

July 2012

WILLIAMSBURG'S

Next Door Neighbors®

VOL. 6, ISSUE 7

PRICELESS

Discovering the people who call Williamsburg home



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This issue of Next Door Neighbors is about friendships. I suppose everyone experiences friendships in their own way. Perhaps the friends we make are reflective of what's happening in our own lives. Where we live, work and socialize are certainly factors that impact the friends we make. Even our needs affect the people we pull into our inner circle and as we grow and change some friends grow and change alongside us, and others drift away.



Meredith Collins, Publisher

I think it is a gift to have the same friend for many years. I have been fortunate to enjoy such a relationship with Karen Skeens. We met during my second year in the newspaper business. That was over thirty years ago. There have been many changes in both of our lives since she and I sat in a sales meeting together in 1983 (where she later told me she wondered who in the world that was in the meeting with the country sounding voice), and our friendship has only deepened over the years. No matter where we live or what we are doing we call each other once or twice a week to share our adversities and blessings, and especially to laugh out loud at some of life's humorous moments.

Since moving to Williamsburg over five years ago, I have been fortunate to make many new friends. This community makes it easy to meet people because it is truly a neighborly place to live. I think you will enjoy the stories in this issue where your neighbors share their thoughts about their valued friendships. Read on... NDN

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CORRECTION: The story in last month's issue, Pedicab Pedaler, on page 22 contained an error. Bob Arditi served six years in the U.S. Navy flying as a radar intercept controller in E2C Hawkeyes and made deployments to the Mediterranean and North Atlantic on the USS John F Kennedy in the early '70's. The statement that he flew missions in Vietnam was incorrect. Next Door Neighbors regrets the error.

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FRANCES PONS & BARBARA BAGANAKIS

Sometimes Neighbors. Always Friends.

By Narielle Living

What makes friendships last? It is hard to say. Interestingly, Barbara Baganakis and Frances (Fran) Pons were neighbors three times - twice in Williamsburg and once in Surry - and have forged a long term friendship as "sometimes" neighbors.

The first two times they found themselves living next door to each other was in Williamsburg and it just happened by chance; later, they consulted with each other and decided to purchase property in the same waterfront division of Surry. Barbara currently lives in Williams-

burg, and Fran is in Surry but is planning to move back to Williamsburg.

They have lived vastly different lives but that never seemed to matter much when it came to being friends. Barbara has been married three times and is currently widowed from her last

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husband, John Baganakis. Fran has been married to the same man for decades. Barbara had a job outside her home working in real estate. Fran focused her energies on staying at home to raise her family. Their different life circumstances don't tell the entire story. Everyone knows friendships are based on mutual admiration, respect and support of each other. There is plenty of that between these two women.

As Barbara reminisces about her time living next door to Fran, one of the first things she says is: "Fran had four kids, and she was a fabulous mother." Fran's devotion to her children was evident, and it is something Barbara truly admires about her friend. There was a slight age difference between her own three children and Fran's children which helped define the children's relationships.

"Fran's kids were younger, so my daughter used to go over and babysit for Fran and her husband, which worked out nicely for everyone," Barbara says.

Since they lived next door to each other during this time, Barbara would go over to Fran's house for coffee whenever she could. On several occasions the women traveled together along with their spouses, enjoying vacation time where they could relax and chat. For a while, Barbara played bridge with Fran, a game they both enjoyed.

As friends, they would talk about many things, but Fran remembers one thing in particular: the tremendous influence their mothers and grandmothers had on their lives.

"Neither one of us is from Williamsburg. We both came from somewhere else," Fran explains. "Barbara was originally from the Montgomery County mountain region, and we would often discuss the things we learned from our mothers and grandmothers. There are so many things we learned when we were children - things that parents just don't teach their kids anymore, like how to make your own preserves or make your own soap."

These conversations often started with the phrase: "Did your grandma teach you to...?" Knowing that they had these common skills they had learned from strong women in their lives set both of their minds at ease. "It meant that if something really devastating happened we would be okay. We'd know how to survive and what to do," Fran says. Both women are proud of their knowledge and abilities inside the home, and lament the fact that this knowledge seemed to be fading as the world's technology increases.

Barbara's life has been a very active one. In addition to her career in real estate, she has had a number of appointments, including the City of Williamsburg Planning Commission, Virginia Voluntary Formulary Board, City of Williamsburg Equalization Board and the City of Williamsburg Wetland Board. She has also been active in civic organizations such as the Republican City Committee, Occasion for the Arts, Beacon of Freedom Award Committee and the Heritage Republican Women's Club. In 1979 she was asked to run for the Virginia House of Delegates, a race she didn't win but was happy to participate in.

Understandably, with all of these interests in addition to raising a family, Barbara has always been extremely busy. It has been a relief to have Fran as a neighbor through those years, not just because they are friends but also because Barbara knows she can trust her. She felt comfortable knowing she had someone right next door that could help her out if she needed something.

Fran's friendship has influenced Barbara in a number of ways. Most no-



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tably, however, was her entry into the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The DAR is a non-profit, nonpolitical volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism and preserving American history.

"Fran got into the DAR first," Barbara says. "She was very active in the organization and really loved it. She's the one who encouraged me to go ahead and submit my paperwork."

Barbara has a passion for researching her family's genealogy, and has diligently traced her family's roots. To be a member of the DAR she had to prove she was descended from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence during the Revolutionary War period.

"I did my research, submitted the paperwork, and then waited. There's a period of time when they go over everything with a fine tooth comb, but I was confident I had dotted all my i's and crossed all my t's." Barbara leans back and smiles. "Then they called."

When the woman from the national chapter of the DAR called, she congratulated Barbara on doing such a good research job. Everything was perfect, it seemed, except for one tiny little detail.

"I was told that there was a slight problem

with my ancestor who was a soldier during the Revolutionary War," she says. "Apparently he had received a court martial."

Her ancestor was on a list with 75 other men who had not attended a required meeting. In addition to the court martial, all the men involved were fined fifty cents.

"It's kind of a funny story, and it turned out fine because I had other ancestors I could use for my lineage," she explains.

Barbara quickly became involved in a number of activities with the DAR, but when offered the position of Regent for her chapter, she declined.

"Fran was great during that. She completely supported my decision," Barbara says.

Fran's support of her membership and role within the DAR meant a lot to Barbara, and she saw it as yet more proof of the solidity of their friendship.

For Fran, having Barbara as a friend meant a couple of things. First, she viewed Barbara as someone she could appreciate being around. Throughout the years they've known each other, Fran has enjoyed many bridge games and vacations with Barbara.

"Plus, she was always so busy, active and in-

involved in a number of things. I admired that about her," Fran adds.

The piece of their friendship that Fran values the most is Barbara's consistent and steadfast personality.

"With Barbara, you always know who she is because she is always the same. Barbara doesn't put on airs, and she is comfortable to be with," Fran says. Having a reliable friend like Barbara is reassuring to Fran, and is something she appreciates.

For Barbara, having a neighbor and friend like Fran means the world to her. If something were to go wrong, if she needed help, or if she simply needed a cup of coffee and someone to listen, Barbara knew without a doubt Fran would be there for her.

"There's something very reassuring about having a neighbor you can count on, someone you trust will help you when you really need it," Barbara says.

Sometimes we don't know how much we need good friends and good neighbors until the very moment we actually need them. For Barbara and Fran there is always an appreciation for being able to count on one another for both friendship and support. NDN

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Providing Inspiration

By Alison Johnson

As a woman in her 50s, Connie Gardner isn't a person who looks at the second half of her life as a time to slow down. Quite the opposite, in fact. The lifelong educator is constantly thinking about how she could better herself, give more to her community and embrace new experiences.

Fortunately, her close friend, Lisa Stone – also a longtime teacher in her 50s – is exactly the same way. For Connie, Lisa is a strong voice reminding her never to settle for less than she wants out of life, as well as a companion in navigating post-retirement options.

“At this stage, we are trying to maximize our opportunities, enjoy each day as it comes and

make each day as meaningful as we can,” Connie says. “Lisa has been an inspiration to me. She is focused on improving her life and works

We are fascinated by life and by people. Many people look at their 50s as a time to start going downhill, but we're kicking up our heels. We



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

tirelessly to achieve her goals. She keeps me moving forward.”

Connie does the same for Lisa, who admits that she struggled with turning 50 three years ago. That birthday coincided with her only child going away to college and some health problems for both her and her husband. With Connie's help, Lisa has turned the corner – and then some.

“I feel like my life is just starting to open up,” Lisa says. “I look at this as a time of adventure and exploration, and Connie is always there with me.

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are better individuals because of each other.”

Friends like Lisa are critical to happiness, says Connie, an instructional technology resource teacher for Williamsburg-James City County public schools. She learned that the hard way after splitting with her husband about seven years ago. A West Virginia native who went to college near home at Fairmont State University, Connie had moved with her husband in 1999 to Williamsburg, where she focused on her marriage at the expense of creating new friendships. She suddenly felt very alone, with two grown sons living in Massachusetts and other family and friends back in West Virginia.

“That’s when I realized how important girlfriends are,” she says. “They will stick with you no matter what life events come around.”

Connie met Lisa about four years ago at Berkeley Middle School, where Connie had a position in instructional technology and Lisa was (and still is) choral director. Their offices were adjoining with just a pane of glass in between, and the desks were arranged so each was staring into the other’s space.

“How could you not become friends under circumstances like that?” Connie asks.

Lisa was outgoing and friendly, answered Connie’s questions about the school and brought in homemade cookies to share. Watching Lisa work with students, Connie fed off of her big smile, energy and dedication to teaching. Soon, they began decorating their joint glass pane with funny notes as they navigated days with middle school students. *Bang head here*, read one of Lisa’s messages.

Their friendship, though, quickly grew much deeper. Over coffee at Starbucks and on walks and kayaking trips, they began talking about relationships, family, goals and dreams.

“We are both introspective,” Connie says. “We both value education and enjoy nature. We are both trying to figure out what we want to do with the rest of our lives. How can we really make a difference in the world? How can we find our passion and do more? Neither one of us has a clear idea yet, but Lisa is always a shoulder to lean on when I need someone to talk to about my life.”

Those conversations helped inspire Connie to establish and nurture a new Williamsburg-based group for singles last June, called Fun Active Singles Together or FAST. Connie had been building friendships via the social networking portal Meetup, and she wanted a group that focused on active outings such as hiking, kayaking and biking trips. As of May, FAST had more than 250 members and Connie had organized 88 events – she went on all of them – with eight more scheduled.

“It’s like a second job, but I can’t imagine life without it,” Connie says. “Williamsburg can be a difficult place for single people sometimes – there’s the college crowd, much older retired people and families with young kids. I feel like FAST is helping people, and that’s what I’ve talked about with Lisa.”

One FAST member, in fact, decided to quit her job after a New Year’s Day event at Connie’s house, where participants shared their goals for the upcoming year. “She wasn’t happy, and she wanted to change directions,” Connie says. “She wrote me a letter thanking me for helping her take that step.”

Connie’s life is now a busy blend of work and fun. Based at DJ Montague and Matoaka elementary schools, she trains and supports teachers as they bring an increasing amount of technology into lesson plans. In



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one classroom, students recently reviewed for a state examination by scrolling through slides on iPads. "The kids were so on task. It was amazing," Connie says.

During her off time, Connie enjoys salsa dancing, biking, kayaking, hiking, traveling and photography. She also writes poetry, mainly descriptive free verse about places she's visited, and plays a mean game of air hockey that she honed competing with sons Ryan, now 31, and Craig, 27. "It's the one time my competitive side really comes out," she says with a laugh.

Connie and Lisa stay in touch through frequent texts and phone calls. While Lisa is married, Connie says she gives great advice on dating.

"She'll tell me that I deserve to be happy and to keep looking until I find just the right person," Connie says. "I'll tell her some of my dating woes and she'll say, 'No, don't keep seeing him just because he's there. That's not good enough for you.'"

Lisa, though, isn't too worried about Connie settling. "She knows that life is way too short and fascinating to waste time," says Lisa, a Hawaii native with a 21-year-old daughter, Shannon, an exercise science major at Roanoke College.

The friends have shown up for each other in emergencies such as illnesses and post-storm cleanups, delivered coffee on rough days and discussed traveling together. Both would love to go to the Grand Canyon once they retire. They try to meet every week or two, although that can be tough when Lisa, a 28-year veteran of directing bands and choirs, is tied up with student competitions.

In Connie's mind, though, she's never far from her best friend. "We may not see each other that often," she says, "but we are always connected in spirit." NDN

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BOB MILLER & BILL TEALE



A BETTER THAN PAR FRIENDSHIP

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

By Natalie Miller-Moore

Childhood friendships spring from a desire to play, usually starting with the words, “hey, do you want to be my friend?” As adults, our boundaries are more rigid and friendships can be difficult to initiate. Meeting people you can refer to as a friend becomes more complex, simply because we no longer have the ability to connect with others on an immediate personal level the way we did as kids.

According to Bill Teale of Williamsburg, many of his friendships developed in the work environment.

“My best friends used to be the people I worked with,” he says. Bill shrugs with an affable and easy manner. “I never used to think about it. Of course, my wife is and always will be my best friend, but as far as making friends, it would just happen around work.”

A former manager with IBM, Bill was born in Brooklyn, NY and moved to Florida when he was still a young child. From there, he has lived in Wisconsin, New Jersey, Georgia and Virginia. After his career with IBM Bill worked in management training, a job that kept him not only busy but also socially active with his co-workers.

When he initially moved to Virginia, Bill and his wife lived in the northern part of the state. In 2003, they decided to move to Williamsburg.

“We selected this area because of the golf course. Plus, we happened to be looking at real estate on a day with lots of sunshine and low humidity. What did we know?” Bill jokes.

Settling into the Williamsburg area, Bill met Bob Miller out on the golf course one day. “First, we were playing golf, then the next thing you know our wives had us going to a neighborhood dinner thing.” The dinner that Bill refers to was a club for newcomers, where people met in groups every month for dinners and outings.

Bob is originally from Norfolk, Virginia, but like Bill has lived in numerous parts of the country. He too was drawn to live in Williamsburg in part because of the plentiful golf courses. Both men agree that living in a college town was part of the allure of this area, as having an academic institution creates more cultural activities and things to do in general.

The similarities between the two men are immediately apparent if you were to meet them. Both men are engaging, with a quick wit and easy smiles. Both married their high school sweethearts, but it took Bob a little bit longer than Bill to walk down the aisle. Perhaps the most telling similarity, and the one that may have cemented the friendship without either of them realizing it, is their propensity for being kind to others.

Their compassion becomes obvious by the positive manner in which they describe other friends and each other, and the conscious friendship choices they’ve made. People are known by the company they keep, and clearly these men prefer the company of others with solid principles and a clear sense of right and wrong.

The next thing others would notice is their sense of humor.

“Sometimes people go out with us on the golf course and they mistake our jokes for seriousness. But really, we just like to kid around with each other,” Bill says.

“There are definitely times when people wonder if we really are friends because of the way we talk to each other. But we’re just joking. Honestly, there isn’t much I wouldn’t do for him,” Bob says, referring to Bill. Then he adds with a laugh: “Except paint his house. I won’t paint his house.”

“Yeah, I can’t get anyone to help with that,” Bill says in a serious tone while shaking his head.

From their initial meeting on the golf course to numerous dinners that included their spouses, the friendship grew. “It’s great, because our wives are friends, too,” Bill says. “It makes the couples dinners really easy because they get along so well.”

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Jim Van Horn

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The Business Exit Tsunami: It’s Time to Start Planning

A business owner rarely thinks about leaving the company she worked so hard to create. Normally, her mind is preoccupied with the never-ending problems that need her attention: employees, competition or how to get new clients. In fact, the average business owner often feels like she can never leave, even for a vacation, let alone retirement. Nevertheless, an increasingly large number of business owners are faced with a stark reality – they are getting older and they can’t run the business forever. Eventually, they will have to do something.

There’s been no shortage of articles in almost every financial publication warning about the “graying of America,” but this is not simply a problem of shortfalls in Social Security and Medicare. *Over 9 million of America’s 15 million business owners in the United States were born in or before 1964¹, and an estimated 8 million boomer-owned businesses plan to exit in the next 10 years².* Among family businesses, over 66% in business for more than 50 years plan on exiting in the next 5³. Also, keep in mind that sudden exits are not always the result of an owner’s death. As age-related health issues rise, business owners are less inclined to work the necessary 70 to 80 hours per week required to run small or mid-sized company. A sudden or unexpected exit of a business owner often results in the loss of clients and employees, decreases in production, disruptions in operations, acceleration of loans and a substantial decrease in the value of the business.

These demographic trends indicate that the number of exits by business owners is going to rise. As the number of small and mid-sized businesses for up for sale increases, the fair market values of these businesses will decrease and it will become increasingly difficult to find a buyer or to get a price for the

business sufficient to fund your retirement.

If you are a business owner, start talking with your attorney, accountant and financial adviser about developing a written exit or succession plan and a post-exit strategy outlining how you will live on the proceeds from the sale/transfer of your business. When putting together your business exit/succession plan, always address following questions:

1. Is there an employee, manager or family member capable of owning/managing the business?
2. Who would buy the business if I sell to a third party?
3. How can I objectively identify the strengths and weaknesses of my business?
4. What effect will my exit have on my clients, my employees, my family and me?
5. How will I support myself and my family after I’ve exited?

You will need your business appraised by a professional valuation expert in order to have a realistic number around which to plan. Business owners are notorious for either over-estimating or under-estimating the value of their businesses, so an appraisal is essential. Finally, make sure your attorney and accountants are familiar with the issues surrounding both an exit/transfer of a business as well as with those estate issues that arise after your exit from the business.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our firm at (757) 220-8114 or (804) 285-7900. Our first hour consultation with a prospective client is complimentary.

¹Are Baby Boomers Ready to Exit Their Businesses?, New York Times “You’re the Boss” Blog, February 10, 2011; available at <http://boss.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/02/10/are-baby-boomers-ready-to-exit-their-businesses/>.

²Joanna L. Krotz, “Could Your Business Survive Without You?”, Business on Main, February 06, 2012; available at <http://smallbusiness.foxbusiness.com/biz-on-main/2012/02/06/could-your-business-survive-without/>.

³“Kin in the Game,” PwC Family Business Survey 2010/11; available at http://www.pwc.com/en_GX/gx/pwc-family-business-survey/assets/family-business-survey-2010-2011.pdf.

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Today, Bill and Bob spend most of their spare time together on the golf course.

"We usually play each other for big money," Bill confides. "We'll bet each other a round - one dollar for the front of the course and one dollar for the back. We probably end up winning around forty dollars from each other every year."

"We probably end up handing the same dollar bill back and forth for half the year," Bob replies. "We do this even when others are playing with us; it's just one of those things we started doing that became a habit."

Bob emphasizes that this is all in good fun, and sometimes that's the part that people don't understand. "They can be out on the golf course with us and they think we're insulting each other. It's just our sense of humor," he explains.

"They think you're being insulting because you keep calling me old," Bill jokes.

"That's just because I respect you," Bob sends back, with a twinkle in his eye.

It is clear after meeting the two men that their sense of humor plays a big part in their relationship, but it is equally clear that they value each other. They play as partners in golf tournaments and support each other's efforts at success on the course.

For both, winning the Red Coat Tournament at Ford's Colony last year was a significant achievement. Despite their good natured comments on the golf course, they both worked hard to win that tournament and are proud of their success. Rightly so, because the Red Coat Tournament attracts a large number of golfers, all very experienced and playing to win.

"It was fun to play in that tournament," Bill says. "We were good partners for that."

According to both men, it's sort of a fluke that they became friends at all. Out of the large number of people living in their community, the fact that they randomly met and remained friends sometimes perplexes them. "I don't know. Maybe we could have ended up as good friends with other people around here," Bill suggests. "But Bob and I just happened to meet each other."

What then makes a friendship strong? How do people connect and remain friends, as opposed to simply seeing each other socially once in a while?

Both Bill and Bob are in agreement on this one point: "Friendship needs effort. To be a real friend, you've got to put the time in, and I don't mean just spending time together. You've got to call and check in with each other, things like that," Bob says.

Bill agrees. "Being in a dinner group helped us to meet each other, and we've enjoyed going out as couples. But I think our friendship is based on caring and respect. And humor. You've got to have a sense of humor in life."

Clearly, Bill Teale and Bob Miller have forged a friendship based on a mutual love of golf and a similar outlook on life. Despite their differences and probably because of their similarities they have grown to respect and enjoy each other's company - even when they're having a bad day on the golf course. NDN

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The Gift OF FRIENDSHIP

By Natalie Miller-Moore

Maybe it's natural that Ginny Dittman and Diane Stevenson became friends. They were born just a month apart in Missouri. Yet they came to Williamsburg in different ways, at different times. Over 25 years their friendship grew into what it is today – a “you can call me

at 3 a.m.” kind of friendship.

Ginny's husband, Duane, worked as a college administrator, and came to The College of William and Mary in the 1980s as vice president for development. Diane's husband, Neil, had retired from being a Navy chaplain and

they lived in Washington D.C.

Neil was interviewing to be the pastor at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church on Richmond Road. Ginny was on the church's search committee, and that threw them together for several events. During the interview process, a hurricane came through Williamsburg and the Stevenson's couldn't get back to D.C. The Dittman's invited them to stay for the night.

“Neil agreed, and that was a surprise because he never liked to stay at people's houses. He always wanted to stay in hotels,” Diane says. The two couples stayed in touch and eventually became good friends after Neil accepted the job of pastor in 1985.

Already knowing Ginny gave Diane a person to call when she needed a referral for a doctor or a dry cleaner. “We just met and clicked,” Diane says, and a friendship quickly developed. The two women had many common interests, and soon shared their time volunteering with the church, the Sentara Hospital Auxiliary and at Colonial Williamsburg's St. George Tucker House.

When they lived in Kingsmill at the same time, they walked the country roads and neighborhood trails together. “When you share life experiences, friendships grow. You can be best friends,” Ginny says. They both think that proximity makes a difference in helping friendships develop.

While they've shared plenty of happy experiences, Diane and Ginny define a friend as someone you can trust, not just someone to have fun with. That means being able to share difficult situations and not be judged. They've seen each other through losses of a sister, a son, and of spouses. They have supported each other through difficult medical decisions, and stood by each other during the social changes of aging and widowhood.

When Ginny's husband “lost his very fine



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skill in meeting people” due to Alzheimer’s, Diane and Ginny had him sit between them at events to care for him.

Even when Ginny’s husband died 13 years ago, Diane and her husband, Neil, continued to be close with Ginny.

“It didn’t change our friendship,” Ginny says.

While they have fun together socializing, they stress that friends are the people who are there for the tough going parts of life as well - the family crises and the medical hurdles.

These two ladies in their 80s currently live just down the street from each other in Williamsburg Landing. Ginny moved to the Landing first, and two years ago, Diane moved there, too.

“My husband had just died and I didn’t want to make any quick decisions. But Ginny just pointed down the street and said, “There’s a house for sale there,” Diane says. It was an easy decision for her during a difficult time. “Life is good, even when it isn’t,” she says.

“You don’t choose to be a widow, but your social life changes,” Ginny explains. They both feel lucky to have a wonderful community of friends at their church, at the hospital and at Colonial Williamsburg, where they are still ac-

tive volunteers.

“Sometimes our kids complain ‘My mother hardly needs me!’” Diane says, but Ginny calls it “a gift we give our children.”

“We’ve taken the guilt away,” she says.

Their group of friends brings food when someone is not feeling well. They check on each other every day, in a kind of buddy system. They share the small details of life, like “I didn’t sleep well” or “Do you think it looks like rain?”

“As you get older, your friends in this stage of life are not more important than family, but you are really walking together on this journey,” Ginny says.

These ladies may be in their 80s, but they aren’t ready to hang up their spurs yet. They plan parties for each other, and enjoy entertainment. They travel together, including trips on the Queen Mary, shows in New York City and other various outings. They also enjoy social events in Williamsburg as part of living at the Landing, but also plan dinner parties and movie nights at their homes. They agree that sitting at home is a death sentence, and that to stay young, you’ve got to “get a foot out the front door.”

Owning a dog is one way to do that. Ginny

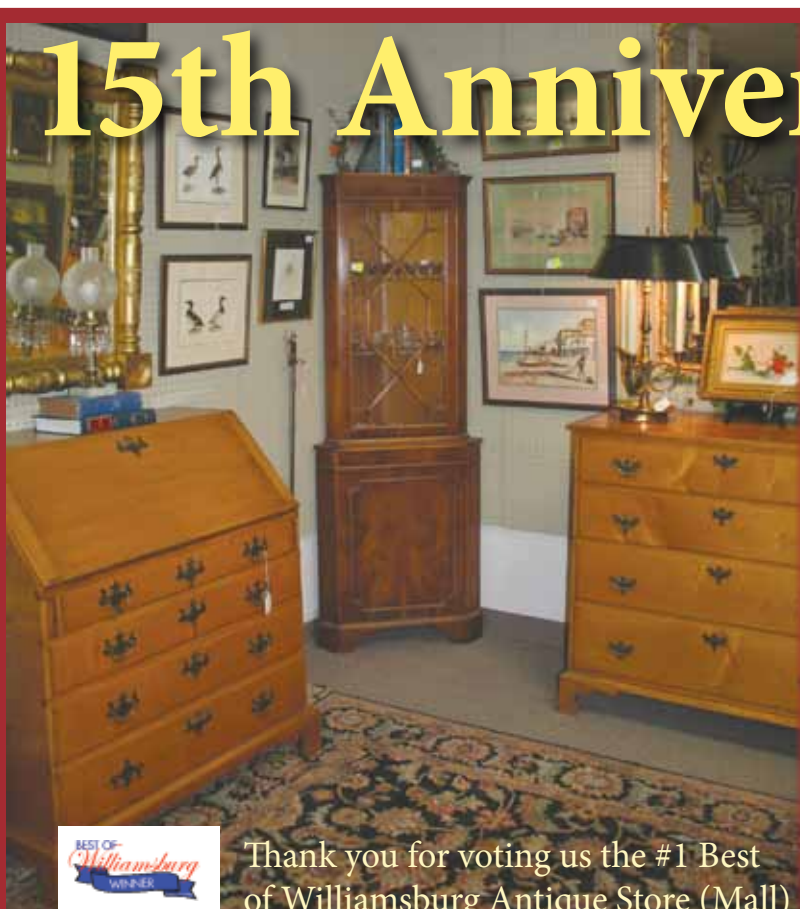
enjoys the company of “the French gentleman she lives with,” also known as Blackberry the poodle. Diane watches him while Ginny travels, and he’s fond of curling up with her, too.

In a recent birthday card for Diane, Ginny wrote: “I want to be the sort of friend you’ve been to me”. Diane sent the card back a month later for Ginny’s birthday with a note that read: “I couldn’t have said it better!”

While they are close friends, they agree that they probably shouldn’t live together. Living four doors away is perfect for them. They also say that friends, even best friends, don’t have to agree on everything. For example, they disagree on flavors – Diane likes coconut, while Ginny likes tomato aspic and marinated herring. Diane ribs her that she should get her fill of herring on their trip to Norway this summer. Their decorating styles also differ. Diane, having moved more than 27 times as a Navy wife, favors brighter tropical colors. Ginny - not so much.

It’s clear these two ladies value their friendship. “It’s compatibility, that chemistry with someone; you can’t seek a best friend, it just happens,” Ginny says.

“It has to be something you sense,” Diane says. NDN

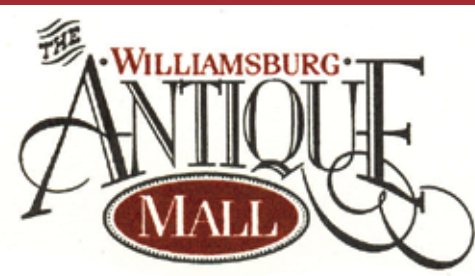


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School Chums

By Lillian Stevens

Dr. Virginia “Ginny” Carey and Dr. Virginia “Ginnie” McLaughlin are well-known in our local community and in larger education circles for their work in education. The two also enjoy a friendship which began over 40 years ago when both women arrived on the campus of William and Mary as freshman students. Over the course of four decades, they have shared many of life’s special moments and milestones.

One such milestone occurred fifteen years ago. Dr. Carey, a married mother of three – and also William and Mary’s Dean of Undergraduate Admissions at the time – was pursuing her Ed.D. at her alma mater. She received her degree in May 1997, from none other than her longtime friend, Dr. Ginnie McLaughlin. At that time, Dr. McLaughlin was William and Mary’s Dean of the School of Education.

“It was a special, special day,” Dr. Carey says. “To walk with that class – and then to have my good friend hand me my diploma. Well, it’s a



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

moment that I’ll never forget.”

Theirs is a fascinating story of friendship, family and careers.

“Very few people share a history that’s so

long, broad and deep,” says Dr. McLaughlin. “Dr. Carey and I have known each other in so many different roles and through so many ups and downs over the years that being together always feels easy and comfortable.”

Over time, the friends have grown together, from young adults into savvy career women with flourishing families – women who are grandmothers now.

“I arrived on campus as a freshman in fall of 1967,” says Dr. Carey. “And one of my roommates was Ginnie Klemkowski [Dr. McLaughlin’s maiden name] from Baltimore.”

The young women were housed in Ludwell Hall where they shared a suite with three other female students (and one illegal stray cat affectionately named “Ace”).

“To give a little historical context,” says Dr. Carey with a laugh, “You couldn’t wear shorts



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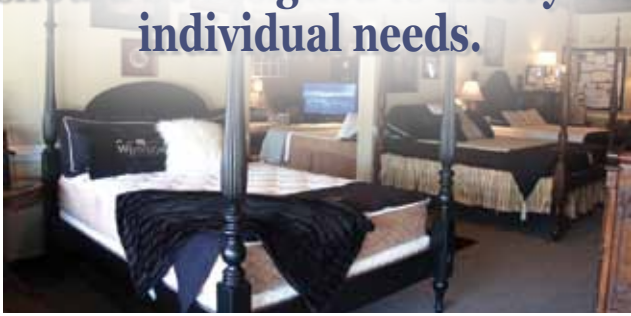
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or slacks back then. I mean, just think about it – three of the five of us brought sewing machines to campus as opposed to computers!”

The two young undergrads hit it off right away. In addition to their academic pursuits, both were outgoing and optimistic individuals by nature – and both wanted to get involved on campus. They pledged different sororities and engaged in various activities but always took great interest in each other's endeavors.

“Ginnie was a synchronized swimmer,” remembers Dr. Carey. “And I tried out for cheerleading because I'd been a cheerleader at Granby High School in Norfolk.”

Unfortunately, she didn't make the cheerleading squad her freshman year. So her friend and roommate convinced her to try out for Mermettes, the College's synchronized swimming team. According to Dr. Carey, it isn't as easy as the swimmers make it look.



“During one of the very first auditions, you were to swim the length of the pool,” she explains. “The only thing that should appear is your face above water with one arm gracefully arcing and going back into the water. It's incredibly hard.”

Dr. Carey remembers her audition. While her arm did its graceful thing, her other arm was simultaneously paddling frantically as her feet kicked furiously under water.

“So, my eyes were above water but my nose wasn't quite making it. I almost drowned trying out for Mermettes with Ginnie! She made the team, of course, but I was done after the first lap.”

Dr. McLaughlin swam on the Mermettes team her entire four years at William and Mary; Dr. Carey made the cheerleading squad sophomore year, and cheered for the Tribe her last three years at the college. The two pursued different interests but remained very close.

Campus life, of course, is not and was not all about social activities and sporting events. Indeed, both women were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's preeminent honor society for the liberal arts, as seniors in 1970.

By then, Dr. Carey's father, who was serving in the Navy, had been posted to Sicily.

“My whole family sort of moved away from me and Ginnie's family took me under their wing,” says Dr. Carey. “So, during short holidays and school breaks, I went to Baltimore with Ginnie and I got to know the Klemkowski family.”

It was a comfort, especially considering the undercurrent on so many college campuses during the late sixties and early 1970's.

“Like most of our friends, we both certainly cared about civil rights and the Vietnam War,” says Dr. Carey. “My dad was in the military and

I worried about him. Then, when Martin Luther King was assassinated, riots broke out everywhere – including Baltimore – so Ginnie was calling home to see how things were with her family. It was a very serious time.”

In 1971, the women graduated from William and Mary with degrees in psychology and each set out on her own path. Dr. Carey went to Sicily to be with her family. One year later, she married Jack Carey, a native of New York, whom she had met during college visits to Sicily. The couple moved to New York City. Dr. McLaughlin went on to earn a master’s degree from Vanderbilt University and her doctorate from the University of Memphis.

Eventually, fate (and their husbands’ careers) returned them to Williamsburg where they moved in – literally – across the street from each other in James City County’s Windsor Forest neighborhood.

Their friendship picked up right where it left off, with motherhood bonding them even closer.

“My youngest daughter, Amber, and Ginnie’s daughter, Melanie, were born just months apart, so that was another commonality that we shared,” Dr. Carey says. “How wonderful to have two girls the same age! They grew up basically as sisters – always at each other’s house.”

There’s another interesting parallel to Dr. Carey’s and Dr. McLaughlin’s friendship – a professional one. At William and Mary, both women were associate deans before being promoted to dean of their respective organizations.

“There was a leg of the American Council on Education (ACE) that tried to foster women moving up the administrative ranks in academia,” Dr. Carey explains. “They cultivated women who were perhaps in number two positions and helped them move into number one positions.”

Not so long ago, it was rare to see women working in the upper ranks of higher education. Dr. Carey and Dr. McLaughlin have worked hard to change that – through networking and mentoring. They are terrific role models for young women in education, as evidenced by the career paths of their own daughters.

Dr. McLaughlin has announced that she will step down from her post as William and Mary’s Dean of the School of Education next year, and will return to full-time faculty status there. Dr. Carey retired in 2010. The women look forward to having less demanding schedules – and some down time to be hands-on grandmothers. In fact, Dr. Carey recently returned from California, where her daughter, Shawn, and her family welcomed twin girls into the fold.

“With the birth of the twins, Jack and I now have seven grandchildren,” says Dr. Carey. “And Ginnie and John have seven granddaughters – all under the age of eight. So, I’m excited that we will both have more time to spend being grandmothers together!”

In addition to watching as the next generation continues to grow and flourish, they also look forward to reading some good books and at least one of them will get some riding in. Dr. McLaughlin, who lives with her husband, John, on a small farm in Toano, is an equestrian with a lifelong passion for horses.

Still, with full-time teaching and/or consulting responsibilities – and grandchildren on opposite coasts – the two friends might not see each other as much as they’d like. But it’s been that way, off and on, for 40 years now.

“What’s so wonderful about long and close friendships like ours is that the connection is always there,” says Dr. McLaughlin. “We are always able to immediately pick up where we left off.” NDN

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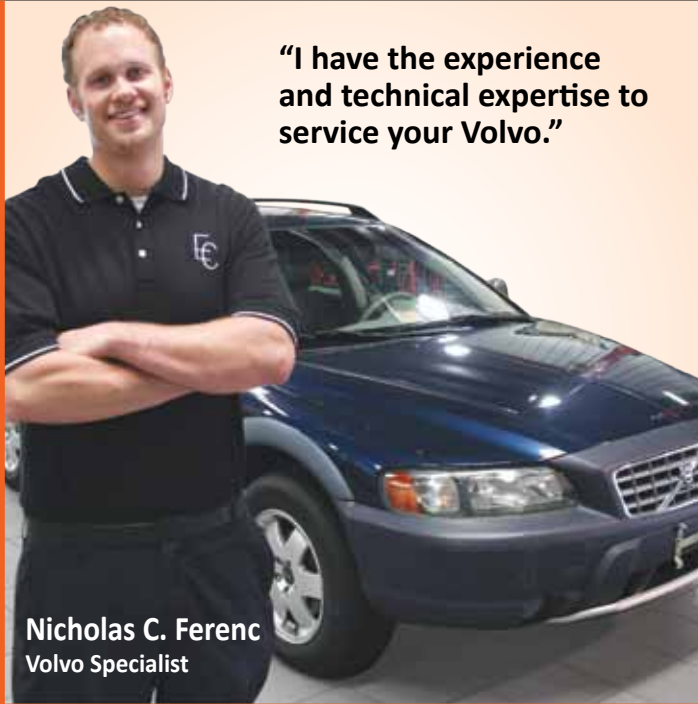


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SCOTT TURNER
& GREG GRANGER

GROWING UP FRIENDS

By Natalie Miller-Moore

A school project in the fourth grade brought Scott Turner and Greg Granger together for the first time. Little did either of them know that it would be the catalyst for a friendship that has lasted their lifetime. Over the years, the two youngsters hung out often to work on projects together. As they progressed through their school years, the projects required more work but their friendship continued quite naturally. Today, they continue to be great friends sharing their time in all kinds of ways - from family get togethers to branding cattle in Wyoming.

After their initial meeting in fourth grade, Scott and Greg continued to spend time together. They played in the same baseball league. Greg lived in town and Scott lived in Kingspoint, which at the time was considered "far from town", but they made it work. Scott often rode his bike or skateboard into town to spend time with Greg.

Both boys attended James Blair Middle School and later, Lafayette High School. They worked on projects with each other, and with their dads to learn more - especially about home repairs. That's when Scott got his first set of tools and learned how to use them.

One of the things the two young men had in common was working for their fathers' businesses. Scott's father ran a metal fabrication company, and he worked there during summers helping create different



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types of metal products. Greg, son of former mayor and businessman Gil Granger, worked for his dad too.

When they got their first cars, they just happened to select MGs, a type of small British-manufactured car. They were unique and fun, and people loved seeing them about as much as they enjoyed driving them around. Scott and Greg worked on the vehicles together in Greg's driveway. Since the cars weren't new there were often little reasons the two would need to focus on repair work.

"We'd work on them all week to drive them on the weekend," Scott says. "They were frustrating and fun, if you had time. I used to break bolts all the time!"

Fixing cars was not all they got into as teenagers. Sometimes they pulled pranks on one other as well. For example, when Greg put Scott's Jeep on blocks while he was working the third shift at his dad's factory one summer. He went to bed pleased with his prank, but woke up the next morning to find his own vehicle's driveshaft removed and laying on the ground next to his truck.

Sometimes the pair got in trouble too. One spring day, when they were 16, Greg and Scott and another friend got an idea. No one knows whose idea it was, really...but they decided they wanted to go fishing at the Governor's Palace.

"The fish were just too big to go unfished," Greg says. "They were about a foot long, and looked like they'd put up a great fight."

Despite having passes to visit Colonial Williamsburg and its sites, the trio decided to climb the brick wall near Matthew Whaley elementary school. It wasn't their lucky day though. There were City of Williamsburg police officers sitting in the parking lot

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across the street, and they notified Colonial Williamsburg security.

“So we got frisked in front of a bunch of tourists on Easter Sunday,” Greg says with a grin.

The young men were released to their parents and received a stern lecture. It was just mischievous 16 year old behavior to climb the wall when they could have gotten in for free and they all laughed about it later.

Another way Scott and Greg spent time together was with the Williamsburg Presbyterian Youth Fellowship, and the Young Life program. The groups became an important part of their lives. Greg went to camp first, and then Scott joined him the next year. They attended Wednesday night meetings for many years. Greg recalls watching Scott’s baptism there - all 6 ft. 2 in. of him!

When it was time to leave for college, the friends parted but they remained in touch. Scott even met his wife by chance through Greg, who was dating a girl at Mary Washington College. He needed a “wingman” so Scott went along for a double date. Although Greg’s romance didn’t work out for him - it did for his

friend. Scott married Ellen, the roommate that he had taken along for his date. They have two children, Sam, 9, and McKinzie, 14.

Today Scott works for Eastern State Hospital as a Senior Recreation Therapist, while Greg owns the local AM radio station, WMBG, and a variety of other businesses including rental properties. Greg has three children, all continuing the family tradition of names beginning with G: Gabrielle, Graham, and Grace. His wife, Lisa, knew Scott would be part of the package when she married Greg.

“My wife is awesome. She completely appreciates and respects the friendship that Scott and I have,” Greg says.

Today, Scott and Greg work out together three days a week at 5 a.m. They ride together for accountability, and it gives them a chance to catch up.

“The deal is that I have to pick him up, and that he has to be ready,” Scott says.

Recently they returned from their annual cattle branding trip, where they help out at Scott’s cousin’s ranch for a few days. Branding is a community event, with all the ranchers helping out, to make sure that each calf bears

the owner’s brand. Last year, they took their oldest daughters, McKinzie and Gabrielle with them on the trip.

“They had a blast,” Scott says. “They didn’t want to leave.”

This fits with Scott’s career philosophy. He’s a big believer in experiential education.

“If we learn from something, it’s not a mistake,” he says.

Scott and Greg enjoy being a part of the Williamsburg community.

“I love being a few minutes from everyone who is important to me here.” Scott says. His mom still lives in Kingspoint. Plus, everything is close by. “Where else can you have a 10 year old truck with just 92,000 miles on it?” he says.

Greg continues to be active in the community as well, particularly the Williamsburg Jaycees. Men’s friendships may typically be more centered around activities rather than sitting down for an intimate chat, but Greg says that he tries to make a point to tell Scott that he values his friendship. It means a lot to him.

“When I have a project in one of my rental properties, I know I can call him and he’ll show up,” Greg says. NDN

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TIFFANY PHILLIPS & LYNDA GOOD

Making Each Other Better

By Alison Johnson

When Tiffany Phillips first met Lynda Good at a Williamsburg Jaycees meeting about 18 years ago, they liked each other right away. Neither of them could have predicted a close friendship was in the cards: Tiffany was 10 years younger and single, while Lynda was married and stepmother to a young daughter.

As it turns out, the age gap didn't matter one bit. In fact, it has been a plus – a way for each

woman to get a different perspective on her own life.

“Lynda is my sounding board,” Tiffany says. “She has taught me to be more relaxed about things. She has been through many similar situations as me and has shown me that somehow it always works out, or if it doesn't you can work through it.”

When Tiffany was still single in her early

30s, Lynda reassured her friend that the right man would come along. Three years ago, when Tiffany did get married – with Lynda as a bridesmaid – some of her blissful newlywed energy rubbed off on Lynda and created a new spark in her marriage.

“She helps me feel young,” Lynda says. “I might be complaining about an ache and she'll tell me, ‘Oh take an aspirin and be quiet,’ and





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then we'll both laugh. She's got a great outlook."

Tiffany, now 39, and Lynda, 49, have built a deep connection that has carried them through good times and bad, from fun-filled shopping trips and spa vacations to the deaths of parents and Tiffany's recovery after she donated part of her liver to save her mother's life.

Each says the friendship has truly changed her for the better. Tiffany, Manager of Membership Development for the Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance, credits Lynda with making her more assertive.

"I'm a 'yes' person, a people pleaser," Tiffany says. "Lynda helps me stand up for myself. She'll tell me, 'You can't do it all. It's OK to say no sometimes.' That has been very good for me."

Lynda, a manager at the Londons Bathecary shop in Merchant's Square, is brutally honest (in a kind way). She won't hesitate to tell Tiffany if a particular outfit isn't flattering, or that Tiffany might have deserved a certain treatment from a co-worker or acquaintance.

"I'll be going on and on like, 'Can you believe this person said this to me?'" Tiffany says. "Lynda will be like, 'Well, actually, yes.' And by the time she's done, I'll be thinking, 'Oh

yeah, that's true.' She always gives it to me straight."

Lynda, in turn, says Tiffany has taught her patience and tolerance. She thought about that recently when she was at a restaurant and had a waitress she didn't connect with right away. Instead of immediately judging the woman, Lynda struck up a conversation.

"She was so nice," Lynda says. "Tiffany showed me how to be like that: how to keep your mind open. She is the most loving, accepting person I've ever met."

Tiffany came to that long-ago Jaycees meeting looking to make new friends. Although she was born in Newport News she moved to Williamsburg at age 12. She graduated from Walsingham Academy, and attended Florida Southern College in hopes of working for Disney. After earning a Degree in Business Administration in 1994, she received a job offer at a Disney hotel but realized she needed to save more money to afford living in Florida. Tiffany moved back home to do that and has never left.

"I ended up realizing how much I like living in Williamsburg," she says.

Tiffany held various jobs after college, including running her own business doing

freelance administrative work and event planning for 10 years, from 1996 to 2006. That year, 2006, changed Tiffany's life and further strengthened her friendship with Lynda.

Tiffany's mother was battling liver cancer and needed a transplant to survive. By the summer, doctors told her she only had a few months to live. Over her mother's objections, Tiffany opted to donate part of her liver, an organ that can regenerate itself.

"It was a really easy decision," Tiffany says. "I mean, she was going to die. That's my mom. We've always been really tight. I was going to do whatever I could to help her."

In June, doctors removed 60 percent of Tiffany's liver to replace her mom's diseased organ. During her five-day hospital stay and long recovery at home, Lynda brought food and magazines and sat for hours just to talk.

"My liver had regenerated within a month, but it took about a year for me to feel completely back to myself in terms of energy," Tiffany says. "For about two months, there was a lot of pain."

Tiffany had to give up her business because she didn't have the strength to keep it going, but that was far from the worst blow. Less than three months after the liver donation, Tiffany

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was on the phone with Lynda when she got a call from her mother: her father had suffered a sudden, fatal heart attack.

"I hung up on Lynda and headed straight to the hospital," Tiffany remembers.

Lynda had been in the same place: she had lost both of her parents, and her mother who had died of a stroke in an equally sudden manner. Beyond emotional support, she knew exactly what Tiffany would need. Family and friends would come to Tiffany's mother's house with plates of food, but not drinks, napkins or plastic plates to save the family from having to wash loads of dishes.

"Lynda just showed up with a cooler full of drinks and all these utensils," Tiffany recalls. "I hadn't even asked her for anything. She was amazing."

Not long afterward, Lynda had something else for Tiffany: a tip about a job opening at the Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Alliance, where Lynda was working at the time. They were at lunch and Tiffany was wearing jeans and a sweatshirt, but she immediately went to report her interest in the position.

"I said, 'I usually dress and present myself much better than this,'" Tiffany says. "They interviewed me that day, in my jeans."

Although they no longer work together, Tiffany and Lynda meet often for lunch at Chili's, for coffee at Starbucks or take shopping trips; they could spend a whole day at Target. Each November they schedule a long weekend trip to hit the Potomac Mills mall in Woodbridge, Virginia. They also get together at each other's house to watch the reality show "Survivor" and vacation with their husbands at Lake Gaston, NC, every July.

"We just laugh a lot – constantly," Tiffany says.

Their families have grown close: Lynda calls Tiffany's mother "Mom", and Tiffany keeps tabs on Lynda's stepdaughter Dinah, now 21, on Facebook. The two friends also enjoy taking spa vacations with Tiffany's older sister, Tanya.

This year, Tiffany and Lynda will mark two more big milestones together: Tiffany turns 40 in August, and Lynda hits 50 in November. Lynda laughs that Tiffany now has some viewpoints that she remembers having 10 years ago. While Tiffany will never catch up in age, they'll always be a united front.

"I don't ever take Lynda for granted," Tiffany says. "She's like a sister. I can't imagine not having her in my life." NDN

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The Gift *of* Friendship

By Ryan Jones

Just after 9:00 p.m. on the night of May 29, 2010, Susan Parker was startled by the ringing of her telephone. Though she typically avoided answering the phone this late, she decided to make an exception and take the call. The news on the other end was somber. Susan's friend and neighbor of fourteen years, Carole Nesselrodt, was in the grasp of a life-threatening medical condition. She was not expected to last the night, and her family needed help watching the kids. Susan hurried over to babysit while Carole, her husband, Larry, and their soon-to-be adopted daughter, Mia, rushed to the hospital.

It was a long night for both women...a night neither would choose to



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repeat. Sitting with the pair on a warm spring afternoon two years later, the details of that experience seem almost surreal.

"I had my first two heart attacks before Susan and I met," Carole explains. "The first one happened when I was thirty-four years old. Six months later, it happened again and I went into cardiac arrest. Paramedics life-flighted me to the hospital, and the doctors opened up an artery that was different from the one affected by the first heart attack. I coded, and they had to jump my heart five times to get it going. During my third heart attack sixteen years later, I went into cardiac arrest again. They gave me five jolts. This time the jolts didn't work. Finally, they did a precordial thump on me and got my heart going. They didn't expect me to live, and, if I did, they said I was going to be brain-dead because I was gone for too long."

Susan says that seeing Carole in a state of vulnerability during her recovery seemed unnatural because Carole had always been known for her outgoing, service-oriented personality. Carole believes that faith, family, friendship, and a commitment to serving others are what

enabled her to recover from her health challenges. Both Carole and Susan say their shared faith is central to their friendship, and is focused on helping each other to live basic Christian principles.

"That's what helps us to deal with the things that we've been through," says Susan. "We believe God has asked us to be patient and love each other, and we hold each other accountable to that."

Susan says she has enjoyed watching Carole progress in her faith over the last fourteen years.

"Carole has always had a strong faith in God," she remarks, "but I've seen her grow over the years and watched it get stronger."

"It's a choice to trust," explains Carole. "I have things in my mind that I want to do, but I live day-to-day. I try not to look too far ahead. I wake up each day, put on my seatbelt, and ask God what he wants me to do."

Over the years, Carole has proved willing to serve in a variety of circumstances. She has dedicated her time, means and even her home to further a number of personal ministries.

One such endeavor was a Christian singles group that met regularly in the years after she went through a divorce. Another ministry, called God's Closet, began after Carole remarried several years later. Carole says Susan has helped in forwarding this effort.

"Being foster parents, we wanted to have a place to store things that we would need for the foster kids," explains Carole. "When you get a call for placement from social services, you don't have a lot of time to prepare. One weekend, we decided to clean out our attic. Later it was evident that we could use our attic space to store some of these items and act as sort of a middleman for people who wanted to donate."

Carole's entire family got involved in picking up and storing clothes and other items.

"It was good for the kids to be able to give back and serve those who might have had a rougher road to travel than they had," she says.

Carole believes one of her most worthwhile achievements has been her role as a mother.

"My son was in Iraq fighting in the war, and he was with some guys that had absolutely nobody to turn to," she says. "They were scared.

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These were young 18 and 19-year-olds. My son was the one trying to hold them up with his faith. I am so grateful that I chose to share my faith with him and the rest of my children. My kids know that they can pray, and that's what holds them up. That's an accomplishment for me."

Susan helps relate a story that epitomizes the kind of friend she sees in Carole. Years ago, Carole met a woman who had recently moved to the Williamsburg area. The woman had a drinking problem, and, to make matters worse, she was involved in a painful divorce. A heavy drinking binge landed her in the hospital. After she was released, Carole took her into her home and nursed her back to health. It wasn't long before the woman found a job and bought a car. After months of recuperation, she felt ready to re-enter the mainstream. Carole helped her get her own apartment, where she did well on her own for a brief season. Sadly, she was soon drinking again.

One day, Carole was summoned to the hospital with the grim news that her friend was bleeding internally. Doctors confirmed that

nothing could be done to stop the hemorrhaging. Carole wept silently and held her friend's hand as she slipped away. Afterwards, she contacted her friend's parents and sibling to tell them what had happened. Then, she felt compelled to seek out her friend's companions at Alcoholics Anonymous. Carole looked up the time and place of the next meeting and walked into a room full of people. In the last ten minutes of the meeting, she rose to speak to the group.

"I remember praying that God's words would be my words," Carole remembers. "I thought my heart was going to beat right out of my chest. When I finished speaking, one person after another remarked that this had been the most powerful meeting they had ever been to. What they felt was Jesus...and me being willing (to be His voice)."

Susan and Carole continue to help each other stay strong in their faith. Their families intermingle regularly, and Carole is in the process of adopting two teenage boys. Having twice stood at the threshold of eternity, Carole tends to look at mortality with a little less ap-

prehension than many of us may.

Does she remember anything about those critical moments when her heart stopped beating? Carole smiles.

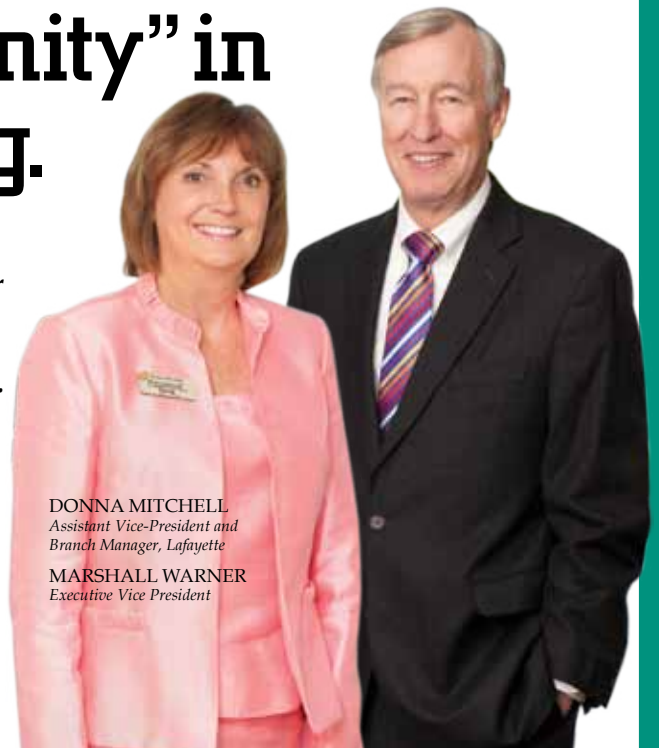
"I remember when I first moved down here from Massachusetts," she says. "It was August and we all went to the beach. The weather couldn't have been any better. There were sailboats out and there were ships off in the distance. Porpoises were jumping out of the water - everything was perfect that day. This experience (dying) was way better than that. It beat a perfect day at the beach."

Though Susan has not yet opened this particular doorway as wide as Carole has, she believes the road they walk together will one day lead them to the same destination. The journey will not likely get any easier, but the bonds of friendship between Susan's and Carole's families will make the walk a gratifying experience.

"God said there will be trials and tribulations," says Susan. "That's just a fact of life. Having a friend to go through them with is one of God's greatest gifts." NDN

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RUSSELL SEYMOUR

Working Behind the Scenes

By Greg Lilly, Editor

“The Office of Economic Development has expanded its role. Economic development has historically been about marketing and attracting new businesses to the area,” states Russell Seymour, Director of James City County’s Office of Economic Development. “One of the things that we’ve changed in the last year and a half is additional focus on our existing businesses.”

Russell says his approach has always been “a two-sided coin – you can’t have one without the other. You can’t focus exclusively on business attraction. Bring in one new business and lose three existing ones.” He explains that

for many years, economic development offices around the country were structured to entice businesses to the area, but neglected the established ones. “It was all about bringing in new businesses, and all too often businesses that had been major players, major contributors to the area and economy were forgotten – until another jurisdiction came and lured them away.”

Russell came “home” a couple of years ago. He grew up in the Tabb community of York County, worked at Busch Gardens as a teen and graduated from Christopher Newport University. “I earned my Master of Art in Urban Planning at the University of Akron (Ak-

ron, Ohio),” Russell says. “I had the opportunity to work for the mayor’s office in Akron.” The city was embarking on a lot of redevelopment initiatives.

“Akron had been the rubber capital of the world,” Russell explains. “If there was a tire manufactured in this country, it was probably manufactured in Akron, Ohio. At some point, back in the 1970s and ’80s, the rubber companies left. Only Goodyear is still there.”

When that industry vacated Akron, there was a complete downturn in the economy. Some areas of the city were hit hard and needed economic help. “We started focusing on the



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downtown area. Working with the mayor's office, I got practice and a lot of good insight. One of the projects I worked on was putting a baseball stadium in downtown Akron, right on the canal – the Ohio and Erie Canal that runs through the middle of the city. We modeled it from the Norfolk Tides Stadium."

Russell had the opportunity to stay in Akron. "But I'm a Virginian," he states. "I wanted to come back home." He moved to the Northern Virginia area and spent 16 years working there. He met his wife there, got married and started a family. "I realized that this was home. My family is still here. This is where I wanted to raise my family."

He came to work with James City County in November of 2010. "It's good to be home. There is something to be said to be able to work with companies and people I have memories of from my school days," Russell says. "A lot of people we work with are people I went to school with or companies that I have known over the years. It's good to get back and serve that community. This is home for me."

In the year and a half that Russell has led the Office of Economic Development, he has established programs for existing businesses. "We'll never get out of the business of attraction – that's a core function of the economic

development field. But, equally important to us is working with our existing businesses."

Significant changes have been made in how the county approaches the task of helping develop business enterprise and the different opportunities the county provides for businesses. "For example," Russell says, "our incentive programs. We make sure there is availability for existing businesses to have access to those. We're spending more time focusing on smaller businesses. Everybody looks for that one 300,000-500,000 square foot users. That comes along maybe once or twice in a career. We will never stop going for those, but we're focusing a lot now on start-up businesses, the businesses in a transition period to their next step."

James City County has a wide array of businesses. "We have large employers like Anheuser-Busch InBev, Walmart Distribution Center, [and] Printpack to very small operations of one or two people." The large employers affect the area's economy. "When Busch Gardens has good numbers there is a ripple effect in the community. When a company like Walmart Distribution brings [in] employees, even if the employees don't live in the county, they will buy gas, lunch, groceries, have their dry cleaning done. By bringing those big businesses in,

it helps retail, services and our small businesses in the county as well."

A pet project for Russell is the directive to use existing local businesses as much as possible. "A lot of times you will see areas that don't necessarily take time to promote the local businesses," he says. "For example, we're in the process of redoing our website. We chose a local business to do that. Part of what will be on that website will be a business-to-business directory with the idea that if you are a business in James City County and in need of a particular type of service, consider looking locally for that service – before looking at Newport News, Norfolk or Richmond. You will probably find what you need here in the county."

Businesses are encouraged to look for products and services locally. Residents are encouraged to shop in their neighborhoods for the things they need as well. "Shop local," he adds. "We have businesses here that can meet those needs."

The recession has caused economic development directors across the country to be more creative. "The field is much more competitive," Russell says. "You have more jurisdictions fighting for fewer companies. Some jurisdictions and states are willing to give anything away to get companies." He states that the return-on-

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investment (ROI) for incentives to bring a company to a municipality has been traditionally about three years. "For some other places, I've seen ROI up to 20 years now. The ironic part is that you never know how many businesses opening now will be around in 20 years. As a state and a locality, we are competing with other jurisdictions that can get overly aggressive with what they are offering and their return on investment calculations."

Where the numbers may be hard to match, no one can beat our area's broad, yet hard to quantify, benefits. "We are fortunate here. We have a lot of positive attributes that make James City County a much more attractive place to do business," Russell says. "We have an aggressive posture where we are very focused on meeting the needs of the businesses. If I am working with a new business prospect or an existing business located in the county, I say: 'Let's sit down and [you] tell us what you need. We can figure out how to make it work.' That's our approach."

Workforce, quality of life and county offices are key factors for businesses. "We have a highly-educated, high-work ethic type of workforce," Russell explains. "Looking at a 30 to 40 minute commute we have a lot of people to pull from. We have a very good employment base here. We have a very high quality of life. Businesses list quality of life in their top things they look for. We have an aggressive Economic Development Authority (EDA), a supportive Board of Supervisors, and other county departments wanting to be more pro-business. Our mantra is 'How can we help you?' Tell us how to address the needs. Our incentive program is balanced with our need for a good return on investment, but we don't have a set of incentives that a business had to mold its needs to match. We flip that around and tailor our incentives to what the business needs."

The James City County Business and Technology Incubator, in partnership with the College of William and Mary, is another positive for business in the county. "That is a very solid program for businesses moving into James City County," Russell adds.

Russell says that he's seen a change in economic development where the prospects are getting fewer and farther between. James City County is focusing more on small businesses. "We're adding a concentration on home-grown projects, more locally created, whether through our incubator program or our programs that take a small business – one or two people businesses – that are here and ready to take the next step in growth. It's going to be the smaller businesses that are driving the economy." He explains that the majority of the economy is made up of small businesses. "Anywhere you look, that's the fact. I think we'll see more activity in small businesses. As larger businesses downsize, we're seeing those laid-off employees start their own businesses. We have a very creative society."

Along with the home-grown, small businesses, Russell sees a growth in diversifying the tourist market. "We have an aggressive sports marketing program. Look at Warhill Sports Complex. We have the facilities for attracting sporting events."

The opportunity to make a difference is what brings Russell Seymour into his office each day. "When you look at economic development, if we do our job correctly, you don't know who we are – we're behind the scenes." He sees the impact of his work in all parts of the life of his friends and neighbors. "To be able to work in the area I grew up in, to have a positive impact on our local businesses and – as an economic development director, a family man and a father – to support our local economy, to get involved in activities like my son's baseball team, Parks and Rec programs, our school system that my wife is involved with... being able to contribute to your hometown, that's what I get the biggest kick out of." **NDN**

Next Door Neighbors Sports



ANNE GROSSMAN

Corey Miller

Go Play!

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Anne Grossman is active in multiple sports such as running, cycling, swimming and Nordic Walking. Her athleticism hasn't been a life-long talent. "No, I wasn't a high school athlete," she says. "We didn't have sports for girls then. I didn't do anything in college. I didn't grow up athletic, but I grew up active. Walking never bothered me. I loved to bike as a child. We lived in a small town, and I'd bike to friend's homes."

Anne and her husband, Ron, moved to Williamsburg six years ago from New Jersey. "After living in the same house, [and] same town in New Jersey for 32 years," she adds. "We raised our kids there. We were thinking about retirement, and you simply do not retire in New Jersey. Williamsburg was a great choice." The climate was attractive for the active couple. "Here there are still four seasons, but longer springs and falls. We're within a day's drive to many of our family and friends, plus, this

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Back in New Jersey, Anne and Ron started their family. “I was in my late 20s,” Anne says, “and it was after my two kids had been born within 14 months of each other. My waistline had disappeared!” She decided that she needed to get active.

“I started exercising in small increments. Ten minutes a day – it was called the Royal Canadian Air Force Exercise Plan.” She made a deal with one of her friends that they would get together and exercise four days a week. “I want to tell you how easy it would have been to not do it, but because I had a friend, who kept me accountable, we did the ten minutes. The exercises didn’t use weights or anything, just body strength and flexibility. The last two minutes was jogging in place.”

She and Ron moved to the house and town that they would stay in to raise the children, but Anne had lost her workout buddy. Ron decided to fill-in. “He said the two minutes of jogging in place was boring, so we decided to go around the neighborhood,” Anne explains. “I had the perfect introduction to exercise and sports because everything was added in very small doses. I never thought of it as onerous. I

had a buddy, who was my husband, so if one of us didn’t want to do it, the other one would get the shoes out and urge the other on.”

The two minute jog took to the streets around their home. “We started with a quarter mile run around the neighborhood then worked up to a mile run that had a big hill. I did that mile run for years before I did anything longer than that. I thought that was all I could do since I was doing it pretty fast. I remember the day one of our neighbors said he would take me on a three mile run. I said I couldn’t run that far. He said I could and showed me how to slow down and do it. I did that three miles and it opened up my world.” Running was her first sport.

“In my mid-thirties my knees hurt,” she states. “This was in the mid-1970s when running was the one thing we all did aerobically.” To find something else to do on her days off from running, she caught the Jazzercise® bug. “I took my first class and loved it. It was aerobic dance to music, and I love music. Within six months, I had become certified to teach; I liked it that much.” That opened the world of exercise and sports options for Anne. “Jazzercise® was so much fun, like Zumba® is today. It was never boring. I alternated that with run-

ning.”

During that time, Ron needed to rest his knees as well and bought a couple of road bicycles. “We went on a weekend tour with Vermont Bicycle Tours that taught us how to use a good quality bike, shift gears and actually how to do distances,” Anne explains. “It taught me how to ride on the road with cars. I loved bicycling because it reminded me of being a kid. I never felt like I was working hard. That weekend tour showed me I could do a distance.”

Anne says she does well when she has a goal to work toward. She signed up for a charity ride that very same weekend. “That ride was the Anchor House Ride for Runaways,” she says. “In Trenton, New Jersey, there was a place called Anchor House – a safe shelter for kids who were runaways. The ride helped with the funding. It was a 500 mile ride from somewhere back to Trenton. Every year, they would go to a new place. You had to raise money for the shelter. I did that with a friend. It was probably the hardest thing I had ever done. That one started in Canada, came through Vermont and wound down to New Jersey. I remember the first 20 miles thinking I couldn’t do it. Each day I got stronger. When I finished that ride, I was a different person. I realized that there was never

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any problem that was too big that I couldn't take one mile at a time, or one step at a time. I learned so much from riding that distance."

In the 1980s and early '90s, the culture of fitness exploded with opportunities, races, classes and charity benefits. Anne ran, biked, and attended and taught aerobics classes. "I saw how I responded to challenges and saw how friends of mine needed challenges," she says. "I started to coach for Teams in Training (TNT) for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's endurance sports training program – a walking team. It's harder to walk a marathon than running because you use a lot more body movement and less pounding. For three years, I coached. I did about nine marathons. I loved the training. I like having that goal."

Anne and Ron moved to Williamsburg in 2006. "New place, new everything," she states. "What I liked about what I had learned was that I could do it on my own. I had given up Jazzercise® and dance because I was getting too old for that," she admits. "Where we live is wonderfully rural. I had all these great outdoor trails at my door. I could run and not worry about traffic for the first time in my life. I put head phones on and had music, which I never had in New Jersey running on narrow country

roads, facing traffic, feeling like I was taking my life in my hands." She joined the Williamsburg Area Bicyclists and met some other people with her same interests, but she still enjoys taking off on foot or on her bike directly from her own front door.

"Most of the sports and activities I do are individual," Anne says. "I like things that can be done at any place and at any time. The activities involve a little bit of skill so I learn something. I love the feeling of the body adapting. When I first started Nordic Walking, I felt like I couldn't coordinate the walk. I laughed thinking it was just walking. I had to slow it down and get used to it. That night, I could feel different muscles. I love it when you can feel different parts of the body working – doing something different."

The key, she says, is to make the activity fun. "Make it a game. Mix up the run, change pace, change the route," Anne suggests. "You have to like it. The common link is that whatever you liked as a child is more like play and not exercise. For me, I think of cycling, walking, [and] running. If you watch an eight-year-old run, you see that they are so smooth and have such a good time. We adults make it into so much work. The kids have the forward lean, their legs

extend, and they just float like a deer. We just plod along. 'Gotta get it done.' We have to remind ourselves that it's not work; it's fun."

Her path to fitness was a gradual one. "I never took on more than I could tolerate until I was aware that the effort put into the exercise was always rewarded by how alive and energized I felt afterward. I craved that good feeling, and it got me through the tough learning-curves for each new activity. The reward of energy was sufficient to keep going."

Anne is a two-year breast cancer survivor. "I'm on meds that thin bones and can cause pain," she explains. "The exercise is now crucial to my well-being." She's thankful that she has incorporated different exercises into her daily routine, so the exercise requirement is "one pill that is easy for me to swallow."

She wants to get more serious with the sport of Nordic Walking. "You can Nordic Walk a marathon. That's in the back of my mind," she states. "They have them in certain parts of the country where the marathon is friendly to the Nordic Walk." With an array of enjoyable sports and activities, Anne never lets herself get bored. "Exercise can never be boring or you stop. You have to vary. It allows me to stay active. Find something that is just play." NDN

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Corey Miller



GERI DOKOS

Summer Breeze NIGHTS

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Wednesday nights sparkle in Merchants Square during July and August. Geri Dokos, president of the Merchants Square Association and owner of Seasons Restaurant and Stephanos Pizza & Subs, has helped bring summer entertainment to the Williamsburg community. Her enthusiasm and love of music spotlight the annual summer concerts in downtown Williamsburg.

In its 21st year, the Summer Breeze concert series starts on July 11 and runs through August 29th. "That's each Wednesday night and the concerts start at 7:00 p.m.," Geri says. "The 11th is the Central Virginia Jazz Orchestra. The 18th is the Kings of Swing. The 25th of July is Slapwater. Slapwater [the band] is a friend of mine. I follow them everywhere. I love to dance to Slapwater."

Dancing and toe-tapping, dinner and drinks, shopping and people-watching are the order of the day during the concerts. "The stage is right on Duke of Gloucester Street, in front of the old SunTrust building," Geri explains. "People bring lawn chairs and set them up near the stage. Many people go to The Cheese Shop or The Trellis with their outside seating to have dinner during the concerts. People love that. It's a great atmosphere for dinner if you can get there early and claim a table."

Geri grew up in the area. "My dad was at Langley, so I've been in the Hampton Roads area all my life. I've been in Kingsmill since 1980,"

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she says. "I love it in Williamsburg. The state of Virginia is beautiful – the ocean, bay, rivers and mountains – just beautiful."

Geri and her late husband, Steven, owned several restaurants before the ones in Merchants Square. "We sold our McDonalds franchises and opened Cheers restaurants," she says. The Cheers restaurants were located in Newport News, Chesapeake and Fairfax. "The one in Fairfax was called Beacon Street," she adds.

"We had Seasons while we had Cheers," Geri explains. "We've had Seasons for 19 years." Before the building housed the restaurant, it was Williamsburg's post office. "Steve helped with the design of the restaurant, converting it from the post office to a restaurant. We've been working here since. Steve passed away in 2010." Geri spends a lot of her time at Seasons and keeps her hand on the pulse of what's happening in Merchants Square.

As president of the Merchants Square Association, Geri leads a group of approximately 40 merchants to help promote the area and bring tourists, as well as locals, into the Square.

"We got together originally to pool marketing money and to help each other as we promoted Merchants Square as a destination. Now we find that the Square has become the town's gathering place, thanks to events such as the

art shows, the Williamsburg Farmers Market, holiday festivals and concerts like the Summer Breeze series."

The bands are chosen for variety and the armed forces bands add a patriotic flavor to the August performances. "The United States Air Force bands and the U.S. Army bands always draw big crowds," Geri states.

The concerts generally attract locals. "But," she adds, "tourists are always delighted to discover the concerts. They seem to enjoy hanging around, listening to the music, having a drink and dinner, and maybe dancing." She says that since the locals know to bring a lawn chair, the tourists are usually on their feet while listening and are more susceptible to breaking into dance.

"The Trolley," she says, "shuttles people between Merchants Square, William and Mary, Williamsburg Shopping Center, High Street and New Town on a continuous loop. Locals can go to any of those places to park their cars and ride the Trolley. I have regulars at Seasons who live in New Town and ride the Trolley all the time."

The activity, the people, the special events keep Geri engaged with downtown Williamsburg. "I love the restaurant business because I get to deal with people all day long," she says.

"They are genuinely happy to be here – locals and tourists alike. I talk to them from lunch through dinner."

The charm of Merchants Square draws locals. "That's why most of us moved here," she says, "the quaintness of this area. You don't get that at very many places in the country. It's so quaint and there is always something going on like the concerts, the ghost tours, the Farmers Market and the Kimball Theatre. There is always something happening at Merchants Square." NDN

The Summer Breeze concert series includes:

- July 11: Central Virginia Jazz Orchestra, 7 – 9 p.m.
- July 18: Kings of Swing, 7 – 9 p.m.
- July 25: Slapwater, 7 – 9 p.m.
- August 1: USAF Heritage Brass, 7 – 8:15 p.m.
- August 8: USAF Heritage Ramblers Dixie Ensemble, 7 – 8:15 p.m.
- August 15: USAF Blue Aces Popular Music Ensemble, 7 – 8:15 p.m.
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- August 29: USAF Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble, 7 – 8:15 p.m.

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DR. KEITH SCHUMANN

Summer Skin

By Greg Lilly, Editor

"In the dermatology world, we have a battle against too much sun exposure because we see all the effects later on," explains Dr. Keith Schumann. He says there is a big misconception about how much sun exposure a person needs. "The debate about vitamin D and calcium hints at that," he adds. "That discussion flavors how we apply sunscreen." The blood test for low vitamin D levels had its threshold lowered recently. "So now a lot of people are showing as deficient. There are studies, that even with professional surfers who are out in the sun all the time, even they are showing low levels of vitamin D according to the new standards. So, if you take supplements, you don't have to be concerned about getting enough sun exposure. Plus, it takes just a little bit of sun exposure to get the benefit."

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Dr. Schumann grew up in Connecticut and moved south to attend the University of Richmond. "I'm from a family of engineers, so how I got into medicine, I'm not sure," he says with a smile. "At the University of Richmond for my undergraduate, I didn't decide to go to graduate school until the very last year." He was a chemistry major and had taken some biochemistry courses that piqued his interest in medical school.

"I have one relative in medicine – an orthopedic surgeon. He practiced in Maine," Dr. Schumann says. "I shadowed him. Orthopedic surgery was not what I thought it would be. The first time I went into surgery with him, I thought it was going to be a very fine and delicate procedure, but then with hip replacements and knee replacements, mallets are going and legs are flying."

Despite what he saw with orthopedics, he liked the surgical environment. "I went into the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) part of Virginia Commonwealth University. I didn't really decide on dermatology until the end of the program. I wasn't really exposed to most of the subspecialties until the very last year when I worked in the community with a couple of senior dermatologists."

Dr. Schumann doesn't hide from the sun. His outdoor activities include mountain biking, long-distance running and kayaking, so he experiences summer sun exposure like everyone else. "In the summer, the rule of thumb that I like the best is: you should seek shade when your shadow is shorter than you. Often we say to avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., that's really when your shadow is shortest." He times his activities in the mornings and in the evenings to minimize his exposure to the strongest rays.

Always wear sunscreen, he states. Even early and late, the sun still has an effect. "Most people aren't aware that they need to reapply their sunscreen," Dr. Schumann says. "When you are on the beach, you should reapply every several hours. The Academy of Dermatology recommends reapplying every two hours, which can be unrealistic. But reapply after you have gone into the water and at least once during the peak hours."

The labeling for sunscreen can be confusing. "It is changing in the next few months," he says, "hopefully to be simpler and easier to understand. There are so many complications to the number on the sunscreen bottle. That Sun Protection Factor (SPF) number only applies to the ultraviolet B (UVB) light. It is ultraviolet A (UVA) that is the real risk factor for melanoma. Ultraviolet B is certainly a risk factor for chronic skin aging and the basal and squamous cell skin cancers."

The SPF number on sunscreen tells how effective it is in blocking the UVB rays. UVB will burn your skin and continued exposure ages skin prematurely and can lead to skin cancers.

Not only does UVA age your skin, it increases your risk for melanoma – a skin cancer that is more dangerous and more likely to spread to other parts of the body than basal or squamous cell skin cancers. "Often sunscreen labels add phrases like 'with broad spectrum coverage' or 'with UVA protection,' but it doesn't quantify the UVA protection, which is as important as the UVB protection. So, that's confusing," Dr. Schumann states.

The amount of sunscreen applied should be far greater than anyone puts on, he adds. "If it's an SPF 30 when you cover yourself like a cupcake, when you put it on like most of us use it – maybe it's a 15. There is some value to the higher numbers, but really sun avoidance mid-day is far more important."

Sun avoidance is the number one thing to do. "Sun-protective clothing is next," he says of ultraviolet protective clothing sold at recreation stores. "Sunscreen or sunblock is the third leg of the sun safety equation."

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Dr. Schumann suggests that everyone start a yearly dermatologist visit for a skin check by the age of 50. “Most people really benefit from an annual check,” he says. “It’s common for people to come in about one lesion they are concerned about – and hopefully we can tell them that one is fine – but we look them over and might find a skin cancer elsewhere that they were not aware of.”

He lists the basic warning signs: “A non-healing growth on the skin – that is super important – any lesion that bleeds on your skin. Growths with multiple colors are also indications. The most common in terms of basal and squamous is a red scaly lesion. Those are the main risk indicators. The pointers of non-healing, bleeding, red and crusty are important, but having an annual check is more so.”

The sun isn’t the only concern for summer skin, itchy plants and biting insects love the Williamsburg area. “Poison ivy resin gets on your skin from those three-leaf plants,” Dr. Schumann describes. “When it’s on your hands, you might spread it around a little before you wash your hands or shower. Different areas of the skin are more susceptible to showing the rash. For one area, it may take just a few hours or a day to develop, while another area may take two days. People think they are contagious or that they are spreading it. That’s not true. Once you have it, you are not spreading it on yourself or contagious to someone else. It’s just a delayed response.”

Dr. Schumann suggests when you have been out hiking or doing some other outdoor activity, wash your hands and maybe your face right away. “That way if you were exposed and didn’t know it, you’ve stopped it from spreading.” You don’t have to have direct exposure with poison ivy to have it affect your skin – the resin can make contact from gloves that you used to pull weeds or even from your dog or cat’s fur.

“We see a lot of ticks during the summer,” he adds. “Lots of times people don’t know that the tick is on them. Wearing long pants and long sleeved shirts are the best protection,” Dr. Schumann says, “but that’s not really appropriate when it is super hot. Spraying insect repellent helps ward off ticks too. You are less desirable if you have some DEET (N,N-Diethyl-meta-toluamide) on you.”

Lyme disease is a particular concern when ticks are biting. “A deer tick has to spend enough time to engorge, enlarge and be swollen – to regurgitate your blood – usually that takes up to a whole day for you to be at risk for Lyme disease. If you examine yourself right after mountain biking and find a tick, there is little chance it has infected you. If you are concerned that it’s been on you several hours or it is engorged then it is important to see a doctor. It’s just a matter of taking doxycycline. Several doses of that prevent your risk of Lyme disease.”

Flying insects like midges and mosquitoes can leave itchy bites. Insect repellent can help prevent the bite, but once the insects have feasted, there is some relief. “The best thing over-the-counter is Cortaid-10 (hydrocortisone 1%) cream. You can apply that several times a day. That’s safe for just about any place on your body. Antihistamines are good. If you aren’t working or driving, you could take some Benadryl,” Dr. Schumann suggests. “If you need something non-sedating, Zyrtec. I find that to be the best of the non-sedating antihistamines. Those help for both the itch and resolve the bump.”

Dr. Keith Schumann says he loves practicing dermatology in Williamsburg. “This area has a lot of people who have interesting lives,” he states. “The patient interaction and getting to know my patients is the most interesting part of my job. The dermatology, long ago, became second nature, but patient interaction is the fascinating part, those connections are what keep the day interesting.” NDN



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

LORI GRYGALONIS

Picnic

with Williamsburg Recipes

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Fire up the grills, pack the picnic baskets, leave the kitchen behind, advises Lori Grygalonis. Lori is a member of The Woman's Club of Williamsburg, which is part of the international General Federation of Women's Clubs. The Woman's Club of Williamsburg recently published the cookbook, *Tasteful Traditions*. It's a collection of the Williamsburg community's favorite recipes, ranging from the summer grilling season to the cozy winter holidays.

"The recipes come from the heart," Lori explains. "People wanted to contribute what they felt was their best recipe." Recipes range from

Q & A



An Interview with Cathy
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What should be considered when buying a "resale" vs buying a new construction home?

RICHARDSON:

According to many Realtors® in today's market, both new construction and resale homes are getting buyers' attention. Therefore, buyers should evaluate the pros and cons of each alternative so they can make an intelligent, educated decision as to which option is best suited for their particular needs and budget.

For some buyers there's no question. They won't buy anything but new construction because they are happier in a home that has never been occupied. There seems to be satisfaction in knowing that everything in the new construction is brand new. Today's new construction has more efficient and quieter appliances; heating and cooling systems are usually more energy efficient and do a much better job of eliminating hot and cold spots in the home; it's usually wired for cable TV and high speed Internet access; it's built by the most current safety, fire and health codes. It also tends to appreciate at a faster rate in the first two to five years after purchase, partly because the first few years you are making improvements to the house such as landscaping, fencing, window coverings, etc. Plus, the builder sometimes drives the price of occupied homes up by continually increasing the prices of the new construction homes they are selling.

If you are considering purchasing new construction, it would be wise to consider the following: Prior to viewing a model home, make an appointment with your Realtor® and have him or her research the market for you; become pre-qualified by a local lender. Your Realtor® can offer recommendations if needed; meet with builder and/or builder's Agent with your Realtor® before signing an agreement or contract. Usually the builder's "list price" is firm and any extras, upgrades or changes are added to the "list price" of the new home, which adds up quickly. However, your Realtor's® recommendations can assist you in staying within your budget; make sure you get all agreements and addendums in writing and signed by all parties to the contract. Builder incentives will usually include full or partial closing costs if a buyer uses the builder's preferred Lender and Attorney. The builder will usually offer a home warranty on appliances and a home warranty on the structure. Buyers will have a walk-through when the home is complete. However, it's

the buyer's option to acquire a professional Home Inspection, at buyer expense, because new construction does not mean it is perfect.

If you think you may need to sell your new construction home within the first two or three years, you may want to consider a resale home. As long as the builder is building new homes in your neighborhood, it may be hard to sell your home because the builder will be offering incentives that you may not be able to match. (Your Realtor® can offer recommendations if needed).

Some buyers will buy resale homes only. Advantages of buying a resale home are: you are moving into an established neighborhood and prices are more negotiable; in terms of investment, some resale home will often give you far more value than a brand new home because many owners put tens of thousands of dollars into home improvements that do not always increase the market value of the home; buyers also have more styles, floor plans and neighborhoods to choose from; many re-sales are priced lower than new construction because older homes sometime tend to need a little TLC.

This is where the home inspection is essential. If certain items do not pass the home inspection, it is either the owner's responsibility to fix them or offer the buyer an allowance to cover the repairs. In addition, the lower price may also offer upgrades, window treatments, security system, home warranty, sprinkler system, closing incentives, etc.

Another factor to consider is that your lender will require an appraisal, paid by the buyer, and the home must appraise. New or used, if buying a home in an established community buyers must consider Home Owners Association (HOA) fees. In addition, when purchasing new construction or resale, lifestyle should be a major consideration because so much of the economics is beyond a buyer's control.

Some disadvantages in buying resale older homes are: The lack of storage space; no master suite; smaller bedroom sizes; less energy efficient; older appliances; more maintenance; less square footage, etc.

Regardless of whether you decide to purchase a new construction home or a resale home, you should become prequalified and represented by a Realtor® who can guide and advise you through the buying process. For additional expert information and guidance consult a REALTOR®. For a complete and accurate listing of homes for sale visit www.WAA-Realtor.com

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getting the cookout started with sangria, green pea salad, Old Virginia corn pudding and sweet potato casserole; to firing up the grill with Chimichurri sirloin, beer-grilled chops, lemon-butter tilapia, plantation-barbecued chicken and sweet bourbon baby back ribs; to finishing up with peach cobbler and rhubarb pie. Lori says the cookbook has "not so complicated recipes, you do not have to go out and buy a lot of specialty ingredients. These are well-tested in local kitchens."

Lori is originally from Massachusetts. "I married my husband there," she says. "He was offered a job with Anheuser-Busch in Merrimack, New Hampshire." They moved to New Hampshire and lived there for four years and started their family with a daughter and a son. "From New Hampshire, Anheuser-Busch moved us to Houston, Texas for two years. Then they moved us here." Williamsburg was the place they stayed to raise their family.

"The children were starting to get older and we didn't want to move them again," Lori says. "We have two fabulous kids. They both graduated from high school here." When the Grygalonis family moved to Williamsburg, the children were just starting school. "This has pretty much been their home," Lori adds. "Williamsburg is a great place to bring up children. The schools are really good and gave them everything they needed. They were both into sports and cheerleading and the whole thing. It's a great community for children."

Both of her children graduated from James Madison University. "William and Mary was too close," Lori says with a laugh. "They wanted to get a little distance. That's true of young people. Our daughter teaches kindergarten at Surry Elementary now. Our son is a doctor of physical therapy in Richmond. So, they're close, and we get to see them a lot."

Lori stayed busy with the children's school activities during those first years in Williamsburg. "I had always volunteered and been involved in a lot of things," she says. "As the kids grew up and moved out, I wanted to volunteer and meet other women."

She attended a meeting of The Woman's Club of Williamsburg. "I was ready to join. They were doing the budget for the following year and didn't have enough funds to support all the charities that they usually support. They started crossing off charities from their list. I felt really bad and thought there must be a way for us to make money so we can support these charities."

The cookbook came to mind and Lori started to investigate the possibility. "The fund raising committee thought it was a good idea," she says. Lori and two other women from the club started organizing. "We asked all the club members to give us recipes. Some of these recipes have been in the families for generations. They are basic recipes, some are gourmet, but most are what you can cook with the base ingredients that most kitchens already have."

Besides collecting recipes from the members of the club, they also asked people in the community to contribute. Doctors, financial advisors, hair stylists and travel agents submitted recipes, along with local chefs from restaurants such as: Aberdeen Barn, Five Forks Restaurant, LaPetite Tearoom at the Antique Mall, Oceans & Ale, Old Chickahominy House, Second Street and Victoria's Restaurant.

"It's not just the Woman's Club, but also the Williamsburg community that contributed to the cookbook," Lori states. "We were able to keep the

charities on our list plus had the additional funds to add a few more.”

The club funds scholarships for high school seniors, helps send campers to Camp Easter Seals, supports local organizations such as Hospice House, Meals-on-Wheels, Avalon and Head Start. “We have a fashion show each spring that generates some of that money,” Loris explains. The cookbook was an opportunity to diversify their fundraising.

“It’s a great book organized from appetizers through desserts plus cookies and candies,” she describes. “It is also indexed by recipe and by contributor’s name. The chefs have their recipes in there – for example, Chef Michael Wozniak from Oceans & Ale has a great recipe for the grill: Chimichurri Sirloin. That’s one of my favorites.”

Another of Lori’s favorites is Grandma’s blueberry pie. “My daughter put it in, so I’m partial to that one. I’ve tried so many of them. It has a broad spectrum of dishes. The oriental chicken wings recipe is great for a picnic and so is the shrimp and rice salad – that is tasty.”

Loris admits she loves to people-watch. Some of her favorite places for a summer picnic include area parks like College Landing Park. “It has that marsh walkway, which I like. The Mid-County Park where Kidsburg is located is a fun place. Take a picnic to the ballgames at Warhill Sports Complex,” she says. The Colonial Parkway and around Colonial Williamsburg are prime locations to enjoy nature and watch neighbors and visitors go by.

The Woman’s Club of Williamsburg cookbook *Tasteful Traditions* is available at the William and Mary Bookstore in Merchants Square, The Virginia Gourmet Market on McLaws Circle and from club members. “It’s a work reflecting the variety of Williamsburg and helping raise funds for charities,” Lori Grygalonis says. Whether your plans are a backyard barbecue, neighborhood block party or a family picnic on the Fourth of July, Lori has a recipe for you to try this summer. NDN

Chimichurri Sirloin

Spice Rub:

½ c. sea salt
 ½ c. black pepper
 ¼ c. paprika
 3 T. chili powder
 2 T. cayenne
 2 T. garlic powder
 1 T. cumin
 1 T. oregano
 1 T. thyme
 Steak of your choice

Chimichurri Sauce:

1 bunch fresh parsley leaves, finely chopped
 1 bunch fresh cilantro leaves, finely chopped
 3 T. capers, finely chopped
 ¼ c. minced garlic
 1 ½ T. red wine vinegar
 1 ½ tsp. salt
 ½ tsp. ground black pepper
 ¼ c. olive oil

Spice Rub: Combine all spices in a bowl. Rub olive oil on your choice of steak – both sides. Sprinkle each steak with the Spice Rub. Let them set for 1 hour before grilling.

Chimichurri Sauce: Put the parsley, cilantro, capers and garlic in a mixing bowl and toss to combine. Add the vinegar, salt, pepper, olive oil, and stir in a separate bowl. Pour the olive oil mixture over the other ingredients and mix until well combined. Allow to set for 30 minutes so that the flavors blend well.

Cooking Procedure: Grill steak to desired doneness. Drizzle steak with Chimichurri Sauce and serve.

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Hey Neighbor! GIRL SCOUT CAMP

June – August, 2012

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Hey Neighbor! BARKAEOLOGY TOUR

June 20, 2012

Dogs are invited to join their owners for an evening archaeology walking tour at Historic Jamestowne, in partnership with the Heritage Humane Society. This canine-friendly tour will highlight the rediscovery and on-going excavations of the 1607 James Fort. Tours begin at 6 pm. Dogs must have current shots, mix well with others and remain on a leash. Tour tickets are \$14 per person. Dogs are free but limited to 2 per person. Space is limited and reservations are required. Tickets can be purchased on the Historic

Jamestowne website.

Hey Neighbor! FORGE, FIRE, STITCH AND SHAVE

June 23, 2012

10 am to 4 pm. Explore the technologies and military tactics that sustained the early settlers of James Fort. In this special program, guests will have the opportunity to see some of the trades practiced inside the area where the original 1607 fort stood. Free with paid admission to Historic Jamestowne.

Hey Neighbor! CALL FOR ARTISTS!

June 30, 2012

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Hey Neighbor! SURVIVORS: A JAMESTOWN ADVENTURE

July 3, 2012 – September 3, 2012

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Hey Neighbor! FINDING INSPIRATION FOR THE JOB SEARCH

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Hey Neighbor! RECYCLING AND REUSING NATURAL MATERIALS

July 21, 2012

10:00-11:30 at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. Children will make clothing items using leaves and plant materials easily found in the garden. The program is free, open to the public, and no registration is required. Contact Barb Dunbar 880-8875, twotac@cox.net for more information.

Hey Neighbor! ECMS - SUMMER SESSION

July 23-27, 2012

Early Childhood Music School of Williamsburg United Methodist Church is accepting registrations for children, ages 2 months through 7 years, for a five-day summer session. Nurture your child's natural musical instincts while encouraging creativity, motor development and literacy through singing, movement, focused listening and playing instruments. Contact Cindy Freeman, director at 757-229-1771 or cfreeman@williamsburgumc.org.

Hey Neighbor! JAMESTOWN EXPLORERS SUMMER DAY CAMPS

July 24-25, 2012 & July 26-27, 2012

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Hey Neighbor! SENIOR SERVICES COALITION MEETING

July 26, 2012

To be held at the Williamsburg United Methodist Church, 500 Jamestown Road, from 2-3:30 p.m. Gina de Peralta Thorne of The Farley Center will provide an overview of "Addiction, its impact on older adults and the local services available to help them." Karl Hoffman of the Center for Excellence in Aging and Geriatric Health will present "Driving Safety and the Senior Driver." For more information, contact Shelia Crist, 220-3480.



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