

March 2010

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VOL. 4, ISSUE 3

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County Administrator**



Jack Tuttle

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Diana Hutchens

Bill Corvello



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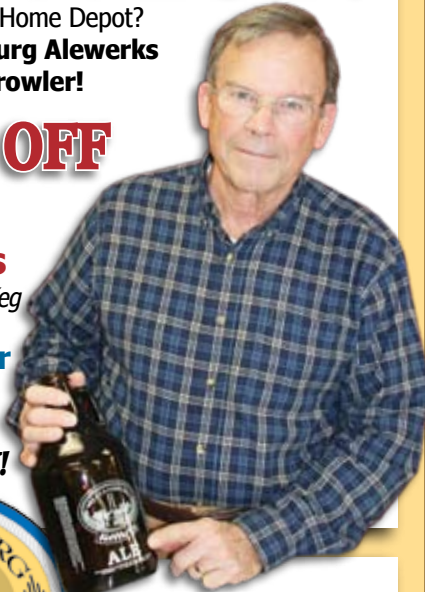

Meredith Collins, Publisher

In this issue we bring you some of your friends and neighbors who are in public service. These individuals work for (or are retired from) a government department or agency. They have pursued their life's work with great interest, vigor and commitment. They have worked with their colleagues to champion new ideas, implement new processes and find new solutions to problems that impact our community. Yet despite some of the challenges, they have enjoyed their devotion to public service and would not have had it any other way.

Today, we face economic hardship that touches us all. Those in public service are generally forced to become even more resourceful since they must find a way to accomplish their goals with fewer funds and limited manpower to try to meet the needs of the public they serve. As you will discover in this issue, these same individuals are not only finding ways to do more in their jobs but they also are providing service to others outside of their work through volunteering.

The people we interviewed for this issue have made public service their focus over many years - even decades. I expect if you ask them, they would tell you they made a choice to serve the public because they believe their actions can make a difference - even during trying times. As you read their stories I hope you will gain an appreciation for their passion and commitment to their work and to us, the citizens they serve. NDN

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SANDY WANNER

A Man of Good Works

By Lillian Stevens

For the past 13 years, Sanford (Sandy) Wanner has served as County Administrator for James City County, a post he will relinquish in August when he retires. Having guided the county into a new age during one of the most challenging economic times in recent history, he will be leaving large shoes to fill.

“Sandy has been an uncommon public administrator and leader,” says James Oliver, Chairman of the Hampton Roads Center for Civic Engagement and a former colleague in Crossroads, a collaborative venture between local governments and major institutions in the Williamsburg area. “He strikes a perfect balance between competent administrator and visionary leader. And his commitment to listening to citizens is unequalled in county administrator ranks. Sandy is just one decent, capable human being.”



As the Chief Executive Officer of James City County, Wanner is responsible for developing the annual budget, a difficult undertaking even in sound fiscal times. He also directs policies and makes recommendations to the Board of

Supervisors.

He is known for his extraordinary preparedness and patience – and enthusiasm for the place he has called home for nearly thirty years.

“Williamsburg is a great place to live, work, and play,” Wanner says with a broad smile. “Our residents enjoy quality infrastructure and an array of services, many of which are made possible by the County’s great partnerships with the City, the College, Colonial Williamsburg and other neighbors,” he says.

Wanner is the area’s biggest fan. “I’m a great believer in regionalism and local partnerships,” he says. “I’m very proud of our schools and of our library system – one of the best in the Commonwealth! I’m proud of the regional jail and of our green spaces and recreational facilities. And I am very proud of our emergency response capabilities – tested during the ice storm



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of 1998 and then again by Hurricane Floyd and Hurricane Isabel.”

Wanner’s background in education coupled with a long and distinguished military career provided the perfect foundation for the assignment. He holds an undergraduate degree in Education and a Masters in Administration from Trenton State Teachers College in New Jersey, and George Washington University, respectively. He served for 21 years in the U.S. Marine Corps - including two tours of Vietnam - where he received the Bronze Star with Combat V, eighteen Strike-Flight Air Medals, and a Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Upon retirement from the Marine Corps, Wanner worked in the administration of the Fredericksburg and Williamsburg-James City County public school systems, and in 1985 became the General Manager of the James City Service Authority where he

“Perhaps the biggest challenge has been just keeping up with the expectations of the growing population.”

- Sandy Wanner

oversaw development of the Ware Creek Reservoir and the James City-Williamsburg Recreation Center.

Five years later, he became Assistant County Administrator of James City County and in 1996 he took over as the County Administrator.

“Perhaps the biggest challenge has been just keeping up with the expectations of the growing population,” Wanner says. “There is an expectation from people who have relocated from other places where they might have had higher taxes but other services, like trash pickup or streets plowed when it snows. Then they come to our county – which is still in transition with a lot of rural parts and character – and they enjoy that lifestyle but they do not want their taxes raised.”

Wanner has also been a vital player in Crossroads, which was launched in the late 1990’s by Timothy Sullivan, President-emeritus of the College of William and Mary. In that capacity, he has been an advocate for projects very important to the community such as the development of New Town, the rebirth of the Sentara Williamsburg Hospital property, and the future of Eastern State Hospital.

W. Taylor Reveley, III, President of the College of William and Mary says, “Sandy has been called the perfect county administrator. A man to whom responsibility for getting things done relentlessly falls, but for whom credit and acclaim is never the object. Sandy is living proof that amazing progress can be made if you don’t care who gets the accolades, only that good work be done.”

An Eagle Scout at the age of sixteen, Wanner credits scouting, his parents and his service in the Marine Corps for fostering a sense of public



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Presented by Ed Golden, President

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service that has lead him through his career.

"My dad was very involved in community activities and he worked in California for local government. He used to say 'all people really want is be listened to. You can tell them 'no' but they really just want to know that someone listened.' So I've tried during my tenure to be very visible in the community and talk to a lot of different people," Wanner says.

Though he has found it arduous at times keeping up with the expectations of the population, he thoroughly enjoys working with his staff and colleagues.

"I am fortunate to work with a really talented staff. And I'm particularly proud of improvements we've made in technology and communications. We are even on Facebook!"

Wanner has many accomplishments that he can be proud of, but his first project is one that he fondly remembers. "It has been wonderful, also, to acquire some really critical pieces of property ranging from the Chickahominy Riverfront Park to the acreage which is now Warhill Sports Complex which, by the way, was my very first acquisition as County Administrator," he says.

Yet beyond the good work he does for the County, there are untold hours of service to our local community. Wanner has served as a member of the boards of directors of the Greater Williamsburg United Way, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Williamsburg, and the Colonial Chapter of the American Red Cross. He was president of the Jamestown 4-H Center and of the board of Child Development Resources. He is currently a member of the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail Authority, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, Virginia Peninsula Public Service Authority, Peninsula Sports Facility Authority, the Historic Triangle Funders Forum, and the Board of Trustees for the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation. Also, for the past ten years, he has served as chairman of the First Colony District Colonial Virginia Council Boy Scouts of America.

Wanner and his wife Judy have four children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

"Judy has provided day care for the local grandchildren from day one, now over 17 years. She is a terrific 'Meme'," he marvels.

He also applauds his granddaughter's service as president of Warhill High School's Key Club.

"My granddaughter has applied to college and on the essay part of the application – of all of the things she could have written about – she chose to write about how I inspire her. She wrote about my service and my philosophies about volunteering and the importance of taking care of your community."

"That really touched me," Wanner says.

With such a stellar career almost behind him, what comes next?

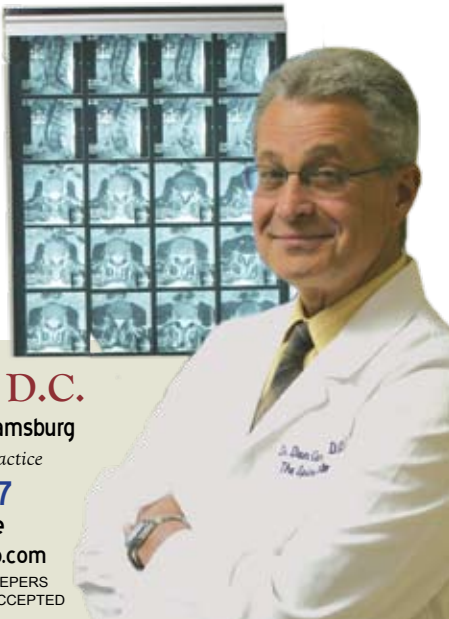
"I will continue to work – just part-time and without a fixed schedule. I might be a substitute teacher or I might work in a library. But when Judy and I want to go to Disney World – I want to know that we can get away for a weekend without missing any meetings!" NDN

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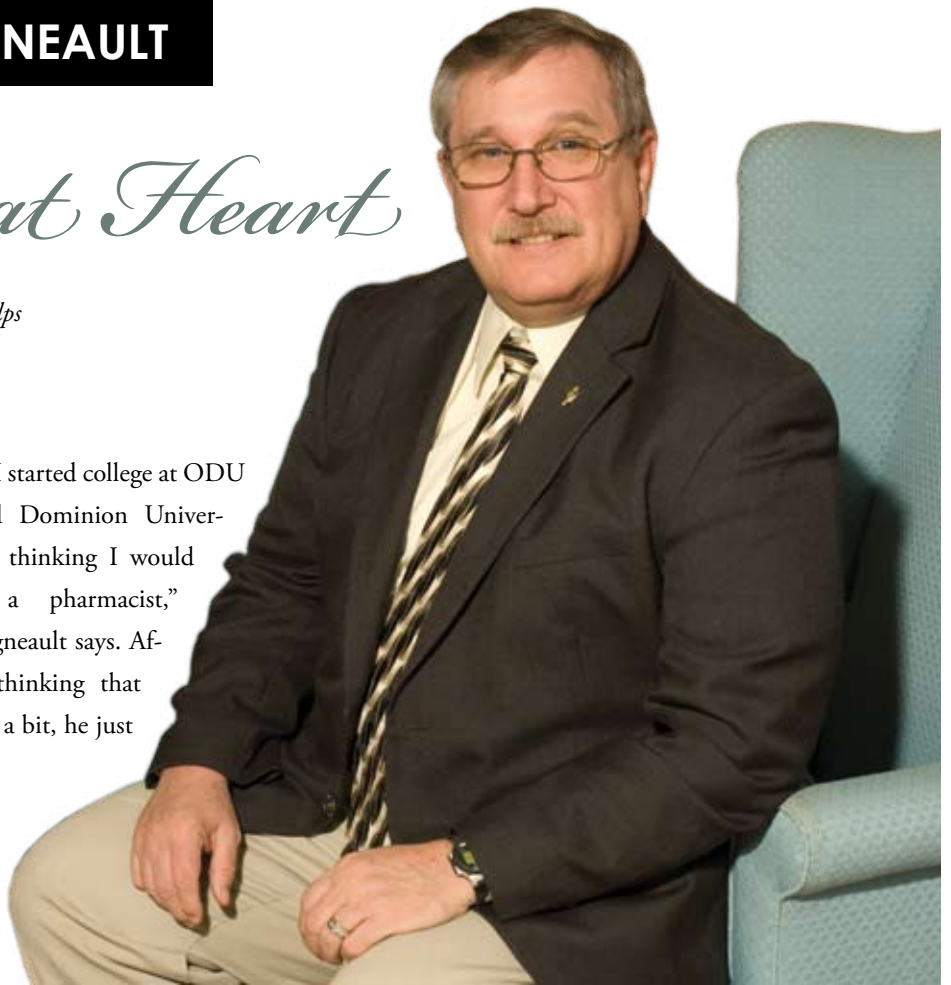
DAVID DAIGNEAULT

A Servant at Heart

By Linda Phelps

You might say that he was born to serve. Retired James City County Chief of Police David Daigneault has long felt that his life's purpose was to help others. His interest goes back to his childhood in Massachusetts where he idolized his neighbor who was a policeman. However, as a child he could never imagine that the path of public service would lead to chasing criminals through the thick forests of Virginia, strolling down the dusty alleys of a Guatemalan city, assisting in the rescue of Cambodian children from prostitution and slavery, and eventually to ordained ministry.

"I started college at ODU [Old Dominion University] thinking I would be a pharmacist," Daigneault says. After thinking that over a bit, he just



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couldn't see himself doing that job for the rest of his life. "Then I thought I might like teaching, but it was the Vietnam era and I dropped out of school and joined the Army," he continues. "I came back home to Virginia, where my family had lived since I was 12 years old. It was 1975 and I was 22 and working a construction job when I got an opportunity to interview with the Williamsburg Police Department."

The interview went well and Daigneault's career as a law enforcement officer began. It wouldn't end for thirty eventful years.

"I figured in a little town of about ten thousand people there wouldn't be much action, but my first day on the job was pretty exciting," he says. "I walked through the door to report for duty and the sergeant said, 'Here's your gun and badge. Let's go!' Two escapees from a half-way house for juveniles had stolen an AR-15, an assault rifle similar to the military's M-16. I knew what an M-16 could do from being in the service, and with no training or tracking experience, it would be my job to catch them. I tracked them through the trees and briars

and tore the dickens out of my new uniform pants. I guess they sort of lost their enthusiasm for escaping after a few hours of being chased through the woods and they wound up returning on their own, but it made a memorable first day of work."

Daigneault worked in Williamsburg for the next two years, and then for 28 more in James City County. He was a true example of a public servant during the course of his long career.

"I've always looked at law enforcement more as serving the people than enforcing the laws," he says. "The best part of my job was when I was the JCC Crime Prevention Officer because when you're doing your job well, it keeps people safe and happy."

Daigneault's dedication and hard work led to many promotions, coming steadily until he achieved the rank of Chief of Police. But soon after that pinnacle an event occurred that would dramatically change the course of his life.

Daigneault had only been Chief for a year when he suffered a minor stroke in 2001. "I

was out of work for 16 days and then went back," he says. "I remember I was walking around one night, looking up at the stars and having a conversation in my head with God, wondering what that experience was meant to teach me. There was no actual voice I heard, but the message came loud and clear. 'I've let you do it your way for 50 years, Dave; now I want you to try it my way.'"

Daigneault listened to his calling. "If you had told me back then that in a few years I'd be a Protestant minister, I'd probably have demanded you take a drug test," he jokes. However, Daigneault was ready to start doing it God's way when Police Chaplain Randy Garner invited him to attend Christ Community Church, a Wesleyan congregation.

"Wesleyans began as Methodists, but splintered off over the slavery issue around the time of the Civil War. I was raised a Catholic," he explains, "so at first the notion of being born again was pretty strange to me, but I made a decision to follow Christ. In 2004 I went on my first mission trip to Guatemala. It was such

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a good feeling, working with a team of other Christians to teach Sunday School and help build a new wing for a school. That experience led me to realize that I wanted to retire from law enforcement and devote myself to serving God through serving His people.”

The stroke left Daigneault with a mild aphasia which means he sometimes has to pause to search for a word before he can speak; thus, preaching is difficult for him. However, his considerable skills in administration are coming in very handy as he works with Pastor Randy Garner as Assistant Pastor at Christ Community Church, which he has seen grow from 20 to 30 members to 150 regular attendees. As do most people on staff at a small church, Daigneault wears a lot of different hats.

“I’m the church treasurer, vice-chairman of the Local Board of Administration, Short Term Missions Coordinator for the Shenandoah District and I’m on the Missions Committee,” Daigneault says. “My heart is really in the missions aspect of service. I’ve gone on two trips to Louisiana to help Katrina victims, tak-

ing big tractor trailers full of clothing, food, and supplies. Then I went to Cambodia once with World Hope, and three times with an organization called International Justice Mission, a human rights agency that secures justice for victims of slavery and sexual exploitation.” Daigneault’s job was to teach the National Police Force methods that would ensure a functioning public justice system.

“Investigative skills are important,” says Daigneault, “but more important were lessons in ethics. When I first went there, police officers were paid about \$25.00 a month, and some of them felt that they had to accept enough bribes to make that a livable wage. They have since doubled their salaries, but it’s still not really enough for them to live on.”

Another area of concern is child prostitution. “Child prostitution is big business in Cambodia,” Daigneault says sadly. “Families sometimes sell their children into brothels, but most of the time children as young as five are kidnapped and forced into sexual slavery, and kept in line with beatings and threats of

death.”

In another corner of the world, Daigneault has thought about what he can do to serve in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. His concern is for securing some comfort for the comforters.

“I’ve made some calls to offer to do some counseling for the first responders to the disaster,” Daigneault says. “I’ve had training in stress management, and people will have been traumatized by what they’ve experienced while helping recover bodies and dealing with the misery there.”

In Christian circles, one of the highest possible accolades would be to say that a selfless person has “a servant’s heart”. From serving in the U.S. Army, protecting the citizens of James City County, or praying with and for suffering people, it’s clear that when Daigneault completes his three years of study and is ordained as a minister this July it may be just a formality. Daigneault’s entire life has been a ministry in the truest sense of the word. NDN

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DIANA HUTCHENS

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"There is a defining moment in every person's life.

Within that moment, everything a person is shines its brightest."

- Anonymous

By Ryan Jones

Most of us can look back over our lives and pick out moments that have shaped who we are and what we believe. The flashes of inspiration we recall are commonly referred to as defining moments, or "a point at which the essential character of a person is revealed or identified." For Diana Hutchens, such defining moments are easy to recall as she takes time to reflect on the people and places that have helped kindle a genuine desire to reach out to help others in her community - both as a public servant and as a neighbor.

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Hutchens, who has been serving for the past 15 years as Director of the James City County Department of Social Services, finds that helping area residents is rewarding on many different levels. "It's a humbling job to have, and it's an honor to have it," she says enthusiastically. "I enjoy working with people that care about other people. On any given day, there is something very fulfilling in being able to help people have the basics, to make their quality of life a little better."

Hutchens' path to public service started in the early 1960's. She thoughtfully remembers her childhood in Dandy, a small village located southeast of Williamsburg along the banks of the York River. Though raised in a moderately thriving household typical of the times, Hutchens recalls frequent visits to out-of-town relatives who were not as fortunate.

"My father's family was from Appalachia," Hutchens reminisces. "When we went back to Kentucky, it was like going to a different world. Even as a young girl, I was astounded by the

poverty." Hutchens remembers being deeply affected by the sparse living conditions, recalling that children often played outdoor ball games with slat boards because they couldn't afford baseball bats. "They didn't even know who the

““ On any given day, there is something very fulfilling in being able to help people have the basics, to make their quality of life a little better. ””

- Diana Hutchens

Beatles were!" she remarks, revisiting impressions that were formed in her young mind by the bleak economic climate of the area. "That was where I first started thinking about helping

people."

At home in York County, Hutchens committed herself to hard work and service as she approached her teenage years. While attending nearby York High School, she served as a co-chair with the March of Dimes and volunteered her free time at Eastern State Hospital. After graduating, she enrolled at the College of William and Mary as a full time student, making her way through a hectic schedule that demanded a large portion of her waking hours.

"I worked 30 hours a week when school was in and more when school was out," Hutchens says, remembering college life without the benefit of student loans. "I used to have to get my roommates to check the textbooks I needed out of the library for me, because textbooks were beyond what I could afford."

Despite spending all of her free time at work, Hutchens' financial situation did not improve as she worked toward receiving her Bachelor's degree in Sociology. Realizing that her best efforts at self-reliance would not be enough, she



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sought help at the area's social services facility. Unfortunately, the experience was not pleasant; Hutchens remembers leaving the office feeling disillusioned with the concept of public assistance after enduring the social worker's less than sensitive attitude.

"I was made to feel horrible for asking for help," Hutchens recalls. "I don't think it was an accident that my first job out of college a few months later was as a food stamp worker."

Fortunately, Hutchens would be given many opportunities over the next 34 years to make improvements in the varying social service agencies she would represent. Preserving the dignity of those who receive public assistance has been

just one of many important elements of Hutchens' work ethic as she serves residents. Her strong leadership and positive attitude have contributed to her 31 years with James City County and her 15 year tenure as Director of JCC

“I've been given a lot of opportunity to develop management and leadership skills, and I feel like this is something I can do that would pay back to the organization.”

- Diana Hutchens

Social Services, a position that currently manages all of the 19 programs that comprise the county's social service organization. As a result of county government downsizing, Hutchens has also been given the chance to experience different occupational roles as she fulfills duties in her most recent stewardship - Manager of Community Services. This position enlarges Hutchens' duties of overseeing JCC Social Services operations with three other important divisions: Parks and Recreation, Housing and Community Development, and Colonial Community Corrections.

"I've been given a lot of opportunity to develop management and leadership skills, and I feel like this is something I can do that would pay back to the organization," says Hutchens, reflecting on some of her new responsibilities. "They've invested a lot of time in me, and I want to make sure I'm of value to them. I have enjoyed these new challenges - and the times have never been more challenging. I have really enjoyed learning more about the Parks and Recreation, going to the Before and After School programs and seeing them firsthand, and learning more about the value of Pre-trial Services."

Among other things, Hutchens recalls being impressed with the efficiency of the Before and After School programs as she has spent time visiting schools throughout the county.

"It has become a service that many parents rely on," she says, apprecia-

tive of her opportunity to work in the program. "At least 100 people are registered at Stonehouse Elementary. It's amazing how orderly it is. The rec [recreation] leaders are there to help with homework, art activities, whatever the kids need to be doing."

In addition to tending to a smorgasbord of regular work activity, Hutchens also spends time serving on the Board of Directors for the Colonial Services Board, a regional organization created to facilitate opportunities for recovery and resiliency to individuals and families affected by mental illness, mental retardation, and substance-use disorders.

Hutchens is quick to credit those around her for helping her to manage a variety of roles in public service. "I'm just very appreciative that the people I work with are dedicated professionals," she says. "That's what makes it possible for me to wear all of these different hats. Without them, I wouldn't stand a chance of succeeding at this job."

To counterbalance her busy work schedule, Hutchens frequently looks forward to spending time on the water with her husband, Terry. "We have a boat over in Gloucester," she explains. "In good weather, we spend long weekends on the boat. We actually go over every weekend and stay at least one night. We can be out in the Chesapeake Bay or the ocean in less than an hour."

Hutchens says that Terry, a 30 year veteran of law enforcement, has been supportive of her career over the years. "Terry did a lot of public service, so he has a total appreciation of my job," she says, quipping that her husband has also developed an appreciation for an occasional round of golf since his retirement two years ago. Looking outside at the cold rain dripping off of her office window, Hutchens chuckles sympathetically, envisioning Terry's expression as he comes to terms with a less than idyllic Monday morning. "It doesn't look like he'll be going out today," she says.

As Hutchens prepares to leave her neatly organized office and spend another day in the service of James City County, it is evident that the defining moments that have shaped her character over the years have inadvertently helped to make the Williamsburg area a better place to call home. First-hand experience with adversity has provided Hutchens with the perfect mixture of empathy and determined commitment needed to successfully manage services that are a beacon of light to many in the midst of our small town. Hutchens smiles as she walks with seasoned confidence down the brightly-lit hallway into the midst of another busy work-week.

"It's a wonderful place to be a part of," she says proudly. "All around me, everyday, there are people helping other people." With inspiring images like these in mind, Hutchens and her dedicated staff at the JCC Community Services greet each day as a new opportunity to find a moment that will meaningfully define their strong commitment to making our community a better place - one resident at a time.

"Within that moment," an anonymous author once observed, "everything a person is shines its brightest." NDN

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Dick Ferris

Answers from your Estate Planning Attorneys at Ferris & Associates, P.C.

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Almost everyone knows of a divorce and remarriage situation where children from different marriages form a new family unit. These family units – blended families – have INCREASED over the last twenty-five years. There are inherent estate planning issues and potential problems awaiting the UNINFORMED blended family at the death of a spouse.

For example, the husband dies and the new wife receives all her husband's assets from a previous marriage due to his "boiler-plate" Will. Or, a wife commingles her assets with a new husband in joint ownership with rights of survivorship. At the wife's death, the new husband receives all of the wife's assets by operation of law (right of survivorship). The unfortunate results of these examples are the children of the prior marriage are unintentionally disinherited at their parent's death.

When asked, most people in a blended family situation will explain that if they should die, they want to provide for the new spouse during the spouse's life; and at their spouse's death, they want any remaining inheritance to be distributed to their children from a previous marriage. More importantly, they would like to have the peace of mind knowing that precious family heirlooms, passed down through the blood-lines of the previous generations, stay in the family and do not find their way into the hands of the new spouse's heirs, who will not appreciate the family/sentimental value inherent in these items.

Blended families have available to them various strategies which, coordinated together, will achieve their desired goals and objectives. Here are some planning ideas

that can work well for blended family situations:

1. Establish a Prenuptial Agreement or a Post-Nuptial Agreement to address certain specific property rights by the parties and who should receive the assets such as IRAs and life insurance proceeds at death.
2. Be aware of Virginia's Augmented Estate Law that provides for a surviving spouse, in absence of a Pre or Post Nuptial Agreement, the right to elect a spousal share (one-third to one-half) of the decedent's estate.
3. Avoid the use of joint ownership or tenancy by the entirety with right of survivorship except for a joint checking account or vehicles.
4. Use a QTIP Trust or Unitrust provision in a properly drafted Revocable Living Trust that gives the surviving spouse access to the wealth for his or her lifetime needs but makes sure that he or she cannot redirect the wealth to the surviving spouse's own children or another person such as a new spouse. In addition, the balance remaining in a QTIP Trust on the death of the surviving spouse is not subject to probate administration, contests, or the surviving spouse's predators or ex-spouses.
5. Use life insurance or an annuity to create an additional pool of wealth that can be immediately payable upon death to children of a prior marriage.
6. Carefully coordinate retirement plans and life insurance beneficiaries with the overall estate plan. A proper beneficiary designation can be used to move inheritance to various parties.

For more details on Estate Planning for Blended Families, see our website www.ferrisandassociates.com for a seminar schedule.

A man with a beard, wearing a brown suit and tie, stands with his hands in his pockets in front of a building under construction. The building has a brick facade and a dark roof with exposed wooden beams. A yellow excavator is visible in the background.

At The Center of The Hour Glass

JACK TUTTLE

By Alison Johnson

*I*f anyone had asked Jackson (Jack) C. Tuttle II as a child what he wanted to be when he grew up, he wouldn't have been able to answer the question. The same was true when he was in college.

It wasn't until Tuttle was about to be discharged after four years of active duty in the Navy that he began to seriously consider a future career path. He knew he had a lifelong interest in civics and government, but what really stuck in his mind was a friend's interview with a company that made Pampers diapers.

"I thought, 'I don't want to make Pampers,'" says Tuttle, now City Manager of Williamsburg. "I wanted a job that could offer me more immediate and intrinsic satisfaction. I wanted to be able to see the impact, see the effect my work was having on people's lives – not sit in an office providing people I never saw with diapers."

So began a long career in local government, beginning with an internship with the city of Pensacola, FL, and culminating in the Williamsburg post he has held since 1991.

Looking back, Tuttle, who turns 60 in March, doesn't consider his career choice surprising. He was the youngest of three children raised in Towson, MD and even at an early age he followed national politics. He majored in history at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC where his favorite classes were in American and European History.

Four years of Navy sea duty took Tuttle, who retired as a Captain in the Naval Reserve in 2002, all over the world. After spending time on a destroyer and an aircraft carrier, he landed in Florida because that was where the Navy discharged him. His first job was as an intern with the city manager's office in Pensacola.

"I felt comfortable there from day one," he remembers. "I did a three-month internship and just didn't leave. I kept coming in and they're like, 'We need to figure out what to do with this guy.' I confirmed early on that I really liked dealing in public policy at the street level."

Tuttle earned a Masters of Public Administration degree at the University of West Florida in Pensacola in 1978 and worked his way up the ranks in the city, becoming assistant city manager in 1982. In 1984, when he was 33 years old, he landed his first city manager position in nearby Gulf Breeze, FL. He held that job until 1991.

Coming to Williamsburg, so rich in the history that interested him as a young man, was a dream job. "This place has a purpose and a mission beyond other communities," he says. "People everywhere want good quality services and efficient government, but here we also have a world class university and the largest and most significant outdoor living history museum in the world. What they do is truly important, and being a part of supporting that mission is really important to me."

The city manager's position can be a pressure-filled spot, Tuttle admits. He is a point man to the public, the community and the City Council as well as to the city departments and employees he oversees. "I feel like you're at the center of an hourglass with sand around you on both sides," he says. "It's the best place to observe and have influence on both sides. To me, that spot is a wonderful place to be. You get a sense of the total picture but can see a lot of details, too."

Like all communities, Williamsburg also deals with value clashes – and Tuttle usually is right in the middle of trying to find solutions. The two biggest hot spots, he says, are between college students and permanent residents and people who want faster growth and development than others.

For example, Tuttle recently worked with the City Council for more than a year to reach a new agreement on how many college students could share an off-campus house; the compromise took the number from three to four if a house was large enough and met certain other criteria. "We couldn't get total consensus among everyone, but I feel the council took a courageous stand," he says. "We are all at the level where you have to make tough community value decisions."

Moreover, Tuttle's job requires the patience to listen to individuals with a wide range of complaints and issues – even ones that city officials don't believe are changeable or particularly important to the community's health. "Sometimes I do get a little impatient and wish I could say, 'That's a waste of our time,'" he admits. "But you have to be respectful of what different people think is important. You have to be willing to make people feel heard."

Tuttle is happy to work for what he sees as a very efficient local government; City Council generally holds one meeting and one work session a month as compared to some governing bodies that meet twice a week for five or six hours at a time. As for his personal style, he tries to get out of his staff's way despite a part of him that wants to be controlling. "I want the staff to be so engaged that they're pushing me, not vice versa," he says.

Asked what would surprise people about him, Tuttle responds that he cares about people more than he might let on: "I do believe I communicate a more aloof manner than I really feel inside."

Upcoming challenges will include keeping up city services and promoting staff morale despite a shrinking budget. Tuttle is sure of one thing: Williamsburg is where he wants to finish his career and spend the rest of his life. He and his wife, Susan, a certified public accountant, live on Newport Avenue close enough to Merchants Square that they can take hour-long, early morning walks there with their dog. Parents of four grown children and grandparents of two young girls, the Tuttle even have bought cemetery plots at Cedar Grove Cemetery on South Henry Street. "This is home," Tuttle says.

In his spare time, Tuttle likes to read Civil War history books and do woodworking; he makes furniture and has made built-in bookshelves and cabinets for his children. He also serves on a number of local boards, including the Historic Triangle Civil War 150th Commemoration Committee, the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization and the Hampton Roads Regional Planning Commission. Even though the work keeps him busy – and can be slow and frustrating – he feels he is making a difference.

"I didn't know what I wanted to be for a long time," Tuttle says, "but I was lucky enough to find the right answer." NDN

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William (Bill) Corvello has built his career on one simple guiding rule: never forget who you work for.

"In government, executive management must reinforce the philosophy – from the top down – that the agency exists to serve the public," he states emphatically.

A native of Dartmouth, MA, Corvello entered the U.S. Marine Corps on the heels of his high school graduation. After two years in the Marines, including a lifelong career of public service in law enforcement.

In 1955, Corvello became a State Trooper, steadily rising through the ranks of the police departments – from Trooper to Sergeant, then Lieutenant, then Captain, and finally to Major before being appointed Deputy Superintendent of State Police in 1985.

Then, in 1990, after 35 years of service spanning nearly 50 counties, Corvello was appointed Superintendent of State Police by former Governor Douglas Wilder. In charge of 2,400 personnel and a budget of \$119 million dollars, one could say this is about as high as it goes in law enforce-



ment circles.

Former colleague Jim Swan, President of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge in Portsmouth, has been quoted as saying “Bill is just a policeman’s leader. He gets down in the trenches.” It was Corvello’s time in the Marine Corps that may have set the foundation for his approach to leadership. Corvello admits that his two-year stint in the Marine Corps had a tremendous impact on his career and on his life in general.

“The Corps instilled the elements of unquestioned commitment to a task once accepted, discipline in meeting the obligations of a position held, loyalty to those served, and recognizing the importance of accountability to the success of the mission,” he says.

Corvello’s role model and late brother, Rodrick “Buster” Corvello, also served in the Marine Corps during both WWII and the Korean War, then went on to become a commercial airline pilot. After retiring with the rank of Captain, his elder brother served on various councils and boards for the Town of Dartmouth.

“My younger brothers and I always worked toward emulating Buster’s successes in life. He was our hero,” he says.

Looking back, Corvello shares some of his memories over the decades.

“Back in the 1950’s, there were relatively no drug problems as we’ve seen in recent decades. I think that drugs have escalated crimes not just in Williamsburg but everywhere,” he says.

“Also, in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s, during the Vietnam War, there were student demonstrations on William and Mary’s campus in protest of the War, but they were relatively sedate events in comparison to the violence that occurred on other college campuses during that time,” he notes.

Sometimes it is difficult to keep personal emotion separate from the job, as Corvello discovered in the early 1970’s, recalling one incident in particular.

“A four-year old girl had gone missing in Staunton, VA. I was working as a field lieutenant supervising the team of police investigating her disappearance. The family lived in a run-down part of the city with no indoor plumbing – just a privy in the back yard. At first, the little girl’s disappearance was investigated as a crime and a possible homicide. There was even a suspect. But she was not murdered. A neighbor

came forward and said that she remembered hearing some yelling in the back yard around the time the child disappeared. As awful as it sounds, we dredged the privy and located a pelvic bone, jawbone, a tennis shoe and what was left of a doll. The bones were sent to a forensics lab in Washington, D.C. where the remains were confirmed to be hers.”

“Her name was Debby Back,” he says solemnly. “And I don’t think I’ll ever forget it,” he adds.

Corvello’s eyes light up; however, as he recalls the early 1980’s when Williamsburg hosted the nation’s Bicentennial Celebration (1981) and the Williamsburg Economic Summit Conference (1982), both of which were attended by world leaders. The late President Ronald Reagan attended and spoke at the Economic Summit Conference in ‘81.

“That was a busy time for Williamsburg. We brought in hundreds of state police to assist the local departments with security, but we were not as concerned with the threat of terrorist activity as we are today,” he says.

In 1992, after four decades, Corvello retired, but was soon called out of retirement by the



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City of Newport News. “They wanted me to implement reform and reorganize the agency following an investigation of the department as a consequence of the murder of two police officers,” he says.

Once that assignment was accomplished, Corvello did not rest on his laurels for long.

“I enrolled as an undergraduate student at the College of William and Mary at the age of 66, graduating in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts in Classical Studies and a minor in History,” he says proudly.

Since his graduation from college, Corvello has been called out of retirement twice more – each time by the City of Portsmouth – to serve as interim Police Chief while they conducted a search for a permanent chief. The second time was in 2008 by which time his wife Cheryl was retired from the College of William and Mary.

“Fortunately, my wife Cheryl is very supportive and understanding.”

Indeed, he credits much of his success to the encouragement and advice he has received from the woman he married in 1968.

“Cheryl has truly been the ‘wind beneath my wings’ throughout my career in law enforce-

ment and as my partner in life,” he says. “She never minded my line of work, although it was sometimes tough on the kids moving so often – especially when they were in their middle school years,” he says. “So the road hasn’t always been easy but I have no regrets. Not one.”

Lately, however, Corvello has decided that he has more than enough on his plate to keep him from going back to work – at least officially.

He is a member of Wellspring United Methodist Church, the Alumni Association of the College of William and Mary, the Christopher Wren Association, the James City County Ruritan Club, the Pulaski Club, the 1st Marine Division Association and the Virginia State Police Alumni Association.

He is also active in the local chapter of Faith in Action, an agency which provides transportation, errands and other assistance to the elderly in Williamsburg, James City County and the Bruton District of York County.

Corvello will not be slowing down much, just channeling his service in other ways – through civic and volunteer work. He is truly a lifelong public servant. NDN

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FIREFIGHTER FOR LIFE

By Brandy Centolanza

After 40 years as a firefighter, James City County Fire Chief Tal Luton still enjoys coming to work every day.

“Each day is different,” he shares. “There is always a challenge. The challenges never go away.”

Luton prefers it that way. He began his career as a volunteer fireman in Virginia Beach when he was 16, following the path of his father, Cecil, who was also a volunteer firefighter.

“I just thought it was a lot of fun,” Luton recalls. “It was just something that I really enjoyed.”

Upon high school graduation, Luton joined the Air Force and was stationed in California for a few years. He then returned east to pursue firefighting full-time.

“I liked it so much, I decided why not get paid to do it,” he says.

He enrolled at Tidewater Community College, majoring in fire science, and rejoined the volunteer fire department in Virginia Beach, working his way up to volunteer fire chief.



Luton vividly remembers one particular call from his days there. He was among those sent to extinguish a fire at the home in which he grew up, about eight years after his family moved on.

“That call was interesting, because I knew

the layout of the house. I knew exactly where to go once we went through the front door,” he says. The fire originated in the attic, and, unfortunately, had been caused by arson.

Luton says he enjoys his job because “the gratification is immediate. You put the fire out, you assist someone in a medical emergency, and you have that gratification of seeing what the end result is. Citizens are genuinely appreciative of what we do. I feel fortunate in that respect of working in public service.”

Luton has been with the James City Fire Department since 1980. He joined the department after attending Christopher Newport University, where he majored in Public Administration. He started at Fire Station 2 in Grove before being promoted to Lieutenant and switching to Station 4 on Olde Towne Road. A promotion to Captain came in 1986, followed by another promotion to District Chief eight years later.

In 1999, Luton became Chief of Emer-

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gency Medical Services, then Deputy Fire Chief in 2003 before eventually becoming Fire Chief in 2005. He is the first person in the department to rise from the ranks of firefighter to Fire Chief.

"The advantage of coming from the inside is the years of knowledge and corporate memory that is retained within the organization," Luton explains. "I believe that promotion from the inside provides an avenue for opportunity to all of the employees of the department."

Luton has a number of responsibilities as fire chief. He oversees emergency management, which includes dealing with weather related catastrophes such as hurricanes and ice storms, or man-made disasters, such as potential situations involving hazardous materials or a possible incident involving the nuclear power plant in Surry.

Luton also supervises all operations and business aspects of the fire department, the fire marshals, fire prevention services, and the 911 center. In addition, he is co-manager of a state-of-the-art radio system implemented a few years ago that enables his department to communicate with the schools, police departments, fire departments, and other government agencies in James City, Williamsburg, Poquoson,

The College of William and Mary, Kingsmill, and York County. (Officials in York County also help manage the system.) The radio system also allows him to interact with government officials from as far away as Virginia Beach and Richmond.

Two significant events stick out in his mind over the course of his career in public service: The terrorist attacks of September 11th, as well as the 400th Anniversary celebrations of the Settlement at Jamestown.

"Everybody remembers where they were when September 11th happened," Luton says solemnly. "I was on vacation in the mountains. My daughter called me. I just drove home."

Luton says the incident, "changed the way fire service and public safety in general is run, in terms of the organization of service delivery, communications, and the training we receive and provide, especially when dealing with terrorism."

Such changes were put to use when Luton, as well as James City Police Chief Emmett Harmon, were assigned to head security at the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown in 2007. The two were responsible for specific assignments and plans for more than 800 emergency responders from across the region, common-

wealth, and country, right down to the minute. Luton helped provide protection for the Queen of England as well as former President George W. Bush during their visits here. The event involved members of the State Police, National Guard, Coast Guard, Secret Service, FBI, US Marshal Service, and ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives). Luton is particularly proud of how smoothly everything fell into place.

"The great thing about it was that it went off without a hitch," he says. "It really was a success. [Afterward] they all told us it was the best run event they had ever seen."

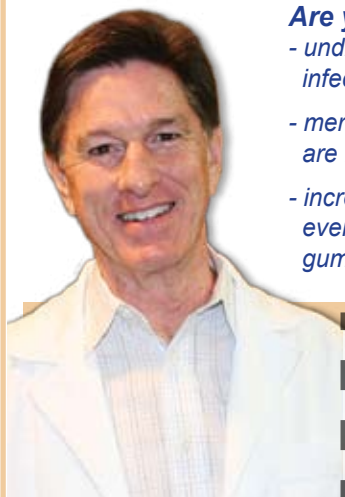
Luton's job has not only provided him the opportunity to meet and greet former President Bush, but also President Barack Obama, when Obama came to Williamsburg last year to attend the Democratic Caucus at Kingsmill.

"It was really great," he says with a smile of those meetings, pointing to framed photos of him with the presidents that adorn his office walls. Also hanging on the walls are certificates and other memorabilia from his time as a fireman. Luton is proud of the career he chose, one in which he has no intent of giving up soon. It seems as though even after four decades Luton still loves being a fireman. NDN

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A BOYHOOD DREAM COME TRUE



By Ryan Jones

Fifteen year-old Mike Yost wanted to be a police officer. As a young man growing up in a quiet 1970's Hampton suburb, he found himself taking note of the shiny police cruisers passing by on the city streets, curious about the duties of the patrol officers riding inside. As he tried to imagine life with a uniform and badge, he silently wondered, "What exactly is that black and white car all about?"

Today, Yost is able to look back over a 34 year career in law enforcement and offer a wealth of insight into his childhood curiosity. As current Chief of Police for the City of Williamsburg, Yost has mastered the duties of law enforcement as he

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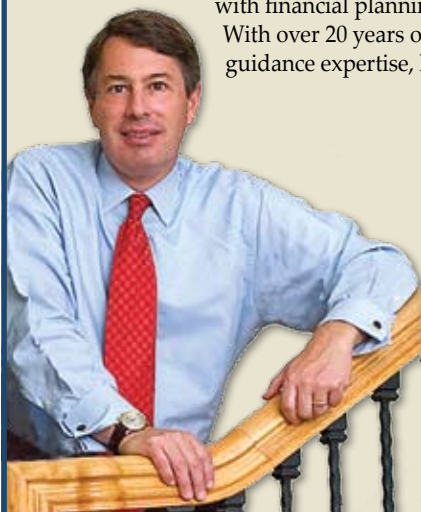


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has served in a variety of important capacities including patrol officer, shift commander, and investigator in the field.

Yost smiles as he recounts how he was able to satisfy his childhood inquisitiveness about police officers.

"The City of Hampton had a ride-along program," he recalls, "If your parents signed a consent form, you could ride along with one of the officers. After one shift in that car, I said to myself, 'This is fascinating!' I remember being absolutely amazed about how things are in the 'real world'. It was an eye-opener. I was very impressed with the officers and the way they would wade in, take control of situations and help people. It was a fascinating thing to me."

With just a few trips in the cruiser under his belt, Yost was hooked. He went on to finish high school and later received his Masters Degree in Justice Administration at Virginia Commonwealth University. After serving for nearly 20 years with the Williamsburg Police Department, in September of 1996 he was promoted to his current position as Chief of Police. Now equipped with years of training and field experience, Yost is a veteran that is able to fully appreciate the people he works with.

"My job has been to support everything these guys do," Yost says. His appreciation for our local police officers is evident. "It is up to me to make sure they have everything they need to do their job... and they do a fantastic job."

Yost expresses gratitude for the cooperative relationships he has been able to build among the regional law enforcement community. "I like the business, and I like the people I work with. I like the chiefs and sheriffs that work in this area," he says. "We are blessed to have a good relationship." Serving in regional leadership positions such as President of the Virginia Chief's Association has helped Yost to mingle with many of the region's law enforcement leaders."

Yost is enthusiastic about living and working in the Williamsburg community. "Even though it's grown a lot, it still feels kind of small," he says. "I think it's fun to see people visit the area and get excited about being here. I'm constantly stopped, whether I'm in uniform or not, and asked questions about the area. I love being able to give answers. I like the college students as well - they are full of fresh ideas. It's really energizing to be around them."

As Yost surveys the line of sleek patrol cars parked outside his office on Armistead Avenue each morning, he likely feels a touch of nostalgia for his roots as a young man from Hampton. Maybe today, one of those City of Williamsburg police cruisers will catch the eye of a youngster, causing him to wonder: "What exactly is that car all about?" If so, Yost will probably tell him about a curious fifteen year-old boy in a 1970's suburb who once asked the same question. Walking toward a shiny patrol car almost four decades later with a wealth of experience and many memories, Yost might even smile reflecting on his own childhood dream that came true. NDN