

JULY 2007

WILLIAMSBURG'S

Next Door Neighbors

VOL 1, ISSUE 4

Where local viewpoints and experiences are shared

PRICELESS



SUMMER FUN!
in Williamsburg

What's happening at
Williamsburg's Farmers' Market?

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AT THE MOVIES**

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The theme for this issue of *Next Door Neighbors* is Summer Fun! My writers and I have tried to give you a few good ideas for things to do in Williamsburg over the summer but admittedly we have only scratched the surface.

In deciding what to write about that would be a nice fit with this theme, we discovered that there is no shortage of things to do in Williamsburg to have fun, learn, create and enjoy. In fact, Williamsburg is busting out at the seams with intellectually stimulating and physically invigorating ideas for young and old alike. And, it also has a great many things to do for people who just like to spend quiet time.

We could have written about fishing, biking, swimming, hiking, walking, bird watch-

ing, camping, cooking out, gardening, pottery making, arts & crafts, Bible Schools, softball, or a thousand other things people like to do in the summer. Instead, we just took a stab at a few ideas that seemed interesting and we tried to give you more information than you might currently have.

We aren't bringing you any earth-shattering ideas for a big summer thrill. (If you want that, I guess you could head on over to Busch Gardens and get in line to ride the exciting new roller coaster, Griffon.) We are bringing you some neat stories to get the creative

parts of your brain going, and we are setting the stage for some fun ways you can spend time with your family and friends, or maybe even your next door neighbors. ■



Meredith Collins, Publisher

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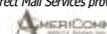
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Meet Al White

COPY EDITOR FOR *NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORS*

I'd like to introduce you to my copy editor, Al White. He's a skilled copy editor, and he developed his brilliance for accuracy and keen eye for detail over a long successful career as an electrical engineer in Lynchburg, Va. But he's not just a copy editor. He is also my father.

Although Father's Day has passed, I felt it was still appropriate to pay tribute to him here inside the pages of this magazine. After all, this is where he is spending much of his time these days studying each sentence of every story and providing valuable input on ways I can improve *Next Door Neighbors*.

Besides, a great Dad is a great Dad on more than just one celebratory day in June. And even after 83 years, my Dad continues to find ways to be great, even in ways I didn't expect. Like copy editing.

But as a father, my Dad is more than great. He is exceptional.

HAPPY FATHERS DAY!



Al White

Copy Editor
Next Door Neighbors

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AT

Williamsburg's Farmers' Market

By Meredith Collins

I visited the Williamsburg Farmers' Market on two recent Saturdays and I decided it was a great place to go to meet people, listen to music and just relax. I wonder what Libbey Oliver would say about that. Libbey is one of the individuals who started on the ground floor with the concept of starting a Farmers' Market in Williamsburg in 2002, and I think she would tell me that I'm right. But I'm pretty sure she would also say that I've only just begun to experience all of the wonderful things it has to offer.

The Williamsburg Farmers' Market is a non-profit organization that was the creation of Tom Power and Tom Austin, local business owners who are involved in their community. Five years ago, they formed

a committee to flush out possibilities for starting the organization and began formulating plans to make it happen. The committee wrote the mission statement and approached Libbey to lead the way.

She was a natural fit for the job. Libbey has been in the area since 1975 and, in addition to having a degree in horticulture from Virginia Tech, was the head of floral arrangements for Colonial Williamsburg.

"I thought it was a wonderful idea," Libbey said with the kind of enthusiasm that makes it abundantly clear that this is a person who loves what she is doing. "Five years ago, farmers' markets were just getting big. I didn't know this one would grow this big. I didn't quite envision all

of this, but it sounded like something

Williamsburg was ready for."

Williamsburg's Farmers' Market is supported by three main sponsors: the City of Williamsburg, Colonial Williamsburg and the Merchants Square Association. In addition, there are other businesses that lend assistance. Ukrop's provides the live band that plays each Saturday morning and Towne Bank provides a tent where a different chef prepares food each week.

Riverside Health System

and Howell Marketing Design Group have also provided services.

The Farmers' Market in Williamsburg is open from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays and is located on Duke of Gloucester St. between Boundary and Henry streets. Recently, Libbey has led the way for a Tuesday afternoon opening of the Farmers' Market as well. Tuesday afternoons are quieter and smaller, much like the Saturday market was when it just began.

"The purpose of our market being here in Merchant's Square is to bring people back to the heart of the city and the

traditional shopping area," Libbey explained. "They are in and out of the shops. At the same time, they are getting their produce and that works very nicely too."

On any given Saturday morning you may find 1,200 people wandering around,



Libbey Oliver is the Manager of the Williamsburg Farmers' Market.



shopping and visiting with one another. If you take the time to observe, you will see that it is more than a place to find fresh vegetables, honey, seafood, mushrooms or even fresh cut flowers. It is a social atmosphere where neighbors visit with one another and strangers introduce themselves. Not everyone is from Williamsburg. There are people from outlying areas like Gloucester or Richmond who like to come for the shopping and friendly environment. There are also tourists who wander by, drawn by the buzz of activity. Locals usually split their attention, browsing the

On any given Saturday morning you may find 1,200 people wandering around, shopping and visiting with one another.

stands looking for whatever is fresh and new with one eye and watching for friends with the other. Some of the browsers even use the opportunity to walk their dogs and chat with other dog owners.

"We've had a lot of people move here from other areas that are used to having farmers' markets," Libbey added.

"They were wondering why we didn't have one. So many of us are interested in organic and sustainable agriculture. We want to put a face with the person that's bringing us our food so we know where it has traveled and we know it's really fresh. And we're trying to keep some farmlands. Especially these smaller farms. The great big 1,000 acre ones are still going – they're out there. There are some backyard ones. Those in-between size farms are very fragile right now."

If you haven't visited the Williamsburg Farmers' Market this year, you are missing out on a wonderful way to start your weekend. Don't let the size of the crowd keep you from making the short drive as there is plenty of free parking and shady benches to rest upon when you get tired of buying. This is their 5th Anniversary and they will begin celebrations July 7th. If the next five years are anything like the first five, there will be a whole lot more to celebrate in years to come. ■





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How will you celebrate the 4th of July?



Phil and Maggie Newson moved here two years ago from New Jersey and now reside in Ford's Colony. Generally they celebrate the 4th of July in a low key fashion. They enjoy staying close to home and will probably spend the 4th of July in the neighborhood with friends. They may not attend any fireworks displays, although the very mention prompted Phil to reminisce about years gone by when he used to set off fireworks as a boy. With Maggie in a wheelchair attending crowded events can be challenging and they take some preparation and planning. They are glad the 4th of July has remained one of those holidays less tarnished by commercial influences.



Ronnie and Sheila Ricca (and their dog, Sienna) have lived in Williamsburg for four years. They moved here from Long Island, New York. Sheila is from England and came to America in 1964. She couldn't come on the day she planned because it was July 4th; she came on July 6th instead. She was 20 years old at the time and it has always stuck with her that she should have been here on July 4th but since it was a national holiday, she had to wait. Ronnie sees the 4th of July as a time to think about our independence and what our country stands for and about what our country will continue to stand for. They will barbeque with family on the 4th of July; their daughter has moved to Williamsburg as well. They are very patriotic and will be wearing red, white and blue for the occasion.



Dan Capp Dan has lived in Williamsburg for ten years and paints houses for a living. He grew up in Wisconsin and also lived in Indiana. He considers Williamsburg home and all his close friends are here; his family still lives in Indiana. He doesn't always attend 4th of July events to recognize the historical significance. He generally spends the day with friends. Dan has attended fireworks to celebrate the 4th of July in the past although he really doesn't have any plans to go anywhere this year. Sometimes (and he smiles) he even sets off a few of his own.

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Winning Liberty Land
Kimball Theatre - July 1st thru July 31st
Join the madcap antics of the Historical Citizens Action Committee as they take their own wacky look at the histories of Jamestown, Williamsburg and Yorktown. For more information visit:
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Independence Day Concert
Merchant's Square - July 2nd
Bring your chairs, relax and enjoy a pre-independence day evening concert. Admission is free.
For more information visit:
www.gowilliamsburg.com

Colonial Williamsburg Independence Day
July 4th
The Declaration of Independence is read and the Fifes and Drums perform in the evening as a prelude to fireworks in the style of those popular at the time our nation was born. Celebrate July 4th at the Governor's Palace Picnic (Reservations must be made by July 2nd.) For more information call: (800) HISTORY or visit:
www.history.org/visit/eventsAndExhibits/specialEvents/4thJuly.cfm

MOVIE TIME

Dave Everett is inviting you to the movies, and he means all of you. Most people who want to share a family movie these days will rent one from a local movie rental store and maybe invite a few friends over to watch. But not Dave. Last year, when Dave decided he wanted to watch a movie with friends he plopped a giant movie screen in the middle of Prince George Street and invited all of Williamsburg.

Dave is opening the door for all of Williamsburg again this summer and the more locals who come to Movies on Prince George



A peek at last year's Movies on Prince George Street.

Street, the better. He promotes the event he hosts on his block throughout the summer as "Sunday Night at the Movies", and the street

ON PRINCE GEORGE STREET

By Joe Collins

is closed from Franklin to Henry for a few hours on Sunday nights to show popular movies that are family oriented.

"Last year I had this idea to do outdoor movies, like the old kind of drive in, that sort of thing," Dave said. "I was looking for a way that we could do that. We had seen a couple things in San Francisco. They do some in Rhode Island. They are around."

What started as an idea last year to offer locals the opportunity to enjoy a casual Sunday night movie similar to what Dave had observed in other cities, actually blossomed into a community-wide event sometimes drawing as many as 400 people. This year, Movies on Prince George Street promises to be even better than ever.

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The novelty of viewing a movie outdoors is irresistible for many people. Maybe because it is tied to the nostalgia of days gone by where going to the drive-in was commonplace and those memories are intertwined with other fond ones tied to younger days. Maybe because it is just liberating to do something you can't or don't normally do outside. Or maybe it's just a great way to enjoy good weather with friends and family. In other words, it is the best kind of good, clean summer fun there is; the kind you don't get to experience every day and the kind that can be shared with others. And the icing on the cake is that it is free.

While Dave is the visionary and driving force behind Movies on Prince George Street, it is also sponsored and supported by the City of Williamsburg, Merchants Square and the generous support of the corporate community. Each evening starts just before sunset with music and the occasional short feature before the main event.

While many people tend to think Merchants Square and Price George Street are for the tourists during the summer that just isn't the case.

"From the first night on it was a big success [last year]," Dave explained. "It's just a family night out. It's free. You bring your own chair. People brought blankets. They have brought couches, tables, chairs - everything. It's fun. People will eat. We'll serve people. Other restaurants will serve them to go. We're trying to make the Prince George Street area a place that you think of to come for these interesting activities that are fun. And that are for locals. It's hard for a tourist to come to an outdoor movie if they have to bring a chair or a blanket!"

Most of the restaurants and eateries are open on Sunday nights prior to the movies being shown.

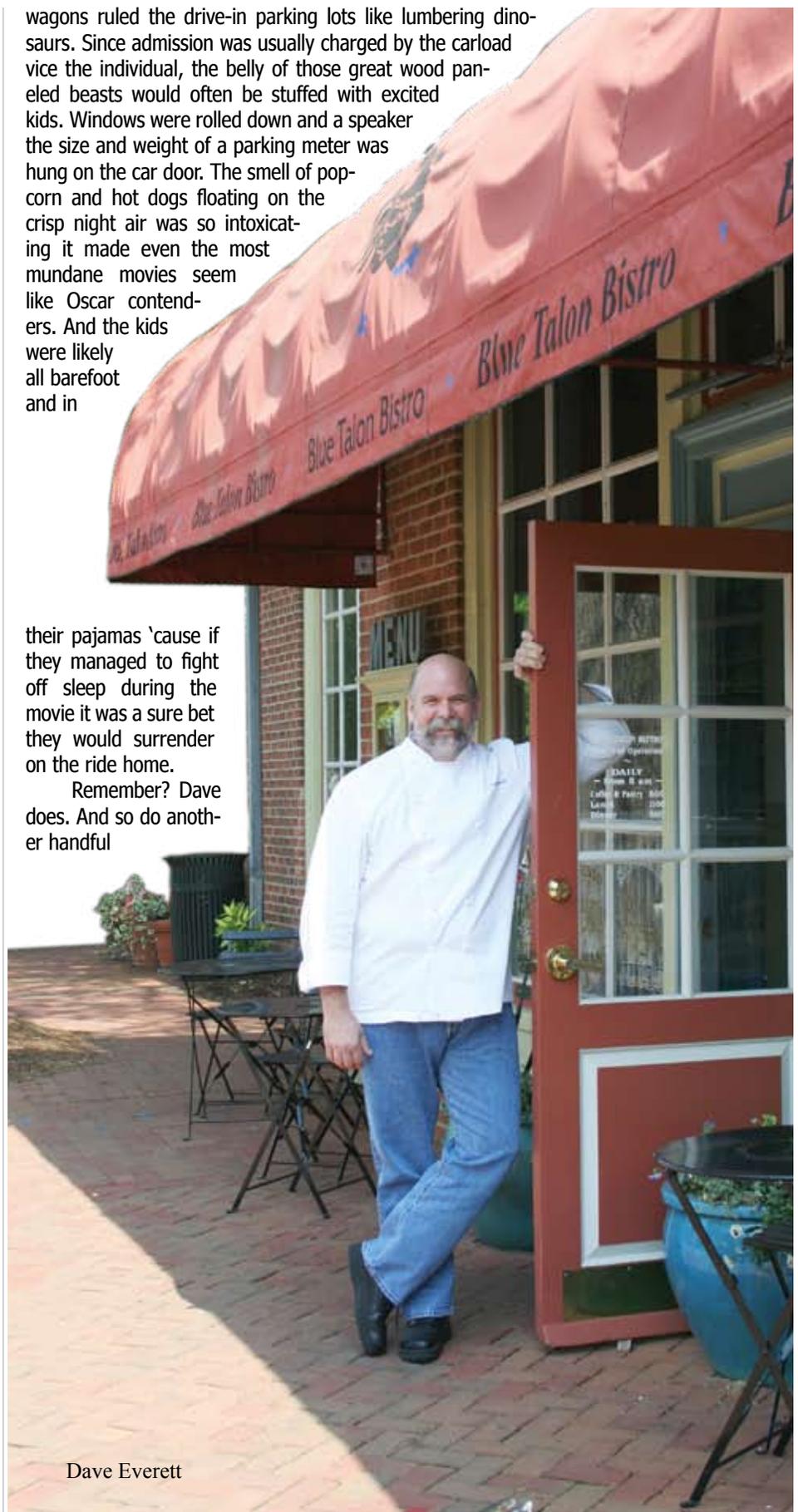
"The ice cream shop is open which is perfect," Dave pointed out. "The peanut shop is open, which again, is perfect. Retro's and Aromas both close between 8 and 9 on those nights, but by the time the movie starts no one gets up and leaves anyway. We think it is good for business, but we also think in terms of promoting Prince George Street as a place to come, and Merchant's Square, as a place to be. It's more universal than 'it's good for Sunday night'. It's good for every night."

Think back...For those of us who were fortunate enough to experience drive-in movies years ago these outdoor movies can resurrect a flood of memories. In those days station

wagons ruled the drive-in parking lots like lumbering dinosaurs. Since admission was usually charged by the carload vice the individual, the belly of those great wood paneled beasts would often be stuffed with excited kids. Windows were rolled down and a speaker the size and weight of a parking meter was hung on the car door. The smell of popcorn and hot dogs floating on the crisp night air was so intoxicating it made even the most mundane movies seem like Oscar contenders. And the kids were likely all barefoot and in

their pajamas 'cause if they managed to fight off sleep during the movie it was a sure bet they would surrender on the ride home.

Remember? Dave does. And so do another handful



Dave Everett

of supporters and they are recapturing the essence of those experiences for the newest generation of Williamsburg movie buffs. It's a simple equation: movies weave memories and movies with family and friends help weave memorable childhoods.

Dave and the other business and community leaders he has enlisted have done all the hard work - planning, organizing and investing - so all you have to do is concentrate on having fun. They're finding the significant funding it takes to buy the right equipment and pay for permits and insurance and movie leases. They're being very careful to follow the strict rules for legally viewing the leased movies. And they're arranging the security, set up, and clean up for each event. But their planning doesn't stop there.

Dave says they are hoping to one day tie in a student movie making competition for local high school students. This might take the form of a competition with the candidates' films being shown before the main feature and the winner earning something like an internship at a local professional film company.

"What we'd like to do as a part of our program is to entice some independent film stuff," Dave revealed. "And so we are willing

to show them and we are also willing to do the footwork to try to make it possible so there is something at the end of the rainbow for them."

If you haven't picked up on it yet, Dave Everett is big on the Williamsburg community. Like many of us who live in the 'burg he has had endless encounters with others here that have deeply affected him and inspired him to want to give back to the community. Dave speaks of his restaurant, the Blue Talon Bistro, as a local, community restaurant as well. It's clear that the sense of community that he fosters there spills into the street for these Sunday night movies in much the same way people spill into the square to enjoy the evening.

Ok, so let's go over the rules for fun one more time. Admission is free. The movie starts when it gets dark and music and short features start a little before that. Bring your own chair, blanket, or couch. A wide variety of food and drink is available. Only family oriented movies are shown - no R Rated movies unless they have been edited for television. Most importantly, be prepared to have a blast and to become addicted to Sunday Movies on Prince George Street. ■

Want to know what movies are coming soon to Movies on Prince George Street?

June 24
CASINO ROYALE

July 1
GHOSTBUSTERS

July 8
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July 15
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Activities & Ideas for Parents and Kids to do over the Summer!

This list was authored by our neighbor in Canada, Kathy Brand. She is Webmaster for St. Mary's School in Alberta, Canada and gave Next Door Neighbors permission to modify and print this list for our youngsters in Williamsburg. You can visit their website at <http://www.fvssd.ab.ca/stm/>.

1. Write numbers from 1 to 100. 2. Find an object in your house that begins with each letter of the alphabet. 3. Write 5 sentences. Use a number word in each sentence. 4. Make something in the kitchen involving the use of measuring cups. 5. Go outside and find something yellow. 6. Write a story about your pet or a pet you would like to have. 7. Write a letter to someone. 8. Write the names of five friends. Now make as many words using the letters of their names as you can. 9. Write the long vowels on a sheet of paper. Think of four words for each vowel sound. 10. Make a scrapbook of animal pictures. You might want to choose a animal you like. See if you can find some old magazines or calendars to look for the pictures. 11. Read a story to someone. 12. Count the money in your wallet or ask mom or dad to give you some coins to count. 13. Keep a journal of what you do during the Summer. Write in it at least 2 times each week. 14. Write numbers from 101 to 300. 15. Write the alphabet three times in your best printing or cursive writing. 16. Go outside. Find things for the sense of touch, things that are smooth, rough, prickly, sharp, hard, soft, dry, wet, etc. 17. Correctly spell as many color words as you can. Try some of the harder ones too like turquoise and burgundy. 18. Write numbers by 5's to 100 and then to 200. 19. Make little signs to name things in your room. Put them up in your room. 20. Draw a picture of something outside. Write 5 or more sentences about it. 21. Write all the number facts that will add to 10. (6 + 4 = 10, etc.) 22. Go on a nature hike. Collect things and put them in a picture. 23. Pretend you are a giant. Write a short story about it. 24. Write numbers from 301 to 500. 25. Cut out words from the newspaper - one for each letter of the alphabet. 26. Use the letters in the word MISSISSIPPI to write as many words as you can. 27. Write all the numbers that will add to 7. 28. Find a recipe that uses a color word in its title and help your mom or dad make it. 29. Count out loud to 1000. 30. Write 5 sentences. Use a color word in each sentence. 31. Write numbers by 2's to 100 (2, 4, 6...) 32. Have your mom or dad register you in a day camp program with your community league, library or a church. 33. Write a fairy tale. Then read it to someone younger than you. 34. Write the short vowels on a sheet of paper. Think of a five words for each vowel sound. 35. Write a poem about the weather, an animal or a plant. 36. Plant something outside or help take care of a garden. 37. Imagine that you have an alligator as a pet. Write a story about it. 38. Cut apart the squares of a comic strip. Mix them up. Rearrange them in the correct order and then rearrange them into a funny mixed up story. 39. Compare your bike with a friend's bike. How are they alike? How are they different? Then do a safety check on both bikes. 40. Make a sandwich. Cut it in half and then in fourths, see if you can cut it into eighths too. 41. Make a list of every-

thing you can find that is orange. 42. Cut out words from a magazine. Make sentences out of them. 43. Video tape your neighborhood and any holidays you go on to share with your friends when you go back to school in the Fall. 44. With your parent's permission, find one person on your block that is elderly and offer to help them with their yard work one afternoon. 45. Write any ten numbers between 1 to 100. Cut them out and mix them up. Arrange them again from smallest to largest. 46. Cut out a picture from an old calendar. Cut it into puzzle pieces and then put it back together. 47. Take your dog or your neighbor's dog for a walk, read a book about dogs and try to teach it a new trick. 48. Choose a flower out of your garden, learn everything you can about that flower. 49. Make price tags for several objects in your room. Make some play money and use it to buy the things in your "play store." 50. What would you do if you lived during the time of dinosaurs? Write a story about it. 51. Write numbers from 501 to 700. 52. Draw a map of your neighborhood, put a treasure (a small box with a few treats) somewhere in your neighborhood and mark it on your map. Invite your friends to try to find the treasure. 53. Find objects around your home that begin with the sound SH. Draw a picture of each of them or have someone help you write them down. (sheets, shoe, etc.) 54. Look at a Virginia map. Find Williamsburg, Lynchburg, Chesapeake, Roanoke, Blacksburg. 55. Write your name. Cut out each letter. Arrange the letters in A,B,C, order. 56. Pick anywhere in the world and find out more about that place by going to the library or searching on the Internet. 57. Read 26 books, starting with a book in which the authors last name begins with A, and then B until you get to Z. 58. Write numbers by 10's to 500. 59. Look at a Williamsburg map. Find streets and neighborhoods where your school friends live. 60. Go to the library and check out some books about space. 61. Go outside and find 3 different kinds of leaves. How are they alike and different? 62. Write numbers from 701 to 1000. 63. Go outside. Learn which direction is north, south, east, and west. Walk 10 steps north and then 5 steps west. Where are you? (Stay out of the street!) 64. Volunteer - ask your mom or dad to help you find someplace in your community where you can volunteer once or twice a week to help (places like the library, a veterinarian clinic, a senior's home). 65. Collect bottles from your neighborhood and donate the money to a local charity. 66. Write all the names of animals you know and have a friend do the same thing. Who can write the most names in 5 minutes? Have your mom time you. 67. Find pictures of objects that when matched will make a compound word. Suggestions: a horse and a shoe: a nut and a shell; a tree and a house; a cow and a boy, etc.. Then have a younger relative try to match all the pictures. 68. Look for rocks in your neighborhood. See if you can find 10 unusual rocks. 69. Find out something new about your pet. See if you can teach it one new trick. 70. Visit 3 tourist spots in your hometown. 71. Make a picture journal of your summer. Each week take 3 or 4 pictures of some of the things you are doing and put your photos into your journal and write a description about each picture. 72. Find out if any of your local museums or libraries have any summer programs just for kids. 73. Memorize a poem and recite it for your family, or have everyone in your family memorize a poem and have a family poetry night. 74. Count out loud from 400 to 500. 75. Have a game night each week with your family; try some indoor and outdoor games. 76. Make a list of everything

you can find that is the color red. 77. Make kites with your friends out of newspaper. 78. Play the "What's Missing?" game with someone. Find 5-10 objects inside your home. Arrange them on a tray. Have someone look at them for 5 seconds and then cover eyes while you take one of the items away. Can they guess what is missing? Then let your friend remove an item and you try to guess what is missing. 79. Have a paper airplane contest, who can make a paper airplane that flies the farthest. 80. Find a neat recipe for a dessert and have your mom or dad help you make it. 81. Write a thank you letter to someone who has done a great job or helped you in some way. 82. Plan a picnic with your family, make up the list of items you want to take and games to play while on your picnic. Then help your mom and dad get things ready for the special day. 83. Think about a job you might like to do when you grow up. Write a letter to someone who works in that job and ask them questions about their job. 84. This is the year 2007. Write down 2007 words you can spell or read. You might want to work at this over a few days. 85. Cut out food pictures from magazines. Make 4 category cards - Dairy Products, Meat, Fruit and Vegetable, and Bread and Cereal. Arrange the pictures under the correct category. 86. Draw a map of your house and label all the exits you would use in case of a fire. Plan a meeting place with your family in case there ever was a fire and what talk about what you should do as well. 87. Measure things in your house. Make up a chart. Measure the items by the length of your finger, hand and arm. Then try measuring using a ruler. Record the results. 88. Play the "Direction Game." Have someone tell you three directions and see if you can do them correctly and in the right order. Example: Clap your hands 5 times. Go look out the window. Write your name on a piece of paper. 89. Make up some bubble solution and find some objects around the house to blow bubbles with, try some unique things using straws, string, and other objects. 90. Practice the times table. Day 1 do the 1 times table, Day 2 do the 2 times table and go as many days as you can. 91. Take your mom or dad to a baseball game or other sports game. 92. Go to the library or look on the Internet for a neat craft you could make. Ask your mom or dad to help you find all the materials. 93. Sign up at your local library for their Summer Reading Program. 94. Get a book about birds and spend one afternoon seeing how many birds you can identify that live in your backyard. 95. Ask your mom or dad to take you to a Nursing Home or Senior's Home with two of your friends so that you can read a story to someone who stays there. 96. With your mom or dad's help, go through your old books and donate them to a hospital for sick kids to be able to read. 97. With your mom or dad's help find some "good" old toys and clothes and donate them to a shelter in your town. 98. On a piece of paper write the dates for 20 days during the summer months. Beside each date write the name of a fruit or vegetable you ate on that date. See if you can have 20 different fruits or vegetables on your list. 99. Choose a sport you like. Either find a way you can play that sport or write a list of new things you have learned about it. 100. Write a letter to your last teacher. Tell your teacher the best things about your class last year. Give your teacher one new idea you think next year's class would like to learn. Take the letter to school on your first day back to give to your "old" teacher. If they have moved away, ask the school's secretary if they could send the letter to your "old" teacher for you. **HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**

Teed Off

A PROFESSIONAL'S GUIDE TO PLAYING THE LOCAL MINI-GOLF COURSES

AS WRITTEN BY A NOT-SO-PROFESSIONAL MINI-GOLFER

By Karen Haywood Queen



For many of us, playing miniature golf takes us back to childhood or teen-age days hitting multi-colored balls around rocks and past cascading waterfalls. Back then, it really didn't matter how well you played. You were just having fun.

But if the passing of time has influenced your will to win and you don't want to get "teed off" when you take friends and family out for some summer fun, you're in luck.

Next Door Neighbors has invited a few of the area's golf experts to give me a one-on-one coaching session at three local miniature golf courses in Williamsburg. And since I'm a writer, I made sure I took good notes to share here with you:

Go Karts Plus Golf Pro: Jon Sandelin

Just because I'm playing miniature golf with three golf pros, people who know the rules, wear special shoes and special pants, sometimes even use special putters, was no reason to

sweat – even though my normal score on these courses is a couple dozen over par. I started on the course at Go-Karts Plus in Lightfoot, located a good hard tee shot across Richmond Road from Colonial Heritage where Jon Sandelin is head PGA professional.

Even though this isn't about me, the pro can't restrain himself. First, we trade in my putter for a shorter one. Then at Sandelin's direction, I move my hands closer together and focus on using my shoulders -- not my wrists-- to swing the putter. I'm supposed to be the pendulum of a grandfather clock. It feels different from my usual grip-whack-and-hope-for-the-best strategy. That strategy brought me a hole in one on the first hole on this course 10 years ago despite being 24 hours from giving birth. But I decide to listen to Sandelin who, after all, thinks about golf for a living.

HOLE #1

...offers three rocks – one on each side and a larger one just past the cup. "The hole goes left," Sandelin says after scoring a par two. "Hit the ball just to the left of the right rock." My first shot sends the ball to the right of the right rock. My

next ball ends up behind the big rock. No hole in one this time. It takes several putts to finally sink it. I end up with a five. Not a grand start – but I am gripping the putter properly.

HOLE #2

...features a basin on the left side and a potential problem. "Avoid the left side and that basin," Sandelin says. "Tee up on the left side of the box to give yourself a little more space to aim right." His first shot lands

just three inches to the left of the cup, an easy putt for par two. My first shot bounces off the back wall – not what I intended, but Sandelin is kind and pretends I planned it that way. I miss a fairly easy putt for par but manage to bogey the hole for 3.



Jon Sandelin is the Golf Pro at Colonial Heritage.

HOLE #3

...is very straight, not too tough, just a little up hill. "Make sure you get it up the hill," Sandelin advises. Both of us have a little trouble putting and end up with threes. Note: the rookie is even with the pro on this hole.

HOLE #4

...features a round brick structure. Sandelin recommends putting the tee shot down the right side and aiming for the wood. He executes a nice birdie with a two putt while I make what he calls a good recovery to end up with a three.

HOLE #5

...is up a hill and the temptation might be to go for speed. But, Sandelin warns me, "The higher up the hill you go, the faster it's going to be coming down. I wouldn't recommend going too fast." He suggests we tee up on the right side, play up the hill and count on the ball breaking right. Once on the green, I hit the ball too hard and it bounces out of the cup. Sandelin's ball skirts the right side of the cup. The difference is he manages an easy putt for three and I miss the easy putt for a four.

HOLE #6

...Sandelin recommends aiming for the short wall on the right and then hitting a good straight

putt for a two. That's what he does. I do well on the tee shot but my poor putting nets me a five.

HOLE #7

...is straight with a depression in the middle. The trick, Sandelin says, is to hit the ball hard enough to roll up and then back down the second hill. I hit my tee shot too softly and my ball gets stuck in the depression. Depression is the word here as I get a 5. The pro earns a three.

HOLE #8

...offers more rocks – one on the left and two on the right. "Tee off as far right as you can and watch as the green breaks right to left", Sandelin says. My tee shot glances off one of the rocks to give me good position on the green. Then, my ball skirts the edge of the cup as I just miss a two putt. Sandelin looks sympathetic as I exclaim 'I was robbed!' The pro makes the one-under shot for a two.

HOLE #9

...is up a hill and to the right. "You want to aim right and make sure you get it up the hill," Sandelin says. Not a problem for him and he ends up with a two putt. Me? I'm still adjusting to the proper way to tee off and end up with another five. "Your stroke's getting better. Now you just have to get used to how hard to hit it," he says. I decide the back nine is going to be a different story.



Sandelin retrieves his ball from the cup after sinking it for a par on the hole.

HOLE #10

...is just what I need – a chance to hit hard. “Just get it up that slope,” Sandelin says. “I don’t think you can hit it too hard. Longer is better here. You don’t want to get stranded.” He gets a two putt. *I get what he calls a “nice three.” Compared to a five, it is quite nice.*

HOLE #11

...is shaped like a Christmas stocking full of candy and toys. Sandelin tees off from the far left. “I’m going to try to go down the right side and off that slope and see how it breaks,” he says before getting a three. *My tee shot lands just inches from the cup and I finally manage an accurate putt for a “nice two.” Outwardly, I’m calm and gracious. Inside, a little sing-song voice is chanting ‘Better than the pro on this hole! Better than the pro!’*

Sandelin and I have been playing real golf rules to determine who goes first, which means the leader on the last hole tees off first. So I step up to the tee first.

HOLE #12

...is D-shaped with vegetation in the middle of the D and the cup at the back of the straight side. You can play it safe and shoot around the curve and let it ricochet back toward the hole and go for an easy two...

Or, you can go for a one and shoot down the straight side of the D, taking a risk that your ball will bounce around or back out of that straightaway. *Feeling confident, I go for the risky shot.*

“Make sure you favor the left side wall,” Sandelin says. *I aim for just inside the left wall off the straightaway and my ball nicks off the left side, down the straight, bounces over the cup and comes to rest about 10 inches away from the hole.*

His putt knocks mine nearly in and he kindly offers to let me play mine from the new location. *I decline and move the ball back to its original locale and am rewarded for my honesty with a two.* Sandelin also gets a two, but tells me I still have honors and can play first on the next hole. *I decide this is fun. He ranks this hole the easiest on the course. Hey, if the rookie can get a two, it must*

be fairly easy.

HOLE #13

...is a little tough. “Aim at the white fence post and the ball should come down pretty hard left,” Sandelin says, just before getting a two – one stroke better than the rookie on this one. *We’re back to the natural order of things.*

HOLE #14

...is a par three up a slight hill. But the pro makes it with just one stroke despite the pressure of my editor’s arrival with camera in hand to shoot pictures of the two of us. *I hit the ball too easy trying to avoid having it go back down the hill on the other side and manage another one of my so-called nice threes.*



Tarrant prepares to sink a short putt at Mini Golf America.

HOLE #15

...features a rock and Sandelin recommends hitting it to the right side of the back wall and letting the ball ricochet to the hole. *I don’t do so well under the pressure of being observed and hit the ball out of bounds*

completely outside the green. *Sandelin is too polite to laugh, but my editor isn’t so restrained. I take a one-stroke penalty and end up with yet another nice three.* For Sandelin, a two.

HOLE #16

...is curvy and Sandelin recommends teeing up on the left side and aiming for the bricks on the right so the ball will go up the hill and right into the cup. *A nice two for each of us.*

HOLE #17

...offers a row of bricks with three holes to go through down to the cup. Sandelin aims at the far left hole but doesn’t make it – so he’s stuck on the first green. I aim for the middle hole, hit the left one and make it down

...is fairly straightforward, just kicks a bit to the left, Sandelin predicts. He aims just to the right of the cup then realizes it kicks very little at all. *He makes a nice two putt while I end with a not so nice four.*

Final Tally:

A one over par 41 for Sandelin and a not so impressive 60 for the rookie. The first nine holes and getting used to that pendulum swing from the shoulders really hurt me with a terrible 36. But I played much better on the back nine, managing a 24 – just four over par.

Mini Golf America Golf Pro: Brian Tarrant

My second round is at Mini Golf America with Brian Tarrant, director of golf at The Tradition Golf Club at Kiskiack. Tarrant, who grew up here, used to play this course with his mother when he was a boy but hasn’t been back in years.

On every hole there are cut-outs where staff can move the hole around to save wear on the carpet and more importantly to keep things interesting. The ticket taker tells us they change things around about every week. So, your course may be slightly different from the one we played.

HOLE #1

...is pretty straight and straightforward. “I thought it was going to move to the left, but it didn’t,” Tarrant says before getting a two. “I would play straight at it.” *I do and manage a three.*

HOLE #2

...is a lot longer, with a slight curve and down a hill. “Don’t hit it too hard,” Tarrant says. *We each get a two with little trouble.*

HOLE #3

...“looks like one of those holes where you could use the bricks to bank it,” Tarrant says. His tee shot hits the right brick then settles down close to the hole for an easy two. *My shot breaks similarly and I, too, manage a two. We rank this hole as fairly simple also. I’m starting to feel*

HOLE #18

near the cup for a two. Sandelin gets a three and I’m back with honors on one final hole. He ranks this one the toughest hole on the course. *I’m gracious and don’t disagree.*

less like a rookie now!

HOLE #4

...features a couple of hills with the tricky part being to get the ball over all of them. “It definitely goes left,” Tarrant says. “Aim it to the right and make sure you get it over the bumps. It’s a pretty easy hole but you



Brian Tarrant is the Golf Pro at Kiskiack Golf Club.

definitely don’t want to get it stuck in there.” *My reporter’s notebook shows a two for Tarrant but the scorecard – and the pro was keeping score – shows a four for each of us. Not so easy after all.*

HOLE #5

...poses a challenge with a hill, then a plateau and then a drop off behind the plateau. The tough thing will be to get the ball up on the plateau and not have it roll back off. We both manage to do so and then sink delicate putts for twos. *Yes! I’m definitely not a rookie now!*

HOLE #6

...requires some ricochet action. Tarrant opts to bank his tee shot off the brick. I hit mine too hard and land in the shag carpet sand trap. *Somehow I still manage to two putt. Tarrant does also.*

HOLE #7

...is fairly straight with just a small hill. “Hit it down the right side but not too hard,” Tarrant advises. I don’t hit the ball hard enough and it rolls back toward the tee. “Come on down here with me,” he says gesturing toward his ball a respectable distance from the cup. I, however, take his words too literally. I swing and my ball nearly creams Tarrant standing off to the side before he dances nimbly out of the way. “What’s tricky about this hole is that it pulls mostly to the right, but see how it tried to turn on you,” he says consolingly after I end with a four to his three. *It seemed to have turned on him, I chuckle to myself, thinking about how I nearly smacked him good with my golf ball.*

HOLE #8

...is shaped like a sock or a boomerang with the cup at the top

of a hill. “The most important thing is to make sure you get it up the hill,” Tarrant says. Then it gets very tricky around the cup. *With my erratic putting, I get a four. Somehow, the pro ends up even worse with a five.*

HOLE #9

...is a D-shaped hole with a planter in the center of the D. The pro advises that we play it straight at the planter, around the flower bed and bank the ball to the right toward the hole. *His coaching reminds me of that Michael Jordan commercial where he bounces a basketball off buildings, signs, cars and six or eight other obstacles before it lands smoothly in the basket. If it could only be that easy. I remember a similar hole at Go Karts Plus. It’s a nice break after the last hole and amazingly we each get a two.*

Note: at this point, I’m just one shot behind the pro and I better enjoy it. Keep reading to see how skillful playing on his part and squandering on my part on the back nine widen his lead enough so Tarrant can face the fellows at Kiskiack and I don’t get a swelled head.

HOLE #10

...features a little valley between hills. “You do not have to hit it hard,” Tarrant cautions. “It looks like it goes to the left so I’m going to play it to the right. If you play it to the right of the hole, the hill will bring it toward the hole.” He played it to the right of the hole for a hole in one. *Show off! I’m sure I can do the same. After all, I shed my rookie status several holes back. My aim is good but my stroke is too hard. I follow up with bad putting and get a 5, the limit.*

HOLE #11

...has the cup up on a plateau. “Nothing real tricky – just be sure you get it on the upper tier with your first putt ... and keep it there,” says Tarrant who gets an easy two. *I have trouble keeping it there and end with another five. Does this make me a rookie again?*

HOLE #12

...is a fast hole with an obstacle that we can either go around or over, Tarrant notes as he tees up. I ask which way and he doesn’t hesitate a second. “I’m going over it. It’s putt putt, you have to go over it.” It will be tough to get a hole in one.

“You really don’t have a chance to make the putt unless you get a lucky bounce off the back,” he says as he scores his two. *My tee shot circles the obstacle counter clockwise and I end up in a worse position than when I started. Another ugly five putt.*

Tarrant says. “Just barely tap it. Aim for the third brick on the right and let it bounce off.” *I tee off a bit too hard, but still make it closer to the cup than the pro, managing a two for the hole to his three. Yes!*



Steve Beecroft spends a few moments preparing Karen Queen for the next hole by teaching her how to read the lie and to anticipate how the obstacles will affect her decision on how to hit her first shot.

HOLE #13

...features a water hazard with the hole behind a waterfall on the right side. My ball bumps Tarrant’s ball on my tee shot. *Note to self: aim for the cup not the other player’s ball. I end up in a bad position.* “It’s tough,” the pro says sympathetically. “If you’re right handed, you really can’t stand in that corner if your ball’s there.” *I rise to the challenge, putt left-handed for the first time in my life and am rewarded with a two. Now I’m a switch hitter! Meantime, Tarrant gets a three. We’re not tracking honors here, but just for the record, I did narrow his lead by one stroke there.*

HOLE #14

...has a slight hill and Tarrant reminds me that you have to make sure the ball goes up the hill and stays up “because it will come back.” *No rocket science there.* Here, the pro again proves why he’s a pro and manages his shot just right for a hole in one. *The rookie (yes, that’s me) takes two shots to get the ball up there, but then putts it in for a not too bad three.*

HOLE #15

...is all downhill. “All you have to do is tap it to get it rolling,”

HOLE #16

...is a two-tiered hole. “Make sure you hit it hard enough to make the ball ride the wall to get to the hole,” Tarrant says. “Aim for the back left wall. If you get it in the first hole, you still have a chance to make an easy two.” *The pro manages a three while I score a four. Not so easy.*

HOLE #17

...offers a double-tiered green. “Speed is the most important thing,” Tarrant says. “Get it up on the plateau and make it stop.” His ball stops then goes obediently into the hole on his second putt. “You don’t want to hit it too hard and go back to the tee,” he adds. *But that’s what I do. Another five for the rookie.*

HOLE #18

...we must maneuver around two bricks jutting out on either side. It’s just a straight putt through. I get it past both of them and get a birdie with two. Tarrant hits one brick and recov-

ers well for a nice three.

Final damage here:

44 for the pro and 53 for the rookie. Par was 40. Tarrant has two holes in one and this is my best score, and closest score to the pro, of the three rounds.

right speed, it’s going to end up closer to the hole than if I have the right line but I hit it too hard or too soft.” *My first practice shot proves the point as I putt the right line, but the wrong speed and the ball bounces off the edge of the cup and rolls a few feet away.* “See how much farther you would have had to hit the ball to make your two-putt than I would have,” the pro tells me. But aiming is important too. *Beecroft points out that the putter has a line on it that I’m supposed to line up with both the ball and the hole. What will they think of next?*

There are two courses here and we decide to play Blackbeard, the most challenging. We also learn key facts about Blackbeard such as: “With a pistol in one hand and a cutlass between his teeth, Blackbeard would lead his troops onto an enemy ship, yelling at the terrified passengers, and inspiring fear in everyone.” *Me? I’m just afraid of embarrassing myself.*

HOLE #1

...curves toward the right and offers a few corners where the ball could get stuck. “It’s obvious this one has a lot of break to it,” Beecroft says as he tees up. “It feeds to the right. Being downhill, it has a blast of speed.” He recommends aiming the ball toward the shorter pampas bush on the left. The hole surprises Beecroft. He thought it would break more to the right. Nevertheless he makes a short putt for par. *I get a three. Not bad.*

Beecroft takes his time and studies the green before he putts.



HOLE #2

...features a high hill on the right. "Here we have a huge hill that breaks left and two options," Beecroft says. "One: play up the hill and let it come down. That's tougher. Or two: funnel the ball closer to the edge of the hill and it will bounce back to the hole." Beecroft chooses option two. *He tees off on the right side and makes an easy putt for two. I follow his lead but can't execute. Maybe that's why he's a pro, I think to myself.*

HOLE #3

...could be tricky with a basin in the middle and again, two ways to play," Beecroft advises. "Either tee off on the right and take it as close to the boards as you can or hit it to the far left, bounce it off the back and let the ball funnel back to the hole." Beecroft's shot doesn't go exactly where he intends. The pro modifies his advice and suggests I aim at the first post on the right. Near the hole, my ball breaks right but lands near the hole. We both get a two, one under par. *I scored even with the pro!*

HOLE #4

To get to hole four, we climb steps inside a cave where the shade is welcome. This hole also features a waterfall on the left and some tiny undulations. Beecroft's first advice is easy; "It's going to break toward the water," he warns. "Don't go in the water." *Yeah, that would definitely put a hurting on my score.* "Take it as close to the right wall as you can and let it feed around to the hole." *For the first time, my tee shot ends up closer to the hole than his - not that I'm noticing or anything.* Beecroft is backed against the wall and has to putt left-handed to get out. We both end up with a three, one over par. *Pirates' Cove management take note: this hole deserves a par three.*

HOLE #5

...we have to contend with a hill on the left side. Beecroft recommends aiming at the light post and letting the speed coming down the hill carry the ball in. *It works for him. But I get a speeding ticket and a 4 on the hole.*

HOLE #6

We climb more steps and cross a bridge to get to hole six, which features a me-

dium-sized rock on the left and three pier posts on the right in keeping with the pirate theme. "This hole wants to go the left," Beecroft warns, adding that it will be tricky not to hit the rock. He recommends aiming at the posts. *He easily manages a two putt and I ... get another disappointing four! Four is no fun! In the background, a pirate laughs.* "You'll never get me gold, ha, ha, ha." *I'm thinking 'I'll never get a hole in one, ha ha ha.'*

HOLE #7

...is two-tiered with a hole up top that feeds down toward a lower green where the real cup is located. Pier posts stretch across the rocky barrier. We can either play it into the top hole and down to the putting green or hit the tee shot over the rocks on the left side and down to the green. "I'm going to go for the first hole," Beecroft says. He intends for his ball to bounce off the first post and then break toward and into the upper hole. Instead, his ball heads for option two, the rocks, and down to the lower green where it bounces off the back wall and into the hole for a hole in one as *I watch in amazement.* "Sheer luck," he says. *I decide to aim for the rocks the first time.* "Not too hard," Beecroft advises as I prepare to swing. "If you get hung up in there, you're in big trouble." My ball goes over the rocks, down to the green and flirts with the side of the hole before rolling off to the side. *Too much speed. But I manage a two.*

HOLE #8

...offers vegetation on the left side with rocks dropping down to the

green on the left. Playing to the right, there's a slight hill up then down to the green. "You can either play it safe up the rocks and go for par and two or play a bank shot off the far right bricks and let it kick up the hill and go for a hole in one," Beecroft muses. He goes for the tougher shot and manages a two. *I aim for the flowerpot on the far right, end up fairly close to the hole, but miss an easy putt and end up with a three. Funny, I don't remember him telling me to aim for the flower pot!*

HOLE #9

...is another two-tiered hole with the first hole on the top green with a net across a rock barrier and a drop down to the real cup. Again, there are two ways to play it: into the top cup and down to the green or over the rocks. *I decide I could easily miss that first cup and play for the rocks, as does Beecroft. We both manage a par three.*

HOLE #10

...is a tricky one where you have to play up to a plateau to get to the final putting green. The trick of course is getting the ball onto the green and keeping it there. We each manage a three putt.

HOLE #11

...is one of the easiest so far. There's a hill on the right side topped with rocks and one

tricky corner where your (OK my) ball could get stuck but other-



Queen studies the green to decide how to hit her ball off the tee.

wise, fairly straightforward. We each manage to score two.

HOLE #12

...is another one with the plateau on top and sand-colored shag carpet on the sides. Hit the ball too hard and it's going back down. "Make sure you get it up there," Beecroft says after his tee shot rolls back off the island. He bogeys it



Steve Beecroft is the Golf Pro at Williamsburg National Golf Course

for a three. *My ball gets voted off the island four times and I finally take a 5, thinking that's the stroke limit here. (Note to Beecroft, I didn't realize until writing this piece with our scorecard in hand that the stroke limit was actually 6. I promise I wasn't cheating)*

HOLE #13

...is a long sock-shaped hill with the hole off to the left with three posts on each side and a waterfall to the right. You don't want to hit your ball in the water. "This one is all about speed," the pro says. He recommends aiming at the back right post. His putts look almost like he intended for a three. *My tee shot is OK, but I rack up the numbers putting and end up with another five. Beecroft tells me I'm pushing the putter and should swing it instead, counting on two inches of follow through for every inch back. Sounds easy. It's not!*

HOLE #14

...is straight ahead on the green with a steep hill and rocks in back. No need to even factor in the hill. Just hit the ball straight

in. Beecroft makes an easy putt for a two and ranks this hole the easiest here. *I continue my less than stellar play for the back nine and end up with a four. It's hot by now - almost mid-day. Maybe I should have a caddie to bring me more water to get me charged up again.*

HOLE #15

...is another sock-shaped hill with a

big break to the left and a hill to the right. We both tee off from the middle, aiming at the flowerpot on the left. Good plan. *Finally I manage three strokes for a par. Beecroft edges one under par. Here's another hole that wasn't as hard as advertised - at least for us.*

HOLE #16

...is on the left of the green with rocks in the back and gentle undulations throughout. "This one's tricky, figuring out which way it's going to

break," Beecroft says. He aims for a brick in the back and gets pretty close, ending up with a two putt. *Another four for me. By now I've convinced myself it's the heat. Surely it couldn't be my skills!*

HOLE #17

...a shrub blocks the view of the cup from the tee and a hill on the right poses a minor challenge. We aim for the bricks in back and the unflagging Beecroft gets a two while I bogey for three. *Only one hole to go.*

HOLE #18

...is the free game hole if you manage a hole in one. It's another two-tiered set-up with one hole up top and the real hole down below. On this one, you have to go for the top hole and hope for a good landing on the green - there are no rocks to do an end run. Beecroft bogeys this one for a three. *I again have trouble on the final putts and end up with a four. No free games for us.*

Final score: the pro, 41 right at par. Me, 59 and 18 over.

My final take on the play:

So there you have it. If you are lucky enough to have a golf pro take you out for a game, you can certainly learn from them. I learned a lot. I just can't do what they tell me! But if you don't have a pro to call, you still have this handy guide. What more could you ask for?

By the way, I'd love to know which one of them hijacked my notebook where I'd written "easiest hole" and left a blank: One of them wrote in "19!" I'll drink to that.



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Stepping Out in Williamsburg

Colonial Road Runners set a challenging pace for healthy summer fun!

By Joe Collins

There's always a certain amount of risk involved in trying to interview someone like Rick Platt, President of the Colonial Road Runners running club in Williamsburg. Rick is a moving target – he has been running since he was 14 years old and runs around 55 miles a week. If he ran that distance every week for all those years, he would have run about 114,400 miles or 4.5 times around the world; no doubt, this would make Rick a man who is definitely in motion.

For a writer whose only habitual running is to the bank or the grocery store, the thought of gasping, sweating, and stumbling after Rick with a mini-recorder in an outstretched hand

as he cruises the streets of Colonial Williamsburg was intimidating.

But as it turns out Rick, who is a highly competitive and seasoned runner, is also

a lot like the running club he leads: equal parts athletic and sociable. So he sat still long enough to tell *Next Door Neighbors* about the Colonial Road Runners running club.

"We have all types of runners from racers to strollers," Rick says, "and we have a lot of fun, a lot of socials." While there are a lot of serious competitors in the club

with a respectable collection of running records to their credit, they all definitely take the time to slow down and enjoy the camaraderie that is fostered by a common passion for running. An often repeated joke is that they are "a bunch of beer drinkers with a running problem!"

The Colonial Road Runners club was started in 1981 by Vernon Geary, a local running legend who was affectionately known as 'The Ancient Marathoner'. Geary was one of

those people who took up running late in life for health reasons and developed both a talent and a passion for the activity. Before long he was running marathons and setting state records in running competitions. Club Founder and President for the first 4 years, Vernon continued to run and spread the joy of running to others in the area until he well into his 80's.

After Vernon the club grew in fits and starts, as any organization will, with a lot of hard working volunteers behind the scenes shaping the club into the organized and highly popular association it is now. Active in the Peninsula Track Club for many years, Rick did not join Colonial Road Runners until 1985. He became president of the club in 1994, and has held that position ever since.

The club now runs 13 organized races a year and boasts over 400 members, men and women from pre-teens to 70 year olds, and still has a lot of socials. The club also has daily runs, interval training on Wednesday nights, tempo runs and long distance runs. In other words, there is something for everybody.

In addition to the significant health advantages that come from a dedicated exercise regimen, the club has a lot of other fringe benefits and it accommodates a variety of running enthusiasts.

As Rick explains, "Not every club member races. Some just like to run and



Tim Haws, Craig Bishop and Connie Glueck compete in the "Salute to the Military" Red, White & Blue 5K Race held in May 2007.



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not compete. We have a broad range of participants from race walkers to strolling walkers. Our club caters to everybody whether they run or walk or any combination in between. And many will join and never race; they like the newsletter for the medical advice and running articles, and club members get a 15% discount from the local running store. For some people if they just buy a couple of pairs of running shoes it more than pays for their membership."

The club journal Rick speaks of is the *Running Dog Journal*, a lively and informative newsletter with a tongue in cheek title fashioned after an old club tradition of running their after interval warm down on the Duke of Gloucester street, affectionately abbreviated to DOG street by college students and locals.

Some runners just starting out might be hesitant about joining an organized running club, wanting to build up their running endurance first. But Rick encourages people to join at any point, even when a novice, so they learn the

right way to run and condition.

Rick and other club members are very conscious and very careful about the risks of injury and are committed to helping others run smart.

"Sometimes the time that you are most susceptible to injury is when you are first starting out. If you start out and do too much too soon you'll get hurt. Most club members help new club



Rick Platt

members with how to run and how much to run."

Running the beautiful tree lined streets of Colonial Williamsburg can be some exhilarating summer fun. And doing it with a group of fun loving runners like the Colonial Runners Club can make it all the better. Perhaps you can join in the personal challenges of some club members who are attempting to run a marathon in every U.S. state or on every continent. Or you can set and share your own personal challenges and inherit an instant group of cheerleaders.

Rick is a heck of a runner and a dedicated Club President who continually sets new challenges for himself. Perhaps *Next Door Neighbors* can suggest a suitable challenge for such an overachieving athlete: with an estimated 114,400 miles (assuming you ran 55 miles a week all these years) you are already 1/3 of the way to the moon; why not go the distance, Rick? Keep on running! ■

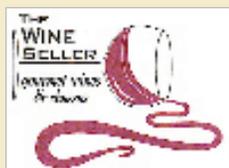
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A Sensory Feast

at the Muscarelle

By Muna Killingback

Something about the calm atmosphere of the Muscarelle Museum soothes you from the moment you walk through the door. Cool air combined with the hush and whisper of museum activity envelopes you as you stroll the exhibits.

This summer, Williamsburg's "hidden gem", as many think of the Muscarelle, is welcoming visitors with two exciting exhibits and programs for both children and adults.

Whether you are a new or long time Williamsburg resident, if you haven't yet visited the Muscarelle this summer may be a good time to start. Many have the impression that the Muscarelle, Williamsburg's only fine art museum, is only for those affiliated with the College of William & Mary. Development Director Sally Wolfe is quick to dispel this misconception.

"The museum may be located on the college campus, but we are also a vital part of the greater community," Wolfe explains. "Its programs, exhibits, and membership are open to the general public. One of the best things about visiting in the summer is that the parking is plentiful and free. It is

such an exciting time at the Muscarelle. So much is up - more classes for children, more musical programs, more exhibitions, more members."

"Visions from the Soul: The German Expressionist Woodcuts of Hans Friedrich Grohs" is one of the two exhibitions on display this summer. Hans Grohs, a noted German Expressionist of the early 20th Century, worked and exhibited along with the foremost German Expressionist artists including Wassily Kandinsky and Paul Klee. The collection includes more than 100 woodcuts, described as "deeply philosophical and filled with raw emotion." This exhibition will run through July 29.

This exhibit will soon be part of the museum's permanent collection, making it the largest acquisition in the museum's history.

"This is a nationally significant acquisition...a collection of amazing quality, depth, and breadth," Dr. Aaron De Groft, Director of the Muscarelle, said.

In researching Grohs, Sibylle Adlung, a Muscarelle docent, has found him to be an artist with a fascinating but sometimes tragic story who remains little known in his native Germany.

"He was Bauhaus trained by Lyonel Feininger," Adlung explained. "He has amazing versatility--he painted beautiful landscapes, he did frescoes, he did woodcuts. He also designed jewelry and clothing—he was interested in everything. His work was not popular with the political leaders of his time, however,

and Grohs was declared to be "degenerate" by the Nazis, and some of his work burned in a public square."

In plenty of time for the 4th of July, the second exhibition is "Stars and Stripes: Rare and Historic American Flags from the Collection of Mark and Rosalind Shenkman". A representative collection of early flags, the exhibit also includes one-of-a-kind examples of campaign flags and printed textiles. A gallery talk given by the collector will be held on July 16 at 5 p.m. It is

The Muscarelle -Williamsburg's hidden gem.



Docent Sibylle Adlung, prepares to lead a tour of the Hans Grohs collection.

free and open to the public. This exhibition is open now and runs through July 29th.

"Viewers will be able to glean a historical overview of our flag," Wolfe remarked. "This exhibit offers a look at the history of our flag, which, surprisingly, lacked a specific design before 1912. This left a lot of room for interpretation and imagination. In fact, for the first 135 years of its existence, the star pattern was left up to the whims of its maker."

Museum staff and volunteers are also looking forward to the July arrival of their new Curator of Education, Amy Gorman. Gorman is a doctoral candidate in art administration and museum education at Florida State University and brings an amazing breadth and wealth of experience in art education.

The Muscarelle is also well-known for its innovative children's art classes and this tradition continues this summer. These classes offer children a unique opportunity to learn about and engage in the current exhibitions and then create their own art reflective of the styles they've seen. Gor-

man will be teaching the first session of the Summer Youth Art Series 2007 for children ages 6 to 8, which is already sold out. Space is still available, however, for Session Two for 9-12 year olds, running July 23-27 from 9 a.m. to noon. Also, it is not too early to register for the fall youth art classes.

For adults who love art, there are many ways to become involved in the Muscarelle, in any season. The docent program provides a year-long training preparing volunteers to give tours to different types of groups. The docents also get specific training for each individual show. The Muscarelle arranges art tours for its docents and brings in art experts--who may be art history professors or curators--to speak to them on a regular basis. Summer is a good time to volunteer for the program, because a new training session will begin in the fall.

According to Wolfe, the docents are

kept busy leading weekly tours as well as speaking to groups visiting the museum ranging in age from pre-school to senior groups. She notes that there is no charge for groups taking tours, and they can come as often as the exhibitions change.

For those who want to be involved in the museum, but not necessarily as a docent, the Muscarelle volunteers are the invisible hand behind many of the museum's workings, helping with administration, special events, and sometimes serving as greet-



Sally Wolfe is Development Director for the Muscarelle Museum.

ers or gallery monitors.

The Muscarelle is located next to Phi Beta Kappa Hall on Jamestown Road. Both frequent and new visitors to this local treasure will appreciate the fine art and learning experiences it brings right to the heart of Williamsburg. One visit to the Muscarelle is all it takes to turn a stranger into an enthusiast. ■

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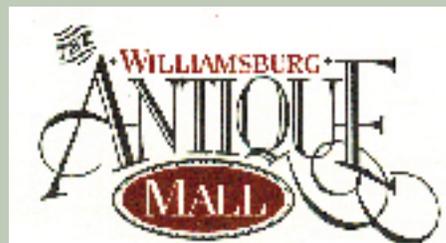
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Reading

THE BIG SHOW AT WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL LIBRARY

By Suzi Drake

At Williamsburg Regional Library, summer reading programs are what youth services director Noreen Bernstein calls “the big show.” While children filter in and out of the library all year long, the summer months are the library’s time to shine by keeping children interested in reading even when there is no homework or pool-side antics beckoning.

“The tradition of summer reading goes back a long ways in libraries,” Bernstein said. “It’s a way of providing fun at no cost, which makes it universally available. It also provides a level of enrichment and, hopefully, a love of reading.”

When it comes to instilling this love of reading, Bernstein and the folks at the Williamsburg Library think it’s never too early to start. Year-round and summer-specific reading programs, which are broken up into age categories, are available for newborns through high school. From “Little Bits,” a lap-sit program for infants, and “B.A.B.Y.,” which teaches new and expectant parents about literacy, to sharing stories with K-9 Connection therapy dogs during “Paws to Read” and Treats for Teen, an alternative reading program for teenagers – what the



Reba Friedrich, Youth Services Librarian, works with Noreen Bernstein to help make reading fun for all ages.

library calls its “Ladder of Literacy” has kids covered.

Referencing recent research by the John Hopkins Center for Summer Learning, Bernstein notes the growing importance of keeping kids’ noses in between the pages during summer vacation.

“When kids don’t read over the summer, they don’t retain their reading level. Sometimes they even backtrack a little,” she said.

When reading continues over the summer, reading levels are sustained, letting

kids pick up right where they left off when the school bell rings in September. In some cases, mostly among second-grade students, summer reading has even given them a little boost. For these reasons, Bernstein and the staff at Williamsburg Regional Library have worked hard, been creative and concocted incentive programs with prizes like Target gift cards designed to keep the kids coming in.

One of the most important aspects of the program is its continued success. Last year, hundreds of children participated in the summer reading program, and Bernstein is expecting even more

this year.

“We are growing with the community,” she said. “We are lucky enough to have a very active library community. We have good programs, good support and good use by our community.”

The star of the summer reading program is the “Wheel of Reading,” which gives summertime readers the chance to spin a wheel of prizes for every 150 pages they log. For younger students, reading during the summer isn’t a solo project. Each time they finish a book, they earn some one-on-one time with a library staffer to discuss

what they've read.

"As kids get older, they don't necessarily want to meet with someone. For them we have 'Treats for Teens,'" Bernstein said. In this program, teenagers fill out a short book review for each book they complete and submit it for a chance to win a weekly drawing for prizes.

In addition to incentive programs, the library has organized a stellar activity calendar filled with weekly theater and cultural programs that welcome storytellers, puppeteers, artists, magicians, museum groups and even animals into the library.

"Last summer we had a llama in here," Bernstein said. "So there is a lot of activity in the library during the summer. These programs keep regulars coming back, bring in new kids and are a lot of fun."

For kids who have already discovered the joys of the library, summer volunteer opportunities are available for rising 8th graders thru 12th graders. Junior library volunteers will help younger children with summer reading programs, volunteering as little as two hours per week.

The summer reading program runs through August. Children and teens are in-

vited to participate as often as they like.

"We want children to learn that the library is a good place to be," Bernstein said. "A place where someone will help them find the answers to all the peculiar queries they can come up with and a place where someone will help them find a book they will actually like."

For a complete list of summer and on-going youth library programs, story times and activities, visit online at www.wrl.org.

Not just for kids, Williamsburg Regional Library has a slew of activities for its more mature patrons. Photography, poetry, technology, music, art and film are all part of its adult programming.

The "Dewey Decibel" concert series brings musicians to the library's theater to perform jazz, classical and popular music during free performances throughout the summer. Poetry forums, photography and computer classes, film screenings and more are offered year round at the library.

There is even a summer incentive program, "Goodies for Grown-Ups," that rewards adult with gift certificates for diligent reading. ■

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If the weather is good, the performance and games will be outside, so bring your lawn chairs and bottled water. The concert is free, so come out and have a good time with your friends. For more information call 757-258-9701 or visit: www.kingofglorywilliamsburg.org

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www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/yor.shtml

First Assembly Day Commemoration

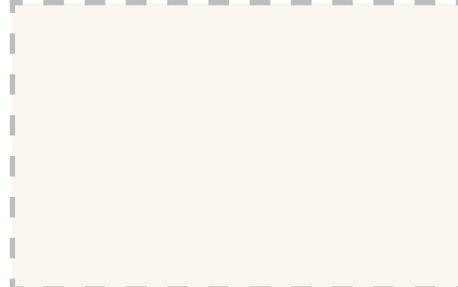
Historic Jamestowne - July 30th
The National Park Service and APVA Preservation Virginia commemorate the anniversary of the meeting of the first legislative assembly in English speaking North America at Historic Jamestowne. A variety of exhibits, walking tours and living history presentations will explore the significance of the first meeting of elected officials in the colony of Virginia.
For more information visit: www.gowilliamsburg.com

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Dr. John Whitley,
Williamsburg

A. "My wife and I enjoy taking advantage of the different courses that are offered through William & Mary and we try to tie in when we can with some of the Elderhostel events that are sponsored here. We also enjoy just getting out and experiencing the many wonderful places you can just walk to. We are within 5 minutes of Christiana Campbells so we can discover Duke of Gloucester, we can see the Capitol - when there are people when there are not people. It's just getting a different look at what's happening in this wonderful city."

in the open

Q. What do you do for fun in Williamsburg during the summer?



Charlie Daw,
Williamsburg

A. "Drink beer and barbeque in the back yard."



Lauredan Sawyer,
Williamsburg

A. "I have a lot of kids and we usually have to be tight on money, so we usually get a whole bunch of bubbles, we get shaving cream, we get a Slip 'N Slide. We get water balloons and we hook up the hose, the water slide, the water balloons, the shaving cream all over the kids. Sometimes I even take tempura paint and paint designs on them, let it dry and see if they can Slip 'N Slide it off. It makes mushy, wierd colors and shapes on them. I'll do it theme oriented for the month. At 4th of July I painted flags on their stomachs one time. We took pictures of it. It was really cool."



Rosanne Reddin,
Williamsburg

A. "I like to go to the Air Force Concerts in the Merchant's Square during the summer. They're excellent. The musicians are wonderful. And I just love walking around and looking at the beautiful folaiage in Williamsburg. That is one reason we moved here. The Farmers' Market is great fun and there are lots of interesting dogs to view."

Ken Reddin,
Williamsburg

A. "We like nature so we go to various areas where there's bird watching. There is so many cultural events in Williamsburg, concerts - July 4th really makes you feel good. This is where it really all started."



Brian Callery,
Williamsburg

A. "I enjoy fishing at Waller Mill, which is a park in Williamsburg. I also enjoy going to the outlets, the outlet mall - just for the cheap prices. I love it there. Also, I would have to say, just hanging out at my neighbor's pool. Just getting some sun. We hang out. We throw down a little food on the grill and everything, so it's just like a little shindig. That's about it."

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