

December 2007

WILLIAMSBURG'S

# Next Door Neighbors<sup>®</sup>

VOL. 1, ISSUE 9

PRICELESS

Discovering the people who call Williamsburg home

## Holiday Homes for our Furry Friends

Lynne Christensen,  
Heritage Humane Society

### A Gift from Ben

Thumper Newman's  
Memorial to His Son, Ben

YOU'RE INVITED TO A  
**New Year's Eve Party!**

First Night Williamsburg

COVER PHOTO  
BY MONICA SIGMON

# Deucie has holiday gifts for everyone!

Home accents,  
gift items and  
much more!

## Special Somethings

6536 Richmond Rd. - Next to New York Deli in Lighfoot (757) 564-8346



Meredith Collins, Publisher

The holiday season is traditionally a festive time - full of friends, family and food. It's a time for celebration and a time of reflection for many.

In this issue, Williamsburg Holidays, we bring you stories that span from Thanksgiving to New Year's. As always, we try to give you insight into what your neighbors are doing to better themselves or to touch the lives of others.

As you read this issue of *Next Door Neighbors*, I hope you are inspired to feel the love of the holiday season and carry it with you into 2008, and throughout the new year. NDN

### Next Door Neighbors

**Publisher**  
Meredith Collins

**Managing Editor**  
Joe Collins

**Copy Editor**  
Al White

**Writers**  
Karen Haywood Queen  
Linda Landreth Phelps  
Suzi Drake  
Rachel Sapin,  
*W&M Intern*  
Brandy Centolanza

**Advertising Sales**  
Judi Thomas  
Meredith Collins

**Advertising Information**  
(757) 560-3235

Please email your questions, comments and ideas to:  
meredith.collinsgroup@cox.net

Next Door Neighbors is a monthly, direct-mailed magazine serving the residents of the Williamsburg area.

Circulation: 34,759



COLLINS GROUP LLC  
PO Box 5152  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

## Inside

PAGE 3

**Otis Wants to Know...**

*Will you adopt a pet this Christmas?*

PAGE 7

**Behind the Scenes at the Grand Illumination**

PAGE 10

**No Time Off**

*City and County Employees Working the Holidays*

PAGE 12

**Thumper Newman**

*Feeding Williamsburg All Year Long*

PAGE 14

**Don't Miss the Party!**

*First Night Williamsburg*

PAGE 23

**Hey Neighbor!**

# Gas Logs

*Prepare your Hearth for the Holidays*

**Taproot**  
HEARTH & PATIO

Monessen  
(757) 229-3722  
157 Second St.

cover photography by  
Monica Sigmon

757.564.8533  
www.monicasigmon.com

All I Want for Christmas Is...

# Otis!

By Linda Landreth Phelps

Otis' trim body and melting brown eyes were attractive, but what made him special was his apparent readiness to commit to a lifelong relationship. He ignored the tasty gift I had planned to woo him with and looked deeply into my eyes. "Are you the one?" his intense gaze seemed to ask. Sadly, the answer was "no", as I am already in a committed relationship with someone who really doesn't appreciate rivals for my affection—Katherine, whom we rescued twelve years ago from an animal shelter not far from here.

Otis, the stray hound who prefers being petted to Pup-Peroni, lives at the moment in the comfortable new facilities of the Heritage Humane Society, but he is hoping to have a new home by Christmas. Once he's treated for and recovers from the mild case of heartworms he picked up back when he was underappreciated and neglected, Otis will get an extreme makeover that will improve his chances for finding a perfect love and a permanent home. They'll take care of the fatty tumor that mars his strong shoulders and he'll also get a snip down below, all paid for by some of his fans. Somewhere there just has to be someone who has a dog exactly like Otis at the very top of their wish list.

Lynne C. Christensen, the Executive Director, was kind enough to give me a behind-the-scenes tour of the Heritage Humane Society facilities at the end of Waller Mill Road. She shares an office with the Director of Development, Christie Chippis Peters, who arrived almost two years ago and is re-



Lynne Christensen, Executive Director of Heritage Humane Society, and Christie Peters, Director of Development, give Otis center stage for the camera. (Otis does not appear to be camera-shy.)

sponsible for donor relations, budget, and fundraising. She and Lynne (whose duties include overseeing day-to-day operations, coordinating with the shelter manager, and spending a lot of time meeting with various people) wish they had more time to do the hands-on interaction with the animals that they both love.

"My first day on the job, I took three puppies home to foster," Christie confides. "I kept one I couldn't bear to part with who has one brown eye and one blue eye. Not long after, another puppy came in with the same thing - only reversed; we kept that one, too! Now I only foster cats and kittens - it's safer since I'm not as tempted by them. I've got a full house!"

Lynne's personal soft spot is for Golden Retrievers. She currently has two of them, both rescues, down from a former total of four. "One of my dogs came in with such

bad skin allergies that there was literally no fur left at all," she said. "After the proper treatment and some TLC, I now have a beautiful, healthy dog with a gorgeous coat!"

Lynne Christensen has held her position as Executive Director at the shelter since 2001, but has been working there since 1994, first as a volunteer, then on the Board of Directors, then as a staff member. She has a big job since the shelter serves Williamsburg, James City County and District 1 of York County.

"When the state veterinarian inspected the old building several years ago," Lynne

said, "he found it no longer met the minimum requirements for animal shelters; there was rust on the fences, the old painted walls didn't hold a seal and harbored germs; we were crowded and had no way to quarantine sick animals effectively. It was simply not safe or sanitary. A \$1,000 per day fine would eventually be levied if we couldn't make the required improvements, but repair was not practical. JCC Animal Control also needed new facilities, so the logical thing was to combine forces and build one facility that houses us both. All the strays that are captured are brought here now, as are the court held animals, the ones that may be dangerous and need to be separated from the rest."

Heritage Humane Society is an open admission shelter; anyone can bring any animal in, from an injured squirrel to abused farm animals and unwanted dogs or cats, and they will try to either turn it over to rescue op-

erations, wildlife rehabilitators, or find it an adoptive home. As a last resort, if an animal is too ill, is contagious, or has been mistreated and abused until it's aggressive and no longer adoptable, they will euthanize it painlessly. A committee of three makes those tough decisions, and they're always hard ones.

The shelter houses the usual cats, dogs, guinea pigs, and gerbils, but in the past has had some pretty exotic residents. "We've had a ten foot long python, potbellied pigs, roosters, a turkey or two and even three prairie dogs at one time or another. A Pygmy goat lived in one of the kennels for a while and would always jump up and stand on top of the dog house," Lynne laughed.

I asked Lynne if there was one animal that stood out in her memory. "Yes, there is," she replied. "It was years ago. Summer was her name and she was a yellow lab, the first dog I ever had to euthanize because of lack of space. It was heartbreaking, but she had been with us for a long time and we had run out of kennels and more dogs were coming in."

"I can still see her..." Lynn continued, softly. "She's the reason I work so hard to place every animal I can. That kind of thing makes us try so hard to find another option, to not let space be the reason an animal dies. It's very difficult when that happens and we have a happier staff if we can adopt them out. Still, more than 80% of the animals we get, including those who are aggressive, sick, or are brought here specifically for us to euthanize, have found homes. We are proud to say we place close to 100% of the cats and dogs that are adoptable!"

Some ways in which they accomplish this are farms in the area which

will take stray or abused farm animals and breed-specific rescue operations that are all over the southeast that look for particular kinds of purebred animals (Maine Coons, Siamese, and Persian cats, Greyhounds, Pugs, etc.) that they will foster until they can find homes. At times, the other humane societies in the area will trade animals. Shelters in

Gloucester, for instance, look for large dogs suitable for their wide-open spaces, and will swap small dogs more popular in urban areas for the bigger ones.

For people concerned about the cost of adopting a cat or dog who may feel they can't afford it, there are options that should help. "We have a spay/neuter program available at reduced cost for those who qualify," Lynne enthused. "Once a month the 'Snip Van' comes from Norfolk and spends the day in our parking lot, and low-income families will have a co-pay of from \$5.00-\$50.00 (depending on their income) to get their pet's surgery done. They do about 25 operations a month that way, and it's working great. We're seeing a drop in the overall animal population."

Lynne's favorite success story involves a puppy that had been abandoned and tied to a tree in back of the shelter out of sight and earshot until a staff member stumbled across him. He had been there for days, and "He was a totally matted, aggressive, terrified mess," she recounted. "Patty, of Paws Applause, groomed him, we treated his eye and ear infections, loved him up, and he became such a sweet dog. He found a new home and now swims in his own pool and is the master of his domain. His owner even joined the auxiliary!"

Heritage Humane Society depends upon its auxiliary members and volunteers for many things, including fostering animals not yet ready to be adopted, taking the dogs for walks, and the vitally important socialization of the puppies and kittens with attention and affection.

"House cats are not multiplying in number because of our good



© Monica Sigmom

Christie Peters enjoys the company of several kittens in a room at the new facility that is designed to allow them to safely climb and play.

**20% off**  
**these landscaping services with this ad:**

- Tree removal & stump grinding
- Design services & installation
- Specimen trees up to 14'
- Mulching & bed rejuvenation

**DPM** Trees & Landscaping **810-1589**  
DELIVERED - PLANTED - MULCHED \* some restrictions apply

Coupon good thru 12/18/07

**VM VIRGINIA MORTGAGE llc**  
www.VirginiaMtg.com *Investing in Relationships*

Interest rates are near historic lows. Now is the time to refinance your adjustable mortgage.  
*Call for a free consultation.*

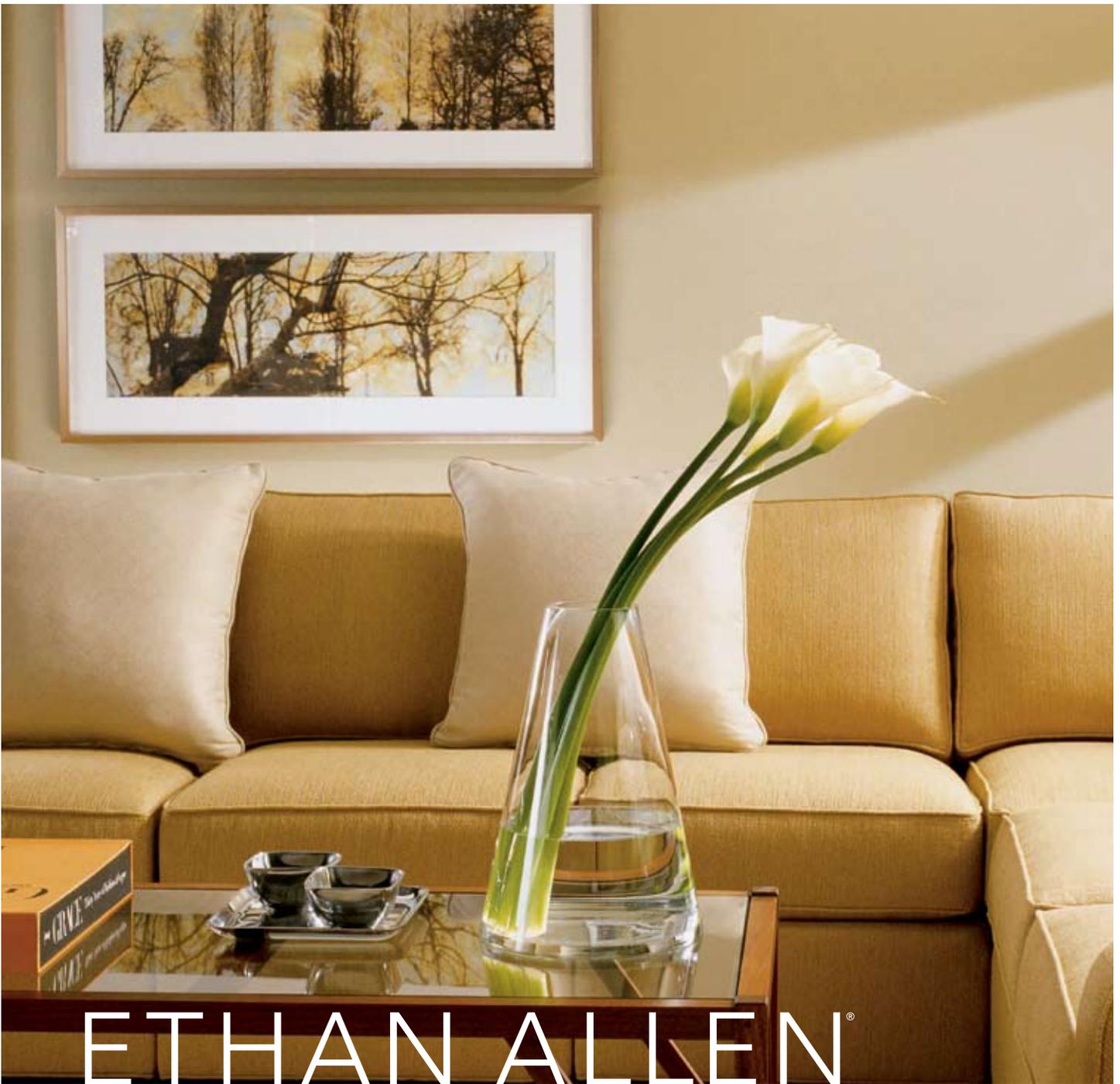
**(757) 221-8020**  
**Tim@VirginiaMtg.com**

Licensed by the Virginia State Corporation Commission, MB-2845.



**TIM LEAPTROT**  
 Loan Officer





# ETHAN ALLEN®

It had to be stylish...  
and a comfortable place to relax.

## COMPLIMENTARY DESIGN SERVICE

**WILLIAMSBURG** 3032-1 RICHMOND ROAD ROUTE 60 WEST CAMP PEARY EXIT OFF I-64  
LOCAL 757.565.0024, TOLL FREE 800.486.0024 MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-6 SUNDAY 1-5

WWW.ETHANALLEN.COM ©2007 ETHAN ALLEN GLOBAL, INC.

NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORS DECEMBER 2007

spay/neuter program. However, the feral cat population is growing, and kittens as young as 3 or 4 weeks react to humans with hissing and instinctive aggression. It's amazing to see, but after a week or two of fostering and socializing, most warm up and become sweet and adoptable," Lynne says. "Upper respiratory problems are very common in cats in shelters, and a lot of cats and kitten used to die from it. Our new facility has an isolation system where there are twelve exchanges of air each hour. The rooms don't combine air, so the isolation is complete. We have a much better chance of keeping our cats healthy now."

The cats certainly do look healthy and sleek as we pass through their area on my grand tour. I notice Cinder, a beautiful, fluffy black cat quietly extending a soft paw as if to shake my hand in greeting.



© Monica Sigmom

*Otis is a happy dog despite the fact that he is still waiting for a loving family to adopt him.*

I am drawn irresistibly by the cute little faces of the kittens. One in particular seems to call my name with a loud, rumbling purr. She rubs enthusiastically against the cage door, hoping for some affection. I promise to provide it when I come back and visit in the spacious free-play area where cats can safely interact with people and each other. There's nothing like stroking a lap full of warm, purring cat to remove any stress and tension from your pores, and watching kittens chase their tails seems to me like a great way to pass an afternoon.

As the holidays approach, many a child's fantasy turns towards a cute, fuzzy kitten or puppy with a big red bow tied around its neck under the Christmas tree. But is a new pet for Christmas really a good idea? Surprisingly, within certain conditions, Lynne thinks it might be just fine. "Lots of research has been done on this subject and it used to be said it was not the best thing to do, but figures show the return rate is even lower than average if it's for a family member. Unless the selection has been discussed thoroughly and a decision has been made ahead of time about the desire for and suitability of a pet, a gift certificate might be a better idea," Lynn suggests. "The holidays are so hectic that a new animal might not be happiest in his new home until things calm down a bit. But you could buy a cat toy, a leash and collar, or a food bowl and wrap that up along with a promise to take your child to a local shelter as many times as it takes to find the perfect pet."

Holiday time is stressful for most people, so Heritage Humane Society prefers not to send animals home for the three days before or after Christmas. They are there on Christmas Eve for an open house - Christmas Eve with the Animals. They are also open every day but Thursdays (except for Christmas) and five other major holidays. Their hours are from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm for surrendering an animal, but if you're go to visit and possibly adopt, the hours for that are 12:00 noon - 4:30 pm. If you're looking for a lost pet, you can do that in the morning or afternoon. But, Lynne smiled and paused for effect, "if you want to make a donation, you're welcome anytime!"

And please...if you're coming to adopt Otis, make it soon. He's patiently waiting for you. NDN

I am drawn irresistibly by the cute little faces of the kittens. One in particular seems to call my name with a loud, rumbling purr. She rubs enthusiastically against the cage door, hoping for some affection. I promise to provide it when I come back and visit in the spacious free-

# New Hardwood Floors

*just in time for your holiday guests.*

## Realwood Flooring, LLC

Distributors of Antique & Prefinished Flooring Since 1995

- Free In-Home Consults  
- Measurements

**(757) 229-2990**

www.realwoodflooringltd.com    Email: sales@realwoodflooringltd.com

- Free Delivery  
- Installation Referrals

# KARATE

## ONE FREE WEEK

**Learn from the best.** Visit Frank's dojo and take a few FREE lessons from a trained 8 degree black belt!

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, GIVE THE GIFT OF SELF-DISCIPLINE AND GOOD HEALTH.

### FRANK HARGROVE KARATE

#### 757-847-3260

Lee Hall Plaza - 8B Elmhurst Street - Newport News

# Vintage Holiday Gifts!

- Furniture
- Silver
- Collectibles
- Jewelry
- Crystal & Glassware
- Oriental Rugs
- La Petite Tearoom's Lunches, Teas and Desserts

**Browse 45,000 square feet of Antiques furnished by over 400 dealers**

Gift Certificates Available!

**Open 7 Days a Week**  
Monday - Saturday, 10 AM to 6PM  
Sunday, 12 Noon to 5PM

**(757) 565-3422**

500 LIGHTFOOT ROAD  
www.antiqueswilliamsburg.com  
Member of National Association of Antique Malls

From 164: Exit 234 at Lightfoot. East on 199. Exit Right onto Mooretown Rd. West. Turn left onto Lightfoot Rd. 500 ft. to mall. Look for our white picket fence on left. From Williamsburg: From Route 60, turn at Casey Toyota onto Lightfoot Road. 1/2 mile to mall. Look for our white picket fence on right. Handicap accessible, clean, organized and climate controlled.

# Grand Illumination

By Brandy Centolanza

Everyone knows Williamsburg's holiday season doesn't officially begin until the annual Grand Illumination celebration in Colonial Williamsburg, but exactly when did the tradition start, and what goes on behind the scenes to make the event so special?

The first re-creation of a colonial Christmas began in December 1935, with the placing of lit candles inside the windows of buildings, and garlands on the outside. Five years later, the city of Williamsburg joined in the festivities with an opening ceremony around the Historic Area. The event came to be known in 1947 as "White Lighting" with the use of

electric candles, and was renamed "Grand Illumination of the City," in 1959.

More than 50 years later, thousands of locals and tourists alike still take to the streets of Colonial Williamsburg the first Sunday in

December to share in the occasion.

Grand Illumination features holiday music and entertainment,

the candle lighting of stores, homes, and other buildings, and culminates with fireworks at three locations: the Governor's Palace, the Magazine, and the Capitol. Roughly

1,200 electric or battery-operated candles are used in more than 100 buildings and remain lit through the New

Year.

This year's celebration begins on December 2nd, with a performance by the Fifes and Drums at 5:45 p.m. signaling the start of Williamsburg's holiday season.

Timothy Sutphin, director of Historic Events for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, oversees the planning of Grand Illumination. His involvement with Colonial Williamsburg first began as a young

fife player in the Fifes and Drums. In 1993, he was brought in as part of the organization of the Grand Illumination program.

"I'm in charge of all the logistics that go into preparing the event," Sutphin said. "The most challenging part is trying to make sure it all comes together."

A few days after each Grand Illumination celebration, Sutphin and his staff meet to discuss any issues or concerns that they had with the event, what they liked or didn't like, and what changes they'd like to see the next year. Then, in August, Sutphin and his team regroup to begin the planning. Sutphin's responsibilities include the arranging of entertainment, staging, and fireworks displays. In addition to handling the Grand Illumination celebration, he also leads up the preparations for other annual Colonial Williamsburg

**The first re-creation of a colonial Christmas began in December 1935, with the placing of lit candles inside the windows of buildings, and garlands on the outside.**



Tim Sutphin

events, including the 4th of July spectacular.

On the night of Grand Illumination, Sutphin can be found standing by the St. George Tucker House, watching the firework show along with everyone else, only he is making sure that the show is synchronized at the three different sites.

“To coordinate that is very challenging,” Sutphin said. “The moment those fireworks go off and the crowd erupts and cheers, that’s my favorite part of Grand Illumination. I know that sounds mushy, but that just tells me that everyone really enjoyed themselves.”

While Sutphin is focused on the execution of the overall event, Susan Dippre works hard to ensure that all the holiday decorations remain beautiful and fresh. She is the landscape supervisor for the Historic Area, and has been with Colonial Williamsburg for 28 years.

The outdoor Christmas décor is made from natural materials like those used in colonial times, such as pine and boxwood wreaths made with fresh pineapples, apples, oranges, and other nuts and fruits.

“Maintenance is very important, so we regularly check all the decorations to make sure they look good for our guests,” Dippre said. “We do not preserve any of the fruit or other fresh materials used in the decorations. Instead, we check each decoration daily for repair and replacement. We also change out the decora-



Susan Dippre makes sure Colonial Williamsburg’s holiday decorations are fresh.

## Caring for the women of Williamsburg for over 27 years



**WOMANCARE**  
*of Williamsburg*  
A Division of Mid-Atlantic Women’s Care, PLC

Camilla Buchanan, MD, MPH, FACOG  
Beth Schariop, MD, FACOG  
Susan Lontkowski, MD, FACOG  
Jane McMillan, MD  
Kristy Keller, MD  
Alison Butler, RN, CFNP

Visit them at [www.womancareofwilliamsburg.com](http://www.womancareofwilliamsburg.com) or by calling 757-253-5600 to schedule an appointment for the many health concerns and needs of females.

120 Kings Way, Suite 3400, Williamsburg, VA 23185

## For life insurance, call a good neighbor.

Call me and I’ll help you get the right life insurance for you and your family.



**David Sisk, Agent**  
1318 Jamestown Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23185-3382  
Bus: 757-229-2961  
[david.sisk.bv60@statefarm.com](mailto:david.sisk.bv60@statefarm.com)



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR,  
STATE FARM IS THERE.™

[statefarm.com](http://statefarm.com)™

State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not licensed in MA, NY or WI), State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (Licensed in NY and WI) - Bloomington, IL  
P062046 12/06

tions two to three times a season. Therefore, the decorations seen at Grand Illumination are usually not the same arrangements taken down after New Year's."

For Dippre, preparation for Grand Illumination is year-round. The greens, including wreaths and roping, are ordered by September, and her set of designers begins making the decorations the first of November. A dozen designers work to adorn more than 80 sites in Colonial Williamsburg for the holidays.

The most challenging aspect of Dippre's job is the weather and the local fauna. Mother Nature decides how often the decorations need to be repaired and replaced.

Dippre and Sutphin look forward to Grand Illumination each year.

"I like walking down the street in the evening with the candles in the windows because it transports you back in time," Dippre said. "I also think that winter fireworks are more beautiful than summer fireworks."

"Each Grand Illumination is different because of the weather," said Sutphin. "Sometimes it rains, sometimes it snows, sometimes it's hot, sometimes it's cold, and it all gives it a unique take. I think a dusting of snow would be great this year. That always adds a special feel." NDN



*Colonial Williamsburg's world-renowned holiday decorations are rooted in the traditions of Christmas and have emerged as a universal standard for the creative use of natural materials. The St. George Tucker House is decorated for the holidays with a holiday plaque accented with pomegranates, yarrow, pine cones and dried flowers above the porch.*



# Don't let the holidays leave you penniless...

**For all your holiday  
needs, we offer our low-  
rate VISA Credit Cards**  
Offering: VISA Classic, Gold, and  
Platinum

with rates as low as  
**8.9% APR\***



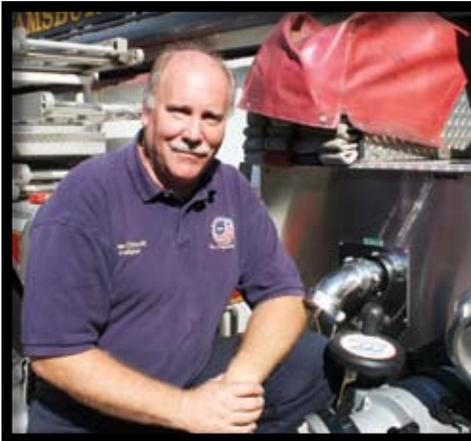
 **BayLands**  
Federal Credit Union

(804) 843-2520 • (888) 843-2520 • [www.baylandscfu.org](http://www.baylandscfu.org)

To apply for your VISA,  
simply call or stop by today!

7031 Richmond Road, Norge

\*APR - Annual Percentage Rate. Not everyone will qualify for the lowest rate. This credit union is federally-insured by the National Credit Union Administration.



Mike Chilcott



Sterling Perry



John Hansen

# WORKING HOLIDAYS

NO "TIME OFF" FOR CHILCOTT, PERRY, AND HANSEN

By Karen Haywood Queen

This holiday season while most of us are digging into turkey with the trimmings, opening presents and enjoying time with family and friends ... our dedicated local fire, police and medical workers will be on duty just in case we leave the stove on and catch the house on fire, or otherwise need help. Yet on special days they manage to find ways to create a home away from home feeling complete with food - sometimes eaten cold because of work demands. Families often join them for a meal and single employees often trade shifts so their fellow workers can have more family time.

James City County Police master officer and newlywed Sterling Perry works both Thanksgiving and Christmas this year, but he doesn't mind. He estimates he's worked at least four Thanksgivings

or Christmas Days over his seven years with the department. On holidays, officers are scheduled to patrol their 9 1/2-hour shifts near where they live so they can stop by home occasionally to spend time with their families while monitoring their police radios.

"On holidays, I usually take most of the calls so the other officers can spend more time with their families," Perry says. "We all just work together to let each other spend as much time as possible with our families on Christmas Day and Thanksgiving Day."

At the Williamsburg Fire Department, firefighter Mike Chilcott and firefighter/paramedic John Hansen will be working their 24-hour shifts on Thanksgiving Day but they won't be lonely. "The members of our shift are an extension of our families at home,"

says Chilcott, who has worked in fire service for almost 30 years, first in York County and now in Williamsburg.

On these days, the fire station becomes home as families of firefighters gather to celebrate on what usually is a light duty day. "We have a big dinner here and invite the families over," says Hansen, who has worked in fire service for more than 18 years. "It's usually a little more laid back just because of the holiday."

Usually, each firefighter cooks a specialty dish to share, taking the burden off their families. "I'm usually the dessert man myself," Hansen says proudly. "I like desserts and I'm known for my cheese cakes and carrot cakes."

No day is ever completely quiet. Even on holidays, the department may get a call in the middle of the meal. When

this happens, firefighters may end up eating food that was meant to be consumed hours before. "You just sit down and eat," Hansen says. "It's doesn't matter if it's hot or cold after you've been running a long time."

Hansen doesn't mind working Thanksgiving Day – it's Christmas that's a big deal for him. He and his wife, Heather, have two children ages four and nine months.

The Hansens have one more twist in their family – Heather Hansen is a registered nurse in the Sentara Williamsburg Community Hospital emergency room. This year, both Hansens are working Thanksgiving and off on Christmas. Hansen's parents will keep their children for Thanksgiving and bring them by the station.

"On Christmas, generally, I can get off for a while or at least get part of the day off because we have enough single people who don't mind working

Christmas, which is what I used to do," Heather says.

The police and fire departments don't have a set holiday rotation – the officers just work based on how their schedule rotations fall. At the hospital, there's a list of holidays, divided in half. One year, a staff member works half the holidays – the next year, the other half. Heather is fortunate that she's found another registered nurse who'd rather be off Thanksgiving and work Christmas, so the two often trade holiday shifts (most are 12-hour shifts) to be off their favorite holiday.

At the hospital, it's not usually practical for families to come in but staff members bring in plenty of food – turkey, ham and plenty of side dishes. Heather normally prepares sweet potato casserole. "We have a huge Christmas dinner and a huge Thanksgiving dinner," Heather says. "Sometimes that meal is at 10:30 a.m. and sometimes

it's as late as 6 p.m. depending on how busy we are. The ER can get busy on holidays. The people who do come to the emergency room tend to have more acute problems because no one wants to leave their family on the holidays. It's their holiday too."

"What really makes the holidays special for public safety, fire and medical workers is when people, especially those not connected to the departments, bring in food to show appreciation for their hard work all year," Chilcott says. "On many occasions, we'll have someone who is unattached to the fire service bring a pie to the station just to say 'thank you' or 'happy holidays.' Some of the local businesses do the same. That's a nice touch. It makes us feel like we're at least thought of, that someone has taken the extra step to buy or prepare something for us for the holidays. It's a very nice gesture." NDN

# YOU PICK UP THE PHONE. WE PICK UP THE CAR.

With the purchase of every new Phillips Volvo, you get our exclusive Volvo Valet service. Simply give us a call when you need routine maintenance or repairs, and we'll pick up your car, leaving you a courtesy rental. Then upon completion of your service work, we will return your freshly washed car to your home or office. Now that's what you call door-to-door service.

LEARN MORE AT [PhillipsValet.com](http://PhillipsValet.com)  
SERVICE MADE EASY



JUST ONE MORE REASON WHY...

**PHILLIPS**  
VOLVO  
HAMPTON

1010 W. Mercury Blvd.  
Hampton, VA 23666  
PH 757-265-3400  
FX 757-265-3440  
[phillipsvolvo.com](http://phillipsvolvo.com)



# If You Can't Feed 100 People Then Feed Just One

A Gift From Ben

By Linda Landreth Phelps

**B**en Newman died on the day after Christmas, December 26, 2001. Three small white crosses mark the spot where Ben, his cousin, Josh, and the man driving the other vehicle involved in the accident lost their lives. There was a new stop sign on Centerville Road where they had recently opened an intersection with the Monticello extension, and a large, lighted sign, "New Traffic Pattern - Stop Ahead!" was there to call attention to it. The only problem was that someone had vandalized it, cut the cord, and the sign was dark. It was an accident literally waiting to happen.

Ben would be nineteen years old now, nearing full manhood. Nobody knows what wonders he would have accomplished in his life had he been given the chance, but we do know that a lot of good things are achieved every day in Ben's name and in his memory. Thumper (Everette) Newman, Ben's father, decided that the best memorial to their kind-hearted

and high-spirited son would be to help others in the most basic of ways - to feed those who would otherwise go hungry.

"A Gift from Ben" is the name of the full time charitable service formed when a program that had stalled from lack of funds was reborn. Thumper now spends most of each morning collecting, sorting, and personally delivering food to Williamsburg's people in a specially equipped truck fitted with three chest freezers. A snapshot - a younger,

smiling version of himself with

his arm around a dark-haired young boy who is leaning into

his hug - is taped to the console. Thumper wears terry

wristbands embroidered with the name "BEN" in black, just to remind him every day and minute of the reason he took on this enormous responsibility.

Thumper makes the rounds six days a week, picking up from both of the Williamsburg Ukrop's stores, three Food Lions, and Fresh Market, plus meeting the Krispy

Kreme Doughnuts delivery man for his donation of a large, fragrant bag full of day-old pastries. It's a perfect win/win/win situation, the kind where everybody gets to feel good: the stores write off the unsold goods as donations, "A Gift from Ben" gets food to distribute that would oth-

erwise end up in a dumpster, and the homeless, sick, and disadvantaged who struggle to make ends meet reap all the benefits of a healthy, adequate diet.

First stop is Ukrop's at 6:30 am, and it's still dark as we enter through the back delivery door. I'm Thumper's helper for the day since his regular volunteer is recuperating from surgery, so I try to make myself useful as we load the thoughtfully pre-packaged food we collect. I climb into the well-used truck; the driver's seat's upholstery shows serious mileage and there's a strange shimmy as we slow down for a turn that Thumper casually informs me is just "something to do with my left front wheel." Obviously, the money donated to "A Gift from Ben" isn't going for luxuries. Every penny they get goes to operating expenses, and those are extremely low. It's all run by volunteer labor, including Thumper's. His mom is just one of a faithful staff of fifteen or so that makes this effort run like the proverbial Swiss watch. I wondered why he had chosen this life for himself - after all, it's not what you'd expect someone whose given name is Everette Hale Newman IV to be doing with his days.

"When Ben died," Thumper said slowly, "I can't really put into words how difficult it was; it just changed my world. I had been pretty shallow all my life, just thinking of nothing but making a lot of money and not caring about too much except myself and my own family. Suddenly, all that didn't make sense any more." Within a month or so of the accident, Thumper was asking Sister Berenice, the nun from St. Bede's Catholic Church who is famous in this area for her ministry to the poor and homeless, how he could make a real difference. "We started a

scholarship in Ben's name, but I wanted to do something that would affect more people directly. Sister Berenice suggested that a program to feed the poor would be an appropriate memorial. "A Gift from Ben" now moves 800,000 lbs. of food with a resale value of \$2.4 million through its system every year," Thumper says with pleasure.

What began as a way to cope with his grief led Thumper to discover a true passion for the hungry and thirsty. He now looks beyond the limits of his home town of Williamsburg and does what he can to help the world. "A billion people in the world today will never get a glass of clean, safe water, and 69% of the earth's population have no access to water within a half mile of their house," Thumper says. "Sadly, 24,000 people starve to death every day, 75% of them under the age of 5. I helped organize 'A Concert for Malawi', an event at President's Park held in late October of 2006 that drew 6,000 people and raised \$20,000. That will pay for five wells to be dug in Africa, serving about 3,500 people."

But today Thumper is serving Williamsburg's needy. Next stop is the Food Lion at the intersection of Routes 5 and 199. As the sun rises above the field next to the store, its rays spear through a heavy, low-lying ground fog. The light reveals a line of trees with their branches traced in relief and crowns the disembodied heads of a flock of Canada geese. Their bodies are shrouded in the shifting mist as they wander and graze the tall grass; for them, getting enough to eat is a full day's work. Thumper and I head into Food Lion to see what awaits us.

After a stop at Fresh Market and the other stores, it's about 8:30 am and the back of the truck is nearly full of wonderful

edibles - steaks, chicken breasts, bacon, hot dogs, birthday cakes, fudge, bread of every kind and description, deli items such as fried chicken, rotisserie turkey breasts, hoagies, bags of fresh vegetables and fruit. Except for some cupcakes whose frosting has suffered a little from the jostling, it all looks perfect to me. The deliveries commence - Thumper's favorite part.

I lose track of just where we're going,



Thumper hands a bag of groceries to a woman who has been waiting patiently in some light rain for her turn. There is a line outside and only a few people can fit inside at one time where the fresh food is distributed.

but it's mostly small, tucked-away neighborhoods in town that I never knew were there. Thumper has a story about everyone we see and he seems to know everyone. Some door-to-door deliveries are made, a bulging paper sack left on the step if the door doesn't open readily to our knock. One elderly lady tries to give the organic whole-wheat bread back. "I won't eat it, Darlin'", she tells me. "Just

pass it along, ma'am," I reply.

"How do you decide who gets food?" I ask. "I don't screen anybody," Thumper says. "Sister Berenice has a sign in her office that states my motto best. It says 'It is better to give and be deceived than not give and be mistaken.'" At every stop, Thumper's big white truck pulls into a parking lot in a neighborhood of small, neatly kept houses or apartments to find a crowd waiting, bags

ready. We start unloading boxes of produce and bread for self-service picking over as Thumper announces, "Three meats per person - ladies first." People using wheelchairs and canes are the first to be served. The box on the truck is opened for their inspection and selection. "Sorry, no chicken wings today, Miss Virginia," Thumper says respectfully to an elderly, bent woman, "but we have some nice thighs here." One slender man calls "You know what I like, Thumper! You got any sushi?" And sure enough, we do. A smiling young couple who are recent immigrants from Morocco staggers away under a huge box and two bags of food. "Welcome to America!" Thumper calls after them as they leave. By ten o'clock, all that's left in the bottom of the cardboard boxes are a few loose green grapes, some rejected asparagus stalks, and a small bag of key limes which I covet but am reluctant to ask for. The crowd disperses with the anticipation of a tasty,

nutritious meal on the table tonight. They're not worried about tomorrow, even though the electric bill ate up the last of their cash and the food stamps gave out a week ago. They don't need to worry, because they know Thumper will be back again with the gift that just keeps on giving - "A Gift from Ben". NDN

Thumper Newman

**PARTY TIME!**

# First Night

WILLIAMSBURG

*By Meredith Collins*

**There's a party on the horizon in Williamsburg - and you're invited!**

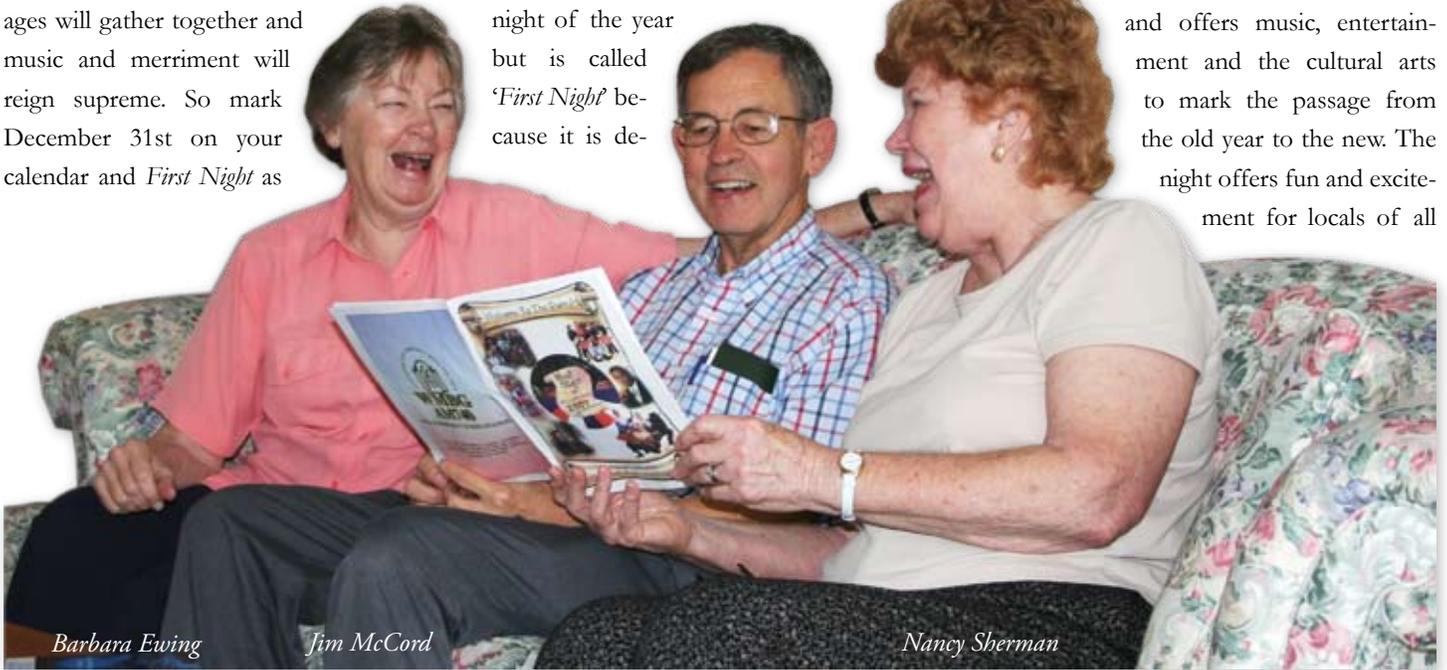
In fact, it's the party of the year, one you won't want to miss. Crowds of all ages will gather together and music and merriment will reign supreme. So mark December 31st on your calendar and *First Night* as

the event you want to attend.

As in many other cities across the United States, December 31st is celebrated here with a community arts celebration called *First Night*. The event is held on the last night of the year but is called '*First Night*' because it is de-

signed to bring families in the community together to look ahead with hope and optimism for the upcoming year, and to share the creative spirit the night brings. It

is an alcohol-free, public festival and offers music, entertainment and the cultural arts to mark the passage from the old year to the new. The night offers fun and excitement for locals of all



*Barbara Ewing*

*Jim McCord*

*Nancy Sherman*

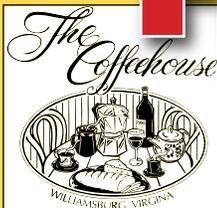
**Buy 1 lb. of coffee and get a 1/2 lb.**

of equal or lesser value

**24**  
VARIETIES  
OF COFFEE!

# FREE!

OFFER  
EXPIRES  
12/24/07



Spend \$10 or more when you visit and you could win a Coffeehouse Holiday Gift Basket! See details in store.

**(757) 229-9791**

Williamsburg Crossing - 5251-6 John Tyler Highway

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

**The Difference Starts With Design**



Custom Made Jewelry **Laney's** 229-7333

5121 Center Street in New Town

ages.

The concept of *First Night* was created in 1976 in Boston by a group of civic-minded artists who wanted to provide a meaningful alternative to the traditional parties and revelry that typified New Year's Eve. Since then, like-minded groups all over the United States have begun promoting the community enriching New Year's celebrations that *First Night* provides.

In Williamsburg, Jim McCord was the catalyst behind the local *First Night* celebration that over 8,000 residents now enjoy each year in the area where Jamestown and Richmond Roads meet. Jim is a long-time Williamsburg resident who isn't afraid to try new things. He moved to the area in 1965, and has been active in the community for many of the 42 years he has lived here. He taught British History at Williams & Mary before his retirement and was also active in politics serving on city council while helping to found the Williamsburg Arts Commission, the organization that first endorsed a local *First Night* fifteen years ago.

"I was visiting my sister-in-law in Raleigh, NC in the late 1980's and they had been going to Raleigh *First Night*," Jim explained. "I thought it was fascinating, what they were doing and so I came back to Williamsburg and talked to the Arts Commission and told them it was something that I thought would benefit Williamsburg – to have something like that."

The group's first idea was to introduce the concept to city council and the board of supervisors of James City County for support and funding. While the two groups were in favor of the concept, they felt like it should be done by a volunteer organization. With that bit of news, Jim went to work.

"After that, I wrote an article for *The Virginia-Gazette* describing *First Night*," Jim recounted. "It had a tear-out questionnaire asking people if they had ever heard of *First Night* and describing what it was, and then said, 'Would you be interested in participating, what do you think it should include' – a variety of things. We got a pretty good response. And *The Virginia-Gazette* provided a notice for people to come to a meeting at the library to explore the idea. That was done in April of 1993."

One of the people to attend that first meeting was Barbara Ewing, another long-time Williamsburg resident. Barbara has lived in Williamsburg off and on since 1942. Her father was here in WWII and later she married an Air Force fighter pilot who was stationed at Langley Air Force Base. While her husband was in the Air Force she spent time in both Hampton and Williamsburg. When he retired in 1990, Barbara was living full-time in Williamsburg and saw the notice in *The Virginia - Gazette*. She attended the meeting at the library and became involved right away.

"I started by stuffing envelopes," Barbara said as she thought back. "And from that I did various other things and ended up on

# REJUVENATE. REWARD. REJOICE.

We're ready to help you master the holiday rush with a little time and a little savings — just for you.

SAVE \$10 *Wrinkle-free Fridays: Visit us on any Friday until New Year's and receive Botox treatments for just \$10/unit.*

SAVE 20% *Rejuvenate your look with a laser facial peel.*

SAVE 25% *Try our laser hair removal and get 25% off your first package, 50% off your second package.*

Gift certificates are also available. Call us at 757.345.3064 or visit [reneaumed.com](http://reneaumed.com) to find out more.

**Reneau Medical**  
Center for Age Management & Aesthetic Medicine

## Improve your hearing ...and improve your life!

**Our digital hearing instruments can make a big difference in your ability to understand conversation in different situations. Our line of hearing instruments work almost the way your ear naturally hears:**

- Listens for sounds and adjusts to them in an instant
- Monitors your hearing situations
- Virtually feedback-free
- Automatically stores information about your listening environments



**Pamela D. Cummings**  
LICENSED HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALIST

**Call us today  
for your complimentary  
hearing evaluation**

- We will clean your existing hearing instruments
- Plus, you will receive a free pack of batteries

**(757) 206-1900**

FINANCING AVAILABLE  
DISCOUNT WITH CASH PAYMENT  
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**Hj Hearing Health Care Centers**  
WILLIAMSBURG

5107 Center Street, Suite B-2 - New Town - Williamsburg, VA 23188

the Program Committee.” Barbara has been active on this committee since then and is working with others to plan a fresh, exciting slate of events for this year’s *First Night*.

If you have never experienced *First Night* before, it may be hard to imagine all of the choices in entertainment that are available to you, and even more difficult to get a full understanding of all of the planning and execution that goes into this 7 ½ hour festival. Nancy Sherman, Program Chairman, leads the way with organizing the talent for the event. She has been program chairman for over three years, a role she had to quickly adjust to when the previous chairman moved out of the area.

“I had to really scramble,” Nancy admitted, since she was so new to volunteering for *First Night*. A professional musician herself, Nancy works with others on the Program Committee to bring a variety of talent to the evening. They try to incorporate new acts each year, but also like to retain favorites.

“We have 67 acts this year,” Nancy said. “We had 64 last year. Of the 64 last year, about 54 of them were from the state of Virginia, which is great because we are playing up our own state. I’d say a good one third of them are local, meaning anywhere from Norfolk to our area and around.”

*First Night* acts include a broad spectrum of entertainment options for every member of the family – bands, a variety of musicians, dancers, clowns, juggling acts and even face painting for kids. The festivities begin at 6 pm for adults and this year there is an early start for families with small children. Entertainment for youngsters will be held at the Mathew Whaley School and will start at 4:30 pm to give small children more time to enjoy the fun before their bedtime.

Those wanting to attend the event simply pre-purchase a button for \$12 to gain en-

trance and the rest of the evening is yours to enjoy. The only problem is deciding upon your strategy - what to see first and what to regretfully pass on until perhaps next year. Certain popular acts demand swift commit-

ment if you want a seat, such as local favorites like Coyote Run and The Runaway String Band serving up Bluegrass with a twist. In addition to entertainment, there are food vendors selling all types of goodies located inside nearby buildings where one can stop to get warm and fill up with something tasty or warm up with a cup of hot coffee.

For those who can muster the energy to enjoy the entire evening, the festival crowd begins migrating to Zable Stadium about an hour before midnight. From 11 pm until just before midnight, there is a live performance from a select band, announcements and in-

ment if you want a seat, such as local favorites like Coyote Run and The Runaway String Band serving up Bluegrass with a twist. In addition to entertainment, there are food vendors selling

all types of goodies located inside nearby buildings where one can stop to get warm and fill up with something tasty or warm up with a cup of hot coffee.

For those who can muster the energy to enjoy the entire evening, the festival crowd begins migrating to Zable Stadium about an hour before midnight. From 11 pm until just before midnight, there is a live performance from a select band, announcements and in-

## A Tisket, A Tasket, We Make Nifty Holiday Baskets!

Come see Conny the Cheesemonger or Misty PhD for a custom-made gift basket that’s perfect for the holiday season.



Various sizes available.



**(757) 564-4400**

**4680-15 Monticello Marketplace, Williamsburg, VA**

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

The Perfect Gift for Busy Friends  
and Families . . .

## Supper Thyme Gift Certificates



Imagine how happy your loved ones will be when they receive fabulous home-cooked meals without hours of grocery shopping, preparation and clean up... **Call Us Today!**

**(757) 229-1262**



**JOIN US FOR OUR  
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

**DECEMBER 8TH 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M.**

Refreshments, Gingerbread Cookie Decorating  
and Special Deals Galore!!!

MAKE IT! TAKE IT!  
BAKE IT!  
during the holidays!

4854 Longhill Rd., Williamsburg

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

troductions and the playing of the national anthem. At midnight, a large pineapple – the symbol of hospitality – drops slowly before the crowd and the evening culminates at midnight with a brilliant display of fireworks as Williamsburg welcomes another year.

In many ways, *First Night* is like a Thanksgiving dinner. A special meal such as Thanksgiving dinner happens just once a year and is planned and executed with great care. Think of the best Thanksgiving dinners you've enjoyed with hearty portions of turkey and ham, dressing, a variety of vegetables and starches and side dishes, all culminating with the tastiest homemade cakes and pies. All of those food-filled plates devoured and scraped clean in no time at all – but think of all the hours loved ones spent in the kitchen planning and preparing that feast. *First Night* is much the same.

Over 50 volunteers work year-round on a number of different committees to plan and execute the most creative and entertain-

ing talent they can for you. Only about two thirds of the money required to produce *First Night* comes from admission sales. The rest comes from local sponsors, individuals and grants – and more importantly from the hours and hours of personal time some of your neighbors, like Jim, Nancy and Barbara, give to planning and implementing a family event that seems to grow each year. In addition, there are many other volunteers who help make this event successful by giving their time on New Year's Eve so that others can just relax and enjoy.

"It's a grassroots thing that has grown and grown and grown," Nancy remarked. "It's fun, it's challenging at times and frustrating at times. But it's a piece of cake after we have everything set up."

So Williamsburg, enjoy! There have been a lot of people working in the kitchen all year long just for you! NDN

## Want to Go to **First Night Williamsburg?**

To attend *First Night*, you must purchase a button that will allow you to attend the event and enjoy all of the entertainment provided for that evening. Buttons go on sale December 1st and will be available at many area merchant locations. Buttons are \$12 each prior to December 31st, and \$15 at *First Night*.

For more information on where to purchase your buttons when they go on sale, or for more general information about *First Night Williamsburg*, please call  
**(757) 258-5153**  
or go to  
<http://firstnightwilliamsburg.org>



*Can't sleep?  
It's not in your head,  
it's the pillow under it.*

*Everybody's unique.  
Some of us feel toasty even on  
the chilliest nights. Others run for  
the thermostat the minute the sun  
goes down. Luckily, we have a  
comforter, or duvet if you please,  
for everyone.*

*Discover Ogallala Comfort Company  
Visit us soon  
Making Life Beautiful!*

4324 New Town Avenue, New Town, Williamsburg  
Behind New Town Cinema  
Hours 10 - 6 M - F. 10 - 5 Sat. or by appt. 757-565-5725

## Don't wait for the New Year!

**Karen didn't wait and look at her!**



BEFORE



AFTER

"I haven't ever had one single doubt that to get back into shape I need to work out! But I continued to make up reasons not to do it. Then I saw an ad for a free trial workout session and, wow, was it fun! It opened a whole new world for me. In just a few weeks the results I can see are more strength, edurance and flexibility!"

- Karen Constantine

4854 Longhill Rd., Suite 1-A In the Olde Towne Square Plaza  
[www.ftwilliamsburg.com](http://www.ftwilliamsburg.com)

**ONE  
COMPLIMENTARY  
WORKOUT  
SESSION**  
You can do what  
Karen is doing.  
Take the first step  
and call now!  
**757-345-2246**

- Private Training Suites
- Accelerated Results
- Individualized Programs
- One-on-One Attention



# Reaffirming Community Through William & Mary's Kwanzaa

*By Rachel Sapin  
William & Mary Intern*

**Imagine:** You're a student at William & Mary and after a grueling semester you have finally made it to the last day of fall classes. In preparation for finals, papers and projects you lose all sense of time, your grooming habits have all but deserted you, and you know nothing of the world beyond the campus bubble. As for your social skills, those were long gone in October. Nevertheless, if you are a student at William & Mary, the one thing you manage to retain despite the end-of-semester chaos, is a sense that you are a part of a very special community. It is a community that you come to count on like a second family, a space you consider a home away from home.

It seems no wonder that one of the most important aspects of William & Mary's Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration for Dr. Fanchon Glover, Director of the William and Mary Office of Multicultural Affairs, is that it also unites people in the spirit of family and togetherness.

The William & Mary Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration is a one-night event held in the Commonwealth Audi-

torium. For Dr. Glover and other African Americans in the Williamsburg area, the celebration is something to look forward to. An event that is free and open to the public, William & Mary's Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration is a time where students, faculty and members of the Williams-

burg community can come together and reflect upon the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Unity, or Umoja as it is called in Swahili, is the first of the seven principles, followed by Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith).

William & Mary students from cultural groups with connections to African American history begin the celebration with a creative candle-lighting ceremony. Each year the groups are assigned a different principle that they have to illustrate through song, dance, monologues, poetry reading or some other creative endeavor.

"The community really enjoys the talent displayed by the students," says Dr. Glover. The close of the ceremony then allows time for reflection. "It's called feasting," notes Dr.

Glover. "It's an opportunity for participants to stand



*Dr. Fanchon Glover,  
Director of the  
William & Mary Office of  
Multicultural Affairs*

up and articulate what's in their hearts."

Once the candle-lighting ceremony has ended, the literal feasting begins with the Karamu. The Karamu, which in Swahili means "feast", concludes the celebration and features an array of international cuisine encompassing African, Caribbean and soul food.

"Since there are always hungry college students, the food is a big selling point," says Dr. Glover. Vendors who sell authentic African crafts often accompany the delightful dinner offerings. William & Mary head volleyball coach, Debra Hill, participates in the event by selling crafts and jewelry made by Maasai people of western Kenya. The proceeds of Hill's earnings benefit The Maasai American Organization, a grassroots organization that works to provide adequate health care and education for the Maasai community in western Kenya. Overall, the Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration aims to encompass on a global scale the essence of Kwanzaa in both its guiding principles and its spirit of togetherness.

Still the question remains: what is Kwan-

zaa? "It's not something that is meant to take away from Christmas," explains Dr. Glover. "It's not a religious holiday at all." Kwanzaa, which is Swahili for "first fruits", is in fact a harvest celebration that draws from a variety of African traditions.

Created in 1966 by African American scholar Dr. Maulana Karenga, it takes place from December 26th through January 1st. The celebration offers a time for African American families to come together and reflect upon the previous year while implementing the seven principles of Kwanzaa into their daily lives. "Kwanzaa provides a direct connection between Africa and America," explains Dr. Glover. "Basically, African Americans take on some of the same principles, traditions and values that are customary in Africa."

Kwanzaa is also a unique kind of celebration. It does not come with a set dogma as to how it should be celebrated. It's tailored to fit the needs of each participant and each participant brings their own unique contribution to the celebration. "Some people celebrate

Kwanzaa very succinctly and every day they sit down and have this time and do everything while others are aware of it and may try to implement those principles into their lives during those seven days," says Dr. Glover.

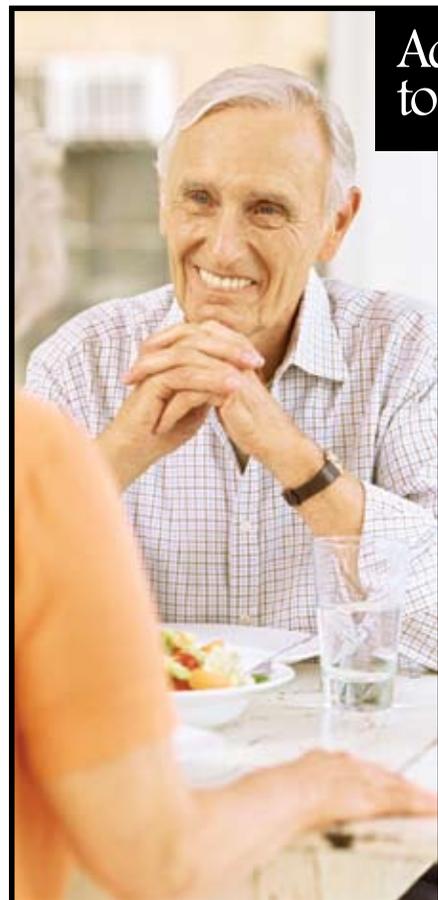
Most importantly perhaps, Kwanzaa is unique in that it is an awareness-raising celebration. "It's about raising awareness and educating people on the different kinds of traditions and values that different cultures bring," explains Dr. Glover. "I hope that people will be able to take away from this celebration the spirit of togetherness and an appreciation of a different culture." Dr. Glover is counting on the celebration bringing the community together in the fullest sense. "I hope that the place will be filled for this celebration," she says with a smile. NDN

*This year's William & Mary Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration will take place December 7th at 7:00 pm at the Commonwealth Auditorium. For more information contact the Office of Multicultural affairs at (757) 221-2300.*



**dreading holiday shopping?**  
gift certificates from  
monica sigmon photography...  
one size fits all

757.564.8533  
www.monicasigmon.com



## Adding flavor to life.

Just one way Spring Arbor defines "quality of life."



**SPRING ARBOR**  
of Williamsburg  
RESIDENTIAL ASSISTED LIVING

Call for a tour today.  
**757-565-3583**

[springarbortliving.com](http://springarbortliving.com)

 An **HHUNT** Community 

# Deployed for the Holidays

By Suzanne S. Lanier

My Mom woke me that night.  
My Dad had already left to start the fight  
For this country to keep its' pride,  
Though he knew it would be a long, bumpy ride.

During the ceremony I saw that my dad's clothes were already packed  
But I was proud to say my dad was there in his green and black.  
I looked up to my dad and to my surprise  
His face was red with clear droplets running from his eyes.

I tried to smile as I saw the flash.  
Mrs. Dawn had just taken a picture, so this moment would last.  
I only wish I could go back in time just to say, "I love you"  
And to hear him say it that last time too.

- Alli Stauffer

The words of 13-year-old Alli Stauffer express the feelings of every person who has ever said "good-bye" to a friend or family member in the military who was deployed. She wrote the poem when her dad left for Kuwait in June 2006. John Stauffer spent a year as executive officer at Camp Arisjan, which serves as supply headquarters for everything that is needed for troop and war support. He returned safe and sound in June 2007, but has kept memories of being away from his wife, Melissa, Alli, and their younger daughter, Ashley, over the 2006 Christmas holidays.

"The military in general tries to make you feel like the people you're deployed with are your family," John said. "We had an artificial

tree that our battalion commander's spouse mailed to us in the desert, and our unit decided to draw names for secret Santa gifts. We set a ten-dollar limit, and shopped at the PX at Camp Arisjan. An organization state-side sent a wish list to us. Some of the troops wished for large, extravagant things. I added a 2-gig thumb drive to the list. The organization sent packages back, and with those gifts and the secret Santa gifts, everyone had at least two surprises under the tree. The dining hall was decorated and we had a special meal. The military always provides a special feast on holidays. We got to make teleconference calls to our families, and we could speak back and forth to each other for five minutes."

The rest of the Stauffer

family had difficulty trying to plan Christmas without him. John had been deployed before, but he had never been away over the holidays. "We considered skipping our traditional Christmas and going on a vacation instead, but the girls wanted to be home," Melissa recalled. "We decided just to have a small Christmas. We decorated a little bit, but we didn't go out or visit as much. Usually, my husband takes the girls to pick out a real Christmas tree, but we bought a fake one. They said it was something they did with their dad, and since he was in the desert, they didn't want a real one."

Melissa tried to make the holiday as normal as possible for the girls and they saved gift opening time for telephone time with John. "We were

*The Stauffer family (from left to right):  
Alli, John, Ashley and Melissa*



very fortunate that he was able to call,” Melissa said. “He opened his gift and we opened ours while we were all on the phone. Even though he wasn’t in the room, he could hear the excitement, and he was part of it. And he got his thumb drive!”

\*\*\*\*\*

Bob Hailey had never even heard of a thumb drive when he was serving his country on Dec. 7, 1941. A U.S. Naval Academy graduate, he was assigned to the USS Indianapolis, which was at sea off the Hawaiian Islands. While they were underway, Pearl Harbor was attacked and the ship that was docked in the berth normally used by the Indianapolis was sunk. Bob’s ship was immediately assigned to the South Pacific, and he spent his first Christmas during World War II patrolling the islands.

He remembers another Christmas during the war years when he was in command of a troop transport assigned to the Mediterranean Sea. The ship docked in Italy for the holidays and the backlog of mail was delivered to the ship. “There was no way to communicate with people at home except by mail,” Bob said. “It was only delivered when we were in port. It was anywhere from one to three weeks between ports, and sometimes it was as long as a month before we got mail from home.”

\*\*\*\*\*

John Kostoff’s holidays in Viet Nam were also unforgettable. He and his wife, Rose Marie, have poignant memories of being separated over the holidays during John’s tours of duty, first from May 1967 to May 1968, and again from May 1971 to May 1972. During his first tour, he was attached to the 5th Special Forces Group as an advisor to a Vietnamese unit in Cao Lanh, a city in the Kien Phong province along the Cambodian border, in the Mekong delta.

“Christmas that year is difficult to forget,” John said. “Advisors were stuck out in the middle of nowhere. We were staying in an old French army compound, and it was small. There were no cease-fires, but there was no activity on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Things were very quiet. We didn’t want to talk a lot. We were thinking about



*John and Rose Marie Kostoff*

home, memories and thoughts of loved ones, mothers, sisters, wives, children...all going through your mind. Such and such a time would come and we’d think, ‘This is what they’re doing now, and this is what they’re going to do next.’ We couldn’t be there and we just didn’t





Start preparing for the retirement you dream of with some thoughtful planning today. Your First Command Financial Advisor can help you pursue your goals through a personalized plan that includes carefully selected financial products and services to meet your unique needs.

First Command is ready to accompany you through a lifetime of first times. Call or stop by today.

**Margi Kapuschansky**  
*Financial Advisor*  
**757.873.0993**  
 makapuscha@firstcommand.com  
 701 Mariners Row  
 Suite 200  
 Newport News, VA 23606



INVESTMENTS | INSURANCE | FULL-SERVICE BANKING

© 2006 First Command Financial Services, Inc., parent of First Command Financial Planning, Inc. (Member SIPC) and First Command Bank. Insurance products and services are offered by First Command Financial Services, Inc. Investment products and services, including securities, are offered by First Command Financial Planning, Inc. Banking products

# Think Soft

You feel cuddled, protected, it's like a caress...The magic of cashmere.

*See Our Line of Superfine Australian Merino Lambswool Blankets Made in Italy - Available in a Choice of Colors.*



**Celebrate Our One-Year Anniversary**  
 Now through Friday, November 30th  
**20% off regularly priced merchandise**




4324 New Town Avenue, New Town, Williamsburg  
 Behind New Town Cinema  
 Hours 10 - 6 M - F ; 10 - 5 Sat. or by appt. 757-565-5725

want to talk. We just wanted to be by ourselves and think.”

In that environment, Christmas trees were hard to come by. John and some of the other advisors made a red and green paper chain and hung it up to help create some holiday spirit. “We had a Christmas dinner, but not in a military mess hall,” he explained. “We had to hire our own cooks. Some Vietnamese women had been taught to cook in semi-American style. For Christmas dinner, we had chicken with mashed potatoes and corn. That was the extent of it.”

“The first year that John was gone,” Rose Marie said, “I went home to my mama. We only had one child, and we depended on Grandma and Grandpa. At Christmas, everyone tried to cheer me up, and I had to put on a happy face for our daughter, and not let her know that I was sad. There was just a hole in my heart that couldn’t be filled up. You weren’t truly happy, but you had to pretend.”



Michael and Gina McShane have lived in Williamsburg for only three years. They moved here to be closer to their adult chil-

dren, both of whom live in Virginia Beach with their spouses. Their son, Mike, is now an aviation ordinance technician, but was a Navy SEAL for 10 years. He has served in South America in support of counter narcotics operations, in Afghanistan and in Iraq.

“He has missed too many Christmases,” Gina said. “When we moved to Williamsburg, he was already deployed. I knew that he wouldn’t be home for Christmas again. I just tried to keep busy. I can’t explain what I have to do when he’s away. I have to trick my mind. I got all of his Christmas presents and wrapped them so they would be here waiting when he got home. We left all the decorations up and celebrated again when Mike got home in February. The whole family was here.”

“Every one of my deployments has been over Christmas,” Mike said. “It’s tough. We had no access to phones or email during my first and second deployments. In Afghanistan and Iraq, email was intermittent because of where we were. We could email once every two weeks. We sent and received letters once a month.”

Mike and his wife have been married for seven years now, and on Christmas Day he

hoped that his wife would find the gift that he hid for her before he left. “I sent her email with the directions to find it,” Mike said. “She did find it, and loved it.”

Mike’s words to fellow military personnel and their families who will be apart from each other over the holiday season echo the sentiment of many Americans: “Never forget what a huge difference your sacrifice makes. It is a comfort for me to know that what I’m doing protects my wife and my family. Take the battle to the enemy. Be deployed and away from your families rather than fight here in the United States. Fight on their land, and keep our families safe at home.”

This holiday season amid the hustle and bustle, during visits to stores and the Christmas tree lot, say a word of thanks to our military personnel when you see them and remember to say a word of prayer for the safe return of those who will not be home for Christmas this year. NDN

We all have  
**Remarkable Friends**

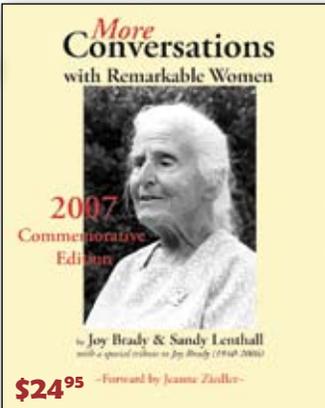
Why give the same old  
wine & chocolates?  
**Let them know they are Special!**

Consider something of lasting value, one of the remaining signed, numbered copies of

**More Conversations with Remarkable Women**  
by Joy Brady, Sandy Lenthall

Available: Bruton Parish Gift Store, Nancy Thomas Galleries and Kinks, Quirks, Caffeine

For direct sales, contact  
Don Brady, [ldbrady1@cox.net](mailto:ldbrady1@cox.net) or 757-564-8019

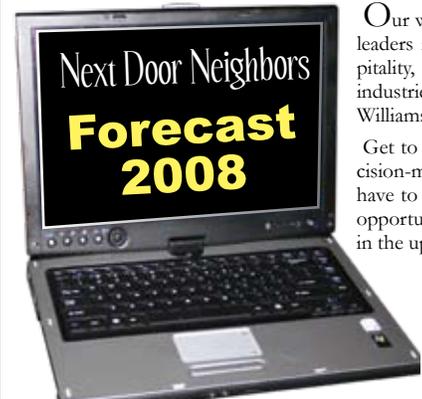


*More Conversations*  
with Remarkable Women

2007 Commemorative Edition

by Joy Brady & Sandy Lenthall  
with a special tribute to Joy Brady (1914-2006)

**\$24.95** - Forward by Jeanne Zoller-



Our writers will be interviewing local leaders in real estate, automotive, hospitality, banking, health care and other industries - “big business” that impacts Williamsburg’s economy.

Get to know some of these local decision-makers. Read about what they have to say about their field and what opportunities and challenges they face in the upcoming year.

**Publication Date:**  
Thursday, December 13th

**Advertising Deadline:**  
Tues., November 27th

BUILDING  
NEIGHBORHOODS  
ONE HOME AT A TIME

Visit these area Realtor’s websites  
to find out how they can best serve you!



Knowledge of the Market  
Effortless Process

ROLFKRAMER

ABR, e-PRO REAL ESTATE IN WILLIAMSBURG

757-564-4455

[rolf@rollkramer.net](mailto:rolf@rollkramer.net) [www.rollkramer.net](http://www.rollkramer.net)



---

Call Me!

I have the keys to  
your new home!

William E. Wood  
and Associates  
REALTORS

cell phone **757-570-4076**

Robert Marakos

[rmarokos@williamewood.com](mailto:rmarokos@williamewood.com)



For more information on this real estate feature call Meredith Collins at (757) 560-3235

# Hey Neighbor!

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

## ATTENTION NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS!

Want to know more about Hey Neighbor!?

Hey Neighbor! is a way of communicating good things happening in Williamsburg. It is primarily for individuals and non-profit organizations to have a forum for sharing information that will benefit others - similar to chatting with your neighbor over the fence about something you think your neighbors would want to know. Inclusion in the Hey Neighbor! feature requires the full name of the person submitting the information and a telephone number. (Phone numbers do not have to be published.) Space and relevancy of content are considerations for publishing. *Next Door Neighbors* reserves the right to edit as necessary.

**Please email [heyneighbor@cox.net](mailto:heyneighbor@cox.net) on or before Tuesday, November 27th to be considered for inclusion in the December 13th issue of *Next Door Neighbors*.**

### Hey Neighbor!

#### Fall Museum Socials

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

- Folk Art and Music Christmas Museum Social: Wednesday December 5, 7 to 9 p.m. Enjoy festive folk music in the galleries of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum. Try your hand at making folk art ornaments, explore the exhibition "A Child's Eye View" of antique toys at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum and sample seasonal treats during the evening in the Museum Café.

- 18th-Century Christmas Museum Social: Thursday, December 20, 7 to 8 p.m. Step back over two centuries for an evening of music and holiday celebrations as enjoyed by the Founding Fathers. \$17 for Good Neighbors, \$20 General Admission and \$25 day of show. To make reservations call (757) 229-2141 or 1(800) HISTORY.

- Good Neighbor Cards are available for just \$10 at the Visitor Center or Lumber House ticket office on Duke of Gloucester St. Email: [goodneighbor@cwf.org](mailto:goodneighbor@cwf.org) or visit the official Web site at: [www.colonial-williamsburg.com/goodneighbor](http://www.colonial-williamsburg.com/goodneighbor).

Virginia Lee  
Community Programs Manager  
Colonial Williamsburg

### Hey Neighbor!

**Cindy Steger, of Williamsburg** knows that heart disease is the number 1 killer among women. She wants all women to know that fact. Cindy recently attended the four-day Science & Leadership Symposium co-hosted by WomenHeart and Mayo Clinic.

These women have made a commitment to return to their communities and, as WomenHeart spokespeople, educate the public on heart disease in women.

If you would like information about women's heart disease, contact Cindy at [StegerWomenHeart@aol.com](mailto:StegerWomenHeart@aol.com) or 258-9128. WomenHeart is the nation's only patient advocacy organization serving the 8,000,000 American women living with heart disease.

Cindy Stegar  
Spokeswoman, Womanheart

### Hey Neighbor!

#### New Holiday Show Hits the Stage December 9th

A cast of eighty local singers, dancers and actors will stage the premiere of "Christmas in Williamsburg: A Magical Night on Duke of Gloucester," December 9 and 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Kimball Theatre.

The show highlights a family's adventures as they make their way down Duke of Gloucester Street. The parents and

children rediscover the magic of Christmas and encounter a variety of wonders: toys and candies that come to life; tap-dancing waiters in a colonial tavern; and a high-kicking chorus line of reindeer! Classical ballet dancers from the Williamsburg Ballet Theater perform. The show is sure to become a Williamsburg holiday favorite! For tickets, call 1-800-HISTORY or visit the Kimball Theatre Box office.

Laura Ekstrom

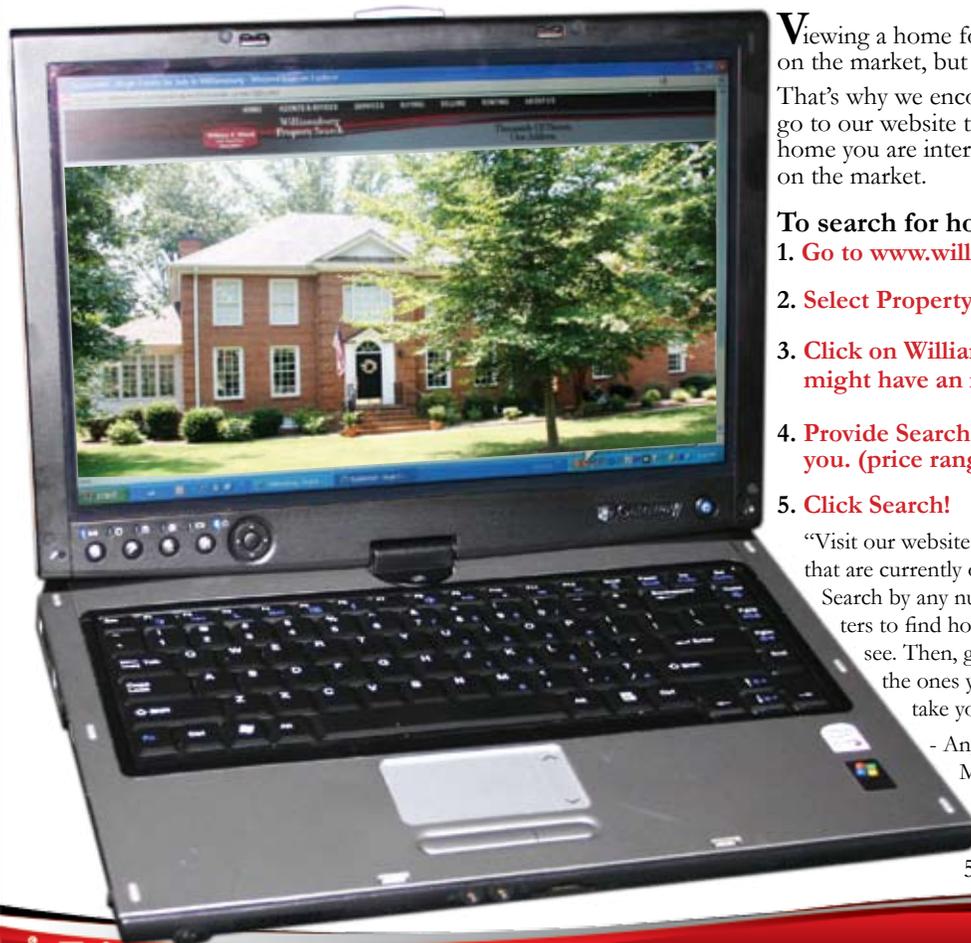
### Hey Neighbor!

**Make your plans for the 2008 MONOPOLY® Game Gala** in support of Olde Towne Medical Center and the Williamsburg Symphonia. The Gala will be held at Kingsmill Resort & Spa on Sunday, April 27, 2008. Please hold the date for this fun event. Come and watch our celebrity rollers including Anthony Zinnie and William Kelson, as they play the big board MONOPOLY® game. Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, try to stay out of jail and win prizes as each table plays the MONOPOLY® game. Let's Roll for Charity.

For additional information contact Joan Peterson, 345-3665, or Nancy Marsh, 258-0164 or visit our website at [www.rollforcharity.org](http://www.rollforcharity.org).

Nancy Marsh

# Find the home you've always wanted at [www.williamewood.com](http://www.williamewood.com)



Viewing a home for sale in print gives you an idea of what is on the market, but sometimes you want more information. That's why we encourage you to look at our print ads and then go to our website to give you in-depth information about the home you are interested in, or to view more homes currently on the market.

#### To search for homes that meet your needs:

1. Go to [www.williamewood.com](http://www.williamewood.com)
2. Select Property Search
3. Click on Williamsburg (or another area where you might have an interest in living.)
4. Provide Search parameters that are right for you. (price range, square footage etc.)
5. Click Search!

"Visit our website to view homes that are currently on the market.

Search by any number of parameters to find houses you want to see. Then, give us a call about the ones you like and we'll take you inside!"

- Angela Dougherty,  
Managing Broker



**757-229-0550**

5208 Monticello Ave., Williamsburg, VA 23188



The best place to shop for homes is online. The best website to go to is...[www.williamewood.com](http://www.williamewood.com)

Next Door Neighbors

Collins Group, LLC

PO Box 5152

Williamsburg, VA 23188

(757) 560-3235

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
NORFOLK, VA  
PERMIT NO. 33