

May 2018

WILLIAMSBURG'S

Next Door Neighbors[®]

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PRICELESS

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Peggy Boarman

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Meredith Collins, Publisher

When we asked people to look back and share their thoughts about Williamsburg and the way it once was we were richly rewarded. You will read about people who can trace their history here back hundreds of years in aged, handwritten documents; others share family pasts that include extensive community service, passionate business startups, creating buildings and infrastructure and other landmarks, and fostering our collective spiritual growth. They all speak in some way of being embraced by this area, be it by its

natural beauty or the friendly waves of strangers who visit or live nearby.

Looking back means recognizing and wondering about a community that now embraces so well what was once so unfairly divided in many ways. It is a testament to the character of those we interviewed that they reflect on those remembrances more with resignation than bitterness. I believe the Reverend Dr. Julie Grace summed it up best in one of our stories when she said, "When you're in a community there's a sense of love and protection and fellowship..."

That's what makes Williamsburg special, and that's what makes for good neighbors then, now, and in the future. NDN

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Being a Part of Change

By Dawn Brotherton



Lisa Cumming Photography

Peggy Boarman knows that the secret to a long life is to stay busy. She has been involved in many things including volunteering, running multiple businesses at once, and working with the Board of Elections.

Peggy and her Army husband moved to Williamsburg in 1970, and she has seen a lot of change. They had five daughters together, so Peggy's family was very much affected by the growing schools and the shifts from one building to the next. All of them graduated from Lafayette High School. "There was no kindergarten so we sent our fourth daughter to private kindergarten but our youngest started school

in 1972 at the brand new kindergarten," Peggy says.

"Rawls Byrd, Norge and Matthew Whaley were the three schools that fed into Berkeley as fourth through sixth grade. So they had kindergarten through third at the three elementaries, and they fed into Berkeley. Berkeley fed into James Blair as junior high, and then finally Lafayette," she says. Now there are nine elementary schools, three middle schools with another being built, and three high schools in James City County.

Peggy remembers having to send a friend to pick up her oldest daughter when there was a

riot at the Berkley school over desegregation issues.

"I grew up in New Mexico. We had a lot of Mexicans and Latinos, and we all went to school together, so I couldn't understand the issue." She had a 21-year-old African American woman babysitting for her when the kids were little. Peggy was mystified when the young lady was too frightened to sit down and have lunch in Peggy's home because Peggy was white. Thankfully that's one of the things that has changed in Williamsburg.

With five daughters in school and a husband that worked at Fort Eustis, Peggy decided to

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get a second job to help pay for the extra activities the girls were involved in. She worked at the Berkley Middle School in the cafeteria and at the Sears catalog counter. In 1975, Busch Gardens had just opened. "The only place you could buy season tickets to Busch Gardens was at Sears. Sears had a contest, and we had what they called ticket-tron. Whoever sold the most tickets would get a family pass for that year. We sold them like they were going out of style." Because the others working at Sears didn't like working the ticket-tron, Peggy won the \$49 season pass for her family.

Interstate 64 was completed through Williamsburg shortly after Peggy moved to town. Before that, the main thoroughfare was Route 60. Peggy had a shop along that route, in the current location of the Sears Hometown Store. She owned a cleaning business, gift basket business and ceramic shop for many years and ran them out of the Wythe Green Shopping Center.

"The shopping center was nice, with trees and brick walkways around it. They had a little playground for the kids. There were eight little, separate shops, and I had the big one. I had all of my ceramics in the basement. I taught ceramics and fired for people and sold ceramics. I had my cleaning business in the basement, and we

had balloons and the gift baskets upstairs. They had a buffet on the corner."

When Peggy came to Williamsburg in 1970, the biggest shopping area was on Monticello Avenue, just off Route 60. "It was the Sears catalog store, an Indian restaurant, then Drug Fair and Food Fair. Then there was the theater at the end." Peggy and her husband cleaned the theater as part of her Dynamic Dusters cleaning services. Now that space houses a church. Monticello Avenue ended where the turn is toward William and Mary Hall, and it used to be only woods beyond the end of Monticello. Peggy remembers crops and open fields in the space now occupied by New Town. "They had walnut trees up there."

Peggy misses the small-town feel that James City had when they first arrived. "I don't know everybody anymore. I used to know just about everybody in town. I wish we had what you call a central town."

Through her involvement in many organizations, Peggy gained good friends and good contacts. She learned about the James City Ruritan Club which was founded in 1939 by a group of farmers and a group of businessmen that wanted to make a better community. She was impressed by their good works and was anxious to join,

but only one thing held her back—old prejudices against women. It wasn't until 11 years after she first started expressing interest that Peggy became the first female in the James City Ruritan Club. She didn't stop there. She went on to become their first female president as well.

"I think everybody should volunteer in some capacity, whether it's with the government or something as minute as picking up the trash. I'm Trash Queen. I talk trash all the time," Peggy says. She has been heavily involved in the Clean County Commission, part of Keep America Beautiful, since 1979, doing everything from picking up trash alongside the street to running the program as president. She is also part of the Retiree Counsel at Fort Eustis as the Surviving Spouse Representative.

"I've always been a flag waver and a hell raiser," she says. According to Peggy, staying engaged with what's going on with the government is how others can shape the future of Williamsburg.

"I think you need to stay engaged with what's happening with the governing body. You can make a change if you need to. And that's what I feel like I've done. I feel like I have helped change simply because of my input and the clean county commission." NDN

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ALVENE CONYERS



Lisa Cumming Photography

Remembering the Past and

Embracing the Future

By Lillian Stevens

When asked how Williamsburg has changed over the span of the past six or seven decades, Alvene Conyers pauses.

“Changes have been so gradual and so insidious that I sometimes have to take a moment to remember them,” she says.

With the exception of her time in college and graduate school, Alvene has lived in Williamsburg for most of her 70 years. Her roots stretch back to the late 1800s when her great-grandparents’ home was located just a stone’s throw from the Governor’s Palace in Colonial Williamsburg.

“There’s a big oak tree immediately outside

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the walls of the Palace,” she says. “The tree faces Lafayette Street. That is where our family’s home was back then. When we have a family reunion, we always go to that tree where we take our official family picture.”

Alvene has been a local long enough to remember Williamsburg’s first traffic lights, and she also remembers when there were cars on Duke of Gloucester Street.

“You know where the post office is now, on Boundary and Lafayette Street?” she asks. “That used to be an A&P grocery store. I think one of our first traffic lights was right there at that intersection. Back then, everyone conducted their business where Merchants Square is today. We had Williamsburg Drug Store, the Post Office and the bank clustered in one section, and an Esso Gas Station at the end of Francis Street.”

Today, DoG Street Pub occupies the former bank, and Berrets Restaurant sits at the site of the old gas station.

“A lot of African American citizens had businesses in the colonial area before it was redeveloped,” Alvene recalls. “My grandfather owned a barbershop on Duke of Gloucester Street.”

One building has not changed, though.

Less than a half mile from Merchants Square sits Williamsburg’s First Baptist Church, Alvene’s home church since she was 10 years old.

The iconic church, which dates back to 1776, is one of the oldest African American congregations in the nation. While the church itself has not changed so dramatically, its surroundings have.

“At one time, this church was at the center of a neighborhood, surrounded by housing where most church membership lived,” Alvene says.

She has served First Baptist as Church Secretary for the past 11 years. She also served as Church Clerk for several years prior to becoming Secretary; at one point, she held a dual role as Clerk and Secretary. Her great-great-grandfather was a Deacon at the church and served as Church Clerk, as did her maternal grandfather.

“Sometimes when I go downstairs, I’ll look at the exhibit and the artifacts on the lower level of the church, including a record book of minutes with entries in my great-grandfather’s handwriting from the 1860s.”

Alvene was born in 1947, a time when Williamsburg was segregated. In those days, many black-owned businesses were located on and around the Triangle Block where Armistead Avenue meets Scotland and Prince George streets. “Dr. Blayton’s Hospital stood in that very same Triangle Block,” she says. “That’s where I was born. Dr. J. Blaine Blayton was an African American physician and his hospital was where

African Americans were treated.”

It would be another 14 years before the fully integrated Williamsburg Community Hospital opened in 1961, and the schools were segregated back then. Alvene’s memories, though, are very happy ones.

“I grew up with such a sense of belonging. We could go to anybody’s house, and we could stay out all day long. But the world has changed. We grew up in a time when nobody locked their doors, and you could walk anywhere.”

She and her sister, Beverly, were born into a close-knit and hard-working family. Their father worked for the government at Cheatham Annex. Their mother was a nursing assistant who worked at Eastern State Hospital. Alvene graduated from Bruton Heights School before heading off to college.

As children, she says there was always something to do. “We created our own leisure and activities. We had our own world, and it was always full of activities.”

After graduating from high school, Alvene attended college at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

“Back then, a scholarship was awarded to the graduating valedictorian from the white high school as well as from Bruton Heights,” she says.

“I won the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Schol-

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arship, which was a four year scholarship. That was great because I always knew I was going to college. I just didn't know how it would be paid for."

One thing she and her classmates did know for sure was that their school administrators, teachers and parents wanted them to succeed. After majoring in sociology, Alvene returned home to Williamsburg and quickly found a job as a social worker at Eastern State Hospital. After a short time, she decided to pursue a graduate degree at Virginia Commonwealth University where she earned her MSW.

"After graduate school, I came back to Eastern State Hospital as a social work supervisor, then became the director of social services of the geriatrics units."

She admits with a little laugh that her first interaction with white people was when she worked at Eastern State.

"Howard University was historically a black school and I attended a segregated high school. I didn't go to church with whites, didn't go to school with whites, and never had any reason to have any interaction with them, until I went to Eastern State Hospital. When hired, I was the only black social worker there; however, my experience was wonderful. Over the years, other African American social workers were hired in

various units throughout the hospital. That was progress."

The next phase of her career took her to the Virginia Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation in Richmond. As a licensed clinical social worker she was one of two Program Coordinators for the Department. In 2000, at the tender age of 52, she retired from there but has enjoyed a variety of part-time positions over the years which kept her busy and connected.

While people are often resistant to change, and long-time residents sometimes grumble about so-called come heres, Alvene is quick to point out that change can mean that the community is moving in the right direction.

"I suppose there is no denying the growth in Williamsburg's population," she says. "We've gone from a quaint little town where everyone knew everyone else to something larger. We're not metropolitan but we aren't that quaint little town either."

With an influx of new people there can be advantages as well.

"If you think about it, career opportunities here have metamorphosed," she says. "Williamsburg has always been a college town, but it used to be primarily a service and hospitality area."

Though she has seen many changes in Williamsburg over the years, Alvene points out that some things remain the same. The region might not be a metropolis, but there have always been many civic and social organizations and clubs, as well as a deep sense of tradition, culture and refinery.

"I cherish my membership in the Williamsburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Greater Williamsburg Women's Association for the work we do to enrich our community, especially regarding our youth programs."

For as long as Alvene can remember, Williamsburg has had a history of receiving dignitaries and royalty as visitors. "This is in part due to the fact that we have William & Mary and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation here," she says.

In the weeks to come, the focus will be less about looking back, and more about looking ahead, as Alvene will likely be a grandmother by the time this magazine reaches mailboxes. "My daughter and son-in-law, Allison and Melvin, are expecting their first baby in April," she says with a broad smile.

Over the years that stretch ahead, Alvene Patterson Conyers will surely have wonderful stories to share with her new grandchild. NDN



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JAY BEVILLE



Lisa Cumming Photography

My Voice is My Instrument

By Lillian Stevens

Established in 1975, the Williamsburg Choral Guild (WCG) has consistently offered magnificent choral music throughout the decades. Sixteen years ago Jay Beville joined as artistic director and conductor. When he steps down from that role this summer, he will have occupied it longer than any other artistic director in the history of the Guild.

The WCG is a mixed SATB (soprano, alto, tenor and baritone) chorus that presents three major concerts each season. During the holidays, the Guild also expresses its appreciation to the public by offering a free Christmas concert of traditional holiday music and a sing-along.

When he arrived in 2002, Jay says that he

found a group who was eager to learn. “From the start, my goal has always been to try to move us forward and raise the visibility of choral music in this community.”

According to Linda Baker, a member of the Guild for the past 26 years, he has accomplished those things and more. “Each director brings different musical preferences, directing

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and teaching styles, organizational perspectives and management skills,” she says. “Jay is creative, well-organized, loyal and respectful of the singers’ time. His rehearsal techniques are the best I’ve ever known.”

Under Jay’s direction, the Guild has performed over 30 full-length masterworks and numerous other selections representing a wide array of choral literature.

Linda says that because of Jay, the quality of the whole has seen a significant improvement. “Jay’s concert programs have been planned with great creativity. He has juxtaposed classical with modern, contrasted different compos-

ers within a period, challenged us with programs that require singing in many languages, celebrated American folkways and traditions and presented a world premiere.”

From the start, Jay has been pleased with the quality of singers, all of whom are volunteers, and the tremendous efforts that they put in.

“We have certainly broadened the programming,” he says. “We started out with just one concert a year with major works, then two other concerts with small programs.”

Anna Martin, President of the Guild, is particularly proud that under Jay’s leadership the reach has also extended to Williamsburg’s

younger singers. “One of Jay’s most significant contributions was the formation of the Williamsburg Youth Chorale in 2010, the Guild’s 35th Anniversary season,” she says. “His intent was to bring additional focus on choral music for all age groups in our community.”

The ensemble, which comprises up to 40 students from grades 3 through 12, has grown enormously over the years.

“Everyone loves listening to these kids sing,” Jay says. “And they’re good.”

The Williamsburg Youth Chorale will be featured on May 6 when the much-loved artistic director conducts his last performance with the



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Guild. “We will perform A Potpourri of Choral Classics, from Handel to Bernstein,” Jay says. “Choruses will range from opera to Broadway. And, of course, we will feature the Williamsburg Youth Chorale.”

Over the years, other performances have included masterworks from Handel to Poulenc and into the 21st century, with Ola Gjeilo, Cecelia McDowall and others. In March 2017, the Guild performed the U.S. premiere of composer McDowall’s A Time for All Seasons.

“This was a relatively new Cecelia McDowall work,” Jay says “She is a wonderful British composer and I love the way she writes. Since we had an opportunity to present this before anyone else, I wrapped a program around that.” Jay says it worked out very well despite the singers having to learn some 21st century closeness in harmony.

“I was very excited about it! The Guild actually performed two of McDowall’s works on the program. It was very exciting to do something that the choir had not touched before, ever.”

As one might suspect, much goes on behind the scenes long before a performance. There isn’t a dedicated venue, for instance, so the Guild must scout places for their concerts, ideally, ones with good acoustics. Members also sell concert tickets, assist with staging, public-

ity, fundraising, and other activities necessary for the organization to function.

Before that first ticket is sold, Jay has already been busy at work. Ideas and themes emerge, sometimes years in advance, and are then expertly shaped into the kind of program that this community has come to expect from his labors.

Williamsburg is a town of people on the go, so that’s no small feat.

Not surprisingly, artists and musicians often know from an early age the direction they want their lives to take. By the time he was in high school, Jay knew that he would build his career on music. Despite encouragement from his grandmother to pursue the piano, the piano wasn’t his passion.

“My voice is my instrument,” Jay says.

And so it has been for over four decades.

After earning his Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, followed by a Masters of Music in vocal performance from Boston University, Jay’s career included teaching in Hanover County Public Schools and adjunct teaching at both VCU and Randolph-Macon. He maintains his role at VCU as an adjunct professor teaching private voice, but has retired from the school division.

“I have made a lot of good friends over the years, especially here in Williamsburg,” Jay says. “This has been a wonderful group of people to work with, just wonderful.”

He says that he’ll especially miss the weekly rehearsals.

“The minute I get into rehearsal, the world goes away. It’s therapy for me, almost spiritual, because I get so wrapped up in what I’m doing at that moment with the music.”

While there will certainly be no shortage of creative outlets for Jay, he is looking forward to having more time with his family. With grown children, one grandchild, and another on the way, he and his wife have decided that the time has come to shift gears to have more time for the personal things they want to do.

“These past 16 years have gone by in the blink of an eye.”

Because of his contribution and leadership over the years, Jay BeVillie will leave large shoes to fill, but his successor will find a strong group of dedicated singers and a grateful community of choral music lovers. NDN

For information on the upcoming performance, visit: www.williamsburgchoralguild.org/our-season/a-potpourri-of-choral-classics-from-handel-to-bernstein

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MATTHEW STAUCH



Lisa Cumming Photography

Taking a Long Road

By Dawn Brotherton

If you haven't lived in Williamsburg for long, you would find it hard to imagine getting around town before Route 199 was built. Matthew Stauch is one of the people you have to thank for that convenience.

Matthew moved to Williamsburg in 1996 from Pennsylvania. At that time, Route 199

came off of I-64 on the western end and stopped on Richmond Road. On the eastern side, it only went from I-64 to John Tyler Highway. Matthew worked for Massey Construction to build the roadway that connected 199 between Longhill Road and Monticello. There were many contractors working different sections of the

highway that then had to be joined together. One contractor was working their way up from John Tyler Highway and yet another had the contract for the bridge over Monticello.

The Massey part of the project also included extending Monticello Avenue from Ironbound to News Road. At the time, Matthew couldn't

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imagine why someone needed all that road when nothing was developed out there. "I was fairly young. I was twenty-six or twenty-seven at the time and still new in my construction career. I'd done smaller stuff but nothing quite as extensive that. We were building all kinds of intersections on Monticello Avenue. And I looked and thought, what are they building this for? Who's going to come out here to do anything? And how are they going to fill up these intersections?"

The area for the Monticello extension was swampy, wet, and had lots of trees that all needed to be cleared. Then the workers ran into a unique problem. "We were told there was an endangered species of plants in that area near Ford's Colony called the small whorled pogonia, which at the time was a really big deal to protect," Matthew says. He was told that they probably wouldn't see it and probably wouldn't know if they saw it because it was so rare. The experts weren't even sure that it was actually growing in that area, but the habitat was right for the plant. It stopped construction for a year while the county did an exhaustive survey for a plant which was never found.

Being in the construction business, Matthew can point at a lot of buildings around town that he had a hand in building. "We built the shell building, called that because it was just a shell of a building built to attract users to the Stonehouse Industrial Park." The idea was to build infrastructure to attract buyers. The second building constructed in the industrial park was the BP Solar building. "BP Solar was building state-of-the-art solar panels. That was going to be the next big thing in Williamsburg/James City County." That lasted approximately five years before they closed their doors. "That's now the Avid Medical building."

Other changes he has seen include new business that have come and gone already. "There was a John Deere facility which is now Lumber Liquidators. It was big news throughout the county. John Deere got up and running and lasted for about a year; then they decided to close the plant."

Many businesses have started and left the area. In the case of the airport, it moved. People have often wondered why Airport Road is so named when it isn't anywhere near the airport. William and Mary used to offer flying lessons on two sod runways at Williamsburg Airport/Scott Field located off Airport Road, near Richmond Road. Scott Field is thought to have been abandoned around 1952. It had a short resurgence in the sixties by the Clark family before it closed for good.

The existing Williamsburg Airport was built by Larry Waltrip in 1970. Matthew worked with the Waltrips over the years and was able to recount some of the stories shared. "Larry tells me that he was in the Air National Guard, and he wanted to fly from here to Richmond to do his National Guard duty. So, they started building an airstrip out there on their property, which is now the Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport." That airfield started out as a gravel pit, mining the brown river gravel used throughout Colonial Williamsburg. "The Waltrips have relayed stories about how they used to, as kids, have to dig the gravel out and load trucks with shovels."

Before I-64 existed, Pierce's Barbeque was on the main thoroughfare between Richmond and Newport News. "[Department of Transportation] took the westbound lanes of Route 143 and turned them in to eastbound lanes for I-64. So, now it's Rochambeau Road and two sets of two lanes for I-64," Matthew says. But Pierce's Barbeque has survived all the changes. Matthew remembers how the building looked before their expansion. "They had an open-air section where you could sit outside. It's now enclosed, but you can see the outer wall if you look for it inside where the drink machines are now," Matthew says.

He also recalls when people would gather during the summer for fireworks on a large open field where William & Mary dormitories now fill out the campus. "I did some work on dormitories and classroom buildings in the 2005 to 2008 timeframe. It was an intramural athletic field, an open

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field type thing, where the students played soccer.”

Working in construction, Williamsburg was a great place to be in the late 1990s and the beginning of the millennium. “We always had work. People were moving in from all over. I know a lot of people here don’t love that idea, but it was a growing, thriving local economy.”

Matthew believes the military had a lot to do with the expanding population in Williamsburg. “At the time, the military was growing. Defense spending was way up.” Buyers could find reasonable prices for houses, especially compared to northern Virginia.

He also credits the growth of William & Mary, Anheuser-Busch Brewery, Busch Gardens and Water Country. “There’s so much going on here. It’s amazing what James City County and the city of Williamsburg really have in comparison to other places. It’s a beautiful small town, and James City County had open land and new homes, and people were buying. It was right for change.”

The growth is obvious from the number of schools built since the 1990s. Lafayette was the only James City County high school when Matthew moved here. “Jamestown was built as soon as I got here. I ended up taking an AutoCAD class through Thomas Nelson Community College hosted at Jamestown High School because the Jamestown facility and computers were so new,” Matthew says.

He and his wife, Tracy, have four kids, ages 12 through 16. “They’re involved in everything under the sun,” Matthew says proudly. He applauds the numerous sporting opportunities available now that weren’t here in the late nineties. “The Warhill Sports Complex didn’t exist. There is so much open area, so many fields and playing surfaces that the county has invested in for us. Freedom Park existed when I got here, but now there is a ropes course out there for all levels. When I first got here, Kiwanis Park was an outdated Little League Baseball complex. Now it’s a beautiful softball complex.” Now, besides softball and baseball, facilities are available for soccer, field hockey, gymnastics and rowing.

As Williamsburg continues to grow, Matthew is hoping for more improvements in the transportation network. He admits that it’s complicated, but something as simple as coordinating traffic lights on a single stretch of highway would make a big difference. He also thinks city planners need to be mindful of housing for our labor force. “We can’t have all \$500,000 homes in the area. We don’t want to eliminate the opportunity for people to grow here from lower, starting-out incomes. It’s not hard to find an entry level job. It’s hard to find good public transportation that gets you from where you live to that job. And it’s hard to find a place to live that is suitable and in the price range you can afford while working those jobs.”

By adding more people to the mix, the feel is bound to change along with the growth. “I think there is less of the small-town familiarity of people. Before, you saw the same people more often, or you recognized seeing them more often. Whereas with more people, you have a lot more faces to try to recognize,” Matthew explains.

Matthew is hoping the community will retain the traditional feel Colonial Williamsburg provides. He is watching with keen interest the happenings surrounding the Kimball Theater on Duke of Gloucester. “It’s a beautiful old theater, a gem, and to not have it available would be unfortunate. I hope it remains available to everybody and everybody gets the opportunity to see things there, a show or a movie. I have taken my kids there to a series of Saturday matinee movies.”

Matthew Stauch is in Williamsburg to stay. “It’s a great place to have a family and nearly impossible to leave when you have a family and are in the community with other families. There’s just so much to do and so many great opportunities. I don’t think Williamsburg will ever really lose its identity.” **NDN**

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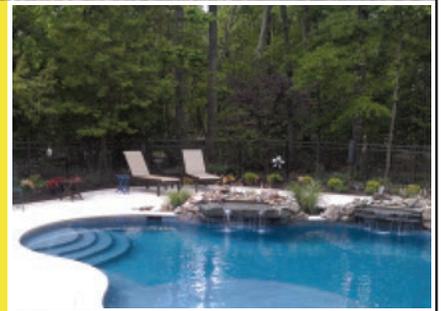
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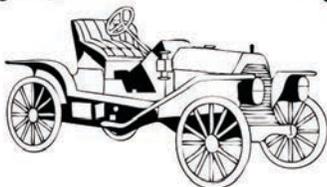
A Love of Williamsburg

By Ben Macklin

In 1993 Williamsburg was remote compared to what it is today. State Route 199 was still years away from being built, and travelling off of the interstate or Route 60 required knowledge of any number of local country roads. Unless you were a student at William & Mary or a tourist wanting to see the sights around Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg could be aptly described as quiet. It was especially quiet for then teenager Jeff Skinner.

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Jeff's family moved here when his mother, who was working for Jenny Craig, was transferred to the Williamsburg office from Southern California. The teen noticed the stark contrast between the bustling metropolis and the sleepy tourist town right away. He says, "I was 13 years old, and I had just moved here from the suburbs of Los Angeles. It was an astronomical difference." At that time, the area did not offer a lot of activity for young people. "I remember we would have to go to Hampton to go to the movies because there were not any good theaters closer." Williamsburg was also missing the vast web of interstate that the family had enjoyed on the West Coast. "When we first moved here, I remember my mom and dad not knowing where to go." In a world where cellphones were still uncommon, never mind GPS, it was basic navigation for Jeff and his family. "We would get lost and have to pull over and get the map out to try to figure out where we were. Once 199 got here it became so much easier. Looking at it now, it is kind of cool because the people who were here before 199 was completed know all the short cuts."

Once he got over the initial culture shock, Jeff found things to hold his interest. He attended

Berkley Middle School and from there he matriculated to Lafayette, James City County's only high school at the time. After Jeff's sophomore year, he transferred to the brand new Jamestown High School where he became a member of the graduating class of 2000. Throughout his tenure in high school Jeff excelled in soccer and cross country track. All the while Williamsburg was beginning to grow. "They had 199 under construction around 1997, as I recall. I remember being in cross country and running the undeveloped areas where the trees were knocked down, and they were starting to put in the infrastructure. I am sure it wasn't good for our health to be running and playing around the area, but those are the silly things kids do," he says, laughing.

After graduating from Jamestown, Jeff was unsure of what he wanted to do with his life. "I was young and did not really know what my path was going to be, but I knew that soccer was going to be a part of it." Following his friend's lead, Jeff applied to the University of Delaware and was accepted. That fall, he walked on to the men's soccer team. He would go on to letter all four years. During his tenure on the team he met his future wife, Kelly, who played field hockey for the school. Jeff says of their initial

meeting, "She had sustained an injury, and she was on the trainer's table getting looked at. So I faked an injury so that I could get on the table next to hers so I could talk to her." He laughs at the memory. "I failed, though. But I guess I planted a seed because we had a class together a few months later, and we got closer and closer."

Jeff graduated with a Degree in History in 2003 and, like many other students, was faced with decisions about his future. "I asked myself, 'what do I want to do now?' and it came down to figuring out what I liked." After much thought, he came to a couple of conclusions. "I liked being outside, and I didn't want to be pushing paper on a desk."

With those thoughts in mind, Jeff moved back to Williamsburg and gained employment with a construction crew as a punch-out man. A punch-out man performs any odd jobs and last minute final touches needed on a building project. From that, Jeff gained invaluable experience in the construction industry and learned the trade from the ground up.

"From there, I jumped to project management from 2004 to 2013. It is really cool to be able to see something you built be completed, especially after the struggles that come with the



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job.” In the nine years he spent managing for different construction companies on the Peninsula and North Carolina, he also played a role in the ongoing development in Williamsburg. Most notably he helped build a large portion of the houses in the Colonial Heritage neighborhood.

After a three year stint as a project manager for a firm in North Carolina, Jeff decided he was tired of the frenetic pace of large construction companies. “In big companies, it was a production mentality. It was work-work-work. We were making money, but at the same time it makes you realize that there is more to life.” So Jeff came back home in 2014 and founded Streamline Roofing with his business partner Dave Long. Running a small business that specializes in one part of the industry has allowed Jeff and his crew to become experts in their field while making their own decisions related to the business. “We’ve got our Class A License to build homes, so we have that potential, but I am passionate about this part of construction, and I really wanted to help with the complex details that homeowners do not consider.”

After close to five years of establishing themselves in the area, Jeff takes pride in being able

to give back to the community. They are able to tailor their service to the clients’ needs, not only on the job site but also when it comes to finances. Their desire to be a resource within the community is so great that this year they are rolling out a charitable program called No Roofs Left Behind. The program allows Streamline Roofing to replace the roof for a deserving family, free of charge. Families are nominated and selected by area residents. Nominations are accepted through their website and are accepted online through June 6.

When asked why he decided to set up shop in Williamsburg and not in North Carolina or a more densely populated area on the Peninsula, Jeff talks about being near family and familiarity. “This is a great place to live, with the location and the bodies of water.” Then he thought back to when he first moved to the area in 1993. “Moving here from California, the first thing my family noticed was that everyone around here waves. I want that small town mentality. People still love to wave, and they are just happy. I want to live around people like that.” NDN

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MARY BETH DALTON



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Making Family History

By Narielle Living

There is a basic human curiosity about who we are and where we come from. For some, these questions lead to a search that spans generations and creates a list of ancestors and their descendants. This personal history is recorded to give future generations a guide to their past. One such family genealogy lists Mary Beth (Goebel) Dalton from Dearborn, Michigan and Garland



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Dalton from Richmond, Virginia, as joined in marriage. They now live in Williamsburg and work with others to research the past.

Mary Beth moved from Michigan to Williamsburg 21 years ago with her ex-husband. Initially, she lived in Kingsmill, and her first job here was working with Colonial Williamsburg as a costumed interpreter. "I'd always wanted to do that," she says. After surviving the summer season and then the fall, on New Year's Day she decided to make a job change. From there she got a job with the Williamsburg library, working in the reference department. "I was a reference assistant. I had a Master's Degree in Education and working in the reference department was fun. They needed someone to help teach their genealogy classes."

At this time Mary Beth had gotten divorced from her first husband, but she decided to continue living in this area. During her time at the library she met her husband. "Garland worked a part time job in the evenings," she says. "During the day he worked for the county as a building code inspector, and in the evenings he worked a couple of nights a week as a security monitor at the library." On one of those evenings at the library Garland asked Mary Beth if she would like to have dinner with him. She

agreed. "A year and a half later we got married," she says with a smile.

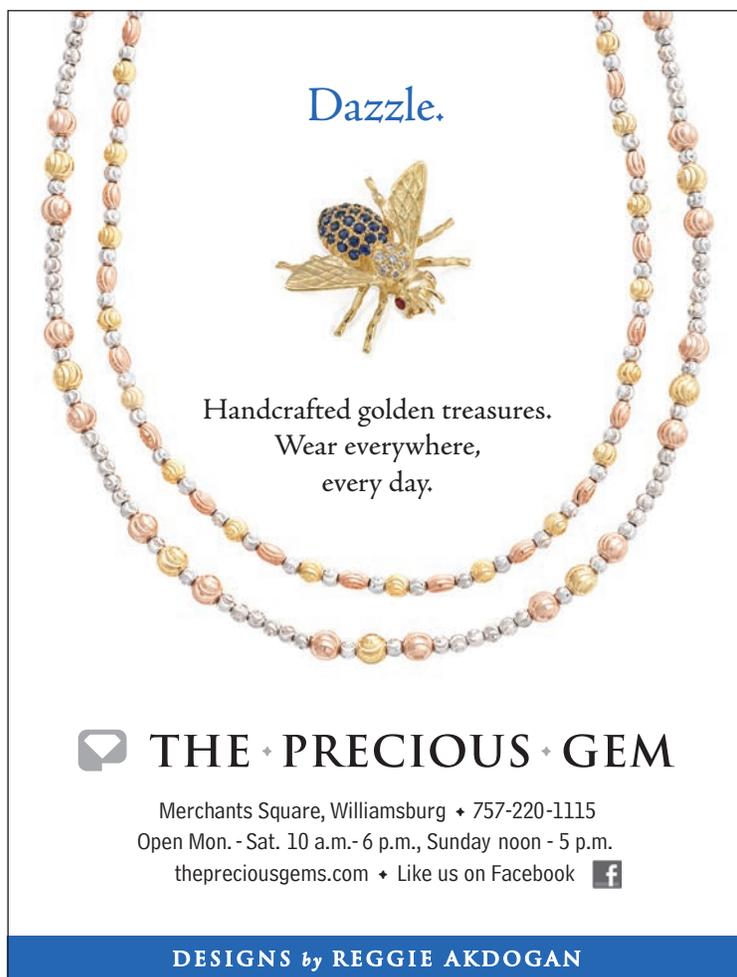
Garland's job as a building inspector gave him a front row seat to the expansion of Williamsburg over the years. "The county has expanded a lot and it was exciting being a part of the expansion," he says. "I originally came down to build the elementary school and went to work for the county right after that. It was a small office, and there weren't that many of us there at the time." When Garland retired, however, his department had grown from two inspectors to eight inspectors in order to handle the workload.

"Williamsburg just mushroomed in size, then it got quiet in the last couple of years," Mary Beth says. Garland agrees, adding that the construction of various parts of Williamsburg has been positive for the community. "New Town is going great," he says. "Ford's Colony is getting bigger. It's amazing to me. Ever since I've lived here, they've been building Ford's Colony and never really stopped. It's just a nice place to live. Different from Richmond." Garland grew up in Richmond, and although he had visited Williamsburg he had never thought of it as a place to relocate. "I never intended to move to Williamsburg. When I was younger, in

the 1960s, I would visit. It wasn't as expensive as it is now, and it was a nice day trip." As an adult, he was offered the opportunity to work for a company building schools in this area, and he accepted. "At the time I was a single parent. My daughter liked Williamsburg, and I liked Williamsburg, so I decided I would stay."

Mary Beth is passionate about genealogy and helping others with their family history and research. After leaving her job with the library, she opened Jigsaw Genealogy, which has been in business for more than 15 years and is located in Williamsburg. When she first started her business, she was able to focus solely on working there. "I did that full time for three years," she says. "At that time, I did research and teaching and leading tours. I taught four or five classes a month, taking groups up to Washington and over to the Swem library and up to Richmond quite a bit, and doing a lot of research for clients back then. But then we got married, and after a couple of years Garland was ready to retire. Once he did we were going to lose our health insurance, so I had to go back to work full time. There was no other way around it."

Although she is currently not focused on the research aspect of the business, she still of-



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fers a number of supplies necessary for people to work on their family tree. "I create and sell materials that help genealogists do research. I have charts and worksheets and different forms they can use." Even with the advent of online research, Garland is quick to point out that paper is a necessary part of genealogy. "Genealogy is still a paper thing," he says. "Everything is electronic now, but you have to have the paper in hand."

Jigsaw Genealogy does research for others and takes people on trips to a variety of locations where genealogical information is stored. "Since I'm working full time, we do that primarily in the spring and the fall when the big genealogy conferences happen." Although she does not currently teach any classes, she hopes to begin again after her retirement. "In the past I taught beginners and intermediate level researchers." Her classes focused on the types of research for different kinds of records, geographic areas, as well as how to research women, how to research various religious groups and the different types of genealogy. She also took groups to libraries and archives, including the Swem library, the state library in Richmond, Washington DC and Salt Lake City, Utah. In addition to teaching and leading trips, she

would do genealogy research for her clients.

Mary Beth currently works for the William & Mary Law School in an office that has seen a lot of change over the years. She describes the office as exciting, a little different and kind of unusual. "It's the center for legal and court technology. We run the moot courtroom. That particular moot courtroom is a high tech courtroom, and it's the only one in the country like it." She explains that the space utilizes high tech functions that were designed specifically for courtroom use. "We get visitors from Europe, Asia, Africa and South America," she says. "We have the latest and greatest technology all the time, and companies have used us as a demonstration courtroom. We are recognized as the most technologically advanced courtroom in the world."

Mary Beth expects to be retiring next year, and at that point she will be able to focus more on the business of genealogy. Williamsburg, she says, is a perfect location for this type of research, since so many people can trace their ancestry back to Virginia. In addition, the proximity to Richmond is a bonus. "The library in Richmond is one of the best in the country. Over a million visitors a year use the library and archives. There is also a lot of excel-

lent genealogical material available between the Swem library and the Rockefeller library. The special collections at the Swem library is a jewel, and the best part is that anybody can use those facilities."

There are a number of things both Mary Beth and Garland Dalton love about living here. For Mary Beth, the winters in Williamsburg are much better than her hometown of Dearborn, Michigan. "The first winter here I couldn't believe it," she says. She stood outside wondering what about Williamsburg winters was so different from Michigan. Finally, it dawned on her. "The sun was shining! The sun was shining all the time here. Up there it's gray from October until March, and it's snowy and slushy and blah and cold, but the sun doesn't shine. That's what I love about winters down here. It's bright and sunny most of the time."

Garland loves the small town aspect of being here. "I describe Williamsburg as a small town with a lot of people," he says. "It's still a small town and has small town values. People seem to care more for other people. We walk every morning and meet other people walking their dogs, and we always stop and pet the dogs, talk to people. You very seldom meet a stranger here." NDN



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Preserving the Charm of Williamsburg

By Melanie Occhiuzzo



Lisa Cumming Photography

Williamsburg carries a timeless charm created in part by Colonial Williamsburg paired with beautiful architecture, drawing people to visit and live here. Amanda Redfern is from a family who has lived in Williamsburg for more than six decades. Her family has a rich history of architecture and building that has influenced the style and look in Williamsburg today.

Her mother was only 18 months old when her family came here 63 years ago. Hailing

originally from Hillsville, Virginia, her grandparents came to this area for work. Her grandfather, Henry Branscome, started from scratch, Amanda says. "He basically had a wheelbarrow and some tools. He didn't even have his own phone." Her grandfather had to use his neighbor's phone number so clients could contact him. This was the beginning of Branscome Construction.

At the time her grandparents first arrived, Williamsburg was not as built up as it is now

and was more rural. There were large fields, a few stores and largely undeveloped properties. Amanda says her grandfather even had a part in laying the cobblestones in the streets of Colonial Williamsburg. Things have definitely changed since those early days of using the neighbor's phones and wheelbarrows. When her grandparents started working, it was with facilities that had no washroom or toilets.

According to Amanda, her grandfather mainly focused on concrete and road construc-



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tion. Her grandfather developed the neighborhood of Powhatan Shores, and he also planned and developed the canals that cut through the neighborhood. She says he also had a part in developing Banbury Cross.

Amanda's mother, Jeanette, married Amanda's father, Wayne Brady, who is also a builder, and they began their lives somewhat similar to her grandparents. The Airtight Self Storage building and Oaktree office park were both built by her father. Today, her mother runs and maintains both of those buildings. The tradition of building has stuck with the family. When Water Country USA was first being constructed, Amanda's father had a hand in developing key aspects of the park. He was responsible for the ride "Rampage," the wave pool and many of the other attractions still in operation at the park today.

"My brother got a chance to be the first person to test out the ride," Amanda says. This legacy of building in Amanda's family has shown just how much things can stay the same and continue to grow. "Williamsburg has definitely grown a ton," she says. Amanda, herself, has been living here for 35 years and truly enjoyed her childhood spent in this rapidly growing area. "I loved watching the building projects."

When Amanda was a child, her father constructed their home. She remembers getting a

chance to walk through the home in the stages of building and standing in the spot where her room would be. Her fascination with this process has led her to work first on flipping homes and then selling them as a Realtor®. Amanda and her husband flipped homes for about two years before she got her real estate license. One thing Amanda has noticed over the years is the small changes that have gone into the cosmetic aspect of building homes. She says many of the building codes and operations haven't changed, but the design and materials definitely have.

Her favorite type of home comes from what she calls the "bubble of good house building" that existed in the 60s. She laments the fact that with a plethora of homes being built quickly and cheaply this results in a home losing value more quickly over time. When she's showing a home, she makes sure to tell her clients who may be iffy about purchasing an older home that these homes are sturdy and were built to last. "Homes were made a little different then, but they have a good structure to them."

One thing Amanda really loves about Williamsburg is the blending of old and new features in the homes. There may be "old bones" in the home, but the cosmetic portions have been updated. Amanda loves modern features such as white cabinets and granite counter

tops, which may not have been found in a home built in the sixties, but at the same time she likes the architecture of those older homes. She is grateful there is now that option to upgrade older homes without them losing that charm. Her perfect home would be an older one with modern finishes.

Her family hasn't moved much in the 65 years they've lived here. While her grandpa passed away six years ago, her grandma, Lavelle Branscome, lives about a mile away from her, near Jamestown settlement. Her mother and father continue to live in the area. Her dad owns a few hundred acres in Gloucester and hopes to develop more out in that direction well into his retirement.

Amanda also loves being surrounded by the history of what her family built in Williamsburg. Her family has been witness to an area that went from one general store surrounded by fields to the development of the present. She remembers a time before the big Walmart Super Center existed. There was a giant field in its place with a few trees. Amanda wanted to make that place her own by building her home between those trees. Despite not having her home between the trees, Amanda Redfern hopes to live here for a long time and to preserve the buildings that speak to the heart of Williamsburg. NDN



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JUDITH PYSHER



Lisa Cumming Photography

Living the History of a Community

By Susan Williamson

Judith Pysher (pronounced pie-sure) isn't a native of Williamsburg, but she has considered it home for a long time. She first visited the town in sixth grade. When she and her first husband separated, she was looking for a place to find herself as well as employment.

"I had always been my father's daughter," she says, "and then my husband's wife. I need-


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ed a place to be me.” So, in 1968 she accepted a job with Colonial Williamsburg (CW), moving here from Bland County, Virginia with her two sons. She first worked in the information center and then in the Tarpley and Prentis Stores which had been established to sell wares produced by the CW craftsmen. Prior to that time, items had been sold in the individual shops where they were made. The Prentis Store offers handcrafted leather, iron hardware, tools, reproduction furniture, men’s clothing and Native American crafts. Tarpley, Thompson and Company sells replicas of colonial dinnerware as well as specialty food items.

Judith said the training for the Tarpley and Prentis Store workers was extremely detailed. She spent time with each artisan in his or her shop, learning about the process and product. Coming from a family of crafters, she was well suited to the task. Her grandmother was a quilter, an aunt was a tailor and her mother sewed and did crafts. Judith grew up learning to sew and do needlework. “Anything involving needles and thread,” she says. She created a pattern for 14 inch stuffed bears, a few of which she made and sold during the years she lived away from Williamsburg.

Her sons grew up involved in CW and once had the opportunity to appear in a local film. They were six and seven at the time. Judith says, “They particularly liked it when the director told them to get dirty.”

Arts and crafts have always been stress reducers for Judith. About eight years ago, she added pottery to her repertoire. “From the beginning, I was comfortable with it,” she says. She doesn’t use a pottery wheel but prefers to do handbuilding which starts with a flat sheet of clay. She likes soft, natural colors and uses lace, leaves and shells to imbue the clay with pattern and texture. Judith creates her pottery at the Colonial Folk Art Gallery Studio on Bacon Avenue. In the adjacent Jux Ta Po Si Tion Gallery, one of her pale green cabbage leaves appears as thin and crisp as the real thing. A collection of slightly pink shells form a vase and colorful pottery eggs nest in twigs and rocks. Other eggs are more whimsical with beady eyes and sprouts of yellow hair. The clay feels at home in her hands.

While some pottery shapes are more difficult to create without using a wheel, Judith has been able to do what she wanted with the handbuilding technique. She likes working with studio owner Beverly Burgdorf who helped give her a perspective on pottery. Beverly often says, “It’s only clay. You can always rework it.”

According to Judith, Williamsburg was much smaller in 1968. “It had more of a small town feel, and there was no Bush Gardens,” she says. She compares the city to a donut with CW at the center. The center doesn’t change, but the donut keeps getting larger. While she misses some of that small town ambiance, she appreciates the variety and quality of medical facilities and shopping areas that are now available. “I lived in Florida for a while, but I didn’t feel at home there. I kept wanting to come back ‘home’ to Williamsburg, so I did.”

She managed the Peanut Shop on Duke of Gloucester Street, and that was where she met her husband of 25 years, Charles, who was then involved in producing publications for CW. That union brought three

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daughters into their blended family.

One day she and her husband visited Chippokes Plantation State Park in Surry County to research the process for donating antique furniture. She fell in love with the 2000 acre plantation which had been farmed since 1619. Albert Carroll Jones, born in 1815, built the plantation mansion and kitchen. He was well educated and a progressive farmer. He knew that tobacco depleted the soil and chose to grow other crops such as wheat and fruit which his neighbors were unable to grow in their soils. He operated a legal distillery which produced brandy from his fruit orchards.

The park was established in the 1970s. Everything in the 1850s mansion and kitchen was left as it was under the Victor Stewart family who were the last private owners. Mrs. Stewart left the plantation to the state at her death to be developed into an agricultural museum.

Soon Judith began volunteering as a cook and interpreter in the plantation kitchen, cooking for two days one weekend a month. She uses seasonal or dried ingredients to cook over the open hearth as the original owners would have. Potato and onion soup and chick peas and vegetables are examples of what she cooks.

She always asks visitors, "What don't you see in this kitchen that you have in your kitchen?" The first answer is "a microwave" so she amended the question to say "other than a microwave?" Eventually visitors realize the answer is a refrigerator. Several preteen children also volunteer in the kitchen, and Judith enjoys teaching them about how our ancestors cooked and ate. Judith points out that girls would have helped in the original kitchen and thus learned cooking skills. Although the plantation does not serve meals, visitors may taste the soups and stews she concocts and frequently ask for recipes. Any leftovers are enjoyed by the park staff.

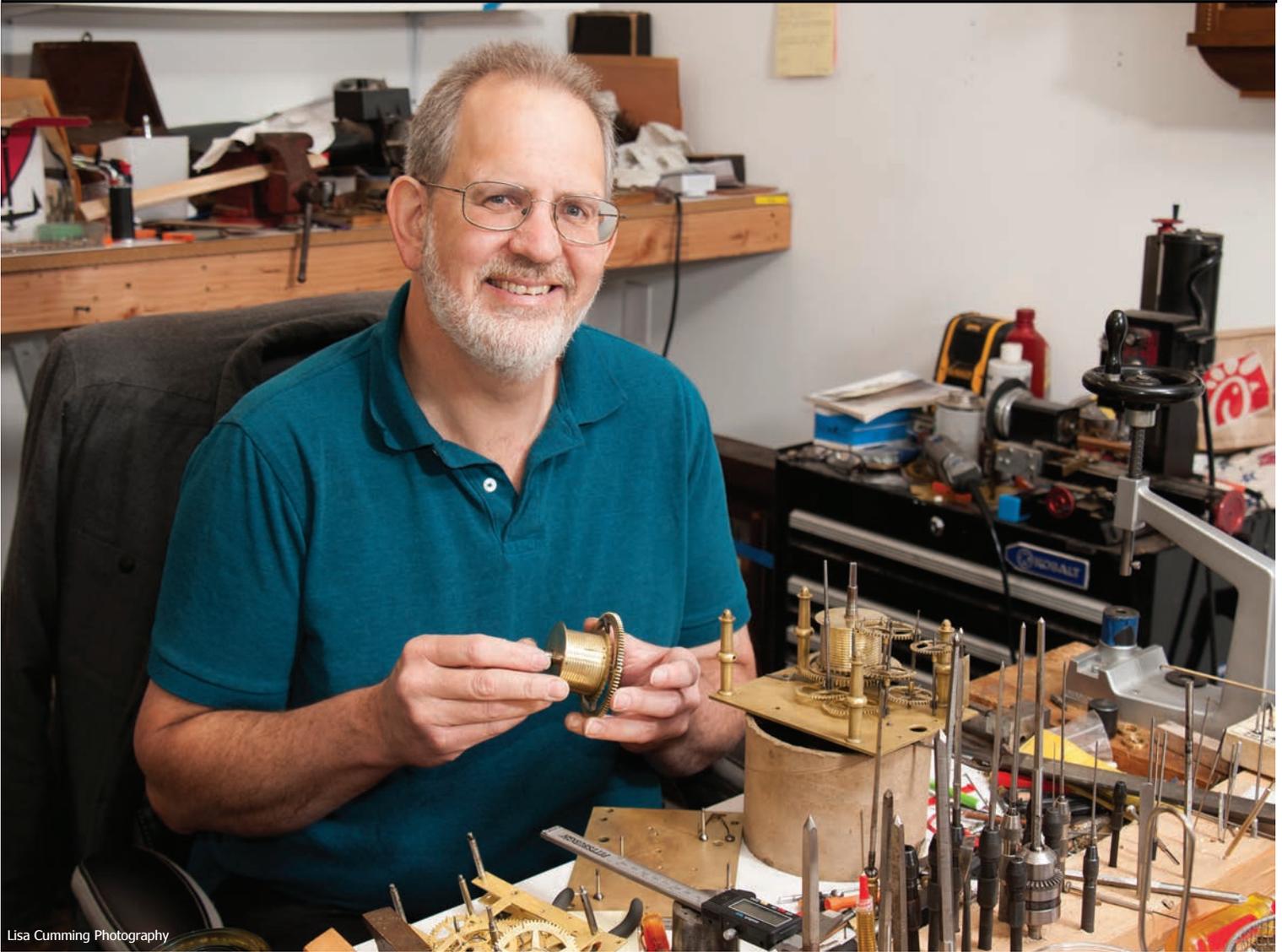
Since cooking on the plantation is mostly by taste and feel, she tries to duplicate the recipes with appropriate units of measure at home. The 1850s cooks had no standard measurements to go by, rather using such terms as one part, or dash or other estimate. Clearly, Judith enjoys creative cooking, both at home and at the plantation, as much as her other endeavors. She says it requires a knowledge of "kitchen chemistry" to figure out the necessary ingredients and ratios.

Although the park is only a ferry ride and a few miles from Jamestown, many local residents and tourists are not familiar with it. In addition to the numerous buildings, Judith loves the festivals and activities that happen throughout the year, and notes that sharecropper homes have been converted into rental cabins.

Judith is not the only talented crafter in the family. Her husband, who is now retired from his own graphic arts company, creates furniture and smaller items such as bookends and vases from wood. Charles has occasionally set up shop at a plantation craft show.

Judith Pysher is a student of the arts and of history. She is very knowledgeable, yet remains grounded and low key. She delights in sharing the knowledge she has acquired with both adults and children. Her eyes twinkle with joy when she talks about her passions. Her philosophy is to take each day as it comes and let the future bring what it will. NDN

KEITH CLAYTON-KASTENHOLZ



Lisa Cumming Photography

PLENTY OF TIME

By Narielle Living

Thoughts of Williamsburg's past inevitably lead to thoughts about the concept of time which is measured by a clock. A steady ticking interspersed with reverberating tolls count the minutes and hours of the days where Keith Clayton-Kastenholz works; the study and

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movement of time has been an integral part of his life.

Keith and his wife, Louise, came to Williamsburg from Los Angeles in 1993. Keith grew up in California, and Louise, originally from England, had lived in Canada in addition to America. Keith had grown up in one house and his parents still live in that house. So, what initially drew them to Williamsburg? “To be honest, it’s the trees,” Keith says. “That’s what originally attracted me. Being from Los Angeles there aren’t many trees, and when my wife and I came here to explore Williamsburg, there was an immediate sense of ‘this is where we like to be, we feel right here’. It really felt more like home than the rat race of Los Angeles.” Both decided that Williamsburg was the best place for them to be.

One of the main attractions for the couple was Colonial Williamsburg. “We liked the whole historic reenactment town and thought it would be fun to set up a clock shop, like they used to have many years ago.” After arriving here, Keith saw an opportunity in the Norge area to start his shop. He had just finished his internship with a clockmaker in California and it was time to begin his career. “We saw a great place to set up, and the apprenticeship had just finished, so it was time to figure out where we wanted to live. Plus, Los Angeles isn’t the best place to raise kids.”

When Keith and Louise first arrived in Williamsburg in the early nineties, the area was not as populated as it is now. Keith notes that even at that time more development was spreading through the region. “It was already coming out this way, so it made sense to set up here,” he says. “I had arrived to explore the neighborhood from Richmond and drove straight down Route 60. It just seemed sensible to me.”

Keith says that after they settled here, their daughters were born. When they were young, Keith’s clock business was in the house next door to where he is now, a situation that might be a bit unusual now. “The shop was originally in the house next door, the big blue one. When our first child was born we got a special use permit to put the shop in the house. That is a bit unusual these days and being agriculturally zoned I didn’t know we would be allowed to do that. So, we set up our little repair facility and our little retail shop in the house, raised the children and worked with customers all day long. It was fun.”

Keith notes that over the years clocks have changed in value and popularity, but generally he sees the same types of clocks coming through his door. “The interest in fixing them goes up and down based on taste. For example, the antiques market is very low right now, and people aren’t buying as much as they were 10 years ago. It’s changing, but it’s just personal taste.” Pointing to a clock against a wall, he says, “Sometimes we see the early Americans become fantastically valued, but now they’re at the bottom again because people are more interested in the French or some other style. An organ clock will maintain their value forever because of their rarity, but the value of normal clocks just goes up and down. It’s balanced.”

As a child, Keith was what he refers to as “a tinkerer”, taking things apart to determine how something worked. Sometimes he broke things in order to figure out how to fix it later. At one point, he had broken a metronome for a piano and had to bring it in to be repaired. After the

gentleman at the repair shop noted that Keith appeared to be interested in the process, he offered him an apprenticeship. "He said you seem interested in this sort of thing, would you like to learn how to do it? He told me 'you'll never get rich but you'll never starve. It's very steady.'" At the time Keith was in high school, and he thought clock repair would be a great thing to study. After seven years Keith finished his apprenticeship, and they parted ways.

"The true study of horology, which is the broader sense of what we do as clockmakers, is the study of time, how time works, where it comes from and the whole concept of that dimension." But more often Keith is focused on how to make something work. The clockmaker's side, he notes, is often a delicate balance between conservation and restoration of a piece from the past. "The two different trades we do is restoration and conservation, and they're often blended but not the same. We can either go one path or the other, but they do have differences. That's what enables me to work with museums. They want to conserve their objects, and that's fabulous, but that's a whole different trade. Restoration is more of how to make a project work for the buyer."

When making decisions regarding saving a piece of the past, Keith faces philosophical questions. "Sometimes, if we don't really care about the historical significance and we want full functionality, we'll use modern material that is stronger, better and will save the other pieces of the clock." But one of the initial questions is whether the piece is so important that it no longer matters if it is used anymore. "We worked on the clocks of the United States Senate, and we really got into this because there is no other clock like this, these are 'the one'... wow." Functionality was the goal, but Keith was careful to retain every piece from the clocks. "No matter what you do, every piece from original manufacturer has to be retained, with all the marks they made." In addition, he had to be certain not to clean anything to the point where the original manufacturer's marks were destroyed.

Keith's work is a balance between conserving the past and creating functionality for the future. He points to one of the clocks on the wall. "For example, if you wanted to restore this clock or make it look brand new you would change the dial because it's so tired and faded. You'd clean this up and make it bright and shiny. But that wouldn't be the clock you remembered. We definitely want to save and conserve the dials and the hands, but if we tried to conserve the mechanism in the state it was in it would never run again, it was so worn out." Sometimes Keith balances a combination of using new and maintaining old parts to save a piece for future use.

Today, Keith lives and works a trade that encompasses many similar approaches and tools as it did centuries ago. "The trade has been the same in many ways since the 18th century when the major machine tools were invented. Things like how to cut a gear are the same, and that was invented before the 18th century so we're using the same technology that they used, the same hand tools, the same basic procedures."

And much as he did when he first came to Williamsburg, Keith Clayton-Kastenholz continues to ensure that for the clocks in his care, time will not run out. NDN

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REVEREND DR. JULIE GRACE



Lisa Cumming Photography

A History of Freedom

By Narielle Living

In 1776, as our fledgling country was beginning to define itself, African American slaves had none of the privileges afforded to the white settlers. As a result, in Williamsburg a group of slaves and free blacks, led by Reverend Moses, began to build a church in order to worship in secret. They began in a clearing in the woods, and after moving from Raccoon Chase

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just outside Williamsburg to Nassau Street and finally Scotland Street in 1956, the First Baptist Church of Williamsburg has continued to thrive. The Reverend Dr. Julie Grace, whose ancestors were an integral part of this church, today serves as associate minister and continues her family tradition.

Within the church building there is a room documenting the church history, with pictures of Martin Luther King, Jr., church gatherings and full-sized tombstones. Pointing to the tombstones which are housed behind glass, Reverend Dr. Grace says, "These are some of the artifacts on display that you may have read about. These are the tombstones of the Dunlop family, and I am a descendant of the Dunlop family." The headstones date back to the 1800s. Pointing to the rows of pictures on the wall, she says, "That's family. This is the old church on Nassau street, and this is my family: my dad, my godfather and that's me, the baby. This is at my blessing, and that's my godmother and my mom, my grandmother... and this is one of our first albums that we produced here at first Baptist, if you look at the second line on your right that's my mom and that's myself. So we've been here, my family."

Another black and white picture shows the breaking of the ground of the new church with

her great grandfather, Andrew Jones.

The Reverend Dr. Grace did leave Williamsburg for a period of about 30 years and lived in the Atlanta area. "But I recently came back," she says. "It's been almost a year, and I'm here to stay."

Reverend Dr. Grace retired in 2010 from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. "I always thought I'd like to come back home, and when I heard about the tombstones and the family I came back. We were here celebrating with the church, and I just thought I needed to come back and continue the family legacy."

She goes on to say that although she enjoyed working with the CDC, her job here is different. "Not that I didn't enjoy the federal government, but this is more satisfying. This is what I was meant to do."

When she returned to Williamsburg after her absence, she found that the area had changed. "I grew up in Williamsburg, Braxton Court. That first big house when you go in on the right. I think my grandfather built that house in 1940. I lived there until I was a teenager and then we moved to Pocahontas Street." She is now living in her mother's old house, refurbishing and upgrading it. But the difference in the community is striking. "When I was here, it was a very small community, and you could

ride for 15 minutes in any direction and get to where you want to go. But now I have to use my GPS. When I came back, I said I cannot believe I need my GPS to find my way around Williamsburg, but everything has blossomed." She notes that subdivisions now exist in areas that were formerly wooded. "It's almost like big city Atlanta."

Like Williamsburg, the congregation of First Baptist Church has also grown. "When I was a child, it was community. It was people in the vicinity, and we all knew each other. Now we're coming from different communities. I'm still getting to know some of the members who've joined in my absence. It really is different." She remembers people being more family oriented when she was a child. "We had recreation on Fridays and Saturdays for the children." When talking about the youth group she used to be part of she mentions her brother, who is a little older. At that time, the youth group was divided by age. "I used to have to leave at a certain point because the older kids were coming in, and we couldn't stay. I would just be heartbroken, but I was told no, you're too young, and I had to go home."

Although the church has grown in size, the tenets and beliefs remain the same. Reverend Dr. Grace muses about how much the members



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of her congregation are affected by external influences. "I think the outside has a lot more influence today than back when I was growing up. You have technology and all of these things we didn't have. And we had more children when I was growing up." She says that now that there is live streaming of church services, many feel they don't have to come to church. "They think they can stream it and still get the message but what they don't understand is that it's important, fellowship is important. That's a significant difference."

With the technology now available, the church has begun to embrace a new era. "We're getting there," Reverend Dr. Grace says. "As a matter of fact, we are working on a strategic plan. We are entering the world of modern technology."

The church has a history committee focused on preserving their rich heritage. In 2016 they gained national attention for the restoration of the church bell. After being silent for decades, the bell was revived and people from all over came to be part of the ringing of the bell.

First Baptist Church of Williamsburg has always been a strong advocate for social justice and change. In addition to their early founders fighting to keep the doors of the church open despite opposition, major historic figures such

as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks visited in the sixties. Today, tourism is strong as visitors pour into the church to catch a glimpse of America's history.

Growing up with this slice of history, Reverend Dr. Grace notes that she didn't think about it when she was younger. "As a child I did not get into politics. We just grew up happy, coming to church, and we had evening programs for children. Those kinds of things didn't bother me at the time. My great grandfather, Andrew Jones, and my grandmother, Elizabeth Parrilla, provided a very comfortable home for us. My grandmother, Elizabeth Parrilla, was a baker at colonial Williamsburg for over 20 years." In fact, her grandmother's cake was so good it had a place on the menu where she worked.

She also remembers what it was like to go to the movies in Williamsburg. "Growing up, when we went to the movies downtown, Duke of Gloucester Street, as an African American we all had to sit on the first two rows. They were roped off. Because we were African Americans, we were not able to sit anywhere, only right in front in the first two rows. After those first two rows were filled that was it for African Americans to come to that movie theater."

Although the prejudice ran deep, she says that she always felt safe. "When you're in a

community there's a sense of love and protection and fellowship, and that kind of covered us, although other things were happening on the outside."

From the days of her childhood to the present, Reverend Dr. Julie Grace notes that Williamsburg has come a long way. "When I look back into my family history, my family was blessed. We had the means to buy property. My great grandfather sold property to other African Americans so they could have ownership. We are a very strong people, and I think people maybe overlook our intellect and our character and our perseverance and our contributions, especially our contributions. Most of Williamsburg was built by African Americans and for a long while African Americans had flourishing businesses right here in the triangle. As a child I would go down to Mr. Webb's store and buy a handful of candy for four or five pennies, and there was Dr. Blayton's hospital. There was so much in the community. There was the barber shop not too far from here. We had a thriving, self-sufficient community until Colonial Williamsburg came in and bought the property and moved us to the outskirts. It really makes me sad. But even with that, those who are still in this local vicinity are thriving. I think they're all doing well." NDN



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A BUSINESS UNLEASHED

By Ben Mackin



Corey Miller Photography

In today's economy it is not uncommon for someone to take a part-time job when they already have a full-time career. What is considerably less common is leaving the career and building the part-time job into a successful, award-winning business. That is exactly what Michelle Daikos did with Wagging Tails Dog Walking and Pet Sitting of Williamsburg.

The Hampton Roads native was working as an interior designer in northern Virginia when the opportunity to moonlight as a dog walker first came up. At the time Michelle had been using a dog walking service to walk her dog every day while she was at work. After utilizing the company for a while she found out they were in need of help. They had more clients than staff, so Michelle volunteered to work for them part-time. "The service, Woofies, was incredibly busy. So, I started helping them out on the weekends. I was happy to do it and it meant some extra cash for me to play with." From those few hours a week, Michelle was hooked. "I grew to love it. It is so rewarding because the dogs and animals are so happy to see you," Michelle says, laughing.

During the time Michelle spent working for Woofies, she was able to learn the at-home pet care business from the ground up. That experience would come in handy in 2013 when she made the decision to leave her interior design job in northern Virginia and come back to the area. The main reason she moved was to be closer to her mother, but in doing so would provide her a chance to make big professional changes. "I rented out my condo and moved back down to Williamsburg. For work I needed something that was flexible so I would be able to help my mother. So, I thought dog walking would be a perfect thing to do." With that, Wagging Tails was born.

As anyone who has ever started their own business can tell you, Michelle was facing an uphill battle. Luckily the owners of Woofies, Leslie Barron and Amy Reed, mentored her. Taking what she learned from her former employers, Michelle used a

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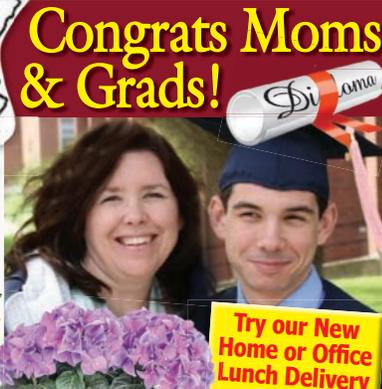
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similar business model to mold her company into the success that it is today. "I was lucky to have them to lean on and help me with all the challenges that came across," she says. "Even with the help, I have to say the biggest challenge was starting off on my own." For her, the fun part was the marketing and business development, but the challenge was being the only staff member, running the business and walking dogs around the clock yet not being big enough to hire anyone. As she grew her client list, Michelle was gradually able to hire a small staff, though it did not stay small for long.

Michelle is quick to point out that a lot of the company's success is due in part to her staff. The team has several members who have spent years working as veterinary technicians or volunteering in shelters. They even have a zoologist who has spent time working in zoos up and down the east coast. "They absolutely love what they do, which is great. I love working with a staff who are happy to come to work every day. We have our challenges from time to time, but we always work them out."

Other than hard work, Michelle credits the firm's success to a number of factors. She says organizational measures like software management systems help keep her and her team

in sync with each other and their clients. Another measure Wagging Tails relies on is professional training and certifications for all the employees. "Being licensed and insured as well as being certified in pet first aid is key. We also perform background checks, all of which are essential to gaining the client's trust," Michelle says. Being a pet owner herself, Michelle knows how disconcerting it can be for a stranger to have access to not only the family pet but the entire house as well. "We put everything into place that would really make people feel comfortable. We are not the next door neighbor's kid. We are actually certified, professional people walking into your home."

With an expert staff, Wagging Tails is able to render detailed services to the pets and their families. "When we set up a new client, we like to have a 'meet and greet'. We go over there and meet the dogs and owner, and the objective is to learn the routine so that we can recreate it when the owner is gone." Keeping to a routine is one of the reasons services like Wagging Tails are so popular. "A good example is an overnight. If the client's dog sleeps in the bed with them, then that's what we'll do. If the client normally gets home from work, feeds the dog, then snuggles with them on

the sofa, that's what we do." Michelle finds this not only alleviates anxiety for the dog, but for the owner as well. "All of these things make the dog so much more comfortable. If you take the dog to a kennel, not only is the owner gone, but you are taking the pet completely out of their environment. So our focus is to keep the routine going."

On top of the walking and sitting, Wagging Tails also offers a pet taxi that will pick your dog up from the house and take them to and from the vet or groomer. "We'll even go to the airport. We pick up dogs who have been flown in or we'll drop them off to get on the plane," she says, laughing.

On top of diversifying their clientele, Michelle is looking to add dog training to their already long list of services. "With the upcoming dog training, we are growing and hiring new staff while maintaining that level of top notch service."

With her company on solid footing in the area it is safe to say that Michelle Daikos has no regrets about leaving her old job behind. "This is my passion and definitely a breath of fresh air," she says thoughtfully. "I mean, who doesn't love animals? I have never worked harder in my life, but I have never felt such satisfaction and reward." **NDN**

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RUNNING STRONG

By Alison Johnson

The bullies got to David Piggott early. He was a shy, short, skinny kid, so skinny that he usually wore long-sleeve T-shirts to hide his arms. Also struggling with a learning disability, David felt like an outsider for much of his childhood.

Today, at age 29, the personal trainer and running coach describes those experiences as “great.”

“It gave me a glimpse into how not to treat others,” David says. “Being small and bullied really gave me a thirst to empower others so they don’t ever have to feel that way.” His mother, a retired teacher, showed him how:

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“Sometimes you need someone to believe in you, even just one person, so you can believe in yourself. My mom was that for me. Maybe I can be that person for someone else.”

Through his business and brand, Power Endurance System, David works with anywhere from eight to 16 clients a week, helping them gain strength, endurance and self-confidence. He also teaches two or three group fitness classes a week.

David has had clients as young as six and as old as 90. They come to him at all sizes and ability levels: couch potatoes wanting to lose weight; seniors struggling with activities of daily living; brides and grooms looking to tone up for weddings; athletes recovering from injuries; high-level runners searching for an edge. David meets them at a local gym or chiropractic office or, with runners or at outdoor parks or tracks. He hopes to open his own fitness center in the future.

A passionate endurance athlete himself, David crafts individualized workouts to target each person’s physical weaknesses. Just as importantly, he must intuit the best way to motivate clients psychologically so they stay positive. “Some need a more rugged approach,

and some are perfectly fine with simple guidance,” he says.

What no one needs, David believes, is a heavily numbers-based plan. “In life, we get so fixed on numbers. What’s the number on the scale? How many of this move can I do? What’s my time in this run? But if you’re not happy, that’s not what’s healthy. Yes, of course you can set goals, but you want to get to them not only uninjured but enjoying what you’re doing.”

The job can be exhausting, especially since David spends hours a week on his own rigorous running and cycling routines. The payoffs, though, are huge. “A great trainer once told me, ‘It’s okay to be tired during the work, as long as you are not tired of the work,’” he says. “I love seeing clients’ faces when they hit a goal, because then there’s no stopping them. They may not even need me anymore.”

A Williamsburg native, David knew as a child that he would have some kind of career related to fitness. In fact, ask him when he started Power Endurance System and his answer is age six, the year he took up martial arts. “I fell in love with athletics,” he recalls. “The more I did, the more confident I became.”

While a student at Bruton High School, David taught martial arts, self-defense and kickboxing to younger children. After graduation, he worked as a physical therapy aide for more than five years, demonstrating exercises and rehabilitation therapies in an outpatient clinic.

David opted to become a certified personal trainer because he wanted to spend more time with individual clients. Over the past seven-plus years, he has earned numerous professional credentials. His favorite part of the job is guiding individuals through unique life changes and stages.

“There’s something special about having a running client hit their time goal or having a weight loss client tell me they need to buy new clothes because the others no longer fit,” he says. “I love to make people laugh and connect clients to a higher level.”

The biggest roadblock to clients getting in better shape is food. “Our whole social culture is around meeting and eating,” David says. To help keep people accountable, he has them turn in nutrition logs in addition to exercise reports, sometimes communicating via daily emails and texts. Still, he doesn’t want anyone

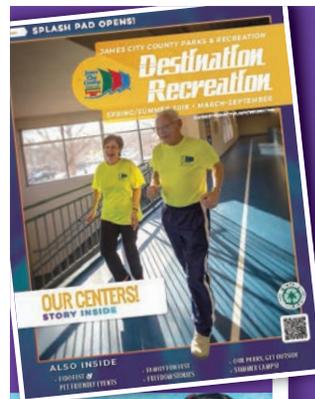
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to fixate on “messaging up” a diet.

“You can reward yourself without it being ‘messaging up,’” he says. “You can just do it differently, change how you think about it to a more positive mindset. Like if you get that burger, cut it in half and save half for the next day. That way, you’re getting to enjoy it twice.”

Time commitment is another common hurdle. Too many people are careful to maintain the material items in their lives but not their own bodies, David says. Paradoxically, that inactivity makes them feel more worn out.

“Once you have a stronger aerobic system, you don’t get tired as easily, have more strength and don’t get sick as often. This means you are more productive and get more out of whatever life you seek to live.”

As for David, he is a high-energy, seize-the-moment kind of personality. He tries to run 30 to 50 miles a week, often venturing out well before dawn, and bike another 50 to 100 miles weekly during daytime rides between clients. He also strength trains at least once a week and stretches daily.

As a competitor, David has entered events ranging from 5Ks to marathons, regularly placing among the top finishers. Current goals

include completing the grueling 135-mile Badwater Ultramarathon in California’s Death Valley and tackling duathlons and triathlons. His diet is built for performance, with many more calories than he would recommend to most of his clients.

“Steak, sweet potatoes, broccoli, rice, plain potatoes, salads,” he says. “No dressings on anything, usually. Not too many carbohydrates and stick with natural sugars. But sometimes I also like my fries and burgers, Papa Murphy’s pizza and Chick-fil-A. It’s a balance for me.”

David and his girlfriend, Maggie Fox, love traveling anywhere with water or mountains. Both avid hikers and self-described free spirits, “we jump on any opportunity to climb the dang mountain,” David says. One year, they hiked in and out of the Grand Canyon, an approximately 18-mile round trip journey with temperatures that climbed as high as 95 degrees in a single day, despite warnings against the trek from a park official. “We do things that move us, because that’s what life’s all about,” he says.

Conveniently, Maggie is a registered nurse. “We have a running joke between us. I’m going to break us, and you’ll fix us,” David says with

a laugh. Maggie, a regular at mixed martial arts conditioning classes, also helps with the Power Endurance System business.

At night, David often stays awake until 11 p.m. or midnight, either planning workouts or reading articles about strength, fitness, nutrition or successful people from all walks of life. He is writing a book himself, on his training approach, and has opened his pesfit.com website to questions from anyone in the community. He also dreams of launching an athletic apparel line one day, featuring shirts with inspirational quotes that he has collected in notebooks through the years.

David does slow down on occasion. In fact, he has no qualms about taking one or two weeks off from training altogether, especially if he is dealing with a nagging injury. He tells his clients not to feel guilty if they need to do the same.

However, for David Piggott, times of rest ultimately are about going even stronger in the long run, leaving all those bullies even more in the dust.

“This has been a lifelong quest to this point, and I have much further to go,” he says. “I want to do this for the rest of my life.” NDN

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A Future of Many Possibilities

By Brandy Centolanza



Lisa Cumming Photography

Sam Frye has spent his whole life in Williamsburg but now the high school senior is ready to take on the world. He feels his leadership roles with the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums Corps as well as the Boy Scouts of America have prepared him for a bright future after he graduates from Warhill High School in June.

The 18-year-old has been involved with the Fifes & Drums Corps since the fifth grade. He first learned how to play fife and march in step with the other musicians as a member of the Junior Corps when he was ten years old. "I was the youngest person I know who had a paying job," Sam says.

Sam worked his way up in the Corps through the years and earned the highest rank of Fife

Sergeant in the Senior Corps in the summer of 2017. "By that time, I had been marching for seven years and had probably memorized over 300 pieces of music," Sam says.

In addition to performing, his duties now include instructing other young musicians as well. The Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums Corps is a year-long commitment, with scheduled performances held every month except January. There are over 800 performances a year and, in the height of summer, the young musicians play on nearly a daily basis. Sam has enjoyed playing with the Fifes & Drums during Colonial Williamsburg's Fourth of July Celebrations and Grand Illumination as well as with military musicians as part of the Virginia International Tattoo Festival in Norfolk,

Virginia.

"It's been a great experience," he says. "I'm doing what I'm doing because I enjoy it. I like history, and I like the fact that we have such a presence wherever we go."

This summer will be Sam's last hurrah with the Corps, but before he moves on he is thrilled to be a part of the Fifes & Drums' 60th anniversary celebration, set this year for Memorial Day weekend. "It will be an amazing celebration," Sam says.

Sam is also winding down his time as a member of the Boy Scouts. He initially joined the organization as a Cub Scout in the first grade and worked his way up to an Eagle Scout. When he was 15, other scout members nominated him for The Order of The Arrow, a National Honor

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Sam's enjoyed all the service projects associated during his time with the Boy Scouts. He earned Eagle Scout status last year. Sam chose to renovate the blacktop at Stonehouse Elementary School in the summer of 2016 as his Eagle Scout project. He recruited volunteers to help power wash and repair the blacktop surface and then repaint all of the children's games on the blacktop for students to enjoy.

"We put in about 75 man hours on the project," Sam says. "It was hot. The students at Stonehouse are still using the blacktop. The fourth and fifth graders like to have four square tournaments on it. It's been a big hit."

In addition to showing Sam the value of community service, scouting has also given Sam an appreciation for outdoors and adventure. Through the Boy Scouts, Sam attended two "high adventure" trips: a week-long fishing and canoeing expedition in Minnesota, where he served as crew chief; and a sailing and snorkeling trip in the Florida Keys.

"Those trips were lots of fun, and I am so glad I did them," he says. "I've had so many unique experiences and leadership opportunities through the Boy Scouts."

A few years ago, Sam and a small group of other scouts also hiked more than 50 miles along the Appalachian Trail in three days. They

trekked 23 of those miles in just one day.

"It's bittersweet to be leaving the Scouts because this is something that I have been constantly doing for so long. I've developed long-term friendships with other scouts. I've known some of them for more than half my life."

The Boy Scouts also helped steer Sam toward a possible career as an airplane pilot. Four years ago, Sam and his Boy Scout troop paid a visit to the Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport to earn their aviation merit badges, and Sam's life was changed forever. After climbing into an old Cessna 172 airplane during the visit, Sam just knew he had to learn to fly.

"My dad has always had an interest in flying, and I've been going to air shows with him for as long as I can remember," Sam says. "When I first climbed into that plane, I loved it so much that I ended up going back for training and even passed my pilot's license test in that plane."

Sam applied for a scholarship through the Williamsburg Flight Center's Williamsburg Aviation Scholarship Program (WASP), which enabled him to learn to fly. He trained to become a pilot under instructor David Otey III at the Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport.

"The scholarship program exposed me to new opportunities, and I am so grateful," Sam says.

It took roughly one year for Sam to earn his private pilot's license. The test included a written exam, an oral exam, and a practical flight exam. He also had to learn how to land on different surfaces such as a runway, grass or gravel, as well as how to fly in varying weather conditions.

"Traveling more than 50 nautical miles is considered cross-country," Sam says. "Solo flying is a big deal. It was a big 'whoa' moment. I've done cross-country trips to North Carolina and to the Eastern Shore. That was just a beautiful flight. Flying a plane is definitely different than driving a car."

"My parents are both proud of me and like being a part of my experiences," Sam says. "My friends now call me Sam 'Fly' instead of Sam Frye."

Sam Frye hops in a plane and takes off a few times each month. He's accumulated 80 flight hours so far. Though he's still undecided where he will end up after he graduates from high school, he knows piloting is in his future. He hopes to join the U.S. Air Force.

"I like to fly whenever I can," he says. "I would love a career in aviation. I think I am in a good position because everyone needs a pilot. For 18 years, my world has been 23188, and now my world is actually the whole world. I can't wait." NDN

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Celebrating Five Years of Service

By Linda Phelps

When glasses are filled and lifted in a toast to health, you'll often hear exclamations of "To life!" This tradition is especially appropriate for Riverside Doctors' Hospital Williamsburg as they celebrate their fifth anniversary of serving the community. Their mission statement, a commitment to care for others as they would care for those they love and to enhance well-being and improve health for everyone, stretches

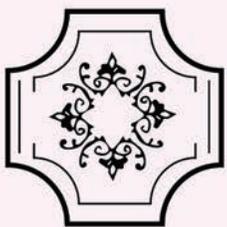
across the entire continuum of life.

Riverside Health System, whose service to the Tidewater region dates back to 1915, is a network of entities extending from Tappahannock to Newport News and also includes the Eastern Shore. Riverside bought land at the intersection of state Route 199 and U.S. Route 60 in 2004, seeking approval for its plan to expand services to the Greater Williamsburg

area with a hospital. After years of demonstrating community need, the official groundbreaking finally took place on July 12, 2011 and the nonprofit hospital opened in May of 2013. Its present 25-acre campus is part of the complex known as Quarterpath, a 380+ acre multi-use development.

Two people who will be among those celebrating the success of Riverside Doctors' Hos-

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pital are Adria Vanhoozier, MHA, Vice President/Administrator, and Dr. James McCorry, D.O., Director of Emergency Services.

"I walked this empty field and saw the building go up," Jim says. "It's a unique feeling to watch the hospital's birth and then start hiring people to work in it." Jim was intrigued by medicine even at a young age. "I was an EMT and volunteer fireman outside of Philadelphia when I was in college. I did my residency there in emergency medicine, which was just starting as a specialty then. I stayed for a while, then eventually grabbed an opportunity to go to Newport News and become Riverside Regional's Emergency Medical Services director."

Jim and his wife, Suzan, have made Williamsburg their home for the last 25 years. "Prior to this job, I traveled a lot, so it's been very nice to work where we live."

In a touch of "small world" serendipity, when Jim and Suzan lived in Pennsylvania and vacationed on the Outer Banks, they would break their car trip by staying in Williamsburg at a hotel located on what is now the empty parcel on Rt. 60 in front of Riverside Doctors' Hospi-

tal. "Who knew back then that I would come full circle and wind up working right here?" he says. Things have changed a little since those early days, though. Now Jim and Suzan, who teaches theater at Lafayette High School, are proud parents of five children. "Two are still living with us, and three have left home."

Growing up in Christiansburg, Virginia, Adria's interest in medicine was inspired by her strong and passionate pediatrician. "He treated patients like family, and that initiated my desire to work in health care," she says. "I entered college a hundred percent sure I was going to be a doctor, but realized quickly that I liked the business side much more than the clinical side." Adria received her Master's Degree from MCV-VCU in Health Administration. "In that program you do two years of didactic and a year of residency. I did mine under Bill Downey, who is the current CEO of Riverside Health System."

Adria got married just before she began her residency. "My husband's name is Jacob Lambert and we met in the first grade," Adria says with a smile. "We grew up together in southwestern Virginia, but he went to Virginia Tech

and I went to UVA." They're now the proud parents of a baby boy, Callum Lambert, who just celebrated his first birthday.

"I had Callum at Riverside Regional in Newport News," Adria says. "The maternity wing was newly renovated with suites, surround sound music, birthing tubs, everything you could ever ask for in the way of care and amenities. It's amazing, almost like a spa!"

Things have changed tremendously since the early days of Riverside Doctors' Hospital. "We've gotten busier as we earn more certifications," Jim says. "We became certified in stroke care and integrate our services with Newport News because they're a Comprehensive Stroke Center. They can do interventions that nobody on the Peninsula can do." The Williamsburg hospital is also currently the only providers of radiation oncology within their immediate area.

Jim's Emergency Services department works closely with providers in the field, the Fire Department in particular. "We do training videos with them and a lot of outreach to the community," he says. The hospital is a presence at special events, such as the REV3 triathlon at



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Chickahominy Riverfront Park in July, Patriots Triathlon Festival on Jamestown Island in September, and the upcoming LPGA tournament at Kingsmill.

“Many of these events take place when it’s really hot,” Jim says. “We’ll have a medical tent set up, and our goal is to make sure people stay hydrated and minimize transports to the hospital. We’ll treat for hypothermia and simple cuts and scrapes on-site. It’s part of our job and responsibility to provide the highest level of emergency and preventative care.” This truth was proven at last year’s Patriots Triathlon, when a man suffered a cardiac arrest and the quick actions of Dr. McCorry and others saved his life.

Adria is justifiably proud of the national recognition they received as they grew. “In the past year we earned the Quest Award. We were one of only six hospitals out of 350 nationwide to receive top scores in things like mortality and patient satisfaction. These are key metrics that show how well you’re operating and the care you’re providing,” she says. “That speaks well of the phenomenal team we have here.”

According to Adria, who helped open the

hospital and then worked elsewhere within the system until her return in October of 2016, everyone on staff takes their mission statement to heart. “Every encounter with a patient, we try to treat you like our mom, our brother, or our own child,” she says.

Riverside is also nimble enough to respond to the community’s requirements. Twenty years ago, a good portion of the Greater Williamsburg area population was made up of people migrating from the Northeast corridor to retire. Since 2015, there’s been an explosion in the younger demographic, with young people starting and raising families here. “As we expand our care practices to things such as sports medicine we have some of the top orthopedic surgeons in the region right here, who have worked with NFL teams. We fill the needs of a changing population,” Adria says.

The most important thing Riverside Doctors’ Hospital wants to provide the citizens of Williamsburg is choice. “In a market-driven economy like we have now, the patient has an option for health care services and can request treatment with us,” Adria says.

In the spirit of celebration and community involvement, a full slate of events has been planned to mark the hospital’s first five years. May 1 marks the kickoff with a light social gathering at the hospital, culminating on May 12 with an on-site Health Fair. In between will be a series of local events, such as a “meet and greet” at Kingsway Medical Office Building where the public is invited to meet the practitioners at the complex. Nurses are slated to speak to young people’s groups about career opportunities in their profession during Nurse’s Week. Another event will target the opposite end of the age spectrum: lifelong health programs. As the weeks of celebration unfold, everyone will have a chance to look back on the last five years of amazing accomplishment and growth and congratulate themselves on a job well done.

Here’s to you, Adria Vanhoozier, Dr. James McCorry and Riverside Doctors’ Hospital...

“To life!” NDN

For more information regarding the 5th anniversary events, check out riversideonline.com/rdhw

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Creating Style and Function

By Narielle Living



Lisa Cumming Photography

Julie Dooley (formerly Julie Savoye) knows what it's like to have to pack up and move at a moment's notice and try to settle into a new space. Because of this, she has developed the ability to put a home together in a way that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional. This combination of life experience and talent is what led her to the field of interior design and to starting her business, Savoye Interiors.

Born and raised in the small town of Ravena in upstate New York, Julie's passion for design emerged during her first marriage. "My husband climbed the corporate ladder, and we moved around a lot," she says. Once her chil-

dren were born they began moving every year. "It was crazy. It was almost worse than the military. He would come home on a Wednesday and say he had to be somewhere on a Monday, so I was left with kids and selling a house." Julie says this experience defined her career, inspiring her to approach home design in a very practical manner. "Now I can pretty much go in and do anything with a house, because I had to do it for myself for so long." Soon, she had neighbors and friends asking her for help with their homes. "They would come in and say wow, you got this place in shape, and I would tell them that I had to because I might be moving in a

year."

Her first marriage did not last, but Julie is now married to a man she describes as absolutely wonderful. They met in Maryland and later moved to New Jersey and then Pennsylvania. Now, living in Williamsburg, she is more than happy to settle here and call this home.

"We moved here a year and a half ago, and the people are really great. This is where I'm going to stay, and we're building our dream house in Queens Lake." Since she has been here, she's rebuilt her design business and found local contractors to work with. "It's a lot of work, but I'm so passionate about it."

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Julie's business focuses on both the design and the decorating aspects within a home. According to her, a designer works spatial planning, designing and renovating a room. "I think many times people are intimidated by the word designer, and even though that's what I am, I'm also a decorator," she says. "Sometimes designers don't want to be called a decorator, but that is a big portion of what we do: choosing paint, colors, fabrics, art and window treatments."

Many times people call Julie about their kitchens. "A lot of people are in homes that are 50 years old, and they need some help. Right now I'm working on a mid-century modern kitchen."

First, she takes measurements and assesses the space. Then she can come up with a plan, but before everyone agrees to the plan, especially one that involves removing a wall, she consults with one more person. "We'll get a contractor out and see what's really going on. I never make a promise," Julie notes that the open floor plan is a popular option for homeowners today. "People want the open feel to their house."

Another big part of what Julie does is helping people repurpose things. "I'm usually the second call after someone is in shock," she says. "They have met with an interior designer and been told that everything needs to go and start fresh. I'll walk in, and many times there's an at-

tachment to furniture, a hand-me-down from family, and it's perfectly fine. They don't make furniture the way they used to." Julie explains that if, for example, a sofa is of good quality, it might be more cost effective to reupholster rather than buying something that might not last as long. She also notes that sometimes a fresh coat of paint can work miracles. She points to a sideboard in her home, a stunning piece of furniture with a slightly distressed look.

Julie has seen a number of home decorating trends over the years. "I feel brass was out for a while, and I think it's coming back, especially antiqued brass," she says. In relation to tile choices, she notes that the trend is toward a more classic selection such as the 3 x 5 subway tile. "Or sometimes what they'll do is use the 4 x 12 which is longer and more exaggerated." While she notes that more people are going back to installing white subway tiles, these tiles may be larger than what was used 50 years ago. "But that's all coming back."

In colors, purple is making a comeback as well. "I see purple coming back, but reds are not popular anymore. People used to have red kitchens and red accent walls, and now people are really going for blue-gray colors. Green is coming back, and more people are leaning toward the neutrals." Julie also notes that neutrals such as the color white come in a wide range of

hues. "White is not white anymore," she says with a smile. "The historic colors are great, and you can't go wrong with any of them. I never walk into a home saying we're going to do a particular color. I have to see it and feel it. Sometimes people will hand me something, or I'll ask if they have fabric or a pillow they like. From there I can grab a color. That happened with a nursery I was working on in Pennsylvania. I asked if I could go in the attic and look at what they had, and I found a print from John Audubon. They were expecting a little boy, and I thought it was a cute jumping off point." The print had originally been in the husband's childhood bedroom. "From there I took that color, and we were able to find a paint color for the nursery wall. That was fun."

Julie spends a lot of time working to get to know her clients so she can create a living space that truly reflects their personality. "I want to say don't be afraid to call on us. I try not to make it an intimidating experience, and I try to get to know my clients and help them. I've met amazing people, and I've learned from every one of my customers. Hopefully I've imparted information to them." Decorating, design and color comes naturally to Julie Dooley, but she admits this is not the case for everyone. "Sometimes people just need someone to help them make a decision." **NDN**

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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

Hey Neighbor! MOVIES UNDER THE STARS FREE!

April 27, 2018

James City County Parks & Recreation invites you to come enjoy great box office titles out under the stars! Bring lawn chairs, blankets and snacks. Children 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Movies begin at 8:30 pm at Chickahominy Riverfront Park. Scheduled feature: Despicable Me 3 PG; movies subject to change. Weather permitting. Movies offered throughout the summer. Info: jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation or 757-259-4200.

Hey Neighbor! SUMMER CAMP FAIR 2018, FREE!

April 27-28, 2018

5th Annual Summer Camp Fair. Learn about great camps and register your kids at the same time! Goodie bags for first 200 guests! Camps include day (full-time and part-time), overnight camps, sports, adventure, scouting; dance, music, arts and theater; vacation bible school, special needs; academics-science, foreign language; history; preschool to high school camps and more! Event runs April 27, 3-7 pm and April 28, 9 am-1 pm at the James City County Recreation Center. Info: Kristy Maynor at: kristy.wf@gmail.com.

Hey Neighbor! BLACK SETTLEMENT PRESENTATION & BOOK SIGNING, FREE!

April 28, 2018

Join Col. Lafayette Jones Jr., a descendant of those that lived on the Free Black Settlement at Freedom Park for a free presentation and book signing. You'll experience 18th century life more than 60 years before the Emancipation Proclamation. 3-4 pm at Freedom Park, all ages welcome. Info: jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation or 757-259-4200.

Hey Neighbor! PAJAMA DAY 5K FOR CAA

April 28, 2018

Come join the fun as we run for the community! 5K Run, 5K Walk, and 1 Mile Fun Run at Eastern State Hospital Picnic Pavilion, Moncure Drive. This is a Colonial Road Runners Grand Prix Event, with family-friendly games, music, food and fun for all ages! Register online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Williamsburg/CAA5K> or contact Shante Bell at 757-229-9332

Hey Neighbor! "PLANTS WITH A PURPOSE"

SPRING PLANT SALE

April 28, 2018

Rain or Shine from 9 am-2 pm. Plant a thriving garden to attract and support vital pollinators. The Williamsburg Botanical Garden will hold its Annual Spring Plant within the garden and will feature plants that grow well in our area. Request our eNews delivered right to your inbox by texting WBGARDEN to 22828, or emailing WBGardenNews@gmail.com.

Hey Neighbor! NEWTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

April 28, 2018

New Town United Methodist Church Preschool (5209 Monticello Avenue, right next to the courthouse) is hosting its 11th annual Night at the Museum fundraiser on Saturday, April 28th, 6-9 p.m. The evening consists of silent and live auction items to include class pottery and children's artwork, gift baskets, rounds of golf, tickets to various local attractions, lake house getaways, and much more. Email Gretchen Tisoni at gretchen@newtownUMC.org or call 757-258-1100 for more information.

Hey Neighbor! THE MOVEMENT DANCE COMPANY SPRING PERFORMANCE

April 28, 2018

The Movement Dance Company (TMDC), a program of Institute for Dance, Inc. (iDance), will hold its annual spring performance, Finding Light, at 7:30 pm at Kimball Theatre. Tickets are \$10 for adults and free for youth 18 & under. For tickets and information, please contact iDance at info@institutefordance.org or 757-229-1717 or visit the website at www.institutefordance.org.

Hey Neighbor! SPOTLIGHT TALENT SHOW AND EXHIBITION

April 29, 2018

At 3 pm at the Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center (9275 Barnes Rd, Toano, VA 23168). Join us for an entertaining afternoon as local youth compete for cash prizes in three categories: Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and Culinary Arts! Tickets \$5 online or \$7 at the door. Visit www.LPSWilliamsburg.com/talent-show for more information.

Hey Neighbor! JOIN WMCI THIS SUMMER

April 30-June 28, 2018

This summer, WMCI will offer the many community courses. The cost for each course is \$10/class, to be paid in full on the first day of class. In general, each session holds about 8 classes per course (\$80). W&M faculty, staff, and students always receive a 50% discount (e.g. \$40 for 8 classes).

Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG SPRING ARTS Now through May 1, 2018

With over 50 events covering everything from culinary to fine arts, you'll discover something fresh this spring! ArtsinWilliamsburg.com

Hey Neighbor! CO-OP SHOW AND PUBLIC RECEPTION

May 1 – June 8, 2018

The Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center will hold its second 2018 Members Co-op Show featuring bodies of work of member artists and. All artwork is for sale. Hours: Tues-Sat, 11 am - 3 pm and Sunday, 12-4 pm. For more information, call 757-229-4949 or seewww.visitWCAC.org. WCAC is located in the Blue Building at 110 Westover Avenue. Free.

Hey Neighbor! THE MUSCARELLE MUSEUM OF ART WILL HOST SERIES

May 3-6, 2018

Tickets for all events available at www.muscarelle.org/wine/auction/. Early ticket purchase is recommended, as many of the events traditionally sell out early.

Waypoint Dinner, May 3, 6 pm at Waypoint Seafood & Grill. Kentucky Bred Dinner, May 4, 7-9 pm at The Williamsburg Winery. An evening of all things thoroughbred. Champagne Pairing, May 5, in Sheridan Gallery at the Muscarelle Museum of Art. A posh reception that takes place prior to Wine & Run for the Roses with champagne, sturgeon, and caviar. Wine & Run for the Roses, May 5, from 2-7 pm on the lawn of the Muscarelle Museum of Art at 603 Jamestown Road on the campus of William & Mary. Bluegrass, Beer and Barbeque in the 'Burg, May 6, 1-5 pm on the lawn of the Muscarelle Museum of Art. Features traditional southern BBQ from five states, live music, and beer as far as the eye can see.

Hey Neighbor!

YARD SALE

May 5, 2018

Mt. Vernon UMC, 7801 Church Lane, Toano, will hold its annual Yard Sale from 8 am - 1:30 pm. There will be a wide variety of items plus a bake sale, sausage biscuits and hot dogs. From 1 - 1:30 pm, fill a bag with items for only \$5.00. For directions or other information, call the Church office, 757-566-0162.

Hey Neighbor! KIWANIS OF COLONIAL CAPITAL YARD SALE

May 5, 2018

The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Capital is hosting a "yard sale" from 7 am - 1 pm. The event will be held at 1260 Richmond Road (former Goodwill Store) in the Williamsburg Shopping Center. All proceeds from this charitable project will all go to support local youth activities. For information call either Kim Tahey, 757-291-5912 ktahey@midpen.net or Pete Webster, 757-565-0950, email to pwwebster@cox.net.

Hey Neighbor! COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG EM- PLOYEES ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW

May 5-6, 2018

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation employees, volunteers and retirees will once again combine their time and talents for their annual Spring Arts and Crafts Show from 10 am - 5 pm. The show and sale will be held at the Historic Triangle Community Services Building, 312 Waller Mill Road. Admission and parking are free and open to the public.

Hey Neighbor! 39TH ANNUAL NAACP LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS BANQUET

May 6, 2018

At the DoubleTree by Hilton, Williamsburg. Theme: "NAACP: Standing On The Shoulders of Giants" will be the focus of the program this year. Silent Auction/Reception at 4:30 pm, dinner program at 5:30 pm. Proceeds support the Branch civil rights programs and advocacy work, scholarships for graduating seniors, and community outreach efforts. For tickets (\$65) call NAACP Branch Office at 229-3113.

To find a complete list of events and happenings, go to williamsburgneighbors.com and click on Hey Neighbor!

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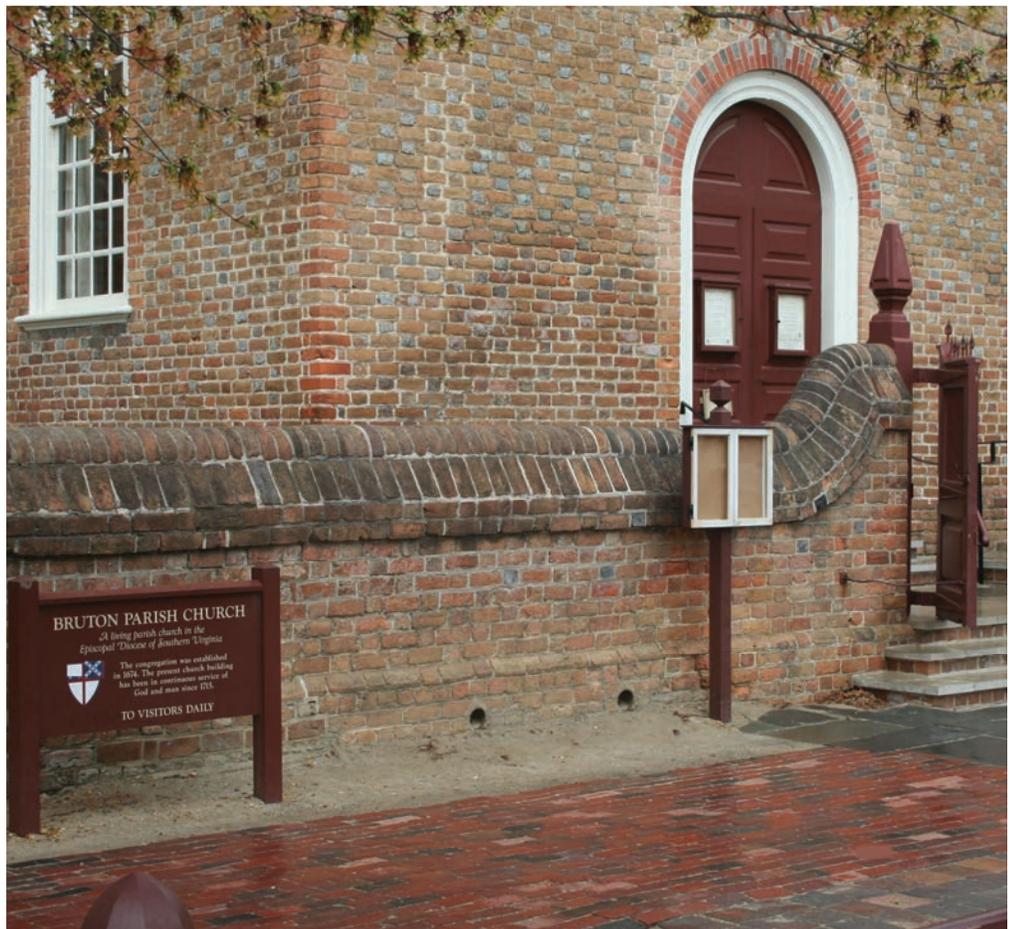
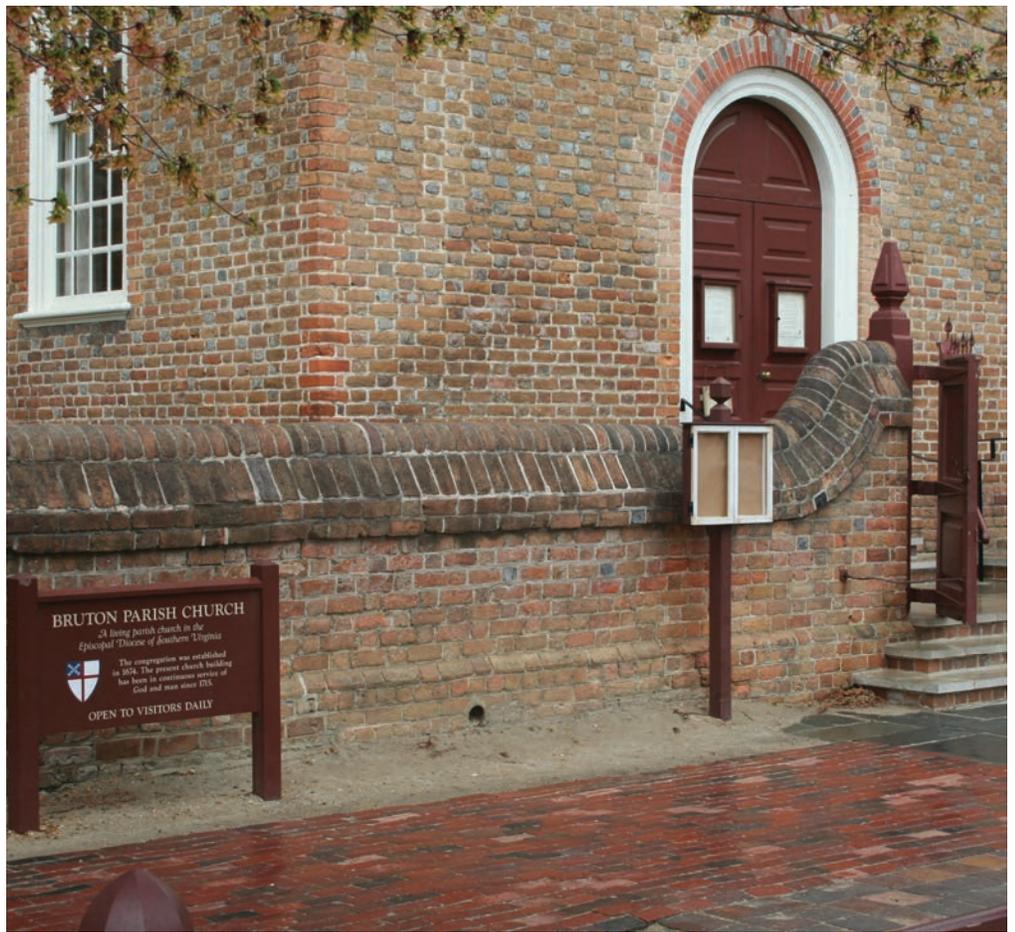
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