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WILLIAMSBURG'S

Next Door Neighbors[®]

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PRICELESS

Discovering the people who call Williamsburg home

JAMESTOWN

Extracurricular Activities

Josiah Hill

WE'RE READY. WHAT ABOUT YOU?



I don't know about you, but after reading these stories I was tired! Most of us went to high school, but I wonder how many of us demonstrated the drive and persistence of the young men and women featured in this issue of Next Door Neighbors.

We interviewed ten local students to see how their extracurricular activities fit with their education, family and social lives. I think it was amazing to read about how these kids seem almost laser focused on what they need to do to achieve their goals...and they are doing it.

Denis Waitley, writer, said: "As long as we are persistent in our pursuit of our deepest destiny, we will continue to grow. We cannot choose the day or time when we will fully bloom. It happens in its own time."

I think these kids are jump starting their futures with their decisions to create opportunities for themselves both now and in the future. It is only time that will give them what they need to fully bloom and succeed in life. What more could we ask of our kids? NDN



Meredith Collins, Publisher

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Josiah Hill is a young man with big dreams and he has worked hard to make those dreams a reality. After living in Yorktown for the first two years of his life, his family moved to Williamsburg, where he has resided for the past fifteen years. Josiah currently attends Jamestown High School, and he has very definite plans for his future.

“My plans after high school are to either go to the Naval Academy, which I’m at the ‘official candidate’ level filling out my candidate packet, or to go to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida, where I plan to study aerospace engineering.”

Josiah is a member of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, an organization that he enjoys belonging to.

“This is a junior ROTC, and their mission is to expose youth to what Navy life is like. There’s no obligation to join, but it gives you a little bit of experience. I’m currently a petty officer third class,” he says. Being a part of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a reflection of something that is a big part of Josiah’s life: the military. “I plan to go into the Navy or Marine Corps and hopefully fly fighter jets, if they’ll allow me.”

He already has a head start on flying, as he is currently a student pilot with the Youth Aeronautics Education Foundation. In August of 2014 he took the FAA written exam and passed, and on September 15, 2015, Josiah flew solo. He is trained on a Cessna 152, a two-seat, general aviation airplane. Although he doesn’t currently have his official pilot’s license, he expects

he will get it sometime around the February to March time frame. He is still participating in practice cross country flights, something he enjoys very much.

His interest in aviation began at a very early age. In fact, he even sees a bit of foreshadowing of his interest from his toddler years. “When I was little, I had a walker that was shaped like an airplane,” he says. But it all started when he was about four or five years old. “My mother went to the library and rented a kid’s documentary on naval aviation. At first I thought, I’m not into that, but halfway through the video the pilots and naval aviators made flight plans and were having a good time, and then they got into the cockpit and took off. I saw an F14 Tomcat land, which was originally the jet I wanted to fly. After seeing all that, I knew

that’s what I wanted to do, and from that point on that’s what I’ve been after.”

It’s really no surprise that Josiah is drawn to the military life, since his family has had a long history of serving.

“My grandfather on my father’s side was in WWII, and he served in the Marine Corps. On my mother’s side my grandfather was on an aircraft carrier. He was the guy leading all the aircraft around and launching them off the deck. I guess Navy and Marine Corps, and possibly naval aviation, are in my blood. My uncle was in the Army in 2003, and he currently works for the Secret Service. My other uncle, who has passed away, was an officer in the Navy. I plan to be the third officer in my family and the first one to

fly.”

Josiah has kept busy with other activities besides aviation. “I worked at Busch Gardens from December 2014 to October 2015. During my freshman and sophomore years, I volunteered over 150 hours of community service to Jamestown Settlement as a 4-H peer teacher. I was a costume interpreter aboard the ships. I got to portray and explain what 17th century sailing was like to all the visitors that came. I had a lot of fun doing that.” He goes on to explain that the volunteer position came about because his mother, who works at the Jamestown Settlement, told him about the opening. It sounded interesting, so Josiah decided to try to get the position. “I knew I liked talking to people, so I applied, hoping they would let me become an interpreter.”

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Josiah has a very clear vision of where he will land in his future. “Fifteen years from now, since I plan to make a career in the Navy, I might still be doing that, but I possibly won’t be flying fighters at that time because they don’t fly long. Naval aviators fly for a long time, and I’ll have fun with that. When I get out of the Navy I plan to become either an air traffic controller or a commercial airline pilot.” According to Josiah, he has a real knack in flight school for radio communications. He says, “How a pilot communicates on the radio is very important.”

“For example, when I fly down to Newport News International with my instructor, we go over procedures. He’ll say, ‘Okay Josiah, what are you going to do for this and for that...’ Once I’m about ten miles away from the airport, I’ve got to let them know where I am and let them know my altitude and aircraft number. I’d say ‘Newport News tower, Cessna forty-niner, two-six-zero.’ That’s our serial number. I’ve got to let them know we’re in the area, and then they’ll come back and say, ‘Forty-niner, two-six-zero go ahead.’ I’ll say, ‘forty-niner, two-six-zero about ten miles south, coming down to land over York River bridge.’ Then they’ll come back and say, ‘All right, forty-niner, two-six-zero, do two 360s.’ That means fly around twice because they want to keep you out of airspace so other aircraft can land first. Then maybe a few minutes later they’ll come back and say, ‘All right forty-niner, two-six-zero, go ahead for runway two-seven.’ Then, I’ll respond back, ‘forty-niner, two-six-zero in for runway two-seven,’ and that lets them know I understood and I’m coming in to land.”

Josiah says it’s important to avoid stuttering on the radio and using lots of unnecessary words. “Just get to the point. Radio communications for pilots can sound really complicated. I remember the first time, when I was in ground school as a freshman, I was listening to radio chatter and I couldn’t understand a thing they were saying. I was wondering how I would ever understand that stuff, but now I listen to the same radio chatter and I understand it.”

His family is very supportive of his endeavors. “Some parents I’ve talked to said they would never let their kids be a pilot because if you mess up you can die. It’s an interesting perception people have.” His mother shows her support with constant encouragement, helping him to focus during times when he might prefer to be doing something else.

“When I was studying for the FAA during the summer, between my sophomore and junior year, all my friends were out on vacation. They were taking pictures and posting on social media, and I was sitting at home studying. My mom said, well, what do you want to be? Do you want to be the one having fun, or do you want to be the one going back to school saying I passed the FAA? She was right.”

The Youth Aeronautics Educational Foundation recently awarded Josiah a scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to highly qualified youth, with preference given to those with a strong interest in aviation. This was the first scholarship honoring the memorial of Officer Walter Cottrell, who was killed in a helicopter mishap in 1974.

Josiah Hill has a message for students interested in aviation. “If you’re into aviation, you should know it demands a lot of time, it demands a lot of commitment. You’re going to be up late at night, and you might cry a little trying to get through it. I remember thinking on Saturday mornings, as I was getting up at 6 a.m. to go out to the airport to be in the classroom for four hours, why am I doing this? But then I remember the end picture of me flying, by myself, in a fighter jet. Remember the end goal. If you’re interested in aviation pursue it as hard as you can and take as much of it as you can while you’re young. I’d also say that in the end, it really is worth it. Pursue it, and don’t give up. It’s going to get hard, but you’ll get through it.” NDN



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It's no secret that one of the most valuable things students learn during their high school years is the importance of teamwork. While some students learn how to be a part of a team through joining other athletic clubs and teams, extra curricular activities also serve as great educational resources working with other students.

Sam Masser, a freshman at Walsingham Academy, is involved with several extra curricular activities at school. Sam is a member of the Theater Club, Forensics Club, and Smash Club through school, and says performing for an audience is his passion.

In December, Sam took on the challenging role of playing Scrooge in Walsingham's production of the famous holiday story, "A Christmas Carol." Almost the entire school, from fourth graders to seniors, participated in the play. Sam was chosen for the difficult roll that so many recognize as a grouchy man who goes through many changes throughout the story, which he says was challenging and rewarding.

He didn't see obtaining the role of Scrooge as a competition, but every play is all about each person having their own role and doing it to the best of their ability.

While "A Christmas Carol" was Sam's first time participating in a production at Walsingham, he has been involved in plays for a long time through Backstage Productions, a local



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

It's About Teamwork

By Erin Fryer

organization that teaches theater education.

Sam says his love for theater began when he was about eight years old and took a summer theater class for youths at William and Mary, which led to him getting involved with Backstage. Now that Walsingham offers a new theater education class, Sam decided to enroll to strengthen his theater background, which led to him getting involved in school productions.

He was very surprised when he got assigned such a prominent role in the holiday play. "I was excited, intimidated, surprised, proud and a bit worried that it would be too much work," he says. "It definitely wasn't. It was a blast."

A favorite part about getting involved in the

theater program is just getting to act. "I love the whole acting experience," he says. "I like being a part of something bigger than myself, playing a character that's not myself, learning how to play that character and bonding with other people. The whole experience is so positive."

He's so glad Walsingham started offering the theater class so he could learn even more about his hobby, and then apply what he is learning in the school production.

"There are so many different people involved with putting on a play," he says. "It's great because I love seeing my friends in class and at lunch, but getting involved with the play allowed me to meet new friends who enjoy the same activities I do."

Sam says getting involved with extracurricular activities has allowed him to meet new people and gain new experiences that he wouldn't normally have had otherwise.

In addition to theater, Sam loves being involved with the forensics team where he excels in humorous interpretation. "It's basically competitive public speaking," he explains. "It's a very interesting environment where we have a lot of fun."

When he competes in forensics tournaments, he takes a piece of theater or a sketch and presents it, acting out each of the characters himself. In March of 2015, he won first place for humorous interpretation when he did

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an excerpt from Mel Brooks' "The Producers," and went on to compete in the tournament of champions which is a competition with all of the area's winners. Sam took second place.

"I just love to perform for an audience," he says. While only a freshman in high school, Sam hasn't decided exactly what he plans to do when he is older, but acting could be something he pursues in the future. However, his favorite classes in school are his science classes, and he can also see himself pursuing a career in the sciences while keeping acting as a hobby.

Outside of his schoolwork, Sam plays the piano, draws, and loves playing video games with his friends. He employs his love of video games in his other extracurricular activity, Super Smash Brothers Club. Sam and his friends get together after school and play the game. "It's great being able to play video games at school," he says.

With so many successes like obtaining the roll of Scrooge and winning the forensics tournament, Sam's biggest accomplishment so far in his young life has been being awarded the Catherine McAuley Merit Scholarship. The program offers full, four-year scholarships to students who have distinguished themselves as outstanding leaders and scholars within their communities.

"The school picks five finalists and there are

two winners, and I was so proud to be one of them," Sam says. His involvement with extra curricular activities combined with his academic success contributed to him being awarded the scholarship.

Being involved in extracurricular activities has taught him commitment and the ability to work with a team.

"Every play is a team effort," he says. "There are actors, light crew, stage crew and everyone works together to make the play greater than any one of them." Before getting involved with theater, Sam admits he wasn't very good at presenting things in front of people, and that being involved with the theater program has improved his communication skills.

While he isn't sure what career he will pursue in his future, his main focus right now is to do well in school and continue to participate in plays throughout the rest of his high school career. "I may not know what I am going to do when I graduate, but I am sure I will always keep acting and performing as a hobby."

Sam says the hardest part about playing Scrooge was figuring out how to play all of the character's different emotional levels.

"I had a good sense of who the character was, it was just more about fine-tuning the changing characters that was the hardest part," he says. "When Scrooge starts to have his re-

alizations and goes through changes, that was challenging."

In order to prepare for the play, Sam didn't spend time watching a bunch of different portrayals of "A Christmas Carol," but says he was familiar with Charles Dickens' novel.

For students looking to get involved with extracurricular activities at school, Sam's advice is to dive right in. "Don't be intimidated or worry if you don't know anyone in the club, because you will get to know them," he says. "Do something you will enjoy doing, and don't just do something because your friends are doing it and you feel like you should too. Do what you want and you will meet new friends."

Another extracurricular activity that Sam got involved in last year and found to be very rewarding was tutoring students in Walsingham's lower school. "It was cool to teach the students about addition and to see them catching on made me really happy."

Sam admits he has never been very athletic, but the experience he has gained by getting involved with extracurricular activities, specifically performing with the theater and forensics clubs at Walsingham, has taught him the value of teamwork and communication. It has also provided him with more confidence that will contribute to his future success for years to come. NDN

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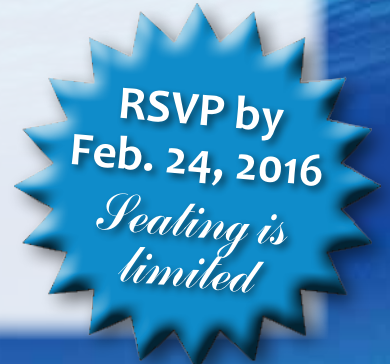
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BEHIND THE SCENES

By Wynne Bowman

Mia Lamberson, a lifelong Williamsburg resident and a Bruton High School senior who will graduate with honors, has a bright future ahead, one that matches her experience of stage lighting, set design and the liveliness of technical theatre.

As a member of York County's School of the Arts, which is rooted in its own wing of Bruton High, Mia's passion and hard work has benefited several shows put forth by the School of the Arts (SOA) and the Middle School Arts Magnet (MSAM). By her graduation day in June, Mia will have worked on seventeen shows just this year, ten presented by the School of the Arts, four by the Middle School Arts Magnet, and three by the main stage at Bruton High School.

"I have lived in Williamsburg for seventeen years, and I have been in the arts programs at every school I've gone to," Mia says. This includes Waller Mill Elementary School, Queens Lake Middle School and Bruton High School. "In elementary school and early middle school, I was all about acting. I acted in a few plays when I was younger, including 'Peter Pan' where I played the role of Wendy," she says. Long before high school began, Mia found herself in the spotlight on center stage, a place where she hasn't found herself since.

She explains, "I was in the MSAM program when I heard about SOA, and it sounded way



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

cooler than anything I had ever done before. After I acted as Wendy in 8th grade, I started getting more into the technical aspect of theatre. Though Mia has her first on-stage role since middle school in SOA's upcoming production, "The Spelling Bee Play," it is in the backstage assembly that Mia feels her efforts triumph. "In technical theatre, we design, build and paint whatever the director needs and whatever the show requires. We make the costumes and we find or create the props needed. The past few shows put forth by SOA have been completely designed by students, from the costumes to the

set design. I have found my home in technical theatre and I'm not leaving."

The School of the Arts, which students can apply to be a member of in the middle of eighth grade, consists of four branches: dancing, literary arts, theatre and technical theatre. As a soon-to-be SOA alumnus, Mia explains, "There is a whole audition process. For the dance program, applicants have to memorize and perform a 32-count dance. To be in the literary arts, they submit their own written pieces. If someone wants to be in the theatre program, he or she performs a monologue. If

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David's Journey

At the age of 12, David Hamrick left his mother a note saying that he'd taken his bike and was going to chase lightning. David is now a meteorologist at the Weather Prediction Center of the National Weather Service. Like many children with autism who focus on one thing to the exclusion of others, David's consuming interest was weather.

David was 18 months old when his parents, John and Cindy Hamrick, brought him to CDR with concerns about his development. Cindy says, "The skilled multidisciplinary team that evaluated David determined profound delays in his language and social development. They compassionately guided us down the long, stressful, and emotional road to his ultimate diagnosis of autism." A unique early intervention program that included home visits was begun.

"CDR was there through our darkest hours, supporting us as we adjusted to our new normal, showing us how to teach him through his strengths, and teaching us how to be effective advocates."

David's mom, Cindy

Earning undergraduate and master's degrees in meteorology from North Carolina State University is a true testimony to David's determination. He travels the country leading discussions with professionals on topics important to adults with autism, including dating and marriage.

David and his wife, Lindsey, have appeared on ABC's *Good Morning America* and are featured in a new documentary on PBS as part of the "Independent Lens" series.

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David at age two



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people want to be in technical theatre, they have to build a schedule, and if they have built something related to theatre and set design, they are asked to bring it in. For each branch of SOA, students also must go through an interview. A few weeks later, they will receive a letter that states where their application stands.”

Mia’s time with the School of the Arts has enhanced her high school experience in several ways. Not only has she learned to balance AP US Government, AP English 12 and Physics along with the responsibility of being an editor of the yearbook and a direct study of technical theatre, but she has mastered her communication skills as well. “I have definitely become more confident because of SOA,” Mia explains. “My artwork has gotten stronger, and I have grown to be able to better explain myself to others. Having to explain myself to directors has given me a lot of experience. Typically, designers are visual and see things in their head. It is important to be able to convey these visions and ideas to the people who cannot see them.”

The School of the Arts allows students to gather for and participate in theatre and arts productions, but the school also makes it possible for these students to travel around the state with the goal of viewing professional shows and taking part in conferences. At conferences such as the Virginia Theatre Association Conference in Norfolk, art and theatre students put their knowledge to use in workshops and competitions. At the conference last February, the students from York County’s SOA won First Place at the Tech Olympics after creating and performing a successful one act show. “That was definitely one of the best things that happened to me in high school,” Mia explains. These experiences and challenges create comradery between the students, leaving them with real-life experience, fond memories and strong relationships.

“In theatre, we really become a family through it,” she says. “Everyone can joke around with each other, but we all know when it is time to be serious and time to get things done. When it is show week, we all have exams and we are all freaking out because there is so much to do, everything seems to work out. Everyone has their own way of doing things, and we have all figured out how to work well together.” Mia continues, “That’s why I think technical theatre is the part of theatre I find to be the most fun. No matter how crazy a play seems on stage, whatever is going on backstage is even crazier.”

As Mia’s high school career comes to a close, she does not have the privilege to relax through the second half of her final semester. As a direct study of technical theatre, under the supervision of SOA’s Technical Director George Rider, Mia is responsible for the safekeeping of the school’s costumes and stage props. After Spring Break, she will have to work on six shows in the span of two months, all while working on her final portfolio. This portfolio, filled with Mia’s own colored pencil art studies, will be reviewed by her prospective future schools including James Madison University, George Mason University and the University of Virginia. Mia plans to major in technical design, with a concentration in scenic design and stage management. Of her future goals, she states, “I would love to design a set in a renowned theatre where people from around the world come to see the show. That would be amazing to me.” In the late spring, Mia will be the set manager for the Dance Arts Jubilee, a production which will be featured on the York County School Division channel around Spring Break. In addition to set-managing the Annual Dance Arts Jubilee, she will be set-managing the school’s production of “Romeo and Juliet,” a show scheduled to take place on May 20th and 21st at Bruton High School.

“It has all been really wonderful,” Mia Lamberson says, speaking on her time with York County’s School of the Arts. “I have truly made a family here.” NDN

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KENTON McDONOUGH



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Music & Academics

By Naomi Tene' Austin

Every high school has one - the academic, artistically gifted, natural leader esteemed by teachers and well-liked by peers. That is a rare oddity that somehow seems to matriculate unscathed through life's most notoriously awkward period. Well, despite his stellar academic record and various leadership roles, Warhill High School senior, Kenton McDonough, is adamant that he is not that guy. "It was a rocky road early on," he says of his early attempts to find his place.

Kenton, who joined the band early in his high school career, struggled with learning the trumpet. "There were a lot of times that I just wanted to quit and never bother with it ever again. I didn't feel like I was good enough because I couldn't bridge the gap between knowing what the music sounded like and making it come through."

Kenton recalls of his first band reading session the summer preceding his freshman year, "There were times that I was ready to throw in the towel but there was also this tiny little shred of hope that this could be something cool if I stuck with it." And stick with it he did. Kenton kept at it, surrounding himself with talented musicians who could help him become better until gradually he began to excel at playing his instrument. "I completed band camp, and then I came to marching season, and I just kept coming back. It wasn't always fun and games. There were plenty of times

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when I was frustrated and didn't want to go on, but I just stuck with it. I remember thinking if I'm going to do this, I want to be good enough to be a leader and add part of me to the program." Four years later, Kenton has fulfilled that promise to himself.

Now, as president of the Warhill High School Band, Kenton attributes his turnaround partially to Warhill High School's band director, Mr. Kopczynski, who he considers to be one of the best instructors out there. He credits a couple of upperclassmen, who reached out and took him under their wing, for building his confidence. One such mentor was Ryan Foster who stands out as a major influence in his life. "Ryan was two years older than me. He was a trumpet player and section leader my sophomore year who was just fun to work with and crazy talented. He really knew his stuff. Even now when I'm playing, I'm sometimes like oh, wow, Ryan used to do something like that."

It isn't surprising, given his background, that Kenton is so passionate about music. "I just love band," he says. "I just like playing my instrument." Always seeking opportunities to learn new music and play in different venues, Kenton is fortunate to live in Williamsburg where there is no shortage of such prospects. He volunteers with a group of band members during the Christmas Holiday to ring the Salvation Army bell and play holiday tunes in front of the Farm Fresh supermarket in Norge. He has also had the opportunity to sit in with military musicians in the U.S. Army TRADOC Band at Fort Eustis. In addition to holiday events, the Warhill band receives calls throughout the year for soloists from local choirs looking for instrumental accompaniment. They've also had the privilege of collaborating with The College of William and Mary on special events.

"We've played with the William and Mary wind ensemble and sometimes when the USAF Heritage of America Band comes, their guest soloist will work with us. It's pretty cool."

While Kenton will be the first to admit that band takes priority, his passions don't end there. He also excels in academics and holds leadership roles as secretary of the Math Honors Society, president of the National English Society and as a member of the Warhill Scholastic Bowl. He has learned that the key to balancing these competing priorities rests upon maintaining a well-organized approach.

Kenton hopes to be a freshman at Virginia Tech next fall, majoring..., majoring in Computer Science and Math.

"That's my other passion," he says, "I like school in general but Math and Science, especially computers, have always clicked for me." Computer Science is his first choice and mathematics is a strong second. Kenton enjoys his engineering classes at Warhill and hopes to get into the Engineering College at Tech. Of course, he welcomes the opportunity to become a member of The Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech, but he's very clear that once in college, academics will be his priority. While he's not interested in becoming a career musician, he is curious about the new music fusion programs being offered at some universities that merge music creation with computer automation. "I've never really played around with it but it would be cool to investigate." Wherever he lands, Kenton is certain that music will always be part of his life. "However I can fit music in there, I would love to do that."

His advice to the incoming high school freshman class, as he prepares to graduate to the next chapter of his life, Kenton, without hesitation, gives a glowing endorsement for band. "For anyone who is wondering about high school, whether or not they're going to fit in - if you're thinking of going into band just know it could very well be the best decision you ever make. It was for me. There are very few people that don't fit in. Band has the highest rate of people that try it, love it and stick with it. I can't imagine anything better. It gives you more than just a group of friends," Kenton says. "It gives you family. Band is family." NDN

The Love of Jazz Music

By Rachel Sapin

Jesse Katz says it was a long but worthwhile journey to find his instrument of choice. He started taking lessons on the piano and then guitar as a young child. By the fifth grade, he had discovered the electric bass. But another instrument caught his attention a little over a year ago, an unwieldy, pear-shaped instrument, the largest and lowest-sounding of the string family.

"Now I play the upright bass. That's my thing," says the humble 16 year old, who's now a junior at Lafayette High School. "Since then, I have realized my love for the upright bass, which has lent itself to my love of jazz music and desire to pursue that focus as a career."

Jesse is in fact quite the musician about town. You may have heard him as part of the student band Take 757, which performs jazz standards in restaurants, bars and at other Historic Triangle venues. The group, which in addition to Jesse is currently made up of Williamsburg high school students Hamed Barbarji, Eliza Geer and Nick Geer, formed about a year ago. Jesse says the group's founding members Josh Golub and Adam Davy have since gone on to college to study music.

Most recently, Jesse participated in the All-VA jazz ensemble with two of his Take 757 bandmates. "It was an incredible four-day experience of meeting like-minded people, receiving instruction from world-class educators, performers and arrangers, and rehearsing for a great



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

culminating performance at the Virginia Music Educators Association Conference in Norfolk," he says.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts defines jazz as a player's art versus a composer's art. To hear a player's art, the Center suggests listening to 12 recordings of Duke

Ellington's "In a Sentimental Mood." The melody would be delivered in 12 different ways by each player. A great quote from the center is: "Individuality is encouraged, sought after, rewarded and absolutely necessary for the art of jazz to survive."

For Jesse, it is that push and pull of the individuality of the jazz musician and the close-knit community that one is able to take part in through making music that makes playing in a band so rewarding.

"My closest friends are the people that I make music with. It's great to have that bond," he says. "It's really taken over all of the things I do. Social functions revolve around different groups I perform with. My really close friends are all doing the same thing I do."

Jesse, who is part of Lafayette High School's jazz band, says that he has grown up with his fellow bandmates playing music in and outside of the classroom. Many of the bands Jesse plays in today are reincarnations of former bands.

He also played with the drummer and pianist of Take 757 in a former band called the Blue Notes. "That group, founded by talented local musician Andrew Shield, was blues-inspired," Jesse says, taking inspiration from artists like Eric Clapton, Ray Charles and B.B. King.

Even though his parents didn't grow up playing an instrument, both are big music fans. Jesse has passed his love for playing music on to his



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little brother. He says they both liked to hang around music stores growing up, and that their parents have always been encouraging. "We've taken music lessons for such a long time, we've always been immersed in it."

His family even invested in a custom left-handed upright bass for him when he started playing more. "No one plays the bass with their left hand," he adds with laugh.

Though he is passionate about playing jazz music, he is also drawn to many different genres, which is why he still plays the electric bass when he can. "They're totally different animals, in a good way," he says of playing the upright versus the electric bass. While the upright bass is often the standard for jazz music, the electric bass allows him to play jazz and blues fusion. The fusion style allows musicians to further improvise on a song with a diversity of drumming styles, instrumentation of rock music, and use electronic instruments and dance rhythms.

Jesse has lots of influences when it comes to the music he loves to listen to as well as play, but there are a few standout musicians he looks up to. One he says is Ray Brown, the double-bassist and cellist who worked with jazz giants such as Oscar Peterson and Dizzy Gillespie. Another is double-bassist, Paul Chambers, who played in the Miles Davis Quintet.

Right now he is looking at colleges that offer four-year degrees in jazz studies and that would also let him focus on bass performance. There are two schools in particular he has his eye on: the University of North Texas and the New School in Manhattan. The University of North Texas College of Music actually developed one of the first jazz studies programs in the nation, and it remains one of the top schools for jazz in the country.

Take 757 isn't the only band Jesse plays in. He is also part of another jazz band made up of high school and college students called Pierce Collective, where he plays the upright and electric bass. That band includes the trumpet player from Take 757 and plays musical styles ranging from blues to bebop to Afro-Cuban and funk. Pierce Collective recently performed and helped ring in the New Year at Williamsburg's First Night along with other local artists. Take 757 also performed at the event.

"As a bass player, you tend to be one of the busier people," Jesse says. "There always seems to be a scarcity of upright bass players."

Jesse has been inspired by the musicianship of the young artists he plays with. Austin Pierce of the Pierce Collective currently attends the University of North Texas as a student, and Jesse says he is inspired by his other bandmates as well.

"My Take 757 bandmates all avidly pursue their individual interests outside the band as Eliza is a songwriter and studies oboe, Hamed got the chance to sit in on a Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra rehearsal and play alongside Wynton Marsalis, and Nick made it to All-VA jazz as a drummer," he says.

Jesse was also recently asked to play with the Williamsburg Classic Swing Orchestra, a 16-piece authentic big band made up almost exclusively of professional musicians. He was offered that opportunity by Steve Turner, the band director for Jamestown High School who also co-leads the swing orchestra.

Jesse says despite his advantage in happening to play an instrument that few play well, it was his music teachers throughout his life that helped him get to where he is today.

"I can't be thankful enough for all of the educators I've encountered from the start, from fifth grade until now," he says. "Especially around here. They're very smart, social and knowledgeable and really willing to help you. They notice who has that type of interest beyond the confines of the school program. I wouldn't be anywhere without all of that."

Outside of school, Jesse spent several years studying privately with Jordan Ponzi, a local professional bassist, instructor and arranger, who has been performing in Southeastern Virginia for more than 15 years. Jordan is also a bass instructor at the College of William and Mary.

His advice for other students who have never played an instrument but want to try: go for it. "I remember when I was first doing electric bass, and I didn't even know I would have this interest." NDN

THOMAS HOOD



A Passion for Flight

By Lillian Stevens

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Thomas Hood, a senior at Providence Classical School, has a pretty good idea of what he hopes his future will hold. He wants to serve his country as a pilot in the United States Air Force. Toward that end, the teen is working toward his pilot's license and recently learned that he will be receiving an Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corp (ROTC) scholarship which puts him a step closer to his goal. ROTC is a college-based program for training commissioned officers of the United States Armed Forces.

"It is my dream to go through Air Force ROTC," Thomas says. "I've applied to Texas

A&M, North Carolina State and Ohio State. I'll also be applying to Virginia Tech. If everything lines up correctly, I can eventually go through Air Force pilot training, become a pilot and fly for my country. Then, way down the road, with my pilot's license, I could be a pilot in the civilian sector."

His interest in flying was sparked by a love of technology. "I love computers and technology; I love the cutting edge," Thomas says. In order to understand the path he has chosen for his future, however, it helps to know a little about his past. Originally from Richmond, Thomas' mother, Susan Hood Franz, is an

alumna of William and Mary where she participated in the university's ROTC program. After graduation, she joined the U.S. Army Signal Corps which develops, tests, provides and manages communications and information systems support for the command and control of combined arms forces.

"It's an interesting story," Thomas says. "My parents actually met in Korea. My mother was stationed in Korea after graduation, and my father had gone through ROTC at Texas A&M. He was also stationed in Korea and served also in the Signal Corps."

The couple married and soon thereafter,

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Thomas's mother left the Army to pursue a degree in nursing. Thomas was born in 1998 and in 2000, when Thomas was two years old, his father suddenly passed away due to a serious illness.

"Even though I was too young to really know him, I have always looked up to him as a role model. He served his country, and I am sure part of my sense of patriotism comes from him."

Thomas and his mother moved to Williamsburg where they lived with Thomas's maternal grandparents for a time. Thomas's mother (who attended The Steward School in Richmond) enrolled her young son in Providence Classical School (PCS) where he has been a student since kindergarten. Eventually, she married again.

"My mom married a great guy who I consider to be my dad," Thomas says. "He's a nuclear chemist at Surry Power Station. I also have a step-brother, he's a senior, too, at Tabb High School."

At PCS, Thomas has managed to juggle a pretty rigorous academic curriculum (where students are taught Latin, for instance, beginning in third grade) with various extracurricular activities including three years on the school's CyberPatriot team. At the center of CyberPatriot, a national program, is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. The competition places teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals who are tasked with managing the network of a small company. In the rounds of competition, teams are given a set of virtual images that represent operating systems. They must identify cybersecurity weaknesses within the images and harden the system while maintaining critical services in a six hour period.

"CyberPatriot sends us the OS (operating system) as a zip file," Thomas says. "We extract it and open it up on the VM Ware. It includes vulnerabilities, so the exercise involves finding and removing those vulnerabilities. Our activities are all captured and sent to a control center where we are scored remotely. If we do it right, there is this cool Mario video game type music. If we hear alarms, then we know we've messed up."

He finds it extremely challenging but Thomas says that he thrives on challenge. At PCS, while his best subjects are humane letters (which include English, rhetoric, theology and philosophy), his favorite subject is calculus. "Calculus is one of those subjects that challenge me. When it goes right for me I really enjoy it," he says. "Of course, when it goes wrong, I get really frustrated."

Thomas is happiest, of course, when he is in the air.

In December 2014, he started ground school flight lessons with the Youth Aeronautics Education Foundation (YAEF) program – a program that matches instructors with high school students. He flies out of the Middle Peninsula Regional Airport in West Point.

"The way it works is after about 12 weeks of ground school, you take the FAA written knowledge test. Then you start training with an instructor," he says.

Thomas has been flying with his instructor since March and has accrued about 17 hours of flight time. "The thing with flying is that it's tremendously expensive," he says. "On average, it costs about \$14,000 to get a pilot's license. With YAEF, it's more like \$3,000 or \$4,000 because there is no plane rental or instructor fee. All I have to pay for is fuel." Thomas has been flying with his instructor since March and has accrued about 17 hours of flight time. When he is flying with his instructor, Thomas is being taught, among other things, to expect the unexpected.

When he is not in the air, in the classroom or engaged in a CyberPatriot competition, Thomas is preparing for college. Air Force ROTC

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scholarships require recipients to seek a technical degree; therefore, Thomas expects to study computer science, a field near and dear to his heart. In no small part, he gives the credit for that to his father.

“I have always had a love of computers and I think that’s because my dad is always building computers or messing with computers. Just being around him taught me a lot about computers and sparked an interest.”

He credits both of his parents with passing on the desire and work ethic to achieve his goals. As each passing month leads Thomas closer to graduation from Providence and closer to his dream of becoming an Air Force pilot, he hopes that he has positioned himself in the best way possible. Indeed, he is already associated with the Civil Air Patrol, an official U.S. Air Force Auxiliary. The Civil Air Patrol was founded one week prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

“We are non-military civilians but we follow a military structure which means you start at the bottom and work your way up,” Thomas says. “There are two sides: a senior side and a cadet side. I’m on the cadet side where our missions are based on leadership, aerospace education and emergency services.”

As a deputy cadet commander, Thomas has 30 cadets in his squadron. His role is to assist the cadet commander by teaching lessons, leading the cadets through their weekly meetings, drills and ceremonies.

Aside from his academic and extracurricular pursuits, Thomas believes that securing his pilot’s license will serve him well.

“I hope it will make me more marketable,” Thomas says. “The thing I try and remember is that even though I have this map of where I want my future to lead, I also know at any point along the line, things can happen to change or rearrange my plans. So I try to plan for that too.” NDN



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A Healthy Perspective on Her Future

By Gail Dillon



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

There are many teenagers who are not sure what they want to do with their lives but Aubree Neenan is not one of them. The petite

tenth-grader at Lafayette High School has a very clear vision of her future and is steadily gaining real-world experience toward her goal.

Aubree knows she wants to be a doctor, and to help prepare her for the challenges of a career as a physician, she is involved in a unique

club known as the “Rams Athletic Training Student” program, or “RATS.” The athletic training students, as they’re called, get together, after school twice a week and on occasional weekends, and take turns working the various sporting events throughout the year. “We’re

basically there for a lot of the games,” she says. “We’re there in case injuries happen, and we’re there to keep the water bottles filled.”

According to the official RATS manual, the program “was designed to create an environment where students can observe and experience the field of Sports Medicine.” The intent is for the students to learn about anatomy and physiology, assist with caring for injuries and

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help with general athletic training procedures.

The oldest of three children, Aubree, who is 15, said the adjectives “focused” and “goal-oriented” would probably apply to her, laughingly adding that “my family and friends would also say I’m kind of sarcastic sometimes.” Simply put, helping people feel better is what she wants to do. “Unfortunately, I wish there wasn’t any need for doctors and nurses, but there is,” she says.

Aubree has been involved in RATS since she was a freshman, after taking the initiative to check out similar programs in the local area. The summer prior to ninth grade, she participated in a four-day sports medicine workshop sponsored by the College of William and Mary. “They taught us to tape ankles, they taught us to wrap ice, basic first aid, and things like that,” she says, explaining that they stayed in the campus dormitories. In addition, the participants earned their CPR certifications.

She also spent two weeks during last summer volunteering at Sentara Hospital through the Medical Explorers program. She was assigned to the orthopedic unit where from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. she answered phones, kept the hospitality room stocked and performed other odd jobs. “It was fun,” she says. She plans to volunteer there again and is hoping to get her first choice of assignment this time now that she has some seniority.

Aubree says what attracted her to RATS was twofold: The fact that it allows her to gain real-world experience in a field she loves, and that it’s conveniently held at school. “This is just a great way to get exposure, because there’s not a lot you can do in high school to get that exposure.”

Her favorite sports to work as an athletic training student are football and wrestling. “Football, you get to be right on the sideline the whole time. You’re not sitting down, you’re actually doing stuff during the game,” Aubree says. “And with wrestling, you’re actually treating the athletes.” For example, wrestlers frequently get bloody noses during their matches. “We have to make sure the mats are clean and the uniforms are clean because they’re not allowed to have any blood on them,” she says.

In addition to responsibilities during the sporting events, the athletic training students are expected to accomplish a long list of daily tasks such as folding towels, cleaning and disinfecting countertops, restocking supplies and filling the whirlpools. The club has been going strong for 14 years and provides motivated students with a way to explore different interests.

Aubree has been laser-focused on becoming a doctor since she was in seventh grade. “I know I want to do something in pediatrics,” she says. “I really like working with kids and when you specialize in pediatrics, you have a lot more training than with adults. You have to know what’s going on, and you have to treat them differently because they’re not just smaller adults.”

As the oldest of three, she has had plenty of experience with children. She also babysits the children in her neighborhood. “You have to know how to get down to their level to explain things,” she says. “You can’t explain something the same way to a five-year-old that you can to a 15-year-old.”

Caring for people runs in her family. Her mother is a former social



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worker now working as a school counselor, and her grandmother was once a radiology technician before she retired. "Her experience gives me insight into what working in the health care field is like," Aubree says.

The honor roll student is well aware that she has many years of schooling ahead, but that doesn't seem to faze her. "I like science, and I'll be in chemistry next semester," she says. She's already thinking about college, preferably a school not too close to home, but still close, such as Virginia Commonwealth University or N.C. State. "I think I want to go into microbiology as a major or biomedical engineering," Aubree says.

She occasionally gets frustrated with herself "when I can't do something or when I'm not particularly great at something" but is mature enough to realize this is a challenge everyone struggles with. Her ability to focus and stay determined on a goal is one of her strongest points, she says.

Her parents are supportive of their daughter and her goals. "They're definitely encouraging," she says. "They make sure that I keep my grades up because that's very important when you want to do something past the basic four-year degree."

In rare moments of downtime, Aubree enjoys reading and listening to music. To help combat the stress of being a busy high school student, she turns to skiing and rock climbing because they require complete concentration. Rock climbing especially demands focus. "You know when you're doing that, you're not thinking of anything else. You're only thinking: how do I get to the next hold?" she explains.

In the spring, Aubree takes a break from athletic training to play tennis. Athletic Student Trainers are exempt from RATS while they play sports themselves.

When asked which classes are her least favorite, Aubree diplomatically says she likes them all, but she isn't crazy about having to wake up at 5:45 each morning. "School itself, I don't mind, she says. "To me the hard thing is getting up so early. Most of the time, I come home and fall asleep."

Her advice to other students interested in medical careers is to seek out opportunities now. "It's mainly about getting involved," she says. "Your school may not have an athletic training program, but lots of local fire departments have EMT Explorer programs and you can go and you can do ride-alongs with the EMTs or lots of the local hospitals have explorer programs. There are lots of good experiences you can get by doing these programs and even if they don't have those, just making sure you have your science and math courses in high school, because those are the most important."

Aubree believes girls today are not shying away from the hard sciences. "I think more and more girls are realizing that it's not just the guys who can do engineering, science and math. I think three-fourths of the people in our program are girls," she says.

She has a long road of education and training ahead, but Aubree Neenan has a healthy perspective on her future. "The amount of work that goes into being a doctor is definitely a daunting aspect. But, in the end, I think it'll all be worth it just because I'll go to work every day and like what I'm doing," she says. "I don't want to end up at a job where I come home, and I don't want to go back the next day." **NDN**

HALEY GRIFFITH



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

NATURAL *Performer*

By Alison Johnson

Haley Griffith was the type of child who often had her nose buried in a book. Although she was shy, she was reading aloud and acting out character voices by age 4.

Haley's parents had a hunch that she had a performer inside. So when Haley was 6, they signed her up for StageLights Theatre, a local children's group. By 7, she was taking piano lessons and singing along as she played. At 10, she landed the starring role in a StageLights production of Annie Jr.

It would be the first of many.

"Almost right away, I found that I was really comfortable on stage," recalls Haley, now almost 17 and a senior at Warhill High School. "Acting totally brought me out of my shell and gave me a lot of confidence. I love the rush that I get from performing for others."

With plans to study classical voice in college, Haley is a veteran of choral and stage productions for school, regional and statewide organizations. She is in the midst of an intense application and audition process for her final seven college choices: James Madison, Longwood and the University of Virginia in state; New York University and Ithaca College

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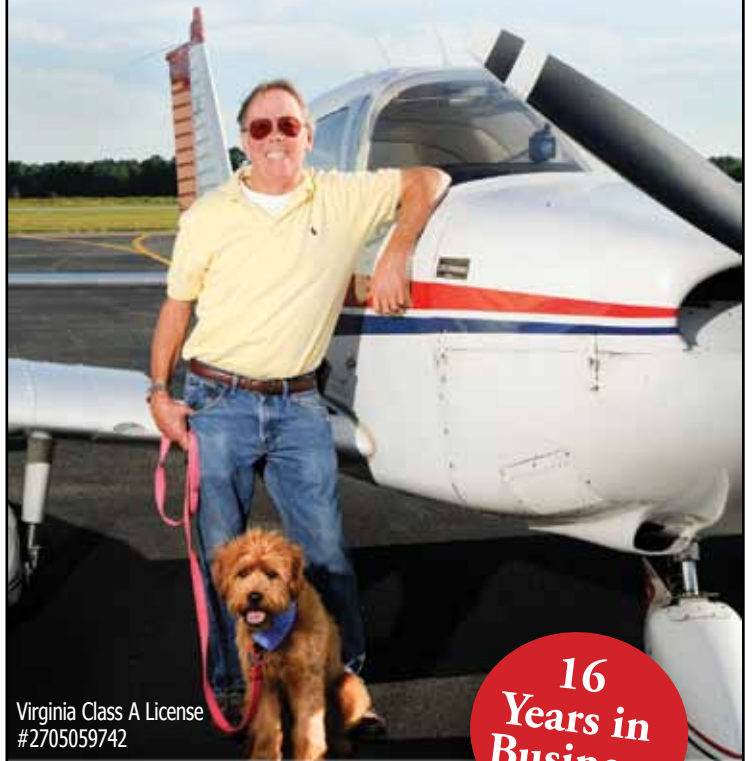
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in New York; and Boston University in Massachusetts. She will decide in April or May based on admission and financial offers.

While Haley dreams of a career as a performer, she plans to double-major in speech-language pathology to leave other options open. That training will allow her to help people with speech, language or hearing disorders, possibly singers or actors with voice disorders or injuries, and also understand her own voice better. She was introduced to the field when she met with a pathologist for a routine vocal scope procedure as part of her voice lessons.

"Whether I'll have what it takes to make performing a career is still very uncertain, so I want to have another plan where I could be happy," Haley says. "I know how unpredictable the arts can be. Maybe I'll eventually end up touring with an opera company, singing and treating everyone's voices!"

Training and preparation are as important to her success as a performer as talent, Haley believes. She has spent countless hours studying and rehearsing music, whether after school, during weekly voice lessons, in summer programs, or at home on the keyboard in her room or a downstairs piano.

This past fall, Haley practiced hours a day for several months to prepare the four classi-

cal voice pieces she's using for college auditions. She had to perform those on recordings and during live auditions on campus visits.

"I wanted to make sure they were as perfect as possible, because there are so many people who are so good," Haley says. She doesn't mind the time commitment, though: "I've worked hard at music because I love it. I've done everything I could to get the best training possible." Born in Fairfax County, Haley moved to Williamsburg with her family before age 2. Both she and her younger sister, 12-year-old Lucie, gravitated to music quickly even though her parents aren't performers. In fact, Haley jokes that her mom took "maybe a month" of piano lessons and her dad gets shushed when he tries to sing along with his girls.

Haley has been in school choirs since fifth grade and began formal voice lessons when she was 14, the recommended age because kids' voices change more rapidly before then. She is a Soprano I, the highest voice part, and has mastered complex songs in multiple languages. In her school years, Haley has held multiple leadership positions in musical groups at Warhill, won scholarships toward voice and piano lessons and helped start a chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, which recognizes academic and musical achievements. For the

past six years, she has performed with the Virginia Choral Directors Association's (VCDA) district choir; last February, she earned a spot in the VCDA All-Virginia Chorus, an elite group open to juniors and seniors.

Outside of school, Haley is a guest soloist for the Williamsburg Choral Guild's spring and fall concerts last year. She is also one of 40 students selected for a four-week Vocal Music program at Radford University, part of the Virginia Summer Residential Governor's School for the Visual and Performing Arts.

Then there's acting. Currently president of Warhill's chapter of the International Thespian Society, Haley has been involved in 10 school theatre productions to date, including work as an actress, stage manager, music director and fundraiser. Her lead roles have included two of her all-time favorites: "Laurey" in Oklahoma! and "Baker's Wife" in Into the Woods.

As Laurey, Haley had to stretch her non-innate dancing abilities. She describes herself as an "awful" dancer as a child, unable even to sway in time to rhythms, with ballet, while Baker's Wife cast her against type. "I'm usually in the naïve, romantic soprano role," she explains. "That character is more down-to-earth, independent. It was a fun change. Each character becomes a part of you."

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Another highlight was performing with Lucie, her younger sister, at Warhill's Variety Show last year. The duo sang and danced to "Friendship" from Anything Goes. "It was such a blast!" Haley remembers. "Lucie is incredibly talented! She has a totally different singing voice than me. I'm more a classic soprano and she's a belter, and she's a very talented actress. I'm really proud of her!"

While Lucie is more naturally outgoing, nerves aren't a factor for Haley on stage. "The key is to be really prepared through hours and hours of practice, and once you get out there, you're as ready as you're going to be," she says.

"I love to feed off the energy and reactions of the audience as well."

Recording college audition pieces in a church choir room, though, was a different story: "For some reason, singing to just the camera felt really strange!"

Time management has been the biggest challenge for Haley, who is one of the youngest students in her class (she skipped kindergarten) but has maintained a grade point average above 4.0 in advanced placement courses. "I'm sleep deprived, but there isn't anything I'm willing to give up," she says. "I don't really know how I do it. I just get it done."

To stay healthy, Haley tries to be in bed by 11

p.m. whenever possible and protects her voice by chugging water and putting herself on vocal rest as needed. Battling a cold before a December audition at Ithaca, she avoided singing and long conversations for a week and downed plenty of Throat Coat tea.

"It doesn't taste very good, but it's okay if you put a whole lot of honey in it," she says. "I was worried my voice wouldn't hold up, but I think it went well." As for diet, Haley sticks to fairly nutritious foods and has discovered that eating dairy products or chocolate just before performances affects her voice quality: "One time I ate fudge at intermission, and things didn't go as well after intermission."

Haley is impressed and grateful that her school system and community are so supportive of performing arts programs, especially when others are cutting them. For many other students, she asserts, music and theatre are not only deeply fulfilling but an important part of their academic success.

"The artistic things I do balance me and are a stress relief," Haley says. "I also know how comfortable I now am getting up in front of others to discuss a topic or to give a formal presentation, and that's a skill that will always serve me well. It's good to face situations where you have to be vulnerable." NDN

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BROADWAY BOUND

By Brandy Centolanza



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Singing and dancing have always been a part of Savannah Winslow's life, and after the Jamestown High School senior graduates this spring, she hopes to use her talents to make it one day as a Broadway star.

She is one step closer to achieving that goal, having recently been accepted into the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in New York City.

Savannah credits her mother, artist and graphic designer, Holland Winslow, and her father, Phil, an architect, as well as her older sister, Taylor, for influencing her on her path

to becoming a singer and actress.

"We've always been an artsy family," Savannah says.

Savannah first began singing and acting in the local children's theatre group, Backstage Productions, at the age of six. Her first role was in a production of the musical "Annie."

"My big debut was doing a cartwheel on stage during the song: 'It's a Hard-Knock Life,'" recalls Savannah.

For the next few years, Savannah continued acting in plays through Backstage Productions as well as in plays at Rawls Byrd Elementary

School and in summer acting camps, including a Shakespeare acting camp at the College of William and Mary. She also took ballet lessons throughout her childhood at Eastern Virginia School for the Performing Arts (EVSPA). Then, a severe case of scoliosis required major spinal surgery in the seventh grade, sidelining her dancing and acting dreams.

She began to sing for comfort as part of the healing process following her surgery. "That is when I realized it was something I wanted to do, to sing and dance and get back on that stage and do theatre," she recalls.

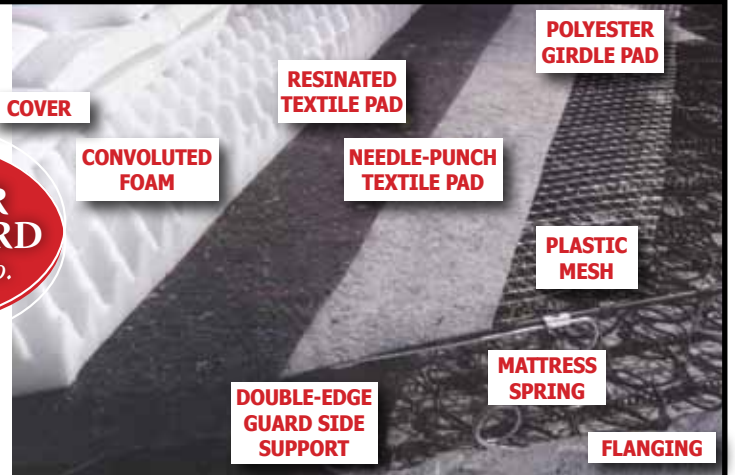
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Four months after her surgery, Savannah was cast as Alice in a production of "Alice in Wonderland" in the eighth grade at Lois Hornsby Middle School. "That was a very surreal moment for me because only a few months before I had been in a wheelchair and now here I was singing and dancing on the stage," she says.

Being on a stage is one of her favorite places to be. "I like acting because I like making people laugh or cry and taking them on a ride where they can just forget about their troubles and focus on the good times or the bad times in a show," she says.

When Savannah started high school at Jamestown High, she clicked immediately with her fellow theatre students. She says her favorite role to date has been in her freshman year during the Fall I Act of "The Cagebirds," a 30-minute one act play in which she played a schizophrenic bird named Gossip. She won a first place best actress award in the district in the Virginia High School League (VHSL) competition for the role.

"It was a very challenging role, and I had

to really look within myself to see how to act it," she says. "It was also challenging because I was on stage for the entire show acting with no break."

In the spring of her freshman year, Savannah was cast in a leading role in a production of the musical "Pippin," which required singing a solo, something that is rare for a freshman. "That was also challenging, but that's also when I knew that I could really do this, that I could really act," she says.

During her sophomore year, Savannah won a VHSL regional best actress award for her role as Missy in the one act play "Competition Piece," a play about how to do a competition play. "It was funny and cute, and we won States that year for the play," Savannah says. "That was very exciting, one of the most exciting days ever for me."

Her most memorable role to date has been as Grandma Addams in last year's production of "The Addams Family" at Jamestown High School. Her wig became caught in another actor's coat button and had fallen off during one of the show performances, but Savannah kept

on going, singing and dancing in character. At the end of her song, she picked up the wig, put it, gave a little Grandma Addams cackle, and walked off the stage, causing audience members to laugh hysterically.

"I stayed in character the whole time," she says. "That's what I love about being on stage. You just don't know what will happen."

She has also loved being able to play a variety of characters, be it in a comedic or dramatic play. "I like the diversity of all of the parts that I have played," Savannah says. "It's been fun to play different parts."

Last summer, Savannah took her first paid acting gig at Busch Gardens, portraying a swing host at the various kiosks during the theme park's annual Food & Wine Festival.

"That was fun because I had to learn different accents from all the different countries," she says.

This past fall, she acted in one of her last performances at Jamestown High School in the dramatic one act play "Us and Them" by playwright David Compton.

"That was one of my deeper, more serious

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roles,” she says. “David Compton is one of my favorite playwrights because the play themes are broad so you can pretty much do anything you want.”

More recently, she portrayed Violet Beck in “It’s a Wonderful Life” over the holiday season. “I got to play a bit of a diva character and had two solos,” Savannah says. “I sang ‘Silver Bells’ and ‘Santa Baby.’ It was really exciting.”

She hopes to wrap up her career at Jamestown High School with the spring musical “Footloose.” Along the way, Savannah has learned the ins and outs of theatre, assisting with wardrobe and make up, curtain duty, set painting, the sewing of costumes and other aspects of a show.

“I’ve learned that being in theatre is never about you and always about the show,” she says. “It’s made me less selfish.”

Beyond theatre, Savannah has also been involved with the Step Team at Jamestown High School and is a middle school small group leader at Williamsburg Community Chapel.

Though she’s been accepted into AMDA in New York City, Savannah says she is keeping her options open for now. She’s waiting to hear back from other colleges where she had auditions. Most of them are in or near the Big Apple, where she ultimately wants to wind up.

She hopes to major in musical theatre and work her way up to Broadway, perhaps working first in shows at theme parks like Busch Gardens, on cruise ships, or in off-Broadway plays. Her dream role is to play Amneris in the musical, “Aida.”

“She’s an Egyptian princess who sings a lot,” says Savannah.

Savannah aspires to have a singing and acting career emulating that of actress Kim Cattrall, who also attended AMDA, or Laura Bell Bundy, a country songstress who played Elle Woods in Broadway’s “Legally Blonde.”

“I look up to people who can multitask,” Savannah says. As graduation draws near, Savannah reflects on the people who have helped shape her as an actress. “I’m really going to miss my directors here at Jamestown, Marcia DiMattia and Harvey Stone,” she says. “They’ve both taught me so much.”

Her voice coach, Phaedra McNorton, a musical theatre instructor at the College of William and Mary who has been giving private lessons to Savannah for the past four years, has also been an inspiration. Savannah became involved with the choir at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church, thanks to Phaedra.

“She’s been a good mentor, and helped me with my college auditions,” Savannah says. “My emphasis is on singing, and on a good singing day, it should seem easy and effortless, and that’s a good feeling.”

Theatre friends will also be greatly missed. “I have known some of them since the fifth grade, and now we are going our separate ways,” Savannah says. “It’s sad.”

Perhaps what she will miss most of all when she parts Jamestown High School is the stage itself. “I am definitely going to miss being in that auditorium since I’ve spent so much time there,” Savannah Winslow says. “Performing on another stage is going to feel a little weird for me.” NDN

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Finishing Well

By Linda Landreth Phelps



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Caroline Nice loves a good competition. After nine years at Williamsburg Christian Academy (WCA), she and another student are vying for the honor of delivering the valedictory address at this spring's 2016 graduation. A lovely young woman who clearly has a fine mind, she also enjoys the physical intensity of sports and is a fierce competitor on the field.

"I love field hockey!" she states enthusiastically. "The only reason I didn't play this year

is that WCA couldn't field a full varsity team, but we had a strong junior varsity team which my sister Ashley and I helped Coach Shannon Meyyar with last fall."

After playing for club and school teams since she was nine and making All-State's second team her sophomore year at WCA, Caroline was sad at the time to be on the sidelines. "However, as a senior I've been so busy with college applications that I now recognize it

was a blessing."

It's sometimes a challenge to keep any depth on the bench when it's a small school. One of Caroline's best friends was injured last year in basketball, and Caroline was recruited to take her place. "I'm not your typical basketball player because I'm so tiny," she says. "I was petrified when I went on the court to play with these girls I'd watched and was amazed by. They are all so good! I obviously wasn't a

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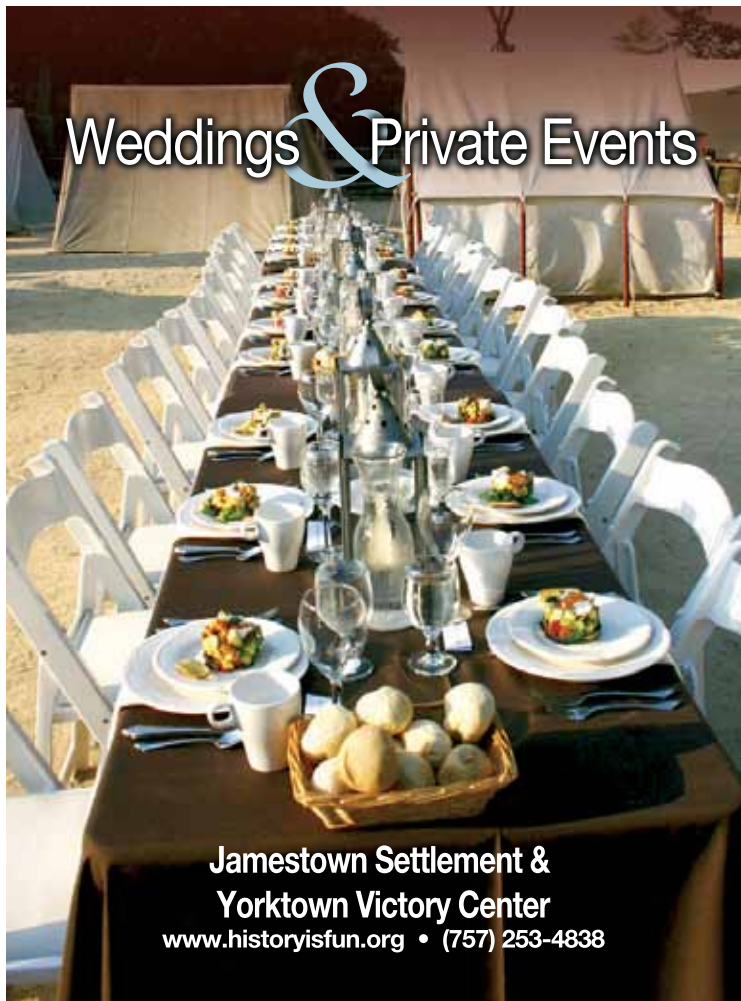
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star, but it was good because I made new friends. They wanted me to play this year, too, but I had to say no, which I was proud of myself for doing. I tend to overcommit to things and put pressure on myself. I picture next fall at college at a Club Fair, wanting to sign up for everything I see. I need to cultivate balance.”

Such wisdom and insight is unusual in a girl of seventeen. Caroline does plan to play intramural field hockey next year, but on her terms. “I love the sport, but realize I don’t need to do it at the college level. Wherever I go, I don’t want everything to be about field hockey.”

Caroline’s already been offered a significant amount of money in scholarships at Maryland’s Mount St. Mary’s and she has also been accepted at University of Mary Washington, but Christopher Newport University (CNU) is her first choice of potential colleges.

Moving down I-64 to Newport News and CNU would be relatively easy since it’s familiar territory. Though Caroline can’t remember living anyplace but Williamsburg, her family’s history dates back to early days in Denbigh’s Mennonite Colony. Grandfather George Nice, the family patriarch, met and married a girl from Pennsylvania, then had four boys who joined him in business.

One of those sons, Carolyn’s dad, Michael Nice, is a vice president of George Nice & Sons, Inc., builders of highways and the Virginia Capital Bike Trail, a path connecting Jamestown, Williamsburg and Richmond. The company also specializes in site preparation work.

Caroline comes from an industrious, entrepreneurial family tradition. Holding a job since she was 12 years old at Walnut Acres, her grandfather’s horse boarding barn in Toano, contributed to her strong work ethic. Caroline wasn’t one of those horse-crazy girls hanging around the barn and willing to do anything in exchange for a ride. This was a family business where she worked, and worked hard.

That ethic carried over into her school career. Not only is she hoping to be valedictorian of her class, but her schedule has always been jammed with extracurricular activities. As a senior, Caroline was elected by her peers to be president of her school’s Key Club, the junior offshoot of Kiwanis. Caroline says. “A yearly project we do with Kiwanis helps needy families at Christmas. The \$1,700 raised this time meant that parents received fifty dollars for each child, to be spent however they wanted. We got to walk around with them and help pick out gifts. Our club also packed a hundred shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse.”

Key Club tries to do one service a month, Caroline says. One of those was to help with concessions at a fundraiser for Home Partnership Incorporated (HPI), where her father serves on the board. “It’s shocking to know how many people in Greater Williamsburg don’t even have indoor plumbing,” she says. For this spring, Caroline is trying to organize and get approval for a major home building project for a local family.

Her family has always emphasized service and is active in their faith. They attend Williamsburg Community Chapel, where Caroline takes part in their Wednesday night Mid-Week student ministry. “I lead

a great group of seventh graders,” she says. “This is my second year with them.” The Chapel is a big church, and Caroline knows it can be scary for shy girls like she was in middle school. “But all my girls are extroverts, kind of crazy and talkative. We have fun playing games and watching videos as well as praying together and studying the curriculum. I try to sit with those who go to church on Sunday and text the girls throughout the week to make sure everything is going well for them.”


Caroline has a true heart for youngsters. “I’ve been babysitting since I was in ninth grade,” she says, “but it picked up when I could drive.” Once she proved herself reliable and dependable, the parent grapevine did its job. Regular demand for her services means she will have full time summer work after she graduates.

Her work isn’t only with the youngest, however. “I was hired to tutor a student in Spanish and it evolved into occasionally staying with his grandfather who had moved in with them after a car accident. He can’t be left alone safely, so I sit with him while the mom does errands.” All of these interests and jobs dovetail neatly into Caroline’s planned major, psychology.

“When I was younger I was super shy, and I also struggled with anxiety and depression. I really love kids and want to learn how to help them, especially the ones who are like I was.” Thanks to the support of her family and effective personal counseling, Caroline has blossomed. “It’s something that never fully goes away, you just learn ways to cope and deal with it. I want to teach them to recognize their triggers and avoid them if possible. The hardest part for me was forgiving myself when I fell short of my own high expectations.” Perfectionism is her downfall, she says. “I had to learn how to give myself grace when I don’t think I’m perfect.”

Caroline made an altruistic decision to be open about her battles. “I wrote a memoir for an AP Language class assignment,” she says. “The topic was my history with anxiety and depression and how I got through it. I also gave the paper to the counselor who had been so helpful to me in the past. With my permission, she is using it to benefit others.” Caroline’s decision is courageous, but she is determined to redeem her struggle by using it to help other young people having a difficult life journey.

If high school were a race, then Caroline is proof that, despite the old saying, nice guys, and girls, don’t always finish last. Sometimes determination, hard work and plentiful smarts combine with grace to send them surging to the head of the pack. In her case, Caroline Nice’s finish line is on the horizon and she is running strong. Even if the victor’s crown ultimately goes to another she’s still a winner.

“On my desk, I have a framed verse from the Bible, Zechariah 13:9, where it talks about going through the refiner’s fire,” Caroline Nice says. “God doesn’t promise us things will always be perfect, but if we call upon his name, all our trials will test and refine us until we shine forth like purest gold.” 



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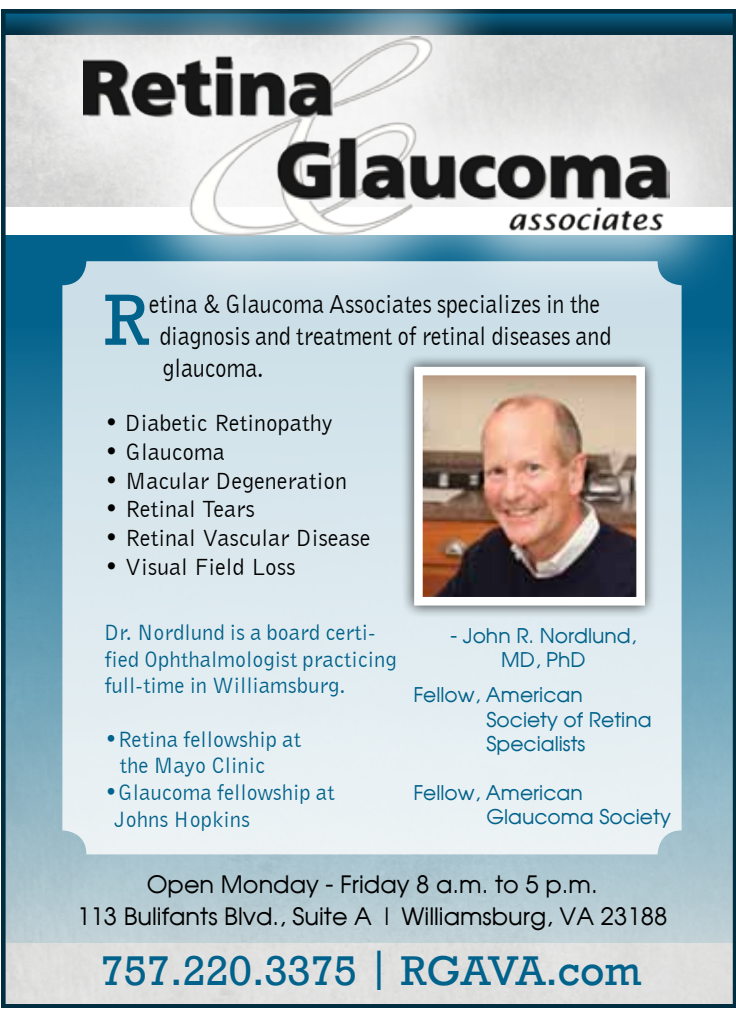
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WORK LIFE BALANCE

By Greg Lilly, Editor



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

A work-life balance means time is left during the work week to have a life outside of the office or shop. Managers understand this and strive to help their employees achieve that equilibrium. Angie Gilliam, human resource director of James City County (JCC), says that managers should set the example for the rest of the staff.

“When I first came to JCC, I wondered if people ate lunch. I didn’t see people leaving for lunch,” she says. “They were sitting at their

desks and eating or not taking a lunch break. I come from the mindset that you need a break in the day, to get away from the desk, walk away for a few minutes. I make a point to get out for lunch. It’s important to show others that we need that time to help clear our minds.”

Angie came to JCC from the retail industry and from the tourism industry, so she understands the struggles of area managers and employees. She grew up in Chesapeake and went to college at Christopher Newport University

(CNU). Her mother’s family was in Newport News, so she spent a lot of time on the Peninsula.

“My aunt worked for Busch Gardens for many years,” she says. “She worked in payroll and finance. I remember staying with her some during the summer. She loved what she did and where she worked.”

At CNU, Angie planned to be an elementary school teacher. “I started thinking long and hard about being around small children all the

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time and about wanting to have a family of my own. I wasn't sure if I could be around other people's children all day long and then come home to my own. How do you separate work from home? I thought I should explore Plan B." She changed her major to business administration and minored in psychology.

When she graduated from CNU, she accepted a seasonal position in Human Resources (HR) at Busch Gardens. "I learned quickly that full-time positions at Busch Gardens are few and far between. At that time, the Target store at Monticello Road was being built. I was hired and helped open that store. I moved up in the ranks over the years. After about seven and a half years at Target, a full-time position in HR opened at Busch Gardens. I worked with Busch Gardens for over 12 years."

On May 1, 2015, Angie started with James City County as the Human Resource Director. "While this wasn't what I started out studying for in college, I enjoy people and love what I do," she says. "I enjoy talking to people and problem solving with people. I have four children, so probably not being an elementary school teacher was a wise move," she adds with a laugh. She knew that the lines of work and home would blur if she had been an elementary

school teacher with young children of her own.

"I have three little ones under the age of five and a fifteen year old daughter. We're very busy. I'm doing the work-life balance. Both of my recent employers were very good at encouraging a balance."

In her career, Angie is able to be flexible in her time at the office. "I'm able to identify what needs to be done during working hours and flex those around." She takes work home from time to time, as many people do. "I have the luxury of having dinner with my family and getting my kids ready for bed. If I have an hour of work to do at home, I can fit that in. Certainly having a flexible schedule makes a huge difference."

Many businesses that have the option of flexible time use it to help employees meet their personal commitments. "Our County Administrator, Bryan Hill, is a firm believer in taking care of your personal business so that you can stay focused on your job when you are at work. He comes to each new hire orientation to introduce himself and our open door policy and to personally deliver a message to employees about the importance of taking care of family first." She explains that it is important to communicate that message from the top and

promote it throughout the organization.

Although, with current technology that keeps people connected, potentially 24 hours a day, disconnecting from work may be difficult.

"In the past ten years, many positions have changed in the expectation of telecommuting, or working from home, or being in contact all day and night. There's an ability now to do that, but is it the most beneficial way to do business?" Angie sees her children, friends and neighbors using their cell phones – a lot.

"Everyone is texting and no one has a conversation anymore. I'll be honest, I don't like e-mail. It serves a purpose and a good purpose, but if I'm e-mailing back and forth with someone, and it takes more than two or three exchanges, we need to pick up the phone or have a face-to-face conversation."

Conversation skills are important in the workplace, communicating with vendors or customers can't always be effective or efficient when done remotely.

A work-life balance isn't attending your child's baseball game while texting clients. Angie says it's being present in the moment. JCC has several programs to help full-time employees maintain a personal life outside of work. Paid time off is essential for getting a break

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from work. School leave allows employees to volunteer at a school, meet with their child's teacher or attend a school function. Rec Center memberships help employees stay healthy and get exercise. Tuition assistance allows for continuing education and professional development.

Along with these away-from-work opportunities, at-work activities can create beneficial breaks from workplace stress. "Our Employee Connections Committee organizes social and recognition events for staff," Angie says. "I have also implemented monthly fun activities for the HR staff." These are departmental pot-lucks, team-building games or seasonally-themed events. With the amount of time spent at work, it's helpful for the team members to interact personally.

"The Employee Assistance Program supports physical and mental health and wellness," Angie explains. "A manager can help an employee with a good balance of work and home life, but sometimes other professional resources are needed."

She describes the benefits of a well-balanced work life. "You have a happier employee, and with a happier employee, you have a more productive and engaged employee. You want

someone who is involved in what they're doing, not just going through the motions, but someone trying to improve, offer suggestions and help the company move forward."

Signs of burnout in an employee can depend on the person, but their overall body language and their look/appearance will show signs. "You can see it in the retail world," she says. "Burnout wears on your body in general. Managers see mistakes in people's work. Attitudes start to decline, and the employee begins to have 'negative-Nelly' conversations with co-works. You don't want burnout with anyone, but you don't want that to be cancerous to bring other people down with them. As a manager, be involved, be present in the day, have conversations with the employees."

Especially in the high-stress environments of retail and hospitality, managers should be team leaders, not closed-door dictators. "I get it's your workplace," Angie says, "but the reality is: we spend more waking hours with the people at work than we do with our families. Establish relationships and be invested with your team both professionally and personally."

In the area of Human Resources, Angie never knows what the day will bring into her office. She says her job is defined by the depart-

ment's name: Human Resources.

"We really are resources for people. It may be an applicant coming in the front door, a department manager who needs help, or an employee who doesn't know how to deal with something and needs advice. I never know which of those things it will be on a day-to-day basis or how many different varieties of things we'll be faced with, but if I can help somebody with a problem and feel good about it, that's a good day."

Angie's son recently turned one. "In addition to him, I have a 2 1/2 year old, a 4 1/2 year old, and a 15 year old. That means I'm going to have one driving soon and three others not in school yet. They are my life. My husband works at Busch Gardens. We find time as a family and take advantage of that time by going to the park or for a walk. My 4 year old has a new bike, and when it warms up we can go for a bike ride. We enjoy anything we can do outside as a family."

Angie Gilliam explains that she loves her family and her career, but she needs the balance. "I don't want to have pre-school conversations all day long. I don't want to work all day. I need a good professional balance to thrive. I have that." NDN

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Next Door Neighbors Sports



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

The Social Sport

By Greg Lilly, Editor

“What other place can you go to work and socialize with people who want to have fun?” asks Michelle Terrell, the Old Dominion district manager for AMF Bowling Company. “You can turn up the music and turn down the lights, all these things create a fun environment for the bowlers and for the staff.” Michelle has been around bowling since she was a young child in Virginia Beach. “My mom was an avid bowler. Any opportunity I had to go to the bowling center with her, I would.”

As soon as Michelle was old enough to get a job, she headed straight for Lynnhaven Lanes. “That was the dream job for me.” She graduated from Green Run High School in 1994 and continued working her way up in the bowling center. “[I was] shift leader, assistant manager at Indian River, then an opportunity to move to Newport News as a general manager at AMF Hidenwood Lanes in 1999.”

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She commuted from Virginia Beach to Newport News, but knew she needed to move. Once in Newport News, Michelle stayed around the bowling center after work and socialized and made local friends. She met her husband, Mike, and after two and a half years, she decided it was time to settle down and have a family. She also wanted to go back to school. She took a position in the corporate offices of AMF in Richmond.

"Mike and I moved to Williamsburg when I went to work in the corporate office and went back to school for my masters [degree]," she says. They had their son, Ryan, and Michelle became a district manager in 2007. "I now run the centers that I grew up in. I know a lot of the communities. Williamsburg is a great place to raise a family. It's in the middle of my market. I have ten bowling centers from Richmond to Virginia Beach to North Carolina."

At AMF Williamsburg Lanes, the thunder of the bowling balls rolling down the lanes and the crash of pins draw cheers from a variety of bowlers. Young and not-so-young applaud for strikes, spares, and even, gutter balls. "Bowling is probably one of the most social sports," Michelle says. "We have competitive leagues for serious bowlers, and then we have the fun game side."

Michelle says that many of the employees at the bowling center have come to work there as she did. "When they come to work for us, they've probably bowled socially with their friends and family. They become addicted to it. They see the scores. They see the people having fun. They become league bowlers."

Managers, particularly, become league bowlers like Michelle did. "There are certain rules related to leagues, so managers get interested in those more technical aspects of bowling with the league regulations. Leagues make up 25-35 percent of the centers' total business, so the managers want to understand the league rules. Most of our managers bowl in leagues. The hourly employees bowl a lot too, but more from a social perspective. Every opportunity I had, I bowled. I worked my shift then would bowl with the leagues. Now, with my schedule, it's hard for me to commit to the season and to the same night every week."

Several years ago, the competitive side of bowling was the dominate aspect, but it has evolved. Michelle explains that while bowling in leagues is still popular, the fun and predominately-social side has rolled ahead of the league play. "The bowling centers have evolved, shorter season leagues, social and group programs like birthday parties and team-building events."

The traditional league bowling on a weekday night for 36 weeks is fading, she explains. It's a big commitment of time that many Williamsburg neighbors can't make. "When both parents work, it's a hard commitment for 36 weeks every Monday night when the kids have baseball or dance or other activities. We have found that the shorter programs have become more popular. For example, a novice program of bowling might go for 14 weeks, and at the end of the 14 weeks, the bowlers earn a ball. Now, they want to come back and bowl more, socially or in another program. Before you know it, they've bowled the same number of weeks, but they've had flexibility. The popularity for bowling is coming back because it's become more social and less structured."

"The cool thing about bowling is that everybody can do it, whether



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they're three years old or 100 years old," she adds. "We have programs for all ages and for social or competitive play. What makes a good bowler is their ability to have fun with it."

Wednesday nights are when the competitive league bowlers hit the Williamsburg Lanes. "They understand lane conditions, averages, and more of the technical aspects of the sport. Learning on a competitive level is interesting because the league bowlers know how the ball rolls if there is a lot of oil on the lanes, or what the ball will do if the lanes are dry. They know what it means to go from a conventional grip to a fingertip grip. Those are things that are part of the continuous learning in this sport." Bowling taps into the physics of an object hitting another object, much like billiards – ricochet and rebound.

"The conditions of the facility make a difference as well," she says. "Between here and York—York has a different pinsetter area, so the carry is better. People tend to average higher there. Bowlers start to pick up on these nuisances of the lanes."

Competitive or not, bowling is a communal activity, and the desire to have a good time and hang out with friends are the best traits for a bowler.


Many people have bowled at different times in their lives: as teenagers, in college, with children or grandchildren or in senior groups. Michelle says the employees at the pro shop can give lessons to help get a returning or new bowler up to speed.

"In the winter, we have a lot of the golf players come in. They're competitive and they want to learn all they can about the lanes and how to better their averages." A Fords Colony league filled the lanes on a winter Tuesday morning. "Bowling makes a fun indoor sport for the golfers during bad weather."

The aspect of a shared experience draws most people to bowling. "As a mom, I'd rather take my son to do something that we can all participate in instead of sitting together in a movie, not being able to communicate," Michelle says. "I'm a social person and love being around people who are having a good time."

People come together as a group to celebrate: an achievement at work, a family reunion or a birthday party. Michelle says that bowling is becoming the team sport and party game for all ages. "Being a mom, the most important day in my life was the day my son, Ryan, was born. I understand wanting to celebrate birthdays with something fun. We had 62 birthday parties in my regional centers just last week. Those are 62 families that could have chosen anything else to do, but they chose our bowling centers to help celebrate their biggest day. Whatever we can do to make the day better, we do."

A sport that includes music, laughter, pizza, cold soft drinks or beer – that's a sport Williamsburg residents love. "It's such a fun thing to do. You do it with people you want to be around or with people you want to meet. We have singles come in and bowl looking to meet new people. We create that environment for people to have fun. It becomes an addiction. It's fun."

Michelle Terrell spends most of her life around bowling and bowlers, and she wouldn't have it any other way. "When you see a kid over and over in the bowling center and then see them finally get that strike, or see a senior get their highest score, or people having a great time, that makes this job fun for me. There's nothing quite like it. Plus, I love to bowl." 

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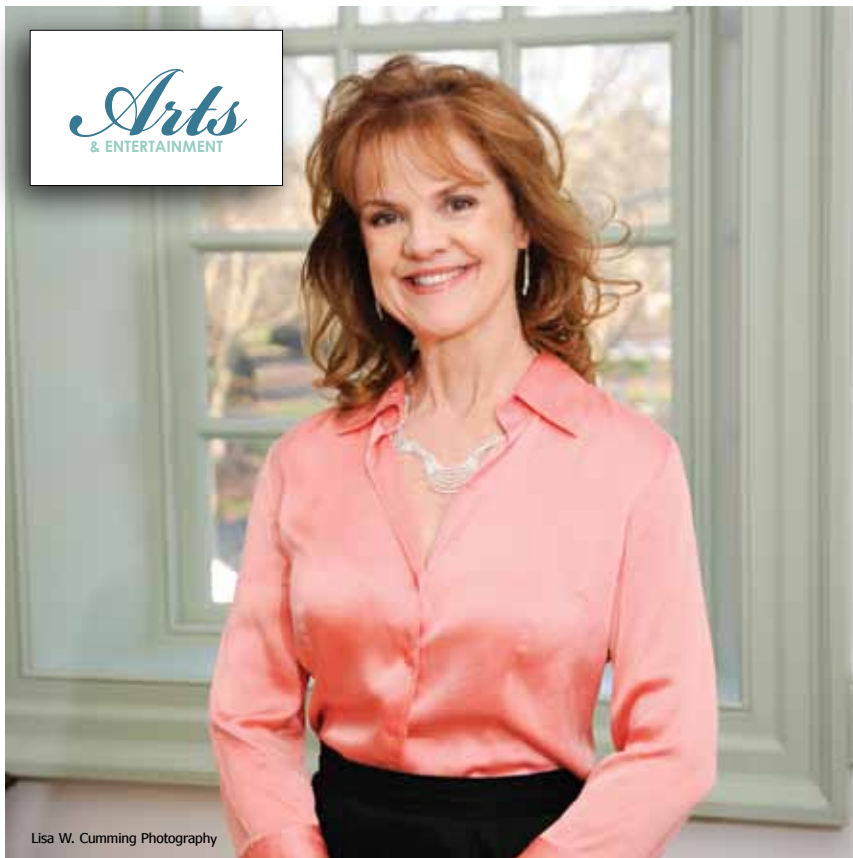
"I was an actress at the Governor's Palace last year for the AMC series 'Turn' being filmed here. In costume, walking onto the set, surrounded by Colonial Williamsburg, I thought the location was perfect, absolutely beautiful," says actress and acting teacher, Sheri Lahris. "I'm excited to work in Virginia as an actress. We're filming television shows, movies, commercials, all sorts of things here."

Sheri and her husband, Nicholas, moved to Williamsburg five years ago to be closer to their daughter and her family. Sheri and Nicholas met at the University of Massachusetts where he earned his degree in marketing, and she earned hers in theatre and communication.

"I had actually developed my love for theatre in high school in Hamilton, Massachusetts. I was lucky enough to have some really dedicated music and theatre teachers that helped foster my love for the arts.

She was voted "best actress" in high school and "best actor" went to David Morse ("St. Elsewhere," "Contact" with Jodi Foster, "The Green Mile" with Tom Hanks, "John Adams" mini-series as George Washington). "His career is legendary; mine not so much," she adds with a laugh.

At the University of Massachusetts, Sheri also studied education. "I have been teaching acting in some way since I graduated from college." She taught AP Honors Literature and Shakespeare in public and private high schools.



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Act Locally, Entertain Worldwide

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Her first teaching job led her to acting professionally. She was laid off as a teacher because of budget cuts and decided to teach at community and repertory theaters.

"I have a very close relationship with my students and when they are chosen for TV shows, commercials or movies it makes me feel very good indeed."

She and Nicholas moved to Florida in the 1990s. "Jobs took us there," she says. "Nicho-

las is into wines, as well as his sales and marketing career. He loves wines and has a very good knowledge of the industry. We moved to Florida because the wine industry was doing well, and I could teach there."

When they arrived, Sheri found a job she loved. "It was an on-location education position for the child actors. I worked daily. I traveled from the 'Mickey Mouse Club' set to the Nickelodeon Studio sets, to MGM, Universal, Warner Brothers, on and on. There were commercial shoots, television shows and many movies being shot on location. I worked on movies with Mel Gibson and John Goodman and countless A-listers. I also spent a month working on a sitcom with Dolly Parton."

With the flurry of activity for the child actors, focusing their attention on school work wasn't a problem for Sheri. "They knew they needed school time. Acting is a business, and they knew it. The students had a certain number of hours on set and in class. Those times are strictly regulated by the entertainment industry along with the state for the welfare of the children. They knew if they didn't go to school, they couldn't be on set. That was their passion and their life, so they did their school work." Some of the child actors she taught included Macaulay Culkin, Anna Chlumsky and Keri Russell. "I also worked with many young actors on series such as 'Saved by the Bell,' and many others as well as working on feature films."

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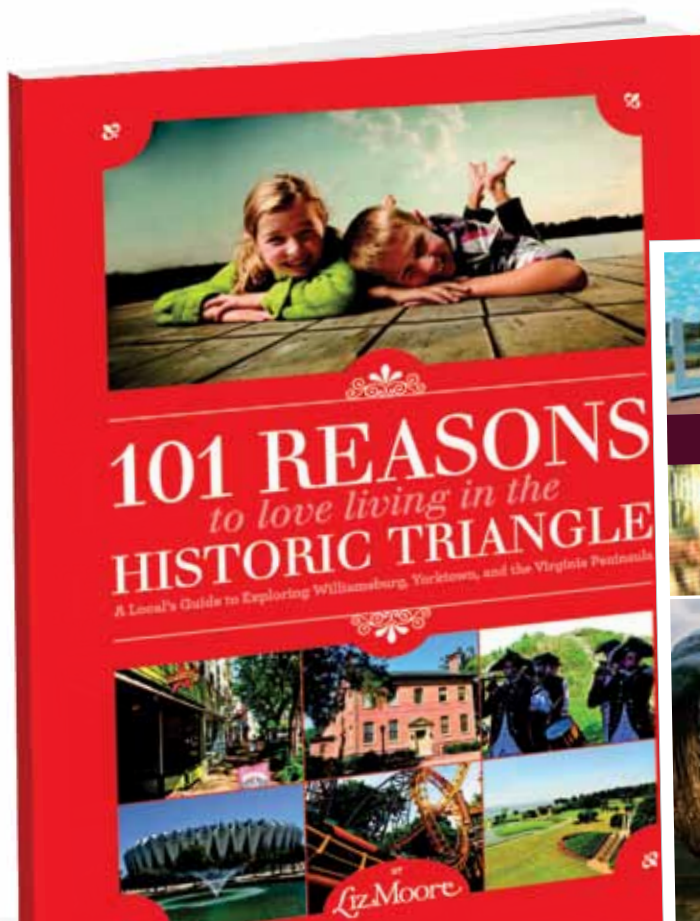
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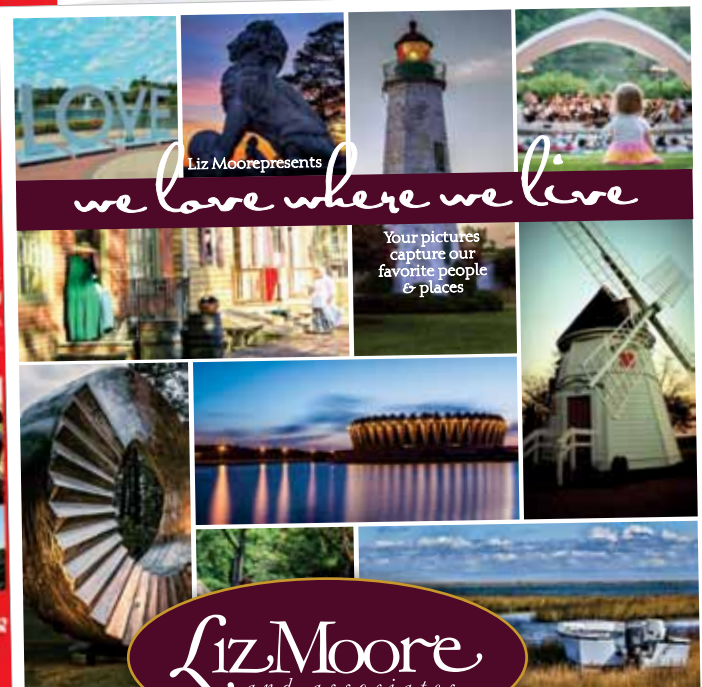
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The television and film work slowed in Florida in the late 1990s, moving to other locations around the country. Many productions went back to Los Angeles and New York City, but other locations with attractive tax-incentives moved up on the industry's list, including cities like Atlanta and Baltimore.

When Sheri and Nicholas moved to Williamsburg, she feared she wouldn't find a thriving acting and arts community. "But remembering my love for teaching repertory theater at the Orlando Rep. in Florida, I contacted Centerstage Academy a performing arts academy in Yorktown to see if I might be needed to teach acting there. They have been warm and wonderful!"


Also, she's working steadily as an actor in the area. "Here in Virginia, we're getting a lot of the period pieces: 'Legends & Lies,' AMC's 'Turn,' a new PBS series called 'Mercy Street,' which is taking over the 'Downtown Abbey' position. So many period pieces are here. It's exciting. I love the history and the attention to detail and 'period correctness' of the costumes. We have so many important projects coming here such as the latest Richmond feature film directed by Jeff Nichols. "Loving" is the true story of an interracial couple sentenced to prison in Virginia in 1958 for getting married. The wardrobe that we wore on this movie was sent from costume houses in LA of actual clothing from that era. The attention to detail was just amazing."

Sheri tries to impress on her students that acting is not about fame or red carpet premieres. "It's about hard work like any other career. I'm a type A personality, so I work hard at whatever I do. It is about 'the craft', the love and passion for the craft of acting."

Sheri's daily routine includes checking e-mails first thing in the morning to see if agents have asked for her to audition for projects or if she has call backs. In Virginia, an actor can have as many agents as she would like. "An agent doesn't make money unless the actor does," she explains. "An actor can stay busily connected to several agents. There is a plethora of work in the Mid-Atlantic area for actors." Local universities like Regent University and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) have done major films here. "Angus Macfadyen of the AMC series 'Turn' directed a wonderful movie adaptation of 'Macbeth' here last winter, and the film crew was comprised of VCU film students. It's so wonderful when this caliber of talent work with our university students providing them with invaluable industry experience," she adds.

"Going to auditions isn't always successful, but always interesting!" Sheri says with a smile. Sheri auditioned for "Ithaca," a movie that Meg Ryan was directing. "I auditioned and they liked me, but I submitted my dog as well, she's a cute, little, white nine pound Bichon. She didn't get the part either, but the casting folks remembered my dog for the next movie. So, my dog is in a children's movie, but I'm not." Sheri laughs. "The movie received rave reviews and I am very proud of my pup!"

Currently, Sheri is filming a TV series called "Coney Island." She plays the character Madame Giry. "It's 'The Phantom of the Opera' Madame Giry," she explains. "In this TV series version of 'Phantom,' the cast all moves to Coney Island, New York. The period is 1897-1911. Quite a bit of the filming takes place in Chesterfield County and Petersburg. I especially love this role as the character arc is large, and I play a nurturing mother and also the actor that you 'love to hate,' which is always fun!" Networking is very important in the acting community, Sheri advises emerging actors. She has met agents, casting directors and directors, all who cast from local talent. Local director Kevin R. Hershberger, director of the Bill O'Reilly's "Legends & Lies" TV series cast Sheri to play Jesse James' mother. Coming up soon from a Norfolk studio is the television series "Dystopia" where Sheri plays a nurse. "It's fun because it's with a local studio," she says.

In the near future, look for Williamsburg's Sheri Lahris in more television shows and movies. "We will still shooting 'Coney Island' here for quite a while, and I can't wait to see what projects come to our fair state soon." 



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

EXPERTISE THROUGH LIFELONG LEARNING

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Dr. Gregory Schultz says he has a passion for education and teaching. “I’ve had a career that has evolved out of academia. Both of my parents were high school teachers,” he explains. Both parents instilled the importance of education and life-long learning in him and his brother.

“My parents expected a certain amount of dedication to our studies. Once I graduated from high school and chose a college, I wasn’t

sure what direction I would go: dentistry, medicine or optometry.” He knew he wanted to go into the medical field. “I have a brother who is a medical doctor. He enjoys patient care and helping people. He’s a very academically-oriented person, like me.”

Dr. Schultz earned his undergraduate degree from Ursinus College in Pennsylvania majoring in biology, a pre-med track for him. “I was always interested in the medical side of the sci-

ences,” he says. “Throughout school, I enjoyed the medical courses and human anatomy. My brother told me that you don’t always end up in the specialty that you might want in the medical field. It’s a match of your abilities that is determined by someone other than you. The uncertainty of that didn’t appeal to me. With optometry, I knew I could pick the school with the training emphasis I wanted and know what specialty I would have upon graduating.” In his

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third year of college, he made the decision to pursue optometry. He graduated Cum Laude in 1993 from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

“My grandmother suffered with macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. That had some impact on me. I didn’t have any particular vision problems growing up like many that pursue a career in optometry, but what impressed me the most about optometry was that vision is so important to all people. One of the greatest fears of most people is losing their eyesight. What better way is there to make a contribution than to protect our most valued sense.”

He didn’t think he’d like the pressure of the high volume specialty cases necessary in surgical practice as an ophthalmologist. “I’ve worked with surgical practices my entire career as a medical eye specialist until two years ago. I did enjoy the fast pace and the complexity of cases, but wouldn’t want to be the one having to turn out all those surgeries in a day. I have a very caring personality, and I care deeply for my patients and want to create lasting life-long relationships, and optometry is perfectly suited for that.” He wanted to spend time with his patients, addressing their concerns and questions, educating them, about their vision health. I can still treat all the same conditions I was treating at the surgical center, only now I can do it on my own terms”

He shares his knowledge with his industry as well. Dr. Schultz lectures as an expert around the country at medical conventions and for pharmaceutical companies concerning new pharmaceutical advancements in eye care, ocular disease management and surgical co-management.

Optometry has changed over the past generation. “Fifty years ago, optometrists didn’t really look at the eye medically. Today, the profession has expanded. With the residency training I received, I can do everything an ophthalmologist does except the surgery. On the medical end of it, I really enjoy the complex cases.”

When Dr. Schultz worked at Omni Eye Services in Iselin, New Jersey, he was in practice with a neuro-ophthalmologist for six years. “I always had an interest in that field because it’s a ‘non-surgical area’ of ophthalmology. I gravitated toward that because the cases are fascinating.”

Neuro-ophthalmology encompasses a number of things, he explains. “It includes anything neurologically related that can go wrong with your eyes or the visual system. For example, someone could have multiple sclerosis and have sudden vision loss, sudden onset double vision or an eyelid droop. Those are examples of neuro-ophthalmic cases. It covers neuromuscular diseases like myasthenia gravis, as well as stroke patients and brain tumor patients. I’ve received extensive training in these areas of eye care”

As part of the eye care field, Dr. Schultz is usually the first contact to encounter a patient’s symptoms. When someone finds their vision has been impacted, they rush to their eye doctor. Sudden vision loss and double vision are not issues that can be ignored, and they are alarming to patients. “I can put them at ease if it’s not likely serious and can get the answers if it is.” His role is primarily as diagnostician on these neuro-eye cases, to identify the problem. “Once the problem is diagnosed, I can triage the patient to a neurosurgeon if necessary or neurologist. I can order blood testing and neuro-imaging that may be necessary to diagnose their problem.”

He wants to help his patients realize what is going on with their vision and their eye health. People come to Dr. Schultz for second opinions frustrated that they don’t understand what is wrong with their eyesight, or after several different doctors have examined them, they aren’t getting the results they expect from their treatment. “That’s what we’ve found in our dry eye practice,” he says. Dry eye is a condition some people have learned to live with, mostly from lack of knowledge of an effective treatment. “We did a lot of research studies for pharmaceutical companies for new drugs and for new artificial tears. I was the lead investigator for one

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of those studies. I had that experience from doing clinical trials. Dry eye is largely undiagnosed and untreated. It's more complex than most realize."

He urges Williamsburg neighbors to seek a second opinion, on any medical issue, that they aren't satisfied with the treatment plan or results. "Many people don't seek a second opinion. They've adapted to the situation (like in dry eye). It will get worse if not treated and can cause permanent damage to the eye and their vision. I discover that some people have taken for granted their deteriorating eyesight. Most haven't realized it or thought it was a normal part of aging."

The drive to find answers, to learn from new cases, to help people where others may have failed, keeps Dr. Schultz enjoying his practice. "I enjoy the general tasks, too," he adds. "I enjoy doing a refraction and helping a young child see clearly or helping an elderly patient with double vision."

From the three jobs that have made up the bulk of his career, Dr. Schultz says he's taken an interesting piece from each that makes him a better doctor. "At Omni, it was everything – retina, general ophthalmology, neuro-ophthalmology, glaucoma, and obscure injuries, things like that. As the clinical director at Virginia Eye Consultants, the practice was geared toward cataracts, specialty cornea and pharmaceutical research, along with neuro-eye problems. At Advanced Vision Institute, it was largely neuro-ophthalmology (eye cancers) and glaucoma. Now, in private practice, certainly glaucoma and neuro-ophthalmology are still a big part of my practice, I've also been able to focus my passion and efforts in managing complicated dry eye patients."

Working with Advanced Vision Institute and Dr. Campbell was the reason Dr. Schultz came to Williamsburg. "Also, my father did some of his graduate training at William and Mary years ago in pursuit of a career as a mathematics professor. My father loves history and fell in love with the area. We also wanted to be closer to our families. That produced an interest in this area for me. Since Tess [his wife], and I moved to Hampton Roads about ten years ago from Memphis, my parents come down regularly for the Grand Illumination. That was a draw for us. I enjoy interacting with the college students, athletics, and faculty. It's a real community feel. It's a very different feel than on the Southside when we were in Norfolk. This is much more of a melting pot of people, a more eclectic mix of people, a more interesting mix."

Dr. Schultz and Tess are moving to New Town in February. Closer to their office and closer to more of Williamsburg's amenities, they plan to take advantage of what Williamsburg has to offer. "I enjoy running and exercising," he says. "I also enjoy fishing. Fishing is something I've always loved to do. I just bought myself a new rod and reel, so I'm ready to do more."

He and Tess enjoy walking around Colonial Williamsburg and taking their dog on walks through the woods. Avid hikers, they're exploring different areas of the state. "I'm interested in biking as well. That's on my to-do list once we get settled in New Town."

The innovations in his field keep him interested in learning more. "I'm following advances in retinal diseases. These are potentially blinding to people. Macular degeneration is a good example. There's a lot of research going on in that area, new drugs that we will be able to prescribe. There is so much research going on as well in the area of glaucoma. There are now pills used in Australia and in Europe for cataract prevention. A lot of exciting things are happening in the field."

As a lifetime learner, Dr. Schultz says he's gained experience and knowledge and wisdom from every position he's held. "I took something from each job that made me a more-rounded professional. I'm grateful for every experience I've had. I'm fortunate that I had a career path that allowed me to learn for 21 years straight. It's been a constant learning experience. To a certain extent, I'm a nerd in that way. I enjoy learning constantly. This is a life-long learning profession, and I love that." **NDN**

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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

SHELTERING the Homeless

By Greg Lilly, Editor

With the winter winds howling and snow blowing, do you know where you'll sleep tonight? Renee Collins wants to make sure everyone has a warm, dry and safe bed. She is one of the co-founders of Community of Faith Mission (COFM). COFM provides winter emergency shelter and food to homeless men, women and families.

"Williamsburg is a unique town because of the tourist and service industry," Renee says. "We have service industry working poor. When tourist companies layoff employees in the off season, we see the newly unemployed come to the shelter." After the shelter closes for the season in March, some of those workers are able to find a rental because their jobs are back. "There are so many, with the service industry here, that are under-employed. They don't have 40 hours a week of work, but maybe only 15 or 20 hours. They may work, but not have enough money to afford housing."

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"Particularly, if the person has an addiction issue and no job or can't maintain a job, the local agencies aren't going to put them up in a motel. They want a plan to get them back on their feet. If they have an addiction and can't maintain employment, they come to the shelter. We take the most vulnerable clients who may have slipped through the cracks of the system. We're like the last resort, but we're also the first step for some. There are a lot of resources in the community. Sometimes we get people in the shelter and refer them to many other community resources. We have seen people get out of emergency shelter and move on and live productive lives."

A big hurdle for most homeless people is transportation. The Emergency Shelter Program of COFM does not have a permanent location. Thirty-two faith-based organizations act as hosts to the shelter each week of the winter season (mid-November through mid-March). Renee says they print 4,000 cards with the dates and locations of the shelter and make them available all over town, from bus stops to thrift stores to social service agencies. "We provide, funds allowing, a WATA bus ticket so they can get to the shelter locations and to agency appointments. Only a few of the shelter visitors have any type of transportation, so they really need the bus ticket to get to a warm, dry place for the night. Transportation is a big issue."

Growing up in Northern Virginia, Renee earned her degree in communications from Virginia Tech. At Tech, she met her husband, Paul. "We moved around a lot with his job, Richmond, Charlotte, Atlanta," she lists. Before moving to Williamsburg, the family spent ten years in Atlanta. "Our kids were getting to that age where they would be in middle school and high school. We made a quality of life decision and committed to raise the children in a smaller town. Traffic had become so crazy in Atlanta. Just getting the kids to their activities had become an ordeal in itself." Paul's parents lived here, so the family decided to look around Williamsburg. "We loved it, and Williamsburg is a great place to bring up children. We've lived here for 15 years."

Just over four years ago, Renee and her friend Kathy Banfield started researching resources available for the homeless in Williamsburg. "In the last five years, I had seen more people in the parking lots of places like Walmart and Target and more people along the roads holding up signs," she says. "Seeing that and recognizing there was a need, with a definite increase in numbers, Kathy and I wanted to help."

They began investigating other areas of Virginia to see what was offered for the homeless. "We zeroed in on emergency shelters and were surprised that Williamsburg didn't offer anything like that. A lot of other municipalities did, even ones smaller than Williamsburg. I think people thought we didn't have homeless here."

From their research, they developed a model for an emergency shelter program that would work with our demographics. "It really was an amazing thing," she says. "Without the support of the community, not just the faith groups that were fantastic in helping us, but the support of law enforcement and the city and county doing inspections and working on permits and code compliance, they all helped make this happen. It was God's timing and doors were opening."

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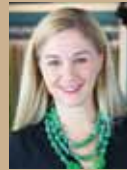
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COFM has a trailer (known as the God Pod), and it carries all the supplies that the churches use from host facility to host facility, week to week. "The first week this season, we started at St. Bede's," Renee explains. "We had all the sleeping mats, towels, bedding linens, pillows, hygiene kits and everything else they'd need on the trailer. They unload everything. The church uses their hall to serve the homeless for that week. The next week, we moved to the Williamsburg Community Chapel. Same thing: the trailer shows up again with all the supplies. They use whatever space they can for the shelter."

Renee stresses that she works with many people to help make the emergency shelter program work. "COFM has so many wonderful volunteers that are passionate about helping those in need. I am amazed by the genuine compassion that I see from the volunteers every time I work at the shelter."

With 32 faith-based organizations participating, the members of those organizations volunteer to host the shelter guests. "It takes a village to run the shelter program. We have over 2,400 volunteers, an amazing group of congregations and volunteers that are so supportive. It takes all the community to make this work."

The number of shelter guests has increased over the four years of operation. Renee says that comes from more awareness of the shelter and from the growing number of homeless. Some, she says, show up consistently while others are more sporadic. "Maybe they get a paycheck or they sleep on a friend's sofa or they get a temporary job. Our numbers go up as the weather gets colder. We rely on donations. We're faith-based, so we're not funded by any government agencies."

The shelter is more than a warm place and food. The volunteers make a connection with fellow human beings. "One thing that a lot of people say when I talk with them is that they don't have a lot of control in their lives," Renee says. "They don't have enough control to have a roof over their head. Sometimes you have to be patient and accept them where they are in their journey. Be a good listener because sometimes they just need to vent. That's what our volunteers find; they know it's not just the food and shelter. That's the basics to keep the homeless out of the cold. But, the shelter guests get lonely. They need to talk. We had an individual with some mental health issues. He was the nicest man, grateful for anything you gave him, kind, considerate, constantly thanking us. I would see him at places around town. He was always alone. He didn't have people to talk to. When he came to the shelter, he had people to talk with who showed him they cared about him. It's a very lonely place to be: single and homeless, no community of friends or family, it's a lonely life."

Renee, Kathy Banfield (co-president of COFM) and the board of directors ensure there is a safe, warm and dry place where the Williamsburg homeless can find a connection.

"I enjoy helping those in need, particularly the most vulnerable. Individuals who are homeless often fall through the cracks of our system and need an advocate. This is where Community of Faith Mission comes in," Renee Collins says. "We help people who are often at their lowest point by offering food, shelter and fellowship during the coldest months of the year." NDN

For more information about Community of Faith Mission visit <http://cofm.info/>

Hey Neighbor!

Please visit

www.WilliamsburgNeighbors.com,

go to the magazine site and click on

Hey Neighbor! for a complete list of current community announcements.

To submit your non-profit event to Hey Neighbor! send a paragraph with your information to:

heyneighbor@cox.net

Hey Neighbor!

EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER WARM UP FUNDRAISER

January 29, 2016

Williamsburg chefs donate soup to raise funds for a soup-tasting event for Community of Faith Mission — the Williamsburg area emergency winter shelter program. From 5:30-8:00 pm at Williamsburg United Methodist Church, 500 Jamestown Rd. Tickets to “Warm Up Williamsburg” cost \$20. For reservations, go to www.cofm.info or call 220-0484. All proceeds from the event will support Community of Faith Mission, a faith-based non-profit program involving 32 faith groups which operates an emergency shelter on a weekly basis from November through March.

Hey Neighbor!

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE AND TAX FORM PREPARATION

February 1 – April 18, 2016

AARP Tax-Aide is a program of the AARP Foundation, in conjunction with the IRS, and is offered free of charge on a walk-in basis. The program's mission is to provide free, high-quality, income tax assistance and tax form preparation to low- and moder-

ate-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Free filing is performed electronically. Additional information can be found on the AARP website at www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide.

Hey Neighbor!

FREE TAX PREPARATION AND ELECTRONIC FILING SERVICES

February 1 – April 16, 2016

Greater Williamsburg Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Team will provide free tax preparation and electronic filing services. IRS certified volunteer tax preparers are trained to prepare all ordinary returns, and will do so without charge to the taxpayer. For questions about VITA, call 220-7029 Option 3 or e-mail VITAwb@cox.net.

Hey Neighbor!

TRINITY ORGAN CONCERT

February 3, 2016

The free concert will include a variety of classical works performed by Saint Bede's organist Aaron Renninger and violist Michael Strauss. Time is 12 pm at Saint Bede Catholic Church, 3686 Ironbound Road. For more information, call (757) 229-3631 or visit www.bedeva.org/concerts.

Hey Neighbor!

A VALENTINE'S DAY INTIMATE CABARET

February 13, 2016

“A Broadway Romance” at 2 pm and 8 pm. Enjoy the multi-talented performer Jennifer Lent, as she weaves songs and stories together with live piano accompaniment by William Neill. All ticket sales help support fundraising efforts for the Williamsburg Players. \$20 Adults, Students \$12, and special pricing for Season Subscribers \$15, and \$30 limited on stage seating. James-York Playhouse. 200 Hubbard Lane, Williamsburg. Box Office: (757) 229.0431, www.williamsburgplayers.org

Hey Neighbor!

FREE BOATING SAFETY COURSE

February 27, 2016

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary 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 (including PWCs/ Jet Ski). Our first class will be from 9 am – 5 pm at Berkley Green Club House, 3051 Berkley Green Rd., Williams-

burg. Register at <https://www.registered.com/events/view/73420> or e-mail at: pe@flotilla67.us.

Hey Neighbor!

CALLING ALL HRVA VETERANS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY!!!

February 18, 2016

Veterans Night from 5:30 – 9 pm. Join us at VFW Post 4639 in Williamsburg for a special evening of socializing and hearing guest speaker Mr. Gary Powers. Mr. Powers is the son of Capt. Francis Gary Powers, the U2 pilot shot down and taken prisoner by the Soviets. Come out and meet other local veterans over good food and beverages. Post 4639 is on 106 Jesters Ln (behind Monticello Marketplace).

Hey Neighbor!

COLONIAL HERITAGE INVESTMENT CLUB

February 18, 2016

Open to anyone with an interest in investing, from beginners to seasoned traders. Meetings held on third Thursday of each month from 9:30 -11:30 am. 6500 Arthur Hills Blvd., Williamsburg. A wide range of investment topics are covered through presentations, discussions, and question & answer sessions. The club does not invest



United for Shelter

United Way provides emergency, transitional, and permanent housing assistance to those in need.

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Want to help? Visit www.uwgw.org



money, buy securities, or permit sales presentations. Guests admitted free.

Hey Neighbor! DOUBLE-HEADER GARDENING PROGRAM

February 20, 2016

LISA ZIEGLER, author and Newport News flower grower, will present a double-header program held at the James City County Recreation Center, 5301 Longhill Road, Williamsburg, from 9 am - 12 noon. The program is free and open to the public; however, a donation of \$5 to support the Williamsburg Botanical Garden at Freedom Park would be appreciated. For more information, contact Lisa Ziegler at lisa@shoptgw.com. www.shoptgw.com

Hey Neighbor! REGAINING HOPE FOR SEPARATED AND DIVORCED CATHOLICS!

March 1, 2016

From 6 - 7:30 pm at the Parish Annex, Journey of Hope, the start of a 12-week support program to help Catholics recover from the emotional pain of separation and divorce and to regain hope. This is St Bede Parish's 5th year for offering this program to its parishioners and those interested in the Catholic Faith. Journey of Hope participants experience real healing and renewal of hope in their daily lives which continues to grow as part of their faith journey. Contact Deacon Francis Roettinger at (757) 603-6989ext2308 or e-mail froettinger@bedeva.org for additional information.

Hey Neighbor! 25TH CHILDREN'S CONSIGNMENT SALE

March 4 - 5, 2016

Our sale is free and open to all families to consign, volunteer and shop. Shopping Hours are 11 am - 7 pm on March 4 (*Get in at 10 am with a Jar of Peanut Butter for FISH), 8 am - noon on March 5. Location is King of Glory Lutheran Church, 4897 Longhill Road, Williamsburg. Great selection of new and gently used seasonal children's clothing for expectant parents and growing children (newborn to teen), maternity clothing, costumes, formal wear, nursery and children's furniture, room accessories, baby equipment, strollers, high chairs, toys, books, videos, puzzles, games, and bikes. Non-profit sale benefiting local families in need, the King of Glory National Youth Gathering, the King of Glory Preschool Tuition Assistance Program, FISH, Grove Christian Outreach, Storybook Connection program, and Gowns for Hounds.

Hey Neighbor! DIVORCECARE SUPPORT GROUP

March 8, 2016

DivorceCare groups meet to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each session has two distinct elements. (1) A Seminar with Experts During the first 30-40 minutes of the meeting, each DivorceCare group watches a video seminar featuring top experts on divorce and recovery subjects. (2) A Support Group with Focus After viewing the video, DivorceCare group participants spend time as a support group, discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in the lives of group members. Join us on Tuesdays beginning on March 8 at 6:30 pm at King of Glory Lu-

theran Church, 4897 Longhill Road. Websites: <http://www.kogva.org/> and <http://www.divorcecare.org/>

Hey Neighbor! THE 31ST ANNUAL ARBOR DAY AWARDS CEREMONY AND RECEPTION

March 11, 2016

Sponsored by the Williamsburg Area Council of Garden Clubs and hosted by York County at 11 am at The Freight Shed, Riverwalk Landing, 331 Water Street, Yorktown. The Council will honor individuals, organizations, businesses and institutions that have contributed to promoting and maintaining the horticultural environment of the community.

Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG CHORAL GUILD WINTER CONCERT - BRAHMS' GERMAN REQUIEM

March 13, 2016

In the second concert of its 40th season, conducted by Artistic Director Jay BeVillie, the Guild is joined by vocal soloists and accompanied by pianists Rebecca Davy and Jane Alcorn. At the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, 215 Richmond Rd., the pre-concert lecture begins at 3 pm in the sanctuary, followed by the music at 4 pm. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 (\$10 for students) at the door. For information and to order tickets, go to www.williamsburgchoralguild.org or call (757) 220-1808.

Hey Neighbor! DESIGNING THE SMALL GARDEN

March 19, 2016

At Freedom Park Interpretive Center, 10 am, open to the public. Landscape

architect and former CWF Director of Landscape and Facilities Services, Gordon Chappell, will talk about the hows and whys of garden design. The program is free, although a \$5.00 donation to help the Garden grow is appreciated. For more information, contact Gordon at (757) 220-0914 or email him at gordonchappell@cox.net

Hey Neighbor! CHESAPEAKE EXPERIENCE WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER

March 26, 2016

Chesapeake Experience, an environmental non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization located in Williamsburg, is holding their 7th Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser at the James City County Marina, 2054 Jamestown Road. The event will be from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. Purchase tickets at this link: <http://chesapeakeexperience.org/wineEvent.asp>. If you would like to make a donation to the silent auction or directly to Chesapeake Experience, please e-mail the Managing Director, Adrienne Richardson at adrienne@chesapeakeexperience.org or call (757) 259-6859.

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. 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.

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NEIGHBORHOOD
photo challenge

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AT WILLIAMSBURG
UNITARIAN
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CHURCH

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

Enjoy!

ADVANCED LEVEL



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

January 2016
In the Neighborhood
Photo Challenge





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