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VOL.10, ISSUE 4

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The stories in our music issue are particularly fascinating to me. I've always been aware of the power that music has over me when I listen to it; but when these artists tell their stories and share what it is about music that motivates and inspires them, it is like gaining a special "peak behind the curtain."



Meredith Collins, Publisher

For those of us without musical talent, these musicians seem almost like members of an exclusive club, where we can only watch from the outside with admiration while they make something they work very hard at seem effortless, completely natural and innately beautiful.

It is perhaps serendipitous that, while this issue was coming together, my husband and I went to see Elton John in concert in Charlottesville. We were amazed at his enormous energy (68 years old!) and mesmerized by the way his fingers sailed over the keyboard. The give and take between him and the members of his band was seamless, and mirrored the type of camaraderie described repeatedly by the artists in this issue. Those we interviewed for *Hometown Musicians* described making music as healing, a release, and even therapy. Elton epitomized that sentiment; apologizing at the start of the show that he was just getting over a bad case of the flu. Then, after several hours of non-stop rollicking classics, taking the time at the end of the show to thank the audience profusely for "healing him." NDN

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photography

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portrait

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DR. RAY HENLEY



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

A LIFE IN RHYTHM

By Brandy Centolanza

By day, Dr. Ray Henley is a dentist with Norge Dental Center. By night, he is a drummer and vocalist with the local band, The Blue Pills.

Ray is one of four members of The Blue Pills, a rock and roll cover band that plays monthly at various venues in Williamsburg and Richmond. Their music spans decades and includes songs from The Beatles, Tom Petty, John Mellencamp, Journey, The Allman Brothers, The Eagles and Johnny Cash. “We play anything that will get the party going,”

Ray says.

Ray, who grew up down the road in Poquoson, first began jamming as a toddler. His mother, Tina, still has a photo of him as a mere two-year-old beating a basketball in front of the stereo in time to the music. Ray’s kindergarten teacher saw potential in him and encouraged his mother and his father to enroll him in private drum lessons.

At age 13, Ray received his first real drum set. Six months later, he began performing with his first band. He spent most of high

school playing with the bands Fever and Baton Rouge. Baton Rouge even had an agent who booked the band for private party gigs and events at military bases and other venues throughout Hampton Roads. That band played cover songs as well as original music and also performed live on local radio stations.

“We were very popular,” Ray says.

In addition to Baton Rouge, Ray played with his high school jazz, concert and marching bands. He taught himself to play the banjo.

“I liked it all,” he says. “I liked to play all

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types of music. I would get off the school bus and come straight home to my room and play for hours. I liked everything that was a little bit different. My parents had a lot of rhythm and listened to music all the time. There was music always on the radio in our house. They exposed me to all types of music early on. They liked dancing to Polka.”

Ray’s famous musical influences included jazz drummer Buddy Rich, Neal Peart, the drummer and lead lyricist for the rock band Rush, and the band Chicago.

“Chicago was one of my favorite bands growing up,” he says. “I liked that they also had brass, the trumpets and trombones. I really liked them.”

Despite his success with Baton Rouge, Ray always knew he wanted to pursue college. He took a break from his music to attend Old Dominion University in Norfolk and then the School of Dentistry at Medical College of Virginia (MCV) in Richmond.

While in dental school, Ray and some friends formed a band called The Lads. The band played at college parties and a few establishments in Richmond for four years in the late 1980s. “It was a great stress reliever,” Ray says. “It was always nice to get together with them and play some music.”

Following dental school, Ray spent six years in the U.S. Army and then returned to the area, opening a private dental practice in Yorktown. Ray and his wife, Judy, whom he met on a blind date, eventually settled in Williamsburg to raise a family. (Ray sold his practice and transferred to Norge Dental Center in 2000.)

One day while driving to work, Ray was flooded with nostalgia after hearing a song on the radio, one he used to play with The Lads during his college years. “I called them up and asked if they wanted to get together and start playing again,” Ray says.

Band members reunited for a party in Ray’s neighborhood. The response was so positive that they decided to form a new band called P.R.N., a Latin term meaning “as needed” that doctors use on prescriptions, since three of the band members were dentists and one was a physician. That band played mostly in Richmond at bars and private functions.

“We played a lot of rock and roll covers from the 1950s through the present, as well as a few country songs,” says Ray. “We really grew in popularity.”

Eventually, P.R.N. transformed into a new band called Flat Elvis, named after a cardboard cutout of Elvis Presley that one of the band members always used to bring along to the various gigs. In addition to playing the drums, Ray started to sing with the band.

“Sometimes, playing the drums and singing at the same time can be rather difficult because you can’t do neat things on the drums,” he points out. “I’m concentrating instead on the words.”

Ray commuted to Richmond often to perform with Flat Elvis and then decided to leave the band to focus more on family. His wife was diagnosed with breast cancer, so he took a hiatus from the music scene for about a year.

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Marriel's Journey

She's an award-winning scholar; a writer, editor and reviewer; a world traveler; a writing and math coach for elementary school students; a blogger, a published poet and the author of a children's alphabet book. And she's just twenty one years old.

Marriel MacGowan's life journey began with a lot of challenges to overcome. She was born six weeks early, diagnosed with renal tubular acidosis and in need of developmental intervention due to her premature birth. She spent her first six weeks of life at The Medical College of Virginia and was referred to CDR by her pediatrician when she and her mother, Catherine, returned to Williamsburg. In addition to home visits from the Infant & Parent Program staff and participating in developmental playgroup, Marriel was the third child enrolled in CDR's First Steps Child Care & Development Center at Lafayette High School.

"Marriel loved coming to CDR First Steps. On arriving, she always jumped out of the car and ran to the classroom. CDR kept Marriel on track and challenged."

Marriel's dad, Chris

CDR's early intervention and development programs helped Marriel overcome her early childhood challenges and realize her full potential as an adult. Now a senior at Mount Holyoke College, this accomplished young woman also volunteers her time to help with CDR programs. Last summer, she worked on a dinosaur project for children in developmental playgroup and completed two internships at the same time.

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REHABILITATION



With his wife's health improved and his children now older (their sons, Evan and Carson, are 16 and 13, respectively), Ray reconnected with some of his former band members to form yet another new band, Men of a Certain Age. The band renamed themselves to the catchier The Blue Pills (in reference to Viagra®, "the little blue pill.")

"The best part about being in a band is the camaraderie," Ray says. "We text each other often when we need to get together and play because it is such a great release. It is a lot of fun. We keep surprising ourselves."

The Blue Pills spend the winter months working on their schedule and learning new tunes to keep things fresh. Ray and the other members of The Blue Pills, Dr. Bryan Brassington, Brian Marron, and Todd Colls, play frequently throughout Williamsburg including at Cogan's Deli & Sports Pub in New Town, Daddy's Tavern in Norge, and the 2nd Sundays Art & Music Festival in downtown Williamsburg. They also play in Richmond and, last year, the band performed at the Urbanna Oyster Festival.

"That was a blast," says Ray.

Though circumstances have caused him to leave drumming behind for periods at a time, Ray loves being on stage and always finds a way to get back up there.

"To me, music is the great escape," Ray says. "You can't create a drug that makes you feel the way you feel when you are performing. Whether you are playing for ten people or one thousand, it is always a great rush. It is a lot of fun."

Not only does he like to perform, but Ray also enjoys listening to other local musicians.

"We have some really awesome musicians in this area," notes Ray. "These aren't garage bands. They are phenomenal musicians like us who are doing what they are doing for fun because the music is a part of who they are."

Ray is also hoping one day his sons will see that music is also a part of them. His youngest son plays the drums and the piano while his oldest son is a roadie for The Blue Pills, and also helps with the musical equipment set up for church services every Sunday.

"Music is a powerful thing," Ray says. "When you recognize a song, it can evoke all sorts of emotions."

That is one the best parts about playing for an audience.

"Gigs are made not only by the band but also by the patrons," he says. "Whether you come out to dance or just to listen to music, there is nothing like live music. You can hear a song you've heard one thousand times but in a different way because each band makes it their own. The biggest thing the audience brings is the energy."

Ray looks forward to using his drumsticks and jamming with his band buddies for years to come.

"We hope to be playing at 4:30 in the afternoon at a Holiday Inn for the early bird buffet," says Dr. Ray Henley with a laugh. "It doesn't matter where it is or how it is as long as we get to do it the way we want to do it." NDN



Chanteuse

By Narielle Living

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Music has always been a part of Liana Dagmar's life. "I have been singing since I was born," she says. "Like everyone else, I have good days and bad days. No matter what, music either enhances my day or helps me through it."

Even as a child, Liana was very connected to music. "I constantly performed for my parents and their friends, and I received so many

accolades that reinforced my singing." Liana's confidence as a kid was also bolstered by her singing. "I always understood that wherever I was, having music would be an icebreaker, so it gave me a lot of confidence as a child. I wasn't walking into rooms singing, but I knew that if I sang then everything changed, always."

Music was part of everything she did, both in and out of school. Even at night, she slept

with the radio next to her head so she could listen to songs. "I sang in school plays and auditioned for anything that had to do with singing. I sang in the school chorus, a small ensemble, and that was really instrumental in honing my singing skills." Her school chorus had three sections: alto, soprano and second soprano. Liana was able to sing all three.

She credits her music teacher with help-

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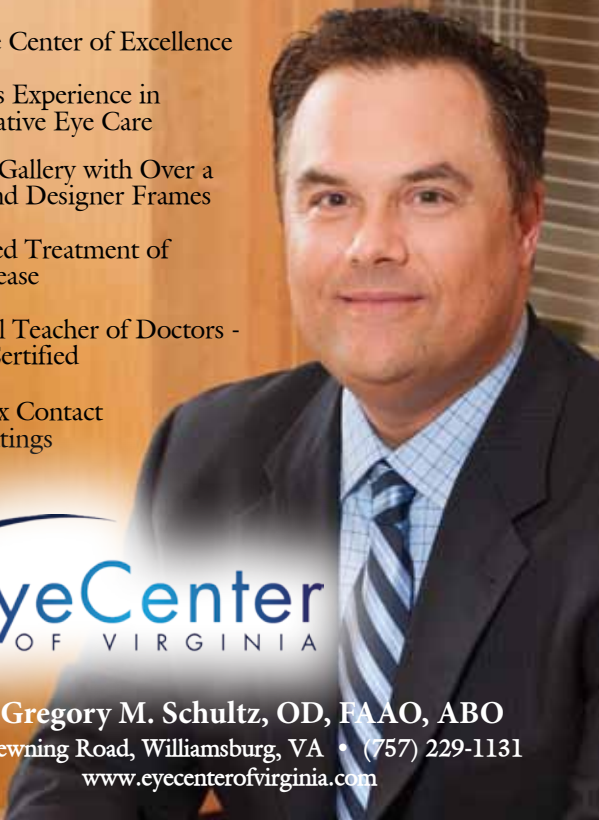
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ing her become a better singer. “It was amazing, because our instructor would come in in the morning and hit the first note and we would start. We learned about posture, harmony and pitch. All of these things were being instilled in me as if I were having a private music lesson every day. Thankfully, the public school system served me well, but I didn’t really understand what a gift that was until later.”

Born at Fort Eustis to a military family, Liana grew up in Hampton, Virginia. She always loved Williamsburg and hoped to someday settle in this area. That desire came from a deep-seated love of history, something that her father and grandfather instilled in her. “My grandfather was also in the Army, and he and my dad were both into history. They would bring me to Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown a lot, and we’d watch history documentaries on TV. I developed this love for history, and because of that I always knew I wanted to settle here in Williamsburg.”

She moved away for a short time and spent a year in South Carolina and two years in St Augustine, Florida, another area rich in history. She gravitated back to Williamsburg, however, for herself and her son, Connor. “Of course I wanted to raise Connor here in Williamsburg, and it’s been great. He’s a junior at Lafayette High School. He’s a lacrosse player, and he’s a wonderful son.”

Today, Liana refers to herself as having a dual career: singer and aesthetician. Currently operating a skin care boutique in the Arts District, Petite Skin Care Studio of Williamsburg, Liana loves her work.

“I consider it having a dual career, because I love them both for different reasons,” she says. She got into skin care very early in her life. In her teens Liana suffered from really bad skin. “My dad had it, so I inherited it from him. I went to different dermatologists and everything was always so severe back then. We did things like Retin-A treatments. But realistically, a teenager is not going to abide by those kinds of skin care rules. You’re not going to wait twenty minutes before you apply it after you wash your skin and not go out in the sun. So, nothing really helped my skin.”

Liana had resolved herself to thinking she had bad skin and would simply have to live with it. When she was about 20 years old, she went to see an aesthetician. Liana remembers this as being a major turning point in her life. “She basically took me under her wing. Within four months’ time she turned my skin around so much that I started getting compliments from people walking down the street. That’s when I became interested in the whole science of it.”

She has been practicing as an aesthetician for about ten years and loves her work. “I practiced in South Carolina and St. Augustine, but when I moved back here I wasn’t sure if I should start a business, being kind of new to town again. I thought perhaps I should sing and get to know people before I actually opened a space. That’s been helpful, because the people who come to see me sing are some of my best clients.”

Originally, Liana’s skin care studio was on Prince George Street. She has recently moved into another space, and Petite Skin Care Studio of Williamsburg is now on Richmond Road, on the second floor of the building that houses radio station WMBG. She loves the fact that there is music in her building and is excited about being able to spend time with people and help them with relaxation and skin care.

Liana has often performed with fellow musician, Dave Waltrip, in the

band, The Hark. “David was living in Virginia Beach for a time, and he was very big on the music scene before I ever started singing professionally. I really admired him and got to know him later as a professional musician. But we didn’t ever work together until he moved here to Williamsburg/Toano where he grew up, and it was just this weird circumstance. I had moved back at the same time from St. Augustine, and we decided to put together this little acoustic act, The Hark. It took off.” They still play together, but Liana also plays solo now. She is branching off into other projects, as well, including experimenting with jazz and Latin music. “I sing Spanish, too. I’m Hispanic. My parents are from Puerto Rico, so I have that to explore. There are so many avenues that keep me interested and invested in singing.”

Liana currently performs at the Trellis where she plays an eclectic mix of music. She has no favorite genre of music and admits that she is attracted to a wide array of styles. “I think it comes from sleeping with that radio as a kid,” she says. “The important thing to me is to connect with the audience. I remember seeing Conway Twitty commercials and gravitating toward his singing prowess. I just knew that he reached in on an emotional level. I’m very attracted to the songs that allow me to emote in a real way.”

It is evident that Liana loves to be able to express through music. “Whether the audience knows it or not, and usually they do,” she says. There’s always a moment where the audience and the artist meet. It’s hard to explain. Magic happens within that space. It’s like your heart and your body are getting chills from hearing a song. It’s like love.”

Liana has solid, real world advice for younger people considering a career in music. “Definitely go to school. Allow yourself more than one interest. Although it sounds cliché, allow yourself something to fall back on. Learn an instrument. Attempt to write your own songs, even if they are only for yourself. Enjoy the actual art and don’t get so caught up in making it or fame because fame is a very strange thing. Don’t lose sight of what music really is. It’s a gift.”

She sees Williamsburg as being on the cusp of a tremendous music scene. She believes opportunities for local musicians have expanded, especially in the last five or six years. She also credits the Second Sundays event at Blue Talon Bistro as being instrumental in this growth. “Second Sundays has grown musically from having one stage to three stages, and it happens every second Sunday of the month, March through December. From what I’ve seen, I think the music scene started growing with this. There’s always been some form of art, but in the last six years I think music has really taken a front seat.” She goes on to add that the Winter Blues Jazz Festival was just in its second year, and sold out, and there are always different concerts at other venues.

“I’m very excited for Williamsburg, I think we’re definitely on the ground floor. Something is happening. Some kind of musical vibration is happening.” Liana credits the community as being supportive of arts and music. “I think it’s wonderful to see the support for the arts as a whole in our community. It’s wonderful to see everyone coming together in that realm, and I hope it continues. I’m looking forward to seeing more.” NDN

Liana Dagmar performs at The Trellis Bar and Grill in Williamsburg on Sundays from 6 to 8 p.m.

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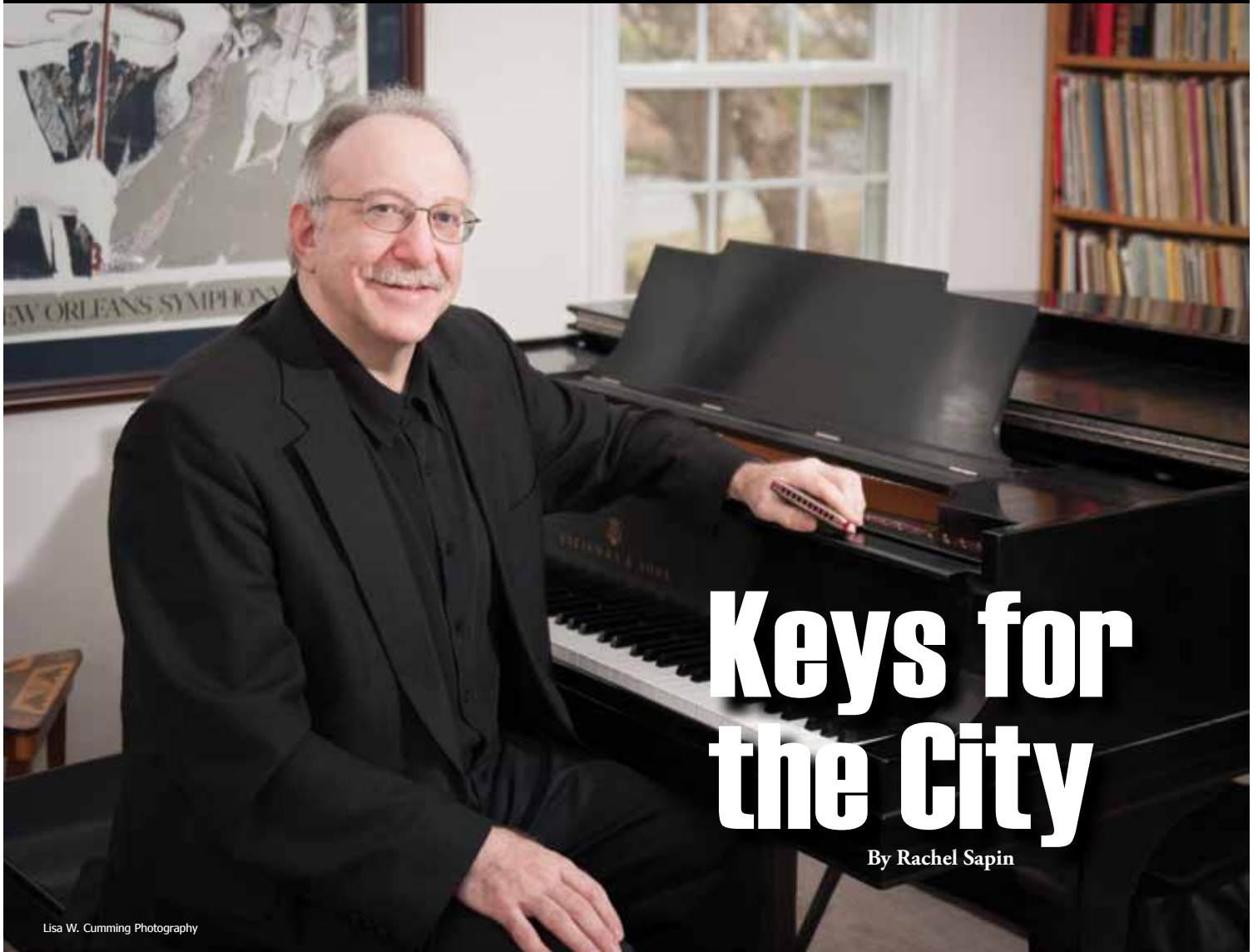


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HARRIS SIMON



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Keys for the City

By Rachel Sapin

“I feel very lucky to be a musician” says Harris Simon, a longtime faculty member of the William & Mary Department of Music. “When I am playing well, I feel connected to something deep inside me. An audience can tell when that is happening. I really enjoy that moment.”

As a teenager, Harris was a blues fanatic. He

taught himself to play blues on the harmonica, piano and guitar. “I used to go to clubs in Greenwich Village to hear great blues musicians like Muddy Waters and Howlin’ Wolf,” he says.

During his senior year in high school, Harris started going to a jazz workshop where he discovered the music of Miles Davis, Art Blakey, Horace Silver and many others. “Soon after, I

started hanging out at jazz clubs and going to jam sessions,” he says.

In his early twenties, Harris moved to Manhattan where one of the first places he lived was in a performance loft called “Jazzmania.” The owner let him stay for a minimal rent. It was not unusual for him to come home from a gig and see 100 people in his “living room” catch-

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ing the last set.

After that, Harris moved to another loft that he shared with saxophonist, Bill Evans, and some other musician friends.

“We used to have jam sessions at all times of the day and night. There were no neighbors so we didn’t have to worry about complaints. It was an exciting time. Bill got the call to join Miles Davis’ band, and I was able to go to the gigs and hang out with the band backstage,” he says.

In 1983, after several years of “paying dues” on the New York City jazz scene, Harris decided to make a move. “Some of my friends were living in Europe and were doing well. I have family in Sweden, and they were very generous and let me stay with them,” he says.

While living in Sweden, Harris started getting work touring with different bands. “I remember one night, on the way to a gig in northern Sweden, we pulled to the side of road to gaze up at the Northern Lights.”

After a couple of years in Europe, having played gigs in Zurich, Vienna, Helsinki, Oslo, Warsaw and many other places, Harris decided that it was time to come home. He still visits Sweden every summer to play gigs and spend

time with family and old friends.

Not long after he returned to New York City, Harris was introduced by a mutual acquaintance to a classical pianist named Christine Niehaus. He went to hear her perform a few times and vice versa. Eventually they realized that it wasn’t only each other’s music that they liked. They were married in 1991.

Back in the United States, Harris received calls for gigs in Sweden, Japan, Estonia and the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland. Christine was invited to perform in Venice, Rome, Paris and Hong Kong.

“We always traveled together. We joked that we were essential to each other. We would carry each other’s music,” he says. Harris proposed to Christine during their stay in Paris.

In 1994, Christine was invited to be Artist-in-Residence by the Music Department at William & Mary. She moved to Williamsburg for the year and Harris visited her regularly and also gave some concerts. In 1995, Harris was invited to teach Jazz History, and Christine was invited to teach piano and take over as Applied Music Coordinator.

The move to Williamsburg took some adjustment. “The first place we lived in Williams-

burg was right next to the woods. I was used to sirens blaring and cars honking in New York City, but I couldn’t sleep because the crickets were keeping me up.”

Another thing he wasn’t used to was how friendly everyone was. “We’d walk around and complete strangers would wave hello, and I’d say, ‘Christine, do we know those people?’ ”

Today Harris teaches jazz piano, and harmonica at William & Mary. He also directs the Student Jazz Combo. “I’ve been doing that for over 20 years now” he says.

Harris says one of his most memorable moments with the Jazz Combo was during Queen Elizabeth II’s visit to the school, marking the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. She was scheduled to make a speech at the Wren Building, and the Jazz Combo was asked to entertain the people waiting for her arrival.

“She was late, so we ended up playing for almost two hours to a massive crowd,” he remembers.

The W&M Jazz Combo, joined by the Jazz Ensemble, performs two concerts a year at the Kimball Theater.

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W&M and he regularly collaborates on performances and creative musical projects.

Every year he collaborates with Associate Director of Choirs, Jamie Bartlett, on the Botetourt Chamber Singers Gala fundraiser. He has performed and recorded a CD with English & Africana Studies Professor Hermine Pinson. Former band director Mike Williamson has arranged and conducted performances of Harris' original compositions.

One of the most exciting collaborations was with Professor of Music and composer, Sophia Serghi. "Sophia and I worked with former Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia and poet, John Charles Thomas, putting together a program of music and verse," he explains.

In 2013, the program premiered at Carnegie Recital Hall in New York City and performed by Sophia Serghi on piano, with W&M faculty member pianist Anna Kijanowska and Harris on harmonica and piano. The performance received a standing ovation from a packed house.

Around town, Harris has been very busy as well. He has performed several times with Janna Hymes and the Williamsburg Symphonia including their holiday show and last year's Cabaret and Cocktails concert. This year was

the second year that he performed in Williamsburg's Winter Blues Jazz Fest. He has been a regular at An Occasion for the Arts performing every year since 1995. He has also presented lectures and given performances at the Williamsburg Regional Library and the DeWitt Wallace Gallery.

Harris has performed many times in the Kimball Theater, and he feels a special connection to the theater's wonderful Steinway concert grand piano. "Christine and I went up to the Steinway factory in New York City to select the piano for the Kimball. We ended up with a great piano that is a pleasure to play," he says. When the piano arrived in Williamsburg, Harris organized an inaugural concert and invited all of the best local pianists to perform.

Aromas Coffeehouse on Prince George Street has been the home of "Jazz on Tuesdays" since 2001. Recently, owners Don and Geri Pratt joined Mayor Clyde Haulman, Cary Carson, former Vice President of Research at Colonial Williamsburg, as well as other friends and fans for a ceremony celebrating those many years of music making. A plaque was placed on the wall with a couple of photos of Harris in action at the keyboard.

Harris also plays for the brunch every Sunday at the Opus 9 Steakhouse as well as occasional gigs at Berret's, Blue Talon, the Williamsburg Lodge and other venues in Williamsburg. "It's nice that I can keep so busy and still stay close to home," he says.

Whenever he performs, Harris always plays some tunes on the harmonica. "The harmonica has a unique sound," he says. "It's a very expressive instrument."

Every summer Christine and Harris perform as pianists at the annual SPAH Convention (The Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica). Harris has accompanied Howard Levy, considered the best diatonic harmonica player in the world (the diatonic harmonica is the one without the button). Christine has accompanied Robert Bonfiglio, considered the premier classical harmonica player. (He plays chromatic harmonica, the one with the button.)

Harris Simon says that he has learned an incredible amount about playing the harmonica by meeting all of these great musicians. He loves playing piano and harmonica, but the harmonica has one big advantage. "Unlike a piano, it fits in your pocket," he says. NDN

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Diggin' Music

By Alison Johnson



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

A love for music came early for Joe B. Jones, literally even earlier than he can remember. According to his father, baby Joe would sit in his high chair and wave his arms around in time with songs from classical music records as if conducting the orchestra.

"Some of my first memories are of my dad playing his records when he worked at home,"

Joe says. "He had a huge collection of records. I would get all excited when he'd put his music on."

Music has never stopped being exciting for Joe, 55, who now plays bass guitar and sings harmony and backup vocals in regular gigs at Center Street Grill with singer and guitarist Chris Krehbiel, 49. The longtime duo also has

added fiddler, Kathy Parisi, to spice up parts of their sets.

Joe and Chris play cover songs from multiple genres, including folk-rock, classic rock and bluegrass, with an improvisational bent that emulates live jazz performances. A few favorite musical sources are the Grateful Dead, Simon & Garfunkel, Dire Straits, Pink Floyd,

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Van Morrison, the Beatles, Mumford & Sons and Lady Gaga.

The musicians perform without a set play list, preferring a “seat-of-the-pants” approach to showcase songs differently each time and react to a particular audience. “It’s unpredictable, never routine,” Joe says. “I’ve always found the kind of out-of-control aspect of live music to be very cool. If you’re not trying to have a perfect master plan and you’re in the moment, it’s more interesting and exciting. It can be a train wreck, too, but it can also be really great and fresh.”

Joe has never relied on music for income. By profession, he is Director of the William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research. His decision not to major in the performing arts in college was based largely on advice from one of his music teachers in childhood.

“His opinion was, ‘Do something else. Don’t ruin it by having to depend on it,’” Joe recalls. “That allows me to keep it as a hobby to simply love and enjoy.”

Born in Massachusetts, Joe spent most of his school years in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While his parents weren’t musicians, his father, a political science professor, had a huge collection of records and his mother, a homemaker,

enjoyed listening to music and played a little ukulele; he also had an aunt who was a music teacher. The first band that young Joe fell in love with was Herb Alpert & The Tijuana Brass, an energy-packed, Latin-influenced group with guitars, trumpet, trombone and piano.

Joe began playing the saxophone around the third grade and continued that through high school, taking advanced private lessons and earning prominent spots in local and state bands. “I had an early talent in jazz and improvisational styles,” he says. “It just came naturally to me.” By middle school, Joe also had added piano lessons to the mix.

At Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Joe and three friends formed a jazz quartet that got invitations to play at fraternity parties. “That’s a venue that definitely teaches you to pay attention to what’s going on around you,” he notes.

On the academic front, Joe majored in geology with minors in archaeology and anthropology. In 1986, he came to William & Mary to earn a master’s degree in American Studies, focusing on historical archaeology and ethnohistory, or the study of different cultures and indigenous customs. He since has worked on

archaeological and historic resources projects in and around Virginia, Nevada, Utah and Colorado, tapping his interests in early American and frontier history.

W&M’s Center for Archaeological Research, founded in 1988, is a nonprofit consulting firm that performs cultural resource research for government agencies, environmental and engineering firms and developers. If a historically significant site is in the path of new development, from highway widening to construction projects, contracted archaeologists can provide surveying and excavation services.

“In Virginia, we have a combination of a ton of history through all periods, and then also a lot of growth,” Joe says. “It creates a real need for archaeologists.”

As Joe was beginning his career in the late 1980s, his continuing fascination with music turned to a new instrument: the bass guitar. He had been listening to more rock music and had become a big fan of the Grateful Dead, who mixed musical genres with an improvisational style. (He estimates he’s seen about 60 of their live shows.)

When Joe listened to rock songs, he found his ear drawn to the bass guitar. While the instruments look like regular guitars, they have

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strings tuned to lower-octave notes and traditionally are played one note at a time to provide the backbeat in a song.

"I wanted to play an instrument that was part of the rhythm section in the band, rather than a lead instrument, so playing consistently throughout the music rather than just periodic horn parts or solos," he explains. "Also an instrument that is a component of a much wider variety of styles of music that I love: rock, jazz, blues, bluegrass, blues, pretty much all genres."

As Joe basically taught himself bass guitar, he and Chris Krehbiel, a software engineer by trade, began playing together and joined a Grateful Dead cover band. "We didn't get many opportunities to play out, but I settled into a fun habit of jamming with those guys until I got pretty good. After that band fell apart, I continued to play and jam with just Chris, mostly just at home in our garages."

Joe and Chris had sporadic gigs at house parties and friends' gatherings until about six years ago, when a friend invited them to play at his deli and wine shop. About four years ago, they substituted for a regular musician at Center Street Grill in New Town after a last-minute cancellation. Joe, Chris and often Kathy now play there twice a month, the first and third

Saturdays, from about 8 p.m. to midnight.

"To me, a typical live performance feels adventurous, challenging, incredibly fun, incredibly frustrating and, when things go well, literally total bliss," Joe says. "It's kind of like diving for pearls."

Every performance brings surprises. Sometimes Joe feels a song sounded terrible, whether because he messed up or he and Chris weren't in sync. "Maybe nobody in the audience even noticed, but I did," he says. On the other hand, a song that he's played hundreds of times can suddenly become exciting. "Something might sound really good that I've never noticed before," he explains. "It's amazing."

The four-hour standing sets can be exhausting. "We generally take a couple of breaks, but my lower back can be pretty sore the next day," Joe reports. "It's not too bad, though. It's really fun."

Joe and Chris try to respond to subtle changes in the environment at each gig: how full the room is, for example, or how much people seem to be paying attention. Local musicians, Joe feels, should stay humble and focus on giving their audience a good experience, not any personal ambitions as an artist.

"Bottom line, in my opinion, is more folks

will come to your gigs if they think it will be fun," he says. "It's not always about the music only, and at least in our case it's never about mimicking songs and performing them note-for-note as on some recording. Instead, it's about the power and magic of a whole host of things coming together at certain points."

The local music scene has grown more active and connected in recent years, which Joe credits in part to social media. That has given him more chances to sit in with other musicians to "mix things up, and to enjoy the thrill and new differences or challenges that brings to the music."

When Joe isn't working or playing music, he enjoys mountain biking, hiking, camping and watching his cat help with yard work by catching voles that tear up his lawn. Recently divorced, he has one daughter, Annabel, who is a junior English major at Virginia Commonwealth University and a talented dancer.

At home, Joe carves out time to practice bass guitar three or four days a week, for about an hour at a time. "It's like being an athlete; you've got to exercise and stay limber," Joe Jones says. "Then on game day, you need teamwork and the ability to react to things you can't control, so you can just keep playing." NDN

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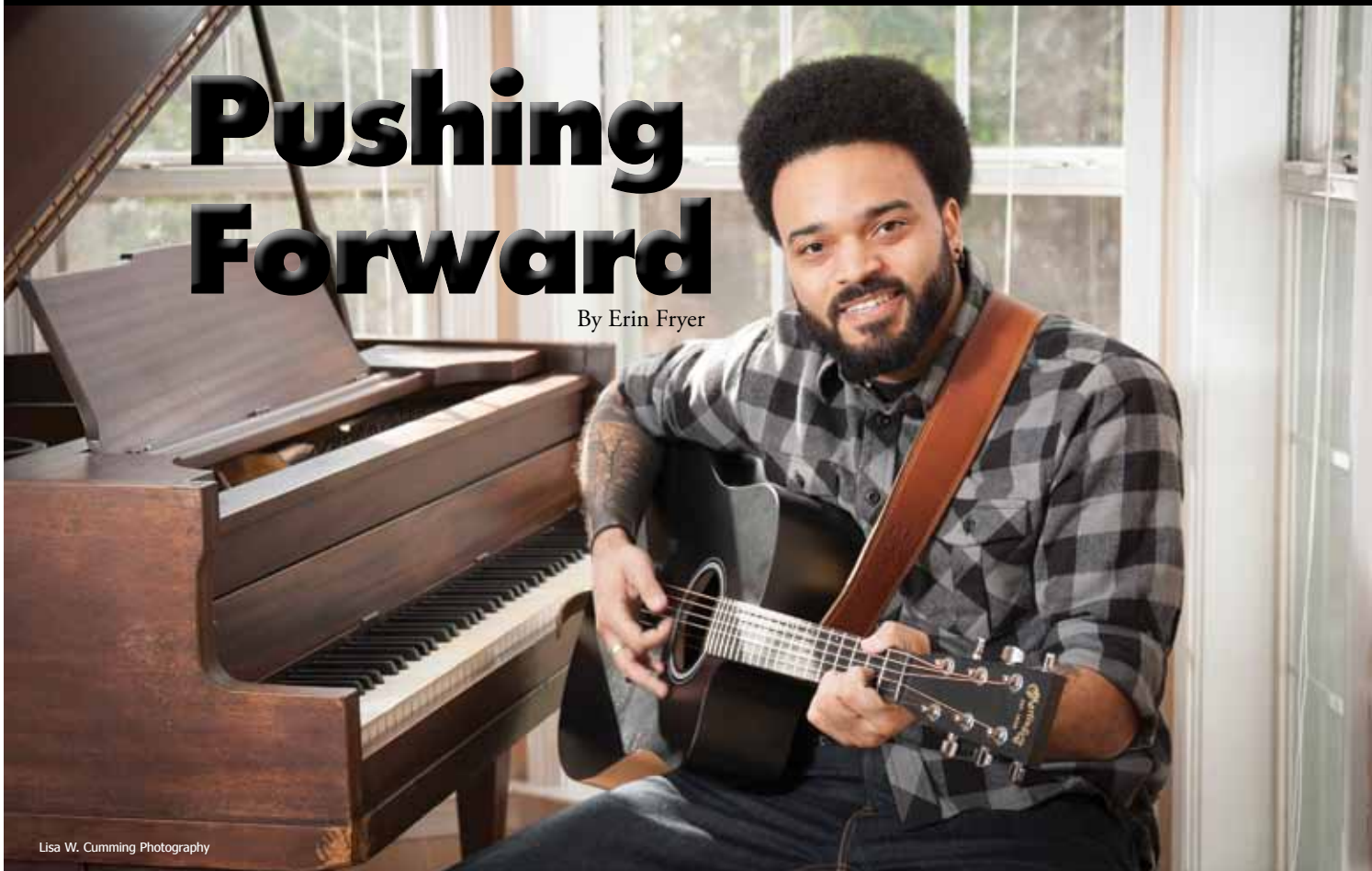
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Pushing Forward

By Erin Fryer



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Everyone experiences challenges at some point in their lifetime, but sometimes it's our hardships that force us to evolve as individuals. Just ask Sammy Lee.

Local singer/songwriter, Sammy Lee is the epitome of someone who has been thrown some major curve balls in life, and he has overcome challenges that have threatened to put an end to his dreams.

Sammy, an acoustic guitar player who can often be found fingerpicking and playing acoustic folk blues at local restaurants and bars, works a full-time job by day, attends courses at William & Mary by night, and then, just for

fun, shares his love for music all around the Tidewater area.

He draws inspiration from the likes of Bill Withers, The Allman Brothers, the Temptations and more. Though he writes a lot of his own music, he alternates between originals and covers, depending on the audience.

Sammy has been a musician for the past 15 years, but he says he got his start at just five years old while sitting in time-out. "When I would get put in time-out I would have to sit at the piano bench in front of the piano, and I would just sit there for hours and just keep playing, even after time-out was over," he says

with a laugh.

Though he got his start on the piano, Sammy joined the school band in middle school and started to learn woodwinds and brass instruments. When he started college, he decided to learn how to play the guitar to impress the ladies.

He was born into a military family, so he moved around while growing up. He graduated from York High School and went on to major in government at William & Mary.

After graduating from college, Sammy found himself in the middle of the recession, and jobs were hard to come by. He tried out a few jobs

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in Washington D.C. and New York, but ultimately decided to chase his passion for music.

He loaded up his guitar and set his sights on Nashville, where he lived for three years, playing the bars and living every musician's dream.

A few years into Sammy's stint in Music City, something happened. His career hit a brick wall when his body literally stopped working. "I started to get very sick," he says. "I was playing less and less music until eventually I ended up in the hospital where I stayed for about a month."

Sammy found out he had been undiagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) since the age of

15. He always had symptoms, but he is a very adaptable person and would find new ways of doing things, which made it difficult to diagnose.

"When it hit in Nashville, it was secondary-progressive," Sammy says. "It's not the most aggressive form of MS, but it's still very scary and hard to manage. I was told I would never walk again. I have a walker, a cane and a wheel chair."

Worst of all, Sammy was told he would never play music again.

Fast-forward a few years and Sammy is defying the odds and working his hardest to keep

pushing forward. He had to learn how to walk, speak and use his hands all over again. Though he isn't back to playing music full-time, he has overcome so much to get to where he is today.

Since being diagnosed with MS, Sammy's focus has shifted from the bright lights of Nashville to things like holding a steady job to ensure he has health insurance. He recently got promoted to manager at Verizon Wireless, and most nights after work he heads to W&M where he attends night classes. Sammy expects to obtain his Master's of Business Administration next year.

On top of his hectic schedule, Sammy is still



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a huge fixture in the Williamsburg music scene. He says his favorite thing about the Williamsburg music scene is that there is one. "When I first started there wasn't much of a live music scene in town. People had to travel to Newport News or Richmond for live music."

While he still loves to play, Sammy deals with a lot of chronic pain as a result of his MS. "Some days I wake up and I can't move my hands," he says. "I have lost a lot of my soloing ability too. I can't do fingerpicking as intensively, and I've lost some of my vocal range."

Sammy says he loves playing where he got his start, at Center Street Grill in New Town. He also loves Oceans & Ale and anywhere with a patio, like Berret's Tap House in Colonial Williamsburg.

"I don't mind being the guy in the corner strumming away on my guitar," Sammy says. "I love when I see people start to tap their foot and sing along. It's great when they comment and say they have heard enough covers and want to hear some of my original stuff."

Sometimes he'll collaborate with some of his friends at events like the 2nd Sundays Festival in Colonial Williamsburg. "We are the musicians of this area," he says. "We are fighting the good fight, and if we just make a little bit of

money or get a tab at the bar we are happy because we are doing what we love."

When writing originals, Sammy says his technique is a little different from most musicians. "People usually write the lyrics and then they write the music, but I do the opposite," he says. "I like to write the music and then write my lyrics. That is something that really made me different in Nashville."

He admits before he got sick, he envisioned himself as being a lifelong musician living his dream playing the bars in Nashville. Though his initial plans were derailed, his new dreams are sure to benefit local musicians for years to come.

After he receives his MBA, Sammy hopes to open a non-profit record label and studio in the Tidewater area. "There's so much musical talent here that needs to be nurtured," he says. "I want to find bands and musicians on the brink and help them with the business side of things to help them succeed."

In Nashville, Sammy says there are a lot of "sharks" that make a lot of false promises and end up taking musician's money, and some even lose rights to their own music, which is something he found out the hard way.

Helping the local musicians who support

Sammy is what drove him to pursue his MBA. "I know a lot about music and I know the basics about the business side of the industry, but I need the degree that is going to give me the clout and give me the accounting and marketing knowledge that I need. I want to help get these musicians where they need to be."

When asked how he balances school, work and playing his gigs, Sammy laughs and says, "I don't sleep. It's all about time management and just grinding it out."

Sammy, who moved in with his parents for a short term while he recovered after his stint in the hospital in Nashville, is back on his own and living in Williamsburg with his pit bull mix, Hendrix. Any time Sammy is playing a show, Hendrix is not far from his side, and can sometimes be found lying at his feet or howling along to the music.

While Sammy still has to deal with chronic pain and other hardships because of MS, it's safe to say that with the help of music, he will live out his dreams one way or another. "I'm happy that I have been forced to evolve," Sammy says. "I have the urge to give back and foster the culture and community of musicians in our area, and my sickness made me bring that dream to the forefront of my priorities." NDN

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Music *for* Everyone

By Naomi Tene' Austin

Since 1966, when he got his first acoustic guitar for Christmas, Von Jose' Roberts has been a musical force to be reckoned with, both as a vocalist and guitar player. "I'm the oldest of four and everybody in my family played an instrument so music was in my bones," says the lifelong musician. "Mom and Dad played piano and so did my sisters. My brother played trumpet and I started on guitar when I was in the 6th grade."

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By the age of 16 he was performing weekend gigs on the road with Bob Marshall and the Crystals, one of Virginia's biggest bands of the day. “The thirty passenger band bus would come by and pick me up every Friday evening and I would get on it and disappear for the weekend,” he recalls, “I would fall asleep and wake up in Philadelphia on a Saturday.” By the time he graduated high school he was interacting with music legends like Count Basie, Cannonball Adderley, Thelonious Monk, Jimmie Smith, Nina Simone, Muddy Waters, and a host of other artists that came through the area to play the renowned Hampton Jazz Festival.

Raised in the Buckroe Beach area of Hampton, Von Jose' was a self-proclaimed military brat. The military structure and family musicianship that defined his upbringing would follow him throughout his life. While studying at Hampton University, he would excel in football and join the ROTC all while playing night gigs with musicians like The Delfonics, Millie Jackson and Tyrone Davis. Upon college graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Army and moved to Washington State. “I was a Calvary Officer on the search team in charge of the rescue effort at Mount St. Helens when it erupted,” says the retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, “and at the same time I was still playing at the NCO clubs in Washington.”

As his military career took him around the globe, he would build a remarkable portfolio as an international musician, jamming with bands from Norway to France, Finland, Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Spain where he was charged with assembling a U.S. joint community in support of a NATO mission. “That was a cool moment because I got to present briefs to the Spanish Parliament and the King of Spain.” During his stint in Korea, word got out that he could put a band together and before he knew it, he was providing entertainment for the U.S. Ambassador. “We only did three songs in a three hour set,” he explains. “It was all KC and the Sunshine Band. That's all they wanted to hear.”

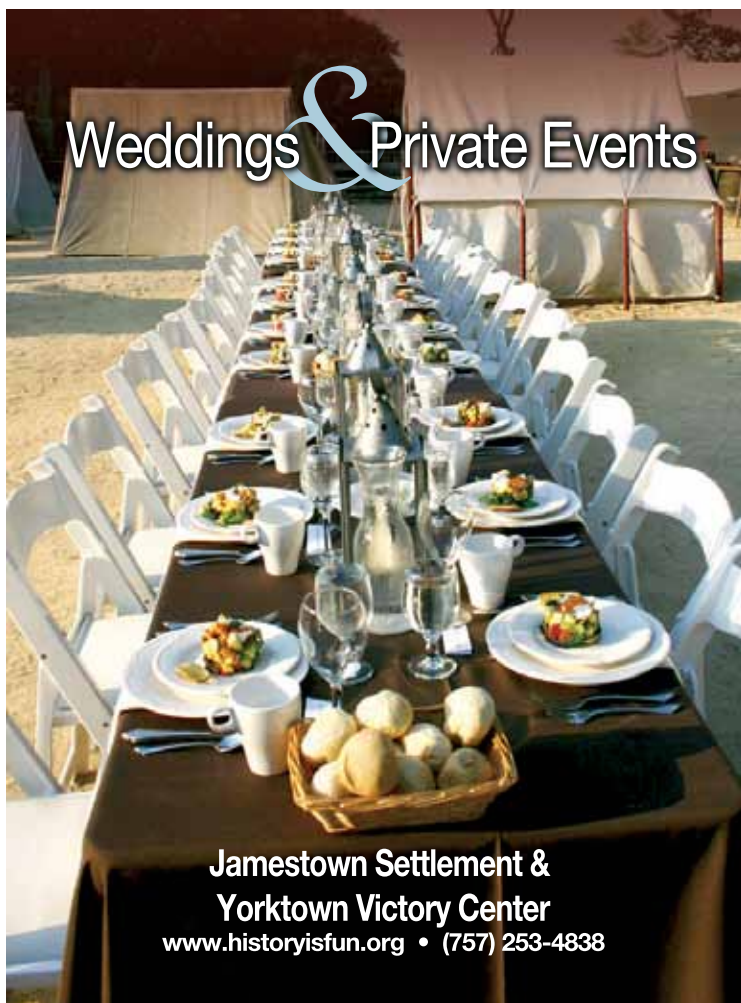
Von Jose' would go on to serve as captain for a United Nations observer group in the Middle East where he was on UN violations from the front lines.” Traveling across Lebanon, Israel, Syria and Damascus, he was in the center of battle. “We were getting shot at daily, witnessing roadside bombs and devastation all around us.”

He is proud of his service in the Middle East and pleased with the fact that he met his wife there. “Jenny was a school teacher for the UN,” he says. “I proposed to her eight weeks after we met, and we were married one year later.” The newlyweds moved to Savannah, Georgia. As luck would have it, this was a central hub for retired jazz musicians. There Von Jose' linked up with Joe Jones, jazz musician and former road manager for Otis Redding.

“Joe was the one who really taught me the ins and outs of jazz. He had me playing bass for guys who played in bands for Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Johnny Mercer, guys like that.”

As his military career continued to progress, they would move on to Belgium where Von Jose' played for the country's number one act, Boogie Boy Ambach. “That was the first time I played to a crowd of 20,000.”

During this stint he had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play the celebrated North Sea Jazz Festival in Rotterdam. “The way they treat musicians in Europe, you wouldn't believe it. Top notch from limo service to treating the entire band to dinner and having everything laid



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out at the venue, from towels to bottled water,” he fondly remembers.

Though he tried to keep his military service isolated from his musician night life, the more popular he became in Belgium, the harder it became to separate the two. “I was a deputy to the U.S. Military Rep to NATO during the week, and I played for a rock band in Brussels on the weekends. It got so that people on base started to recognize me from my gigs.”

It would turn out that being exposed as an undercover rock star was the least of his concerns. Years of balancing his merciless schedule would eventually catch up with him. “At the age of 39, I had a massive heart attack. It almost killed me. You know, you’ve got to stay in good shape when you’re in the military but I was balancing way too much,” he says. “While it had a lot to do with heredity, burning the candle at both ends didn’t help. I was doing triathlons, doing the military and doing my music. I just conked out.” Thankfully, Von Jose’ has long since returned to good health.

Judging by the countless plaques, records, instruments, and keepsakes adorning his prized music room, it is clear that he and his wife are enjoying a charmed life. In 2013, after retiring from a thriving military career, they decided to relocate to Virginia. Once situated in Williamsburg, he was able to quickly plug into the music scene thanks to local enthusiast and 2nd Sunday Williamsburg Festival coordinator, Shirley Vermillion. “That was the neatest thing that happened when I first got here. I met Shirley and when she heard I played bass she just started introducing me to one artist after another. She really got me connected here.”

Von Jose’ has developed relationships with several musicians, most recently playing with local favorite, Bobby Blackhat Band. “I sat in for their bass player at a jazz festival in Memphis where we were in the top eight finalists out of 257 international bands.” While music is serious business for Von Jose’, he is not a member of any one band but instead jams with several. “Around here I just play music. I show up for gigs, and I don’t mind helping folks out.”

While his local gigs have provided a wonderful outlet for Von Jose’s well-honed talents, his reasons for relocating to Williamsburg were far more significant. In addition to wanting to be closer to his daughters and grandchildren in the Metro DC area, Von Jose’ and his wife came home to care for his mother who had become ill. “Jenny really liked Williamsburg because it reminded her of her hometown in England. Once we got here she suggested that we move mom in permanently. So, last year on Mother’s Day we moved her from Hampton and she came to stay with us. [It was the] best decision we could have made,” he says.

Von Jose’ and Jenny have really embraced their community and in turn, the community has embraced them. “Our holiday season was pretty full,” he says. The couple threw a Christmas party at their home in Ford’s Colony last year and had such a great time getting to know their neighbors that they vowed to make it an annual event. “The people are fantastic, friendly and courteous. After living all around the world, coming here was kind of a culture shock just because people are so friendly.”

“I remember after being here for just a short time, we stopped at Chick-fil-la and this child held the door open for my wife. We just looked at each other like –Wow, we must be in Williamsburg.” NDN

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BRANDON MUSKO



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ONE BUSY SAX MAN

By Lillian Stevens

There's a vibrant live music scene in town, with restaurants like Corner Pocket, Prime46Forty and Cogan's, just to name a few, offering a variety of performances popular with the after hours crowd. Good Shot Judy (and their Little Big Band) enjoys a loyal fan base amidst the backdrop of venues such as these. Brandon Musko, alto and tenor sax player, particularly enjoys performing with the Gloucester-based quartet.

"There's just something about playing in a band," Brandon says.

Good Shot Judy specializes in classic vocal jazz standards. Their material ranges from the swing of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Bobby Darin to the low key standards of Nat King Cole, and blues of Ray Charles, mixed in with adaptations of modern music.

In addition to Brandon, other band members include Brett Cahoon on piano and vocals, Jeff Cahoon on bass, and several drummers including Austin Pierce and Lance Pedigo.

"We like to keep a rotation of drummers," Brandon says. "We are working a lot with percussionist Scott Ammon for studio recording

and gigs, as well as Buz King out of Richmond for gigs.”

Performing favorites like “Cheek to Cheek,” “Fever” and “Get Me to the Church on Time,” the band is popular with music lovers of all ages with some fans traveling from as far away as New York, Florida and California to take in a performance.

“We also play rock and rockabilly.”

Brandon enjoys the community spirit that is evident at events such as the recent Winter Blues Jazz Festival concert held at Williamsburg Winery, where Good Shot Judy was one of the bands that performed. “Events like festivals bring artists together and bring the community out,” he says. “We all have other jobs, but we come together to perform, entertain and enjoy music. That’s what’s so great about it.”

While most of his evening performances are with Good Shot Judy, the Timeline Jazz Quartet will sometimes pick Brandon up for their weekly Friday night performance at the Williamsburg Lodge. He also teaches private saxophone lessons.

Like many of his colleagues in the freelance music business, Brandon holds a day job (sometimes two), so his schedule is pretty booked. “When they hired me as a cashier at Fresh Market, they knew that I’d be available

during the day until 4 o’clock at the latest because I leave my evenings open for music.”

On any given day, Brandon will work a 7 am-4 pm shift at the Fresh Market before heading home to walk his dog, Mina, a Shih Tzu, Poodle and Lhasa Apso mix. There is also a side job at Nelson Funeral Home where he sometimes works as a professional undertaker. “Mainly, I help with transport and memorial services,” he says. “It’s very gratifying on an almost spiritual level. Just like music.”

With performances three or four nights a week, plus an additional two evenings spent rehearsing, his day is sometimes just getting started as others are winding down. He often grabs a nap in between. Things can get a bit crazy, but Brandon says that he enjoys the variety that makes up his days and nights. “I find that my brain needs a break and my day jobs help reset my mind. That way I can focus better when I’m practicing.”

Good Shot Judy loves performing in Williamsburg, where they are as happy playing small venues as they are the larger ones. “In a smaller place, the atmosphere suits our music, and our fans so well,” Brandon says. “Often-times, the audience is 25 people or less and that is fun. Larger ones are a lot of fun too, just in a different way, with people dancing and singing.”

“I actually like everywhere we play, from Richmond down to Norfolk, but Williamsburg is my favorite place to perform because you have a real sense of community here.”

Brandon’s love of music and performance spans most of his 31 years, most of which were spent growing up just north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Despite being born to parents who preferred disco music, which was the popular music of their time, Brandon grew up listening to classical and jazz music. “Classical music forms the foundation for anything that you do music-wise.”

A desire to play in his school band in elementary school prompted his parents to lease his first saxophone. “I was in the 4th or 5th grade when my mom rented a sax so I could play in the school band. Later, we decided that renting would be more expensive over the long haul, so my parents bought me a saxophone.”

Like many of his young peers, Brandon studied with private instructors in addition to playing in the band. By the time he was in high school, his love of music and performing continued to grow. In 2000, he enjoyed performing with the Butler High School Marching Band at the annual Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. It was around that time, also, when he was first exposed to big band and

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swing. "When I was in high school, I thought that big bands looked like a lot of fun, so I auditioned, found that I enjoyed playing that kind of music, and stuck with it."

After high school, Brandon attended Slippery Rock University, a school close to home, where he majored in Music Performance and Saxophone. While a student at Slippery Rock, he was honored to play first chair tenor saxophone with the university's big band at the North Sea Jazz Festival in Rotterdam, Netherlands

"My family is not musical," he says with a chuckle. "They could not play a note. They sent me to college and that's where I learned. There I was surrounded by people who wanted to do the same thing – music performance."

In college, Brandon was influenced by jazz greats like Paul Desmond, a jazz sax player he has long admired. "They teach you in school who to listen to and how to listen. It's all about listening, learning and emulating."

Brandon says that instrumental jazz is probably his favorite genre of music, particularly John Coltrane and Cannonball Adderley. "My list of favorites runs long, and I don't want to bore you," he says with a laugh.

Soon after college while he was still in Pittsburgh, Brandon auditioned for the job that

would bring him to Williamsburg and to a seven year gig performing at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg.

"I came to Williamsburg in 2006 as a part of the Starlight Orchestra at Busch Gardens. I played a variety of big band performances there, playing sax, flute and clarinet. Busch Gardens was fun."

Brandon fell into a rhythm of working at Busch Gardens during their season and then performing on various cruise ships when the park was closed in the off-season. He has performed on such ships as Holland America, Royal Caribbean and Monarch of the Seas to name a few. When he wasn't aboard the massive ships, he enjoyed playing tourist in Europe as well as Eastern and Western Caribbean and Mexico.

Looking back, Brandon says that he wishes he had learned to play piano at an earlier age. He is classically trained and can play by ear; still, if he had to do it all over again, he says that he would have taken up piano much sooner.

"It seems like a lot of great musicians play piano," he says. "I played in college but I wish I'd learned earlier. Also, the older I get the more I realize how important it is to just hear so I'm always working on that."

These days, Brandon rarely experiences stage fright or worries that a key will stick or somehow fly off of his instrument, although the latter has actually happened. Brandon says that musicians keep their cool and work around any issue that emerges. "You just have to go up there with amazing confidence and hope that everything is going to be just right. If, for some reason, that isn't the case, then you have to adapt as you go and act like it didn't happen. You improvise."

Over the years, he has done some writing and composing but not so much lately as his day jobs and night gigs keep him pretty busy. Still, it's a pace that suits him just fine, especially having just purchased his first home and putting down some roots here.

"I just bought a house near New Town," he says. "So combining my Fresh Market work with the freelance work is working better for me financially." In the short term, in fact, Brandon hopes to convince his parents, who still live in Butler, Pennsylvania, to relocate here.

Beyond that, he will keep working, teaching and performing. "I will work hard and see where that takes me. I want to keep branching out. Besides, music is like therapy to me. It's what I love." NDN

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VW BUS to CW BALLADEER

By Gail Dillon

Stephen Christoff is not your typical musician. For one thing, he plays instruments that may not be immediately recognizable to the average listener. For another, he spends half of his time performing as a “Balladeer” dressed in waistcoat and buckled shoes at Colonial Williamsburg, and the other half playing modern music at the Hennage Auditorium and other venues, such as the popular 2nd Sundays Williamsburg Festival. He’s not complaining. He loves all of it and his enthusiasm is contagious.



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

“Just playing music makes me happy,” he says. He describes his music as “roots-blues,” though reviews of his three original CDs have mentioned gypsy, swing and folk influences as well.

A Bowling Green, Ohio native, Stephen, who is 45, ended up living in Williamsburg rather by accident. Nearly 22 years ago, he

and his then-girlfriend were planning to drive their Volkswagen bus to Key West, Florida to do some street-performing. On the way, the pair decided to stop in Williamsburg to visit Stephen’s sister, Emily Christoff Flowers, an artist. As luck would have it, the front axle of the bus came off during their visit. “So we had to get jobs,” he says, chuckling at the memo-

ry. He found work at The Cheese Shoppe downtown and his girlfriend also found a job. They managed to save \$1,200 to pay for the vehicle repairs and then the head gasket blew a couple of months later. Stephen smiles and says, “So we got mopeds.”

Several months later, the couple broke up but by this time, Williamsburg had worked its charms on him. He soon auditioned to be a musician at Colonial Williamsburg and has been one ever since, though his musical repertoire is far wider now.

The sixth of seven children, Stephen and his family members have music flowing through their veins. His father is a singer who once sang in barbershop quartets, in church choirs and also enjoyed “crooning”. One of his brothers sings and another is a horn player while his sister gives piano lessons.

Growing up, Stephen listened to and was

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influenced by many musicians: The Beatles, Paul Simon, The Police, David Bowie, and Led Zeppelin, just to name a few. This didn't always earn him cool points from his peers, however. "When I was a kid, other kids used to make fun of me because they were all into heavy metal," he says.

Stephen says he knew music was what he wanted to do full-time when he was just 15. Still, he struggled a bit in his late teens and early 20s but his father gave him valuable advice that helped propel him forward.

"Dad and I were driving around when I was about 19, and he said, 'You know son, you sing really well and you can play the trombone really well too. Here's the problem. You can't do them both at the same time,'" he recalls. "He said, 'I'm going to buy you a mandolin.'" Stephen wisely took his father's advice and before long, he had mastered the mandolin, with which he still performs.

His main instrument now is the resonator guitar, though he didn't take it up until he was in his early 30s. He describes the resonator guitar as a blues guitar with a large metal cone that "resonates" when played. (Or, as he humorously puts it, "A wacky guitar with a hubcap in it.") He also plays the saw with a bow,

the Jews harp, a small lyre-shaped instrument held between the teeth, and a Baroque version of the trombone called a "sackbut." His voice is one of his instruments as well. He is a bass now, though as a younger man he was a tenor. He incorporates vocal effects into his singing and he "loops" with the sackbut. (A musical loop is a section of a piece of music which is cut so it can be repeated as many times as necessary or desired.) He also "plays" his hands, blowing air into them to form a sort of "hand flute."

In addition to performing music "from 1800 and before" at Colonial Williamsburg once or twice a week, Stephen plays at the taverns there, frequently in duets with other musicians. He performs more modern-style music at the Hennessee Auditorium in downtown Williamsburg at least once a month. And he plays in a trio that exclusively performs his original music, along with Lance Pedigo on drums and Wayne Hill on bass and fiddle.

If all that's not enough, for the last three years or so, he sings in a local Irish band called Poisoned Dwarf. Between it all Stephen occasionally fits in school programs. He calls most of the pop music coming out today "corporate," though he admits to liking some of the

songs by Adele and Taylor Swift. "There's too many people involved in producing music now," he says. "But then you have somebody like Paul Simon who did everything. The industry really changed. It got very complex a while ago."

When it comes to writing his own music, he likens the process to "stream of consciousness," and says his writing style back in the day was "very regimented" until the iPhone came along and changed his process.

"I'll go, 'here's an idea' and I'll press record," he says. "Then I make up a melody, and then the stuff that's really cool. I'll take to my guitar and arrange it later." His songs have a whimsical quality to them and are often humorous. For example, "The Devil's in Love" and "I Wish I were a Pickpocket." Both writing and performing give him a creative buzz. "I get kind of drunk writing songs and singing too," Stephen says. "It's almost the process more than anything. However, performing is totally different from writing. When you're writing something, you're single-minded, you're focused, and you're kind of in a Zen moment. But performance is very different in the sense that you're communicating your energy with other people in the audience and



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with other performers in many cases.”

He likens this to the idea of “flow,” that desirable sense of being completely immersed in something. “Sometimes you get (flow) in weird moments like when you’re driving or brushing your teeth,” he says. “It can be elusive but it also can be cultivated. I find I’m able to cultivate it more now than when I was younger.” One key reason for that, he says, is that he was much more easily distracted back then.

An avid meditator for the last six years, Stephen relies on his daily 20-minute practice to keep him centered and his mind clear. He says this sense of calm has a positive effect on his music and overall state of mind. “I’m a student of Buddha,” he says. “I practice Buddhist meditation without labeling myself.”

Traveling has been a staple throughout his life, both inside and outside of the U.S. He has been to Europe on multiple occasions, and once lived in Prague where he rented an apartment for \$30 a month through a friend’s family, taught English, and street-performed. Street-performing was a way for him to gain experience and confidence with his craft as a younger man. “It was something to do in my

20s. It was fun,” he says.

One memorable street performing event happened in Tuscany, Italy about 16 years ago. He and another man and his girlfriend would go into the town square of local villages (after gaining permission first) and the couple would begin juggling. “I would come in the middle of them while they were juggling, and I would start to yodel.” Stephen explains, “Then they would look at me and stop juggling and start cussing at me in Italian.” At this point, the bystanders weren’t sure what was going on, he explains. This would continue until the girl would jump onto Stephen’s shoulders while he was singing. “And then they would juggle back and forth and the people could see that we were all together,” he finishes with a big grin. Clearly this is a guy who doesn’t take himself too seriously.

Although music is not only his livelihood but his favorite pastime, Stephen Christoff enjoys other hobbies such as running, skiing and cooking—“mostly stir fry and Italian.” In the future, he says he would like to play the trombone in a Dixieland band. “And I’d like to do another recording of my original music, for sure.” **NDN**

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Publisher.....Meredith Collins
Editor.....Greg Lilly greglilly@cox.net
Copy Editors.....Al White, Ginger White
Photographer.....Lisa Cumming, Corey Miller
Graphic Designers...Sue Etherton, Lara Eckerman
Account Manager.....Anne Conkling

Writers

Linda Landreth Phelps, Rachel Sapin,
Brandy Centolanza, Sandy Rotermund,
Alison Johnson, Ryan Jones, Lillian Stevens,
Erin Zagursky, Erin Kelly, Narielle Living,
Natalie Miller-Moore, Morgan Barker,
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Susan Guthrie, Cindy Laraway, Erin Fryer,
Wynne Bowman, Nicole Puskar, Elinor Warren,
Michael Heslink, Carrie Eriks, Naomi Tene’ Austin,
Gail Dillon

Advertising Information

Meredith Collins

(757) 560-3235

meredith@williamsburgneighbors.com

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Got the Groove

By Morgan Barker



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

The tradition of jazz music is all about improvisation, syncopation, swing notes and polyrhythms blended with traditional aspects of European harmony. Jazz has a number of spinoff genres – big bands, ragtime, bebop and smooth jazz. Its most famous artists include Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong and oth-

er famous modern artists, who may incorporate jazz into pop albums. Williamsburg's own Jordan Ponzi is one of these musicians who toil away at rhythms and put innovative spins on familiar harmonies.

Jordan has been playing electric bass since 1990, but didn't pick up the upright bass until

1996; this is where his true passion began.

"This is the instrument that I fell in love with. My father was a bassist, which might have had something to do with it. But you just fall in love with it, and you go with it," Jordan says.

"I particularly like the freedom of expres-

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sion involved in jazz. There's improvisation. Jazz is about doing your own thing."

In order to gain the language of the music, Jordan is an avid listener. "When I teach jazz, I teach music theory. There's no practical way of getting around that and learning principles of harmony isn't anything to get overwhelmed by," he says. "Dedicated listening is key. You have to spend quality time listening to records to really get the language in your head. To hear things that are done in the moment. The way to phrase your bass lines over a ballad, for example. There's lots of space in there to fill, that's a lot of space to play rubbish if you don't listen to enough music."

Jordan explains that absorbing all kinds of music, listening and emulating is an important starting point to becoming a musician. Like any business, you have to learn the ropes. "You take all of the historical information you have spent time learning and be progressive. Put your own spin on it and do your small part to evolve the music," Jordan says. "Being a professional artist is different from a 9 to 5 office job, it's a labor of love, but it also requires discipline. To be creative means taking the time to slow down and appreciate the world. You have to take the time to polish your craft, and develop your personal creative processes. In order to do that you have to go through the trial and error of new ideas that may or may not work," Jordan says. "You have to be curious; you have to do things in the moment. How do you balance that in the 9 to 5 world? You'd better figure it out fast! That's just being an artist."

With the creative process, Jordan also has to balance the business side of being a freelance artist. "To make a living as a self-employed artist puts you in the category of freelance contractor. You have to be organized, you have to keep good books, financial records, tax records, and be ready to hustle work. You have to be a PR kind of person."

Regular practice is a part of Jordan's disciplined and artistic lifestyle with several hours of practice a day. "As far as practice goes, I'll be the first to tell you that I don't practice nearly enough, even though I'm doing something every day for a couple of hours. Sometimes it's the working out of new ideas, sometimes it's a 'thing' related to the physical aspect of playing the bass. Maybe I'm trying to memorize a specific tune. Other times it's none of those things, because I'm just playing and enjoying myself."

Sometimes the bass feels like work. "It doesn't matter what you do for a living, how well you do it, how passionate you are about it. You aren't going get out of bed every single morning and drop to your knees with tears of joy in your eyes. Some days it's just going to feel like work, and some days you aren't going to want to do it. That's just human nature," Jordan says. "There's always something to complain about no matter how good you've got it. So don't do that! Play your butt off! How do you avoid making music feel like work? Simple. Play it well."

As a freelance artist, Jordan's performance and recording schedule varies widely. He regularly collaborates with the Jacob Vanko Band, a rock n' roll group. He is currently contributing to a record with the band.

"The record is all of Jacob's originals, 14 total. The instrumentation



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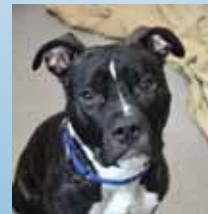
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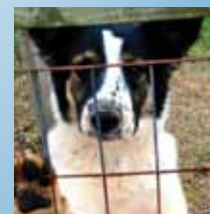
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will probably be just like the live instrumentation. Acoustic guitar/vocals, electric guitar, upright bass, drums. My role is bass and vocal harmonies. Three part harmonies. We usually spend as much time with those as we do on playing. As far as the collaborative process goes, it's Jacob's music first and foremost. We all collaborate on issues dealing with style, texture and arrangements. A lot of that goes into learning new cover material as well."

Jordan likes working with the band because it's a talented group. "Jacob is an incredible singer and a great songwriter. People enjoy the original music as much as the covers we play. I see people dancing to our music just as much to our stuff as anything else. I have no delusions of grandeur about 'making it big' in a rock band at 40 years old, but I do believe that this music is worth the time needed and the creative risks needed to take it to a higher level. It takes work, and more work. It's worth it for me to be a part of it."

Jordan has a few other groups he works with regularly including the Latin Jazz Conspiracy. "I do a lot of arranging and some booking for the group as well. Its instrumental jazz played in salsa style, but I think we might have something with a vocalist at the end of this year," Jordan says. You can also find him at Opus 9 on Sundays and Aromas on Tuesdays.

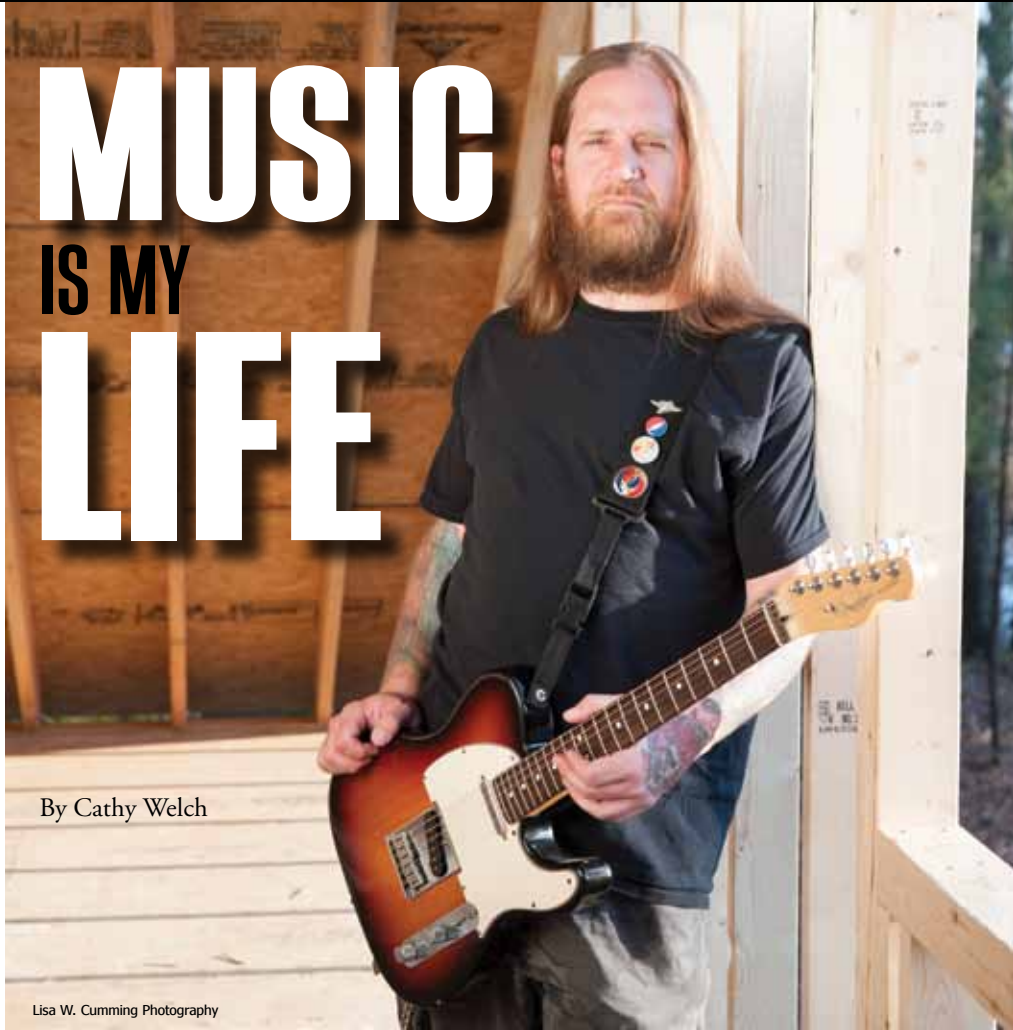
Jordan doesn't have a dream gig because he's living the dream. "Can't really narrow it to one. I already have a dream job. I have so much to be thankful for and nothing I am particularly longing for. With what I do, 95% of it is on my own terms. Everything else is extra, which is really great. I may not do this forever. At some point, I may move onto something else, or get a master's [degree], but I will make that decision and that's a great place to be."

When not performing, Jordan teaches upright bass at William & Mary and guitar at Authentic Guitars in New Town. What's hard for his newer students to pick up? The groove. "They need to be taught the art of the groove, which means playing simpler musical phrases that provide the ground support for the rest of the song. It's a challenging thing to internalize the groove. It takes some people years to do, and it's an important fundamental of music that often gets overlooked by young players wanting to be flashy," Jordan says.

Jordan is from Long Island, New York originally, but has been in Williamsburg for 11 years. "Williamsburg is the one place in Virginia where I've ever felt at home. People in this city are content; they enjoy it; they want to be here. That kind of contentment travels over the community. It's good for business; it's good for the arts; it's a good place to be."

Jordan stays busy with friends and family when not playing music at home, at gigs or working with students. "I love reading, exercise, meaningful conversation. I enjoy hockey games, single malt scotch, the occasional cigar, craft beer and cooking copious amounts of Italian food for friends and family. I'm a Ponzi from Long Island, after all!" What if he ever develops bass fatigue? He's picking up the piano. "Some musicians claim to get the 'I picked the wrong instrument' disease after a couple of decades. If that ever happens to me, I'm trading my Bussetto cornered Eastman for a Steinway," Jordan says. NDN

MUSIC IS MY LIFE



By Cathy Welch

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

“Music’s my life,” local musician and custom home framer, James Drake says. “My job is building houses; music’s my life.”

When he was 11, James’s father was promoted and transferred to Williamsburg by VEPCO, now Dominion Virginia Power. His father is retired and with James’s mother moved back to their hometown, Suffolk, in 2001. His older brother also lives in Suffolk.

As a child, James spent a lot of time at his grandparents’ home and, consequently, in his grandfather’s large woodworking shop. “He would do a lot of country crafts, like bookshelves,” James says. “Anything you could think of as country woodworking craft stuff he did and sold. I used to work out there with him a lot.”

James’ uncle, Mike Pope, was also into

carpentry. “My uncle was a huge part of my adolescent life,” James says. “He was more like a friend than an elder and taught me how to work with my hands, along with my dad. My family has always been very tight, loving and supportive.”

Uncle Mike also had a hand in teaching his nephew how to play guitar.

“I picked up the guitar when I was 12,”

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James explains. "My best friend found an old acoustic guitar that belonged to his family, and I bought a cheap acoustic guitar." The two friends took several lessons through the county which taught them to play a few chords and tune their guitars. Uncle Mike continued James's music lessons.

"My uncle taught me how to use my ear," he says of Mike who passed away in 1993. "It was a cross between your ear and your heart. They had to connect. Once they connected you knew you had something. It was never about what's on the page or playing exactly what you heard."

James's uncle was in a band when he was younger, but by the time James learned to play it was difficult for Mike to play. He was in an accident in the early 1980s which broke his neck and paralyzed him for a long time. Eventually, he improved and played with James though his injuries left him with a less nimble technique.

"His fingers just didn't work the way they used to," James says.

James attended Lafayette High School, but dropped out. He earned his GED because it

was required back then. "I left home and followed The Grateful Dead a few years," he explains. "Once I was introduced to that world, I'd never had something move me that way. I just had to do it."

He admits to going through some rough times. "I spent years on the road following a band. My life was to go see concerts," he says. "It was about music. There was a sense of community, a large subculture."

Eventually, James came home and now lives on Mooretown Road. The day after Jerry Garcia (lead guitarist, vocalist and spokesman for the Grateful Dead) died in 1995, he found a job as a laborer on a framing crew. He's been in the business ever since.

Today, James is a custom framer and lead supervisor for Williamsburg's Topcat Construction. The company subcontracts for several high-end builders, working a large amount of time in Ford's Colony. "We've worked with Charlie Ross Homes, Hallmark Builders and Marque Homes," James says.

James began to play his guitar locally when he joined the band, Sideshow Addiction, with several local artists. Tim Scheffield started the

band in 2003, and it has had a number of iterations since then. Drummer, Brian Webb, joined them in 2004 and bass player, Casey Bishop joined them in 2005.

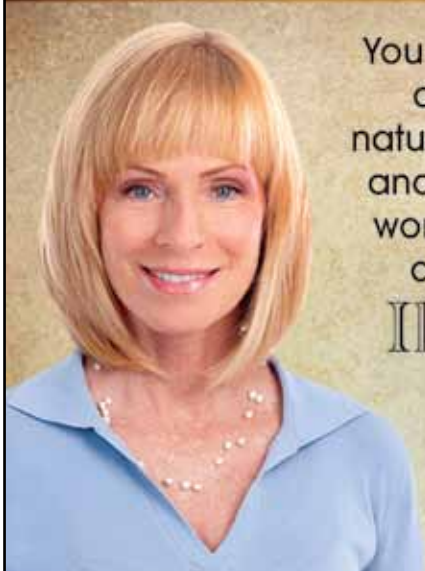
"That solidified the group until Tim moved to California in 2009," James explains. "When he left, Brian, Casey and I made up Sideshow but we dropped the second part of the name out of respect for Tim."

Casey, Brian and James stuck together and still play as a trio, occasionally joined by Pete Kornwolf. Casey left the group two years ago, so Brian and James stayed together as Sideshow and play every other Friday at Center Street Grill in New Town.

"Brian and I, you know, it's what we do," James says of the self-described Americana duo. "No matter who else comes and goes it's going to be me and him."

In June 2014, James and Brian joined Greg Gernon (keyboards, Hammond organ, vocals), Todd Colls (lead guitar) and Geoff Scheibel (bass and vocals) to make up Blind and Dirty. James plays a Fender Telecaster and a Taylor acoustic filling out the rhythm guitarist and vocalist roles.

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“We play what we like,” James explains. “It’s mostly older stuff. If it’s newer, it’s nothing really popular.”

Blind and Dirty plays a lot of Grateful Dead, Pink Floyd, a couple of Beatles’ songs and other songs like 1960s “Stand by Me.” They play at Cogan’s Deli & Sports Pub, Triangle, Daddy’s Tavern, Paul’s Deli & Restaurant and Richmond’s Cary Street Café among other venues.

In October 2015, Blind and Dirty joined two opening acts to honor the Grateful Dead. The “Not Fade Away” 50th Anniversary tribute held at the Kimball Theatre sold out. “It was a huge success,” he says.

James organized the event’s production, promotion and more with help from local music promoter, Shirley Vermillion, who brought in an opening act and donated artwork for their raffle.

Blind and Dirty headlined the event, preceded by opening duo, Chris and Joe, and Asheville’s Circus Mutt. The show ran four-and-a-half hours.

“We did two sets,” James says. “That’s what I come from. My biggest thing was The Dead

whose shows were three hours of solid music. Now when I go to see a band play 90 minutes, I feel ripped off.”

After gigging for 13 years, James’ bands have played at a lot of bars. They play at festivals, benefits and other venues, but mostly at bars. The Kimball Theatre tributes are helping area musical groups like them gain more exposure in a larger concert-type setting.

“When you play in a bar, a lot of people are not there for the music,” he explains. “They’re there to see friends, socialize or drink. The shows at the Kimball are about the music. If you’re going there, you’re going to see a show. I just wanted to do something more than be put in the corner to be background.” Back in his Grateful Dead traveling days, he was not going to the bar on Friday night; he was going to see a show.

“For years there was only one place in Williamsburg you could go do that,” he says of JM Randall’s Classic American Grill & Tavern, now closed. “If you went to Randall’s, you were going to see the band. Cogan’s has kind of taken that slot.”

After the successful October show, Shirley

asked James to help organize other tributes: 50s, 60s and 70s-era tributes; a 75th Birthday tribute to Bob Dylan on June 4 and others. The 50s-era tribute was held in March. This year’s Grateful Dead tribute will be held November 19.

“Since October, Blind and Dirty has progressed a lot,” James says. “The Kimball really put us out there. Playing the Grateful Dead tribute did a lot to help us start getting noticed.”

Today, Blind and Dirty plays a minimum of four times a month. “We’re trying to branch out,” he says of the band. “But there’re five guys in this band: three have children; three have professional jobs; and then two blue-collar guys, me and my right hand, Brian.”

James Drake has lived in Williamsburg most of his life, but left a dozen or more times. “I’ve lived in California, Washington, Oregon, Florida and Colorado,” he says. “I’ve seen 47 of the 48 mainland United States (all except Maine). If I had a bunch of money I would love to live somewhere else, but I’m a working class guy. What I’d really like to do is be on a bus traveling around the country, playing music.” NDN



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Transformation

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Dolores (Lori) Colucci raises butterflies, a process that mirrors her own transformation. An interior designer by trade, Lori experiences the reshaping of a client's space just as she's seen the metamorphosis of the industry and her own business, Designs by Dolores.

"I'm a 'retired' military brat, 21 years alongside my dad," she says, "[I was] born in Texas and lived there until I was eight." Her family moved around quite a bit, and at each base, her mother made their new house a home. Lori helped by rearranging the picture frames, books, or vases on top of the television, until they were just right and approved by her mother.

"I moved around after I grew up – a free spirit," she adds. "I went overseas, and when I came back, I went to Arizona. That's where



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I went to college for design. While I was in school, builders were creating tract homes. The builder's wife and a design group created the interior design for these homes. I would haunt them every day until they finally said I could work with them." The explosion of model homes and tract builders in the booming southwest reinforced in Lori the basics of design and color and how to accomplish a project quickly and under budget. "I did that for a few years before heading to the East Coast."

She lived and worked in New Jersey a short time before moving to the Hampton Roads area. "Life started over," she states. Her mother and siblings lived in the area, so Lori started Chesapeake Bay Interiors in Newport News. After 20 years of running that business, she was ready for a change. "I moved to Gloucester for three years to a unique property on the water. Then I relocated to Indianapolis for about three years. I had friends there and it was something different. Indy is a progressive city, but their winters weren't friendly to my southern bones."

In Indianapolis, she took a sabbatical from running her own company. "Indianapolis has a great design center, and I worked with some

high-end clients. It wasn't a full-time effort because I never knew when I would be called back here." Her mother, back in Gloucester, had health concerns.

"It takes a lot to get a service business like interior design going again. From years in business, I've learned things that make the start-up a little easier."

She found the time was right for her to return to Virginia. "I knew if I came back to this area, it would be to Williamsburg. It's just a quick trip down the Colonial Parkway and to Gloucester to see my mom. I needed to be close. I needed to be around family. She just recently passed."

With four major moves in five years, Lori knew her business would need time to reform. "It takes a lot upfront and on the backend to make moves around the country. That took a lot of time to settle here especially caring for my mom and my felines..." She's a cat person and right after her move to Williamsburg, one of her cats became ill unexpectedly. "He had cancer. We had a very close bond, and losing him had a powerful effect on me."

Although the loss of family has been difficult, she realizes it creates motion. "Mostly, I'm

so grateful after experiencing all the loss that I now feel renewed to be creative and move forward."

Lori has designed residential and commercial properties, and in her Williamsburg stage of growth she's applying her knowledge of color theory and how it affects behavior. "Doctor's offices, hospitals, restaurants, interior design has everything to do with surroundings and our reactions to it – color and lighting being the biggest elements."

Along with the aspects of color and lighting in a commercial building, Lori focuses on the harmony of pattern. "I'm a touchy-feely person with my design. It matters to me where something is placed in the environment. I like to incorporate Feng Shui elements, which means to place with intent and a meaning. It's the art of placement. It's taking all that I've learned and using it to help people in their environment to create balance and harmony."

When any design project comes to an interior designer, it is best to consider material selections early to allow time to fabricate. "I'm going after commercial jobs when they are open for bids," she explains. "Often, I work off of blueprints. It's best not to wait to pick the



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right countertop materials or window treatments just before the doors open to the public.”

She explains that the interior design concept should work hand-in-hand with the architectural plans to ensure the complete vision of the client.

Redesign is another option for commercial clients. Using furniture and fixtures already available, Lori has transformed a stark commercial space that customers quickly left to a place of comfort and an invitation to linger, using color and lighting. “I’ve learned the psychology of color and light. So many business interiors, especially restaurants, aren’t welcoming. I like to mingle a touch of nature into my designs. Transforming spaces from the floor up and making it warm and inviting is what I do best. It’s all in details.”

While she lived in Newport News, Lori became a Master Gardener and a butterfly enthusiast. “My neighbor and I would plant things that would attract hummingbirds and butterflies. We began growing the host plants for the butterflies.” The butterflies would come to her herb garden that included milkweed, parsley, fennel and rue. Other plants like lantana, aster and zinnia provide the nectar they need as a food source.

“I’d collect the caterpillars and put them in the aquarium to watch them go into chrysalis,” she says, “then watch them emerge. We need more Monarchs. It’s important for the ecosystem. It’s a free spirit thing.” She has about a dozen Swallowtails that have wintered over, and she’s waiting for them to emerge and be released. “I have videos on my phone of them transforming. They scoot down into the chrysalis; you can see them pulling it over. Then emerge new. That’s amazing. That’s related to my life; I have literally turned it inside out and turned bigger and brighter. It’s a transformation.”

She has the kernel of an idea for a Wounded Warriors project she’d like to initiate. “It’s creating psychological comfort with color, and I want that program to benefit Wounded Warriors. I’m a military brat, so I want to give back in the way I can. Before, I didn’t have time, so now I’m making time for that.”

She hopes to get into a position where she can do more community projects, like a Wounded Warriors project. “I look forward to teaching as well. I’d like to do more with the healthcare industry. I spent a lot of time looking at the four walls of a hospital room with my mother. There’s a lot that can be done to make it more welcoming. Color, aroma and sounds are an interlocking part of the surroundings.”

The experience she’s living is using her passion to believe she can design and be helpful. “I’ve learned so much in the past 30 plus years. I want to ‘pay it forward.’ I want to work with people so they see the benefit of design aspects like color theory. It’s awareness – as with lighting and how a customer relates to it, even if they are unaware.”

Lori, her mother and siblings, would watch her father depart on the flight line. “As a child, me wondering if we’d see our dad again had a huge impact on me. But what was cool about Dad being a tail gunner, when they took off, he’d blink the tail light at us – one of those ‘I’ll be back’ messages.”

Time to make a difference is short, so Lori Colucci wants to leave good things behind. “If you do design well, it changes how people perceive the world around them. It won’t change their life, but it changes the way they perceive things. It’s my job to get that to happen. Hopefully, I can make a difference. That’s my plan.” NDN



Corey Miller Photography

Play Ball!

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Williamsburg Youth Baseball League (WYBL) provides a recreational and a competitive experience for kids from ages 5 to 15. The league consists of approximately 800 children on 60 teams with many volunteers guiding them through their baseball experiences. This

is the first year Michael Pastirik serves as the president of the WYBL board, and he looks forward to making baseball fun and fulfilling for everyone involved in the league.

Michael is a product of WYBL. His family moved to Williamsburg from Illinois when he

was 12. "My dad was transferred here," Michael says. "He worked for Owens-Illinois glass factory."

He explains that Pete Babcock ran the program back then. "He did a lot of wonderful things for the league." After Michael graduated

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from high school, he went to Virginia Tech and then out into the world. He, his wife, Kelly, and their son moved back to Williamsburg about 12 years ago.

"I played independent league baseball as an adult. When we lived in northern Virginia, I worked at the Northern Virginia Baseball Academy and did instruction while I was playing. When we moved back to Williamsburg and my son started playing T-ball, I started coaching after his first year."

The board of WYBL asked Michael if he'd help. He started as a league coordinator then a scheduling coordinator. "This is my first year as the president and my 8th year on the board, which pales in comparison to some of the other guys on the board." Some of the board members have served for many years. He explains that the board members love the game of baseball and serve long after their own children have aged out of the league.

"Two guys, Dan Clayton and Ron Boyd, have been on the board for over 20 years. Their kids are long gone from the league. A lot of guys eventually move on, but their kids have been through the league for five years or more,

and they're still on the board. It's different that way. It's a combination of old school and the new school guys coming through with kids, and they want to be more involved."

He explains that the league's teams are set by the children's ability and interests. "T-ball is for 5 - 6 year olds. Machine pitch is for 7 - 8 year olds, and kid pitch starts at 9 years old and goes through 12. There is a junior league that goes from 13 - 15 and is more of a summer type of league for us."

The All-Star teams start at age 8. "That's when it really becomes competitive. For example, we have an 8 year old Majors group. Our All-Star team comes from that," Michael explains. "We have a 7-8 Minors. We have 9-10 Majors and Minors groups and a 11-12 Majors and Minors. The point is that the Majors is a more competitive environment. The Minors groups are for the kids that want to play baseball and be around their friends, probably isn't looking to play in middle or high school, really they just want to have some fun with their friends." He says the league wants to have something for everyone.

For kids who may not have shown an early

interest in baseball, they can still join in with their friends and be as competitive or recreational as they want. "That's where the Minors groups come in. There could be a wide range in the Minors groups, new to the sport or kids who are brushing up skills to move to a Majors team in the next season. The league is open to everyone. We don't turn anyone away. You may not make a Majors team, but there is a team to play on."

The league is a James City County Parks & Recreation partner. "All our games are played at Warhill Park. We use the school for practices."

Physically, the kids learn hand-eye coordination in baseball, but much more than that, Michael explains, are the life lessons that a team sport instills. "The ability to fail and come back from that failure," he says. "Baseball is a game of failure. That's one thing that the kids get as a life lesson. There will be failure, and what counts is how you recover from that. How do you go to your next at-bat? How do you pick up your teammate when he fails? How do you cultivate the team approach to everything you do in life? For every kid out there, it's an op-

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portunity to experience those failures and successes.”

Michael sees the kids begin to understand this around the age of 8, when they start keeping score during the games and one team is awarded the win.

“Baseball is a challenge these days because of the pace,” he says of another trait the players develop. “It doesn’t move as fast as football or basketball or lacrosse or soccer. Baseball players learn patience.”

Like any sport with children, many begin and fewer follow it through until they move on to middle school and high school teams. Michael says those that follow it through are just like he was as a child developing his lifelong love of baseball. “It’s a burst of competitive desire, at any sport, and when you start to have success at something, and you pick up on it and start to go with it.” That’s what Michael enjoys seeing in the league: the first successes that create life-long players.

This year, tryouts and practices started in March. The first games for the older players start just before spring break, and for the younger ones, just after spring break.

“On opening day (later in April), all the

teams are at Warhill Sports Complex with a ‘Parade of Teams’ and a guest speaker,” Michael says. The teams play through the end of the school year, and then the All-Star teams play through the summer.

“We’re part of the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth League (similar to the Little League),” Michael explains. WYBL likes the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth League because the physical set up of the bases are aligned to what the players need as they move into middle school and high school play.

“WBL is hosting the 11 year olds’ Southeastern Regional in July, which will have teams from Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Carolinas, the whole southeast. We’re working with James City County on that. We have great facilities for hosting.”

As a feeder to the middle school and high schools, the WYBL and its board and coaches want to stress strong fundamentals and “baseball savvy” to the Majors teams. “It helps to have the Majors focused on getting better to be prepared for school baseball,” Michael says.

“We have coaches clinics. The high school coaches and the William & Mary coaches have helped us with that. We want to help our vol-

unteer coaches be the best they can be for the players.”

Even though Michael and Kelly’s son has aged out of WYBL, Michael enjoys working on the all volunteer board and ensuring the kids have a fun experience.

“We’re there for the kid who may never play baseball again past the age of 12. But at the same time, we’re here for the kid who could be a star in high school or college. We try to have the program that can satisfy those needs. Our All-Star teams become the Williamsburg Revolution in the fall and early spring. They play in travel tournaments. We’re not the same as the Virginia Venom – they do a great job. We offer a part of that travel team, but it’s not our core focus. We have a good working relationship with them.”

Michael Pastirik and the board of WYBL want Williamsburg area kids to be introduced to the game of baseball in an instructional and fun environment. “Come out and see the players in a game,” he says. “You’ll have as much fun as they do.” NDN

*For more information visit:
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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Bringing Art to April

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Art on the Square, the annual spring art show in Merchants Square, is produced by the Junior Woman's Club of Williamsburg. Tori Otstot co-chairs this year's event along with Meaghann Terrien. Tori says the art show will have over 170 artists along Duke of Gloucester and North Boundary Streets in downtown Williamsburg.

"Accessibility and connection to the community," Tori says of what Art on the Square means to her. "There's a variety of artwork to look at. There are paintings that I'll never be able to afford, and then there're smaller items like artesian soap. The year my daughter was born there was a woman who made beautiful mugs.

One had a big penguin and a baby penguin. My husband, Adam, is a 'penguin' as a teacher for Rawls Byrd Elementary. So for Father's Day, I bought him that mug. There's something for everyone, and it's in Merchant's Square, and it's here every year. You can count on it. It's traditional."

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This is the 53rd year of Art on the Square, started by women like Tori, members of the Junior Woman's Club of Williamsburg. "It's lasted 53 years thanks to the community. We have a lot of people who collect the posters from Richard DePaul's art. We have a wonderful relationship with Nora at Walls Alive, who does a great framing deal for us. As a club, it's a fun way to conclude our club year which ends in May."

Last year, rain pelted down the day before the show and the club spent all Saturday evening trying to tape out booth positions on wet streets. "After the initial 3 a.m. laying out of the booths and once artists started arriving and people started arriving, I can't remember an end to my smiling. It was the best day. Sunday cleared and the people came out. That day didn't feel like work until 8 p.m. that evening as we waited for the last artists to pack up. We ordered from DOG Street and had burgers and beer – a great time."

Tori is originally from Cheboygan, Michigan. "It's located at the top of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, south of the Mackinaw Bridge," she says. "I was born and raised in Cheboygan. I

went to Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw, Michigan. When I graduated with my degree in secondary education, Michigan was not a place where I could get a job. That was about a year after the economy in Michigan went very sour."

She had a friend who was teaching in Williamsburg at Magruder Elementary School, and recommended that Tori apply to York County's school system. "There weren't any openings, so I returned home and worked as a math aid in an elementary school until a job became open at York River Academy in Yorktown. I taught there for two years, English 9, 10, 11 and 12." Tori was living in Williamsburg and wanted to teach here too. "I loved York County School Division, so I applied for a transfer to Bruton High School. I was at Bruton for the last five years. Last year, I transitioned to Queens Lake Middle School."

After her first year in the area, and being so far from home, Tori spent her summer back in Michigan working at a summer camp and looking for a position there or in Chicago. "Adam, my future husband, had spent his summer

looking for teaching jobs out west where there was a stronger triathlon community. He didn't find a job that summer either. In August, we were both in Williamsburg, not really sure this was where we wanted to be. But we met each other and decided this was exactly where we wanted to be. When I moved to Virginia, my mom said to not meet a guy in Virginia and fall in love because I would never come home. She was right."

One of Adam's colleagues at Rawls Byrd Elementary, Melissa Trainum, suggested that Tori attend a Junior Woman's Club meeting. Tori wasn't sure about going until another friend said they would go together to meet the members.

"It's hard as an adult moving to a new place to make friends," she says. "It was a nice way to meet people. I had always been involved in community service. As a teacher, it's easy to fall in love with a community and see ways I can give back."

Events like Art on the Square help the club give back to the community. "The community art projects that we're able to fund through the



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money we raise are so cool, scholarships, donations for arts and for general support, funding everything from costumes, dance and music scholarships, potters' wheels and books. The impact of that money across the community is amazing."

Funds come from the booth fees that artists pay and from the Richard DePaul original painting raffle. "It's a beautiful painting. I'm so excited about it. We raffle the original, and we also have posters of it for sale. The proceeds from the raffle tickets go to the visual and performing arts scholarships. A portion of booth fees also go to the scholarships."

As a juried show, Art on the Square ensures that quality work is displayed along with a wide spectrum of art. "I like to see things at the show that are affordable for people, like that penguin mug I bought for Adam. But, we also want to make sure we have plenty of selection for the serious art collectors."

Working on the committee the past few years, Tori has learned about art and the process the jury goes through in offering invitations to

the selected artists. The show encourages high-end artists to have items available at a wide range of price points: from postcards to prints to original works. Most young and emerging collectors find the styles and media they enjoy at art shows, making their first purchases while learning about art by talking with the artists about their process and inspiration.

"Education of art enthusiasts is part of an art show," she adds.

"Last year, one of my favorite items was a rocking chair made by William Jenkins. His hand-made chairs are just gorgeous. They were used in the 'John Adams' mini-series. Art includes more than paintings and sculpture, but also things like hand-made furniture and woodworking, photography, pottery, jewelry, ironwork and textiles."

The committee co-chairs like to experiment with different ideas each year. "Our club comes up with a lot of suggestions on how to make the event more profitable as a fundraiser. We're always discussing the range of vendors and artists. Should we expand or keep it the same size?

There are a lot of opportunities. We try something that works and then some things we try don't work. It's nice to have that flexibility and freedom to experiment."

She likes that Art on the Square is just that: art on Merchants Square. "It's an easy show to visit – two streets to walk up and down. It's one day. There's time to visit with the artists and our neighbors."

Co-chairing the event took Tori out of her comfort zone and helped her develop new skills in organization, fundraising and delegation. "I have changed a lot in the years I've been in the Junior Woman's Club," Tori Otstot says. "Thanks to the role models I've had in the club, women I looked at, and not just wished I could be more like her, but decided that I would be more like her. Those traits that I know I need and want in my life. There's not a better place to find mentors like that for a young woman. It's been very beneficial." NDN

Art on the Square will be held Sunday, April 24, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



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GIFTING REHAB EQUIPMENT

By Greg Lilly, Editor

For some neighbors who require rehabilitation equipment, they may not have the insurance to help pay for it. While others could have a wheelchair in the garage, gathering dust. Kelly Ptachick, Williamsburg chapter president of FREE (Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment & Endowment), can help.

Started in 1999 by therapists and medical professionals in Roanoke that found a lot of

their patients weren't getting the equipment they needed, the FREE foundation has grown to six chapters around Virginia. Williamsburg's chapter opened in March, 2015. Kelly, an occupational therapist at Sentara, volunteered to head up the effort.

"I recognized the need," she says. "A lot of my patients go home needing equipment. Changes in insurance reimbursement and the

types of equipment that insurance pays for means there's a gap between what patients actually need and what's covered. I recognized that gap and that not all patients can afford to get the equipment they need on their own."

As an occupational therapist, Kelly found ways to become creative for patients so they didn't have to spend money on equipment instead of on their basic living expenses. "For ex-

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ample, we would use lawn chairs in the shower, so they had a seat in the shower that was safer than standing," she says.

"Volunteering and helping establish the FREE chapter in Williamsburg was a good fit from a professional side, but also a way to get involved in the community."

Kelly grew up in Portsmouth and majored in psychology at William & Mary. While at W&M, she found herself with two life events that placed her in front of her future profession. "When I was in college, I knew I wanted to do something health related. I wasn't sure at that time if I wanted to be a pharmacist, a nurse or a therapist. About that same time, my grandmother had a stroke. Within the year, my aunt was diagnosed with a brain tumor. In doing research and learning about different services for both of them, I stumbled upon occupational therapy, but I wasn't sure what it was."

The more she learned about occupational therapy, the more she knew it was a fit for her. "My grandmother went into rehab when I was home from college. I participated in some of her rehab and was able to work side-by-side with her occupational therapist. I loved it."

She graduated from the master's program at Shenandoah University. She moved to Virginia Beach and worked at a skilled nursing facility

with Sentara. "The rehab unit here in Williamsburg was opening. I really love the area. Inpatient rehab is my passion, so I applied for the job here and moved to Williamsburg in April, 2007."

Kelly works at Sentara in the Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit. "I work with patients who have been discharged from the hospital and who are in our rehab program for intense rehabilitation services with the goal of returning home. I teach them skills from learning to feed themselves again, bathe themselves, dress themselves, toilet themselves, along with higher level skills such as being able to cook and clean and manage basic home care activities. When I first go in to see patients and say 'I'm an occupational therapist, they will say, 'I already have a job' or 'I'm retired.' Not everyone has heard of occupational therapy until they, or a loved one, need it. I do a lot of education with my patients on what occupational therapy is."

The FREE foundation's office/storehouse, where Kelly volunteers her time, has shelves with many different type of rehabilitation equipment: walkers, canes, crutches, mechanical lifts to help patients from sitting to standing position, wheelchairs, power chairs, bedside commodes, shower chairs, tub transfer benches, mobility rails for beds and more.

"Since we have other chapters, if a client needs something we don't have, we can request from those other locations."

Clients come to FREE's services in a number of ways. Social workers and therapy departments at the local hospitals have been informed of the services and work with their patients to fill out the application for receiving equipment. From the applications, Kelly and her volunteers match the applicant with the equipment.

"We also have worked with Peninsula Agency on Aging with referrals. Local physicians' offices send patients to us. Home health agencies work with us. We require a physician's order for the equipment, but if they are being followed by a therapist, and the therapist can fill out the order of medical necessity, then it wouldn't require a physician's order," Kelly explains. "There are many different avenues."

All of the equipment is donated and in good condition. Donations come from individuals in the community who may have a spouse who has passed or no longer needs the equipment. FREE volunteers can pick up equipment or equipment can be dropped off at Goodwill of Greater Hampton Roads locations, tagged to give to FREE foundation. "We'll pick it up there. Also, as part of that partnership with Goodwill, any other equipment that they don't

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sell, they'll send those to us as well."

Volunteering for Kelly is something she feels she needs to do. Even with her husband Kevin and two young children and a full-time job, she says she can't sit still for long. "It's easy for me because it parallels with what I do professionally. Every day, I see the need for these services. Working on the rehab unit, I work with patients for, typically, two weeks, sometimes up to six weeks at a time. I develop a personal relationship with them. I get to know their family as I go through a difficult time with them. They get to know me and my family," she says.

"This organization has helped a lot of the patients that I worked with, personally. I get to see firsthand the benefits of the services and see the patients' faces when they receive a piece of equipment they've been trying to get for months, maybe for years."

She relates one example of a woman whose daily routine changed dramatically with a small piece of assistance equipment.

"There was a woman who had a bilateral, above knee amputation. Her amputations happened over five years ago. At the time, she didn't have prosthetics as she went through the therapy process. When she was discharged from therapy, she wasn't an appropriate candidate for

showering, so that was never addressed. So for five years, this lady hasn't showered. She happened to come back to the hospital for another unrelated issue. In the normal occupational therapy evaluation, I asked her about her bathroom layout. She said it didn't matter because she bathes at her sink. I asked why, wondering if the bathroom wasn't functional or she didn't feel safe doing it. She said she didn't have a seat in the shower. As simple as providing her a shower seat, she was able to shower again, after five years." The woman had adapted her life around not having the equipment.

"That's one that fell between the cracks," Kelly explains. "It wasn't appropriate when she could get the equipment, then she didn't know who to ask when she could have used one. That's a great success story. We gave her a tub transfer bench, so now she can get into and out of her shower safely."

Kelly says Williamsburg neighbors can help spread the word about the rehabilitation equipment that FREE has available. "The other big thing is donate equipment. There're a lot of individuals who may have had parents or spouses they helped take care of and now the equipment is sitting in a closet or in the garage. Contact us to donate equipment. We are a non-profit, so

we work solely on grants and fundraising."

The Williamsburg chapter was started by a grant from the Williamsburg Health Foundation. Since then, they've received a grant from the Williamsburg Community Foundation. "We also take monetary donations if any community member would like to assist in that capacity," she adds.

"Lastly, we're always looking for volunteers. We currently have about seven volunteers (including myself), two are therapists, one is a nurse practitioner, a couple of gentlemen who assist in picking up and delivering equipment." She gets the college involved as well. "I was a cheerleader at W&M. I contacted the coach to see if any of the cheerleaders were interested in volunteering. They will come in to help clean equipment and organize inventory."

When Kelly Ptachick hears from a woman who picked up equipment for her 98 year old mother and is told that because of FREE, the mother is able to stay in her home and stay there safely, that makes all her hours of hard work even more rewarding. NDN

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Art & Flowers

By Greg Lilly, Editor



Only the second Williamsburg Garden Club member to become president of the Garden Club of Virginia, Nina Mustard steps up to the state position in May. But first, she, as Williamsburg's president, and the Williamsburg Garden Club members present "Art and the Garden." During the 83rd Annual Williamsburg Homes and Gardens Tour, locals and visitors will be treated to fine art and flowers. Historic Garden Week is April 23- 30. Williamsburg's tour is Tuesday, April 26.

"The other women of the club do all the work," Nina says modestly. "I have it easy. As

president, I help coordinate the committees. Terry Buntrock is our chair of Garden Week. She's does the hard part."

Nina joined the Williamsburg Garden Club in 2000. "In our neighborhood, almost everyone on the lane was part of the Garden Club. At the time, I had started an herb garden." She explains that her mother wasn't a gardener, so she didn't have a lot of experience gardening. "Although, my husband, Jack, has lots of experience vegetable gardening," she adds.

Her herb garden didn't get far. "We couldn't grow anything in our yard. There's a stream

behind our house, and the deer love this area. I decided I liked watching the deer and the rabbits and wasn't going to get upset over the wildlife."

The brash deer around Nina's home stroll up to her front step. "I've planted pansies at the front door, and they'll eat them out of the pots. I have more things to worry about than if the deer will eat my flowers," she says with a laugh. What the members of the Garden Club might not be able to do in raising flowers in the area, they make up with in arranging them. "In our club, we're required to do several flower ar-

rangements every year. We learn so much. We have flower shows hosted by member clubs around the state. The Garden Club of Virginia has a daffodil show at the end of March, a lily show in June and then a rose show.”

The Williamsburg Garden Club participates in those shows by creating flower arrangements based on set guidelines. “It’s a competition among the 47 clubs. We’ve done well. Williamsburg has received a ribbon in every show for the past few years. It’s fun for the clubs to compete.”

The skill and creativity of the club members will be on display during the Williamsburg Homes and Gardens tour. The tour’s headquarters is Cedars Bed & Breakfast at 616 Jamestown Road, where the gardens will be open to visitors. Just down the block, homes and gardens will be open on Burns Lane, including the historic Bel-Mede.

Bel-Mede was built in 1770 by Thomas and Mary Pretlow in Wakefield, Virginia. In 1947, the house was moved from its original location to Williamsburg by Tom and Lelia Thorne. Tom Thorne was a fine arts professor at William and Mary. Lelia was the president of the

Williamsburg Garden Club and the president of the Garden Club of Virginia. Now, over 60 years later, Nina is the only other Williamsburg woman to rise to the presidency of the state organization.

This year, current owners of Bel-Mede, Pam and Jim Penny, have opened the home and gardens to tour participants, and it promises to be a highlight of the day. The last time the home was part of Historic Garden Week was in 1953.

Glenda and Ed Lindsey, also on Burns Lane, have opened their home and gardens to the tour. Nina describes a treat in the terraced back lawn, showing the deep ravine and woodland gardens.

Nina says there will be an added attraction as visitors walk along the street. “Antique cars, decorated with flowers will be parked along Burns Lane.” The vintage automobiles will be adorned with flower arrangements created by the Garden Club members.

“At the Muscarelle Museum of Art on the campus, an exhibit of fine art and flowers is called ‘Art in Bloom.’ It is exciting to see our members and professional floral designers in-

terpret fine art into flower arrangements. We will have 50 or more arrangements for our Tuesday Garden Tour. That’s a couple of dozen arrangers. Everyone in the club has a job: arranger, hostess, ticket sellers, many different jobs to make it happen. The Williamsburg Garden Club has about 75 members. Every person participates.”

Along with the walking tour of William & Mary’s campus gardens and sculptures, the Earl Gregg Swem Library hosts speakers and a glass art exhibit and sale from the Virginia Glass Guild.

Colonial Williamsburg is also involved. “This is the first year we’re partnering with Colonial Williamsburg on their Garden Symposium,” Nina says. “They’ve altered their dates so they could join forces with us. That’s a big deal.” The Colonial Williamsburg 70th Spring Garden Symposium presents guest lecturers, authors, horticulturists, gardening experts and Colonial Williamsburg landscape professionals. “The DeWitt-Wallace Museums will be open with botanical art.”

The week highlights different Virginia locations each day. Tuesday is Williamsburg’s time

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to shine, and on Wednesday, Newport News and Hampton highlight Fort Monroe. "Each location's tours are different. We have 47 clubs in the Garden Club of Virginia," Nina says. "Some clubs partner to do Historic Garden Week, like Newport News and Hampton. We have combination tickets so tour visitors can plan to see multiple tours in several locations." She explains that each year Historic Garden Week hosts over 30,000 visitors. "Every tour is interesting, and every tour is different. There are contemporary homes, huge homes, smaller homes... The communities open their very finest homes and gardens to the public."

Nina adds, "The name 'Historic Garden Week' is a little misleading because it relates to the historic gardens that we've restored. We don't necessarily tour historic gardens, although many are on the tour. It relates to the fact that our mission is to restore historic gardens."

As well as raising funds for historic garden restoration, the clubs around the Commonwealth hold fundraisers for local projects. "We have an Anniversary Garden at the corner of Henry Street and Highway 199 that started

with funds from Garden Week. Also, Matthey's Garden at Matthew Whaley Elementary is one we've raised funds for." The Garden Club of Virginia has restoration projects throughout the state, including the Poe Museum in Richmond, Mount Vernon, Williamsburg's Bruton Parish Churchyard, Bacon's Castle, Lee Hall, Montpelier and Monticello.

"These are the properties that we've restored over the years with the funds from Historic Garden Week. It's a really important event for us and for the Commonwealth." Part of the funds raised will go to Virginia State Parks and upgrading their gardens in a lead-up to the Garden Club's centennial celebration in 2020. "Local clubs will work with the State Parks to make improvements."

Nina explains that she's amazed by the skills and creativity of her friends in the Williamsburg Garden Club. "There is so much talent in Williamsburg, it's unbelievable. These are creative folks."

The Williamsburg club celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2019, and then the state organization's 100th anniversary follows the next year. "We're talking about what we'll do. We're

collecting historical items from our club. There will be an exhibit at the Virginia Historical Society. That's a big deal."

Nina Mustard's favorite part of Historic Garden Week is experiencing the crowds.

"To hear them talk about the flowers," she says of eavesdropping on tour participants. "They'll examine the flower arrangements to see how we created them or comment on the design of the gardens. There is something for so many different people. Some will come for just the walking tour with the gardens, others to see the homes. The weather is gorgeous. I'll be touring a different community each day of the week. I go through all the houses with the crowds to see their reactions."

The Williamsburg tour hosts over a thousand visitors each year. "We try to find homes in neighborhoods where people can walk from one to the next. This year, along Burns Lane, we'll have the antique cars parked along the street, then across Richmond Road to the William & Mary campus to the Muscarelle Museum and Swem Library for lunch and tours and art and flowers. There's so much to see and do. It's going to be a beautiful day." NDN

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Hey Neighbor! BLUES MUSIC AND MORE AT THE KIMBALL

April 2, 2016

A wonderful series of concerts is kicking off at the Kimball Theater in Merchants Square beginning with blues musician Bobby BlackHat Walters on Saturday, April 2nd. The local Rotary Club of James City County presents an annual series of concerts to raise funds towards local charitable causes and Rotary's International effort to eliminate polio. Spring and summer concerts will feature bluegrass groups Chisman Creek Band on June 18 and Code Blue on July 30. The Central Virginia premiere men's a cappella group Soundworks will be perform on September 3. The series will conclude with the Williamsburg Classic Swing Orchestra on Saturday, No-

vember 12. All concerts begin at 7 pm. Tickets are available at the door; season tickets are available for only \$75 by contacting John Enright at (757) 876-4455 or john.enright@lnf.com.

Hey Neighbor! HARLEM RENAISSANCE FUNDRAISER

April 2, 2016

The Williamsburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. presents its signature fundraiser, "Harlem Nights." Join us for an evening filled with glorious music of the Harlem Renaissance. Music born out of juke joints, speakeasies, and elegant supper clubs. DoubleTree by Hilton, Williamsburg, 6- 10 pm. Tickets: \$65. Attire: Semi-formal (zoot suites and other period attire encouraged).

Hey Neighbor! VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFERS LAWN CARE PROGRAM

April 2, 2016

The Virginia Cooperative Extension's Turf Love University program at the James City County Recreation Center runs from 9 am to noon. The program will focus on low-impact and organic lawn care; speakers will talk about composting and its uses. The program is offered at no cost to participants, but registration is required. For information, contact Judy Kinshaw-Ellis at (757) 564-2172 or JKinshaw@vt.edu.

Hey Neighbor! AVOIDING SCAMS

April 7, 2016

The Faith Community and Peninsula Agency on Aging Williamsburg Resource Center are sponsoring an afternoon out. The topic will be "Avoiding Scams and Personal Safety," presented by Officer Alan McDowell of the James City County Police Department. He will discuss the latest scams, how to avoid them and where to report scams. This is open to all seniors age 60 or better and is FREE. Come join us at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 1333 Jamestown Rd. Williamsburg on Thursday April 7th from 1PM-3PM.

Hey Neighbor! 17TH ANNUAL WILLIAMSBURG BRITISH & EUROPEAN CAR SHOW

April 9, 2016

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World Taiji & Qigong Day

APRIL 10, 2016 / 1-5 PM / SADLER CENTER

The William & Mary Confucius Institute invites the greater Williamsburg community to explore ancient Chinese martial arts and health improvement techniques on World Taiji and Qigong Day.

Tickets cost \$5 for W&M faculty, staff, and students, and \$10 for community members. Please bring cash or check to the event. Participants of all ages and fitness levels welcome, as anyone can benefit from the restorative powers of Taiji and Qigong!

For schedule and online registration, visit www.wm.edu/sites/confuciusinstitute.



THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE 757.221.1286 wmci@wm.edu

Club British and European Car Show at Chickahominy Riverfront Park, next to the intersection of the James and Chickahominy Rivers. Camping available thru James City County. Registration form on our website. Featured marque is the Morgan 4/4, 4-4 & 4+ to commemorate the introduction of the Morgan 4 wheeler in 1936. For information, visit the web site - <http://www.wmbgbrit.com/> where registration form is available. \$20* pre-registration now thru April 1st, \$25 day of show. (*You can also pay via PayPal). Contact Roy Gavilan. wbcregister@outlook.com

Hey Neighbor! ANNUAL EARL "TUGGY" YOUNG SPRING FLING

April 9, 2016

Bacon Street's Youth and Family Services invites you to join us at our annual Earl "Tuggy" Young Spring Fling at Ford's Colony Country Club. Registration begins at 8 am with a 9 am shotgun start. Cost: \$500 per foursome. Foursome includes 18 holes of golf, lunch, awards, and more! Register online at www.baconstreet.org or mail check payable to Bacon Street at 247 McLaws Circle, Williamsburg, Virginia, 23185. For questions about tournament or sponsorships contact Chelsea Jones at cjones@baconstreet.org or (757) 253-0111.

Hey Neighbor! TREE OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

April 9, 2016

Tree of Life international Inc., a local 501c3 non-profit, whose mission is to empower vulnerable women and girls around the world through literacy and skills training, will present a benefit concert at Williamsburg Regional Library. Beginning at 3 pm, the afternoon will be full of artist gifted in music, art and dance. Tax deductible donations will be accepted to support ongoing mission projects. For further information contact Cookie James at (757) 903-1277 or trolli@cox.net

Hey Neighbor! WORLD TAIJI AND QIGONG DAY

April 10, 2016
The William & Mary Confucius Institute invites the greater Williamsburg community to explore ancient Chinese martial arts and health improvement techniques on World Taiji and Qigong Day 2016. The event will last from 10-4:30, and take place in various rooms throughout the Sadler Center on WM campus. Local instructors Stan Rockwell, Meghan Bryant, and David Hamilton will be teaching a variety of Taiji workshops, while Brigette A. Fox will be hosting informational sessions on Acupuncture and other Chinese medicine. WMCI staff will hold on-going cultural demonstrations ranging from calligraphy to painting and paper cutting. At your own pace, move through

out the environment and learn about the wonders of Chinese culture. Anyone can benefit from the restorative powers of Taiji and Qigong! Head to www.wm.edu/sites/confuciusinstitute for information and registration.

Hey Neighbor! YOUTH BIKE SERIES

April 10, 2016

Mountain bike race for ages 3 to 18 on youth-friendly trails. Sundays: April 10 and 24, May 1 and 22; final race & awards June 5. Parents must be present; helmets required. Geared bikes necessary for middle, high school, and advanced riders. Push bikes, balance bikes or strider bikes suggested for younger riders. No training wheels, pegs, or axle extenders. For information and to register, call (757) 890-3500. \$25/child; \$20 each additional child in same family. One or more race: \$10/child/day. Receive ribbons weekly and bike number plate. New Quarter Park is located at 1000 Lakeshead Drive, Williamsburg, near the Queen's Lake neighborhood. For more information, call York County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism at (757) 890-3500 or New Quarter Park at (757) 890-5840.

Hey Neighbor! WHAT LOVE HAS GOT TO DO WITH POLITICS: PASSION AND LOVE IN CHINESE FILM

April 11, 2016

As part of its Distinguished Scholar Lecture series, the William & Mary Confucius Institute will welcome Stanford Professor Ban Wang to campus to host a lecture entitled "What Love Has Got to Do with Politics: Passion and Love in Chinese Film." Wang currently holds the title of the William Haas Professor in Chinese Studies in East Asian Languages and Cultures and Comparative Literature at Stanford University. Over the course of his career, Wang has written and edited many books on Chinese Culture and art, paying close attention to the intersections between east-west cultural relations, aesthetics, cinema, and international politics. The lecture will utilize film imagery to discuss the tension between individual and collective love. The event will take place on William & Mary campus, in Blow Hall Room 201, from 4-5:30 pm. It is free and open to the public! A short reception will follow after the lecture concludes. Head to www.wm.edu/sites/confuciusinstitute for information.

Hey Neighbor! VOICES FOR VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

April 14, 2016

The Williamsburg Health Foundation will host a lecture and discussion with Margaret Nimmo Crowe, Executive Director of Voices for Virginia's Children, on "Advocating for Virginia's Children." Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 2:30 PM at the College of William & Mary School of Education in the Dogwood Room at

301 Monticello Avenue. All are welcome. Visit www.williamsburghhealthfoundation.org for more information and parking passes.

Hey Neighbor! LANDSCAPE LOVE REGISTRATION OPENS

Through April 15, 2016

The James City County/Williamsburg Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners are offering to residents of the county or city a free consultation on landscape best management practices at the homeowner's home. During the individualized session, the homeowner and team of 3-5 Extension Master Gardener volunteers will discuss pressing landscape problems or questions to include, but not limited to, plant selection, placement and care; reducing use of water, fertilizer, and pesticides; use of native plants, composting, and reuse of yard debris; and establishing diversified landscape practices which support habitat preservation and protect our local watersheds. Creating and maintaining a sustainable landscape to support improving water quality is emphasized. Applications for the spring 2016 sessions will be accepted until April 15 by visiting www.jccwmg.org and clicking on Landscape Love, Homeowner Registration Forms. Spaces are limited and will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis. On-site visits will be scheduled from late April throughout May.

Hey Neighbor! BLUEBIRDS IN OUR GARDENS

April 16, 2016

Freedom Park Interpretive Center, 10 am, open to the public. Join Nancy Barnhart and a team of certified Master Naturalists to learn all about bluebirds and how to attract them to your yard. Weather permitting, we will visit several nest boxes in the monitoring program. This event is part of the Learn and Grow Educational Series sponsored by the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. The program is free, although a \$5 donation to help the Garden grow is appreciated. For more information, contact Nancy Barnhart, at (540) 454-3014 or email her at barnhartnt@gmail.com

Hey Neighbor! PUBLIC ARCHEOLOGY AT NEW QUARTER PARK

April 16, 2016

From 9:30 am - 4 pm, join professional archaeologist and dig into history. Volunteer for the morning (9:30 am to noon) or the afternoon (1 to 4 pm) session. Up to 20 volunteers can participate in each session. To volunteer, send an email to Fairfield@FairfieldFoundation.org with your name, preferred time, email address, and telephone number. No previous experience with archaeology is needed. Professional archaeologists from the Fairfield Foundation as well as certified archaeology volunteers lead the program, instruct volunteers,

and provide information about earlier discoveries. The site is near a slave quarter attached to Carter's Grove Plantation, called "the new quarter" by the eighteenth-century landowner. The dig site was thought to be part of the "quarter," but recent excavation revealed the cellar of a substantial brick house, which may have been a tenant house. Earlier digs have produced a rich treasure of artifacts. The April dig promises more of the same. The New Quarter dig is sponsored by Tidewater Virginia Historical Society, the Archeological Society of Virginia, York County, and the York County History Museum. New Quarter Park is located at 1000 Lakeshead Drive near the Queens Lake neighborhood. Follow the Colonial Parkway between Yorktown and Williamsburg and exit at Queens Lake. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp and travel a short distance to Lakeshead Dr. Follow the signs two miles to the park office and parking lot.

Hey Neighbor! WOMAN'S CLUB FASHION SHOW

April 16, 2016


The non-profit Woman's Club of Williamsburg-GFWC invites everyone to our annual fashion show fundraiser. Bring your friends for an afternoon of fun, fashions and good food. The show will be held at the Colonial Heritage Club House, 6500 Arthur Hills Dr., Williamsburg. Registration starts at 11 am, followed by lunch and the fashion show. Email us (email@womensclubofwilliamsburg.org) by April 9 to make reservations. Tickets are \$35. The net proceeds from the event will support the Club's high school scholarship program and our other community service projects. Williamsburg businesses are invited to participate in the fashion show by donating an item for our raffle, displaying a flyer at the event, advertising in the program or purchasing a table or individual tickets. To find out more about advertising opportunities, visit <http://womensclubofwilliamsburg.org/advertising/>.

Hey Neighbor! THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONIA MASTERWORKS CONCERT #5

April 18- 19, 2016

The Williamsburg Symphonia welcomes back to its stage mandolinist Jeff Midkiff who performs with Concertmaster Akemi Takayama his own composition, the Concerto for Mandolin and Violin. It is a great honor for the Symphonia to present Symphony No. 3 by Florence Price, the first African-American woman whose work has been recognized and performed by a major orchestra. Performances begin at 8 pm at the Kimball Theatre, in Merchants Square. For information or to purchase tickets (\$48 or \$58), call (757) 229-9857 or visit www.williamsburgsymphonia.org.

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Hey Neighbor!

BEYOND BOOBS! 9TH ANNUAL "BREAST" BALL GOLF TOURNAMENT April 22, 2016

In its 9th year, the "Breast" Ball is an event unlike any other. With 300+ golfers and volunteers, this tournament occupies all 3 courses and promises to be not just a great day of golf but also a fabulous time for a great cause. To sign up, sponsor or find out more go to www.breastballgolf.com, or call (757) 645-2649 extension 6. Volunteers and non-golfers are welcome to attend that as well with a non-golfer dinner ticket for \$30.

Hey Neighbor!

4TH ANNUAL HIKE FOR HOSPICE April 23, 2016

From 12:30 - 3:30 pm, Park East at Governor's Land, 2700 Two Rivers Road, Williamsburg. Join us for a leisurely 2 mile walk followed by a Celebration of Life at Park East in Governor's Land located at 2700 Two Rivers Road, Williamsburg. Walk to celebrate the memory of loved ones, in honor of someone, or just to support Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg. Teams encouraged. Registration is \$25/per person prior to April 1, \$35 per person after. Visit williamsburghikeforhospice.org or call (757) 253-1220 for more information.

Hey Neighbor!

WALK MS - WILLIAMSBURG FUNDRAISER April 23, 2016

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society will be hosting our 1st annual Walk MS location in Williamsburg. Join our community of passionate individuals to connect and raise funds to change the world for everyone affected by MS. Multiple Sclerosis, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system, interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. The Walk will be hosted at Colonial Heritage, 6500 Arthur Hills Dr., Williamsburg. Check-in and Registration begin at 9:30 am with the walk commencing at 10 am with treks of ½

to 3 miles. Sign up today as an individual or a team at www.walkms.org.

Hey Neighbor!

WALK AND TALK: BLUEBIRDS! April 23, 2016

From 10 am to 12 noon. Jan Lockwood and Lois Ullman, Historic Rivers Virginia Master Naturalists and Virginia Bluebird Society coordinators, lead trail monitors who check nest boxes weekly to count eggs, nestlings, and fledgling bluebirds. New Quarter Park is located at 1000 Lakeshead Drive, Williamsburg, near the Queen's Lake neighborhood. For more information, call York County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism at (757) 890-3500 or New Quarter Park at (757) 890-5840.

Hey Neighbor!

ART ON THE SQUARE 2016 April 24, 2016

The Junior Woman's Club of Williamsburg presents the 53rd Annual Art on the Square juried art show from 10 am - 5 pm, rain or shine, in Merchants Square. The event features more than 170 artists from across the country and is free and open to the public. Proceeds from artist booth fees are donated to visual and performing arts organizations throughout the greater Williamsburg area, including Williamsburg, James City and York counties.

Hey Neighbor!

WINDSOR FOREST POOL & SWIM TEAM MEETING April 24, 2016

Come join our pool and swim team and find out what all the fun is about! Swim team for ages 4-18. Our informational meeting will be held at 7 pm at Windsor Forest Clubhouse or visit us online at www.windsorforesthoa.com.

Hey Neighbor!

FREE BOATING SAFETY COURSE April 24, 2016

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Williamsburg Flotilla 67, is offering the Virginia Boating Safety Education Classroom Course. The class is free and, when you pass the final exam, then you are certified to operate a motorboat (in-

cluding PWCs/ Jet Ski). Beginning July 1, 2016, all operators of PWCs (personal watercraft such as jet skis, Sea Doo's, and Wave Runners) and operators of motorboats with a motor of 10 horsepower or greater will be required to have a boating safety education course completion card on board when operating a PWC or motorboat. Our next class will be from 9 am - 5 pm at Queens Lake Clubhouse, 234 East Queen Drive, Williamsburg. Attendance is limited; you can register at <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/79486> or email at pe@flotilla67.us

Hey Neighbor!

THE MANY FACETS OF LOVE CONCERT April 24, 2016

Cantori Choral Ensemble presents its 2016 spring concert at 5 pm at Walnut Hills Baptist Church, 1014 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg. The concert will feature beautiful choral settings of romantic love, familial love, and agapé love. It has been praised in the Williamsburg area for its purity and clarity of tone, blend and balance, and excellent musicianship. The concert is free and open to the public. An offering will be received in support of Cantori.

Hey Neighbor!

LECTURE BY COLONEL LARRY WILKERSON April 25, 2016

James City County Democrats are sponsoring a lecture by Colonel Wilkerson at 7 pm at the Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland Street. The event is free and open to the public. Colonel Wilkerson will discuss presidential decision-making and the art of making the most difficult decisions of all, those that send young men and women into harm's way. For more information email us at jccdem@gmail.com.

Hey Neighbor!

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM April 27, 2016

Williamsburg Regional Library at 515 Scotland Street. Meeting begins at 7 pm in the Theater. Forum for Williamsburg City Council - three open seats. League

of Women Voters of the Williamsburg Area - www.lwwwilliamsburg.org

Hey Neighbor!

COMMUNITY OF STARS FUNDRAISING BANQUET April 29, 2016

Williamsburg-James City County Community Action Agency and Board of Directors will hold its 13th annual Community of Stars fundraising banquet at Colonial Heritage at 6500 Arthur Hills Dr., Williamsburg. In celebrating its 48th year, the agency will honor several individuals, businesses and organizations that have strengthened and supported CAA by giving their time and resources. Proceeds from the banquet will go toward the agency's programs and services, to include Head Start preschool, youth, family and emergency services. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$55 per person, \$100 for two and \$500 for a table of ten. To purchase tickets, contact Yvonne at 229-9332.

Hey Neighbor!

ACC SANCTIONED CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT April 29-May 1, 2016

This tournament includes a Friday night event, the Main tourney on Saturday, a Saturday night event and a Sunday consolation tourney. All will be held at the Wyndham Gardens Busch Gardens, 201 Water Country Parkway, Williamsburg. For information contact gwwapc@cox.net or Bill Whiting, tournament director @ (757) 532-1405.

Hey Neighbor!

ANNUAL PLANT SALE April 30, 2016

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of James City County/Williamsburg will hold their annual plant sale from 9 am - 2 pm. The event will be held rain or shine at the Jamestown Beach Park. All types of plant material including annuals, shrubs, vegetables, perennials, etc. will be provided by the Native Plant Society, Botanical Garden and the Master Gardeners for purchase. Cash and checks will be accepted in payment.

Happy Spring!

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Hey Neighbor!

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG EMPLOYEE ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW

April 30-May 1, 2016

At the Historic Triangle Community Center at 312 Waller Mill Road. Admission and parking are free. This is a great event for families and shoppers to gather some unique handmade gifts and goodies. Check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CW.Employee.Art.Crafts.Show/>

Hey Neighbor!

WILLIAMSBURG CHORAL GUILD SPRING CONCERT - SPIRITUAL EXPRESSIONS IN ABUNDANCE

April 30 - May 1, 2016

Times are 7:30 pm on April 30 and 4 pm on May 1. Three distinctive musical styles - opera choruses, musical theater and spirituals - express spirituality in this final concert of the Guild's 40th anniversary season. Pre-concert lecture: one hour before the performance in the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church's sanctuary at 215 Richmond Rd., Williamsburg. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Call (757) 220-1808 or visit www.williamsburgchoralguild.org to purchase tickets.

Hey Neighbor!

MAY IS BIKE MONTH

May 1 - 31, 2016

The Williamsburg Area Bicyclists will sponsor a ride or event each day of the month of May. The rides include activities from an ice cream social and Pedal the Parkway for families to moderate paced rides for adults. For a calendar of rides and activities go to www.WilliamsburgBikeMonth.org or find us on Facebook.

Hey Neighbor!

PEDAL THE PARKWAY

May 7, 2016

From 8 am - 1 pm, cycle, run or hike along the shores of the scenic James River from Jamestown to Williamsburg, or vice versa. The 19th Pedal the Parkway is FREE and will be held rain or shine. Eight miles of empty, car-free pavement on the Colonial Parkway will allow you to start at your own time, proceed at your own pace and enjoy refreshments at the midway point. This is a great ride to introduce young family members to the joys of road cycling. See www.williamsburgbikemonth.org or find us on Facebook.

Hey Neighbor!

1st ANNUAL TOT TROT, 1K FUN RUN

May 7, 2016

Calling all toddlers and preschoolers! The first annual Tot Trot, 1K Fun Run offered exclusively for children ages 5 and under and their families will take place at 9 am on Duke of Gloucester Street in Williamsburg. Visit [\[liamsburgcampuschildcare.org\]\(http://liamsburgcampuschildcare.org\) for race information, including a registration link. \\$15 each for all children 5 and under and FREE for accompanying family. Please email Spencer Milne at \[shmiln@wm.edu\]\(mailto:shmiln@wm.edu\) with any questions.](http://www.wil-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Hey Neighbor!

FIFTH ANNUAL AGING IN PLACE SYMPOSIUM

May 10, 2016

Hosted by Williamsburg Area Faith in Action. Time: 8 am - 1 pm. A variety of sessions of interest to seniors, caregivers and professionals in the field will be presented. This year's event will be held at King of Glory Lutheran Church, located at 4897 Longhill Road, Williamsburg. Registration cost for seniors (60 and over) is \$10; those under 60, \$15. For more information and to register, please visit our website at www.wfia.org or call (757) 258-5890.

Hey Neighbor!

WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONIA LEAGUE CONCERT AND FUNDRAISER

May 11, 2016

Zuill Bailey and violinist Akemi Takayama, team up for a superb performance and warm up to a live auction, paddle raise and raffle drawing at the Williamsburg Symphonia League's annual fundraising event. The three-course dinner will be held at Two Rivers Country Club starting at 6 pm with cocktails. The cost is \$100/person and \$110/person after April 22. Limited seating available. Funds raised will benefit the Symphonia's primary purpose of providing Williamsburg area children access to musical education beyond the classroom as well as the excellent orchestral musical performances that enhance our community's quality of life. For tickets and additional information contact Marie Knuettel at (757) 810-6183 or marieknuettel@gmail.com. Additional details can be found at <http://www.williamsburgsymphonia.org/league-news.html>

Hey Neighbor!

THE 9TH ANNUAL KIWANIS CLUB OF TOANO GOLF TOURNAMENT

May 13, 2016

At Kiskiack Golf Club, this event is the major fund raiser for the volunteer group, dedicated to carrying out the Kiwanis mission of "changing the world one child and one community at a time."

For information about the April 17 early registration or the tournament specifics, contact Dave Rothberg at (757) 206-1750 or Mike Villaggio at (757) 565-46410, or visit the KOT Facebook event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/875771215875389/>

Hey Neighbor!

JAMESTOWN DAY

May 14, 2016

Discover Jamestown's legacy through

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interpretive programs on Powhatan Indian and English interactions, archaeology, military and maritime displays, and traditional music and entertainment. Separate site admission: Jamestown Settlement is \$17 adults, \$8 ages 6-12 and children under 6 are free; Historic Jamestowne is \$14 adults, ages 16 and older. Jamestown Settlement is located on Route 31 South of Williamsburg; Historic Jamestowne is located at the 1368 Colonial Parkway on Jamestown Island. For information about Historic Jamestowne, call (757) 229-4997 or (757) 898-2410 or visit www.historic-jamestowne.org or www.nps.gov/colo. For information about Jamestown Settlement, call (888) 593-4682 toll-free or visit www.historyisfun.org.

Hey Neighbor!

MARCH FOR BABIES- 5 MILE WALK May 14, 2016

Registration starts at 9 am and the walk begins at 10 am. March of Dimes-Williamsburg March for Babies walk will take place at Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center, 100 Sentara Circle, Williamsburg. Premature birth is the #1 killer of babies in the United States. Please consider join us in our mission to give every baby a fighting chance and form a fundraising team. Visit our website www.marchforbabies.org for more information or contact Allison Gross, Community Director at asgross@marchofdimes.org, (804) 977-2033.

Hey Neighbor!

OPEN HOUSE AT HOSPICE HOUSE May 17, 2016

From 4-6 p.m. Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg, 4445 Powhatan Parkway, Williamsburg. We're opening our doors to the greater Williamsburg Community! Join us for a tour of Hospice House, to learn about the services we provide the community, and to find out about volunteer opportunities. Call (757) 253-1220 for questions or to RSVP.

Hey Neighbor!

WILLIAMSBURG FARMERS MARKET Ongoing

2016 Market Schedule: Saturdays, April 2 thru October 29 from 8 am – 12 noon; November 5 thru November 26 and December 10 and 17 from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. The Williamsburg Farmers Market is located in Merchants Square in the heart of historic Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Over 35 vendors offer a variety of local products. The Market accepts cash, credit cards, SNAP, and W&M Express. Visit www.WilliamsburgFarmersMarket.com for music, chef and vendor information. Free parking available on Francis Street (Lot P6) during market hours of 8 am – 12 pm.

Hey Neighbor!

TEACHER'S ASSISTANT/BUS DRIVER POSITION AVAILABLE Ongoing

Assist teacher in classroom; drives school bus on field trips or as necessary and fulfills transportation requirements. HS or GED diploma required. CDA or Early Childhood Education AA program required. Must have or able to obtain commercial driver's license with satisfactory DMV driving record. Bilingual (English/Spanish) and certifications in First Aid, CPR, and MAT preferred. Employment is subject to satisfactory background checks and Human Resource processing. All applicants please submit resume to: email headstart@wjccactionagency.org or come in person to 312 Waller Mill Road, Suite 400, Williamsburg, VA 23185. EOE.

Hey Neighbor!

THE ARC OF GW SEEKS ART INSTRUCTOR Ongoing

The Arc is in need of an Arts and Crafts Instructor for six classes to be conducted bimonthly. The Arc serves adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and conducts these classes from 7-9 pm at various locations within the greater Williamsburg community. This is a contract position. For information and details, contact The Arc at (757) 229-3535 or email pam.mcgregor@thearcgw.org.

Hey Neighbor!

WJCC COMMUNITY ACTION

AGENCY HEAD START OPEN ENROLLMENT

Ongoing

A Preschool Program for Children ages 3 to 5, serving income eligible families, including children with special needs. To apply, call 757-229-6417, or visit us at 312 Waller Mill Road, Williamsburg, VA in Suite 400.

Hey Neighbor!

COLONIAL HERITAGE INVESTMENT CLUB

Ongoing

Meets at Colonial Heritage Clubhouse, 6500 Arthur Hills Drive, Williamsburg. Open to anyone with an interest in investing, from beginners to seasoned traders, including people who work with an investment advisor. Meetings held on third Thursday of each month from 9:30 - 11:30 am. A wide range of investment topics are covered through presentations, discussions, and question-answer sessions, all with a common goal of helping people learn more about the markets, investment alternatives, and managing their portfolios. The club does not invest money, buy securities, or permit sales presentations. Guests admitted free.

Hey Neighbor!

MEETINGS - COLONIAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Ongoing, first Monday

We meet the first Monday of every month at the James City Library on Croaker Road at 6:30 pm. The club is one of the few photography clubs in the area and has been in existence for over eight years. We have about 60 members with skill levels ranging from novice to nationally recognized. The club web site is www.cnpca.org

Hey Neighbor!

WILLIAMSBURG RESTORE EXPANDS FACILITY / NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Ongoing

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore needs your help! We are looking for volunteers who would like to help fulfill Habitat for Humanity's mission of

providing affordable housing for local families in need. We want you to be part of the ReStore family. 100% of the proceeds from the ReStore go towards building homes in your community. We need volunteers to help assist on the sales floor, processing donations, repairing furniture, processing recyclable materials, and customer service. Any amount of time you can volunteer at the ReStore is a huge help. Please contact Kristin or Diane at (757) 603-6895 X5662.

Hey Neighbor!

NEIGHBORHOOD BASKETBALL LEAGUE (NBL) SIGN-UP

Ongoing

Registration for the Neighborhood Basketball League for boys and girls has begun. Cost is \$20 for Williamsburg and James City County residents and \$25 for non-residents. Parent's signature is required if the student is under 18 years of age. The ages are 10 to 18 years old. Bring proof of age to Williamsburg-James City County Community Action Agency at 312 Waller Mill Road, Suite 405. If you need more information, call Linda or Yvonne at (757) 229-9332.

Hey Neighbor!

YJCW-NAACP MEETING

Ongoing

The York-James City- Williamsburg NAACP meets the second Monday of each month (except July) at First Baptist Church, 727 Scotland Street, Williamsburg. Branch meetings begin at 6:30 pm. For more information, contact NAACP@yjcwnaacp.org

Hey Neighbor!

WILLIAMSBURG MOOSE LODGE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Ongoing

We are a charitable group of men and women that "do good" for neighborhood causes (as well as for MooseHeart and MooseHaven). We also host many events at our lodge that donate to other causes and charities. Contact us for more information: Joe Roney, administrator (757) 565-5149 or Williamsburg Moose Lodge #757 at (757) 565-9807 Moose757@cox.net



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photo challenge

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

Enjoy!



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**Look for the answers
in the next issue of
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