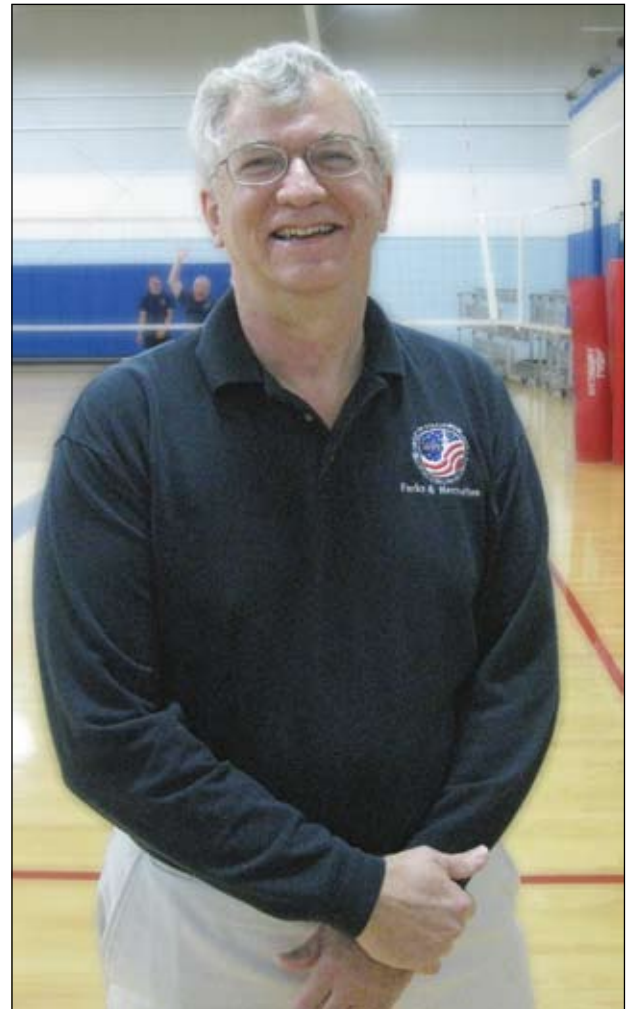


Community Recreation

Lewis Edwards
Williamsburg Parks & Recreation



by Greg Lilly, Lifestyle Editor

Summer can be a crowded time at home. Children enjoying their time off from school tend to run out of ideas as July rolls around. The area Parks and Recreation departments have plenty of options for enjoying all Williamsburg, James City County and York County have to offer. Lewis Edwards is a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Williamsburg and he has a few suggestions to get you out of the house this summer.

The Parks and Recreation department was established in 1969, according to Lewis, to make recreational activities available to all residents. Pools,

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*Based on a stratified sample of 94 men over a six-year period.



invites you to complete our Community Survey

You can win one of three incentive prizes* - \$100, \$150 or \$250 - by simply completing the survey below!

For your convenience, you can complete the survey either of two ways: Visit www.waarealtor.com and click on "Community Survey" OR Complete the paper survey below and mail to: Williamsburg Area Association of Realtors® (WAAR), 5000 New Point Rd. Suite 1101, Williamsburg, VA 23188

***Only surveys that are 100% complete will be eligible for the incentive prize drawings.**

NOTE: The Deadline for both online and mailed surveys is Wednesday, June 30th.

1. Do you own or rent your home?

- Own
- Rent

2. Are you currently in the market for a home?

- Yes
- No

a. If yes, do you plan to purchase a home sometime in the next -

- 3 to 6 months
- 6 to 12 months
- 1 to 2 years
- Other (please describe)

b. If no, have you purchased a home -

- In 2005 or after
- Prior to 2005
- Never have purchased a home

3. When you are in the market for a home, what resources do you find most useful in helping you to shop for a home? (Please rate from 1 - most helpful, to 7 - least helpful.)

- ___ Print publications
- ___ Internet websites
- ___ A Real Estate company website
- ___ Real Estate agent websites
- ___ Real Estate related brochures, direct mail or post cards received in the mail
- ___ Contacting a Real Estate company
- ___ Contacting a Real Estate agent

4. What websites do you regularly visit when searching for a home? (please describe)

- Don't use the Internet

5. What publications do you typically read on a regular basis? (Select all that apply)

- The Virginia Gazette
- The Daily Press
- The Toano/Norge Times
- Williamsburg Magazine
- Next Door Neighbors
- Williamsburg Health Journal

- Homes & Land
- The Home Pages
- Other (please describe)

6. At what point in the home buying process did you enlist the services of a Realtor®?

- From the very beginning; I enlisted the services of a Realtor® to lead me through the entire process.
- After I had looked at some homes for sale in print
- After I had looked at some homes for sale online
- After I had driven through some neighborhoods
- After I had received something in the mail
- After I had located one or more homes that I was ready to walk through
- Other (please describe)

7. How did you select a Realtor®?

- Referral from another person
- Realtor® was a friend or acquaintance
- I selected a real estate company; selecting the individual agent is not as important
- I examined their credentials and experience
- I formulated an opinion based on what I read about a real estate agent in print or on the Internet
- I contacted the Realtor® on a specific listing
- I met my Realtor® at an open house
- Other (please describe)

8. How important was it for you to work with a Realtor® when you bought or sold your home?

- Extremely important
- Very important
- Somewhat important

- Not very important
- Why was it important?
(please describe)

OR...not important?
(please describe)

9. What qualities did you look for in the Realtor® who represented you as a Seller? (List in priority order.)

- Knowledge of current sales trends and how to price a home
- Strong customer service and communication skills
- How to market your home effectively in print and on the Internet
- Company affiliation
- Credentials and / or Realtor® designations
- History of success
- Other (please describe)

10. What qualities did you look for in the Realtor® who represented you as a Buyer? (List in priority order.)

- Knowledge of current sales trends and pricing of homes for sale
- Strong customer service, communication and negotiating skills
- Knows how to show you homes that match your personal taste and requirements
- Credentials and / or Realtor® designations
- History of success
- Provides consistent relevant information that helps you through the search process
- Other (please describe)

- GENDER**
- Male
 - Female

- AGE**
- Under 18
 - 18 to 24
 - 25 to 34
 - 35 to 49
 - 50 to 64
 - 65+

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 to \$50,000
- \$50,000 to \$75,000
- \$75,000 to \$100,000
- \$100,000+

MARITAL STATUS

- Single
- Married
- Other

HOME RESIDENCE

_____ Zip Code

*NAME _____

*PHONE _____

*EMAIL _____

**Name, phone and email information will be used solely for the purpose of contacting the winners of the drawings.*

Thank you for your participation in this survey.

Any information you provide for this survey will be kept strictly confidential and will not be used by WAAR or its members in marketing. WAAR members and their families are not eligible for incentive prizes.

Prize winners will be notified in July 2010 and the list of winners will be published and posted at www.waarealtor.com. Questions may be directed to info@waarealtor.com or call (757) 253-0028.

sports leagues, parks and classes gave people the opportunity to enjoy new activities. "Between the three jurisdictions [Williamsburg, James City County and York County]," Lewis says, "I think we have a lot to offer people."

Lewis graduated from North Carolina State University with a major in Recreation Administration. "Actually," he adds, "I had a double major. The first one was Sociology." So while studying Sociology, Lewis found himself in a lazy summer between semesters. "The town had an opening in the Recreation department to help run playgrounds, baseball leagues and open play during the summer," he explains. "I did that for three summers. I enjoyed it so much, I decided to also major in Parks and Recreation Administration."

He came to Williamsburg for an internship. "And they couldn't get rid of me," he adds with a laugh. Lewis has been with the city for 35 years. "I started off part-time for a couple of years. As an intern, I worked in several different areas, officiating or score keeping ball games. I worked out of Waller Mill Park as a park attendant – a little taste of everything."

During the winters, Lewis worked around town until a full-time position opened up.

"That first full-time position was as Athletic Supervisor," he says. "One of my initial accomplishments was that I helped start the tennis program and leagues. Back then, in the 1970s, tennis was really popular."

In his thirty-five years, Lewis has seen many

"People like to have their leisure, time to blow off steam, relieve stress. We offer a good program at a good value."

- Lewis Edwards

sports ride the wave of popularity. He says it usually happens when the Olympics feature a sport or a charismatic star athlete emerges to capture people's attention. "That's wonderful when people try new sports," he adds.

"We continued the tennis leagues then we started the volleyball program," he says. "The very first season we had ten teams."

Neither the Olympics, nor a charming national athlete spurred this interest. "I guess

what kicked it off was we offered a co-ed volleyball program," he says. At one point, the league had ninety teams. "Which is remarkable for this size community," Lewis adds. "Along with the co-ed league, we branched out to men's and women's leagues too."

Today, the Parks and Recreation department offers a wide variety of programs. "We do classes in ballroom dancing, belly dancing, Tai Chi, Tae-Kwon-Do, yoga, art classes, swimming, and sports-related classes, camps, and clinics for things like tennis, basketball, volleyball and softball," Lewis explains.

He says that many people who want to get out of the house and try some new activities will try tennis. "It's a good activity to try since you don't need to have a team," he says, "just a partner. There are usually lots of courts available around town." He coordinates tennis classes for the beginner up to the intermediate level. "We also offer leagues if you want to get into the competitive part of it."

Volleyball is another activity where different levels of play are available. "If you feel hesitant," he says, "you can start in the C level, which is the beginner's league." Tennis and volleyball are his suggestions for couples who

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are looking for sports to do together.

For a less competitive endeavor, Lewis says the classes are a nice way to sample different activities to discover where your interests fall. "Tai Chi is popular with all ages," he states. "The counties have large offerings too. Between the three jurisdictions, we offer a big selection of classes and programs that fit just about any taste."

On the other end of the competitive scale, there are several options for the spirited athlete. "Softball and basketball leagues are competitive," he says. "Our basketball program is probably the most popular youth program. We have 80 to 100 teams. That's from ages six up to high school. For adults, softball is most popular. There are 40 to 50 teams in the summer, and the fall league has about 30 teams. We offer both men's and women's leagues."

Although all the programs are popular, Lewis says the up-and-coming sport is youth volleyball. The league is fast growing and Lewis's choice sport. "It's my favorite because it's a great team sport, and you have a net separating you from your opponents," he says with a grin, "so it's a little more civil than some other competitive sports."

Another aspect that Lewis likes about vol-

leyball is that the action is spread around to all the players. Everyone gets involved. "When the ball is in play, you can't hide," he says. "You don't know where it's going to go. You have to be ready for it."

Besides getting the family out of the house, the recreational offerings pump up cardiovascular benefits from the exercise. As a community activity, the classes and leagues build friendships and camaraderie from interacting with neighbors. "And there's the personal benefit," Lewis adds, "the satisfaction of increasing your skills and getting better at the activity."

The youth leagues have had steady growth each year, according to Lewis. "And despite the economy, we have the most adult teams for basketball and volleyball leagues as we've had in eight or ten years." His interpretation of that trend is that "people like to have their leisure, time to blow off steam, relieve stress. We offer a good program at a good value."

One of Lewis's personal projects is working on the Sports Committee of the Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance. "We're trying to attract sporting events to the area. It's a good way to diversify our economy." Regional sports tournaments, races and competitions

find the required infrastructure in Williamsburg. Hotel rooms, restaurants, shopping, and before and after-match leisure activities are abundant in the area. "It's a matter of getting people to work together to promote Williamsburg as a sports event destination," Lewis explains. "We held the Revolutionary Rumble Volleyball Tournament here with 155 teams from five states. Each girl brought in an average of two to three family members with her. Each child brings in hundreds of dollars in economic impact."

Lewis describes Williamsburg as having a small town flavor, but with a cosmopolitan feel. "I love Williamsburg," he says. "It's a great place to live."

For all his years in Parks and Recreation, Lewis has a simple philosophy:

"I've always enjoyed seeing people having fun. I enjoy being a public servant and giving people the opportunity to play. Generally, you see people in their best light when they're having a good time." NDN

To learn more about Parks & Recreation opportunities in our area visit:

www.williamsburgva.gov/rec
www.jccegov.com/recreation

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