COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

| Activities                     | February 2 | 9:00 a.m. | S&T |
| Communications                 | February 7 | 9:00 a.m. | CSB-B |
| Facilities                     | February 15 | 10:00 a.m. | CSB-A |
| Finance                        | February 19 | 3:00 p.m. | CSB-B |
| Roads & Project Maintenance    | February 14 | 3:00 p.m. | CSB-B |
| Landscape Design Subcommittee  | February 12 | 1:30 p.m. | CSB-B |
| Security                       | February 13 | 3:00 p.m. | CSB-B |
| Strategic Planning             | February 5 | 3:00 p.m. | CSB-B |
| Technology                     | February 1 | 4:30 p.m. | S&T |
| Volunteer Management           | February 21 | 1:00 p.m. | CSB-A |

The Nominating Committee and Covenants Committee do not hold regularly scheduled monthly meetings. The committee meeting schedule can be verified at fchoa.org.

Note: S&T Club = Swim and Tennis Club; CSB = Community Services Building (Rooms A or B)

ARC (Architectural Review Committee) Report for January 2018

Completed:

- Single Family: 2484
- Townhomes: 80
- Eaglescliffe Condos: 24
- Total: 2588

Under Construction: 51

Homesite 82/Section 10 – 136 Highland
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Fetters
Walk-Wright Construction

Homesite 34/Section 12 – 116
Nottinghamshire SPEC
Walk-Wright Construction

ARC Submission

All construction, including additions and modifications to existing structures, must be approved by the Architectural Review Committee. Submission forms and guidelines are available at the Community Services Office, as well as on the fchoa.org website. Property owners may view any house or site plan on file with the ARC at the Community Services Office. The agenda for new construction and confirmation of meetings will be posted on the fchoa.org website (under Association, ARC tabs). The ARC meets on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. in the CSB on an as-needed basis.

When You Sell Your House

A Virginia-mandated HOA home compliance report must be provided to the buyer. Refer to the ARC webpage for more information.

TALK OF THE COLONY

PHOTO AND AD REQUIREMENTS

File formats

- PDF or JPEG (maximum quality)

To reserve ad space, contact Communications Coordinator, Jenny Holland at 757-258-4270 or jholland@fchoa.net.

Resident Concerns

Any resident with a community maintenance concern should go to fchoa.org and click on Report Maintenance Issue or call RCS at 757-258-4230. Your message will be logged in and the concern will be tracked to its resolution.

RESIDENT CONCERNS
Wow, what a year! The 30th anniversary year of Ford’s Colony started out calmly. As with each new year, the Board set the HOA goals for 2017 in February and the 12 standing committees went about implementation. Those goals and their outcomes are as follows:

- Finish 2017 at or under annual budget estimates: We finished under budget.
- Develop an acceptable agreement with Eagle Construction for The Parke: A very acceptable agreement was reached which would have been very beneficial to the FCHOA. Unfortunately, the James City County (JCC) Board of Supervisors did not approve Eagle’s application on December 12. A new rezoning hearing is delayed at least one year. Other options will be reviewed when applicable.
- Implement the final phases of the new Security visitor management system: dwellingLIVE® has been implemented; residents can grant visitors and contractors access to Ford’s Colony online; and installation of the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) system for resident access is underway.
- Finalize the efforts of the Branding, Marketing & Public Relations (BMPR) Task Force: Tremendous efforts have been made in creating a first-class FCHOA marketing website and a strategic community marketing plan. The BMPR task force achieved its objectives, and the BOD will decide what next steps should be taken in 2018.
- Develop a comprehensive plan for possible future facilities upgrades: The Facilities Committee’s plan was accepted by the BOD, and the first step in surveying the community has taken place. Next steps will be reviewed in the coming months by the Committee and BOD. Significant projects are not anticipated in the next few years.
- Promote and enhance Ford’s Colony with specific focus on working professionals (generally in the 40 – 65 age group): A new interest group has been formed called “Around the Town” which focuses on this resident segment. In addition to these goals, the FCHOA addressed the following major projects:
  - Replaced the HVAC system at the Swim & Tennis Club and Community Services building
  - Installed a shade structure at the Westbury pool
  - Purchased new outdoor furniture for both pools
  - Resurfaced the tennis and pickleball courts at the S&T Club
  - Replaced several broken underground pipes
  - Chip-sealed streets in St. Andrews
  - Rejuvenated Edinburgh and Firestone
  - Landscaped the Williamsburg West entrance and the Ford’s Colony Drive roundabout
  - Implemented walking path overlay in several locations
  - Installed speed tables on John Pott to test their effectiveness
  - Began installing river rock on road edges to stop erosion that results from vehicles driving off the road.

**ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

To this point, it would have been just a normal year for the BOD. However, things were about to change. An applicant filed a “conceptual plan” with the JCC Planning Staff to build 100 apartments near the Eaglescliffe condominiums. As though that wasn’t a big enough surprise, the Planning Staff responded that it would only require a “site plan” amendment (a lower level of review and approval) versus a Master Plan amendment (which is a much higher level of scrutiny and approval). The BOD strongly opposed the apartments as well as many of the proposals made in the conceptual plan and has objected to many of the positions that the JCC Planning Staff advocated relative to this project. To date, there have been no new developments.

Following the demise of the Ford’s Colony developer in 2009, the FCHOA was without a recognized single strong voice at JCC to address issues such as this. It became apparent during the apartment discussions that the BOD needed to find a way to fill that void. As a result, your BOD developed a Position Paper which set out seven points that need to be pursued for our community’s protection. Sent to residents in a community-wide email in October, these points were reviewed with each of the four candidates running for the two JCC Supervisor positions representing Ford’s Colony. They unanimously agreed to support all seven points.

Meanwhile, it became evident that other neighborhoods in JCC were working to strengthen Jamestown High School at the expense of Lafayette High School. This issue impacts not only our residents with school-age children, but all of us since home values can be negatively impacted by such actions. To raise awareness of this inequity, the BOD addressed the issue of high school redistricting. Going forward, the BOD will continue to raise awareness about why this matters to all residents, with a focus on the equity of the programs and facilities among the three area high schools. The BOD thanks our students, parents and residents for their commitment to the public schools.

(continued on next page)
FROM THE BOARD

State of the Colony
CONTINUED

Just as the year was starting to wind down, we learned that an applicant had submitted a conceptual plan to build affordable housing on Lots B and C behind the CSB building at 100 Manchester Drive. Based on our experience with the apartment plan, we were able to respond quickly. The JCC Planning Staff has since sent out a letter to the applicant withholding its support of the plan as proposed.

On a positive note, we have established a Council of Past Presidents to maintain our institutional knowledge. The Activities Committee approved eight new interest groups during 2017, which brings our total number of clubs and groups to 64, reflecting the diversity of interests that is a hallmark of our lifestyle.

WITH GRATITUDE

On behalf of the BOD of the HOA, thank you to all who volunteer in the many positions crucial to the success of the HOA and its committees and activities. We also thank the dedicated employees of RCS, Inc., our Management Agent, for their personal commitment to Ford’s Colony. And lastly, we appreciate every resident who knows how important the appearance of their home is to the overall community and makes efforts to maintain and improve the “look and feel” of their piece of the Colony.

As I leave the Board of Directors, I want you to know what a pleasure it has been to serve this community. I have enjoyed it and have had a tremendous amount of fun doing it. I am confident that going forward the Board will continue to improve this wonderful community that we all call home.
Weathering Winter’s Worst
With Warm Thanks

DREW MULHARE, FCHOA General Manager, CMCA®, LSM®, PCAM®

With chart-dropping temperatures and gusting winds, Winter Storm Grayson got the new year off to a bitter start. Up to eight inches of snow fell in less than 12 hours, followed by frigid temperatures through the weekend. A combination of our resources and local contractors spent the better part of two days on initial snow clearing and then cul-de-sac cleanup. Thankfully, warmer temperatures improved conditions a few days later.

This one storm consumed about $46,000 in labor, supplies and equipment. Though that’s already a bust to the HOA snow-clearing budget, we will adjust accordingly without drawing on savings. Snow clearing has historically been an annual budget concern, but over this past ten-year period, it has been a rollercoaster. (The same is true for summer tropical storms.) Fortunately, your association is very well prepared financially with discretionary spending, cash reserves, insurance, an assistance agreement with James City County for FEMA events, and the ability to borrow funds and (as a last resort) assess special dues to recoup.

HOLIDAY FUND

On a much warmer note, I’d like to extend sincere thanks for your contributions to the employee Holiday Fund. Each year, your generosity is extraordinary and makes a big difference in these team members’ lives. This year, $89,000 in gifts was distributed to 67 employees based on their years of service. Thirty-eight percent of our employees have 10 or more years of service, well above the benchmark in the security and maintenance fields. Their tenure translates into a level of care that contributes toward maintaining high standards for the security, appearance and operations of our community.

Your generosity is a significant factor in making Ford’s Colony a great place for these employees to work, as is the commitment of our supervisors, whose leadership inspires the retention of such a quality team.

BOD ELECTION AND AMENDMENT DECLARATION

Speaking of leadership, as we prepare for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 3, at 10 a.m., at Lafayette High School, there is still time to vote for the Board of Directors as well as the Declaration Amendment to restrict short-term rentals. The Board of Directors is recommending an amendment to the Declaration of Protective Covenants to restrict short-term occupancy. This amendment will help protect the HOA from county or state action that permits short-term rentals from Airbnb and other providers unless otherwise prohibited in our Declaration. Also, since the Declaration is recorded, future purchasers have notice of this restriction.

This Declaration requires approval by a two-thirds majority vote. If the required 66 percent votes are not achieved, it may be necessary to extend voting on the Amendment, with targeted email campaigns and, if necessary, direct outreach to residents.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and encourage you to lend your voice to shape the future course of our community.

Hail and Farewell

Volunteerism is so vital to our quality of life in Ford’s Colony. Thank you to our outgoing Board and Standing Committee members. Welcome to our 2018 leadership. We look forward to another great year.
The Landscape Design Subcommittee (LDSC) and Patrick Dennehey (RCS staff horticulturalist) did a commendable job planning for 2018 landscape projects. A lot of thought was put into deciding which areas will be renovated and improved in 2018.

Months before the 2018 budget process began in September 2017, the LDSC and RCS reviewed areas with existing landscaping and areas that could be improved by installing new landscaping. In areas with existing trees and shrubs, the LDSC, RCS and a certified arborist examined the health and viability of the existing landscaping. In addition, the correct size or species of shrub or tree for that area was considered. The LDSC doesn’t take the removal of existing landscaping lightly. In fact, the LDSC often keeps shrubs and trees that are healthy and thriving and creates designs around them.

The process used for Board approval of landscape plans is quite extensive. The LDSC worked with a professional landscape architect in 2017 to create plans for 2018. The costs for removal of existing landscape and installation of new plants and hardscape were determined, and the entire package was presented to the Finance Committee and Board during the 2018 budget process. The Landscape Architect’s expertise was used to create plans and confirm appropriate species of plants and trees to be used for the updated designs.

Due to this collaborative effort, the LDSC and RCS feel confident that the community will enjoy the beautiful new designs. Stay tuned for LDSC updates in the spring and fall to discuss upcoming projects.

**SEWER EASEMENT CLEARING CONTINUES**

The James City County Service Authority (JCSA) will continue to clear sewer easements for the next several months. Trees are being removed in accordance with EPA requirements. The Service Authority mailed letters to all those affected. However, if you have any questions about a sewer easement, contact Danny Poe at 757-259-5452.

**SMART DRIVER TRAINING**

Contact Community Services at 757-258-4230 or communityservices@fchoa.net, Jenny Holland at 757-258-4270 or jholland@fchoa.net or Jack Oates, AARP instructor at jackoates@cox.net.

**FORD’S COLONY YARD SALE**

**March 10 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Community Center on Waller Mill (next to Kmart)

Contact Phyllis Eastman at 757-258-1198 or eastman2003@verizon.net. Cost is $20 per table. Make checks payable to Phyllis Eastman and drop off at John Pott Guardhouse.

**NOW HIRING**

**LIFEGUARDS FOR SUMMER SEASON**

Contact Jenny Holland at 757-258-4270 or jholland@fchoa.net.
Old man winter has already shown himself this season, but winter is far from over. Were you prepared? Here are some reminders for our next round of winter weather:

- Pack home emergency kits with flashlights, extra batteries, food, water and a weather radio.
- Consider having rock salt, a snow shovel and dried wood that’s ready to burn on hand.
- Have chimneys cleaned and inspected.
- Ensure pipes are insulated. As cold spells occur, allowing faucets to drip can be helpful.
- Get your irrigation systems winterized if they haven’t been already.
- Remove dead tree limbs and clear leaves from gutters.

In addition to preparing your home, keep an emergency kit in your vehicle with blankets, extra winter gear like gloves, hats, boots and a shovel in case you get stuck. Have your vehicle winterized by having antifreeze levels, battery, brakes, heater, defroster and tires inspected. Keep sand or kitty litter on hand for traction.

These are just basic suggestions. For a more detailed list go to www.ready.gov/winter-weather, or search “winter weather preparedness.”

Getting the most from dwellingLIVE®

You can expedite entry times for your guests and visitors by registering them and sending them an e-pass. Electronic notifications will be sent to you via dwellingLIVE® once your guest has been processed. E-passes can grant your guests access through the Williamsburg West, Firestone, both St. Andrews, and the Manchester entrances.

Since the activation of the barcode reader kiosks last June, 51,463 visitors have accessed the property by using the remote gate barcode kiosks. Remind your guests to lay the pass on the tray without their hand under it to operate the barcode reader.

If you haven’t yet registered for dwellingLIVE®, send an email request for registration information to questions@fcboa.net.
Did you hear the news? In the *Virginia Gazette* “Best of Williamsburg 2017” round-up, Ford’s Colony was named “Best Luxury Community.” While we all know that this is a wonderful place to live, it’s always nice when others recognize what makes our community so special.

In fact, over the years, our community has garnered some impressive awards and accolades. Some showcase our operational and organizational excellence. This includes being named to the National Community Association’s Hall of Fame by the Community Association Institute (CAI) and voted Number One Master Plan in the Continental U.S. by the American Resort Development Association.

Others acknowledge aspects of our community that we hold dear. For example, our commitment to the natural beauty of our surroundings has yielded numerous local, state and national awards for conservation and preservation of our environment and natural resources, including:

- **First Place and National Finalist, Take Pride In America** for outstanding effort on behalf of America’s public lands and natural and cultural resources awarded by the U.S. Department of Interior and the Commonwealth of Virginia
- **Commendation for the Preservation of Endangered Plants and Species** awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Certificate of Excellence for conserving America’s natural and cultural resources** awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- **Commendation for preserving our historical resources** by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Perhaps most valued is the pride and commitment that our residents take in serving others. That has earned Ford’s Colony a longstanding reputation for being a highly engaged community of civic volunteers participating in a wide range of organizations benefitting James City County and the greater Williamsburg area. The array of organizations they serve is as diverse as the interests of our multigenerational community. Here are just a few examples.

- Our volunteers support James City Lions Club, Kiwanis, Rotary, the League of Women Voters, DAR and other service-based organizations.
- They provide educational mentorship through programs such as Literacy for Life; Ford’s Colony Volunteers for Education serving local public schools; the William & Mary Mason School of Business Executive Partners; and S.C.O.R.E. (Senior Core of Retired Executives), which provides business guidance to local entrepreneurs and business start-ups.
- Local hospitals, clinics and other health care services benefit from residents’ hands-on volunteerism as well as fundraising and financial support for organizations such as Olde Towne Medical & Dental and causes such as breast cancer research.
- Volunteers contribute to making this a vibrant and welcoming destination for visitors by supporting Historic Triangle tourism operations for Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown.
- Resident involvement in church-related charities, El.S.H., Faith In Action, Meals On Wheels and other area non-profit organizations helps provide vital services to those in need.

These are just a few of the accolades and notable contributions earned by our community through the efforts of those who lead, serve and live in Ford’s Colony. To learn more, view the Fact Sheet under “Our Community” on the fordscolonywmbg.com website. Then pass on the good news.
The AARP Tax-Aide program runs from February 1 to April 17 in partnership with the IRS and the Williamsburg Regional Library. It provides free, high-quality income tax assistance, tax form preparation and electronic filing to low- and moderate-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Additional information can be found at www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide.

Tax-Aide will be open on a walk-in basis during the following hours:

**Williamsburg Library**
515 Scotland Street
- Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**James City County Library**
7770 Croaker Road
- Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Monday, Wednesday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Appointments for both library sites may be scheduled by calling 757-259-4072 during site hours.

When you come for tax assistance, be sure to bring:
- Picture ID (driver’s license, passport, etc.)
- Social security cards (for all persons on the tax return)
- Tax information (W-2s, 1099s, 1098s, etc.)
- Health insurance documentation (Form 1095-A)
- Bank account numbers (for direct deposit)
- Copy of last year’s tax return

Feel free to pass this information to non-Ford’s Colony residents who may benefit from this program. Contact local volunteer Terry Lowe at trlowe777@gmail.com if you have questions.

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E
dearly in the year 2000, several Ford’s Colony friends decided to expand their knowledge of wine by hosting periodic gatherings centered on a wine theme. This group started with 14 people and met every other month (now once a quarter). The name chosen for the group was the Williamsburg Imbibing ‘N Oenology Society (WINOS).
WINOS has a set structure with the host or hostess selecting the wines for the evening and then facilitating a discussion on the aspects of the wine and suitable food pairings. The food is generally simple cheeses, pates and breads. The December gathering is special, with black-tie as the dress for the evening and a white elephant gift exchange to round out the fun.
The members of WINOS have changed over the years, but the important, initial aspects of the group have not been lost. The goal is to relax and have fun while learning about different wines, wine regions and food pairings. Since their beginning, WINOS have met over 90 times, and the fun and knowledge continues to grow.
All wine lovers are encouraged to gather some friends together to form such a group. It is certainly a great way to enhance friendships and learn about the wines of the world.

WINOS members (from left): Erna Rodgers, Jane Brown, Phil Pryor, Marion Reef, Jack Barrar, Jeanne Keller, Betsy Barrar, Charles Brown, Lynn Pryor, Tom Reef, Wayne Self and (not shown) Nancy Self

Photo by Nancy Self

WINE ON YOUR OWN

BY PHIL PRYOR
During winter, Ford’s Colony is home to seven types of woodpeckers. You can find them at birdfeeders eating suet cakes, but you’re more likely to hear their powerful chisel-like beaks hammering into bark to locate insects, their primary food of choice.

The largest, the Pileated Woodpecker is a black bird approximately 16 inches long. It has white underwings, white chin, wide white cheek stripe and a red crest. Its drilling creates rectangular holes in tree trunks and makes a loud drumming sound that accelerates and then trails off.

The striking Red-Headed Woodpecker, 9¼ inches long, has a bright red head, neck and throat, white body, black back, and flashy white wing patches. Amazingly, 2 million-year-old fossils of red-headed woodpeckers have been found in Virginia, but the once-plentiful bird is currently declining due to decreased access to nut-producing trees and nesting cavities.

The colorful Northern Flicker, 12½ inches long, feeds mainly on the ground. It has a spotted chest topped with a black crescent, salmon-yellow inner wings, gray-brown back and face and white rump. If nearby, you’ll hear a series of “wick-wick-wick” calls and a fast drumming sound (25 beats per second).

The Red-Bellied Woodpecker, 9¼ inches long, is a common visitor to suet feeders. Look for its familiar zebra-striped back and pinkish belly. Red covers the male’s head in a swath from the back of his neck to his beak, but only the nape of the female is red. Listen for its simple, fast (19 beats per second) drumming sound in the trees.

Similarly sized, the Hairy Woodpecker also frequents suet feeders and can be distinguished by the white patch down its back, black nape and white belly. The male has a red spot on his crown.

Don’t be confused by a smaller cousin, the Downy Woodpecker. At 6½ inches long, it looks exactly like a miniature Hairy. Both “whinny” and make sharp “peek” sounds, but the Hairy is louder. Likewise, its drumming sound is louder and faster (25 beats per second.).

You might also see our winter visitor, the Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, which is 8½ inches long. It has a red forehead, black and white head, white wing patches, black back, yellowish belly and red throat (male). Its stuttered drilling creates rows of holes in trunks used to locate both sap and insects.

Watching these remarkable, industrious woodpeckers rid your garden of pests, such as carpenter ants and grubs, can be very rewarding.
Elections for the new Board of Directors were much anticipated as the year 2000 began. Plans had been made to assure a smooth transition from the developer to the Homeowners Association that would maintain property values and safeguard assets. An elected Board of Directors would end Realtec representation and control.

Homeowners were experienced and trained in their responsibilities and the transition was completed. The first homeowner-elected Board of Directors was installed at the annual meeting on February 26, 2000. These members included Dick Houston, president; Jack Jones, vice president; Fran Dunleavy, treasurer; Van Vander Veer, secretary; and Nate Walkley, director at large. There were 1,138 ballots cast, which was almost twice the number that had been previously cast for the Advisory Board. Members would serve two-year staggered terms, and nine committees were established. Those committees with founding charters were Activities, Communications, Covenants, Facilities, Finance, Nominating, Roads & Maintenance, Security and Strategic Planning.

The Board instituted interim work sessions to hear recommendations and concerns from the homeowners. Although the developer maintained veto power until 2010, it was never used. To celebrate this event, an Inaugural Ball was held on March 3 at the Holiday Inn Patriot on Richmond Road.

At the February 26 annual meeting, a number of other announcements were made. Ford’s Colony Rocky Mount was scheduled for a Grand Opening in April. Realtec sent a check for $180,000 to James City County for the construction of a traffic light at the intersection of Longhill Road and Williamsburg West, which residents had lobbied for since 1998.

Additionally, Realtec had contracted with Longhill Excavating to dig the foundation of the Westbury Park pool. It was also announced that Realtec was working with East-West Partners, owners of the upper 600 acres of the Gordon-Gray Tract across Centerville Road, to use a central well system for both of the properties. This would come to cause much discussion within the community.

In January 2005, the Ford’s Colony Master Plan changed. The area where a 400-room hotel/conference center was planned was changed instead to accommodate 50 single-family lots, 114 condominium units and a free-standing spa. This new section is now known as Eaglescliffe.
A STREET BY ANY OTHER NAME

In 2017, an update to the 1998, “Streetwise-A Look Behind the Scenes of the Streets in Ford’s Colony” was produced by Jim O’Reardon with Rick Short, contributor. The original booklet was produced by Jane Robinson, editor; William Luce, contributor; Jan Cookingham, Rosemary Heth and Sally Sprick, proofreaders. Learn about your own street at fchoa.org under Documents.

Stoke Poges—Located in Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, England, this first-class parkland course is designed to make full use of its lakes and boasts many par fours of over 400 yards. The beautifully appointed clubhouse was once a ducal mansion.

White Court—John White lead an expedition to Virginia in May of 1587 and arrived at Roanoke Island on July 22. No survivors were found from the previous expedition led by Grenville, now known as the Lost Colony. It is believed White was the painter whose water colors of Indian life served as the earliest interpretation of native Americans. In August of that year, White sailed home to England to get supplies, leaving behind a new group of colonists, including his one-week-old granddaughter, Virginia Dare, the first English child born in the New World. Upon his return, he purchased a lot in Jamestown “between the state house and the church” and served as a burgess for James City County.

Royal Musselburgh—This golf club at Preston Grange House in Lothian, Scotland, claims to have been formed in 1774. However written minutes suggest that it was instituted ten years later. The club is credited with holding the first annual tournament for women, and in the early 19th century the 4½-inch cup became the accepted diameter for hole size as it happened to be the width of the implement used to cut holes at Musselburgh.

Moray Firth—This arm of the North Sea projects into the northeast coast of Scotland for approximately 30 miles through an area where the weather is unusually mild.

Dunes—The Dunes Golf and Bath Club, Myrtle Beach, which opened in 1948, offers a course designed by Robert Trent Jones. Formerly a deer and turkey hunting ground, it was used as an Air Force target range during World War II.

Aberdeen—The Royal Aberdeen Golf Club in Aberdeen, Scotland, lies along the coast of the North Sea. Founded in 1780 with the formation of the Aberdeen Golfers, it is one of the six oldest clubs in the world. It was here that the five-minute rule for searching for a lost ball is said to have originated.

Birmingham—This city is the seat of the metropolitan county of West Midlands in central England. A major industrial center, it is the second largest city in Great Britain. It was granted a market charter in 1166 and by the 16th century had become a thriving manufacturing center. Heavily bombed in World War II, the city underwent extensive rebuilding.
WATERFORD DOWNS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

The Waterford Downs neighborhood braved the January snow and ice to gather for its annual holiday party at Ford’s Colony Country Club. Thanks to the club’s employees for opening the doors and providing a warm and cozy venue for the traditional event.

MORE SIGNS OF BEAUTY

In 2017, a decision for the renewal of several large neighborhood signs was based on their having a similar footprint. Large hollies, Nelly Stevens, Oakleaf or Emily Brunner were used on either side of the sign columns along with Evergold carex in front of the signs and Kaleidoscope abelia gracing the front corner of columns.

You can get a look at these groupings at the following signs: Blackheath on the corner of Blackheath and St. Andrews; Highland Hills at Westchester and St. Andrews; MacGregor Downs at Waterton and St. Andrews; and Royal Aberdeen at Sugarbush and St. Andrews. On the Edinburgh loop, check out North and South Turnberry streets.

Photos by Patrick Dennehey

BY PATRICK DENNEHEY WITH KRIS SAUNDERS
Even the best gardeners need expert help from time to time, especially if they are new to the Virginia tidewater area. Master Gardeners are trained volunteer educators who can advise homeowners on landscaping, plants for our area, lawn care and more. The program is part of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Agency.

Masters Gardeners work within their local communities to encourage and promote environmentally sound horticulture practices through sustainable landscape management education and training. Over the last four years, articles have appeared in Talk of the Colony on these free or low-cost programs. Each program listed has the date and author of the original article. Go to fchoa.org and under the About Us tab, click on Talk of the Colony to reach archived issues for more information.

Landscape Love: This program focuses on educating homeowners on best management practices for a healthy and beautiful landscape and more. You can arrange a visit to your property for free to get started dealing with the Virginia landscape environment. See Sue Liddell’s article in the February 2014 issue.

Tree Stewards: This program assigns a two- to three-person team to visit your home to better define tree issues and take samples that are then sent to Virginia Tech for analysis. A final report to the homeowner includes results of the analysis and care recommendations. Sue Liddell continues her series on Master Gardeners in the March 2014 issue.

Turf Love: Lawn Rangers visit homeowners and come to the aid to help them produce healthy turf while reducing the use of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides. Water conservation is also promoted through proper mowing techniques. This program costs $30. Bob Winters’ August 2014 article on Lawn Care also provides more information. The application form for Turf Love is available at james-city.ext.vt.edu/programs/turf-love.html.

Pruning Home Visits: These free visits to homeowners demonstrate proper pruning techniques and appropriate tools to use in February and March. See the January 2014 issue for more information.

Email krissaunders@cox.net with ideas for future columns.
In the tiny village of Sulgrave, England, there is a little-known property that has been jointly owned by both the American and British people since 1914. Flying the flags of the United States and Great Britain on its expansive front lawn, Sulgrave Manor, George Washington's ancestral home, epitomizes the strong bonds of peace and ongoing friendship between Britains and Americans since the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in 1814, ending the war of 1812.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the treaty, dignitaries from both nations, including such luminaries as King George V (grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II), the Prince of Wales, Theodore Roosevelt and J. P. Morgan, came together and raised subscriptions to purchase the Washington ancestral home. The property, which had fallen into disrepair over the centuries, was deeded in perpetuity to the peoples of the United States and United Kingdom. In 1924, the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America raised an additional $112,000 to endow the property and formed The Friends of Sulgrave Manor, a group of dedicated Dames that has continued to provide ongoing guardianship and support of the property in conjunction with the Sulgrave Trust of England.

The story of Sulgrave Manor began during the reign of Henry VIII. Located 90 miles northwest of London on the border of the shires of Northampton and Oxford, Sulgrave Manor is a perfect example of a 16th century manor home. In 1539, Lawrence Washington became a wealthy man through farming and trade, building the manor during one of the greatest commercial expansions in English history. Four generations later, the English Civil War swept the family to near ruin. Looking for opportunity in the middle of wrenching political turmoil, President George Washington's great-grandfather, John, entered the sea trade with the newly formed Virginia Colony in the New World. After a potentially disastrous accident with his ship, John decided to stay in Virginia, was able to recoup his losses—and the rest is history.

Althorp, the family estate of Charles, the 9th Earl Spencer, a neighbor of Sulgrave Manor, is a neighbor of Sulgrave Manor. When the Washington family fortunes declined during the English Civil War in the 17th century, the Spencer family provided support and assistance. In June, 2014, upon the 200th anniversary of the Treaty of Ghent and the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Friends of Sulgrave Manor, Lord Spencer, Matthew Barzun (the former American Ambassador to the Court of St. James) and other dignitaries and visitors, including members of the Friends of Sulgrave Manor and the Sulgrave Trust, celebrated Sulgrave Day at the Manor.

Today visited by tourists from around the world, the manor is an accredited museum which comes to life with costumed interpreters, interactive games and engaging displays. The parish church where the Washington ancestors worshipped, St. James the Less, located in the village of Sulgrave, includes a lovely stained-glass window depicting the Washington family crest, which can also found over the front door of the manor home. It is reported by historians that the stars and stripes incorporated in the crest were replicated in the design of the U.S. flag.

Tour groups and private visits are welcome throughout the year and provide a real link to our first president's family past in merry old England. Sulgrave Manor can be visited with a 45-minute train ride from London's Marylebone Station to Banbury, England.

(Note: For more information, visit sulgravemanor.org.uk or feel free to contact the author.)
Lyn Castiglia welcomed author John Gilstrap as guest speaker to the Lit Wits Book Club Luncheon on December 1, 2017. His book, entitled “Six Minutes to Freedom,” is a fascinating account of the harrowing journey of Kurt Muse and his family, who lived in Panama during the repressive government of Manuel Noriega. Following a major clandestine radio broadcast against Noriega’s regime, Kurt was arrested and thrown into the infamous Modelo Prison. The book discusses the plight of Kurt’s family as they fled for their lives, along with astonishing details of the long-awaited day when our elite Delta Force successfully rescued him and helped free a nation.

John has agreed to return to Ford’s Colony for a Fireside Chat on February 25, 2018, bringing with him Kurt Muse and his wife, Annie. This is a book you cannot put down and will make you proud to be an American.

Want to share a good book? Send the title, genre, author’s name and a 2-3 sentence review or teaser summary to books@fchoa.net.
The Jam Band’s pre-New Year’s Eve show at the S&T Club was standing room only. The group performed songs by the Beatles, Chicago, Blood, Sweat and Tears, Eric Clapton, the Doors, Steely Dan, Tom Petty, the Eagles and others. Residents of all ages had a lively, enjoyable time singing along, dancing or simply listening to the tunes. The band members are Horns—Eric Chason, Dan Blue, Mike Botts and Aaron Catell; Bass Guitar—Von Jose Roberts; Lead Singer—Chris Odle; Drums—Drew DeBlass; Keyboards—Kerke Johnson; Harmonicas and Vocals—Bob Lambert; Lead Guitar (guest player) Elijah Mas; and Lead Guitar and Banjo—Joe DiNuzzo.

The band hopes to perform other concerts in 2018.
GEORGE WASHINGTON: Sitting here on this pleasant fall evening looking out over the river reminds me of the many pleasant times I spent in this house as a child when it was home to Lawrence and Anne. I became a regular visitor after our father died. I found asylum here from our mother!

Our mother doled out criticism more freely than she did encouragement. In truth, I can say of all the generals I have met, my mother was the most formidable “general” of them all. My cousin, Lawrence, told me that he was ten times more afraid of her than he was of his own parents. To my father, who already had two sons from a previous marriage by the time I was born, I was the not-so-special middle child. But to mother, I was her firstborn and I think she wanted me to get all that was coming to me. I know full well the anguish she caused us over the years with her numerous calls for money. How well I remember that during the War, she wrote the Virginia House of Delegates asking for money. From the battlefield, I dashed off an exasperated reply begging the House not to give her anything and listing all that I had done for her including buying her a home, managing her rental property, and answering many requests for money. History will probably look back on her as a controlling shrew, but I believe I benefitted from learning to deal with her strong will. It was as a result of that will that I developed extreme self-control and a stoic personality that served me well through life. But tell me about your mother who seemed quite the opposite of mine.

MARTHA WASHINGTON: My mother was a saint in my eyes. She was a kind and loving mother, but she, too, was a tough task master. She set the bar high for each of us. As I was the oldest, she insisted that I set an example for my seven brothers and sisters. I felt the weight of responsibility and expectation upon me from childhood. Mama used to say, “Do your duty to God, husband and home.” I followed that advice when, as a young widow of 27 with two small children, I became Mrs. Washington. It took a great deal of pluck and fortitude to marry the first American hero. Little did I know that the role of being your wife would also include being the first President’s wife. And what woman in all of colonial America could have been prepared for that?

GEORGE WASHINGTON: Everyone greatly admired you. History will regard you highly. As for me, I could not have made a better match than you, dear.

Celebrate President’s Day with the Theatre Club as they present “An Evening With George and Martha” on Friday, February 9 in the S&T Club at 7:30 p.m. The play, written by Carolyn Battle exclusively for the Theatre Club, is an interpretation of an evening when the couple sits on the Mount Vernon piazza reminiscing about their lives. It is in the same genre as last year’s very popular “Lady Washington,” but this is an original play being performed for the first time. Admission is free for members; non-members pay $5.
The LHS (Lafayette High School) Fan Club invites you to attend the Lafayette Athletic Booster Club (LABC) Golf Tournament and Barbecue at the Ford’s Colony Country Club on Sunday, May 6. This is a wonderful opportunity to golf, sponsor and/or dine in support of the LABC. If you, your company or group would like to participate, send an email to lhsfanclubfc@gmail.com.
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

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Jack Wagner  Activities.fchoa@gmail.com

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Bosom Buddies
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Bocce Ball Interest Group
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Bowling
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Canasta: Hand, Knee & Foot
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Caring Neighbors
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CERT
Don Alms  drabins@cox.net

Chess Club
Greg White  ecozuluwhite@gmail.com

Colony Auto Enthusiasts
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Colony BYOB
Jennifer Rairigh/Randolph Brown  rebrown6@cox.net

Colony Kids
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Colony Wine & Cheese
Bob Brennan  rbbrown6@cox.net

Computer & Technology Club
Bob Zornetzer  rzornetzer@cox.net

Craft Club
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Dance Band
Larry Stowe  FCDB@cox.net

Dance Club
Becky Shenfeld  danceclub@gracewalk.net

Dedicate Bridge
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Emergency Preparedness Volunteers
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Flying Fishing
Leif Mollo  lnolle@minspring.com

Friends and Neighbors
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Garden Club
Lauren Bolstad and Linda James  gardenclubfc@gmail.com

Genealogy Club
Joe Sell  jusell1@cox.net

Golf & Dine Society
George Spalthoff  gds-golf@cox.net

Intermediate Bridge
Connie Daly  cmdaby29@cox.net

LHS Fan Club
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Mah Jongg Mavens
Kim Krieger  krieger1954@gmail.com

SallyFrazer  sfrazer219@cox.net

Masters Swim Interest Group
Kelly Arne  kellyarne.fcs@gmail.com

Men’s Bible Study
Dan Gaske  fonensbiblestudy@earthlink.net

Model Railroad Club
Phil Brooks  kexbyphil@gmail.com

Monday Evening Beginners Bridge
Arlene Krupinski  akcrnk28@aol.com

Janie Chamberlain  janecham75@gmail.com

Monday Morning Bridge
Debbie Boggio  dboggio1@gmail.com

Newcomers
Terry Cavanaugh and JoAnn Gora  president@FordsColonoyNewcomers.com

New Resident Welcome Committee
Kathy Zotto or Paula Wailer  newresexwelcome@gmail.com

Pickleball
Beverly Thomas  bjthomas6024@gmail.com

Pilates Club
Nelia Lamoureux  nowheide@aol.com

Dorothy Tibbets  dmcdon5174@aol.com

Pinochle
Bill Loscalzo (see FCHOA.Homeowner Directory)

RC Sailing Club
Rob Yates  rybag@aol.com

Rock/Blues Jam Group
Joe DiNuzzo  fcrsandjamgroup@gmail.com

Round Robin Bridge
Ida McNamara  idalmar@cox.net

Silver Sneakers
Harlene Barton  harlenebarton@yahoo.com

Softball League
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Soliitaires
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Joe DiNuzzo  jcrn@cox.net

Swim Team
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Tai Chi
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Take Charge Fitness
Joan Emerson  joan.emerson@yahoo.com

Angie Moore-Lobach  lobach13@yahoo.com

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Theatre Club
Jack Wagner  juwagner9@gmail.com

Trailblazers
Tom Thompson  tommarybeth@verizon.net

Travel Club
Muriel Ashley  muashley@gmail.com

Volunteers for Education
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Water Aerobics Interest Group
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Women’s Bible Study
Stephi Fisher  stepfj1@cox.net

Woodworkers Club
Ralph Spohn  ralph@alum.mit.edu

Yoga
Tricia Killany  yogalubfc@gmail.com

Barbara Gilman  bg2ig@aol.com

Notes for Neighbors
Jennifer Rairigh/Milt Berube  jmsjss70@gmail.com

for general information or to join Caring Neighbors as a volunteer, contact Kit Ober at 757-345-0169 or kitandfritzro@yahoo.com or through fchoa.org.

CARING NEIGHBORS CONTACT INFORMATION

Cook’s Pantry
Karen Crowley, Chair 757-345-6512  kcrowley@bellsouth.net

Roseanne Brennan, Co-Chair 757-258-3228  roannebrennan@cox.net

Peggy Peterson 757-345-5411  ppeterson@aol.com

Ann Wasko 757-229-3149  aweasko@rods.com

Georgia Treiber 757-645-2423  gtreiber@cox.net

Granny’s Attic
grannysattic.fchoa@gmail.com

Sharon Ruth, Chair 703-618-8834
Jackie Speigel, Co-Chair 703-655-2934
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Dance Band
Larry Stowe 757-208-0218

Dance Club
Becky Shenfeld 757-220-3949

Dedicate Bridge
Bonnie Hoopengardner 757-565-3577

Jeff Canon 757-291-7003

Bob Collins 757-345-0267

Bob Dillman 757-221-6690

Robert Graves 757-603-6702

Mike Jaskowiak 757-810-6686

Dave Kleppinger 757-817-4645

Bruce Landefeld 757-229-0637

Ralph Spohn 757-253-5794

Tom Schwartz 757-603-6811

Dale Walter 757-229-2026

Notes for Neighbors
Mandy Baldridge 757-645-4039

Nancy Obadal 757-258-2838

Carolee Anderson 757-645-8259

Carolyn Light 757-645-5744

Susan Massa 757-645-4835

Joyce Fickes 757-645-2073

Ruthie Baker 757-645-2870

Bonnie Schaffner 757-645-2615

Notes:
For general information or to join Caring Neighbors as a volunteer, contact Kit Ober at 757-345-0169 or kitandfritzro@yahoo.com or through fchoa.org.

CARING NEIGHBORS

Nurse’s Closet
Betty Moeller 757-206-1276

Nancy Ohlinger 757-229-7568

Nancy Ohlinger 757-229-7568

nancy.ohlinger@outlook.com

Transportation Service
Kit Ober 757-345-0169

Dave Westfall 757-645-2073

dwwestf20@gmail.com

For general information or to join Caring Neighbors as a volunteer, contact Kit Ober at 757-345-0169 or kitandfritzro@yahoo.com or through fchoa.org.
AGING IN PLACE

Successful aging in place requires a web of connections to family, friends, health and wellness, along with social activities that weave together to create a safe and fulfilling environment.

Our guiding theme this year will focus on education for seniors and their families, in order to aid in the choice to remain safely in their cherished homes. For additional information, including past Talk of the Colony articles, AIP publications and other helpful links, visit the Info on Aging Services page under Clubs & Activities at feboa.org.

To learn more about the Aging in Place Service Group, or if there’s a topic of interest to you, contact Betsy Ward Kalb at elizabethward75@gmail.com or 561-275-9981.

The Aging in Place Service Group (AIP) meets on the third Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the S&T Club. We welcome new participants to our group.

There will be a seminar on February 19 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the S&T Club featuring Pamela Taylor from Riverside In-Home Technology and Ed Golden, president of Comfort Keepers. The topics will include: staying safe in your beloved home; preventing accidents; keeping yourself and loved ones safe (including some new in-home technology); and tips when selecting in-home care.

Additional topics for 2018 include decluttering; expert advice on how to get the best Medicare coverage and how to best use this vital part of your health insurance; and avoiding scams that target seniors.

We are a social group that meets the third Saturday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at various locations. Besides the monthly meeting, we also attend events in the Williamsburg area. Past events have included trivia night and an evening of playing pool. For further information about our group, or if you would like to join us for a meeting, contact fcaroundthetown@gmail.com.

ARTISTS LEAGUE

The Artists League meets every Tuesday at the S&T Club from 12 to 3 p.m. (except in July and August). We bring our current project to work on while we relax and paint with other artists. We have artists who use oils, acrylics, watercolor, pencil and pastel. Members range from beginners to others who have been painting for quite a while. We enjoy and are often inspired by each other’s work.

Some of us take lessons at various places, others enjoy experimenting on their own, but we are always ready to help each other if asked.

If you are interested in the arts and would like to join us, we are always open to new members. Contact Elaine Napoda at 757-903-2785 or napolarbear@aol.com or stop by any Tuesday afternoon.

BID WHIST

The Bid Whist Club meets on the second Thursday of the month at the S&T Club at 7 p.m. except in July and August. Residents are welcome to join or participate. For information, contact Bob Sumlin at 757-229-8841.

BOCCE BALL INTEREST GROUP

The Bocce Ball Interest Group held its first annual meeting at the S&T Club on January 31. In addition to enjoying refreshments, the membership voted to approve the 2018 board member slate, the draft bylaws and $5 per person dues for the year. We also discussed our online scheduling tool and plans for increased competition starting in early spring.

Ryan Lee, Roads & Project Maintenance Manager, discussed the impact of the County’s rejection of Eagle Construction’s development plan. Without the anticipated proffer, funding will not be available for our desired four permanent bocce courts in the near future.

Terry Lowe, interest group president, told members that we will seek creative ways to build at least one permanent court. However, our emphasis this year will be to form a league and host tournaments on the Westbury Park grass court.

To join our group or to obtain additional information, contact Membership Director Bill Colin at wecolin48@gmail.com or 434-466-4363.

BOSOM BUDDIES

This breast-cancer support group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. in members’ homes. Those with newly diagnosed breast cancer, as well as breast cancer survivors, are invited to participate. Other cancer survivors are also welcome. For details, contact Lois Nervitt at lservitt@cox.net or 757-258-9669.

BOWLING

In the American Division, the team of Mary Barbera, Jeff Marston, Rhonda Amtower and Charlie Ohlinger (aka the Pocket Punchers) are leading the way. Over on the National side the Pinguins—Mona Iwaszko, Phil Horbert, Anne Herman and John Piatt—are in first place.

Meanwhile, the race to most improved is underway. That race begins when bowlers have accumulated 15 games and established a definitive beginning average for the season. As far as individual performances go, the usual suspects have been rounded

Are you still working and experiencing difficulty joining a club because it meets during the work day? Having trouble finding a club that fits your social needs? If the answer is yes, this is the group for you.
up. Strangely, though, the number of Woolly Mammoths bagged this year by our top-of-the-pyramid predators is not up to previous years for either division. Back in the days when mankind was a hunter-gatherer, the woolly mammoth was the difference between eating well or starving. Sports were not a big part of quality of life. Then farming became the norm. Civilization with cities arose. Free time was created, but with an inherent genetic need to hunt and compete. Voila! Football, baseball, soccer and bowling were created. So, if the woolly mammoths were still roaming around, I wouldn’t be complaining about splits and ringing 10’s.

Caring Neighbors exists for the purpose of helping our neighbors who, due to illness or incapacitation, may be in need of a meal, minor repairs, transportation services or medical items such as crutches or wheelchairs. We loan items for grandchildren’s visits and send cards when there is a death or illness of a loved one. We exist to show someone cares.

Anyone needing services can contact us via phone, email or directly from fchoa.org. In the dropdown menu, choose Caring Neighbors and submit information on a neighbor who needs assistance.

Following a major disaster such as Hurricane Sandy, first responders who provide fire, rescue and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. People may have to rely on each other for help to meet their immediate life-saving and life-sustaining needs.

The James City County Ford’s Colony Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) organization has been in place since 2004, working to help the community prepare for, respond to and cope with the aftermath of disasters such as hurricanes, ice storms, floods, nor’easters and more. James City County provides training for CERT volunteers to prepare residents to help themselves, their families and their neighborhoods in the event of such an emergency at no charge.

Don’t become a victim, become empowered. The team meets at 3 p.m. on the first Wednesday of January, April, July and October at the S&T Club. In a disaster situation, everyone can do something to help themselves and others. For more information, contact Don Alms at dralms@cox.net or at 757-645-7925.

The Chess Club meets on the first and third Mondays of each month from 2:30 to 5 p.m. at the S&T Club. Contact Greg White at ecozuluwhite@gmail.com if you have any questions.

On January 3, the club held its annual Movie Night featuring the film “American Graffiti.” Despite the bad weather, about 20 brave members and spouses enjoyed this classic film while munching on snacks and enjoying their favorite beverage.

For the February 7 club meeting, we are tentatively scheduled to visit the JCC Police Department Headquarters for a facilities tour. This should be an interesting trip, particularly if you have never visited this relatively new facility (voluntarily, that is).

The list or to request additional information, contact us at fchkandf@gmail.com or June Rhodes at 757-345-6308 or Laurie Rowe at 757-258-5323.
On March 7, we are hoping to have Mr. Roger Cross speak to us about classic Packard automobiles and their collection and restoration.

Our April 4 meeting will feature a workup/orientation session by Larry Emmons in preparation for the June 10 Merchant’s Square Car Show, featuring the Ferrari marque. Also, a “dust-off” ride for that month is being planned.

Other exciting meetings/trips are being formulated for this year, so stay tuned for more information.

CAE dues of $15 per family are due January 1. Be sure to keep your membership current to enjoy our various events. New members are always welcome. For further information, contact Milt Berube or Rich Rosania at FCAutoEnthusiasts@gmail.com. All regular meetings are held at S&T Club on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Colony Kids has tons of fun coming up in 2018. Activities include Spring Fling, Earth Day Celebration, Independence Day Parade, Trunk or Treat and Fireside with St. Nick. You can find details on our 2018 Calendar on our Facebook page.

New Volunteer Opportunities exist. Help out at one event or several. Just join our email list to receive volunteer opportunities throughout the year. We also meet monthly. Our meetings are short and fun. Keep up with our activities and other community information by following us on Facebook.

To sign up to help:
1. Email us at fccolonykids@gmail.com
2. Join our list to keep up to date on our latest events. While you’re there, sign up to help with a specific event. Type the following address into your web browser: http://eepurl.com/cIPJpz.

Don’t miss out on a wonderful party at the Mulhare’s home on February 11. If you haven’t joined us before, Colony Wine & Cheese is a series of social gatherings, generally held four to six times a year in the homes of residents on designated Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. No membership is required, and each is a stand-alone event. There are regular attendees, but we always welcome fresh faces. Join us for an evening of wine, appetizers and friendly conversation.

When an upcoming event is established, we contact those interested by email. Generally, there are two contacts. The first is to establish those interested in attending a specific evening. The second is from the host with final details.

These social events are open to all residents. We ask that you bring a “heavy” hors d’oeuvre for eight to 10 people and $5 per person to cover the cost of beverages and paper products. If you are interested, contact Bob Brennan at rbrennan6@cox.net or Bob Lund at boblund@cox.net. Send us a note even if you have attended previously to ensure you are on the contact list for events being scheduled. We look forward to having you join us at our next event on February 11.

At our January meeting, we finished Part 2 on TiVo Bolt and how it works on MoCA and DOCA network protocols. We also addressed the potential role and impact of Streaming TV providers in the future.

At our meeting on February 19, at 7 p.m. at the S&T Club, we will be going over the pros and cons of Chromebooks. Our goal for this meeting was to find a well-made and practical Chromebook for under $300. Based on research, we opted for a Lenovo Flip Chromebook to use as a prop at the meeting. Topics we plan to cover include general use and apps available for Chromebooks, as well as the best uses for this device vs. other laptops. Because of its highly favorable price, this product might indeed be of interest to quite a few of us.

But wait! At the end of the meeting we will hold a raffle and give away the Lenovo Flip Chromebook being used as a prop to one lucky club member attending this meeting. Even if you’ve never won a drawing of this sort, you have a pretty fair chance of winning, providing you are a member in good standing. So, come and learn and maybe walk out with your very own Chromebook.

We welcome new members. Our dues are $10 a year per person. Check out our website at fccug.org.

The month of January was devoted to making items for our Outreach Program. Members worked on these items each week during our meetings, as well as at home. Many members continue to work on these items year-round in order to build our inventory for distribution as needed throughout 2018. Plans are being made to offer various workshops in the months to come. The Craft Club meets every Thursday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the S&T Club. If you would like to help us produce items for our Outreach Program or learn a new skill, we can teach you. Dues for the year are only $5. You may join at any time. Come every week, twice a month, once a month or whenever you can. Questions? Contact Marianne Phillips at 757-645-2378 or mphillips1226@gmail.com.

Our next performance will be April 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. We’ll be paying tribute to the swing era with music from the great bands of Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie and Duke Ellington. We have scheduled this year’s “Summer at the Belvedere” Concert/Picnic for June 10. Mark these dates on your calendars. More details will follow in subsequent publications and emails.

We are always in search of more musicians. If you’re interested in playing 17-piece big band arrangements...
from our library of over 150 wonderful songs, or if you know of someone who is, let us know. Also, if you’d like us play at one of your club functions, a neighborhood party, a wedding reception, community fundraiser or other event, we’re just a phone call or email away. Contact Larry Stowe at 757-564-8550 or FCDB@cox.net. Follow us on facebook.com/fordscolonydanceband.

We are continuing East Coast swing lessons this month. If you enjoy our local band, Good Shot Judy, these lessons will give you skills to dance with confidence at their performances.

East Coast ballroom lessons will be on February 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the S&T Club. Practice night will be on February 20 at 7 p.m. at the S&T Club (no instructor). Line dance lessons will be February 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the S&T Club and practice night on February 27 at 7 p.m. at the Exercise Studio in the CSB.

New members are welcome to join us on lesson nights. Guests pay $5 per person per session. Yearly membership is only $25 and includes 10 ballroom lessons and 10 practice nights. It also includes 10 line dance lessons and 10 practice nights, which is a fantastic savings compared to dance studios. Dance Club meets every Tuesday, except the fifth Tuesday of the month.

There are three dance parties a year and various outings. For more information, see our Dance Club webpage at fcboa.org (choose “About us” then “Clubs and Activities”) or contact Becky at danceclub@gracewalk.net.

The Duplicate Bridge Club meets each Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at the S&T Club. These are sanctioned duplicate games, and master points are awarded. It is not necessary to come with a partner or to be a member of the ACBL. All levels of players are welcome. Table fees are $7 per person. Contact Bonnie Hoopengardner at 757-903-4246 or FCDuplicate@gmail.com for additional information. Information on other duplicate games in Ford’s Colony may be obtained at bridgewebs.com/colonial.

We enjoyed our annual holiday party and fundraiser on December 9. We have reason to be proud as 115 people attended and we raised over $3,600 in support of The American Cancer Society.

We were fortunate to receive the support of the following vendors who donated door prizes and/or food: Anderson’s Home and Garden Showplace, Atir Natural Nail Care Clinic, Belk’s, Blue Talon Restaurant, Bonefish Grill, Center Street Grill, Dog Street Restaurant, Farm Fresh, Ford’s Colony Country Club, Harris Teeter (Quarterpath Crossing), Harris Teeter (Centerville Road), Lowe’s, Marvelous Nails, Opus 9, Posh Salon, Seasons of Williamsburg, Salon Vivace, The Fresh Market, The Office Depot, Target, TJ Maxx, Trader Joe’s, The Trellis Restaurant, The Wine Seller and Wild Birds Unlimited.

The Emergency Preparedness Volunteers assist Ford’s Colony Security, Ford’s Colony CERT and Project Maintenance during storms, natural disasters and community events. Volunteers may direct traffic in flooded or ice-covered areas, or answer phones at the CSB or John Pott Guardhouse. Volunteers who work outside work in teams. As we restructure the group, past members and those interested in joining this group are asked to contact George V. Barber at wagnerbarber@att.net or 757-903-2150. Training is offered and information shared throughout the year in community seminars and by email messages from the coordinator and team leaders.

Our next club meeting is February 20 at 7 p.m. at the S&T Club. Any trips taken in January will be reviewed at this meeting. Trips are planned to the Rose River on March 19-20; Dunlap Creek/Escatawba in Virginia on April 19-20; and to the Gunpowder River in Maryland on April 24-26. Other trips to Mossy/ Beaver Creek and Tomahawk Farm in Virginia, plus sites in West Virginia, will be discussed. Rod-building support is continuing for Project Healing Waters.

If you’re interested in fly-fishing, contact Leif Mollo at 757-229-5244 or lmollo@mindspring.com. Anglers can also see fish caught on recent club trips at our Facebook site: facebook.com/fordscolonyflyfishingclub.
Upcoming events include the following:

February 2: Colonial Williamsburg Art Museums’ Expansion Project. Ron Hurst, Chief Curator and Vice President for Collections, Conservation and Museums, will update us on the $40 million, 65,000-square-foot expansion underway to create a 22 percent increase in gallery space. It will also improve public access through a new visitor-friendly entrance on Nassau Street and include a concourse that oversees the pastoral site of the John Custis House and Garden.

March 2: Down home music by the Bill and Pam Gurley Trio. Join us for a fun-filled evening as Bill and Pam entertain us with folk, blues and bluegrass songs among with a dash of good stories and humor. Bill brings his voice and guitar, banjo and fiddle skills together with Pam, whose voice makes one stop and listen.

April 6: Doug Cummings—Lafayette Returns to France. We all know the Marquis de Lafayette fought in the American Revolutionary War. But what happened when he returned to France in December 1781? Be sure to attend and learn about his role in shaping France’s political structure and the French Revolution.

If you haven’t done so already, sign up by completing your registration form (available on fcfan.org along with our full Calendar of Events) and dropping it off with a check made out to “FCFAN” at the John Pott Gatehouse, or bring it to any of our meetings. Dues are $10 per person.

We welcome all residents and property owners. Join us the first Friday of each month, September through June, at 6:45 p.m. at the S&T Club for informative programs, entertainment and refreshments while you chat with your friends and neighbors, both new and old.

Join us on February 14 at 9 a.m. at the S&T Club for our general meeting. Our own Garden Club member, Carmen Hegge-Kleiser, takes us on a virtual tour of the past and present White House grounds and gardens. Based on archival research including the book, “All the Presidents’ Gardens,” the illustrations and photographs will highlight how White House gardening has evolved over two centuries, and she will provide some interesting, fun facts about the gardening legacies of presidents and first ladies.

We are gearing up for spring with upcoming events including:

April 25: Historic Garden Week Tour and Luncheon. We will travel to a destination featuring a Virginia Garden on the tour and have lunch nearby.

April 16 and 17: Spring Workshop. Create your own fairy garden.

May 12: Tablescapes and Treasures. Our “fun”raiser to benefit student scholarships to Nature Camp is open to all residents.

Be part of the fun and join Garden Club. Our meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month at the S&T Club, beginning with social time and refreshments at 9 a.m. followed by the program at 9:30 a.m. You can sign up for events, there is a door prize raffle, and currently also a Ways and Means raffle. Joining is easy—just come to a general meeting with your check for $15 or leave a check at the John Pott Gate Gatehouse marked Attention: Vicki Trainor, Membership. For more information, contact us at gardenclubfc@gmail.com.

The Genealogy Club meets regularly at the S&T Club on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Additionally, an Ancestry User’s Group meets at 10 a.m. also at the S&T Club. The next meetings will be February 15.

In addition to other changes, the Mormon Family History Library in Salt Lake City is no longer loaning out microfilm from its vast resources. What plans does this global leader in genealogy research have for advancing family research into the 21st century, and what sort of time line can we look forward to in the near and long term in bringing this plan to fruition? Join us as Lise Embly, the former Director of the Williamsburg Family History Center, discusses these issues, and takes your specific questions.

Genealogy Club resources on fchoa.org, under Clubs and Activities, are available to everyone, not just club members. They comprise listings of reference books owned by club members available for you to borrow; PowerPoint presentations of prior lectures; Tidewater Genealogy Society bus trip schedules to Washington, D.C. (DAR Library, National Archives, Library of Congress); and much more. Finally, “Like” us on Facebook for updates to meetings, Tommy’s pointers for researchers, and more contemporary information than that found on our website. Currently, find out what’s happening with Ancestry’s Family Tree Maker, Findmypast.com’s partnership with FamilySearch International, and more.

Your Golfaround team is already hard at work lining up events for the 2018 season. As plans are finalized for this year, we will be publicizing events and soliciting reservations to those who are on our email distribution list.

Golfaround provides residents of all ability levels the opportunity to play area courses at a reasonable cost. Each
Welcome Golfers to the 2018 Golf & Dine Society (GDS) schedule. We have eight dates for outings and are ready for the year to get rolling. Each month from April through November we will host a golf outing that is open to all residents, their friends and family. A typical outing will be nine holes of golf and then dinner at the golf club, or a local restaurant in the area. These outings are held on Sunday afternoons, each month, and golf will be played on different courses in the Williamsburg area.

The schedule is as follows: April 29, Gold Course at Golden Horseshoe; May 13, Jamestown Course at Williamsburg National; July 1, Kiskiack Golf Club; August 19, Ford’s Colony; September 23, The Williamsburg Club; October 14, The Club at Vinitera; and November 4, Yorktown Course at Williamsburg National. In some cases, with prior arrangements, 18 holes of golf may be available.

GDS utilizes multiple handicapping systems to ensure everyone has the opportunity to be recognized for their golf achievement. All outing communications for GDS are via email. If you are not receiving GDS information, send your name(s) to gds-golf13@cox.net. GDS charges an annual family fee of $7. These funds permit the supplementing of prize monies, the purchase of golf balls, and other items used at each outing. Dues collection will begin next month. Each month’s outing winners are published in the following month’s Talk of the Colony.

If you should like to assist GDS with the coordination of any or all of the events, contact George Spalthoff at gds-golf13@cox.net.

Intermediate Bridge Club was organized to create a fun and competitive game for better bridge players who want to continue improving their bidding /playing skills. This is not a duplicate bridge game; in fact, we use “Chicago” scoring. We ask anyone who wishes to join us to use Modern Bridge bidding methods, including weak 2s, transfers, stayman and point counts.

We play Wednesdays and/or Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. at the S&T Club for about three hours. The cost is $1 a day. We only play full tables, so once two tables are full, all others are on a first come, first called to fill the next table. Any member who wishes to give a 10- to 15-minute tutorial on a popular convention or play of a particular hand should contact the hostess or chair a week ahead of time. Sign up in the book on any day we are playing bridge, or contact the host for the day.

**Hosts for Wednesdays:**
- Feb. 7: Donna W. 757-585-2622
- Feb. 14: Ann D. 757-221-6690
- Feb. 21: Connie D. 757-345-0985
- Feb. 28: Forstens 757-564-8935

**Hosts for Thursdays:**
- Feb. 1: Donna W. 757-585-2622
- Feb. 8: Dottie C. 757-220-4910
- Feb. 15: Jack G. 757-253-0995
- Feb. 22: Forstens 757-564-8935

If interested in playing or have questions, contact Connie Daly at cmdaly29@aol.com or 757-345-0985, or Donna Whittaker at donnacwobit@gmail.com or 757-585-2622.

The LHS Fan Club welcomes anyone who wants to show support for the public high school attended by Ford’s Colony children. Are you a past, present or future Lafayette High School family? Do you want to show our high-schoolers that we think they are great? If so, we will be happy to hear from you. Remember, you do not need to have kids at LHS to be a Ram Fan. Email lhsfanclubfc@gmail.com.

Save the date May 6 for the Lafayette Athletic Booster Club (LABC) Golf Tournament and Barbecue. See page 29 for details. Golf and barbecue will be right here at the Ford’s Colony Country Club. We need golfers, businesses to sponsor and donate, and folks who love barbecue dinners and great company.

The winter sports season is upon us. Did you know that residents 65 years of age and older can get a Bay Rivers District Golden Age Pass for free admission to regular season games? The pass is available at LHS or a ticket booth.
MAH JONGG MAVENS

The Mah Jongg Mavens are an enthusiastic group of ladies who come together twice a week to indulge their love of playing Mah Jongg. We play at the S&T Club on Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m., and again on Saturday from noon to 3:30 or 4 p.m.

We play American Mah Jongg for points and only play hands that appear on the official 2017 National Mah Jongg League card. On Wednesdays, the player with the highest point total earns the Mahj Queen crown for the week. Saturdays are just for fun. New players are always welcome.

For information and to register to play, contact Kim Krieger at kkrieger1954@gmail.com, or just drop by. Happy Mahjing!

MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The next meeting of the Model Railroad Club will be February 1 at 7 p.m. at the S&T Club. Following the business portion of the meeting, Ed Rappe will discuss the planning and development of his railroad. He will also present his plan for operating sessions, which would mimic actual operations on this section of the Pennsy during the early to mid-1950s. The meeting will conclude with a visit to Ed’s layout.

With the cancellation of the January meeting due to the snowstorm, the presentations by Hans Schwartz and Paul Cieurzo, and the visits to their respective layouts, have been moved to the May 3 meeting.

We welcome anyone with an interest in model railroading, or railroading in general, to come to the meeting. With over 60 members, we have modelers of just about every scale. The club meets at 7 p.m. at the S&T Club on the first Thursday of every month, except July and August. For further information, visit our club webpage at fchoa.org or contact Paul Cieurzo at 757-229-7067 or pcieurzo@cox.net.

MONDAY EVENING BEGINNERS BRIDGE

Join us if you have recently learned to play bridge, or if your game is “rusty” and you’re learning the new conventions. This is non-aggressive, fun bridge designed to develop confidence and skills for those new to the game and those who haven’t played in a while. This is not a teaching session, and players must know the current rules of contract bridge. We meet on the third Monday evening of each month, except July and August. An email invitation is sent to group players one week before each session to ask who wants to play. You must sign up in advance each time you plan to attend, so we can arrange the table count. Bring $1 for prizes; $2 if it’s the first time you are attending. For more information, or to be added to the group email list, contact Arlene Krupinski at arlene@cox.net or Janie Chamberlain at jamecham@verizon.net.

MONDAY MORNING BRIDGE

Join us Mondays at the S&T Club at 9:15 a.m. for a lively morning of social bridge. We play four rounds of six hands, with a different partner for each round. This is not a class, and all levels of players are welcome. If you would like to play, see the host information below, and call to reserve a place. The host is responsible for arranging even tables of players, so sign up on Monday morning or call as soon as you can. If you should find that you cannot play after all, let the host know right away so your place can be filled. The cost to play is just $1 and cash prizes are awarded to the top four scorers. For more information, contact chair Debbie Boggio at 757-603-6719 or dboggio1@gmail.com.

Hosts:
February 5 Charley Skillman 757-258-4930
February 12 Joan Golliday 757-784-7841

Photo by Paul Cieurzo
February 19  Bill Bunnell  
757-206-1434  
February 26  Carole Forsten  
757-564-8935  
March 5  Colin Christmas  
757-258-5829

NEWCOMERS

Our next meeting is February 16 at 6:45 p.m. at the S&T Club. Amanda Werrell, a conservation biologist, will give an introduction to identifying common birds in the Williamsburg area and share their natural history and behaviors. She will also introduce citizen science projects available to both new and experienced birders that create opportunities to contribute to the research and conservation of our avian friends. After the program, you are invited to enjoy a nightcap at Murdoch’s with some of your new friends.

Do you love Newcomers? Why not volunteer to help keep our club full of zip? Working on one of our committees is a terrific way to meet other Newcomers and contribute your great ideas. For more information about serving on the board, see one of our nominating committee members at the next Night Out, or drop us a note at new.friends@FordsColonyNewcomers.com.

Newcomers welcomes all new residents and property owners. If you never joined Newcomers when you moved in because you were too busy, now is the time! Membership information is available at Membership@FordsColonyNewcomers.com. We meet the third Friday of the month, September through May at the S&T Club.

NEW RESIDENT WELCOME COMMITTEE

The goal of the New Resident Welcome Committee is to greet all new residents. Volunteers visit and provide a packet of information on what is available within Ford’s Colony, as well as the greater Williamsburg area. Our sole purpose is to impart information about the many activities, clubs and non-profit organizations available in the community.

If you are a new resident who has not been contacted yet, email one of our co-chairs, Kathy Zotto or Paula Wahler at newreswelcome@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting you!

PICKLEBALL

In February we will play Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 9 or 10 a.m. as weather permits. Our afternoon hours will now be on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 2 p.m. until dark. The courts are always open for play if these hours do not meet your schedule.

Players new to the game as well as those with some experience are welcome. The group that plays is friendly, helpful and has a lot of fun. Stop by and watch, or join us for a game. It’s a great way to get exercise, meet some new neighbors and enjoy the fresh air. If the group play times don’t fit your schedule, grab your paddles and friends and head up whenever you can.

Contact Bev Thomas at Bthomas6024@gmail.com or 215-350-9762; or Chuck Deschaine at chasde1313@gmail.com or 757-707-9529 to add your name to our distribution list.

PILATES CLUB

The Pilates Club meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:15 a.m. at the CSB Exercise Studio. Contact Missy at missykerner@hotmail.com with any questions.

PINOCHEL CLUB

Winter has arrived. Let the warmth of sugar plums dance in your head. Stay warm and play cards. Whether you are an old hand or just learning, we would
enjoy having you join us. We play double deck pinochle every Thursday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the S&T Club. The rules have never changed but a set of rules are available as a refresher.

If you would like to know more about the Pinochle Club, or would like to try us out, contact Bill Loscalzo by using the Resident’s directory at fchoa.org. Let us know in advance, so we can reserve a seat at one of the tables.

The Radio-Controlled Sailing Club has scheduled sailing on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until noon. We normally run class races during that time period. We make every effort to be sure that every skipper can participate. Some just prefer to sail and get the feel of their yachts. We have the class racing for our DF 65 class boats as well as for DF 95 larger racing yachts. There is time allotted to assist new sailors in getting their boats and selves shipshape. The experienced skippers are more than willing to help.

When you want to get started, just call Rob Yates at 757-645-4733, and he will guide you through the simple process.

Or, even better, when you see someone sailing at the pond, stop and find out what it is all about, and even try it out. May the wind always be at your back.

The band put on a pre-New Year’s Eve show at the S&T Club. We performed songs by the Beatles, Chicago, Blood, Sweat and Tears, Eric Clapton, the Doors, Steely Dan, Tom Petty, the Eagles and others. The event was SRO!

“Marsh Hawk,” the Jam Band stage name, brings together rock and blues musicians for pre-arranged jam sessions and performances. The group includes singers, guitarists, keyboard players, drummers, horn players and other musicians interested in classic rock and blues, as well as some soft rock and modern country music. All qualifying musicians are welcome.

The amplified jam sessions are from 7 until 10 p.m. on a weeknight at the CSB Exercise Studio. Guest players and singers also are welcome. Please email your interest to Joe DiNuzzo at fcandinrb@gmail.com.

Round Robin Bridge welcomes any bridge player who would like to join us at the S&T Club at 6:45 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. We play five rounds, four hands each, for a total of 20 hands of casual “Chicago-scoring.” We start off our season with a fee of $20, of which $15 goes toward the end-of-year prizes and $5 goes towards the expenses for the year. Monthly scores will count toward the yearly cash awards awarded at the June banquet dinner to be held at Ford’s Colony Country Club. Email or call Ida McNamara at idalmac@cox.net or 757-645-3763 if interested in playing or you have any questions.

Contact the host if you can or cannot play. Hosts for February 8 are Barb and Rich Plate at 757-345-2438 or rplate@aol.com.

Silver Sneakers® is designed to improve well-being through fitness education involving strength training, balance and flexibility. The goal is to improve physical and mental health, minimize age-related physical degeneration and improve cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, agility, balance and coordination.

Exercises are performed while either seated on a chair or standing. Weights, stretch bands and a ball are provided. Participants must wear sneakers and clothing appropriate for exercising. Also, bring a bottle of water to drink throughout the session.

We meet at the CSB Exercise Studio and offer two different sessions, both on Tuesday and Thursday. The first session runs from 11 a.m. to noon. The second session runs from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Both sessions are open to men and women. You may sign up for either the 11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. class.

Our fully qualified Silver Sneakers Flex Instructor is Sonya Thomas who is also trained in First Aid, CPR and AED. Contact Sonya at 757-254-4917 to register for the class. For general information about the class, contact Harlene Barton at 757-259-0424 or harlenebarton@gmail.com.

By popular demand, we are having a winter season this year. Weather permitting, games are on Saturdays at 11 a.m., with warm-ups starting at 10:30 a.m. The 2018 spring opening season will be in early April. The League is a slow-pitch, recreational softball group, consisting of men and women age 40 and over. Guest players under 40 also are welcome. We play a pick-up game on Saturday mornings at the Westbury Park recreational area. Our split season goes from April through June and again from September through November. Contact Joe DiNuzzo at softball.fcboa@gmail.com for more information and to sign up.

Congregating at the S&T Club in January, we initiated the new year with a fun game of Bunco and an abbreviated meeting.

With attendees providing side dishes, chili will be the main course for our 6 p.m. covered dish dinner February 5 at the S&T Club. Confirm with Joan Emerson at 757-229-4703 or joan.emerson@yahoo.com by February 1. To alleviate duplication, specify your main course accompaniment at that time. We request each Solitaire supply a non-perishable food item to donate to FISH.

The February 15 monthly dinner is at the Colony Room at 6 p.m. due to Murdoch’s temporary closing. If you plan to attend, contact Barbara Post at...
Early March takes us to view one of the greatest archeological finds of the twentieth century at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. A short distance from the First Emperor of China’s burial site, an underground army of nearly 8,000 life-size terracotta figures was unearthed. The exhibit features ten figures and numerous items of historical significance. Lunch will follow. Watch for details.

Chase the winter dreariness away and make new friends. Solitaires is a social, singles group participating in monthly outing, in combination with dinner the third Thursday of each month. Contact Joan Emerson, president, at 757-229-4703 or joan.emerson@yahoo.com for additional information. Anne Waas, treasurer, at 757-258-3393 or paswa10@aol.com, accepts the annual dues of $8.

Study of the next ten movements of Form 40 (11-20) have begun and will continue through March 14. Form 40 movements (21-30) will begin March 21 through May 23.

Contact Elmer May, President at 757-239-9905, Linda Thompson, Vice President at 757-229-3195 or Susan Deane, Treasurer at 757-849-2404 with any questions.

Many groups continue to play throughout the winter months, so please wave at these brave souls as you drive by, or come join them.

Planning is underway for the Annual Tennis Club meeting, which will take place in March. Details on this meeting will be distributed to all club members.

Interested in joining the Tennis Club? Check out the Tennis Club website through fchoa.org where you will find links to our monthly calendar of events, our Racketeer Program for new/returning tennis players, a photo album of club activities and other items of interest. Or contact our Membership Director, Maurice Nestor at mnestor3@cox.net or 757-503-5800.

Celebrate President’s Day with the Theatre Club as they present “An Evening With George and Martha” on Friday, February 9, 7:30 p.m. at the S&T Club. This play is in the same genre as last year’s very popular “Lady Washington” but this is an original play being performed for the first time. The play, written exclusively for the Theatre Club, is an interpretation of an evening when the couple sits on the Mount Vernon piazza, reminiscing about their lives. Admission is free for Theatre Club members and only $5 for non-members. Seating is cabaret-style, feel free to BYOB and refreshments will be served. To reserve a minimum of five or
We invite all our neighbors to join us February 12 at 7 p.m. at the S&T Club. Our guest speaker will be Tom Thompson, President of Trailblazers, and his topic will be “To the Ends of the Earth.” Over the last ten years, Tom and his wife, Marybeth, have traveled the globe, everywhere from Punta Arenas at the southern end of South America to Svalbard, 650 miles from the North Pole, the northernmost year-round settlement on Earth where Polar Bears wander freely. They have gone through Patagonia, beautiful and wild, visited Iguazu Falls, the world’s largest waterfalls system, been to the South Pacific, encountering the world’s largest crocodile and the world’s largest lizard and to Morocco (Yes, they’ve been to the Casbah!). Whether you’re looking for ideas for your next trip or just want to see how widely diverse and beautiful this planet is, show up, take a seat and enjoy.

Prince Butler will outline our Spring Adventure Outings. We’ll have our usual drinks and snacks and collect the annual $5 dues from our members. We again remind you that you don’t have to belong to Trailblazers to come to our meetings. Everyone is welcome.

The New York adventure was fabulous, weather never stopping us from museums and dining, probably now dieting! It was a super group of members and new friends were made. Many thanks to Security and Project Maintenance for making sure the parking area was cleaned so we could get home safely. We do live in an amazing community. For all reservations related to our upcoming schedule, contact Muriel Ashley at muashley@gmail.com.

February 27: Our Valentine’s Lovers Trivia Nite at the S&T Club. Put together your four-member team and make your reservations for fun and prizes.

March 24: Virginia Symphony presents the fabulous music of John Williams at Chrysler Hall, recognizable themes from Indiana Jones, Star Wars and Schindler’s List. Dinner at 456 Fish. $160/pp. Trip based on 30 participants.

March 27: 7 p.m. at the S&T Club. Carlo La Fiandra presents an amazing slide show of Colonial Williamsburg. Guaranteed to show you things you’ve never seen before.

April 17: Tour Maymont Mansion and gardens in Richmond. Includes a guided tour of the mansion with informal garden walks. Lunch included. $70/pp.

April 24: 7 p.m. at the S&T Club, Ray Smiley will present a special guided tour around Cuba.


Winter is a great post-holiday time to settle into a study that will not only inform you now, but will enrich your life for the future. This wonderful group of women from our neighborhood meets on Tuesday mornings, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the S&T Club, for an inspiring study of the Bible. During the winter months, we are continuing with this year’s theme, “Reflections of the Master.” We explore the life of Jesus, and His encounters with many different kinds of people who are experiencing various situations in their lives, much like the people and situations we encounter in our lives today. Then, as we move from winter into spring, we will learn about the amazing love of Jesus that took him all the way to the cross. And it all ends well for us!

One of the hallmarks of this Bible study for women is that each lesson stands alone as a valuable teaching from the Word of God. No prior knowledge of the Bible is required. There is no homework—just come when you are able, and learn from the Master, Jesus, as gifted teachers relay His teachings in the Bible that help us maneuver life’s situations today. The added benefit of this Bible study is the warm fellowship of other women, your neighbors, who share a common desire
to know God, and to live lives that reflect Him in this community.

Join us any Tuesday that fits into your schedule. We hope to see you soon. And your friends are welcome, too! Questions? Contact Stephi at 757-291-4888 or stephif1@cox.net.

WOODWORKERS

The Woodworkers’ January meeting was very enjoyable. Two woodworkers combined their skills to produce an amazing project. Frank Jones spent two years constructing a museum quality model of the USS Constitution, complete with masts and rigging. This ship was incredibly detailed.

Where should this model be housed? Kent Kipling used his considerable skills to design and construct a suitable glass and walnut case that now houses this majestic ship. In addition, Kent discussed how to do string inlay, according to Oscar Wells’ method.

YOGA

The subject of the February meeting is letter carving. Details will be sent by email to club members in early February.

Anyone is interested in joining the club should contact Ralph Spohn at ralph@alum.mit.edu so they may be added to our membership email list.

The Yoga group meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. at the CSB Exercise Studio. Please note that there will not be a meeting on Thursday, February 22.

Yoga is for every body and everybody. In our classes, we learn how to balance our own stretch and strength to optimize poses/postures. We will have all of our morning yoga classes in January. We will have Monday evening yoga only on January 8 and 22.

There is also an afternoon/early evening class, Yoga Open Class, on Mondays (except holidays), from 5 to 6:15 p.m. in the CSB Exercise Studio. All levels, including beginners, are welcome to experience one-on-one yoga in a group setting. Drop in any time and stay as long as you wish. A minimum of 30 minutes is recommended. Each week we will learn a recommended yoga practice with a particular goal, for example lower back strengthening. Everyone will work at their own pace with personalized instruction and assistance. Bring a yoga mat, wear clothes that allow you to move comfortably, and remember to eat or drink lightly before class.

Classes are payable with a suggested donation. If you would like to try yoga, come join us for a few classes, or more. Contact Tricia at yogaclasses@cox.net.

BLACKHEATH NEIGHBORS RING IN THE NEW YEAR

The Blackheath dinner group gathered at the home of Marie Colclough to celebrate the New Year.

Photo by Roy Ralph
FURNITURE

5 Piece Bedroom Suite—$400
Solid wood with wicker accent, manufactured in USA. Double dresser, armoire chest, night stand, lingerie chest, mirror. Excellent condition. Will sell as group or individual pieces. Call: 540-529-7533 or Email: wburg2013@cox.net

White Tile Table—$125
37 x 60 inches. Great condition. Call: 303-949-5233

Bar Stools—$25 each
3 available. Call: 303-949-5233

Rowe Sofa—$500
89” Natural Linen with contrast welt. Utilized solely in formal living room. Excellent condition. Purchase sofa, cocktail table and stools together for $1,000. See my other listings for photos. Call: 214-578-5723 or Email: elainern@gmail.com

CTH Sherrill “Island Plantation” Cocktail Table—$500
32” x 56” table with glass insert top and cane base. Utilized solely in formal living room, excellent condition. Please see my additional listings to purchase the table as a set with the sofa and stools for $1,000. Call: 214-578-5723 or Email: elainern@gmail.com

Household

100% Wool Hand Knotted Area Rug—$400
8’x 10’. Excellent condition, professionally cleaned. Pale green background, rose and cream medallion and along borders. Excellent condition, non-smoking home. Call: 978-808-9508

RECREATIONAL /SPORTS

Vintage 1980’s Bianchi Volpe Men’s Bike—$299
Less than 60 miles on it. Call: 303-949-5233

Bowling Equipment—Best Offer
Several men’s and women’s quality bowling balls of various weight and/or two rolling ball bags and/or various carry bags. Call: 757-258-0106

RENTAL

Condo, Sarasota, FL

SERVICES

Babysitting—Negotiable
I’m a home school mom to two (ages 11 and 14), looking to help local families with childcare. I’m generally available on weekends or for after school care and am happy to help with homework. We live in Ford’s Colony, non-smoker. Call: 978-337-4925 or Email: jessmcgonagle@gmail.com

To submit your classified ad, go to fchoa.org and click on “Classifieds” and then click on “Submit your Classified Ad,” fill in the appropriate information. Ads must be 40 words or less. Two items may be featured. Classified ads are free to FC residents. There is a $20 fee for non-residents.

All classified ads also appear on the fchoa.org website. All ads must be received by the 15th of each month for the following month. Printed ads are based on space availability.

Denotes photos of the item are available at fchoa.org

Driving Services

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