street 9 am – 3 pm. Registration form on our website - http://www.wmbgbrit.com/. Featured marque is Mini to celebrate their 60th year of production. Spectators free, car entry \$25. Roy Gavilan-car show registration, WBCCcarshow@ gmail.com.

#### Hey Neighbor! ROARING TWENTIES GARDEN SOIREE April 18, 2020

From 4 – 8 pm at Chippokes Plantation State Park, 695 Chippokes Park Rd. Surry, VA To celebrate Historic Garden Week, The Roaring Twenties will return to Chippokes Plantation State Park during a prohibition-era garden soiree Saturday, from 4 - 8 pm. Live jazz music by The Grace Street Seven, Charleston dance competition, 1920s fashion contest. 1920s dress is encouraged. Pre-sale tickets are available for \$15 per individual or \$25 per couple by calling (757) 294-3625.

#### Hey Neighbor! THE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF WILLIAMSBURG April 21, 2020

Pianist Lise de la Salle and Quatuor Danel perform at 8 pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. Lise de la Salle has a reputation as one of today's most exciting artists and as a musician of uncommon sensibility and maturity. Quatuor Danel, is at the forefront of the international music scene, with important performances worldwide and a series of groundbreaking CDs in collaboration with major contemporary composers. For further information and tickets visit our website ---chambermusicwilliamsburg. org

#### Hey Neighbor! FESTIVAL OF TASTE April 24, 2020

The eighth annual FOODA-PALOOZA Festival of Taste event in support of Williamsburg Area Meals on Wheels is one of the best food and wine events in Williamsburg. Eleven chefs participate, Strictly Bizzness provides music for dancing. This event helps to provide over 27,000 meals a year to those in need locally. Being held adjacent to the Stryker Building as part of the Scrumptious Weekend, the event starts at 6:30 pm. Tickets can be purchased by calling (757) 229-9250 or by going to www. wmbgmealsonwheels.com. The all-inclusive ticket is \$75; tickets will be available at the door for \$85.

#### Hey Neighbor! HERITAGE HUMANE SOCIETY DOG STREET STRUT April 25, 2020

Join us on Duke of Gloucester Street from 8-11 am for The Heritage Humane Society DoG Street Strut! The DoG Street Strut is a dog-walk benefit event to help the homeless pets. There will be dog contests, a vendor village, fun entertainment, giveaways, a 2 mile walk up and back on DoG Street, and much more! Registration and Vendor Village open at 8 am. Walk starts at 8:30 am in front of Bruton Parish Hall near Merchant's Square. Contests and games start at 9:45 am at the main stage. For more information and to register online please visit heritagehumanesociety.org/strut/. If you have any questions, call (757) 221-0150 or email dss@heritagehumanesociety.org.

#### Hey Neighbor! PRICILLA SHIRER SIMULCAST April 25, 2020

Women's Ministry at King of Glory Lutheran Church is hosting Pricilla Shirer's Simulcast - Going Beyond from 9 am-4 pm, with registration beginning at 8 am. We will join a hundred thousand women from around the globe, as Pricilla Shirer teaches the Word of God. Pricilla is a gifted Bible teacher, who has written many Bible studies for women. The cost is \$20 which includes a light breakfast and lunch. Childcare is also available. King of Glory is located at 4897 Longhill Road. Register at kogva.org under sign-up central, or contact Judy Olver at jdolver@ gmail.com

#### Hey Neighbor! PLANTS WITH A PURPOSE PLANT SALE AT WBG April 25, 2020

From 9 am - 2 pm in the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. Here's where you will find pollinator-friendly natives and perennials to help rebuild beneficial habitat in sun or shade. Get advice and answers to your garden questions from our experts at the onsite Master Gardener Help Desk. Rain or Shine - inside the Garden. Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted. All proceeds benefit the Williamsburg Botanical Garden.

#### Hey Neighbor! MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WALK

<u>April 25, 2020</u>

In Colonial Heritage, starting point at 6500 Arthur Hills Drive, Williamsburg. One and three mile routes available. Starts 9:30 am. Looking for walkers and volun-NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORSAPRIL2020 45 teers for the event. For more information visit https://secure.nationalmssociety.org or contact Kristin Doherty, Kristin.s.doherty@gmail. com.

#### Hey Neighbor!

#### SENTARA SECOND ANNUAL CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER! April 25, 2020

Roaring '20s evening featuring music by Good Shot Judy, food, gambling, and a glass of "bubbly" upon arrival. The event will be held at Colonial Heritage Clubhouse, 7 - 10 pm. Cash bar, cocktail attire. This event will help support the Auxiliary's projects which benefit patients and their families. Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased by visiting http://www. auxiliaryswrmc.org/events or mailing a check to ASWRMC, PO Box 6841, Williamsburg, VA 23188. Call (757) 984-7188 for more information.

#### Hey Neighbor! 57TH ANNUAL ART ON THE SQUARE

<u>April 26, 2020</u>

The 57th Annual Art on the Square will be held from 10 am -5 pm. Art on the Square is a juried show that is dedicated to providing original, high quality, handcrafted and diverse mediums of art. It is located on Duke of Gloucester and North Boundary Street in Merchants Square, Williamsburg, Virginia. The event features more than 150 artists and is free and open to the public. Proceeds from artist booth fees are donated to visual and performing arts organizations throughout the greater Williamsburg area including Williamsburg, James City and York counties.

#### Hey Neighbor! KIWANIS CLUB 2ND ANNU-AL GOLF TOURNAMENT May 2, 2020

Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg 2nd Annual Golf Tournament -- Come play the River Course at Kingsmill two weeks before the LPGA Pure Silk Tournament. The course will be in tournament condition, ready to challenge your golfing skills. Enjoy golfing, games, prizes, a silent 46 NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORSAPRIL2020

auction and lunch. 'It's All About The Kids'. Contact: Pat Kitchen at pakitchen@aol.com.

#### Hey Neighbor! MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL PLANT SALE May 2, 2020

The VCE James City County-Williamsburg Master Gardeners Association will host its annual plant sale at the Historic Triangle Community Center, 312 Waller Mill Road, from 8 am - 12 noon. Purchase beautiful and healthy annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, flower baskets, and even lettuce bowls. Master Gardeners will be on hand to demonstrate sound garden practices and answer all your garden related questions. The sale will take place rain or shine. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted. Come one, come all!

#### Hey Neighbor! NATIVE PLANT SALE May 2, 2020

The John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will hold its Annual Native Plant Sale at the Williamsburg Community Building at 401 N. Boundary St in Williamsburg. The sale is for one day only from 9:30 am -1:30 pm. The plants are all Virginia natives, and many are important host and nectar plants for butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Choose from perennials, shrubs, trees, ferns, grasses and vines. You'll find plants for sun or shade, moist or dry soils. Expert advice will be on hand for information on choosing and planting. Cash or check only, please. Visit the John Clayton Chapter on the web at https:// vnps.org/johnclayton/

#### Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG CHORAL GUILD MAY CONCERT -FABLE

May 3, 2020

4 pm, Williamsburg United Methodist Church, 500 Jamestown Rd. For tickets, visit tickets@williamsburgchoralguild.org. Adult tickets \$20 in advance /\$25 at the door; \$10 for students; no cost for children under 12. We hope you'll join the Williamsburg Choral Guild for our spring concert celebrating the art of storytelling with a program entitled Fable. You'll hear works by Eric Whitacre (Goodnight Moon), Sam Pottle (The Jabberwocky), and Bob Chilcott (Aesop's Fables), to name a few. We will be joined by the Jamestown High School Chamber Choir, under the direction of Matthew Rapach. For more information, visit www.williamsburgchoralguild.org.

#### Hey Neighbor! AGING IN PLACE SYMPOSIUM May 12, 2020

Join us for Williamsburg Faith In Action's 9th Annual Aging in Place Symposium. The event will take place from 10 am – 3 pm at the Williamsburg Community Chapel and will include a keynote address, informative presentations, handson activities, and community resources to learn how YOU can make your mark in your community. Visit wfia.org/makeyourmark to sign up today! Sponsorship opportunities available.

#### Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG WOMEN'S CHORUS SPRING CONCERT May 12, 2020

The Williamsburg Women's Chorus spring concert will be at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg at 7:30 p.m. "Seasons of Song" features a number of familiar folk songs as set by both American and British composers. A youth choir will join the chorus with readings of poetry from Robert Louis Stevenson set by Paul Busselberg. Tickets are \$15 for Adults and \$5 for students. They can be purchased at the door or at williamsburgwomenschorus.org.

#### Hey Neighbor! HIGH FIBER FESTIVAL May 16, 2020

Join us for knitting, quilting and weaving demos, displays, kids' crafts, fiber animals, good food, and vendors in a community fair atmosphere. Free admission. From 10 am - 3 pm at Hickory Neck Episcopal Church campus. For more information, map/directions, vendor/demonstration registration forms go to www.highfiberfestival.com.

#### Hey Neighbor! BRIDLES & BOOTS May 16, 2020

From 5 – 9 pm at the Cori Sikich Therapeutic Riding Center (10120 Fire Tower Road, Toano, VA 23168). Bridles & Boots is Dream Catchers' signature fundraiser. The evening includes a cocktail hour with delicious appetizers, champagne, oysters, premium cocktails, wine and beer, as well as tours of the facility, student spotlights, and amusements such as the Preakness on the jumbo screens, meet/greets with our horses, and more! An elegant seated buffet dinner follows with a live auction which will feature one-of-a-kind experiences and a "paddle raise" for our Dream Rider Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$100 each. For more information, contact Terry Jacoby, Development Director (757) 566-1775. Web site: www. dreamcatchers.org.

#### Hey Neighbor! SPRING CONCERT May 17, 2020

The Cantori Choral Ensemble will present its 2020 spring concert at 5 pm at Walnut Hills Baptist Church, 1014 Jamestown Road in Williamsburg. Entitled A Red, Red Rose, the concert will feature poetry about the rose, the symbol of love, including from the pen of Christina Rossetti, Thomas Moore, Robert Burns, and Lord Byron, set to music in both original works and folk song arrangements by some of the best 20th Century choral composers. Tickets for the concert are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Tickets may be purchased from any member of the ensemble or by sending a check made out to Cantori Choral Ensemble at 3341 Derby Lane.

FIND MORE LISTINGS AND LENGTHIER DESCRIPTIONS AT: WilliamsburgNeighbors.com



## QUEENS LAKE MARINA

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

MARCH 2020 In the Neighborhood Photo Challenge





INTERMEDIATE



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



# WATER OR LAND. WE HAVE A HOME FOR YOU!



#### COLONIAL HERITAGE 4BR | 3BA | 2817 sqft. Cozy, light-filled & sought after Aldrich model with room enough for visitors and guests. Beautiful entry way with hardwood floors leads to large eat-in kitchen with granite, SS, gas range, and bar seating for up to 5. Great room features dining area and windows overlooking comfy deck to catch the breeze with stairs to backyard. Offered at \$375,000.





5530 TYSHIRE PARKWAY Brickshire in Providence Forge Absolutely stunning lot on 16th hole! Beautiful views of the golf course. Access to the cart path from the yard .759 acres on corner lot in the desirable section of the Preserve at Brickshire! Offered at \$39,000





**HOLLY HILLS** Extraordinary one owner home built by Ken Krouse located in the heart of Williamsburg featuring 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms and the option for one floor living. 244 Yorkshire Dr... offered at \$625.000.

Tim Parker (757) 879-1781 Cyril Petrop (757) 879-8811

www.timparkerrealestate.com

Stonehouse Glen

4 BR | 3.1 BA | 3,578 Sq Ft

Former master model for Stonehouse Glen | Expansive

kitchen with light-filled morning

with tray ceiling and two walk-

lower level rec room | \$445,000

757-503-1999

Deelyn@lizmoore.com

www.PremierWilliamsburgRealEstate.com

room | Great room with gas

fireplace | Master bedroom

in closets | Huge walk-out

a passion



4701 LEVINGSTON Colonial Heritage • \$399,000 Lovely single family home with 2 BRs on main level, 2 BRs on the 2nd level and walk-out lower level that is finished but also offers a large unfinished storage area plus a huge cedar closet. Loads of room but also easy one floor living.





152 SOUTHPORT Fords Colony - \$765,000 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 4,102 sqft, 0.69 acres Custom designed 2-story with Southern charm. Living room has vaulted ceiling, palladium window and fireplace built-ins. http://152southport.info



/ 5 / - / 84-451 / charlotteturner@lizmoore.com



STONEHOUSE GLEN 3286 Newland Court 4 BR | 2.2 BA | 3,660 sqft Spacious & bright w/ open floor plan perfect for entertaining. Gourmet kitch-

perfect for entertaining. Gourmet kitchen w/ huge pantry, granite counters, large island, new SS appliances. Sizable 2nd floor MBR has tray ceiling, 2 walkin closets, & spa-like BA. Large finished basement with tons of storage and half bath. Priced at \$435,000. Wow!





🖴 🛛 LIZ MOORE & ASSOCIATES • 5350 DISCOVERY PARK BLVD. • WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188 • 757-645-4106 • WWW.LIZMOORE.COM 🛛 🔢