

July 2014

WILLIAMSBURG'S

# Next Door Neighbors®

VOL. 8, ISSUE 7

PRICELESS

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## The Way We Were

### Tiffany Reaves

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*The Way We Were* presents different views of life in Williamsburg from people of all ages. Our thoughts about our community directly relate to our personal experiences in life. Those we have interviewed for this issue tell stories about what brought them to Williamsburg - or why they chose to stay after growing up here. They talk about the changes they have seen and how they view them. One thing is certain, the people we have interviewed for this issue seem to appreciate life here. Read their stories to learn more about what they think about Williamsburg then and now.



Meredith Collins, Publisher

My first experience of Williamsburg came when I was a child. I grew up in Lynchburg, Virginia and we would take field trips to Colonial Williamsburg in grade school and junior high. When I was older, my parents would camp near the Williamsburg Pottery and I would spend hours walking through the maze of items for sale. What I remember most from those days is probably similar to what a lot of tourists remember; I primarily viewed Williamsburg as a place of history and some good shopping.

As a permanent resident, I get to experience so much more of what Williamsburg is, and used to be. Getting to know my neighbors as a local gives me the opportunity to have a depth in my relationships and insight into our community that a visitor could never know. In addition to Lynchburg, I have lived in Chapel Hill, NC; Forest, VA; Daphne, AL; Salisbury, MD; Jacksonville, NC; Detroit, MI; Christiansburg, VA; Killeen, TX; Virginia Beach; Suffolk; and Chesapeake. As much as I enjoyed these places and the experiences I had during my time in each, none of them can compare with the joy and satisfaction I have realized living in Williamsburg. NDN

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# TIFFANY REAVES



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## A Wonderful Life

By Brandy Centolanza

Tiffany Reaves calls herself an “unofficial been-here,” having lived in Williamsburg nearly all her life, though not actually born here. Tiffany was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, but has lived in Williamsburg since the age of three.

“Williamsburg is all I know,” Tiffany says.

“My parents still live in the house I grew up in. I’m an anomaly. My friends left, but I stayed. I am so happy I did.”

Some of Tiffany’s favorite places in Williamsburg from childhood and adolescence remain popular today: Colonial Williamsburg, Busch Gardens and the Colonial Parkway.

“Growing up in Williamsburg was wonderful,” she shares. “There were always places to go, and I never felt like there was a shortage of things to do or that I was bored.”

Her family took frequent trips to Colonial Williamsburg.

“There was a lot of bike riding along Duke

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Dr. Michael Whyte



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of Gloucester Street with my dad after dinner," she recalls.

As a teen, Tiffany hung out with her friends at the same spots today's local teenagers frequent, such as Busch Gardens and the Colonial Parkway, as well as Williamsburg Crossing Shopping Center. The shopping center once housed The Corner Pocket, a local restaurant, and a movie theatre where Greenwood Christian Academy stands today. Both were favorite places for the youth at the time. Tiffany's first job was at Busch Gardens at the age of 15.

"Working at Busch Gardens was a rite of passage," she says. "It was my introduction into the real world, and a very unique thing to do. I was a body artist, so I did face painting, and the airbrush tattoos and Henna tattoos, [and] hair wraps. I always felt safe there and hung out with the other high school kids that worked there. It was really cool and a lot of fun."

Tiffany attended Bruton High School, and would also often gather with her friends on the shore of College Creek along the Colonial Parkway.

"After school on days when it was warm or even when it wasn't warm enough, we'd go and hang out on the beach or ride the parkway," she says.

After graduation, Tiffany left Williamsburg briefly to attend college at Virginia Tech, where she majored in marketing.

"My mom is from Blacksburg, and I always thought it had a very similar feel, that it had a very close-knit community just like Williamsburg," Tiffany says.

While in college, Tiffany kept one foot here in Williamsburg, interning whenever she could at Howell Creative Group, an advertising and marketing firm in New Town. Tiffany eventually accepted a full-time position with the firm and began work one week after her college graduation in 2007. She has been with Howell Creative Group ever since, and today serves as senior account director.

"I was absolutely elated to get the job," she says. "I couldn't have imagined going anywhere else. My job is fast-paced and creative, which I love."

While most young marketing graduates venture off to bigger cities like Washington, D.C. or New York, Tiffany chose to return to her roots. "When I was little, my family was spread out and I always admired my friends who had all their family in town, and I wanted to be in closer proximity to my family," she says.

Upon returning to the area, Tiffany reconnected with the few friends who also decided to stay in Williamsburg. Eventually she started dating one such friend, Jesse, whom she first met back in sixth grade at Queens Lake Middle School. The pair married two years ago.

"We are both very happy here in Williamsburg," Tiffany says. Her feelings of the town remain unchanged since childhood.

"There is a great mixture here, with the history, nature, and the quaint feel, and personally, I still think there is a lot to do here," she says. "I don't want to be in a big city."

These days, Tiffany and her husband like to shop and dine in New Town, as well as Oceans & Ale near the Premium Outlets.

# OUT IS IN!

## July is Park and Recreation Month.

Park and Recreation Month has been celebrated nationally for more than 25 years to promote the many benefits of local parks and recreation and the value they bring to communities, including James City County!



### Parks - Get Outside!

James City County's outdoor community features 22 parks encompassing 1,500 acres of park land with three of those located along the shorelines of the James and Chickahominy Rivers. Get outside for a day or the month and take in miles of hiking, biking and walking trails winding through natural and scenic sites, splash in the outdoor pools, camp under the stars, reserve a shelter and picnic in the parks, visit the Skate Park or the playgrounds at the newly renovated Kidsburg or My Place or come experience the past at one of our three outdoor historic sites.

### Recreation - Your Creators for FUN, Play and 100's of Classes, Camps and Events Annually!

James City County offers more than 2,900 successful programs each year. Take a class, grow a garden or bring the family to our special events...let us show you how parks and recreation can help improve your life and inspire healthy, active lifestyles that promote and appreciate our natural environment. Let us keep the entire family safe, occupied and happy this summer!

### Centers - Keeping You Cool

If it gets hard to beat the heat, come inside! The James City County Recreation Center on Longhill Road features an indoor walking track, pool, whirlpool or saunas. Get your game on the racquetball courts or in the basketball gym, take a spin on the bikes or tone up in the fitness area with weight and cardio equipment. Childcare is included with your Longhill membership.

For the complete list of Parks & Recreation offerings, visit us anytime at [jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation](http://jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation) under 'Quick Links.' Copies of the Spring/Summer Destination Recreation Activity Brochure are available online and can also be picked up at the Recreation Center, Freedom Park Interpretive Center, Satellite Services in Toano and at the County and City libraries.

### Summer 2014 Outdoor Special Events

**Chickahominy Riverfront Park, 1350 John Tyler Highway**  
**Karaoke in the Park:** Free!, 7 p.m. - June 28, July 12, Aug. 30  
**Campground Adventures Weekend:** July 4-6, July 25-27, Aug. 15-17, Aug. 29-Sept. 1  
**Movies Under the Stars:** Free!, July 11, 8:30 p.m.  
**Park-to-Park Bike Tour:** July 12, 7:30 a.m.

Trail Location Guide	Type / Surface / Length
<b>James City County Rec. Center</b> 5301 Longhill Rd.	<b>Multiuse</b> Paved • 2.1 mi.
<b>Freedom Park</b> 5537 Centerville Rd.	<b>6 Mtn. Bike &amp; 3 Multiuse Trails</b> Natural • 0.7 to 5 mi., Paved • 1 mi. See website for more info.
<b>Greensprings Interpretive Trail</b> 3751 John Tyler Hwy.	<b>Hiking</b> Gravel • 3.4 mi. (no bikes)
<b>Ironbound Park Trail</b> 100 Carriage Rd.	<b>Walking</b> Paved • 0.3 mi.
<b>Little Creek Reservoir Trail</b> 180 Lakeview Dr.	<b>Multiuse</b> Natural • 1 mi.
<b>Mid County Park</b> 3793 Ironbound Rd.	<b>Multiuse</b> Paved • 0.6 mi.
<b>Powhatan Creek Trail</b> 3131 Ironbound Rd.	<b>Multiuse</b> Paved • 2 mi.
<b>Upper County Park</b> 180 Leisure Rd.	<b>2 Multiuse &amp; 1 Mtn. Bike Trail</b> Natural • 0.2 to 0.4 See website for more info.
<b>Virginia Capital Trail</b> (parallel to John Tyler Hwy. & Greensprings Rd.)	<b>Multiuse</b> Paved • 7.5 mi.
<b>Warhill Sports Complex Trail</b> 5700 Warhill Trl.	<b>Multiuse</b> Gravel • 3.55 mi.

*Most trail locations offer restrooms.*

### Contact Us!

Parks: 757-259-5360 • Programs: 757-259-5351 • Recreation Centers: 757-259-4200



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“Colonial Williamsburg is still one of our favorite places to go,” she says. “After 5 p.m., we like to stroll there with our dog. It’s a lovely, delightful place, really special.”

Despite the growth in Williamsburg, Tiffany still feels the town has a sense of community.

“I love going to a place where they know you and you know them,” she says. “When I was younger, my mom and I used to go to this drug store called Revco in the James-York Plaza, and my mom would have conversations with the cashier there, Lily. She was a dear, wonderful woman. I don’t know whatever happened to her. I think those connections still exist, like when I go to the grocery store. It’s nice.”

Tiffany sees the growth in Williamsburg as a positive addition to the town.

“I don’t feel like Williamsburg has lost its character,” she says. “I think it’s made for more interesting things to do, and it is what keeps me here and keeps me happy, personally. You have to grow and evolve, or you’ll die off.”

To have a sense of community, one must also be a part of the community, and Tiffany has been actively involved since returning to Wil-

liamsburg after college. She has helped young adults see what opportunities Williamsburg has to offer them through Young Emerging Professionals (YEP). She served on the organization’s board for five years and was president of YEP in 2012.

“Being a part of that group really made me feel good about being back here in Williamsburg,” she says. “We helped each other out and connected with each other.”

During her time as president, Tiffany showcased her talents as a participant in Williamsburg’s version of “Dancing with the Stars.” She also served on the boards of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association as well as the local YMCA and graduated from the Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance’s LEAD Historic Triangle program, a program designed to foster and support leaders in the community.

Tiffany welcomes the opportunity to interact with everyone in Williamsburg.

“I think the ‘come-heres’ and the tourists give Williamsburg more energy, the kind of energy that younger people feed off of,” she says. “Having more people in town invigorates

everyone.”

That also includes more “been-heres” who are returning to the fold, as some of those friends who questioned Tiffany for staying in town are deciding to come back home.

“I knew it would happen. I knew some of them would come back,” she says. “It was inevitable.”

As this year winds down, Tiffany, who turns 30 in October, is busy working on her “30 Before 30” list of goals she hopes to accomplish before her birthday.

The list includes visiting Water Country USA, which she has not been to in years, as well as having a picnic in the area.

“Also, I’d like to visit five cool places in Virginia, the quintessential things,” she says.

Eventually, Tiffany and her husband want to start a family, and, of course, one day she hopes to share her Williamsburg experiences with her children.

“I definitely don’t think I would ever want to leave here,” Tiffany Reaves says. “We are both very happy with what we have in Williamsburg.” NDN

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# Remembering Small Town America

By Sandy Rotermund

Penny candy sold at the general store. Fresh watermelon-infused picnics. Adolescent boys wrestling in the dry dirt, their ears perking up as the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad train rumbles by, tossing out the daily mail sack. Growing up just a stone's throw from the original Norge, Virginia train depot, life for Toano attorney, Andy Bradshaw, was simpler and slower – even if a bit insulated.

“The trains – they were different then,” Andy says of the 1950s era. “There would be cattle cars, there'd be boxcars and tanker cars – and we would see things that, you know, growing up in a small town you didn't see. That was the rest of the world that came by us there.”

Since 1976, Andy has practiced general law in the historic 1903 Bank Building on Richmond Road.

The brick building has been subdivided since its existence as a branch of the Peninsula Bank and Trust Company. It previously housed the first telephone exchange in Toano, a real estate office – even Andy's childhood doctor's office.

“I grew up in Norge. We had relatives up here in Toano or who came to Toano for some commerce and business they had. It was a bustling little town,” Andy says.

Norge has been home to Andy all of his life,



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

even though he left briefly to attend Washington and Lee College in Lexington, Virginia and then law school at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

“I didn't want to be in Williamsburg because everyone I knew was out here [Norge/Toano]. And no other attorneys were here. This was really the only building or office available. So, I started then – here. And I've been here ever since,” he says.

Andy's law practice has thrived serving the people and families of the area, many of whom he's known all of his life. Just as the area attracted the early Scandinavian settlers with its temperate climate, productive soil, and the promise of a good life, it still – despite its changes – connects to Andy's heart.

“There were perhaps 40 or 50 homes in Norge when I was growing up. One of the earliest subdivisions in James City County was the one known as Norvalia, and it was a cornfield when I was growing up. The only buildings were right along Route 60 and then one, long road – Farmville Lane – down to a farmhouse where a fella named O. B. Dryden lived. He farmed some, he raised sheep, and one of his fields was what became that early subdivision.” Andy adds that many of the

original families still live there.

Andy lived on his parent's farm on Peninsula Street. The railroad track was as close as a backyard shed of today. Andy's father worked at Fort Eustis and Fort Monroe, but maintained a second business raising chickens and gardening produce.

“At the time, my father sold eggs to many of the restaurants in Williamsburg. In those days, they could purchase most of what they



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needed locally. You know, grocery stores now, they're not even permitted to buy really locally. It has to come from their warehouse," Andy adds.

His father continued to sell both chickens and eggs until Andy was in college.

"All of agriculture was changing where it didn't make much economic sense to have a few thousand chickens. Unless you had a hundred thousand chickens, you were out of business."

Andy's mother taught school until the first of her seven children was born. Busy raising children and chickens, she didn't return to teaching until Andy was in high school.

"The schools when I was growing up – I guess that is clearly so much better now – the schools were segregated," Andy says. "The schools of Williamsburg and James City had been combined so that what had been a school here in Toano had been shut down."

Andy recalls the bus rides into Williamsburg to attend Matthew Whaley Elementary School and then, later, James Blair High School. Primarily, he remembers the traditional spring field trip his class would take to his parent's farm.

"It was less than four acres, but they always had ponies. Kids could get on a pony and ride. We'd always get a lamb from Mr. Dryden so they could pet a baby lamb."

And then there were those chickens. "The children would get to see the chickens, get fresh eggs, see the eggs being gathered – even have boiled eggs with their lunch. There was plenty of room to run around and play." Andy smiles. "Frequently, we'd have a cow at the time so lots of little things to make them feel like they visited a farm."

The small town life included a general store managed by a man named Harry Snyder. Andy recalls the huge front porch that, like an apron, wrapped around the store's front. The children gathered there to catch the school bus. The building remains today, minus its apron.

"Route 60 used to be a two-lane road. In the sixties, it was widened," Andy says, pointing to a painting of the general store hanging on his office wall. "The new road came so close they had to take out the gas tanks and the wide porch that was there. That same Route 60 project was what changed Toano so much, physically. There were buildings just like these on the other side of the street, and when the road was widened, all of these came down." He points to other framed historical photos on his wall. "It really means that Toano no longer had the businesses to sustain a little town."

Enduring change is a challenge for any community, even if it is for the positive. For instance, the town doctor would make house calls. He was one man with one office.

"It really was what you hear about – the small town America. And there's a lot of that, I suspect, if you were clinical about it, you'd realize you don't want to go back to. But there's some parts of it that you miss," Andy says wistfully.

His tone regains a boastful fringe. "I do remember when the Williamsburg Hospital was built. Of course, that's now the location of William and Mary's School of Education. My twin brothers, I think, may have been the first twins born there." His hand cups his chin while he glances upward. "That would have been the early 1960s. But I do remember how proud the community was to have its hospital there."

That simple, slower life was defined by priorities that aren't as clear-cut today. Central to the community's survival were places of worship.



Several of the churches remain today.

“Perhaps due to lack of competition, the churches were the center of community life in Norge and Toano. There were activities at the church. That’s where you would expect to find families, not just on Sundays, but at other times during the week as well.”

Church and community remain a central theme in Andy’s life today. While he and his wife, Ann, a schoolteacher, raised their two daughters, Andy also served numerous terms on the Board of Supervisors.

“It’s sort of the way I was raised. That was one of the things my family valued greatly. My father had served on the Planning Commission for, I think, close to 40 years. So, he instilled in us an obligation to serve the community and that was the way I could do it. I enjoyed doing it.”

Remnants of small town life remain in Norge and Toano, but their texture and pace are clearly changing.

“At times, we long for the simplicity of the way things used to be. But, you know, there was so much we were simply ignorant of and didn’t have the opportunity to do when I was growing up.” Andy pauses.

“We were ignorant about things such as race relationships. I’ve pondered - did I grow up a bigot? I think I’ve reached the conclusion that I didn’t grow up a bigot. I grew up ignorant simply because we didn’t have the interactions that now we do have with people of so many races. I wonder - am I provincial? And, again, it’s not that I didn’t care about other places. We just weren’t aware of them. As I mentioned to you, our broadest horizons were what we saw on the trains,” Andy says.

Simpler, slower, perhaps protected, yet was - and still is - a valuable part of Andy’s life. **NDN**

# Dr. Gregory Schultz Focuses on Detecting and Treating Glaucoma

## Dr. Gregory Schultz Specializes in Finding and Treating Eye Problems

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the world and the leading cause of blindness for people under 65 in the United States.

About 2.2 million people in the United States have glaucoma but only half of them know it, Schultz says. Glaucoma is five times more likely among African Americans than in other ethnic groups and blindness as a result of the disease is six times more likely, according to the Glaucoma Research Foundation.

Everett and Zelda Collins were at a state fair in August when a free health screening showed they both had high eye pressure, which can be an indicator of glaucoma. The doctor recommended they see their eye doctor back home. Zelda, who hadn’t seen an eye doctor in seven years, put it off until January, hoping that the reading was wrong. But her eye pressures were high again, 24 and 28. Readings over 20 are considered higher than normal.

Schultz also administered a visual field test - determined by testing at what point a patient can see lights off to the sides - and confirmed a loss of peripheral vision in one eye. An additional test and pressure check at a second visit further confirmed Schultz’s diagnosis.

Zelda was shocked. “I thought I was just losing crispness and clarity in my vision,” she says. “I didn’t think I was losing my sight.”

“The vision loss is so gradual she didn’t even notice it,” Schultz explains.

Although there is no cure yet for glaucoma and vision lost cannot be regained, with medication (typically eye drops) and/or surgery it is possible to halt further loss of vision, Schultz says.

Zelda followed Schultz’s instructions on the drops and her latest pressure readings were 12 and 15 - normal range. “He stopped

the degeneration,” says Zelda, associate membership director at the West Point YMCA. “With my glasses, I still see fine.”

Everett, director of bands at Blayton, Norge and Stonehouse elementary schools, had been skeptical because 25 years ago in New York, a doctor had diagnosed him with glaucoma after one test showed his eye pressure was high. That doctor didn’t do any follow up tests, just prescribed eye drops that irritated his eyes.

“The drops didn’t agree with me,” Everett recalls. “I was busy touring with The Isley Brothers and I just stopped using the drops.”

Everett may not have had glaucoma then. A patient can have glaucoma without a high eye pressure. On the flip side, a higher than normal eye pressure doesn’t necessarily mean a patient has glaucoma, Schultz says.

“We see patients all the time with eye pressures in the low 20s,” Schultz says. “We follow these patients carefully, sometimes for years, to be safe and ensure they never develop glaucoma.”

In Schultz’s office, Everett’s eye pressure was slightly higher than normal, but unlike his wife, he passed the visual field test with flying colors, Schultz says. Likely, many practitioners just would have rechecked Collins eye pressure next year. But by then, Everett may have lost some of his visual field, Schultz says.

Schultz was already concerned, however, because of what he saw in the optic nerve. “His optic nerve looked suspicious,” Schultz explains. “But suspicious to me may not be the same as suspicious to someone else. I have 20 years of experience treating and evaluating thousands of glaucoma patients. While the average optometrist treats maybe a dozen new cases of glaucoma a year, 65 percent of my patient base has been glaucoma patients for the last 20 years. A follow-up test on the practice’s new Ocular Coherence Tomography (OCT) device showed that some of the nerve fibers coming from Everett’s optic

nerve had succumbed to the pressure - meaning that he had glaucoma.”

“As glaucoma progresses, it kills off the individual nerve fibers,” Schultz explains.

“When one nerve fiber dies, it sends off biochemical factors signaling and triggering the death of the cell next to it. It’s a domino effect.”

Schultz began treating Everett immediately, ensuring that the popular band director will always be able to see wayward trumpet or clarinet players at the edge of the band room.

“Functional loss usually follows structural loss, and a patient can lose up to a third of his nerve fibers and still have a normal field test,” he says. “He has had some structural loss, but his vision remains normal.”

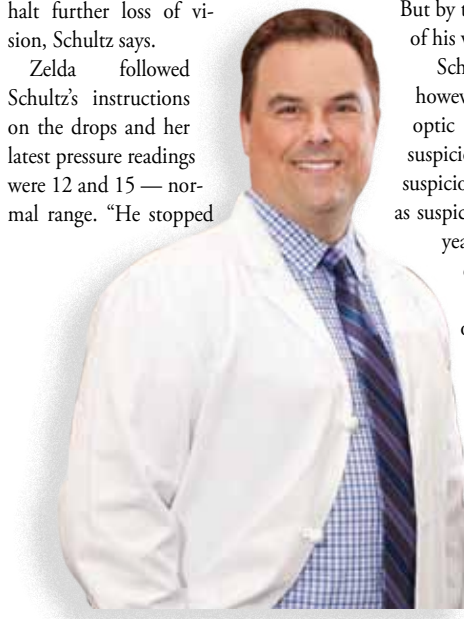
Everett appreciated that Schultz first conducted several tests to confirm the diagnosis and then explained what he found. “He’s not a clock-watcher. He was much more thorough than the doctor in New York,” Everett says. “He takes pictures, shows you the normal eye, and shows you where your eye compares. I told Zelda ‘It feels like I just went to the School of Optometry.’”

Using the medicated drops to lower eye pressure is crucial to control glaucoma, Schultz says. Only about 50-60 percent of glaucoma patients are fully compliant with their eye drops. Patients are more likely to be compliant if they understand their diagnosis.

Everett and Zelda Collins are just two of those one million undiagnosed cases of glaucoma, Schultz says. The world’s second leading cause of blindness is entirely preventable. Awareness and proper diagnosis are critical, he says.



Everett and Zelda Collins



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# A Vibrant Place

By Alison Johnson

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Thirty-some years ago, Joe Moorman was part of a pack of kids that you might spot riding bikes down the Colonial Parkway, or after weeks of saving up quarters, playing old-school video games at one of the big arcades once at Busch Gardens.

Or you might find him and his father buying worms for fishing trips at an independent grocery and bait store on Capitol Landing Road, now the site of a traffic island, or riding through darkness to a friend's house on a totally

undeveloped stretch of Route 5.

Joe, 41, had a happy childhood in that smaller Williamsburg, although he didn't picture himself living in his hometown as an adult. Then his dad got very sick and plans changed. He would, as it turned out, reinvent his future here – and he would watch Williamsburg do the same for itself.

“When I see all the places that used to just be empty fields, it makes me feel old,” he says. “But what I really like is that Williamsburg has

grown without totally throwing away the advantages of a smaller town. It has kept its small-town identity but stayed a vibrant place. It's not stale. When I travel, I see some smaller towns that are stuck in some pick-your-decade place, but Williamsburg isn't like that.”

Joe, President of Solar Lighting of Virginia, Inc., and Replay Sports, Inc., feels the area's inevitable growth has erased some positives but added different ones. There's more traffic and road construction, yes, and chain restaurants

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and hotels have replaced many unique mom and pop businesses. On the other hand, there's a more diverse population, greater access to the arts and more recreational options.

He and his friends from childhood would have loved the Go Ape treetop adventure course, he knows, along with the Williamsburg Indoor Sports Complex and expanded sections of Busch Gardens, such as the Festa Italia's rides for kids of all ages. While his boyhood self might not have appreciated cultural events such as Williamsburg Symphonia concerts or the Virginia Shakespeare Festival, he does now.

"There's just so much more around, both here and in the surrounding communities," Joe notes. "To me, the growth and the influx of new people has been, overall, a good thing." So has staying in a place where he has deep roots, where he can visit his mother in his childhood home and regularly catch up with former classmates at Walsingham Academy. He estimates that as many as half of the students from his graduating class of 55 are still in the area.

"It's fun to randomly run into people who

you've known for 30 or 40 years, people who grew up doing the same things as you," he says. "Now we're all pretending to be grownups together."

Joe grew up in the Queens Lake neighborhood in upper York County with one brother, Jimmy, who is five years younger and has settled in Newport News. Their mother, Karol, is from Minnesota and their late father, Joe, hailed from Oregon. Joe Sr.'s job as an aerospace engineer for NASA brought the couple to Virginia.

Karol is a retired first grade teacher who took her sons to all the historical sites nearby, as well as on regular trips to Washington, D.C. Joe joined Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, enjoyed football and basketball games at the College of William and Mary and went to summer camp at Camp Chanco in Surry. He swam at the Queens Lake pool and was on soccer, basketball, cross country and track teams at Walsingham, where he was a student from third grade until his 1990 graduation.

"Certainly there weren't a tremendous number of things to do, from a kids' perspective; even now, the town tends to close up relatively

early," he says. "But there also wasn't a lack of things to do. We rode our bikes all over the place. We spent a lot of time at Busch Gardens. We had a good time."

Joe didn't venture too far off for college. Mary Washington College, now the University of Mary Washington, in Fredericksburg. He originally wanted to pursue a career in marine biology but soon switched to immunology, or research into the human immune system. After college, he planned to pursue a graduate degree in the field.

Then, in the summer of 1993, just before Joe's senior year, his father was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic colon cancer. Doctors thought he would pass away in a matter of weeks, although he defied the odds and lived another 4½ years. That summer, Joe agreed to come home for a year after graduation to help run the family business, which at the time involved ownership and management of 130 apartment units in Gloucester Point.

So, after earning an undergraduate degree in biology in 1994, Joe found himself in introductory accounting and economic classes

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at Christopher Newport University. “The next thing I knew, I was in the Masters of Business Administration program at William and Mary,” he recalls. “I found I was much more interested and passionate about business and finance than I was about science.”

A self-described entrepreneur, Joe is currently working toward a doctorate in finance through an online program offered by California Southern University. The family business now includes Solar Lighting, which sells and installs energy-efficient skylights; and Replay Sports, a consignment store with equipment for a wide variety of athletic pursuits.

“We have everything from surfing to football to skiing,” Joe says. The family still owns the Gloucester apartments but has turned over management to an outside firm.

Business – specifically, a business trip to Cancun with his brother – also connected Joe with the woman he would marry, Dianna. She was in Mexico on a break from her job as an airline gate supervisor in Dallas, Texas. “She had flying benefits, so we flew back and forth to see each other every week for eight months,”

Joe remembers. “Then I started thinking, ‘She’s gotta move here.’”

The couple has settled in Toano, although they still like to travel. Some favorite destinations are Mexico – at least, before that destination became less safe – New York City, Washington, D.C. and to see family in Minnesota and Texas. Occasionally, Joe or one of his friends will venture to Kentucky for a bottle of his guilty pleasure, rare bourbon. At home, he enjoys kayaking and home improvement projects.

Joe sees his brother Jimmy, who is General Manager of Solar Lighting of Virginia, almost every day. Eight years ago, his mom got remarried to a man from Minnesota who has seven children, adding a host of step-siblings, nieces and nephews to his life. “It’s a much bigger family now,” he says.

Williamsburg is much bigger, too. Joe often has moments of looking out his car window and flashing back to what was there before. Just one building, a pizza restaurant on Richmond Road near Replay Sports, was a roller skating rink, then a dinner theater, and then a different

restaurant.

The drive down Route 5 toward St. George’s Hundred, where that old friend used to live, isn’t so dark these days.

“Or where the Target and all that development on Monticello Avenue is, there was nothing there,” he reflects.

Joe remembers watching the Big Bad Wolf roller coaster at Busch Gardens open back in 1984 – the same year as Water Country USA – and then close in 2009. “The Loch Ness Monster was there when I was a kid, but so much else has changed,” he says.

These days, kids don’t ride bikes on the Colonial Parkway so much, or move around anywhere quite as freely. Joe knows that isn’t unique to Williamsburg, however.

“Times have changed almost everywhere,” he says. “Williamsburg has a different look and feel now. I think it has always been in a fight to keep its character and not look like any other tourist town in America. For the most part, I think it has won that fight.”

“I was lucky to be born in a great place,” Joe adds. “I’m not going anywhere.” NDN

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# Cherishing the Small Town Feel

By Susan Guthrie

After working at the White House in the Office of Administration, Lisa Genakos came to Williamsburg to live near friends and escape the reality of D.C. politics. “I thought, well I have some friends at William and Mary, so I’ll take a year to just live somewhere else and see what it’s like and then go back, but I never went back.” Thirty-three years later, she is raising two children and loves working with her surrogate family at the Williamsburg Drug Company in the Bush Corporate Center.

Lisa expected that her experience at the White House would be valued here in Williamsburg, especially in Colonial Williamsburg. “With my work at the White House I thought that I could get a job here easily, but Williamsburg was so small back then that there really weren’t any jobs at all.” Waiting tables became the best way to make good money, especially working at Fords Colony and Two Rivers for about seven years each. “The one thing I liked about the country clubs was that you got paid

five dollars an hour plus tips and if you worked 30 hours you got full benefits. I called it my country club tour, and I was fortunate to meet a lot of people while working there.”

She worked for a while in real estate, but found that with two children she needed the reliable income that came with waiting tables.

Lisa found that all of the people she met while working at the country clubs made Williamsburg seem smaller than it is.

“Even though Williamsburg keeps growing,

it still has a lot of small town feel for me, because everywhere I go I run into people I know. If you’re driving down Richmond Road in the middle of the summer you’re still going to wave to someone you know.”

She says there were not many choices for shopping back then. When she arrived in Williamsburg, there were no shopping malls between Hampton and Richmond and only a



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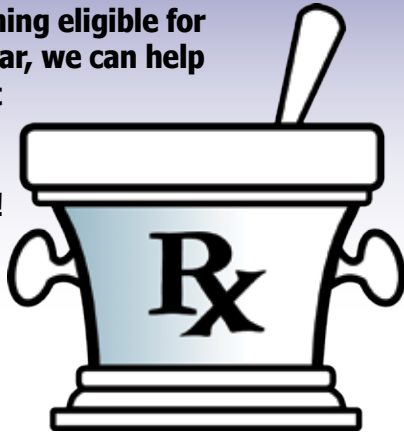
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couple of department stores. “There was one little dress shop in the Williamsburg Shopping Center that was geared towards young women, so I was happy that there was one place I could go if I needed something.” Unfortunately, that shop closed two months later, so she would go all the way back to the D.C. area to shop.

“Shopping on Duke of Gloucester Street used to be all small, locally owned shops. Now there are a lot of chain stores.” Lisa also noticed a similar trend in local restaurants. “Chain restaurants started opening when Williamsburg got a large enough resident population to sustain them all year. Now there are a ton of them,” she says.

“The Pottery was a great place to look around, and you could always find really good bargains.” Then the Premium Outlets opened. “I went from having no place to shop to having a lot of places to shop.”

Unlike the shopping, she remembers back when Williamsburg had a lot more activities and places to go for young adults in their 20s. In addition to the bars, she remembers three or four places they would go dancing. “William and Mary also used to have concerts like Eddie Murphy and the Police,” Lisa remembers fondly.

She knew that Jimmy Buffet held a concert every year in July at Cary Field. “Finally my sister and I went. It was really hot, so everyone was throwing water balloons. There were a lot of families there. I wanted to bring my husband and daughter the next year because it was so much fun. However, the following year some of the neighbors wouldn’t allow him to sing one of his songs and that was the last year that Jimmy Buffet played Williamsburg, so I didn’t get to bring my daughter.”

She was working at the Williamsburg Community Hospital in 1987 when her daughter was born. “Back then there was only one private maternity room that had its own bathroom, so it was great that they saved it for me since I was working there.” By the time her son was born in 2001, they had just opened the new maternity ward.

Since she grew up in the top rated schools of Fairfax County, Virginia, she admits that she was originally concerned about the small school system. “But my daughter started at Norge, and it was wonderful. The teachers were so enthusiastic,” Lisa says.

She remembers the fact that there was only one high school at the time. “There were a lot of articles in the news at that time about racial fighting between students at the high school. It really surprised me growing up in a big place and coming to a small town.”

As her children grew, she noticed a lot of new housing developments and people moving into James City County. “I think there were about 20 some thousand people in James City County, and now there are around 70 some thousand.” Of course, more population means more traffic lights and longer commutes, but more importantly it has an impact on the school system. The population was growing so fast and the schools were having trouble keeping up. “Clara Byrd Baker got so crowded that they had to build additions within two years and then they had to add trailers.”

Her children also attended Clara Byrd Baker and Matthew Whaley. “Matthew Whaley was very special and a very cool school.” Softball and field hockey were her daughters favorite sports at James Blair Middle School, while her son plays baseball and soccer. “I remember we went to the Cal Ripken opening day of baseball. It was so cool because I first realized how many kids there really were in Williamsburg. There were a ton of kids. It was great.”

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She says that before the Williamsburg Indoor Sports Complex (WISC) opened, a lot of schools either didn't have stadiums at all or had to share stadiums. "The activities for children weren't keeping up with the growing population of kids, so when the Rec Center was built and especially when Water Country opened, it was a big deal."

Approximately four years ago the Williamsburg Drug Company opened a post office to service the southeast end of Williamsburg. She was hired to manage the new services and now considers her coworkers a second family. Once she got to know the owners, she learned about the rich history of the drug store. The original drug store had been located on Duke of Gloucester Street for about 120 years.

"It had a lot of makeup and bath and body products. It even had a lunch counter with great hot dogs, lime aids, and milk shakes and everybody loved going there. So it was a big deal when their lease was not renewed."

Lisa is now working to bring back some other old traditions to the Williamsburg Drug Company. Today she facilitates the purchasing of the store's gift items, which have become increasingly popular. "Now I get to go to the gift trade show in Atlanta every January to find unique items for the store. We call them Gift Remedies." Now, along with prescriptions, mail services, and medical equipment, the shop carries a wide variety of gifts including home and garden decorations, sweets, luggage, jewelry and greeting cards.

With all of the changes in the Williamsburg and James City County area, she is still proud that there are so many small independent businesses like the Williamsburg Drug Company. They give Williamsburg that small town feel that Lisa and her family love. NDN



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# DAYS GONE BY

By Morgan Barker

Leslie Magee Skinner is a Williamsburg native and enjoys showing her town to visitors and bragging about the unique aspects of Williamsburg. “I was born in Williamsburg Community Hospital, that’s where the William and Mary Education School is now located. I grew up here and left to go to Richmond after college. I married a fellow Williamsburg person, Todd. We have a 75 pound yellow lab, River, who is super sweet and has a tennis ball and Frisbee fetish.”

Leslie recently settled into a new job. “I am the executive director for practice development at Skinner Law Office,” Leslie says. The practice focuses on practical estate planning in the areas of Plan B for Kids (protecting young and college-age children), Living Trusts, IRA Income Tax Reduction Strategies and Estate & Trust Administration.

“We are located in downtown Williamsburg so I can actually walk to work,” Leslie adds with enthusiasm.

She volunteers throughout the community and that puts her in contact with many of her neighbors. “I have had the pleasure of meeting lots of new people through the different organizations in which I volunteer. I had no idea Williamsburg had exploded with so many awesome new residents.”

Leslie loves that Williamsburg is a small town by nature. “I try to never meet a ‘stranger,’ and I always love that there really is less than one degree of separation between the people you meet in the ‘Burg and just about anywhere else you might go.”

Like many residents, Leslie finds the community to be charming. Her favorite part about the town is the abundance of stories. “Williamsburg is just full of so many great stories, whether it is historical or hysterical, there never seems to be a dull moment. What I also really love is that there are still aspects of what it was like when I was growing up – the kids today can still make the sports section of the paper. How many towns still do that? I mean, that’s just so neat!” Leslie says.

Some of her favorite stories about the area emerge from her own childhood in Williamsburg. As a lifelong resident, Leslie says the town still has that small town feel.

“When I was growing up everyone knew you and your family. You could ride your bike almost anywhere, and you didn’t have to return home until dusk. If you got hungry or thirsty while you were out for the day, you



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also knew where to stop for a lemonade and a cookie,” Leslie reminisces. Leslie says that growing up in such a small town wasn’t always a good thing. “For example, I would have liked for the town to have been a little larger when I didn’t get my first speeding ticket on Jamestown Road near Ukrop Way at the college. I really, really wished that the officer would have written the ticket and left it at that. Instead of giving me a speeding ticket, the kind officer called my mother. She wasn’t so kind about my punishment when I got home,” Leslie recalls with a laugh.

The increase in size and population is the biggest change Leslie notices about the town. “The number of people that are here now is tremendous. There were not many housing developments when I was growing up, but now the growth has exploded.”

One of Leslie’s fondest memories of Williamsburg is the play “The Common Glory.” She says, “I always think of ‘The Common Glory’ when I drive past Mason School of Business – where the police officer stopped me.” The play was produced in the Lake Matoaka Amphitheatre that told the story of the American Revolution. “My mom, dad and grandfather all worked in one capacity or another on that play. I remember, as a little girl, watching the ship in the play coming up Lake Matoaka as I sat in the amphitheatre.”

Leslie counts Duke of Gloucester (DoG) Street as one of her favorite places in town. “I have so many great memories that started there, going to movies at the Kimball Theatre, running down DoG Street in the summer heat trying to get ready for cross country, walking the dog there with all of my grandmother’s out-of-town friends, getting hot fresh gingerbread from Raleigh Tavern, buying brown sugar rock candy from the Colonial Williamsburg stores, and now, walking my own dog down DoG Street or walking there with my friends for exercise.”

Where would Leslie take a newcomer or a visitor to the town? “I would start at my house, which is in the city and then drive straight down to the Colonial Parkway to show them the James River and the thoroughfare, a place where I waterskied growing up – and the place where I saw my first water snake sun itself on my skis. I would then do a big loop back through Williamsburg and through the William and Mary campus,” Leslie says.

She loves to introduce newcomers to the town. “I always say I am full of useless information. I would invite them to my back porch where I would give them all the goods on my favorite places, and then I would walk them from my house to Colonial Williamsburg to show them that you can live history,” Leslie says.

When not busy at work or walking her dog along DoG Street, Leslie enjoys spending time with friends and family. “I love hanging out on the James and Chickahominy Rivers,” Leslie says. “I love summer, and I love the river.”

Leslie enjoys a variety of activities. “I love to read, run and walk, golf, play tennis, and hang out with my husband, Todd, and our dog, River,” Leslie says. “I have a little antique booth that I do for fun, and I am finishing the last year of my term on the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission.”

For Leslie Magee Skinner, the stories and rich history make Williamsburg a unique town to live in. From her annual trips to watch “The Common Glory” as a child to admiring the historical backdrop as an adult, Leslie adores Williamsburg and cannot wait to show newcomers and visitors her hometown. NDN

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# KENDALL KERBY



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

## Making Williamsburg Home

By Susannah Livingston

Maybe Kendall Kerby, co-owner of Seasons of Williamsburg, wasn't born in Williamsburg. However, it would be hard to find a native who loves the place more—or one who has admired its many faces over the last 34 years more than he has.

Kendall grew up in the small town of Waynesboro, Virginia, west of Charlottesville. Most of his family, including his parents and countless aunts, uncles, and cousins, still live there. What brought Kendall to Williamsburg was the same thing that brings many

people—acceptance to the College of William and Mary.

“I didn't think I'd get accepted,” he says with a laugh. “I was planning to go somewhere else. But I had a strong musical background—in state competitions I was the number one

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second tenor.” Kendall says it was his musical talent and experience that “put him over the top” and into William and Mary’s class of 1984.

After taking business classes and realizing that “that was not the curriculum for me!” Kendall declared a theatre major and music minor. “I never joined a fraternity,” he says, “but my friends in the choir and the Botetourt Singers—that was my fraternity.” Much of his experience with theatre ended up being behind the scenes—set design, lighting and box office management. He worked the box office and the front of the house for the annual Shakespeare Festival for a couple of years. “I found that a really exciting part of the whole thing—selling tickets, letting people in at just the right moment.”

In fact, Kendall says, he developed such a passion for the management side of theatre that “I thought I was going to create a career in arts management, producing, directing. We did a lot of visiting area theatres my last couple of years of college and the more I found out about it the more discouraging it became. It’s a really tough field to get into production or directing, so I didn’t know what I wanted to do.”

Though he couldn’t know it at the time, his next step after graduation set Kendall up for much of the success he’s found since. “I got a job at Carolina Furniture and worked there for 10 years. I really enjoyed that experience. I learned a lot about sales and design, and I met a lot of great people. I did all the display work at Carolina and parties and special events. It’s what I do today, and it’s kind of interesting how it all built upon my background.” The business classes he took early on at William and Mary have proven to be extremely useful. “I take care of the financial end of Seasons as well as most of the visual merchandising.”

Kendall became a silent partner in Seasons of Williamsburg when Kent Harrell opened a small store at The Shops at Carolina Furniture. The business flourished. In 1994, Kendall joined forces with Kent, and Seasons soon moved to a rented building on Jamestown Road. Five years later, the lot at 1308 Jamestown Road came available and the partners built Seasons’ current home.

Clearly, Williamsburg was the ideal community for Kendall in just about every way. “I think it was just a real excitement about coming to Williamsburg,” Kendall says. “I had come many times when I was a child and then did a school tour the spring before my senior year in high school. I came with a bunch of friends and we went to Christiana Campbell’s Tavern, and I was hooked!”

While at William and Mary, Kendall and his friends spent a lot of time in the Historic Area. He still feels a strong pull to the town’s unique historic center. “When you go down to Colonial Williamsburg, it’s magic. It’s pure magic and always is. No one does it better, and it’s such a joy to share it with people.” He says at least once a year he tries to do “a major CW experience, usually in winter—a tavern meal followed by a Governor’s Palace concert. It doesn’t get much better than that. You can just close your eyes and you’re there.”

While the town has changed in countless positive ways, Kendall admits he’s sad that some of his favorite things from the old days are gone

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for good. “I loved the College Restaurant. I think everybody called it George’s on Prince George street,” he says wistfully. “They always had a great special of day, and if you asked for it you got the rice pudding—but you had to ask for it! When you were done you better leave because if you didn’t leave you were asked to leave. I miss that. I also miss the Lafayette. That was a great restaurant.”

Kendall says the iconic Williamsburg Pottery is also “a huge memory for me. We would always go there—the round building with the big pile of glass chunks. I don’t know what they did with them, but we always wanted to look at them and touch them!” he says, laughing. “Of course, in those days the Pottery was WAY out of town. Those are some of my early memories. I miss the folksiness of the old Williamsburg Pottery.”

While he concedes that it’s nice to have more convenience, more places to shop and go to dinner, Kendall says that “along with that has come a real change—Williamsburg doesn’t feel like such a small town now. I sometimes think about the way it used to be. It was lovely and you knew everyone when you went into a store.” These days, he says, he tries to focus his shopping and activities “in the older parts of town—Jamestown Road, downtown, and the first few blocks of Richmond Road. That’s where I spend most of my time, where I feel most comfortable.”

No one could have been happier when he decided to stay in Williamsburg than Kendall’s parents. “They were thrilled when I decided to make this home. They visited often when I was a student, and they still come as much as they can.” His father, now in his late 70s, still works and rarely discusses retirement. But he and Kendall’s mother have bought a small place in Williamsburg and think about someday making this their home, too.

Meanwhile, Kendall gladly shares his time and his talent with a variety of area nonprofit organizations. He served on the board of the Williamsburg Symphonia for 12 years and was among the honorees at the group’s recent 30th anniversary gala. He says he was surprised and very much touched by the honor. He continues to serve on the board of the Williamsburg Community Foundation, which supports a range of community needs, from scholarships to the arts to respite care. “It’s a great organization, and its work is pretty far-reaching,” he says.

During his scant free time, Kendall likes to travel to his family’s vacation home in the mountains of North Carolina, as well as to New York, Atlanta and San Francisco. Every year or so he gets away with friends to St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Laurance Rockefeller had donated most of the land on St. John to the National Park Service in 1956, and Kendall says he gets a kick out of knowing that two places he loves so well—Williamsburg and St. John—have such strong ties to the same family.

Kendall Kerby is still very much in the midst of a busy career. But when asked about the “R” word, he smiles. “I’ve lived here a lot longer than anywhere else. It’s a lovely place, a quiet place to live, plenty to do. I’ll definitely stay here when I do retire. It’s my home.” **NDN**



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# MARGARET BECK PRITCHARD



# Past & Present

By Cathy Welch

Margaret Beck Pritchard is in a unique position when it comes to appreciating the rich and unique history of Williamsburg. In her role as senior curator and curator of prints, maps and wallpaper for Colonial Williamsburg gives her a clear picture of the city's past and a unique appreciation for its present.

Margaret grew up in Newport News and graduated from Hampton Roads Academy (HRA) in 1972. She's the oldest of three girls born to Bobby and Hope Beck.

"Our house backed up to the park owned by the Mariners Museum," she says. "My mother used to be a docent at the Mariners."

Margaret attended Hollins College where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Studio and Art History. After graduation she moved to Wilmington, Delaware to work with the textile curator at the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum.

"I enjoyed textiles and wanted to learn more about them," she explains.

The chief curator at Colonial Williamsburg came to Winterthur to

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lecture on a new project in 1978. They were ready to refurnish the Governor's Palace with a \$4 million grant from the Rockefeller Fund.

"Part of that was to hire four fellowships," Margaret explains. "Now, this was home for me so I had not intended to come back." Many of her HRA friends were from Williamsburg, and she spent a lot of time here when she was younger. "Coming back to work for Williamsburg was not in my game plan. But the project sounded so fascinating and it was."

She received the fellowship and returned in 1978. She worked on the palace project for two years.

She originally planned to leave when the fellowship ended. "I thought I wanted to go live in a big city for a while." However, she never left Williamsburg.

Margaret applied for and was offered the job of curator of Colonial Williamsburg's graphics collection.

"I loved the collection and had worked with it some on the Governor's Palace project," she explains. "The prints provide you with an insight into the character of people in the 18th century."

"Sometimes it's through these objects that

we get to some of the things we know about the 18th century," Margaret explains. "It helps us to interpret the historic area. How did they set their table? How did they arrange their furniture? Things like that."

She never regretted moving back. "I've been lucky," she says. "I've been able to do so many things through working with Colonial Williamsburg. We are so well-respected in the field that you can pretty much go to any museum and they know who we are."

As senior curator and curator of prints, maps and wallpaper, Margaret buys new objects for Colonial Williamsburg and sells objects if they're no longer relevant for the collection.

"All of the graphic arts that hang on the wall in the museum and the exhibition buildings – I decide what's appropriate and do the research," she explains. She's published three books on objects in the collection.

She also does exhibitions in the museum and recently co-created a major exhibit that opened a few months ago called "A Rich and Varied Culture: The Material World of the Early South."

"We've taken objects we know were either

owned or imported here in the south," Margaret explains. "That's what I love about working in Williamsburg. You've got context. You know the people that have lived here. You know the houses that they lived in like George Wythe's and Peyton Randolph's. It completes a much bigger picture than just working for an art museum where you have objects with no real connection."

She also feels lucky that her job opens doors that would otherwise be shut. She's held Thomas Jefferson's memorandum books and George Washington's hand-drawn map of the Ohio Campaign. "How many people get to do that? That's the beauty of being associated with an organization like Colonial Williamsburg."

Margaret is on the board of trustees of Old Salem in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, which is very similar to Colonial Williamsburg. She is also on the board of The Decorative Arts Trust which is a national group interested in decorative arts.

Much of Margaret's international travel has been to lead donor tours for Colonial Williamsburg. "I've been to Russia, India and England several times. In fact, I led a couple of those trips in France and Scotland."



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Margaret notes that the physical changes in Williamsburg are enormous. “Even when I first came back here, it was basically a company and college town. I remember, when I was in high school, there wasn’t even an interstate. We were sort of bypassed.”

“Culturally, it’s grown in a funny way,” she says. “When I started working for Colonial Williamsburg, you knew everybody. I worked for the company and had a lot of associations with the college. You felt like you knew everybody. Now, you don’t.”

She misses some of the local characters from the past. “There were a lot of really unique characters like Park and Betsy Rouse. Very colorful people.”

Margaret credits her involvement with the Williamsburg Community Foundation over the last seven years with truly knowing her town. The foundation was formed 15 years ago. “One of the nicest things that’s happened in this community in a long time is the Community Foundation.” She thought that because she lived here for over 36 years she knew her community pretty well. She has discovered a lot of the needs of local citizens through her involvement with this group.

“I’ve met so many different people that I wouldn’t have if I had just focused on my job at Colonial Williamsburg,” she adds. She spends a lot of time outside of work on the foundation. “I love it and I think that’s one of the best changes for the community. It supports national programs, lots of them for kids who would not otherwise be able to dance or play instruments, for example.”

“Now we have a museum and so much more programming,” Margaret says of her city’s cultural growth. “We have the Symphonia. For a town this size, we’ve got great restaurants and lots of opportunities between the college and the arts organizations. None of that was here 37 years ago.”

She also loves Williamsburg’s location. “I love the fact that I can fly to New York, even for a day if I want to. And Washington D.C. is only a drive away. It’s got all the advantages of a small town, but it’s culturally rich and centrally located.”

Most of her childhood friends have moved away. In the last seven years she has been hosting her HRA classmates in her home.

“They all come here for an evening,” she says. “For so many years I lost contact with

just about everybody. You get together and don’t know how to interact on an adult level.” She tells of an incident in her kitchen at a recent reunion. “I went into the kitchen and somebody squirted somebody with a little squirter hose. That’s just what we would’ve done in high school.”

Even though Margaret is a private person, she frequently entertains for charitable causes. She also travels to the Caribbean every year.

“I love the Caribbean,” she says of her travel with friends. “I go to the Miami Metropolitan every year and afterwards, we jump down to the Caribbean. It’s just so warm and wonderful down there.” They go to a different island every year and have visited such tropical places as St. John, Cayman, Curacao, Belize and St. Maarten.

One of Margaret’s sisters recently built a house nearby. “I can ride my bike to her house. She’s that close.” Her other sister lives close as well.

“I love art and I love doing it,” Margaret Beck Pritchard explains. “I’ve worked with both printmaking and painting. But what I love is the history.” She certainly has plenty of that to appreciate in her adopted town. NDN

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# True to Her Roots



By Lillian Stevens

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Tia Adams knew by the time she was ten years old that art – and creating art – was her passion.

“My mom always said that I spent more time on the book report cover than the book report itself,” she says with a laugh. “I was probably a sophomore in high school when I realized that I wanted to be a fashion designer.”

She also knew from an early age that Williamsburg was home – but would it prove to be a friendly place to launch a small business?

Over the years, Tia had seen many small businesses close their doors as chains and big box stores moved in; however, she thinks that Williamsburg is still a wonderful place for business start-ups.

“We love it when people here are successful,” she says. “That makes us genuinely happy. When I was young, Williamsburg was very much about home grown.”

For instance, even though the character of popular Merchants Square remains firmly in-

contact, the shopping destination has seen changes over the years with chains like Barnes & Noble occupying the real estate that Casey’s Department Store used to occupy. Even so, stores like Binns and R. Bryant – as well as others too numerous to name – remain popular and enjoy a loyal customer base.

“I believe that there is still a home grown feel here,” Tia says. “There is still an intrinsic need to support those who are trying to start a business here on their own. I do feel that. So, as

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a businesswoman myself, I've been pleasantly surprised."

Having lived in the area since she was eight years old, the busy wife, mother and entrepreneur says that she and her husband, Brian, never considered settling down anywhere else.

"I was born in Portsmouth," she says. "My dad was in residency in the Naval Hospital. We moved here in 1980 when he opened his medical practice in Williamsburg."

Tia attended Matthew Whaley Elementary School, then Bruton Heights (which has since closed its doors) and James Blair for middle school, ultimately graduating from Lafayette High School before heading off to college. As a young girl, her family lived in the Walnut Hills neighborhood close to the campus of William and Mary.

"I loved growing up within the city limits," she says. "We could walk just about anywhere we needed to go."

Tia says that her parents originally considered purchasing a home in Kingsmill, but chose Walnut Hills instead because they weren't sure whether Kingsmill would ever really "take off."

"Route 199 was a one-lane road," she says with a laugh. "And my parents thought the de-

velopment was just too far from town."

Tia's grandparents, however, chose to leave their native Chicago and move to Williamsburg too – and they did purchase a home in Kingsmill. "That was great," says Tia. "Because it meant that I had the best of both worlds. I was able to experience the community of Kingsmill since I swam on the neighborhood swim team, but I still lived in town."

Today, Tia and Brian (who works for Leebcor Services) live with their three children in Kingsmill.

The couple met while they were both students at Lafayette High School. "We dated for 10 years before we got married," Tia says. "I was 15 when I met him!"

After graduating from high school, the couple continued their romance via long distance during college. Brian attended Virginia Military Institute and Tia chose Washington University in St. Louis. A long-time dancer with Eastern Virginia School for the Performing Arts (EVSPA) when she was growing up, Washington University allowed her to combine a fashion design major with a ballet minor.

"My parents required me to pursue a liberal arts education," Tia says. "And I'm glad they

did, because that focus shaped me while at the same time providing something to fall back on. At the same time, I wanted to pursue ballet as a minor because I had danced all my life."

Going to college so far away from home was really hard. Tia says that she was often home sick, but admits that there were advantages to living in a large, diverse city.

"There were so many amazing people there," she says. "So, I experienced a lot of things that I wouldn't have otherwise. And I had family near in Chicago."

During their college years, Tia and Brian saw each other only a few times each year. After graduation, the couple moved to Hilton Head – a long-time family vacation destination and second home. After a short time in Hilton Head, they returned to Williamsburg. They were married at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church and had their reception at the Grand Ballroom at Kingsmill.

"The venue had just opened," Tia says. "Ours was the first wedding reception there!" So, Williamsburg would become home again – this time for keeps.

"It made sense," she explains. "We always felt a draw to Williamsburg. My parents are

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here, Brian's mother is nearby in Seaford and we wanted to be around family. We love it here!"

On the education front, Tia and Brian, both products of the Williamsburg-James City County (WJCC) school system, wanted their children to have the same exposure to public education. The couple has three children including a 4-year old son, a kindergartener at James River Elementary, and their eldest is in the 7th grade at Berkeley Middle School.

As she reflects on the town today as compared to the way it was just a few short decades ago, Tia is astonished at the sheer number of schools in WJCC – an obvious result of the number of families making their homes here.

"Apparently lots of folks share my love for the town. It used to be that if you lived in Williamsburg, you went to Lafayette High. Now, there are so many schools. Our daughter is at Berkeley, and she will ultimately split off to a different high school from some of her friends. That's sort of too bad. When I was her age, we knew we'd all be together at Lafayette."

Aside from the population boom, there are other changes too.

"Not so long ago, people living in Wil-

liamsburg traveled to Norfolk or Richmond for proximity to variety in terms of great shopping, entertainment and restaurants," Tia says. "Now, they don't. People here can drive five or ten minutes to get whatever they need. And folks are traveling here. I feel like Williamsburg has become a 'new town' where there are so many more people, so much more access, so many good things that draw people here instead of people going elsewhere to find those things."

In 2010, Tia and her sister-in-law started their small business, introducing a functional, fun and fashionable women's line called Faboo. The line offers customized, comfortable and casual "go to" garments that appeal to a woman's sense of style while providing an alternative to sweat pants. "We're in about 20 stores in the southeast so far," she says. "We have a Facebook presence, and we're working on a website."

Tia oversees all of the production and design, sources the fabrics and – up until a couple years ago – she sewed all of the clothes. Everything is hand cut and handmade. "When the kids were really little, I literally ran this business from my dining room table," she says.

"Now that they are bigger, I've moved to the bedroom."

Tia's grandmother was her creative inspiration. "She was so creative and innovative and she would make anything and everything and let me kind of draw or sketch out a dress and then she's make it for me and I think that is where it started. I think just the idea of creating was – for me – something I enjoyed."

Tia has found a bevy of community support for the fashion line which has grown to include Faboo Too (fashion for infants and children).

"Maybe it's because I grew up here," she says. "But the support has been amazing. Just recently, the hospital auxiliary hosted a fashion show at Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center for the family maternity center there. They invited me to emcee the event and showcase my fashion line in the show."



For all of its growth and development, Williamsburg remains a small town but a town where "word of mouth" reigns.

"Everyone has been supportive – coming to home shows and spreading the word. So, for me, the network alone and the community wrapping its arms around one of its own – it has been awesome, she says. NDN

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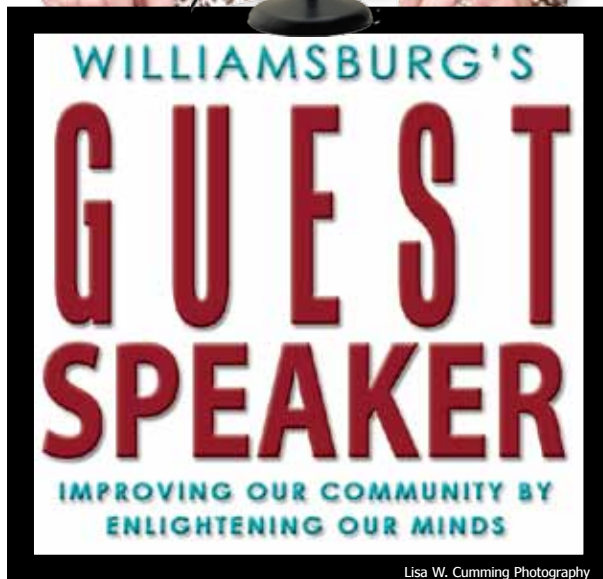
# ELIZABETH AMELING

## ON LATISHA'S HOUSE

Elizabeth Ameling is the director of Latisha's House in Williamsburg. She's been a resident of Virginia for thirty years and has degrees in music and religion. Married with grown children, Elizabeth worked as editor of the Marine Corps League magazine. She volunteered with Girl Scouts as the leader of her daughter's troop, and that volunteer position became a paid position for Elizabeth as the program manager for the Girl Scouts of The Virginia Skyline Council. While her children were growing up, she was involved in their sports and church youth group activities. In Charlottesville, she and the teens from the church started a street outreach.

### When and why did you first become involved with Latisha's House?

Latisha's House Foundation, Inc., was started in March of 2013, but began years before. I was a parent chaperone for a youth group



trip to Chicago. There we partnered with the Dream Center, participating in their outreach programs to the homeless population, which included prostitutes. Latisha was a young woman who was rescued off the streets. When we returned to Charlottesville we started an outreach to the homeless and prostitutes. What was readily apparent was the fact that long-term change only happens when you have a safe place to go, and there are fewer places for women to go than men. I started Latisha's House Foundation Inc. to specifically help young women and girls who have been sucked into a demoralizing life in the sex industry.

### What is the mission of the foundation?

Our mission is to provide a safe place for girls who are involved in or at risk for being involved in the sex industry. Our home, the first of many, will provide a nur-

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turing and safe environment where girls will receive counseling, get medical attention, GED classes, job training and job placement with the end goal of becoming a contributing member of society.

**Most people don't think of Williamsburg as an area where women would be trapped in the sex industry or sex trafficking. Why?**

Williamsburg, like every town in America, has prostitution and at-risk young men and women. The Internet has many sites where local girls and women advertise their bodies for sex. Do a wider search for Hampton and Virginia Beach, and the number is in the thousands. Girls that run away from home last about 48 hours on the street before they are approached or forced into a life in the sex industry. Latisha's House Foundation's motto is "changing one life and changing the future for generations." You change a life and the trajectory of a girl or woman, and her future is positive instead of nega-

tive. Her children, if and when she has them, will have a parent with a healthy self-image, confidence, life skills, and the ability to contribute to society in a meaningful way. We will also provide a safe home where young women exiting the foster care system will be able to live at Latisha's House while they attend college and maintain their grades without the stress of trying to manage paying for housing and food.

**What can readers do to help?**

We have an operating budget of \$183,000 per year for the house, based on estimated utilities, food costs and salaries of our house managers and are looking to have that support for this year and long-term. We are hosting sex trafficking forums and participating in the Marine Corps Marathon. We are holding our second formal gala at the Williamsburg Winery December 12, with music, a silent auction, delicious food and reserve wines included. It is a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas and support Latisha's House.

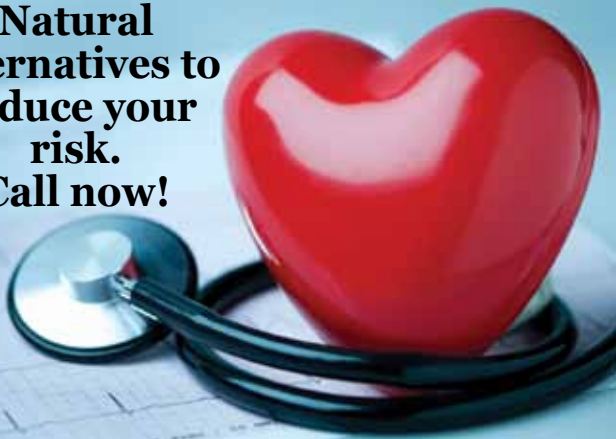
Of course you can send checks to Latisha's House Foundation, P.O. Box 5817, Williamsburg, Virginia 23188, make a donation online at [Latishashouse.com](http://Latishashouse.com) and call 603-2255 for more information. We are asking for individuals to share their talents and skills with our girls. If you know how to write a resume, cook, sew, create beautiful artwork, plant a garden or play a musical instrument, we welcome you sharing your gifts with the girls. We want to give these girls the opportunity to see the many different things that they can do.

**What are some personal experiences you have had that renew your commitment to Latisha's House?**

I have witnessed a girl, sold into prostitution, abused, and rejected by society, realize that she is valuable. I have seen her face change as she realizes that the opportunity to start over is real and that she is loved because she is a human being. This transformation, like light coming on in a dark room, is truly witnessing a miracle. NDN

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# CHEERS TO PAINTING!

By Greg Lilly, Editor



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

A blank canvas and a paint brush may be intimidating to some people, but add a bottle of wine and a patient instructor, and fear turns to creativity. Jennifer Oberman of Wine and Design says that even the most coerced husband who arrives for a date-night with his wife will have fun and create a great painting.

“It’s funny to see a wife drag her husband in. We can tell those reluctant artists. We promise them they’ll have a blast. Those guys are the ones that have so much fun by the end of the night,” Jennifer describes. “You can see the talent come out when the guys loosen up.”

At each session, the entire class paints the same subject. “All of our

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paintings – anyone can do them,” she says. “That’s how Wine and Design started with the concept that anyone can create a painting that they’ll be proud of. You don’t have to have any artistic ability to paint. It is a step-by-step process that the artist gives you, and they paint alongside you. There’s a sample of the painting for reference, and the artist is demonstrating each stroke and color as we go.”

Jennifer creates an experience for her customers. Instead of selling a physical product, she sells discovery, an enjoyable activity, guided artistic expression and time for people to spend together.

“My husband, Kevin, and I grew up across the street from each other in Hampton. We have been in love since we were kids. He is my soul mate,” Jennifer says. “We have four children – in order are Daniel, Matthew, Emily and Hannah. My oldest is 22 years old and my youngest is 4 years old. I have been a stay at home mom since my first child was born.”

She says she has painted since she was a child. “We have a lot of artists in our family – aunts, cousins – just very artistic, creative people involved in music or painting. My mother can play the piano beautifully. I learned to play the piano and played from first grade until I was a senior in high school. We have a very creative gene in our pool.”

Jennifer waited until her youngest daughter, Hannah, was two years old before she started her business. “I wanted to be at home with her and wasn’t ready to part with that. This has worked out great because I can be at home with the girls in the morning and get my nine year old, Emily, off to school while spending time with Hannah, who is four now. I’m there to have lunch with her and can take her to the park to play.”

Jennifer does a lot of her planning and coordination from her home office. “A very large reason why I chose this business was because it is mainly open in the evening. Although we do a lot of private parties and corporate events, team-building, kids classes and birthdays during the day, I have amazing artists who can run those.” She has surrounded herself with artists to instruct and guide the events when she can’t be there. “I like that I have people I can rely on. I can never get back these early years with my little ones, and honestly, that’s my most important job.”

The Wine and Design franchise started in Raleigh and has grown across the country. “My cousin started it down in North Carolina,” Jennifer says. “I grew up with Emmy. She’s one of my creative cousins. She’s an amazing painter.” Jennifer began talking to her cousin about the business when she had starting franchising it around North Carolina. “I saw pictures on her Facebook page and thought it was the perfect job for me. I get to paint. I could come in at night and be at home with my kids during the day. I love everything about the business.”

Not only did the business idea fit Jennifer’s schedule, it also fit her personality. She becomes animated when she talks about her customers and artists. “We get a lot of moms coming into the evening classes, and this is a great release from the stresses of running a home and family. They have a good time and return home with a beautiful painting.”

Jennifer holds regular classes on Wednesday through Saturday evenings. These are open to anyone who signs up and wants to have fun. She also hosts private classes. “Kids parties, corporate events, private parties can happen at the same time or anytime Monday through Sat-

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urday,” she says. “We could have a busy Saturday where painting parties could start at 10:00 in the morning and go through midnight. Saturdays are very popular here. It’s not uncommon to have five or six private parties and a sold-out regular class on a Saturday.”

This July marks two years that Wine and Design has been open in Williamsburg. “I was the first franchise in the state of Virginia. Now, we have them in Richmond, Charlottesville and Christiansburg. We’re coast-to-coast. We have some in California now.”


The Williamsburg location has done well, and Jennifer recently moved to a larger location where she can expand the offerings and the number of people served. From the Arts District location, she moved the business to John Tyler Highway, near Five Forks. “We need more space. The new location that is about three times the size, and it has a patio space so we can have classes outside. It’s the same building that housed the London Underground. We’re so excited about the space and parking situation.”

With the expanded space, Jennifer is able to bring in more options for her classes than painting on canvas. “The possibilities are endless. We want to paint on windows, wine bottles and wine glasses. We want to hold arts and crafts days with kids on a Saturday afternoon. In the Bacon Avenue location, there wasn’t storage space. I didn’t have room to store 20 flower pots for the kids to paint. In the new place, I can store materials for special projects.” She plans to offer summer camps where children can paint something every day on different surfaces: canvas, glass, flower pots, t-shirts, rocks.

The expanded offerings aren’t just for the children. Since the business processes have proven themselves to her, Jennifer wants to show her clients how to paint on everything from furniture to pottery to ceiling panels.

She also takes her art parties on the road. “We do off-site events that we call ‘Wine and Design On Wheels.’ I want to take it to a new level, to go out to any place. We’ve been to Riverwalk in Yorktown, to Windsor Meade, to a birthday party by the river at a campsite. We’ve had kids birthdays in their backyards. We’ve visited assisted-living homes. We’ve held parties in people’s kitchen. I want to do more of that.”

Now that two years have passed, she looks back and has advice for other entrepreneurs striking out on their own. “Relax,” she says. “Don’t stress about everything. Sometimes it takes a while to blossom. I wanted it to take off as soon as I opened my doors. It was a huge learning process at the beginning to balance the business and my family. I have figured out that those e-mails and phone messages can wait – I don’t have to instantly return each one. All I did was live on my computer. Now, I’ve learned to set aside time in the morning to just return phone calls and e-mails.” She gets those out of the way and still has time to spend with her daughter before returning to the business later in the afternoon.

“I don’t want to rob Hannah of that time. I was able to devote my time to my sons and other daughter before they entered school, and I want to spend that time with her,” she says. “I try to do the best I can with four kids, a husband, two dogs and a new puppy.” With a business expansion and a busy family and high-spirited customers, Jennifer Oberman has found a perfect balance of family, fun and business. 



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# Next Door Neighbors Sports



## Paddle! *on a paddle board*

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

In Ocean City, Maryland, Rich Warfield surfed every chance he could while working on a construction project. “Yeah, I did a fair bit of surfing,” he says. “One day I saw a guy on a stand-up paddle board. That was the first time I’d seen one. I was quite jealous because he was catching wave after wave.”

Rich grew up about 30 minutes north of

Washington, D.C. in Clarksburg, Maryland.

“I spent a lot of time in Ocean City, Maryland as a kid since my grandfather lived there. We took lots of trips to the beach, and I loved the beach and the water from a very young age.”

Back home in the D.C. area, Rich spent time on the river. “I was involved in various

water sports: boating, water skiing, tubing, a lot of jet skiing.”

He went to college at East Carolina University and studied construction management. After graduation, he returned to the D.C. area to work for a company that he had interned with during school.

“I worked there for a few years. We had a

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client that was building a three-year project in Ocean City. I volunteered for that one. I moved to Ocean City for those three years. That's where I was first introduced to stand-up paddle board."

On the day he saw the stand-up paddle boarder, he knew he had to try it. "You get an advantage in surfing. The paddle helps you really move across the water. If you're efficient at paddling, you can really catch the waves. Whereas the long-board, you're paddling lying down, you're not able to get the speed and get into the smaller waves. Speed is a huge advantage, plus you can see the waves approaching and the little swells coming in and out."

He rented a stand-up paddle (SUP) board and decided to sell his jet ski. "I was hooked. That was in 2008. With the sale of the jet ski, I invested in my first paddle board. That's how I got into it."

Rich had met his future wife, Britton, in North Carolina, and they married in Maryland. The two of them moved back to D.C. when the job was finished in Ocean City.

"We were back in D.C. for about six months when we realized that the D.C. lifestyle wasn't what we wanted long-term. I had a great position with a good company, but that wasn't ultimately where we wanted to be. I had the opportunity to come to Williamsburg and work for Henderson, Incorporated as a building superintendent. That was a very good decision. We're about half way between her family and my family, and we have family here in Williamsburg."

That same year, they purchased a second stand-up paddle board for Britton. "We hit the waterways around here. We realized there is so much water around Williamsburg, and not a lot of things to do on the water," Rich says. "At Ocean City, everything revolved around the water sports."

He and Britton enjoyed their stand-up paddle boards and thought they would introduce it to their Williamsburg friends and neighbors. This is the second year that Rich has taught lessons and led tours on stand-up paddle boards as Peninsula Paddle Company. "We bought equipment, and I became a certified instructor by the American Canoe Association. There was a three-day course in Richmond taught by the gentleman who owns Black Dog Paddle. It was classroom and water time and back to the classroom. I completed the level two instructor certification."

Trying out stand-up paddling doesn't require a lot of gear. Rich provides it with his lessons. "We have four stand-up paddle boards that vary in length from 10'6" to 11'6" that gives people the opportunity to choose different boards to ride. Someone a little larger would want to use the larger boards, while a smaller person or child would find the short board easier to maneuver." Adjustable paddles are used along with personal flotation devices (PFD). "The PFDs are required by the U.S. Coast Guard," Rich says.

"SUPs are so popular on the West Coast that the Coast Guard declared the stand-up paddle board as a vessel – that means you have to have a personal flotation device and a signaling device. We also carry a first aid kit, water, bug spray, sunscreen."

A basic lesson on the sport of stand-up paddle boarding is Rich's SUP 101 class. "That gets you started first with on-land instruction of things like SUP terminology, the parts and pieces of the board, the components of the paddle and the right length for the adjustable paddle for each person. We go through basic stances on the board. From kneeling stance

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to the traditional neutral stance.”

The sport isn't just standing on a board and paddling. Rich explains that there are different positions on the board for maneuvering. “With a board that is 11 and a half feet long, there are some sweet spots on that board, and we cover why you would want to leave that sweet spot. Sometimes you want to move forward or back on the board.”

In the water, Rich explains how to launch the board, how to get on it and how to land it. “People find it easy to get on the board and stand on the board, especially in the flat water conditions,” Rich says. “One of the reasons we liked having a mobile business is that if the winds are blowing out of the north, we can go to a creek protected from the wind. We're trying to get to flat water. It's easier for basic instruction.”

The hardest thing beginners find is getting a strong efficient stroke. “You use your bigger muscles instead of the smaller one, so you want to keep your arms fairly straight. People tend to want to bend their elbows like rowing a canoe.”

The Williamsburg area has an abundance of waterways for SUP'ing. “The York River has a beautiful sunrise,” Rich says. “We use the Chickahominy quite a bit. We use the Diascund Creek at times and the James River.”

The rivers and creeks can have hazards for paddlers. Rich explains water etiquette to his fellow stand-up paddlers. “The stand-up paddle board will be the least respected vessel on the water,” he states. “We're the slowest. Paddlers need to be very aware of their surroundings.” On the water, paddlers need to watch for boats and jet skis. Rich says it is a good idea for the paddlers to travel together in a group.

This being a water sport, count on getting wet. “You need to know the proper way to fall off a board, Rich says. “That sounds crazy, but in all of our rivers and creeks, we cannot see the bottom. We don't have the luxury of clear blue water. So, is there a tree stump or rock below us? When you fall off the board, we preach in the instruction to fall ‘shallow’ – kind of a back flop leading with your butt, throwing arms and legs out and fall as shallow as you can. We never jump feet first off a board and never dive off a board.”

Besides getting wet, this is also a physical sport, so a beginner may be sore the next day. “Standing up we use almost every muscle in the body. Your core is engaged almost the entire time. Your feet, legs – really all the way from your toes to your shoulders will be engaged. One of the nice things about this sport is that you can take it very easy; you go at your own pace. If you are out there to relax, you can enjoy the scenery and go all day long. If you want a workout, you can go as hard as you want to go.”

He says that a good starting point for beginners is to plan to spend about an hour on the water paddling.

The sport of stand-up paddling is growing fast and adding additional options. “We have two SUP-yoga certified instructors,” Rich says of the Peninsula Paddle Company's team. “We'd like to add some morning and evening SUP-yoga events. This has become a very popular option in the sport.”

Rich and Britton have two young daughters who love the outdoors. The Warfield family has brought their love of water sports and stand-up paddle boarding to the area creeks and rivers. Look for Rich Warfield gliding along the water with his family and friends. NDN

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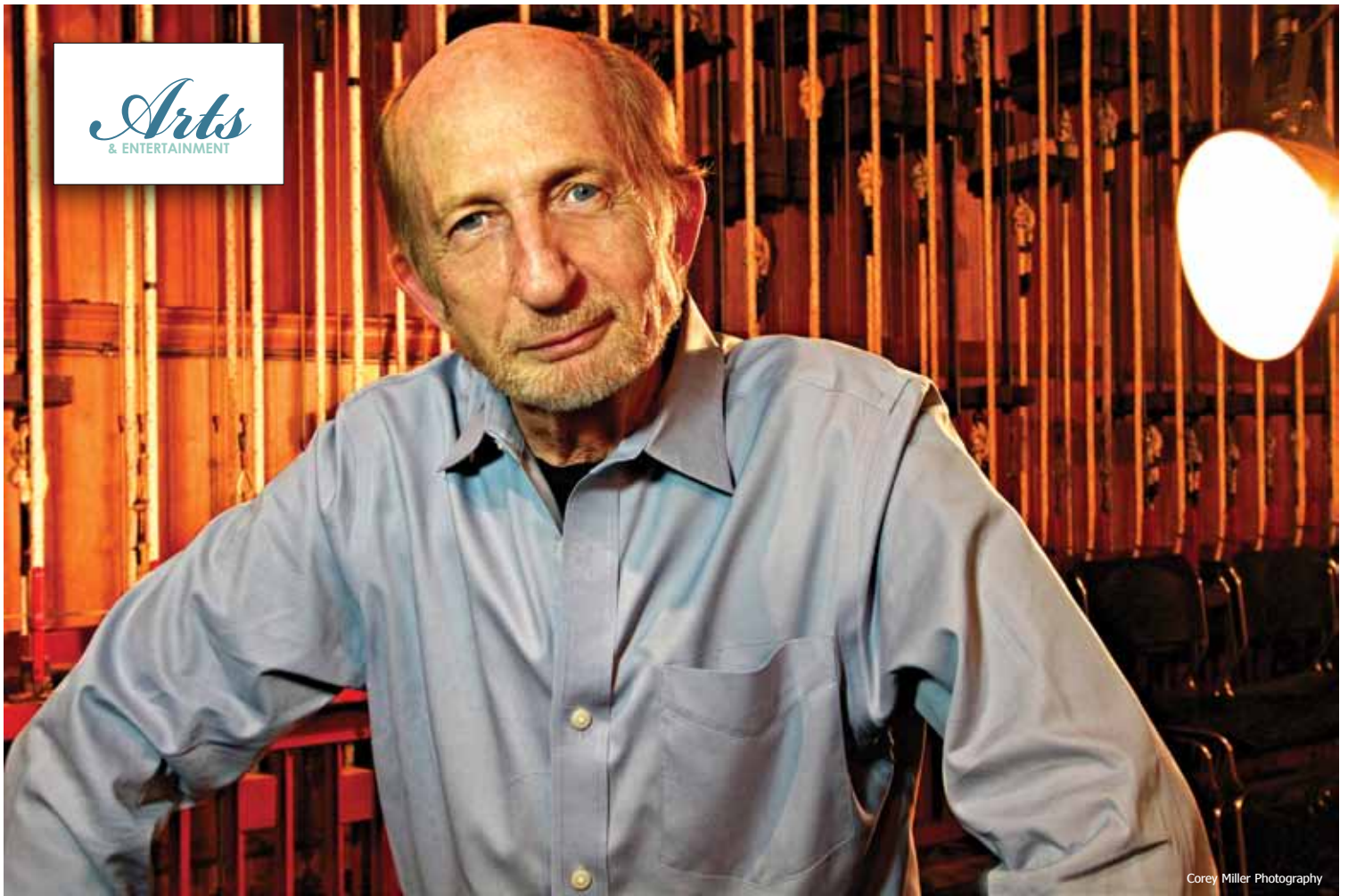
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# Shakespeare Comes to Town

By Greg Lilly, Editor

“In ‘Julius Caesar,’ I play Casca,” actor Ron Reid says. “If you remember from your sophomore requirement for Virginia high schools, the two main conspirators in ‘Julius Caesar’ are Brutus and Cassius. Casca is sort of number three in the conspirators list. I think of him as the town gossip. His big scene is explaining

what goes on when Mark Antony offers Caesar the crown three times. Casca is described by Brutus at one time as a ‘blunt fellow.’ He’s sarcastic and funny – if there is a funny character in ‘Julius Caesar.’”

The 36th season of the Virginia Shakespeare Festival opened on June 25 and runs through

July 20 with productions of “Julius Caesar” and “Illyria.”

Ron adds that “Illyria” is a musical version of Shakespeare’s “Twelve Night.” He’s in “Julius Caesar,” but not the musical. “I’m not in that production because I don’t do music – not that I don’t want to, it just terrifies me,” he says with

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a laugh. "It really is fun. 'Illyria' has very good music and great actors."

The Williamsburg area is lucky to have the company of actors coming to town for the performances. Not only does the festival draw professional actors from all over the United States, it also attracts an audience from around the country. "We have people from D.C., New York, and we pull in a lot of people from Houston and Dallas. That area has a very enthusiastic and dedicated theater audience," Ron adds. "A few local professional actors are involved like me and Ed Whitacre. He's playing Julius Caesar. It's a good company, professional with beautiful sets and costumes. There isn't anything in Williamsburg comparable to it."

Ron fell in love with acting while growing up in Roanoke, Virginia. "In our small high school, we didn't have much of a theater – really just a stage at the end of the gym, but we had a phenomenal theater and speech teacher. Her name was Genevieve Dickerson. She built quite a reputation for herself with the theater department. She got me started."

His first paid acting job was in an outdoor play in Salem, Virginia when he was 16. "It was a religious drama called 'Thy Kingdom Come.'

It was the story of Saint Paul. That ran for two summers."

After performing in Roanoke, Ron attended the drama school at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. "After graduation, I did summer stock and spent a couple of years in New York City. I did the typical things in New York: getting a job to pay the bills, crazy things here and there. I finally decided I didn't want to live in New York. I eventually ended up in Williamsburg – the first time – when I joined the company of Wedgewood Dinner Theatre during the late 1960s and early '70s. Wedgewood was in Toano, near where Charlie's Antiques is today. It was an old canning factory that was turned into a beautiful theater with a restaurant, rehearsal spaces, scene shops and all kinds of things in the complex."

Ron married, and he and his wife spent a year touring all over North America with Disney on Parade. "We were part of the 'advance unit' that arrived a few days early to do promotion and media appearances. We lived out of a suitcase and got tired of that. My wife was from Hampton, so we came back to Hampton to settle. I got a job with an advertising agency and didn't do any theater for several years."

In 1988, three of the people Ron had worked with at Wedgewood Dinner Theatre tracked him down with an offer. "They were still here in Williamsburg," he says. "They persuaded me to do a play called 'Greater Tuna.' The next year we did a production of 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?' Then it all started back again. I found the time to do what I always wanted to do."

He left the advertising agency and started his own company. "That gave me time to do theater and a day job to pay the bills. I've done two or three productions every year since then. The first thing I did with the Virginia Shakespeare Festival in 2005." He has performed for several seasons with the festival, including his roles as Gonzalo in "The Tempest" and Duncan in "Macbeth" and a role in "Romeo and Juliet."

Running his own business, a small ad and design firm in partnership with Shari Gann called DesignWrite Times Two takes energy, but Ron still loves and makes time for his acting jobs.

"There are two things that apply to why I do it," he explains. "One, I consider acting an art. A function of art is to try to bring some moment of truth to a part of the human condition

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so that you can make the audience see or feel something that relates to their own lives. When an actor can create one moment that is so absolutely real that you now know something that you didn't when you came to the theater... that's what acting is about."

The other aspect that draws Ron is the process of discovery. "The playwright has a skeleton of a character in his play. It's up to the director to shape that character among the other parts, but it's up to the actor to find out who that person is. Actors do that in all types of ways. I'm trained in the Method – the inside-out approach to acting. I try to find a way to understand this character, this person, this human being that's been written flat on a page and give the person dimension and reality. I try to bring the character into me while on stage."

He says that actors are always finding new facets of a character as they perform. From the beginning of a production run until the end, every night will be different. "It's going to grow. It's a process of discovery. You discover from each other, which is wonderful."

Everyone involved in the Virginia Shakespeare Festival provides an experience for the audience to enjoy good, solid entertainment,

Ron promises. "I don't like to think that people are scared of Shakespeare because they had to read it in high school. Yes, the language is a little archaic. But just relax and go with it, and you get the language. We make the plays accessible. We make them come alive. The sets and costumes are exciting. We try to bring entertainment to the community – entertainment that can move you and excite you."

Shakespeare's themes are universal and just as relevant today as when they were first performed. "What could be more timely today than a play about politics?" Ron asks. "That's 'Julius Caesar' with all its conspiracy theories, battles of the mighty, that's what it's about. That's what has made Shakespeare last 450 years. He wrote about the basic things we are as human beings: strengths, weaknesses, foibles, hates, loves. Those have not changed in 450 years."

His message is to come to the festival and enjoy Shakespeare's work. "If you read 'Julius Caesar' in high school and hated it, come see it. It was never written to be read. Come see it. It's great fun. We stab people on stage, and there are some really great sword fights," Ron Reid adds with a roguish grin. NDN

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# Next Door Neighbors Health



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## See Clearly

By Greg Lilly, Editor

As the 40s and 50s sneak up on each of us, testing out reading glasses in the local drug store is a rite of passage. “But, even if you’ve had 20/20 vision up to that point, a thorough eye exam is a good idea,” Dr. Jeanne I. Ruff says.

“Everyone should have a comprehensive eye exam at least every one to two years. That’s really important. People think as long as they can see 20/20 they don’t need an eye exam. I’ve had people come in saying they can’t read, and they decide to have an examination. I’ve found diabetic retinopathy or glaucoma,” she says. “There are many eye diseases that get caught in an exam that don’t manifest symptoms until the damage is done. You may feel like you only need reading glasses, but an exam for eye diseases is important.”

Optometry is a second career for Dr. Ruff. “I was a billing bookkeeper

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and computer operator at a law firm in Florida. I decided I needed to do something different with my life.” She wanted to help people get and stay healthy. She researched different medical fields and found that optometry was a perfect fit for her.

“With optometry, I could provide health care focused on a particular part of the body,” she explains. From her earlier career in bookkeeping and computing, she knew she liked solving problems and diagnostics. “No blood or needles,” she adds with a laugh. “I like how optometrists gather information with diagnostic testing and then utilize that information to help the patient. Everyone is different, and you never know what to expect.”

She knew that making a career change from the law firm would be a challenge. “I was a bit overwhelmed,” she admits. “The career change required getting another bachelor’s degree and then applying to a four-year optometry school, eight to ten years of education. I was overwhelmed and thinking ‘How am I going to do that?’ One of the lawyers I worked with said, ‘Well, what else are you going to do in ten years? Ten years from now, you could be an optometrist with some hard work.’ I took it one day at a time, step by step. It was going to push me beyond my limits. I got through it. It’s been great.”

Her advice for others thinking about starting a new career: “Student loans will get paid back. If you pursue what you really love, in a career that can make a good living, you can afford to pay the student loans. Don’t let yourself be intimidated by the curriculum. The overall view might be disheartening, but it’s one step at a time, baby steps to get there. Have faith in yourself. Focus on the ultimate goal.”

She earned her degree from Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. “I wanted to leave Florida after graduation because I had lived there all my life. I moved to Virginia to be closer to my brother. I lived in northern Virginia for a couple of years and then had the opportunity to come into a practice here in Williamsburg. I bought the practice in 2007.” This past December, she relocated her office from Richmond Road to Courthouse Commons in New Town.

When Dr. Ruff looks at eye care, she says it starts at an early age. She recommends that a child should have his or her first comprehensive eye exam no later than age five. “Children usually go to their pediatrician and read an eye chart. That is absolutely not an eye exam,” she states. “There are children with glaucoma; there are children with astigmatism or vision refractive errors that can affect their ability to comprehend what they are reading. Their brain may be trying to clear a blurry image at the same time as attempting to understand it. A child might be able to see 20/20, but that doesn’t mean that they won’t have focusing problems, binocular vision or eye teaming problems, which will affect their ability to learn.”

Signs of early childhood vision issues are difficult for parents to recognize. “When a child is born and develops nearsightedness at an early age, they don’t understand that they’re seeing blurry. They won’t say anything. Kids don’t complain because they don’t know that’s not the way everyone sees. Parents should be proactive and bring the child in for an examine before five years of age.”

Some symptoms that a parent might notice include the child squinting a lot, sitting close to the TV (for nearsightedness) or not liking to read (farsightedness), complaining of headaches or eyestrain, tilting of

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the head or covering one eye while reading.

As children start school, their vision may change. "They begin to read, everything is up close in books and on the computer," Dr. Ruff explains. "As they get older, the print gets smaller. That puts a demand on the eye's ability to accommodate those different focal points. We start to see an increase in nearsightedness or myopia. Typically, that levels off at the end of college. A lot of reading and computer work tends to increase nearsightedness." Vision usually stabilizes after college.

"Then we get into our 40s, and people start developing a difficulty focusing up close. That's called presbyopia. The eyes' lens lose flexibility and that makes it harder to adjust the focal length requiring one to hold reading material farther away. This is a slow progressive change and makes it more difficult to see up close."

As the eyes age and a person enters their 60s and 70s, cataracts become common. "Until there is a decrease in vision, I don't recommend surgery," Dr. Ruff says. "We'll monitor it."

She explains that cataracts seem to sneak up on people because of their slow progression. "It's not common, but there are cases where people, within a week, can have their vision impeded by cataracts. Typically, it's very slow and people don't realize that they are walking around or driving the streets with compromised vision. Once they come into the exam room, they understand how reduced their vision is."

When the cataracts are removed, patients are amazed at how they functioned with them, she says. The patients say they're amazed at the renewed sharpness, colors and contrast in their vision. "It can be really dangerous with nighttime vision because of the reduced light. It can also compromise depth perception and driving. Everyone should be checked. You can get cataracts in your 40s although rare."

Adding to her diagnostic toolkit for identifying and treating vision problems, Dr. Ruff has discovered new technology for creating eye glass prescriptions. "This advanced diagnosis tool analyzes the performance of the eye and measures 1,500 points for an exact mapping of the eye for a more accurate prescription lens," she explains. "The 'iProfilor' takes measurements of your vision that have never been measured before. With its 1,500 different measurement points of the eye, it can correct aberrations that cause scattering of light."

She went to the lab in Richmond to see the technology demonstrated by scanning her own eyes. "I was skeptical, but they created my prescription, and I can say I've never seen better in a pair of glasses. That enhanced prescription made a difference for me. For some patients, it may not make a huge difference. I have the ability to test and demonstrate to the patient in the exam room to see if the technology and measurements will benefit a patient."

She describes the new technology as a starting point for developing a more precise prescription by mapping subtle imperfections in the eye.

"I can create a super-precise eye glass prescription, which can improve night vision, contrast perception and color perception. It's amazing."

Dr. Jeanne I. Ruff treasures her work as an optometrist and the difference she can make in people's lives. "The eyes are the barometer of the body," she states. "If there is something going on in the back of the eye, an optometrist can usually find it before the patient has symptoms." Identifying possible eye diseases and keeping the clearest vision possible for her patients makes a great day and great career for her. NDN

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# Next Door Neighbors Home

## VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICE

By Greg Lilly, Editor



Corey Miller Photography

The James City County Police have many responsibilities that keep them busy 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Helping them perform those duties are a group of volunteers called the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). Lieutenant Steve Humphries coordinates the VIPS and is grateful for the citizen volunteers who make the department a priority in their service.

“We have citizens who volunteer their time to do a variety of things with or for the police department,” he explains. “They work closely with our Community Services unit. The Community Services unit goes out into the community to do things such as child IDs, supporting school carnival booths and administrative assistance. For example, recently we had a VIN etching set up at the Target parking lot. The volunteers assist with that.”

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Lt. Humphries grew up in James City County and graduated from Lafayette High School in 1988. Attending Christopher Newport University, he came to the point that he needed to declare a major. "I was torn between criminal justice and elementary education," he says. "I didn't know if I wanted to be a school teacher or police officer. I chose the police officer."

Although he didn't have any law enforcement in his immediate family, he knew a few police officers around James City County and Williamsburg. "It sounded exciting, doing something different and new. It wasn't the same old thing. That's what drew me into the field." He graduated from Christopher Newport University in December of 1993. In July of 1994, he started at the police academy for the city of Hampton, where he worked until 1997.

"I had the opportunity to come back here where I grew up. I've been with James City County since – that's been 17 years."

When he started with James City County, he worked evening shift patrol. "Patrolling whatever zone I was assigned in the county. After a couple of years of patrolling, I had the opportunity to be a School Resource Officer (SRO) back at Lafayette." Several of his former teachers were still there, and they saw him transformed from the high school student they remembered to a police officer.

"I worked at Lafayette as an SRO for four years. That's a very rewarding job," Lt. Humphries says. "It's been about 11 years since I left as an SRO, but I still see former students who were there when I worked Lafayette. It's nice making those connections with the young people, because that's something you always have."

Back on patrol, he worked the midnight and evening shifts. "In 2006, I was promoted to sergeant. I was the sergeant on evening shift for two years then I went to Community Services in 2008. In Community Services, we have the crime prevention officers and our school resource officers. I got to work with them."

During this time, he earned his master's in criminal justice. In college, he'd made the decision between teaching and police work. With his newly earned masters, he realized that would allow him to explore the teaching side as part of his criminal justice career. "I'm doing some adjunct professor work with the University of Phoenix, as well as ECPI University in Newport News."

He was promoted to lieutenant this past spring. "I'm now the lieutenant of midnight shift. I'm still getting used to sleeping all day and working all night," he adds with a smile.

His work with the Volunteers in Police Service keeps him in touch with the community and making James City County a better place to live. He explains that most of the VIPS have graduated from the Citizens Police Academy.

"The program has been going on for quite a while – several years ago it wasn't revered to as VIPS, then we had the Citizens Police Academy Alumni that was the precursor for VIPS." VIPS is a national program and began after September 11, 2001 as part of President George W. Bush's USA Freedom Corps to bring people together to make our communities safer, stronger and prepared. Successful existing local programs, like the Citizens Police Academy Alumni joined the national programs.

"Yes, most of our volunteers have graduated from our Citizens Police Academy," Lt. Humphries states. "We run the Citizens Police Academy

twice a year, and it's a huge hit with the community. They see what police officers do every day. All aspects of the department are covered: patrol, investigation, traffic unit, marine patrol, SWAT team, things like that. After they finish the Citizens Police Academy, most of them want to continue with something. That's where the volunteers come in."

VIPS are over 18 years of age, with a majority of them in the retirement age range. "These are citizens looking for ways to give back to the community. For the under 18 citizens, we have Explorer Posts run by the School Resource Officers in the high schools. A great new program is at Toano Middle School. Officer Sean Gormus started the Police Science Club to show the middle school students what science does for us at a crime scene."

Last year, the James City County Police held a Citizens Forensic Academy. "That was for anyone who had been through the Citizens Police Academy. Investigator Rice, who is one of our Crime Scene Techs, took them through a six-week look at forensics."

The most important expertise a volunteer needs is good communication skills, according to Lt. Humphries. "Because they're out talking to the public, just as we are. On our application for the volunteers, we ask for their skills because there are different tasks that may need specialized abilities. But, the biggest is communication skills."

Today, the program has over active 30 volunteers and is growing.

"It's another voice in the community to let other citizens know what the Police Department has to offer. The VIPS are out there speaking to citizens during events, but many are talking about our services with their neighbors and family and friends and co-workers. We are constantly spreading the word about our programs like the neighborhood watch, business watch, home security surveys and things of that nature. Our VIPS know that. Even when they're not with us, they are still conveying our message about what we can provide."

VIPS help with programs such as VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) etching. "VIN etching is a program in conjunction with the State Police," Lt. Humphries explains. "It allows citizens to take their vehicle to have their VIN etched into the every piece of glass on the vehicle. That makes it difficult, not necessarily to keep your vehicle from being stolen, but difficult for a vehicle to be chopped up and sold for parts."

Another event is National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5. "That's something that all of our VIPS do with us. We go to the different neighborhoods and show our support for the neighborhoods to stamp out crime."

In the early fall, the James City County Police start manning booths at school carnivals and church events. The Shop with a Cop event takes place during the holidays. "VIPS hold a shred-a-thon to help support the Shop with a Cop program."

Lt. Steve Humphries is appreciative for the service of the citizens in Volunteers in Police Service, and their enthusiasm and commitment spreads to the hard-working members of the police department. "Just seeing how important the programs are for the volunteers," he describes, "that makes the VIPS rewarding to me. Seeing the excitement and enjoyment from the volunteers and the positive impact on the community, that's my reward." NDN

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### Q: Where are we with the local market at the moment?

A: The number of days on the market is down to almost 40 as of May 2014. This compares similarly with the same point last year. New listings have increased over the same period last year. The original listing price compared to the sold price is running at about 97% and the number of months supply is creeping up towards 10 compared with 7.6 in January 2014. The overall market is running at much the same as the same period last year. There are signs however, that there is increased activity after the slow start due to bad weather. Interest rates still remain low making it a great time to buy property.

### Q: What else do Realtors® get involved in?

A: Realtors® really are the complete package, both professional and civic minded. As part of their existence, every year the Williamsburg Area Association of Realtors® undertakes the sponsorship of quarterly or year-long projects that impact the needs in our community. Some of past year's projects have been clothing for the homeless, food drives for Fish, Salvation Army Angel Tree and Bell Ringing, Blood drive for the American Red Cross and maintenance for Hospice House. Also, to recognize the strong military



By  
**Andrew Nelson**  
President

*Williamsburg  
Area Association  
of REALTORS®*

presence in our community, we partnered with the USO in purchasing new books for the United Through Reading Program, which facilitates connections between our troops overseas and their children at home.

For the past two years, the Realtors® have undertaken to support the local Avalon Center for Women and Children. Last year's focus was on the refurbishing of the playground area by supplying and spreading child-friendly mulch. This year we just completed the renovation of the multi-purpose room that is used for their child and adult art classes, counseling, exercising and in-take area. Through the generous financial donations of the brokers and Realtors® as well as the hands-on labor force, we were able to put in new flooring, paint ceiling, wall and trim, new baseboard and a real highlight was the wall size painted blackboard. New tables and chairs, both child and adult sizes, added the final touches. The heart and labor that went into this project from all who helped made it a huge success.

For additional expert information and guidance, consult a REALTOR®.  
For a complete and accurate listing of homes for sale, visit [www.WAARealtor.com](http://www.WAARealtor.com).

**Williamsburg Area Association of REALTORS®**

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5000 New Point Road, Suite 1101, Williamsburg VA 23188-9418



# Hey Neighbor!

Please visit [www.WilliamsburgNeighbors.com](http://www.WilliamsburgNeighbors.com), go to the magazine site and click on **Hey Neighbor!** for a complete list of current community announcements.

To submit your non-profit event to Hey Neighbor! send a paragraph with your information to:  
**heyneighbor@cox.net**



**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2014**  
Williamsburg Landing campus off Lake Powell Road

**5K RUN WALK FOR THE ARC**

ETW WILLIAMSBURG LANDING  
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MIDDLE PENNSYLVANIA

The Arc of Greater Williamsburg has proudly served adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our community for 38 years, improving the quality of life for these individuals and their families.

**INFORMATION / REGISTRATION FORM**  
[www.thearcgw.org](http://www.thearcgw.org) or call (757) 229-3535

8:30am One mile fun walk/run • 9:00am 5K run / 5K walk • \$25 minimum donation for pre-entries before 8/30/14. \$30 after 9/1/14. Entrants under age 10 are free.

## Hey Neighbor! "FASHION IN COLONIAL VIRGINIA" THEME MONTH June 2014

Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center – From leather to linen, explore how clothing of the period was fashioned during an interpretive theme month with hands-on activities. Museum hours are 9 am – 6 pm. Jamestown Settlement is located on State Route 31 in Williamsburg. The Yorktown Victory Center is located on Route 1020 in Yorktown. Call (888) 593-4682 toll-free or (757) 253-4838, or visit [www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org).

## Hey Neighbor! RARE 1730S PORTRAIT ON EXHIBIT

July 2014  
Yorktown Victory Center, Yorktown, Va. – A 1730s portrait of

Ayuba Suleiman Diallo, enslaved for a time in the North American colonies, is on exhibit at the Yorktown Victory Center through August 3, 2014. The Yorktown Victory Center, located at 200 Water Street in Yorktown, is open daily 9 – 9 pm. Call (888) 593-4682 toll-free or (757) 253-4838, or visit [www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org).

## Hey Neighbor! WATA BUSES TO RUN UNTIL 9 PM YEAR-ROUND

Ongoing  
Summer 2014 the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) will no longer provide an extended hour during peak season. Buses will stop running at 9 pm year-round. Routes that will be affected by this change are Red, Blue, Purple 1, Purple 2, Orange, Grey, Tan, and Surry. The last bus from Surry will depart the

Ferry at 7 pm for the Transportation Center. The Williamsburg Trolley hours will not change. For more information about WATA, visit [www.goWATA.org](http://www.goWATA.org) or call the WATA office at (757) 220-5493.

## Hey Neighbor! WOMEN VOICES WELCOME

Ongoing  
The Williamsburg Women's Chorus is seeking new members to join our group for the celebration of the 50 year, so inquire now to become a part of a great group of women who love to sing! Contact Ann Porter at [aportermusic@verizon.net](mailto:aportermusic@verizon.net) or [www.williamsburgwomenschorus.org](http://www.williamsburgwomenschorus.org) for information. Rehearsals begin Thursday September 11 at Bruton Parish house.

## Hey Neighbor! SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Ongoing  
Historic Jamestowne seeks volunteers to greet and engage guests as well provide accurate information about this premier historic site. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available, including Visitor Center greeters, Fort Site interpreters, and Docents in our archaeological museum, the Archaearium. Volunteer shifts are available Monday through Sunday, 9:30 am – 1 pm and 1 - 4:30 pm. If you are interested in volunteering at Historic Jamestowne, please contact Kelly Williams at [kwilliams@preservationvirginia.org](mailto:kwilliams@preservationvirginia.org).

## Hey Neighbor! SCARES THAT CARE WEEK-END CONVENTION

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Next Door Neighbors

**The Arts in Williamsburg**  
Publishes July 31st

**Advertising Deadline**  
July 15th

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[meredith@williamsburgneighbors.com](mailto:meredith@williamsburgneighbors.com)

those in need. "Scares That Care!" is charitable organization, designed to bring together the fans of "all things spooky." Whether it's haunted houses, paranormal, horror films, or anything else in the "vein" of the horror genre, "Scares That Care!" brings together those individuals in order to give back to the families that need it most...and in turn, become "Good Ambassadors of Horror." For more information and/or to purchase tickets, visit the official website or Facebook page! Contact Information: View Event Sponsor Website at <http://www.scares-that-careweekend.com>. for complete details. Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Williamsburg, 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg.

**Hey Neighbor!**  
**IN THE TRENCHES TOUR**  
July 1 and July 15, 2014

At 10 am, get an "inside the ropes" tour of the original 1607 James Fort, once thought lost to history. Join Dr. William Kelso who led a team of Jamestown Rediscovery archaeologists that found the original fort site in 1996. Enjoy "moments of discovery" and walk the ground once trod by Captain John Smith and Pocahontas. Tickets are \$40 per person and can be purchased online. Price includes admission. Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown. Call (757) 229-4997 or visit [www.historicjamestowne.org](http://www.historicjamestowne.org).

**Hey Neighbor!**  
**LIBERTY CELEBRATION**  
July 4-6, 2014

Yorktown Victory Center, Yorktown: Military drills, artillery and role-playing demonstrations salute the anniversary of America's independence. Visitors can see in museum galleries a rare broadside printing of the Declaration of Independence dating to July 1776. The Yorktown Victory Center, open 9 am- 6 pm, is located on Route 1020 in Yorktown. For information about the Yorktown Victory Center, a museum of the American Revolution, call (888) 593-4682 toll-free or (757) 253-4838, or visit online at [www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org).

**Hey Neighbor!**  
**SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP**  
- 3 SESSIONS  
July 7 - 11, July 28-August 1, and August 4 - 8, 2014

Barry Uzzell, a former international pro basketball player, gives top instruction for group and individuals; he includes all the fundamentals. The one week daily instruction for boys and girls includes 3 camps for ages 7-11 and ages 12 to 14 years old. Dates: July 7 to July 11, July 28 to Aug. 1 and the All Girls Camp is August 4 to 8. All camps begin at 9-4 pm at James City County Recreation Center at 5301 Longhill Road. The cost is \$60 per child per session. For more information and to enroll, call Yvonne or Linda (757) 229-9332, or email [caa@wjccactionagency.org](mailto:caa@wjccactionagency.org).

**Hey Neighbor!**  
**CAPTAIN BREWSTER'S KIDS**  
July 10, July 17, July 24, and July 31, 2014

At 11:30 am, come face to face with Captain Brewster, one of the early English settlers and learn about the hardships he and the other colonists faced. He'll put you and other new recruits through your paces as you muster and prepare for a Spanish or Indian attack. Along the way, you'll see the actual sites where John Smith, Pocahontas, and John Rolfe walked. Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown. Call (757) 229-4997 or visit [www.historicjamestowne.org](http://www.historicjamestowne.org).

**Hey Neighbor!**  
**WILLIAM STRACHEY: JAMESTOWN JOURNALIST**  
July 12, 2014

At 10:30 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm, meet William Strachey, secretary and recorder at Jamestown, and hear his eyewitness accounts of the settlement's struggle to survive. Learn of his voyage on the ill-fated Sea Venture, shipwrecked in Bermuda. Find out how Strachey's chronicles of the aftermath of the Starving Time winter and the efforts of the new leaders to instill martial law and rebuild the colony aided Jamestown Rediscovery archaeologists in their efforts to uncover the ruins of the fort. Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown. Call (757) 229-4997 or visit [www.historicjamestowne.org](http://www.historicjamestowne.org).

**Hey Neighbor!**  
**JANE AUSTEN SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING**  
July 13, 2014  
The Jane Austen Society North America Southeastern VA Region welcomes Janeites, JASNA members

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The proud men and women who serve the citizens and businesses of York County, City of Poquoson, & City of Williamsburg - 24 hours a day 7 days a week - would like to thank all those who made donations during your fire fighters and paramedics 2014 Spring Mass Mailer Campaign.

# Thank You!

Your donation goes directly to the professional fire fighters and paramedics who are on the Front Line every day. We will continue to share the truths about public safety, truths some elected officials and government officials do not want you to know. Issues like safe minimum NFPA 1710 staffing will always be a priority in our mailers. Your donation will help us keep these issues on the front political burner. Donations will also help fund your fire fighters and paramedics Benevolent Fund and help assist funding to children's safety programs like York County's Safety Town.

Thank you for "Protecting the Protectors"



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And as always, feel free to stop by your local fire station and say hello; we are on "The JOB" 24/7.

and friends, to attend monthly programs at Barnes & Nobel, second floor, Merchants' Square, downtown Williamsburg, the second Sunday of each month from 2 -4 pm. Dates are: July 13, Aug 10, Sept 14, Oct 12, and Nov 9. These Sunday afternoon programs are complimentary. To become a member visit the official website at: [www.JASNA.org](http://www.JASNA.org). > Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/JASNASoutheasternVa>. For more information about local programming, call (757) 221-6686 or email [valee@widomaker.com](mailto:valee@widomaker.com).

### Hey Neighbor! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - WEIRD ANIMALS

July 14-18, 2014

At King of Glory Lutheran Church, each day from 9 am - 12:15 pm. Take a walk on the wild side this summer and discover where Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind! Registration is required and space is limited. To register a participant or volunteer, go to [www.kogva.org](http://www.kogva.org) and select the "Weird Animals logo." Located at 4897 Longhill Road, Williamsburg. For more information email: [vbs@kogva.org](mailto:vbs@kogva.org).

### Hey Neighbor! EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC SCHOOL

July 21-25, 2014

The second five-day summer session for the Early Childhood Music School will be held for infants 4 months through children age 7. The school, celebrating its 25th year of excellence in Music Education is sponsored by The Williamsburg United Methodist Church, 500 Jamestown Rd. where the classes are held. Contact Cindy Freeman, Director, at (757) 229-1771 for information.

### Hey Neighbor! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - INTERNATIONAL SPY ACADEMY

July 21-25, 2014

Calvary Chapel Williamsburg will be hosting an exciting new Vacation Bible School, the International Spy Academy. The training will be from 6-8:30 pm at Calvary CW, 5609 Richmond Road, behind Food Lion. Register your children ages 2 years to 6th grade to enjoy fun mysteries, skits, games and snacks while being taught God's Word in a loving

fun-filled environment. To register online, go to <https://calvarywilliamsburg.wufoo.com/form/2014-international-spy-academy-vbs>, or contact Heidi Barrera at (757) 220-8400, [heidibarrera@calvarywilliamsburg.org](mailto:heidibarrera@calvarywilliamsburg.org).

### Hey Neighbor! CURATOR'S ARTIFACT TOUR July 23, 2014

Starts at 3 pm. Senior archaeological curator Bly Straube provides an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at the archaeological collection which provides a glimpse of the artifacts discovered at James Fort, most of which will never go on public display. Learn about the recovery, processing and conservation of these unique artifacts. Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets can be purchased online. Price includes admission. Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown. Call (757) 229-4997 or visit [www.historicjamestowne.org](http://www.historicjamestowne.org).

### Hey Neighbor! FIRST ASSEMBLY DAY COMMEMORATION

July 26, 2014

At 10:30 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. Join in the commemorations of First Assembly Day, the anniversary of the first legislative assembly in English North America. Programs will explore the development of government in Virginia and the significance of the first meeting of elected officials in the colony in 1619. Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown. Call (757) 229-4997 or visit [www.historicjamestowne.org](http://www.historicjamestowne.org). Free with paid admission.

### Hey Neighbor! "NO REASON WHY THE COLONIE SHOULD NOT THRIVE"

August 2, 2014

At 10:30 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. The April, 1614, marriage of Pocahontas to John Rolfe was to establish a lasting peace between the Native peoples of Virginia and the colonists. Join Edward Brewster, the captain of the guard at James Fort, as he meets with one of Pocahontas' brothers', Aquinton, emissary of Chief Powhatan - to discuss what must be done to maintain the current peace. Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown. Call (757) 229-4997 or visit [www.historicjamestowne.org](http://www.historicjamestowne.org). Free with paid admission.

*Williamsburg's*  
**IN THE**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD**  
photo challenge

**OLD GATE AT**  
**COLONIAL**  
**WILLIAMSBURG**

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

**Enjoy!**

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

JUNE 2014  
In the Neighborhood  
Photo Challenge



ADVANCED LEVEL

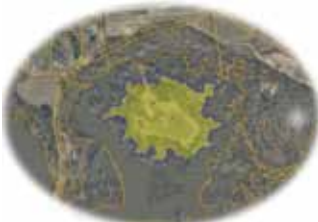




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