

July 2013

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VOL. 7, ISSUE 7

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From time to time we like to bring you an issue about the military men and women who live in our area. Some are active duty and some are retired, but all have made serving our country a choice for their lives.

Their choice reflects their acceptance of a lifestyle that may move them to different parts of the United States or even the world. It means they perform their duties like most of us who have a job, but their level of readiness and their commitment to serving their country often means a lifestyle that demands that they adapt to a high level of change - even risk. Sometimes this may result in taking on a new assignment that they may not have chosen for themselves. Sometimes it means the opportunity to "see the world", living in places many of us will never see.

Throughout all of this, many serving in the military learn to raise a family and work together to create normalcy the best that they can. They may build friendships that last a lifetime or experience times of extreme loneliness. They work and learn and serve our country in countless ways. This issue is not just about the handful of men and women we interviewed, but it is also about the hundreds of military families living in and around Williamsburg who are also serving our country. NDN



Meredith Collins, Publisher

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LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROY BURROWS



That I May Serve

By Alison Johnson

When Japan surrendered in 1945 to end World War II, Lieutenant Colonel Roy Burrows was a 7-year-old boy who joined in a joyful street parade, marching along and banging on a pan.

The feeling that he simply had a duty to serve his country began early for Roy. When he was ready to apply to college, he fought to get into Virginia Tech's Corps of Cadets despite doubts

that he could pass the physical entrance exam. Even though he had played football and rowed on a high school team, he had broken his neck at age 13 in a diving accident at a quarry.

Once Roy did pass that exam, he formed a lifelong attachment to the Corps, Virginia Tech's honor code of honesty, integrity and trust and the school's motto – "Ut Prosim," Latin for "That I May Serve." After two years

of active duty in the Army, he spent 26 years in the Army Reserves. He also devoted his engineering career at Fort Eustis to making aircraft safer to fly, leading to his 2008 induction into Virginia Tech's Aviation Wall of Fame.

"I found that if you take that honor code and make it your life, no one can ever question your ethics or your standards, and then you go from there," says Roy, 75, whose focus

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on aviation safety began after a 1974 car crash. "From the Corps, you get a discipline, a sense that you're all in it together and that you owe it to your country to give it a part of your life."

Military service was always on Roy's radar. He grew up outside Washington, D.C., with a father who served in World War I and several relatives who battled in World War II. As a teenager, he delivered the Washington Post and read stories about the Korean War. Later, when the Vietnam War began, he watched many classmates and friends go off to fight.

By then, Roy had studied hard to earn a mechanical engineering degree from Virginia Tech. He had always liked the challenge of math and science – his high school friends tried to outdo each other on their homework – and wanted to build an engineering career.

He also felt a tug to serve, especially with what was happening in Vietnam. "I love the military," he says. "It is a part of me."

His solution was to combine the two worlds. After graduating from college in 1960 with a commission as a Second Lieutenant, Roy served two years active duty as a project engineer at Fort Eustis. He then joined the Reserves and made it a second job while he built a civilian career as an aerospace engineer, mostly at what is now known as the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate (AATD) at Fort Eustis.

Roy started on the performance side of aeronautics, working on projects such as helping to develop engines for Black Hawk and Apache aircraft. He also went to Belgium for a year to earn the equivalent of a Master's Degree in Fluid Dynamics at a special NATO post-graduate school.

Then on May 24, 1974, Roy's priorities shifted. He was driving his family through Suffolk when a drunk driver plowed into his side of the car, knocking his left arm through his ribcage, rupturing his diaphragm and causing a severe concussion and multiple broken bones. He spent two weeks in intensive care at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital.

"I wasn't supposed to survive that one," he says.

However, when he did, Roy wanted to help other people survive crashes, too. For the next 20 years, from 1975 to 1995, he worked with the Safety and Survivability Division at AATD on a wide range of crash-resistant features, including seats, restraints, landing gear and fuel systems. He also completed two crash survival investigation schools at the International Center for Safety Education in Arizona.

Roy got the most attention for co-inventing a wire strike protection system, or WSPS, to help helicopters avoid getting tangled in electrical or telephone wires. The system has an upper wire cutter to protect a helicopter's main rotor and a lower cutter to guard its skid gear.

"It feels good knowing that it has saved lives," he says. "It's a nice thing to be able to tell my grandchildren."

The WSPS was what made Roy the 2008 Corps of Cadets inductee into the Aviation Wall of Fame, which is dedicated to Tech alumni who distinguish themselves through service or sacrifice in the fields of aviation or aerospace. Almost all are heroic military pilots.

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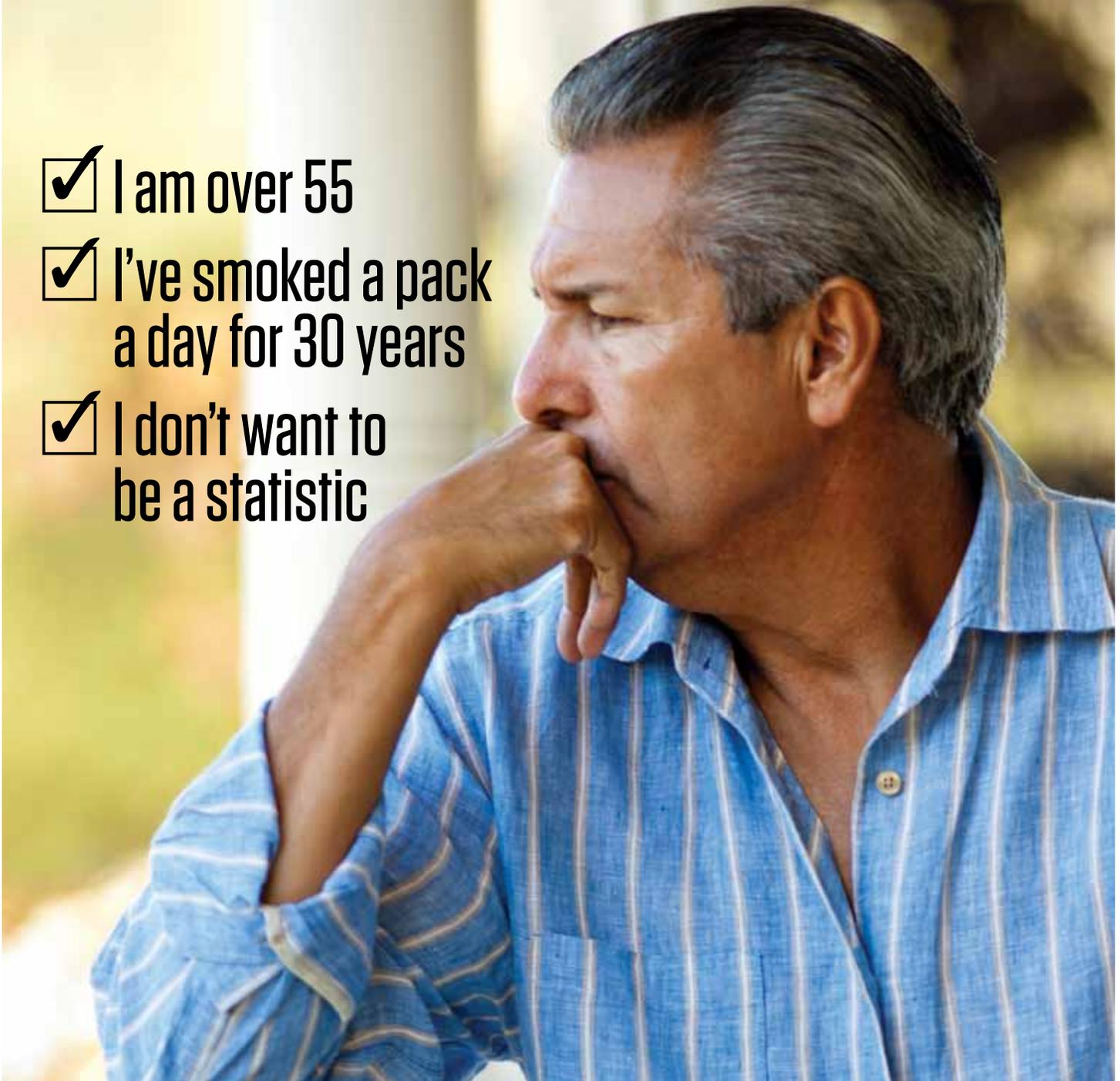
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"It was a huge surprise," he says. "I was 70 years old at the time, and I figured any recognition I was going to get would have been a long time ago. This just blew me out of the water. I felt so honored."

Roy also considered his time in the Army Reserves as an honor. He sometimes used up all of his leave from his regular job to take assignments, including doing field readiness evaluations with simulations of enemy and atomic bomb attacks. "It felt great to leave a unit better prepared than when we got there," he remembers.

Since his retirement from AATD in 1995, Roy has continued to work as a self-employed flight and crash safety consultant for a number of companies. He has also stayed very active with Virginia Tech, raising money for its academic and athletic programs and supporting the Corps of Cadets.

While the Corps has shrunk to a much smaller percentage of the student body than in his day, Roy believes it still has great powers to shape young lives. Beyond its physical and

mental rigors, the program "is a way to be part of something much bigger than an individual," he says. "Those were my brothers, and I can tell you that bond lasts a lifetime."

One enjoyable duty has been presenting Corps Emerging Leadership Scholarships to graduates of Jamestown High School, where one of his six grandchildren goes to school. Roy awarded one scholarship last year and stayed in touch with the student during his freshman year. He awarded four scholarships this spring. He also has great respect for young men and women who choose to serve in the military. "They deserve our full support," he says. "I don't like anybody bad-mouthing them."

Outside of his consulting jobs, Roy enjoys yard work – "I don't pay anybody to do something I can do myself," he says – and golf. He's also a member of the Ball Hawks, a group of "Gentleman Golfers" at Kingsmill that has found, cleaned and packaged golf balls for sale for about 30 years. The balls, sold at the gift shop at Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center, have raised more than \$51,000 for

hospital programs.

Married to wife, Audrey, since 1960, Roy has three children who have taken some of his passions to heart. Oldest son, Mike, built a career in the Air Force and the other two, Sharon and Chris, went to college at Virginia Tech, however they didn't join the Corps of Cadets. Roy would love to see any of his grandkids consider the Corps, but he wouldn't push them.

"Today's youth are different," he says. "For my generation, just hearing the National Anthem will bring tears to our eyes. That kind of patriotism is harder to come by. I just let the kids see how much the Corps gave me – what I've done and where I've been."

People who don't choose any kind of military service have many other chances to give back, Roy adds. "Service is manifested in a lot of ways: country, community, university, church, family," he says. "I believe people should make room for all that's important to them. Step up to the plate, because you can't always find somebody who will."

Ut Prosim. NDN

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A Couple's Life in the Military

By Rachel Sapin



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

We often hear about the wives who send their husbands off to serve, but less often about the husbands who stay behind. The experience of being the sender and the sent is a shared one for Lauri and Lance Atkins. Both served in the U.S. Army for more than 20 years. Lauri as an intelligence officer, and Lance as an Army pilot. Both experienced the fears and joys of having a spouse in the military.

“We were both Army wives,” Lance explains of the how the couple managed raising a family with two military careers that often kept them apart for months at a time. Lauri adds, “You don’t know what you don’t know. This is how we were. This is what we knew.”

Something Lance has learned from his experience on the other side: “It is so much harder staying home and not knowing what’s going on than it is to go and be there doing

it,” he says.

This coming December will mark 20 years of marriage for the couple, who for all but two of those years, each worked for the military. Through the course of their marriage, the Atkins lived all over, from Colorado to Korea. Two of their children were born in different parts of the country, one in a different part of the world. They estimate that all of the time spent apart during their marriage for military

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assignments added up to around seven years. A question they often get is how did you ever make this work?

"I think that the personality it takes to do what we do is being able to turn it on and turn it off," Lauri says. "Work stayed at work, and when we were home, it was home." Lance agrees and adds that the separation as a result of their different positions helped too. "We were never in the same unit," he adds. "We didn't work together at all."

Although both became passionate about a career in military service in their twenties, neither imagined meeting the person they would want to spend the rest of their life with this way. "I don't think either of us was looking for marriage at the time," Lauri remembers of the first time she met Lance at an officer's club while stationed at the same airfield in Germany. "That was back in 1993."

At the time, Lauri was 25 and Lance was 28. Both had been in military service for less than 10 years. Their ensuing courtship was a whirlwind. They met in January of 1993, and by the following December, they were married.

And what to do about a honeymoon when your job already sends you all over the world? "We went on a cruise to the Caribbean," Lauri remembers with a laugh.

Both Lance and Lauri come from a family with some military experience. Lauri is a self-described Army brat who grew up all over the country. Her father was an Army doctor, a Colonel, who retired after 30 years of service. She says he was her biggest influence in deciding to participate in ROTC while pursuing a degree in International Studies at Norwich University in Vermont. At the time she was also in the Army Reserves.

Lance's father served three years in the Air Force as a lieutenant. Unlike Lauri who grew up all over, Lance grew up mostly in Alabama. He joined ROTC while attending the University of Alabama, but didn't see the military as a long-term career at first. "I didn't have any intentions of staying for 22 years," he says. "I just ended up enjoying it so much and loving the lifestyle."

Though Lance and Lauri were dedicated to serving their country, the lifestyle sometimes proved challenging. It wasn't because one had to step back at times and take care of their three children while the other went back to school or took on an assignment for advancement. It was when they had to let each other go on dangerous missions.

While Lance's position as a pilot has taken him to many places - including Egypt where he trained the Egyptian Air Force in flying Apache Helicopters - Lauri clearly remembers his 2003 deployment to Iraq as one of the hardest. At the time, Lauri was stationed in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, with their two children who were 18 months and 4 years old. "His unit was the one that had the two POWs," she remembers. "We talked once in five months." Lauri was not allowed to communicate with her husband and could only glean information about him from what she saw on the news.

Lance too was fearful when Lauri was deployed to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad for six months in 2009, while he stayed with the kids here in Williamsburg, where the family had put down permanent roots. "It felt like a year," he says, even though Lauri was able to call and check-in

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Lauri recalls her Baghdad deployment being especially hard on her middle daughter at the time. "For me, it was just to hear their voices," she says of the calls home. "And the kids, that's all they wanted to hear from me too, was my voice." When the couple retired in 2010, their three children were relieved.

Both Lauri and Lance however, believe their children have gained maturity through the experience. "Being military kids makes them more even-keeled," Lauri says. "They adjust well."

Lance and Lauri still work for the government in Fort Eustis: Lauri as an intelligence analyst and Lance as a senior operations officer. Both look back on their time serving with fondness. For Lance, one of the greatest parts about being in the military was the camaraderie he experienced. "I always think the biggest thing is teamwork," he says. "You get a group of people together from literally all across the nation, and you go out and you try to do something good."

Lauri's advice to those actively serving: take time to travel and enjoy the time you have

with your family. "We went to probably a dozen or more countries in our 20 years together," she says.

Lauri and Lance are both part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), but for the most part, they're just enjoying being retired from active service and having a place to truly call home in Williamsburg.

"We've just fallen in love with Williamsburg," Lauri says. "Right now, most of our efforts go to support the activities of our kids. We volunteer a lot of time supporting football and dance events." NDN

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Uncommon Valor

By Sandy Rotermund



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Courage is the ability to disregard fear. The words bravery, valor and daring all mean similar things yet none of these synonyms are engraved on a United States military dog tag. Looped inconspicuously on a chain around the service member's neck, this metal identification disk isn't worn like a hero's wreath. Instead,

the courage it implies is rooted deep within the soldier's soul.

"Uncommon valor is a common virtue," quotes Rhonda Amtower, a retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel with 25 years of active duty service. Those words are inscribed on the U.S. Marine Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. The

monument depicts Marine soldiers planting the American flag on the newly captured Iwo Jima Island.

"That was the Marine's job," she explains. "They weren't heroes. They were Marines just doing their jobs - kind of like dotting an 'i' - the inscription encapsulates what a Marine is."

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For Rhonda, joining the Marines in 1976 was almost a family tradition. Born in Monroe, Louisiana and raised in the San Francisco Bay area, she had two brothers already serving in the Marines at that time, another in the Air Force, and a father who was in the Army Air Corps in the 1940s. Her sister hadn't joined the military. After graduating from San Jose State University with a degree in Spanish, Rhonda hadn't planned to pursue a military path either.

"I always knew I wanted to do something with language. Maybe teach – or a big dream I had was to work for the United Nations and be a translator." She laughs. "Well, that never worked out."

Militarily familiar but still undecided, Rhonda researched all of the services and found a language program opportunity with the Marines.

"They needed people who could talk to people from other countries, to ask questions and to translate radio broadcasts," she says.

She chose to enlist rather than commissioning directly as an officer because that would almost guarantee a spot at the Defense Language Institute (D.L.I.) in Monterey, California.

"I went to recruit training – or boot camp as they call it - down at Parris Island, South Carolina. Then, after boot camp, I went to D.L.I. and studied Chinese Mandarin for a year. That was a little different." She smiles. "I was the first woman Marine to graduate from D.L.I. That was my first 'first.'"

Acceptance to Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia followed. From there, Rhonda pioneered a path in the Intelligence field that few other females had attempted before. Trained as an Imagery Analyst, she was assigned to bases in Hawaii, Japan, Washington D.C., Hong Kong and Korea, among others.

"The Marine Corps used to have tactical imagery airplanes that would fly over the enemy territory and [marines would] actually take films. And then they would land and develop the films, and we'd be sitting at a light table with literally rolls of film. And you're cranking it like this," she says as her arm turns an invisible handle.

The films were delayed by hours – even days – by the time she could analyze them. Rhonda examined the imagery for enemy tanks, trucks, planes, submarines and ships – whatever was "over the hill," as she puts it.

"The field has changed so much over the years because now we have digital imagery and unmanned aerial vehicles. The information is almost instantaneous," she says.

Rhonda's second "first," she believes, came by being in the right place at the right time. She was present during a conversation relating the need for a Marine attaché replacement to Hong Kong – a position historically held by men. Proficient in Mandarin Chinese, Rhonda knew she could do the job. Fearless and determined, Rhonda requested the assignment.

"We had to go through some wickets because they [the Marine Corps] had never had a woman attaché." Her dimples deepen. "Why not me?"

Hosting cocktail parties for foreign diplomats in Hong Kong was part of her new job, and she didn't mind.

"I even rated a maid, which I thought was kind of fun," she shares, giggling.

"You never know what information you can pick up at these parties about what countries are doing. You're always on the alert. That infor-

mation is then sent back to the main headquarters in Washington, D.C., and then they get other little bits of information and, together, that becomes intelligence,” she explains.

Rhonda’s favorite assignment was outside of the Intelligence field. Fourteen years after completing boot camp at Parris Island, she grabbed the available Executive Officer position for the women’s training battalion.

“I learned so much about myself and developed more as a leader and as a Marine Corps officer than in any other position,” Rhonda says of her billet there. “The relationship that we had with the younger officers and the enlisted folks and the drill instructors was just amazing.”

Though still quartered separately, the new female recruits trained right alongside the men. Rhonda was humbled by the difference from her own boot camp era. Where her recruit training had emphasized appropriate uniform appearance and classroom instruction, the new girls on the block were qualifying with rifles and training for combat. Rhonda reveled in the transformation she was privileged to witness from her office window overlooking the courtyard.

“I always liken this scene [from her window] to a time lapse video camera,” she says.

Within 30 minutes she would watch three levels of recruits in their respective groups march by – the greenest to the most polished. Thirteen weeks had changed them forever.

“You have to know that you will remember this time in your life forever,” she remembers saying to the new recruits. “This bond – this connection with your fellow recruits – you can only share this with those who have gone through that. I have literally been where you are now.”

Rhonda sits up taller, prouder, as she mentions being voted “Molly Marine” by her fellow recruits in boot camp. This award is given to this day to a new female recruit who most exemplifies the spirit of the Marine Corps – honor, courage, and commitment or “Esprit de Corps.”

Connection has remained vital to Rhonda since her retirement in 2001. Re-connection with a friend and retired Navy officer, Jim Amtower, resulted in their marriage ten years ago. Learning to play golf at Fords Colony has led to an active membership with the Ladies Golf Association. Joining the National Women Marines Association has brought to recent conclusion for Rhonda two 2-year terms as their President at large.

The bond Rhonda has shared with her comrades during a career that has spanned half of her life is one she treasures. Her involvement with the Women Marines Association has maintained that. But maintaining the name of the Women Marines Association has met with some resistance on the part of the younger female Marines.

“They [the younger women marines] don’t like anything that will separate or distinguish them from being anything other than a Marine.”

Rhonda gets that. But she defers to her fellow women Marines who served in World War I and II.

“I don’t think they felt anything less than a Marine,” she says. “I look at them in awe. We all have a history as serving as women in the Marine Corps.”

Brave. Fearless. Daring. Before, during and after her service to our country – Rhonda Amtower has uncommon valor. After all, she is “Molly Marine.” [NDN](#)



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COLONEL BILL MERRITT



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

WOUNDED WARRIORS Mentor

By Lillian Stevens

Colonel Bill Merritt has been serving as a mentor for the local Wounded Warriors Mentors Program (WWMP) for the past three years. The local WWMP is an offshoot of the original Program established in Washington, D.C. by the West Point class of 1958. It focuses on greater Hampton Roads, including the soldiers assigned to the Fort Eustis Warrior Transition Unit.

“The program itself goes back over a decade,” Bill explains. “Walter Reed Army Medical Center was experiencing a number of problems and even though wounded soldiers were getting fantastic medical treatment physically, no one was preparing them emotionally or professionally for their next steps in life.”

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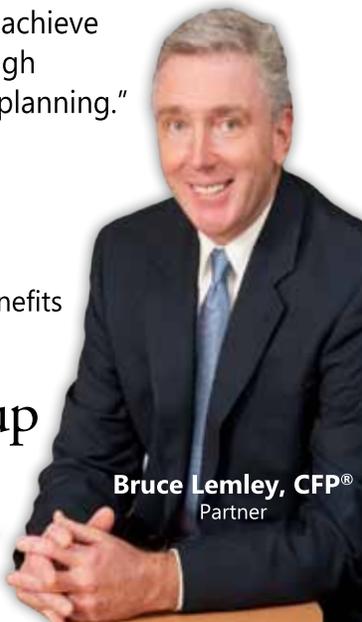
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- hike and bike through Freedom Park or the Powhatan Creek Trail, play soon at the newly renovated Mid County Park, fish from the pier and camp overnight at Chickahominy Riverfront Park or catch the air at the Skate Park - there's truly something for everyone!

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With very few exceptions, WWMP mentors are alumni of the prestigious United States Military Academy in West Point.

Bill is one of those exceptions.

Although he is not an alumnus of West Point, he is an ROTC graduate of Arkansas State University who has enjoyed a long and distinguished military career, including two combat tours with the First Infantry Division (The Big Red One) in Vietnam. He also holds an MBA and possesses a wealth of volunteer and mentoring experience. When Army colleague and friend Colonel Ramon A. (Tony) Nadel invited him to serve as a trainer for the Mentors Program, Bill couldn't say no. He dedicates approximately two days a week to this endeavor.

“Mentoring is so much more than telling a soldier he or she is going to be okay,” he says. “It’s also about brainstorming with them to see what they want to do next in life and drawing on your own experiences and resources to try and help them make it happen.”

Because most mentors are retired combat veterans, they have an immediate connection to their mentees – but they bring to the table their own unique backgrounds.

“We all bring different skills to the table,” Bill says. “I have an MBA and so I can help my mentees brainstorm business or organizational ideas and help them figure out strategically what it is that they want to do. I might also help them write their resumes and line up letters of reference and position themselves in the best way possible. But we don't do it for them.”

When he agreed to become a WWMP mentor, Bill went to Fort Eustis and spent three weeks on the other side – as though he was the wounded warrior.

“The first days are dedicated to getting the soldier and his family completely settled in and stabilized in terms of his or her medical condition,” Bill explains. “Once the warrior is stabilized and requests a mentor, one is assigned. Then the mentor and mentee sit down together and discuss everything from options for the future to veteran's rights.”

At first, there were seven to ten participating mentors volunteering at Fort Eustis. Today that number has grown to 20 plus. Each mentor starts with one mentee. Bill is mentoring four soldiers right now and stresses the importance of the dedication and commitment involved.

“You can't just drop off some business cards and head out to play golf,” he says. “This takes time and it takes compassion.”

He has helped mentees take that next step whether it's pursuing an education, finding the right professional fit or just getting through the day. He recently encouraged one mentee to apply for a job as a Park Ranger in Yorktown, which he landed. Bill has also worked as an advocate on behalf of another mentee, whose immediate needs involved helping to get his medicines regulated so that the mentee was lucid enough to get

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through the day. That involved delicate liaison work between soldier and physician.

Sometimes, walls need to be broken down and mentors must be creative about how best to make that happen.

“One of the first guys I was assigned to – well – I just wasn’t getting through to him,” Bill says. “He had suffered a brain trauma, was pending 100% disability, and was having trouble with cognitive skills. He kept asking me to remember things for him and talk with his wife for him, and I was really struggling to find a way to get through to him. I mean, we are 45 years out of combat trying to help these young soldiers coming out of Afghanistan or Iraq and they are different soldiers today. It’s not always easy.”

One day, the fates smiled as the conversation turned to hobbies. Mentor and mentee found an immediate commonality.

“I told him that I like to fish,” Bill says. “Well, it turns out this guy likes to fish too but had never been on a boat. So, I called a chartered boat outfit down in Hampton to ask about scheduling a head boat and arranging a fishing excursion.”

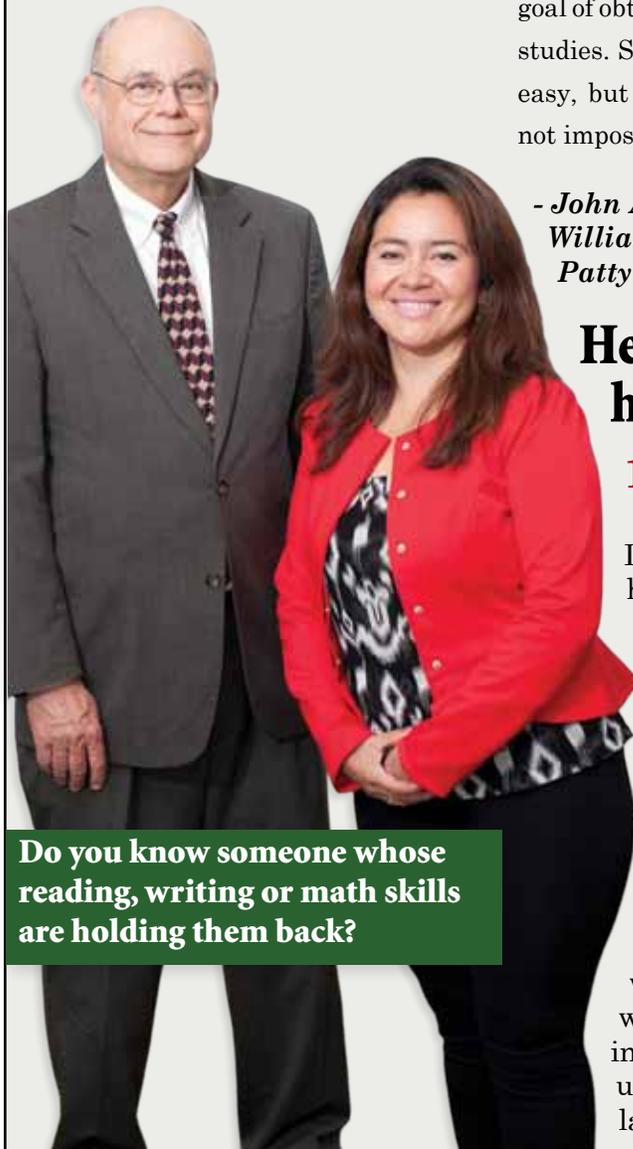
“Not only did they arrange that for us, they donated it. So I took a few others out fishing too.”

That fishing experience went a long way in terms of helping Bill connect with this particular mentee. It soon became abundantly clear that while the young father had brain damage, he also had potential. With encouragement from Bill and the support of professional colleagues – and even a few politicians – the young man was able to get a job stocking and arranging displays at a West Virginia-area Lowes – a store very

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- *John A. Moorman, Director of Williamsburg Regional Library with Patty Benavides*

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“And his wife – a high school dropout – got her GED and went on to graduate from college. Right now, she’s in training to become a nurse,” Bill says.

At the other end of the spectrum, Bill is working with a woman who holds an advanced academic degree. She was hurt in a non-combat accident, has been in and out of surgery and is being processed for a medical discharge.

“She is lost emotionally and doesn’t know what she wants to do,” Merritt says. “Obviously, she can write her own resume but she wants me to counsel her and help her make smart decisions.”

He is doing his best to help her develop a strategy that will launch her into the workforce and help her find the right fit. He knows from experience that sometimes it takes that push from a supportive person – perhaps mixed with a little bit of kismet.

“The first experience I had with the military was with the Arkansas National Guard,” says Bill. “I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do for a career and I had a neighbor in the National

Guard. His experiences sounded interesting and so, with my father’s permission, I signed up.”

Then, while he was a senior in high school, young Merritt wrote an award-winning essay that landed him a two-year academic scholarship, which led to ROTC. He went on inactive status with the National Guard and threw himself into the ROTC program.

“After graduating from the ROTC program, I went on active duty for two years as an officer, and then went to Germany as an artillery officer,” Bill says. “I went to gunnery school and I also went to missile school, followed by three years with the First Hawk Missile Unit in Europe. That’s how I met my wife, actually. I was coming back to the States on a charter flight, and she was one of the flight attendants.”

Maybe a lot of luck.

The couple, who has lived in Williamsburg since 1996, married one year later and will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary this year. They are the proud parents of two daughters and four grandchildren.

In closing, there is one mentoring story

which is particularly dear to Bill’s heart because it involves the daughter of a long-time family friend.

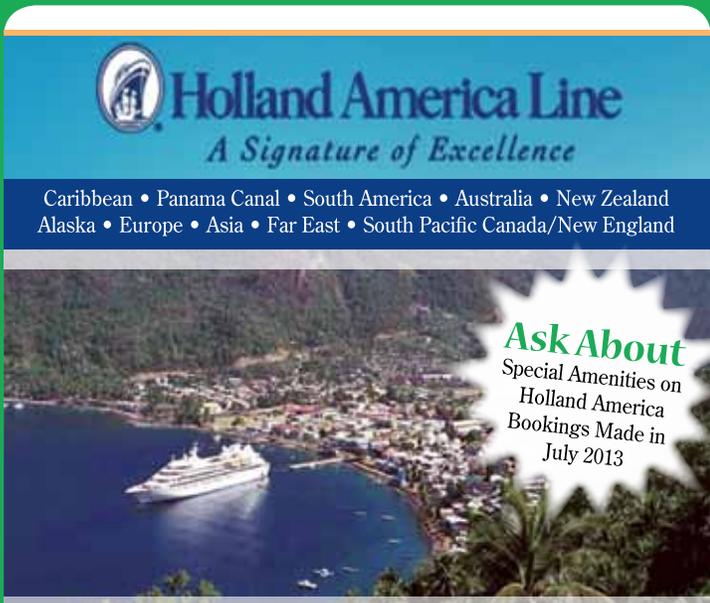
“Her parents were divorced and so she spent a lot of time with her grandmother – my wife’s friend from childhood. When this young girl was eight or nine years old, she started expressing interest in the Army.”

As she got older, the young honor student asked Bill for advice about whether or not to consider enlisting in the Army, thinking that it could lead to an education via the G.I. Bill.

“I advised her to go to her local Army recruiter, and explain her interest in the Army – that she was an honor student and a really super person – and see what the Army might offer.”

Ultimately, through Bill’s encouragement and her own hard academic work, she was awarded a full four-year ROTC scholarship to Eastern Kentucky University where she studied criminal justice.

“And last weekend, I was honored to attend her commissioning and graduation – and I pinned her bars.” **NDN**



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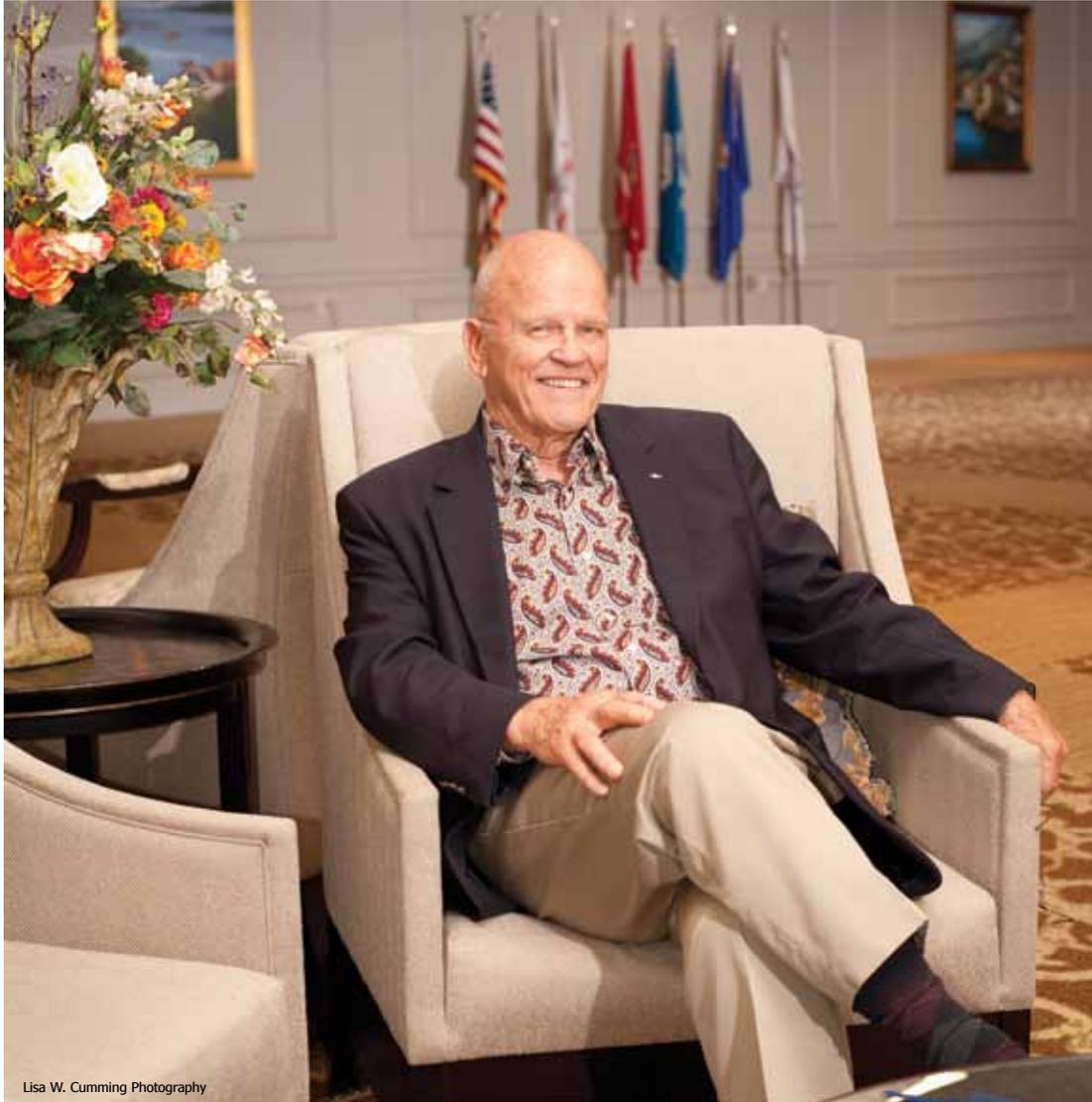
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COLONEL BOB MANGUM



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A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

By Narielle Living

Colonel Bob Mangum was raised on the Peninsula, and after a lifetime of military service he and his wife decided to return to the area. A resident of Patriots Colony in Williamsburg, Bob is partially retired and spends much of his time with his family.

Bob graduated from Warwick High School and attended Virginia Tech on a football scholarship. He played an interior lineman position.

“Back then, football had crazy substitution rules,” he says. “I rarely started the game, but I always got put in.”

Bob was also enrolled in the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Tech.

“Back then, the cadets had one company

where all the jocks lived,” he said. “It was the H-company, also called the athletic company. The rules for us were a little bit different though, and we got away with more than other students did around campus. We knew if something was happening at the school, good or bad, it was probably from someone in the H-company. We received lots of attention from the honor court,” he says with a laugh. “But we had fun.”

After graduation, Bob joined the Army. Although he was not raised in a military family, he saw the opportunities he would have by joining the armed forces. Once he knew he wanted to spend his time flying airplanes, it

was an easy decision to fly for his country.

“I was too tall for the cockpit in the Air Force planes, so I went into the Army,” he says with a smile. “It made sense to me at the time. Still does.”

While in the Army, he was sent back to Virginia Tech to earn a Master’s Degree in Engineering. His career led to jobs in maintenance and research and development within engineering.

“The funny thing is, I never really worked as an engineer, but I oversaw the work of other engineers. I really enjoyed the people I worked with,” he says.

Bob insists that it was people, not any kind

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of internal motivation, which made him decide to pursue a career in his chosen field. "I worked for an electrical engineer for a while, and I truly admired that person. That was how I decided on a major in school."

Bob served in the Army for 25 years, three years at a time. He insists that his education at Virginia Tech equipped him well for the Army, as well as his chosen career field. "They are a really good school," he says. "I had fun and got a solid education."

As expected, Bob has made numerous friends along the way, both civilian and government. Today he does some work for Boeing, and maintains those working relationships, but does not have the time to keep up with many of the people he has met over the years.

"Right now my focus is on my family and enjoying my time," he says. "The funny thing is, when I came back here I found I already had connections in the area." Some of his former classmates were still in the area, and he crossed paths with them when he moved to Williamsburg. "Someone I went to high school with is now a CEO at a local hospital, and another classmate lives in Kingsmill, not far from here."

For Bob, it really is all about family. He is married and has three grown children, and each of them is married as well. "Two of my kids are in Richmond, and my wife and I live here at Patriots Colony," he says. "I am very fortunate to have the family that I do. They've been great."

Bob explains that not everybody is suited for the military life, as there are many changes that have to be made from year to year. "Not all people adjust well to the constant change," he says. "My family enjoyed the travel, and they managed just fine when I was gone." Bob spent part of his military career in Vietnam during the war, finding himself home for one year, then overseas for the next year. "That's hard on any family, but my wife was amazing and did a great job keeping everything running smoothly here."

During his Army career Bob was fortunate to be stationed at Fort Eustis in Newport News. "That was really great," he said. "It gave the kids a chance to know their grandparents, since they lived in the area, and it gave us more family to have for support."

Bob retired from the Army in 1984, insisting it was time for him to step away from his military vocation. "My 'fun meter' was pegged." He laughs. "I had some good job offers, so I knew I would have plenty of opportunity to work."

Bob could stop working at any time, but he chooses to stay active.

"I've always had something external driving me, and I'm not done."

He no longer flies an airplane, but he still remembers his first flight. His father, who ran a local farm, had taken Bob to see a friend. That day they flew in a Piper Cub, a small, light aircraft. It might have been the only time his father got in a plane, but for Bob it was the beginning of a lifelong love of being in the air that led to a career in flying.

Bob is proud of the fact that one of his sons has followed in his footsteps and enlisted in the military, becoming an officer and an aviator.

"Years ago, the Army had sent me to flight school. It was when I was on my way there that I got the call that my son was being born. I've always joked around with him and told him that flying is in his DNA."

As expected, after 25 years of military service Bob has seen many things and met many people. "I've learned that there are lots of people out there, and there are a few really great people out there. I've learned how to recognize the really great ones, and those are the people it's important to learn from."

After a lifetime of work and service, Bob is considering full retirement again. At this point, he is happy to simply spend more time with his family. NDN

The Grass is Greener in Williamsburg

By Natalie Miller-Moore



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Major Chris Greene's family moved in 1987 from Virginia Beach, where he'd been surrounded by military families, to Williamsburg. In fact, on the street he lived on his next door neighbors were a Navy SEAL and a Top Gun Pilot.

His father worked for Newport News Shipyard and grew tired of the Bridge-Tunnel commute. He was a nuclear pipefitter, working on subs and aircraft carriers. A move to Williams-

burg made sense for the family.

"Williamsburg was a completely different place than it is now," Chris says. "Everyone closed at 5 o'clock, especially compared to Virginia Beach. The stores closed...and the sidewalks rolled up at five." At that time the family lived in the more rural area of Toano.

"Now things are all pushing that way, but then, it was just the Candle Factory. Pierce's used to just be a small stand, and we'd eat at the

picnic tables. Luckily, the food hasn't changed!" Chris says.

Chris went to Lafayette High School and participated on the wrestling team. He also took martial arts and enjoyed the physical discipline of the sport.

These two physical activities may have led him to consider the military as a career option.

In high school, Chris met a number of military recruiters and was first interested in join-

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ing the U.S. Marshalls or being a State Department diplomatic security guard.

"I wanted money for college, so I joined the Army. I went to VCU (Virginia Commonwealth University) for 2 years studying biology then transferred to the College of William and Mary. It was tough but perfect for me, especially the small classes," he says.

Another component of the school transfer was his then-girlfriend, now wife, Arianna, who was transferring to William and Mary as well. The couple had been dating since high school but met as classmates when Chris moved to Williamsburg in the 5th grade. They married in 2001 and have two young children, Liliana and Nate.

As part of his National Guard commitment, Chris served as a medic in the combat engineer unit while in college. This led him to select the Medical Service Corp after college. One of the projects he worked on was a Combat Casualty Care Course for new doctors.

"We teach doctors to do their craft in a field environment, which is very different from a trauma center. At first, it might be hard for the just-out-of-med-school doctors to listen to enlisted soldiers, but in just a few days, we see quite an attitude change! The skills needed for this kind of work are valuable, and we continually get information from the battlefield back to us and share techniques to implement stuff in the field," he says.

Today, Chris works for the Walter Reed Institute of Research in medical human resources. It's a Center of Excellence for Infectious Diseases, like HIV and malaria.

"We save lives – that's our motto. We protect our forces but there's also a humanitarian aspect. Our research helps the entire world," he says. He enjoys working with the hand-picked team that's dedicated to their job. Just like the civilian world, there are people inside the military who do similar jobs, including doctors, research scientists and human resources professionals like Chris.

"I do a lot of hands-on administration, but also help with recognition and awards. Everyone is at the top of their game in what we do. It's like special forces, that same commitment to excellence," he says.

Over the course of his career, assignments have taken Chris to San Antonio, South Korea, Germany and the Middle East. His two children were born in Germany, and the entire family returned to the States in 2012. Chris tried to get an assignment as close to family in Williamsburg as possible.

"One of the cons of being in the military is being away from family. I think it's important for my kids to have relationships with their grandparents. Some of my fondest memories are of time I spent with my grandparents ...and my cousins too," he says. Having both sets of parents living here is a big plus.

Chris also enjoys learning about the history of this area, including the military history.

"I remember going to CW [Colonial Williamsburg] and the Yorktown battlefield as a kid, learning about the Revolutionary War and Civil War," he says.

However, most of the time Chris just enjoys being a father.

"Outside of work, I'm pretty boring. It doesn't take much to entertain me. I like just being Dad," he says. NDN



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SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ANTONIO SMALL



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW

By Susannah Livingston

“People think everybody goes into the Army to go to war,” says Sergeant First Class Antonio Small, recruiter at the Armed Forces Recruiting Center in New Town, shaking his head as he smiles. “I tell people, ‘Take your town and put a fence around it. Everything that’s in your town is in the Army.’ If you join the Army, you can be anything.”

Antonio speaks from plenty of firsthand experience. He doesn’t come from a military family (though his grandfather did serve in World War II), and the Army wasn’t on his radar, so to speak, when he was growing up. But as high school graduation loomed, Antonio says, “I knew I wasn’t mentally ready for college.” He was too young to go into law enforcement - his

longtime dream. Older family members talked to him about this college or that university, but to Antonio “it sounded like high school all over again with more freedom and I just really wanted to go do something ... I wanted to experience what was outside my bubble.”

While he was working at a grocery store, Antonio crossed paths with an Army Reserv-

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One of the lesser known benefits for veterans and their surviving spouses is the **non-service connected pension**. This pension is one of the most valuable benefits the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers. Designed to assist veterans and their surviving spouses by providing *tax-free cash compensation* to offset the costs of unreimbursed medical expenses, the number of applicants for this benefit has grown substantially in the past few years.

To qualify for the pension, the veteran or the spouse needs to meet five basic requirements: (1) at least ninety days of active military service experience, (2) one of those days of active service occurred during a wartime period, (3) a discharge from service under conditions other than dishonorable, (4) disabled or over the age of 65, and (5) possess less than the total amount of assets allowed by the VA for someone of your age and health.

The amount of the monthly benefit the veteran or the spouse receives also depends on the total cost of the unreimbursed medical expenses paid by them each month. In addition, the maximum pension rate available to a veteran or their spouse varies depending on his/her dependency rating; thus a claimant with no dependants is eligible for an amount between \$1,021.00 and \$1,703.00 per month, and a claimant with a dependant (a spouse or child) for an amount between \$1,337.00 and \$2,019.00 per month.

You probably noticed that the paragraph above refers to a couple of important additional ideas: unreimbursed medical expenses and dependency ratings. Unreimbursed medical expenses are simply those expenses that neither the veteran, a family member, an insurance company, or a government program paid for. They can include prescriptions, doctor's

ills, and the monthly cost of living in an assisted living community if the community provides some medically necessary service, such as a protective environment.

A dependency rating is the VA's categorization of veterans and spouses by their level of general physical need. It has three levels: "Basic" for a veterans or spouses who are over the age of 65 but otherwise generally in good shape and capable of living independently, "Housebound" for those who are unable to leave their homes because of physical limitations, and "Aid and Attendance" for veterans or spouses who require assistance with the day-to-day tasks of living. While a veteran or spouse can apply for whatever level of benefit he or she believes is appropriate, it is ultimately up to the VA to make the final determination.

So how does a veteran or spouse qualify for the non-service connected pension? You can download the application form from the internet, and send the completed form to your local VA office, you can contact a local veteran's service organization (VSO) to assist you in completing the application, or you can engage an accredited agent to pursue the claim on your behalf. The VSO and accredited agents are required to do the application for free.

Perhaps the most important decision a veteran or spouse will make is choosing a representative. A good representative will ensure the application is completed correctly, that all unreimbursed medical expenses are included and the pension value maximized for the veteran or spouse, and be knowledgeable about handling excess assets that might make the veteran or spouse ineligible.

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ist. "He said, 'Why don't you join the Army? You can get experience as a military police officer, do four or five years or however long you like, get an education, and then join a police department.'" To the teenager, it seemed like the perfect fit.

Antonio arrived, nervous, at Fort McClellan in Alabama as Private Small on September 14, 1989 - a date that he names with a certain pride in his voice. Like every recruit, he'd taken the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), an exhaustive test that covers everything from vocabulary and math skills to mechanical comprehension and knowledge of electronics. Just as he'd hoped, he was chosen to join the military police. "I was excited. That's exactly what I wanted to do." His long-term plan was still to become a civilian police officer; little did he know that the "four or five years" he'd originally imagined would become a 17-year Army career.

Antonio's first deployment was to Panama, and that country remains his favorite. "Everything about Panama was great. It's beautiful, [and] the people were friendly. That was my first deployment, my first time out of the country, and it made a great impression." Later deployments took him to Honduras, Cuba, Korea, Germany, Africa, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. After eight years in the Army, Antonio returned to civilian life and worked for several years as a police officer before re-enlisting. This time he was stationed at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

Antonio embraces change. "It actually feels good to move around so much ... I get to see parts of the world that I would never have seen otherwise. I love the travel. I'm the type of person that I don't want you to tell me how beautiful a place is, I want to see it for myself."

In September 2011, Antonio joined the Williamsburg Recruiting Center in New Town. It's a great job, he says, but one that carries its own unique challenges.

"The hardest part is getting people to qualify for service."

Physical and psychological standards are high, and even though a lot of people want to join the Army, many of them don't make it because of an undiagnosed medical condition, other issues in their medical records that disqualify them, or the inability to pass the ASVAB.

There is no such thing as a typical recruit. On any given day, a 17-year-old who's still in school all day and a 34-year-old who's well along in his career, could both walk into the recruiting office.

"Once I recruited a brewmaster from a local beer company. She had a degree in biology! You get all types of people, and it makes the job interesting," he says.

Antonio speaks about recruiting with enthusiasm. "I have two favorite words - opportunity and potential," he says. "We're giving people a chance to do something with their life, to see the world, to be part of a team. I see this 17-year-old kid walking through the door and I think, 'Look at him, he's a rail - five feet ten, 115 pounds.' But he could be the next Sergeant Major of the Army, and I take it personally when I help him get there. It's very satisfying."

Antonio tries to give a recruit an idea of what they can expect if they enlist. "I tell them to give it a chance. Let it work for you, be open to it. It's a great opportunity. The education benefits, the health care, the training that you're going to receive. I can't overstate what that's worth. And what is the cost? The cost - the sacrifice - is your time."

After two years with the Recruiting Center in New Town, Antonio

feels pretty dug in. He lives in Williamsburg with his wife and their 15-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son.

"I love it here," he says, adding with a grin, "The only thing Williamsburg needs is a sports complex. I got spoiled living in Georgia. We had the Braves, the Falcons, the Hawks ... I love my sports!"

Antonio has a brother and sister living in Norfolk and much of his extended family is not far away in North Carolina. When the job opportunity in Williamsburg came his way, he grabbed it. "It was a lot of luck that I ended up here."

Not surprisingly, Antonio says a lot of his close friends are fellow military folks. "It's the camaraderie," he says. "I can't go back to my high school buddy in Charlotte and talk about my experiences in Iraq or Panama. The conversation is limited." With fellow soldiers, he says, there's a whole world they can talk about.

Besides doing things with his family - his favorite pastime is riding his two motorcycles, a Suzuki Boulevard and a Kawasaki ZX10.

"I ride with friends ... we go all over the place - all over Virginia, anywhere." He also collects sports memorabilia, especially things related to football, baseball, and boxing.

Though he clearly still loves his work, Antonio concedes that retirement is on his mind these days. Working for Homeland Security or teaching JROTC are two things that spark his interest.

"It's strange to think about retiring," he says, chuckling as he adds, "I was looking at a friend's retirement paperwork yesterday and I was like, 'I'm getting nervous!'"

For now, recruiting the very best for tomorrow's Army is a job that Antonio loves doing every day. NDN

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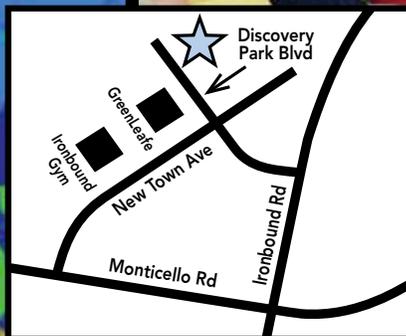
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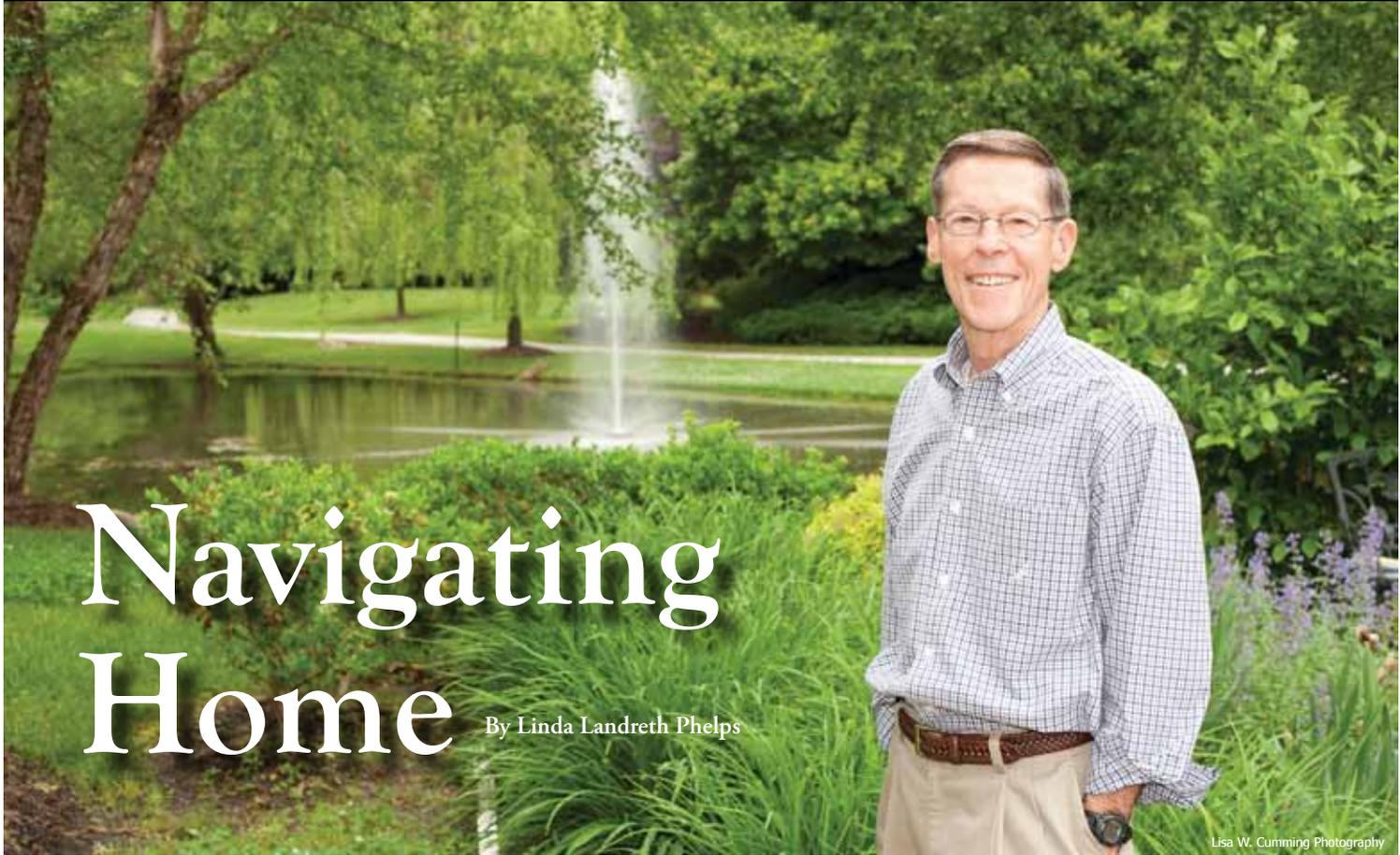


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COLONEL TOM BERKEY



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Navigating Home

By Linda Landreth Phelps

A career spent working in intelligence and for various security agencies must be frustrating after the fact, in that all your best anecdotes are classified. That was likely retired Air Force Reserve Colonel Tom Berkey's dilemma as he was interviewed recently at his home in Patriot's Colony.

"I don't think what I can share is all that interesting," he says modestly. "I was a navigator in the Air Force, and then worked for various government agencies." The full picture may be much more colorful, but that suspicion was neither confirmed nor denied.

"It was the Vietnam era when I graduated from the University of Michigan in 1960," Tom says. "The draft was in force and I didn't want to be in the Army, so I volunteered for the Air Force. After a battery of tests, the recruiter wanted me to be a navigator and that was fine with me."

A career as a navigator could potentially mean cargo or transport aircraft as well as fighters. In Tom's case, it led to electronic reconnaissance aboard a B-66, a heavy jet originally designed for and configured as a high altitude bomber. Another version of that aircraft was

used for radar jamming in Vietnam.

After Tom's training in Texas and California, he and his new wife, Ina, were delighted that Tom's assignment was to Toul Rossieres, an airbase in the northeast corner of France, near Verdun. Tom's job meant he was patrolling the borders of East Germany, gathering daily electronic intelligence from behind the Iron Curtain.

Tom and Ina had their first baby, Kristin, and lived in a little French town nearby. Strategic Air Command was on alert and the Cold War was in full swing. When on missions, Tom

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left his family and stayed close to the runway. "They knew we were listening," Tom says. "Deterrence was the theme, and everyone was nervous."

A highlight of this phase of Tom's Air Force career was ferrying a group of planes from France to the U.S. for modification, and then delivering them to Vietnam. As a navigator, the acid test for those skills is being able to show up in the middle of a vast, featureless ocean precisely where the KC-135 tankers will be waiting for a mid-air refueling. If you miss that rendezvous it can spell not only the end of a career, but also many lives.

After his five-year commitment came to a close, Tom left active duty as Captain Berkey in 1966 and returned to his home town of Detroit, Michigan.

"My father was talking about retiring as CEO of his company that made emblematic jewelry. I am an only child, so I went back to find out if the business would be a good fit for me," Tom remembers. After his experiences in Europe, it was hard for a young man to get excited about jewelry as a career, so Tom applied for and received a position in Washington, D.C., where he worked as a civilian for

the Department of the Air Force and joined the Reserves.

He and Ina lived in D.C. until a position near Montgomery, Alabama opened up and lured them south. He would spend the next several years developing software at the Air Force Data Systems Design Center at Gunter Air Force Base.

"Everyone was just starting to learn how to use computers back then, and I was really interested in that," Tom says. "At this point in time, computers were huge machines using vacuum tubes in big, climate-controlled rooms." Ponderous and elephantine they may have been, Tom could see that they were the wave of the future. "They were extremely expensive to run and individual time on them was limited, not like it is today when everyone has a laptop. My work with computer programming began then and continued for the rest of my career, both in the Air Force and out."

That specialty would take Tom, Ina and their two girls to Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and finally, permanently, to Virginia. First they lived in Charlottesville, when Tom was honored to be selected by the Air Force for mid-career educational opportunities at the

University of Virginia. They then settled down for a long stay in Burke, Virginia, a Washington, D.C. suburb. Tom spent the next 23 years working for the Farm Credit Administration as an IT auditor. Tom's job involved traveling to the many FCA banks nationwide, determining that they were operating computers in a proper and safe way, regularly backing up data and protecting sensitive information.

Tom and Ina moved to Williamsburg a few years ago. As they planned the future, they wanted to stay close to their grown children, Megan and Kristin, and their 7 year old grandson, Jackson, but didn't want to live in their back pockets.

"We looked into all kinds of retirement options," Tom says. "Patriot's Colony seemed a good place for us because of the military connection, but what sold us was the continuum of care offered here." Ina's mother had lived in a similar place during her last years, so they had first-hand observation of how well that worked. "We didn't want to become a burden," Tom says, "so it seemed like the time to move was when we were making the decision for ourselves, not when it was too late."

Neither one came to Patriot's Colony to



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sit around in a rocking chair. Tom is a lean, fit runner who makes good use of the nearby Capitol Trail, covering about 30 miles a week. He enters an occasional race, recently coming in second in his age category in the 2013 Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run, but primarily he just runs because he likes it.

Tom and Ina share a common love of music. Ina is a professional church organist, and Tom is a singer. When they considered places to live, Williamsburg's location meant that Tom could maintain his long membership in a men's barbershop group known as The Alexandria Harmonizers. He and Ina travel back and forth regularly during the season for rehearsals and competitions.

A baritone, Tom says, "We've sung at the Great Wall in China and over the years have traveled extensively. As a matter of fact, we're going to Toronto for an international competition in July. We finished in the top five several times, and we keep trying for that big prize."

Tom is involved with the Christopher Wren Association of Lifetime Learning and also volunteers at Colonial Williamsburg (CW). His assignment there is the wig shop, where CW

makes good use of his software skills. He's currently writing a program that will store all of the considerable accumulated knowledge about wig making into a searchable database. Along the way, Tom has gleaned some interesting factoids. The documents go into great detail about wig construction, from the nobility's most spectacular models to modest wigs destined for the heads of common merchants.

"The wealthy used wigs as a way to proclaim their importance," Tom says. "They were made from human hair and were hand woven, strand by strand, in a very expensive method, so the larger and more elaborate wigs belonged to people who became known as 'bigwigs.'"

Retirement at its best means the chance to use skills gained in a lifetime of work in a beneficial way, all while continuing to learn. Tom Berkey is busy accumulating new knowledge and experiences along with fresh anecdotes—stories that he is free to share with anyone, no matter what their security clearance may be.

"With all of the learning and volunteer opportunities available to me in Williamsburg," Tom says with a smile, "sitting back and doing nothing in retirement isn't on my radar." NDN

Next Door Neighbors

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Supporting Our Veterans

By Cathy Welch



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Relocation is an inevitable part of military life, for the service member and their dependents. Janice Lewis has lived this reality all of her life.

“You move around a lot in the military,” she says. “And have to start over. There’s a learning curve each time.”

Janice, a self-professed military brat, was born at Fort Ord, located on Monterey Bay in California. Her father was in the United States

Army. One of seven children, she experienced many transitions in her life.

“I used to love moving when I was little, but when I got older, I didn’t.” When she was in high school, her father retired after 25 years of service.

Janice married her first husband at 19. A few years later, he joined the Air Force. The couple lived in Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Germany, Spain, and Alabama then back to

Germany. After 17 years, they divorced and she married Gary Lewis, a Senior Chief in the Navy, now stationed at Yorktown. He retires in November after 26 years of service.

“He was at Little Creek before Yorktown, and before he got into special warfare, he was on the USS South Carolina,” Janice says. Over the last 16 years, Gary and Janice raised three children: Dru, 32, who lives with his wife in Chicago; Richard, 26, who works in Rich-

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mond; and daughter, Isabel, a 16-year-old Woodside High School student and accomplished violinist in the school orchestra and Peninsula Youth Orchestra (PYO).

After earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in economics in her thirties, Janice did procurement contracting for the Army in Germany.

“I got this idea that I wanted to be a contract lawyer,” she says. “I like contracts and like things to be well-defined.”

Janice brings her love of order and excellent organizational skills to her position as a member of the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance. She chairs the Armed Forces Committee of Veterans Support Group sub-committee.

“The committee wants to make transitions easier for the military coming into our community,” she says. “Our biggest fundraiser is the Run for the Red, White and Blue 5K run on a Saturday in May. We couldn’t have it this year because of sequestration,” Janice says. “This year, base commanders could not pay the people who run the gyms on Saturdays.”

Next year the committee plans to hold the 5K off base. “We have sufficient money to make it through one more year of quarterly awards and the scholarship with money made from the last race, but we’ve got to do something for the coming years. Hopefully, when the community sees that we’re doing the next 5K they will come forward and sponsor so we can keep our programs going,” Janice says.

The Armed Forces Committee’s first priority is quarterly awards. “We give restaurant certificates and a professional book picked out by the base commander for each military base’s quarterly awards,” Janice says. “They have Sailor of the Quarter, Soldier of the Quarter, Airman of the Quarter, and Coast Guard Person of the Quarter.” These awards are a gift from the business community. The committee also honors a military person of the year for each base at their annual chamber meeting.

The money left over after funding these quarterly awards is given as scholarships to area students.

“The committee awards \$1,500 to \$3,000 each year in scholarship money,” Janice explains. “We start advertising the scholarship in

the spring through press releases, local publications, and radio announcements and through the education offices of Christopher Newport University, Thomas Nelson Community College, The College of William and Mary, Saint Leo University, Troy University, and Florida International University – all schools that have offices on local military bases.”

The scholarship application deadline is in early July. To be eligible, applicants must live, work or go to school in the chamber area which is Williamsburg, James City County or York County. They have to be active-duty, retired, honorably discharged or a dependent of active-duty personnel.

Janice and her fellow committee members, Doug Harshbarger and Andrea Pierce, evaluate the applicants and usually choose the same top three. These applications are passed on for approval to John S. Garay, chairperson of the Armed Forces Committee.

Janice formalized the selection process for the annual scholarship awards and has taken the lead in publicizing both the criteria and the availability of the awards.

“Whenever I get involved with something I

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try to add whatever education or experience or talent I have to improve upon it” Janice says. “I want to know exactly what I’m doing and leave it in a condition for someone else to pick up.”

The committee has supported Honor Flight, a national program to get WWII veterans to D.C. to see the WWII Memorial. They sent the veterans off with breakfast and welcomed them back. A few weeks later, the committee sponsored an ice cream social so they could get together and talk about it again.

The Armed Forces Committee sponsored a Williamsburg historical interpreter to talk to a group of visiting Korean War veterans and provided funds to purchase a tree that was planted on the William and Mary campus for one of their Army ROTC graduates killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan. They also sponsored the Coast Guard driving a golf cart across the United States to raise money for wounded warriors.

“I believe we have to support the military,” Janice says. “We want to make them feel a part of the community. They spend money in our

stores, buy property, pay taxes and bring economic stability to our community. They sacrifice their time, their family life and sometimes their lives for the benefit of all the people in the community that enjoy the type of life that they don’t have.”

Another way to support military personnel is when they get out and need to get a job in our community. Education is so important. “That’s why the scholarship is a great service. Whether it’s the active duty person or the retired or honorably discharged person that’s getting the scholarship or one of their dependents,” she says. “I think it’s equally important because growing up in the military as a child, and being a military wife, I’ve had to change my environment so many times because of the orders of my spouse.” Janice received the Air Force Spouse Scholarship when she was going to school so she knows first-hand that it helps.

Janice takes her marketing and contract procurement experience into her position as board president of the PYO. “I love classical music.” She just ended her second year as board president of the organization and is

proud of the work her daughter, Isabel, does through the nonprofit.

“When you start volunteering with one thing you see how it all can tie together,” Janice says. “The things you get involved in are all for the community and to better people’s lives. I was really happy to find PYO and jumped in to support it.”

In her professional life, Janice is Director of Leasing and Business Development for Campana Waltz Commercial Real Estate, LLC. She earned her Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation in April 2011 and does CCIM candidate guidance through the Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

What will Janice and her family do after Gary’s retirement? “We like to work and make money so we’re not averse to going somewhere,” she says. “But we would like to stay here. We love Williamsburg.”

“I’m happiest when I give,” Janice says. “There’s nothing more powerful to take you out of your own little zone of dealing with life’s stress than to turn it around and do something for someone else.” NDN

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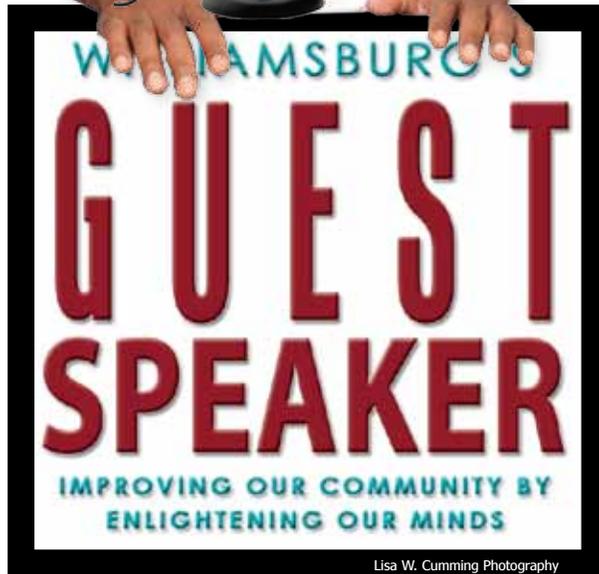


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JAMES LEE, JR.

ON THE BUFFALO BOYZ



James Lee, Jr., one of the members of Williamsburg's Buffalo Boyz, was raised in the St. John Baptist Church where his father was a minister, and his mother "is still the best homemaker there ever was!" He credits this wonderful and encouraging family atmosphere for his inspiration to grow up in a positive way.

James is the youngest of four siblings, two sisters and a brother. "All of whom," he says, "I've learned something from – good or bad."

Today, James works as a lab analyst for Anheuser Busch. He's been with the company for almost 32 years. He and his wife, Debra, have been married for eight years.

The Buffalo Boyz is a unique organization: a motorcycle club made up of Christian a cappella singers.

When did you first become involved with the Buffalo Boyz?

In 1995 some family members, friends and I, went to the Million Man March in Washington D.C.,

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

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and it was there we received a message of giving back to the community and helping those in need of help.

Earlier that year, my cousins Charles and Al Lee, Ronnie Lassiter and a close friend, Louis McKinney, helped me get back to riding motorcycles. This is when the idea of forming a motorcycle group came about. Our purpose was not to just ride, but to ride with a purpose. This is where the influence of the Million Man March came in.

Eight members began meeting in garages, basements and living rooms. We voted in officers and set up meetings on a weekly basis. One of first things we did was to visit the elderly; we felt they needed people to talk to as well as someone to help with household chores and errands. We began meeting every week and still do today.

What is the mission of the group?

For this organization, we strive to help those who are less fortunate than we are, because some members are needy as well. We have had people from all walks of life in this group. Why? They believed in what we are about and saw the people we helped – you just want to be a part of that, and that feeling just makes you want to give more. Helping those in need is our mission.

What types of activities does the group do to support the mission?

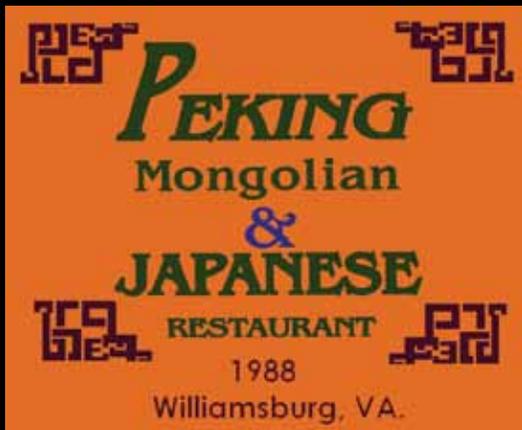
Yearly we help this group called Step in Faith which feeds and clothes the homeless. We also support the American Red Cross, the United Way and Habitat for Humanity.

This is very rewarding for us to see those that have very little and are very thankful for what we do for them. Each Janu-

ary, we sponsor a Gospel Extravaganza to give out scholarships to those who are advancing their education, as well as some going back to school. We sponsor car washes, fish fries and other fundraising events to raise money.

The Buffalo Boyz is a civic club as well as a social club. What motivates the members to join?

We are a Christian motorcycle club as well as a community service organization. People join our club because of the combination of community service, cultivating friendships and enjoying fellowship with one another. In addition, as a Christian organization, we attend a different church once a month, and sing a cappella at various functions. Some have learned that The Buffalo Boyz Motorcycle Club is not your typical motorcycle group in that we are about helping others in need and serving our community.



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What projects are coming up for the Buffalo Boyz?

We are currently planning a shoe drive to help with our scholarship funding in conjunction with the Boo Williams basketball team. The shoe drive will raise money to help with expenses for an out of town tournament for the basketball team.

What can readers do to help?

We appreciate it when the community supports our endeavors by participating in our events and making monetary donations and food contributions to help us obtain our goals.

What are some personal experiences you have had that renew your commitment to the Buffalo Boyz?

We assisted a young mother with her son by donating monies for him to attend an advanced sport camp. She was so appreciative that she just broke down in

tears during our meeting.

Another experience I can remember is when we supported a family by giving them a monetary gift so that they could celebrate Christmas with their young children.

We've also built ramps for those in wheelchairs, cleaned yards for the elderly in surrounding neighborhoods, and distributed Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets each year.

How has your work with the Buffalo Boyz affected your personal life and outlook?

By working with various people from different walks of life and finding out there are lots of people who don't mind giving and helping out. Teamsters 95 for example, have allowed us to use their building for meetings and fish fries. Now our up and coming shoe drive drop off will be

held there. 

People often ask the meaning of the name Buffalo Boyz:

- B** Brotherhood
- U** Unity
- F** Family
- F** Friendship
- A** Affection
- L** Loyalty
- O** Outreach

- B** Bettering
- O** Our
- Y** Youth
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Williamsburg Neighbors

Search. Learn. Share. Connect With Your Community.

It's the time of year that we can act like a tourist in our own town. That's the great thing about living where other people vacation: we can take a two-hour vacation anytime.

Just the other night, I headed over to Merchants Square to have dinner at one of my favorite hangouts. After dinner, I walked around D.O.G. Street, stopped in the William and Mary Bookstore and Café to check out the latest releases and then sat on the bench under that big maple across the street to do some "people watching." Wow, anytime of the year, visitors and locals love the ghost tours.

This town is full of surprises. That night, fireworks started over the Governor's Palace. I had to go see what was going on. After the fireworks, the Fife and Drum Corps marched down Palace Green Street with guys carrying torches alongside them. Kids skipped along with the corps and the parents took pictures. I grabbed my phone and took a few photos, too.

Which leads me to a fun announcement for WilliamsburgNeighbors.com... We're having a photo contest!

The "Act Like a Tourist" photo contest gives each of you permission to grab your camera and wander the streets, trails and waterways of the Williamsburg area snapping photos with all the creativity you can muster.

There are three categories for the subjects of your photography:

Nature – capture the beauty of the area in landscapes, waterscapes, animals, birds, fish and even insects. Don't forget the flowers and trees.

People – we all know there are some real characters in the area. Snap a few frames of your family and friends. Roam the festivals and events to show us neighbors having fun. Take a portrait of your favorite person.

Architecture – Williamsburg's distinctive style is known world-wide. Find new and interesting ways of viewing the buildings and structures around town. How would you compose a photo of the Crim Dell bridge on the campus of William and Mary in a unique

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Second place: \$75 gift certificate to Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant.

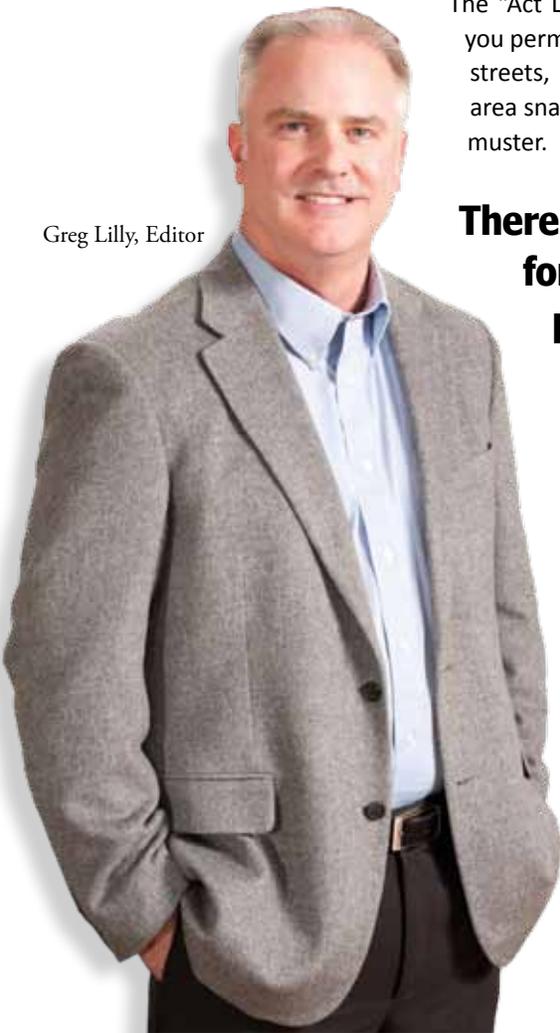
Third Place: \$50 gift certificate to Anna's Brick Oven.

To Enter...

You must be a registered user of WilliamsburgNeighbors.com. If you aren't registered yet, go ahead and join. It's free.

On the home page, there is a link to take you to the "Act Like a Tourist" photo contest where you can upload your images. Add your best photos because your neighbors will be voting on the ones they like the best.

Greg Lilly, Editor



To Vote...

Registered users can vote for their favorite photographs. Click on the "Act Like a Tourist" photo contest link on the home page then browse through the uploaded images.

Click "like" on the images that you think are the best of the best. You may also comment to let the photographer know what you like best about the photo.

Determining the Winners...

Winners will be the photos with the most likes by August 16. Winners will be announced and the photos published in the October issue of Next Door Neighbors.

What's Happening on WilliamsburgNeighbors.com?

BUSINESSES Bedcrafters by Michelle

Check out the photos from the Bedcrafters by Michelle stores. Michelle has been in the mattress industry for over 15 years, and Annette, her business partner, was in the health care industry for over 20 years; together they bring the knowledge to match you with the right mattress for your individual needs. Not only do they have the technical knowledge to construct a custom mattress for you, they can also show you how to create a soothing sleep environment.

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Meet the wonderful staff and find links to national hospice and palliative care organizations on their page. Hospice House is a prime example of neighbors helping neighbors.



Cool Breeze by Meredith Collins

United Way of Greater Williamsburg

Add July 20th to your calendar – the Second Annual Summer Bash! Summer gatherings aren't complete without great food and fun, and that's what you'll find at United Way's Summer Bash. Barbeque and chicken wings, chips and sodas, top it off with a few sweet desserts. The kids will have a blast in the bounce house and at the face painting table. The food, fun

and music along with raffles and a car wash will help raise money for the Community Resource Center. It's a day of fun for the whole family.

Literacy for Life

July brings the Back-to-School ads on television and radio. While shopping for school supplies, why not pick up a few extra items for Literacy for Life? The tutors have a list of donations they can use: copy paper, pens and pencils, notebooks, sticky-notes, ground coffee and snacks for the training sessions. A gift certificate to an office supply store is always appreciated. If you don't like to shop, you can always send a check or stop by with a monetary donation. Their address and a list of what a few dollars donation can mean to a student are on Literacy for Life's About Us page. 

www.WilliamsburgNeighbors.com

- Greg Lilly, Editor
greglilly@cox.net

Collins Group, LLC

Have you misplaced last month's *Next Door Neighbors* magazine? Meredith Collins, our publisher, has posted the profiles from the Law & Order issue. Read the stories and post comments.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS Hospice House

Hospice House helps families and friends at the time when assistance is needed the most – the last phase of life. The organization lists its beginnings on their About Us page. The Williamsburg community came together to create the non-profit organization in 1982, and today, the community continues to volunteer and raise funds to support the objective to "provide short-term residential care for respite and end of life support." All of their services are free of charge because of the generous support of our community neighbors, businesses and organizations.



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Her Time to Soar

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Anna Brown proved the naysayers wrong. In an industry where few women venture, Anna has taken flight and soared. “Out of 627,000 total pilots in the United States, there are only 42,000 female pilots,” she states. “Of the 300,000 aircraft mechanics, there are less than 7,000 female mechanics.”

Now that she has found her place, Anna is

looking to introduce other young women to the aviation industry.

“My dad is from Michigan,” Anna explains, “and his family is ‘car people.’ My dad loves airplanes, and from high school through college he was in the Air Force ROTC. He became a SAC (Strategic Air Command) officer and retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant colo-

nel.” She says her father, Richard W. Brown, didn’t have anyone to share his love of aviation with.

“The saying in our family was that I came along to give him someone to talk to about planes,” she adds with a laugh.

“My dad really encouraged me to learn about airplanes. He’s been a mechanical engineer at

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NASA for over 30 years. He's my biggest inspiration. My mom [Ellen-Mika Brown] has always stood up for me and given me the courage to do something – there aren't many women in this industry, so I had to push hard to get what I wanted."

Anna was born in Alabama. Her father worked at the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville at the time. In 1998, he moved the family to Williamsburg for his new position at Langley Air Force Base.

"I've always considered Williamsburg my home," Anna says. "My mother always wanted to live in Williamsburg. We love it here. My dad retires in October."

Her father took her to her first air show at the age of six months. "I tell people that's the reason I like aircraft. But the most memorable time was back in 8th grade, I went to the Langley air show with my dad. It was so much fun. I fell in love with airplanes."

Attending school, Anna didn't feel like she fit the classroom environment. "While in high school, I realized I didn't want to go to college. I have dyslexia and dysgraphia, so it was difficult for me in school. Flying and mechanics are very visual. It's easier for me to do that. I realized I

wanted to fix airplanes; I loved tinkering with cars growing up. My mom said if I was going to fix airplanes then I should fly them too."

Anna went to the Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport to learn about flying. "My first flight was on that plane," she says and points to a 1965 Piper Cherokee 180C on the runway. "I had all my training in that plane. The plane is part of our family. I've had it since 2009. Through my senior year in high school, I had a difficult time with the testing side of school. I fell through the cracks and went to the G.E.D. program. In that program, I graduated in the top 12 percent of the country. That proved to me that I wasn't stupid."

She says that aviation saved her. "In high school, I felt like that was the end. I couldn't go anywhere. I learned to fly and that was my outlet. What kept me on this earth was flying."

Anna credits Jean Waltrip at the Williamsburg airport for guidance and support. "She was a wonderful woman. Jean passed away about a year before I got my license. She was like a second mother to me. She took care of me."

After training at the Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport, Anna went to the Aviation Insti-

tute of Maintenance in Chesapeake. "In regular school, I hated to go," she admits, "but for this school, I drove to Chesapeake and back four times a week in a gas-guzzling truck. I rarely missed a day at aviation school. I graduated summa cum laude with a 3.9 GPA. I was class valedictorian."

The instructor for aviation school made a statement that stayed with Anna and determined her to beat the odds he laid out. "In our first day of school, there were about 25 people, just two girls. The instructor said that only five of us would graduate and only one would get a license. To this day, I'm the only one to have a license. It's a very difficult program. You have to love it. You have to want it."

After aviation school, Anna worked as a mechanic at a Diamond Aircraft service center in Newnan, Georgia. Then she worked for a commercial airline company on the night shift.

"I got a job in Hanover and moved back to Williamsburg," she says. Even though the odds had been against her, she worked hard and proved herself. But in Hanover, she had an issue with a male co-worker who didn't think women should be in the industry. "It got to the point that it was sad, depressing and [I was] angry,"

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she explains. "When the work environment starts killing the thing you love, you shouldn't be there anymore."

Her mother suggested they start their own business. "I wanted to help people – owners helping owners. I know how expensive it is to fix a plane. We started our own business last July. I hope to do a flight school and help other pilots with maintenance. I do it all."

Anna has found her niche. Today, she has her business at the Hampton Roads Executive Airport in Chesapeake. "You can really see how the aviation industry works here at the airport," she says. "There's a documentary called 'One Six Right' about the Van Nuys Airport. It's my favorite movie. That shows how important small airports are. People don't know how great aviation is because pilots talk to other pilots about it and not the public. If you are interested, come on out and ask questions. I love to see people enjoying flight."

Air shows take place around the region during the summer, and Anna encourages people to attend. "That's the big stuff. But on any weekend, come out to the small airports. We're here and love to show off the planes."

She finds the pilots and mechanics at the

small airports friendly and supportive. "People here don't care if you are a girl or space alien or whatever. The biggest problem for me, as a female, has been at the company jobs and some of the older male mechanics. But here, I feel at home."

Anna is part of a group called The Ninety-Nines, founded by 99 of the first women pilots in the United States. "Amelia Earhart was the first president of the group," Anna says. "We support women in the industry. In Hampton, we're doing a 'Women Can Fly' event for girls on June 22. They'll learn about the industry: military, commercial and private sector. The women in the industry will talk about what the girls can do in aviation." The June 22 event is at Hampton Roads Executive Airport. "It's to introduce women to aviation since there are so few of us."

Her advice to girls and young women considering jobs in traditionally male-dominated industries: "Go for it. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't. Do it."

She mentors with Denbigh High School's aviation academy magnet program. "There are two girls that I work with and take flying." That is part of what she sees in her future. "I want

to have a flight school. I'm going to become a certified flight instructor."

As her aviation business grows, she hopes to build her customer base and expand into a larger hangar. "I want a place for kids to hang out and learn about aviation. My dad and I like to teach and incorporate all aspects of aviation, like meteorology, engineering and rocketry, geography, along with flying and mechanics." She says she wants to show kids of all the different disciplines involved in flight.

"Aviation saved me. Now I'm creating a business where I have fun and an income while building a foundation to help kids. I want to help kids who feel trapped, who feel there is no 'out,' and that the only way out is suicide. I knew a girl who took her life because she didn't think there was an 'out' from the pressures of trying to fit in. I've known kids that have considered that. Aviation saved me."

Anna will make a difference in the world of aviation and in the lives of the kids she helps navigate through the industry. "Some kids thrive in the school system. Others, like me, who have learning disabilities or issues that aren't addressed, I want to help them. Show them another way to shine, to fly." NDN

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COACHING SWIMMING

By Greg Lilly, Editor



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Coach Chris Hanks, Williamsburg Aquatic Club's head Age Group coach and the Kingsmill Sharks' head coach, says Williamsburg has produced some great swimmers. He should know since Chris has been in the swim community since 1981.

Chris and his family moved to Kingsmill when he was just two years old. "Not that I remember that, but I do remember growing up there as the streets and neighborhoods were developed." Chris attended school at Matthew Whaley, Bruton Heights and James Blair, and

then high school at Lafayette.

"I started swimming competitively at the age of eight at Kingsmill for the Sharks," he says. "I always enjoyed being in the pool and was taking swim lessons. One of the guys giving the lessons was the coach for the Kingsmill

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Sharks, and he suggested I try out. I really enjoyed being on the team.”

After that first summer of swimming with the Sharks, Chris began swimming year-round for the club at Fort Eustis. “This was also the place where our summer coach coached year-round. I swam for that team continuously until I graduated from high school.”

Chris also swam for Lafayette during his high school years, lettering all four years and was team captain his junior and senior years.

“I wasn’t fast enough to qualify for the Virginia Tech team, so at that point I stopped swimming competitively.” He entered Tech as an engineering major and didn’t think he had the time to commit trying for a walk-on position.

“College was a long road. I started in engineering and later switched to biology,” he says. “I thought I wanted to go to dental school. I applied to MCV Dental. This was right after my wife, Mary-Lyons, and I had married. We knew where we wanted to be – in this area. That was my only option for dental school. I didn’t get in there, but I did get into pharmacy school at VCU.”

At the same time, Chris began assisting Coach Harold Baker at Williamsburg Aquatic Club on a part-time basis. “After my first year in pharmacy school, I realized that was not something that I had a passion for, but coaching was. Luckily, Harold was hiring a new coach, and I was available. I started coaching there in 1999.”

Chris states the area has several swim leagues, but most of the teams around the Williamsburg area are affiliated with Virginia Peninsula Swimming Union (VPSU). “The teams in VPSU are mostly based in Williamsburg, James City County and York County. There are about 19 teams in the league.”

Children from the age of three to 18 compete in the league. “Most teams are from 80 to 120 kids,” Chris says. “Our Kingsmill team is one of the larger ones with 120 – 130 kids.”

The swim teams create a fun and healthy activity for the children and their families and friends. “Whether you’re a serious swimmer or not, it’s a great neighborhood activity to get people together. We end up with hundreds of people on the pool deck each week – people watching the kids and getting dinner at the

concessions – it’s a neighborhood tradition all around town.”

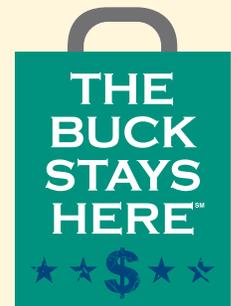
Although swimming is a fun activity, it is a sport. “Swimming is very skills-based,” Chris describes. “There are four different stroke disciplines. Technique is the basis for speed. That’s why when I coach young swimmers it’s all about building the skills and techniques they will need to be fast later on. It is very much a finesse sport. I tell my swimmers not to beat up the water with their strokes. We’re not in a fight with it,” he adds with a laugh. “We’re friends with the water.”

In general, he explains that children in the 9 to 10 age range are ready to start focusing on proper techniques. “Some can do it earlier, but in general, that’s the age to start perfecting the technique. It takes a little while. That’s part of the sport – to be patient – because when the kids are ready to learn, they will.”

At a swim meet, the child’s participation “is not required, but encouraged,” Chris explains. “I like the kids to see their improvement. One thing we focus on is personal best times. We don’t focus on winning or losing per se. It’s great to get first place, but that’s not what I’m

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talking to most swimmers about. I talk more about what they've worked on in practice and how that showed in their time. That's the part of the sport that I really enjoy: seeing those improvements from practice."

In the VPSU league, there are only four swimmers per event who actually score points. All other swimmers swim exhibition – for their race time and to get better.

"When I was younger, not everyone got to swim three events. Not everybody got to swim at every meet. I try to make it so every kid can swim the most they can at every meet. If they put the time in, five hours a week at practice, we should give them the opportunity."

Swimming is a whole-body sport, that's an aspect that Chris found intriguing. "Running or other sports are mostly leg-oriented. Swimming is really even, with upper body and lower body movements. It is also very aerobically driven. At an early age, the kids are not only strong, but aerobically fit. Their face is in the water most of the time. They're controlling their breathing. Their heart rate is up."

Chris rarely sees injuries in the kids. "I like this for the young ones. Unlike some of the other sports they may be involved in, the

overuse injuries aren't there with swimming." He stresses that it is a very safe sport.

It is safe, but it requires hard work to see improvements. "Hard work is always rewarded," he adds. "I've never seen a kid really committed and who gave 100 percent, who then did not get paid off and see results. Can everyone reach a high level? No. But, almost everyone can reach a level of a strong high school swimmer if that's what they want. It is a work-oriented sport."

Great swimmers are dedicated swimmers. The hard work is required in practice to perform at the meets. "Swimming is an unforgiving sport. If you don't practice, you won't improve and you start to decline," he says. "You have to be patient. Improvement will come, but it comes in small increments. I have kids who would be thrilled to drop a half a second in a two-minute race. It doesn't seem like much, but it takes a lot of work to get there."

The best trait a swimmer has is perseverance. "Over the years of coaching, I've seen many swimmers come and go who were very talented. But, if they don't enjoy working, they tend to fade away. Talent will only take you so far. At some point, it will not be easy

any more. Then it's work."

Chris adds, "The most talented swimmers in the world – like Michael Phelps – will tell you it's mostly hard work. You go for up to five hours every day. That can be difficult for kids to understand. There aren't that many things out there that require that level of dedication. If a child wants to be a high-level swimmer, they have to focus on swimming."

Chris and Mary-Lyons' daughter, Lindsay, is now swimming at their neighborhood team in Windsor Forest. "I enjoy coaching at Kingsmill, but there are times I rush over to see Lindsay swim with the Windsor Forest Frogs. It makes for a busy summer."

Coach Chris has spent over 30 years in the pools of Williamsburg and looks forward to 30 more. "Because I'm originally from Williamsburg and my wife is originally from Williamsburg, both of our sets of parents are still in town, I don't have a lot of ambition to go somewhere else and coach or head coach," he says. "I'm happy being Harold Baker's right hand man and doing what I'm doing. I see swimming getting bigger and better in the Williamsburg area." Coach Chris is glad to be a part of it. NDN



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Lisa W. Cumming Photography



The Drummer

By Greg Lilly, Editor

At three years old Kevin Marks tapped out a rhythm on the arm of the couch. Kurt and Kristi, his parents, watched and then it dawned on them that Kevin was keeping time with the music on the television.

Kurt had been a drummer in the marching band back in his high school days and saw the talent in Kevin.

Kevin's earliest memories were a little later when Kurt had given him a couple of wooden spoons to use as drumsticks. "I guess I started

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noticing music when I was four or five,” Kevin says. “I would sit on the couch banging wooden spoons as my dad listened to Rob Zombie.” Kevin’s parents bought him a basic children’s drum set from a store in Newport News to see what he would do with it. “I got a set with one snare, one bass drum, two rack toms, one floor tom,” Kevin lists, “and one cymbal and a high-hat.” His father says he took off with that.

By the age of five, Kevin found drumming lessons on the Internet, watching professional drummers on YouTube for hours, mimicking their moves. “I still learn a lot from watching YouTube videos of great drummers,” he adds.

Along with watching the videos, Kevin wanted in-person lessons. His mom, Kristi, worked at a restaurant where bands played. She talked to the drummers with some of the bands, and they offered to give Kevin lessons. But, their own gigs took priority and the lessons usually got cancelled.

Kevin took the called-off lessons personally, as children do, so Kurt and Kristi searched for instruction that was more formal. They found

Ron Lowder, the owner of the Academy of Rock Music. Kristi talked to Ron about Kevin taking lessons from him, but he thought Kevin’s age of seven was a bit young. Ten years old was the usual entry student at the Academy of Rock Music. She persisted and talked him into hearing Kevin in an audition.

Once he heard Kevin play, he signed him up. At the Academy of Rock Music, Kevin played in a metal band with Williamsburg’s Cole Layman. “Cole doesn’t say much,” Kevin says. “Logan, his sister, came to fill-in for our bass player one day. I didn’t realize they were brother and sister until I saw the family band, *In Layman Terms*. I liked that band.”

Kevin and his parents saw *In Layman Terms* play at the Sportsman Grille on McLaws Circle. The parents introduced themselves, and the kids set times to get together for practice. “We would go to the *In Layman Terms* shows, and I would sit in on drums for a few songs,” Kevin says. “Our first gig together was at the Williamsburg Pottery.” That was the beginning of *The UnXpected* – a group formed by

students at the Academy of Rock Music. The band consists of Kevin on drums, Cole Layman on guitar and vocals, Logan Layman on bass and vocals, Zachary Salsberry on guitar and vocals, and Tyler Bevington on keyboards. The young band has found success in its mix of blues and classic rock. They won the Junior Battle of the Bands at the Jewish Mother in Virginia Beach and played at the D.C. Blues Society’s Battle of the Bands in Silver Spring, Maryland. The band plays at venues all around the area.

“At the Academy of Rock, we’re placed together with musicians at the same level,” Kevin explains. “We learn together then go out and play live at places like the Jewish Mother or Cozzy’s Comedy Club in Newport News.”

Kevin remembers the first time he played in front of a crowd. “My first gig at the Academy was at Alpha Music in Virginia Beach. I was eight, and we played Queen’s ‘We Will Rock You’ – the easiest song there is!” The drum part for that song, from a drummer’s perspective, is boring according to Kevin.

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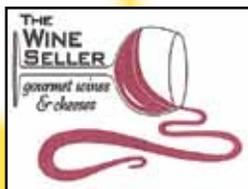
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"I like classic rock, metal and some blues because they all have strong drums," he adds. Kurt and Kristi took Kevin to Nashville, and they toured the Pearl Drums facility. "In the video room, I got to play the new Vision drum set," Kevin says. The people at Pearl were impressed with Kevin's ability and named him a Pearl Endorsee – an honor few drummers achieve and very rare for a middle school student.

"When we went to Nashville to the Pearl facility, they wanted to take us to a place called 3rd & Lindsley," Kevin says. "It didn't really start until 10:00 p.m., so I went back to the room and slept until time to go." The guys from Pearl ushered them past the long line waiting at the door of the club to a reserved table. Around midnight, the Wooten Brothers took the stage and announced that they heard there was a young drummer in the audience. They invited Kevin on stage to join them on a few songs.

"That was when I was with the Van Halen tribute band," he explains. "They started play-

ing a song, and I knew it right away." Kevin didn't miss a beat. The crowd loved him. "That really encouraged me."

He soaks up music looking at the current bands as well as older ones. "I like to learn new songs as they come out. I like to learn songs of old bands too. I want to learn all of the CCR (Creedence Clearwater Revival) songs."

He experiments with all types of percussion. "We do this song called 'YYZ' by Rush, and I have a drum solo in that song. Right in the beginning is a block part and I play on that block for half the song. I've played the wooden block, the bongos, the rocket toms, the triangle, timbales and the xylophone. Picking out notes on the xylophone doesn't come as easily to me as the rhythms."

He says from his experience that the best drummers are from the bands of the 1980s and '90s. "The last few years I've been listening to speed metal – double bass drums and speed rhythms," he describes. "I like doing the double pedal. I get in trouble at school doing that under the desk." The drums are a major

part of this subgenre of metal rock. "It's challenging to me."

He goes on YouTube and watches the speed metal drummers to learn from them. "There was this one song I was trying to incorporate some of that in, but Ron (at the Academy of Rock Music) told me to tone it down." Kevin frowns at the memory. "I didn't like that song after that."

With his talent on the drums, Kevin sometimes seems older than 13. His parents say he practices and performs music like a professional, but can still have fun like a teen. He likes to hang out with the other kids in *The UnXpected*. "We go to Busch Gardens together. But when it's time for rehearsal, we get to work."

He doesn't hesitate when listing his goals for the next 20 years. "Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, then I'd like to play at Madison Square Garden in New York and Royal Albert Hall in London." He pauses for a moment and adds, "I'd like to make a gold album, too." NDN

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Finding A Way to Good Health

By Greg Lilly, Editor



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Small business owners, consultants, independent contractors, these are people working for themselves and usually don't have access to health care plans that corporate employees have. That's the case for Jeffrey Cooke, owner of Minuteman Press. "I had medical insurance when I left my last job," he says, "but when I started my own business the cost of continuing it became an issue. One of the first things I had to drop to control expenses was my medi-

cal insurance."

He had been helping Lackey Free Clinic with their printing needs, when he decided to look into their services. That decision saved his life.

Jeffrey had worked in the corporate world for over 35 years with various companies. "I have a background in software implementation for manufacturing companies like General Dynamics and Bendix," he says. He travelled all

over the United States and Canada installing software systems for clients.

A few years ago, Jeffrey and his wife and daughter were living in Baltimore when he heard from his parents. His father had been diagnosed with cancer.

"He became very ill," Jeffrey says. "I was making the commute down here to Williamsburg every Thursday night, helping my mom take care of my dad, and then going back to

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Baltimore each Sunday night.”

He had some former clients in the area and called them to see if he could help them with software projects. “I wanted to move down here so I could be closer to my parents.” He worked for several companies around Newport News and Norfolk on special assignments.

“One of the projects I worked on was software at a printing company,” he explains. “That got my feet into the printing world, and I really learned the system. When I finished that job, I was unemployed.” He saw that the print shop on McLaws Circle was available. He pulled together some money and bought it.

The print shop was his chance to have his own business, to not travel, to stay home and be close to his parents – the reason he moved his family here. “That was a big factor to stay local by getting a job here or creating a job for ourselves,” he adds. “I wanted to be able to help take care of Mom and Dad. My daughter and her family have now moved to Williamsburg. The whole family is here now, and we share in the responsibility of taking care of each other. My wife is a cancer survivor. My father has survived cancer – he still gets around town well. I’m here and close enough to get to the house to see them. My daughter just got a job at Riverside, so she’s close to Mom and Dad too.”

Some of Jeffrey’s neighbors volunteer at Lackey Free Clinic, and they asked him to go to an introductory meeting for volunteers. With his new business in the early stages, Jeffrey couldn’t donate time, but he could help the clinic with their printing needs. He worked with the management at Lackey and also presented to other vendors and prospective volunteers about the great work the clinic does for the under-insured of the area. “It’s a quality organization doing amazing things,” he adds. In October of last year, he made the decision to see if he would be eligible to go to Lackey Clinic as a client. “I didn’t have insurance,” he says, “and it had been a while since my last physical. I thought maybe I should check to see if I were eligible to see a doctor there.”

He attended the meeting for potential clients. “They list the financial data that they need to review. I took the package of information, probably spent a good 45 minutes going through the detailed statements. It was a solid due-diligence to see if I was qualified to use the services. The documents were reviewed by the Board before I could be qualified. That happened in November. At that time they scheduled an appointment for me to come in for the initial visit.” That first visit was supposed to be a standard check-up to meet the doctors, get a baseline measurement of his health and immunization for the flu.

“During the physical review, they noticed my shoulder. I said, ‘Oh, that’s my mole.’ The nurse said, ‘No. Let me get the doctor.’ He came over and looked at it and decided that I needed to see a dermatologist the next day – the next day,” he stresses. “The doctor thought it was a pre-cancerous mole and wanted the dermatologist to look at it.”

They got a referral to the dermatologist through Project Care. “Lackey is a key piece of the Project Care program. Project Care incorporates free clinics and outside services with doctors.” Lackey Clinic coordinates the referrals and appointments, acting as the patient’s Primary Care Physician’s office.

“Within 24 hours, I was at the dermatologist,” Jeffrey says. “He decided I [would] need to go into surgery the next week. He thought it was melanoma and it needed to be removed. They sent me to a doctor at Riverside. Riverside is also a part of the Project Cares program. If you have no medical insurance and are part of the Project Cares program,

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The surgery removed the melanoma and a lot of skin – 22 stitches. All of Jeffrey’s doctor visits and surgeries are maintained in the Project Care computer system. His background in software implementation causes him to marvel at the efficiency and interchange of data between Project Care and Riverside’s MyHealth eLink system.

“After the surgery and a follow-up visit with Lackey, I’m scheduled by the clinic to meet with the oncologist,” he says. “She was the oncologist for my wife and my father, so I had prior good experience with her. She started me on the medication. Technically, there is no chemotherapy for this. I take an interferon drug. It’s a once a week injectable drug that I inject myself. This drug is provided to me by Project Care. Normally, it’s about \$800 a dose. I have to take a dose once a week for the next three years. Lackey Clinic handles the prescription for me.” He reports that so far, everything looks good in his recovery.

“I couldn’t have made it without them,” Jeffrey says of Lackey Clinic. “Most people don’t know about the services that Lackey provides. I only knew because I went to volunteer meetings.”

He says the clinic isn’t what a lot of people think it is. “My original opinions were probably like 50 to 60 percent of the people who think the clinic is just for unemployed people or people who do not want to work...It’s not,” he stresses. “As I go back now, time after time, I’m seeing neighbors, other small business owners in the same boat I am. We can’t afford to get medical insurance for our small group of people or our families.”

Jeffrey tells other small businesses about the services at Lackey Clinic. “Take the half hour and go to the meeting to talk to the people at Lackey Clinic,” he says. “The services are there. The people at the clinic are diligent, really meticulous in the details and coordination of the services.” If he hadn’t been helping the clinic with their printing and known about the services, he would have had to go to his former physician.

“I probably would have had to borrow some money from my folks to get through this, or take out a loan against the house or...” he trails off thinking of the alternatives.

The clinic’s services are there for the uninsured and under-insured. “You can earn money and still be a patient,” Jeffrey says. “But not all working people can pay several hundred dollars a month on medical insurance. Lackey Clinic is willing to work with you. More working people need to know that.”

Jeffrey says that if he had neglected asking about the services or getting that initial check-up for another six months, “I wouldn’t be here working. This business wouldn’t be here. That turned out well for me and for my employees and customers.”

He adds that there is more than physical healing at Lackey Free Clinic. “Every time I leave Lackey Clinic, the pastor or the doctor asks if I have a moment for prayer. ‘Absolutely,’ I say. It’s like...” He lets out a long sigh. “A three-minute prayer does a lot of good before you walk out the door, especially when you’ve been poked and prodded and all the things they have to do. The pastor’s presence in the waiting room is very comforting.” He adds that the moment of prayer gives him a little spark at the end of his visit – a little “everything is going to be all right” feeling. “The services provided by Lackey Clinic have saved my life,” Jeffrey Cooke says. “When and if I am able to donate to Lackey, I’m going to do it. I try to help now by keeping their costs down on printing. I do what I can to help them. They saved my life.” NDN

Next Door Neighbors Home



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Real Estate *in His Veins*

By Greg Lilly, Editor

"In 2005, I talked to some builders and said 'Stop building the big boxes on small lots.' Go to small ranchers, 1500 – 2200 square feet, and you'll hit every market niche there is: the retiree, the empty nesters, the new home buyer, the second home buyer. That's a much more viable product," John Wilson says, and time has revealed he was right.

John is the owner and managing broker for Coldwell Banker Traditions/Brooks Real Estate. Five years ago, the real estate market took a dive. Now, John says the market is coming back – in a big way – for some price ranges, but not so much for others.

He was raised in Southern California. "That's where all my family is. I have a son, Christopher," John explains. "Southern California used to be a wonderful place of small towns and orchards. Then it turned into sidewalks and freeways. I looked at the little guy I was raising and

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thought there might be a better quality of living for us.”

For several years, John trekked around the country as a consultant to corporations. He has a degree from Pepperdine University in organizational behavior. “It was a great job, but I travelled a lot. I’m a homebody. I looked around the country for a place to settle.” He met some people from Williamsburg while on vacation. As vacation friends do, they promised to stay in touch. “But we actually did,” he says. An opportunity for a commercial development arose and John partnered with them to make it happen. “We moved here in 1988.”

Even with his consulting background, John had real estate in his blood. “My family is in real estate, and I went off and did the corporate thing. But when you get real estate in you, it just doesn’t want to go away. I wanted to work with a small company. Brooks Real Estate has been here since 1885, a nice family company. I started with them.”

He says he enjoys the real estate industry because it is different every day. “You get to work with all walks of life. You get to meet cool and interesting people every day. Negotiating a deal, finding someone a home – not a house, but a home – is pretty fun stuff. Corporate America was a good experience, but I was there long enough. I came back to real estate, that’s where I belong.”

The plunge in the market was something John sensed. “Going into January 2007, you could feel it,” he says. “The market had all those big houses. Money was easy. I knew it was going to be a big storm. We went into January 2007 sinking, and really, the bottom was probably spring of 2009 through spring of 2010.”

A recession affects a town like Williamsburg differently than the larger cities. “Williamsburg is a bedroom community,” John explains. “Each weekday about 16,000 people leave Williamsburg to go to work. We only have about 78,000 people in this MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area). About 20 percent of the people leave to go work in either Richmond or Hampton Roads.”

People usually retract to the metropolitan areas when the economy slows, John says. “They do that for the job market and because their support systems are there (like parents or extended families).” This time we had the extra incentive of high gas prices. “That commuting cost was also a factor for us. How far did people want to drive to work? If you work in Richmond, would you want to move the family to Williamsburg during a time of high gasoline costs? Probably not.”

People began to get jobs back or better paying jobs, gas prices stabilized, confidence started to come back. “Little by little, we’ve seen the market settle in 2011 and 2012. In Williamsburg, in rural Virginia, in bedroom communities, it stabilized.”

Average price for a home stayed around \$232,000 in 2011 and 2012. The pricing, number of units and overall sales volume in this MSA stabilized.

Now in 2013, how is the area doing? “Unfortunately, no one has built anything in the last five years. The large builders are building, but not at the same volume. The little guys aren’t doing as much.”

When fewer new homes are being built, a statistic that John watches is the absorption rate. “That’s the amount of inventory available and how fast we’re absorbing it,” he says. “In November 2011, we had 22 months of inventory on the market. That’s a lot of houses to absorb. Now, we have nine months of inventory.” Eleven months is the traditional tipping point for the market: More than 11 months of inventory

is a buyer's market; less than 11 months of inventory is a seller's market.

"This is a schizophrenic stage," John warns. "The buyers think they are still in control, but we're getting multiple offers. In the \$225,000 and below price range, there are only 7 months of inventory. At \$225,000 to \$338,000, there are 9 months of inventory, from \$338,000 to \$440,000 – 9 months, from \$440,000 to \$550,000 – 13 months of inventory. Now, for \$550,000 and above, which is only 11 percent of our market, there are 30 months of inventory."

The transitioning from a buyer's market to seller's market is in the \$440,000 and below range.

"Our problem is that no one has built anything. We have pent-up demand. That straight line recovery is going to be more bell-shaped. That pent-up demand will push things up, and we'll go into that roller-coaster ride we always have."

The people who are buying are also pent-up. They have been held back from moving because of the money worries associated with the recession. "We're a bedroom community with an excellent quality of life," John reminds. "The people who will be coming here are the DINKs (Double Income, No Kids) who are doing well in Richmond and Hampton Roads and want a better quality of living; retirees will continue to come; people in the military – who were stationed all over the world – come back here; plus the organic growth within Williamsburg."

A particular group he watches is retirees. Many people who planned to retire held onto their jobs in 2007 and are still working today. The stock market and 401Ks feel more secure, and the economy looks better. "Now, six years later, these people are ready to retire."

Where these home buyers come from is equally interesting. John cites that 20 percent of sales are from within the area, organic growth of moving to different homes within the community. Forty percent are from within a 100 mile radius of Williamsburg, and the other 40 percent is 100 miles or more.

"The weather brings people here, along with our excellent school system. The tourist trade brings amenities to a town of 78,000 that wouldn't ordinarily be in a town this size – the restaurants, hotels, sports, arts and culture – that residents get to enjoy all year," John explains. "There is an exaggerated quality of living here: Small town with the aspects of fine cosmopolitan living – it's a nice combination."

John sees gold in vacant lots. "My prediction is that the upswing is just now starting. I say, 'He who has lots will win.' We're at a point in the lower price points where people can't find what they want, and we're selling vacant land for people to build on."

The past five years have been stormy, but the horizon glows with opportunity. "The next five years are going to be the best time to be in real estate," John says. "From 2012 to 2018 or '19, we'll be absorbing all that pent-up demand, absorbing those deferred retirees, absorbing the kids paying off student loans and ready to buy their first homes. We'll see an acceleration of property values because of supply and demand. It's going to be tough to keep ahead of the demand. Interest rates are holding for the next couple of years. I see a very robust seller's market."

John has real estate in his veins. "I love the people I work with," he says. "I love this company; I love real estate and can bring my dog, Mozart, to work every day. In the next five years, I'll be here. The last five years were tough for all of us. It's going to be a lot more fun." 

provided by the Williamsburg
Association of REALTORS®

what's up in real estate



Published reports say consumers are feeling more confident about the direction of our economy. Consumer Confidence, which measures how optimistic or pessimistic consumers are with respect to the economy in the near future, hit a five-year high in May. There was also good news on the housing front with the Home Price index for 20 of the nation's targeted cities rose 10.9 percent over this time last year. This was above expectations and represented the best annual gain in seven years. Inflation also remains tame, according to the Personal Consumption Expenditures, one of the government's favorite measures of inflation.

The important question now is of how this information pertains to us locally. Where is our housing market heading? And what is happening to mortgage rates?

According to RE Stats, a service which provides statistical data using information from the Williamsburg Multiple Listing Service (WMLS), categories such as Closed Sales (improved by almost 14 percent), New Listings (a 10 percent increase) and Absorption Rates (time needed to sell the current inventory, now 14 versus 18 months) gained ground in May over the same time last year. Average Days on Market also dropped 28 days from 143. However, the market did experience a downward trend in the area of median prices at closing, dropping from \$319,100 to \$300,127. That reflects a difference in \$18,974 from May 2012 to May 2013, but even that number shows an improvement over some of our most recent figures. Total housing inventory statistics for May 2013 show that 2,109 homes were available for sale. Rental properties are a separate category.



by **Sam Mayo**
President

**Williamsburg
Area Association
of REALTORS®**

The take from all this information is that our housing market continues toward its recent path of recovery. REALTOR® members the Williamsburg Association of REALTORS® (WAAR) are working hard to locate and market area homes for buyers and sellers. Our members' consensus is that homes which have been priced right and show well are being aggressively pursued.

News on the mortgage front is a little different though. Weak economic news normally causes money to flow out of stocks and into bonds, helping bonds and home loan rates improve. Strong economic news often has the opposite result. With the recent strong economic news, bonds and home loan rates were impacted with interest rates jumping as much as a full percentage point or more in some cases. But the bottom line is that mortgage loan rates remain at or near historic lows and now is a great time to consider buying or selling a home.

IN OTHER NEWS, congratulations are in order for James Scruggs, who hit a hole-in-one to help York County win the coveted Municipal Cup at the 15th annual WAAR golf tournament held in May at Colonial Heritage.

A SPECIAL thank you is extended to all who participated in the recent Red Cross Blood Drive at WAAR, where 32 pints of blood was given. Money was also collected for Red Cross.

For additional expert information and guidance, consult a REALTOR®. For a complete and accurate listing of homes for sale, visit www.WAARRealtor.com.

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Hey Neighbor!

Please visit www.WilliamsburgNeighbors.com, go to the magazine site and 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!

TIDEWATER DECORATIVE PAINTERS

Ongoing

First Methodist Church, 10246 Warwick Boulevard Newport News, VA 23601. 2nd Saturday at 9AM, each month except July, Aug, and Dec. (Members come from Greater Hampton Roads) Contact: Donna Pultz, dpultz@aol.com

Hey Neighbor!

WILLIAMSBURG AREA FAITH IN ACTION

Ongoing

Williamsburg Area Faith in Action helps seniors stay independent in their own homes by helping with things such as transportation, visiting, reassurance phone calls, respite care, grocery shopping, light housework and minor home repairs. Our volunteers let us know when they are available and we schedule assignments accordingly. You can make a difference. For more information or to sign up for orientation, call 757-258-5890.

Hey Neighbor!

HABITAT-RESTORE

Ongoing

Teens looking for Summer Volunteer Opportunities? We need you at the Habitat ReStore to cashier, work the sales floor, move furniture and help process donations. This is great experience to list on job applications, college applications and scholarship applications in the future. Please contact Tina McCabe at 603-6895 or tina@habitatpgw.org for more information.

Hey Neighbor!

V.O.I.C.E.S. OF WILLIAMSBURG

Ongoing

Join Toastmasters in a caring and supportive environment. On Marvelous Monday: Get a Powerful start to your week! Time: 7:00 a.m. Location: James City Community Center, Longhill Road. On Wonderful Wednesday: Meet, Eat, and Speak, Time: 7:00 p.m. 4th Wednesday of each month, Location: Anna's Brick Oven, 2021 Richmond Road. Contact Alice Hertzler @ 757-564-1140 or AliceHertzler4008@gmail.com

Hey Neighbor!

WILLIAMSBURG-JCC WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

Ongoing

Applications are being accepted for Williamsburg-James City County Community Action Agency's Weatherization Program. These services are free to those homeowners and renters that qualify based on total household income. Service areas include Williamsburg, James City County, York County, Newport News and Poquoson. Weatherization Services may include: attic and wall insulation, hot water and pipe wrap, plastic under the home, installation of carbon monoxide detectors, fire and smoke detectors, heating and cooling inspections, glass and door replacement, blow door test to determine caulking and sealing requirements, just to name a few services. Please contact April Taylor at (757)-229-9389 to schedule an appointment.

Hey Neighbor!

WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL LIBRARY

June 20, 27, 2013

June is request month for the Williamsburg Regional Library Thursday Afternoon Film Series. Films are chosen from among those requested by past library viewers. The movies will be shown in the Williamsburg Library Theatre, 515 Scotland St beginning at 2 p.m. Admission is free and reservations are not required. For more information visit wrl.org or call (757) 259-4050.

Hey Neighbor!

WELLSPRING UMC, ROCK WITH JESUS MUSIC CAMP

June 25-29, 2013

"Rock with Jesus" Music Camp is the third annual music camp hosted by Wellspring UMC. The church is located at 4871 Longhill Road, Williamsburg, VA. There will be classes offered in Visual Arts, Music, Puppets, and Drama. Dates are June 25th through Saturday the 29th. The times are Tuesday through Friday 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Campers will present their program at 11:00 for family and friends which will be followed by a family picnic for all. For questions or registration, please contact Gail Williams-Scullion at grockin@cox.net or by calling 757-254-4570.

Hey Neighbor!

HISTORIC TRIANGLE SENIOR CENTER

July 7, Aug 12-14, 2013

Upcoming Trips. It's Time to go to the Races 7 July. Show time is 11:00 am leaving from the James City County Rec Center. Come have fun, watch and bet on the horses at Colonial Downs. Lunch is provided! Cost is \$33.00 for members and \$35.00 for non-members. The Andy Griffith Show 12-14 August Come take a trip down "Memory Lane" to West Jefferson & Mt. Airy, NC to visit the Andy Griffith Museum, Wally's Service Station. Take a ride in the Squad Car. We will also be visiting the Churches of the Frescoes. The cost for this 3 day, 2 nights is \$375.00 for members (double) and \$385.00 non-members. Singles \$400.00. Computer Classes - By your side Technology with Jessica Hughes 8 July - Tech Talk 1:00 -3:00 pm Historic Triangle Senior Center Lounge 17 July - I pod, I pad Classes 1:00-3:00 pm Historic Triangle Senior Center. Price \$10.00 for members, \$12.50 non-members. For the latest information on trips and registration details, and Computer Classes Training please call the Senior Center 757-259-4187 or 757-259-4181 or visit us on the web: thesenior-center.org

Hey Neighbor!

WILLIAMSBURG FARMERS MARKET

June 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27

402 W Duke of Gloucester St. in Merchants Square, 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon. Enjoy the heart of Williamsburg in Merchants Square while shopping in this producer-only market for potted plants, fish, ar-



The Vineyards of Williamsburg 5K

Saturday, August 10, 2013 ■ Fun Run 6:30 pm 5K Run/Walk 7:00 pm

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tisan cheeses, meats, pasta, cut flowers and handmade soaps. The market includes live music, chef demonstrations and master gardener exhibits in a setting of local shops and restaurants. The market now accepts credit and SNAP EBT cards. 757-259-3768, www.williamsburgfarmersmarket.com. June 29 – The market will celebrate its Eleventh Anniversary with Patriot's Colony Chef Brown at the Chefs Tent, the master gardeners answering water conservation questions and Poisoned Dwarf performing. Anniversary cake will be served, 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon.

Hey Neighbor!
BARRY UZZELL'S SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP

July 8-12, July 29-August 2, August 12-16, 2013

Barry Uzzell, a former International pro basketball player, gives top instruction for group and individual attention to include all the fundamentals. The one week daily instruction for boys and girls includes 3 sessions for ages 7-11 and ages 12 to 14 years old. The first session starts July 8 to July 12, and the second session starts July 29 to August 2. The third session, for girls only, starts August 12 to 16. All sessions begin at 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at James City County Recreation Center at 5301 Longhill Road. The cost is \$50 per child per session. For more information and to enroll, call Yvonne, Linda or April at (757)229-9332, or email youthnbl@wjccactionagency.org, or aa@wjccactionagency.org.

Hey Neighbor!
CURATOR'S ARTIFACT TOUR
July 10 and 24, 2013

Tours start at 3 pm from the Pocahontas statue. Senior archaeological curator Bly Straube provides an intimate, behind-the-scenes tour of the artifact collection of James Fort. This 90-minute guided program begins with a brief overview of the Jamestown Rediscovery project and offers a rare glimpse of the vault where more than one million artifacts recovered during excavations are housed. Straube will highlight important finds and discuss how artifacts tell the story of Jamestown's early years. After the tour, guests will have time to explore the Nathalie P. and Alan M. Voorhees Archaearium where galleries of selected archaeological artifacts are displayed. Note: Due to limited space and the fragile nature of artifacts in the laboratory, this tour is restricted to 10 people. Children under 16 years of age must

be accompanied by an adult. Price: \$25, tickets can be purchased at www.historicjamestowne.org. Location: Historic Jamestowne. Contact 757-229-4997, ext 100.

Hey Neighbor!
CAPTAIN BREWSTER'S KID'S TOUR

July 11, 18, 25, 2013

Explore the exciting world of archaeology at Jamestown and come face to face with colonist Captain Brewster on this special kid's tour from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. Meet the archaeologists who "rediscovered" the 1607 James Fort and see what they are finding this season. Meet Captain Brewster, one of the early English settlers, and learn about the hardships faced by the early settlers. As one of his new "recruits," he'll put you through your paces as you muster and prepare for a Spanish or Indian attack. Children must be accompanied by an adult chaperone. Free with paid admission to Historic Jamestowne. Call 757-229-4997 for information

Hey Neighbor!
MONARCH BANK 5K RUN/WALK

July 11, 18, 25, 2013

"Sweatin' for Scholarships" 5K Run/Walk Sponsored by Monarch Bank Benefitting the WJCC Scholarship Fund at the Williamsburg Community Foundation. Come out on a summer Friday evening and walk or run on JCC's beautiful Powhatan Creek Trail behind Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School at 3131 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg. Benefits scholarships for graduating WJCC high school seniors. Ice cream social and prizes after the event. Race day registration/packet pick-up at 5:00 PM, 1 mile fun run/walk at 6:00 PM, 5K run/walk at 6:30 PM. Ice cream social and prizes after the event. A Colonial Road Runners event. Rain Date Saturday, July 13. Contact Ed Irish at epic@wm.edu or 757-221-2425 for information. Registration forms online at williamsburgcommunityfoundation.org.

Hey Neighbor!
SOUTHEASTERN VA REGION, JANE AUSTIN SOCIETY
July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 12, Dec. 15, 2013

Sunday, July 14, the Jane Austen Society North America Southeastern VA Region will meet from 2 to 4 p.m. at Barnes & Noble located in New Town, 5101 Main Street, Williamsburg, VA. With a French influence to recognize Bastille Day

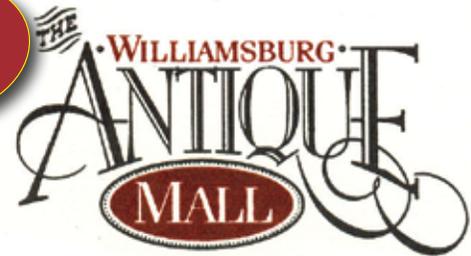
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attendees will discuss how it worked into Jane Austen's personal life, as well as in her books. Come and join this lively discussion, meet other Janeites and learn how you can become a member. The Society meets on the second Sunday at Barnes & Nobel throughout the year. These programs are free. The Society will end the year with a Regency Tea and Dance at Bruton Parish Hall, Sunday, December 15, from 4 to 8 p.m. If you have any questions please call (757) 221-6686 or email jasnaseva@gmail.com. Or visit our facebook page to learn about upcoming events at: <http://www.facebook.com/JASNASoutheasternVa>

Hey Neighbor! VA. NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY PROGRAM--CRITTERS AND NATIVE PLANTS

July 18, 2013
Yorktown Public Library, starts at 6:45 pm, free and open to the public. Speaker: Seig Kopinitz, member of both the Williamsburg Bird Society and the John Clayton chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. He is a great photographer. Contact Information: askop4@cox.net 757-565-1753. Bi-monthly program of the John Clayton Chapter of VNPS. Contact Information: Don@donalldhyatt.com 703-241-5421.

Hey Neighbor! OUTDOOR GARDEN DESIGN

July 20, 2013
Award-winning landscape designer Peggy Krapf will lead a walk through the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. She will provide ideas to turn home gardens and yards into beautiful outdoor living spaces. Suggested materials to bring: Pen and notebook or digital camera. In Freedom Park Interpretive Center or Williamsburg Botanical Garden. Time 10 – 11:30 am. Free and open to the public.

Hey Neighbor! LEGAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

July 20, 2013
Free Legal Consultation is provided to those who meet financial criteria and who live in Williamsburg, James City County and Upper York County. The sponsors are Williamsburg Bar Association, William & Mary School of Law School and Williamsburg-James City County Community Action Agency. Services will be provided on Saturday, July 20, 2013, at William & Mary Law School, 613 S. Henry St. in Williamsburg, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Law services include: uncontested divorce, landlord/tenant and

real property, employment law, immigration law, child custody and support, consumer law, will/estate law, bankruptcy, Medicaid, protective orders, social security, wills and estate planning, restoration of driving privileges, restoration of civil rights, domestic relations and voting rights. Call Yvonne or Linda for an appointment at 757-229-9332.

Hey Neighbor! EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC SCHOOL OF WILLIAMSBURG

July 22-26, 2013
The Early Childhood Music School of Williamsburg, United Methodist Church, celebrating 24 years of excellence in music education, is accepting registrations for children, ages 4 months through 7 years for a five day summer session, July 22 - 26. Morning and evening times are available. Nurture your child's natural musical instincts while encouraging creativity, motor development and literacy through singing, movement, focused listening and playing instruments. For more information or to receive a registration form, contact Cindy Freeman, director at 757-229-1771 or cfreeman-williamsburgumc.org.

Hey Neighbor! FIRST ASSEMBLY DAY COMMEMORATION

July 30, 2013
Join in the commemorations of First Assembly Day, the anniversary of the first legislative assembly in English North America. Presentations will explore the development of government in Virginia and the significance of the first meeting of elected officials in the colony in 1619. Visitors will meet three people from Jamestown's past who will share their stories of Virginia's government during the colony's earliest years. Event is included in regular admission (\$14.00 16 and over, 15 and under free.)

Hey Neighbor! CAPTAIN BREWSTER'S KID'S TOUR

August 1, 8, 15, 2013
Explore the exciting world of archaeology at Jamestown and come face to face with colonist Captain Brewster on this special kid's tour from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. Meet the archaeologists who "rediscovered" the 1607 James Fort. Children must be accompanied by an adult chaperone. Free with paid admission to Historic Jamestowne. Call 757-229-4997 for information

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photo challenge

VETERANS
TRIBUTE TOWER

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

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INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

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

June 2013
In the Neighborhood
Photo Challenge





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Sweeping floor plan ideal for entertaining. Spacious kitchen enjoys great natural light with vaulted ceilings in living room & sun room. Perfect first level living! Master & guest BRs on 1st level with 2 add'l BRs & loft on the 2nd level. Private .5 acre parcel nestled on cul de sac. New roof, HVAC, water heater & gas generator. Spectacular value at \$525,000.



Grace
Grace Lacey, ABR
(757) 876-4634
www.lizmoore.com/gracelacey



QUEENS LAKE

Refreshed 3,127 sq. ft., 5 BRs, 3 full BAs & 3 finished levels. Upgrades include: extensive oak flooring, gas furnace, new interior paint, leafless gutters. Total kitchen renovation. Large maple top island, extensive cabinets, granite counters, 5 burner gas cooktop & Shaw farm sink. LR w/ FP & access to DR through new French doors. First FR opens to large deck. All BAs updated. Lower walk-out level has updated 2nd FR w/ new carpeting, gas FP, large laundry rm & 3rd BA. 2 car garage, private lot & charming tree house. MLS# 30033910. \$449,000.



Susan B. Smith
757-876-3838
susansmith@lizmoore.com
www.lizmoore.com/susansmith



3563 SPLITWOOD RD. • Stonehouse
4 BR, 2.5 BA. Open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, plantation shutters. Gourmet kitchen w/gas stove, granite counters and island. Large 1st floor master w/separate shower, jetted tub. Great room w/fireplace. Peaceful deck, lots of storage, auto back up generator. Move in ready.



Tim Parker
(757) 879-1781
Cyril Petrop
(757) 879-8811
www.timparkerrealestate.com



COLONIAL HERITAGE

Most square footage for the money! 4,494 sqft., full basement HDWD entire first floor Cherry, corian and stainless kitchen with gas! Master and 2nd BR on 1st floor. 359,000.



Andrea Pokorny
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