



Town Crier

Volume 7, Issue 8
September 2017

New Town Residential Association (NTRA)
<http://www.NewTownWilliamsburg.org>
4801 Courthouse St, Suite 128
(757) 565-6200

Mission Statement:

To provide a means for our residents to share information and create a community in our new town that will improve and enhance our way of life.

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www.NewTownWilliamsburg.org



Letter from the Chair — *Chuck Stetler, Residential Advisory Board*



With the hot summer almost behind us, residents can start looking forward to the Fall season....and start preparing for Halloween and upcoming holidays.

The community pool was well attended this summer, and ended the season with a great pool party on August 27th. Everyone enjoyed the pizza, cookies and snow cone truck....and the weather cooperated with a beautiful day. Remember, the pool actually closes on Labor Day, so enjoy the last few days at our pool. Kudos to the activities committee, again, for all their hard work organizing this pool party.

The activities committee continues to be busy planning future events for the community. Just a reminder that the Noon Time Talks resumes on September 12 at the Center Street Grille; October Fest is on September 24 at Paul's Deli, and there will be several "restaurant nights out" in New Town, starting first with the Corner Cafe in October. Events will be posted throughout the community and on our website.

The Landscape committee is still working on getting bids from different companies for next year. We are trying to find the best company willing to improve service on our lawns, trees and shrubs. The oppressive heat has caused excessive weed problems, but they hopefully will be under control before aeration and seeding begins.

The last *Town Crier* included an article about hurricanes from the Emergency Preparedness Committee. It is important to keep this sheet handy with numbers to call if ever needed. Residents here and throughout the country are watching the devastation caused by hurricane Harvey. The world is watching and sending prayers.

The Asset Maintenance Committee has inspected homes in Savannah Square and Abbey Commons that need repairs of some type. Owners will be notified by mail about the responsibility of home owners in doing repairs. Look for the article on page 3 about this issue.

All RAB committees are working on the 2018 budget for New Town residents. More info will be forthcoming in future articles. Also, RAB nominations and elections will be in November for two members whose terms are expiring.

Amazing how quickly New Town has grown in the past 2-3 years. The newest area, Village Walk, has exploded with families. We all look forward to meeting with people from Village Walk at all community events. We are also looking for volunteers from this neighborhood to serve on the Activities, Landscaping, Communications, and Emergency Preparedness Committees.



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love where
you live,
New Town!*



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Know Your Neighbor: the DiMaio's --Stuart Dopp

New Town represents a lifestyle shift for many residents, but the move here from a “deeply suburban” home in San Antonio is a truly dramatic change for the family of Camille and Rob Di Maio. They had resolved to simplify their lives, and to have a home base that allows them the freedom to travel at will — concepts embodied in their Village Walk residence. Camille says “there is a certain buoyancy in having less ‘stuff,’” and that their lives are larger for it.

The Di Maio family picked Williamsburg and New Town very deliberately as a place where they could help their four children (ages 8 - 18) capture what they had as youths in a smaller environment and a simpler time. They also wanted walkability, access to the ocean, access via train to D.C. and NYC, and a chance to fulfill their wanderlust. Travel is important to the family for many reasons, one being that it augments the home-school education that Camille provides, with the help of on line resources such as the Virtual Academy for advanced studies and Rosetta Stone for languages. The convenience of New Town also offers independence to the older children, who can pop into Trader Jones’s for milk or ride the trolley to a job at Aroma’s in the Colonial area. The open green space is a setting for the younger ones and their dad to engage in nerf ball battles nightly.



Camille Di Maio had always wanted to be an author, and now finds her way to the balconies of their home for creative time in the early morning. She writes historical fiction with “low heat” romance. Her stories grow generically from the seed idea, though of course she has to have a synopsis when she pitches a book to her publisher. She loves to keep things flexible enough to follow a tangent dictated by her research or

by a need to flesh out a character. Amazon publishes Camille’s books, with sales for *The Memory of Us* already topping 100,000 copies.



Aside from the fun, family travel provides ideas and inspirations for Camille’s novels. She takes notes as they visit various places or hear stories about local characters. Her second and most recent publication, *Before the Rain Falls*, is set in Texas, partly in women’s prisons in the 1940’s and partly today. Her third, coming out soon and focused on the suffragette movement, revolves around New York City’s Penn Station. She is working on a fourth, which will take place in Coronado on the set of “Some Like It Hot.” Unlike the other novels, Camille’s first book, *The Memory of Us*, was inspired by song, not setting: the Beatles’ “Eleanor Rigby.” It takes place, though, in Liverpool, which she had researched on line and was able to visit only recently — happily finding that she had gotten it right.

Rob, via computer, continues to operate their real estate team in San Antonio, where they have had a joint business. This allows flexibility to travel, even for longer periods. They have to choose adventures that will appeal to all of the family, of course, though their eldest is off to King’s College in NYC this year. She already has a job there with Camille’s publicist. Rob’s family is international, and Camille grew up moving often, as she and her family followed her father’s career in TV sales from Texas to Colorado to Pennsylvania. She and Rob met while working for a political entity in D.C., and they have continued the “nomadic” life with moves to VA, CA, and Texas. What good fortune for them and for us that they have chosen New Town as a place to put down roots that can spread both deep and wide.

Exterior Maintenance Program Update --Phil Casey

The New Town Residents' Association (NTRA) has made significant progress in establishing a program for the exterior maintenance of residences and common assets. The program's goal is to ensure all residents comply with their responsibilities, as specified in our Covenants, to maintain the exteriors of their properties.

The initial impetus, and continuing guidance, has been provided by Bob Keith and John Wright, but during 2017, a committee formed to oversee the operation. Volunteers for the committee are Dave Holtgrieve (chair), Libby Flowers and Louisa Johnson. These members represent a mix of residence types and neighborhoods.

At its July meeting, the Board of Directors (BOD) approved a policy that includes more on residents' appeal procedures than did the draft policy referenced in the November 2016 *Town Crier* and at the 2016 NTRA annual meeting. The BOD also approved a final contract with IN-Spec of Newport News which will perform the third-party inspections of residences.

The committee, had already conducted several pilot inspections with the contractor to ensure they understand NTRA's objectives for their reports. During the pilots, Town Management ensured its

database was ready to track data and photos about the inspections, findings and resolutions.

In June, homeowners in Abbey Commons and Savannah Square, the affected neighborhoods in 2017, were notified about the program and provided with a self-check list and list of potential maintenance contractors. The contractor inspections began in July and are nearly completed.

The next step will be to report findings to homeowners. That will begin in September though it may take longer than a month to complete all 150 residences. The committee hopes to have any issues with the findings resolved with homeowners by the next annual NTRA meeting. Homeowners may take longer than that to make the fixes but the required actions will have been agreed upon by the homeowners and the committee.

The next cycle will affect Chelsea Green and older parts of Charlotte Park. After that, the remainder of Charlotte Park will be done and then Village Walk.

In the future, look for meeting times to be posted in the *Town Crier* for the Exterior Maintenance Committee in the same list as other NTRA committees.

Are you willing to alert the Communications Committee about activities in your neighborhood that could be reported in the *Town Crier*?

Send an email to:

ntratown.crier@gmail.com

Watson Mowry, PC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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Williamsburg, Virginia 23188

Letter from the Chair, cont'd from Page 1

We all are hearing about AirBnB in our area. As of now, James City County has said our HOA can exclude AirBnB's in New Town. Therefore, remember, homeowners cannot rent out space in their homes by the day in this community. Our declarations state the minimum rental lease is for 12 months

Questions have been asked about when Parcel 8 will be started. This is the last section of homes in the NTRA and will be located by the shopping center. Construction will be started as soon as clearing permits are issued by James City County.

Lastly, we all love our dogs, but remember, dogs need to be on a leash when walking...not running loose. Again, it is your responsibility to pick up after your dog. There are many "poop" bags and stations around area for your use. Please be a good dog owner and neighbor.

Have a great Fall season!

One Resident's Volunteer Experience: SCORE --Phil Casey

Many of you know Rick Fisher from his leadership role for New Town residents' Retired Men's Club. But that is not the only volunteer work that Rick does for our community. After retiring from a career as a Supply Chain Director at Hewlett Packard, Rick said to himself, "So now I'm retired. What do I want to do with my time?" Other New Town residents surely find yourselves in similar circumstances. Rick's story may interest you in a volunteer organization that benefits our community.

One clear answer Rick had to his question was that he wanted to "give back" in a way that used his experience to help others. "And it would be great if I could learn something new along the way," he says. Rick tried a number of things to include consulting, substitute teaching, helping at a local food bank and working for H&R Block during tax season. "Although some of these were noble efforts, they didn't totally fit my criteria. I was in search of something different."

Rick became aware of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and joined while living in Atlanta. He transferred membership to the Williamsburg Chapter when he moved to New Town six years ago.

SCORE provides free confidential advice to US citizens who want to go into business for themselves or grow an existing business. Williamsburg SCORE is one of 300 chapters nationwide working to help local businesses. This is primarily done through one-on-one mentoring. Rick says, "In Williamsburg, we work closely with the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance."

Rick is the SCORE Chapter Administrator. His role is to review client requests as they are received via the national system and forward them to the appropriate mentors. This is all accomplished electronically. Rick strives to ensure a mentor is assigned within 24 hours of receiving the request. Typically, there are three to five

client requests per week.

Several free workshops are given at the Williamsburg Public Library, e.g., "Starting Your Own Business" and "Starting and Managing Non-Profits." SCORE will bring in lawyers, accountants and other professionals who have specific expertise in an area. Clients pay to attend other sessions, e.g., "Implementing Social Media", "Law Boot Camp for Small Business" and "Financial Management for Small Business."

"There is no typical client which is what makes it so interesting. We've helped landscaping businesses, health care professionals, cleaning companies, restaurants and many others" Rick reports. Two years ago, Williamsburg SCORE was chosen as the State Chapter of the Year and was recognized nationally.

The Chapter is always looking for new mentors. The majority of members are retired, but members can be still working. Your specific area of business expertise is less important than your people-to-people skills.

To learn more about SCORE, check out their website at www.score.org. If you think it is an activity that interests you, Rick encourages you to contact him (fisherrick636@gmail.com). "It's a great organization," Rick is proud to say.

(Do you or someone you know volunteer in our community? If you think other New Town residents would be interested in joining your organization through an article in the Town Crier, write to ntratown.crier@gmail.com.)

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Power Outages —Tom Nichols, Chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

As you have seen in the news in late August, Houston, Texas was experiencing severe flooding caused by heavy rains from Hurricane Harvey, leading to water rescues, lack of power, flooded roads, life loss, injury, and major disruptions. Even though the chance of this happening here is very low, we still can have power outages caused by:

Hurricanes, severe local storms with high winds, ice storms in the winter causing down power lines, and even a vehicle wreck knocking down power lines. Can you stay in-place with just battery power from for flashlight? You should have an Emergency Plan to Guide you on what to do.

Should I stay or leave for a better location? Your age and your physical condition plus family needs (babies, young children, etc.) will dictate if you need to find other shelter. Power outages lead to: No lights, No air conditioning, no heat in the winter and the potential for frozen pipes, no stove for cooking, no hot water, etc.

Please do not use candles for light? Use only battery flashlights or battery lantern.

If you use a generator, KNOW what you are doing. Keep generator away from open doors or windows to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning; follow all guidelines for a generator, store and dispense gasoline properly. If you get to a point where a generator is needed, then you may consider the cost plus the danger and elect to go to a hotel.

As a New Town Resident, are you prepared for: Power outages, downed trees, blocked roads, lack of phone and cell phone service, NO Internet, NO TV, limited food on hand, NO AIR CONDITIONING or Heat? Please refer to **Emergency Information** on the New Town Website. Look under documents, and see articles under Emergency Preparedness covering the complete *NTRA Residential Association Disaster Plan*, Power Outages and Cutting off Utilities.

Basic information if you stay: Obtain food and water supplies for family and pets (for at least 3 days). Obtain batteries (for Flashlights, portable radio/TV, cell phone and cell phone recharger batteries), medications, personal products, and Prescriptions. Cut off your stove and oven. Leave nothing on your stove (when power returns the stove could come on. Have an ample amount of cash on hand (ATM's could be down). Keep your car filled.

Basic information if you leave: Ensure property is secure. Fill cars with gasoline. Turn off utilities as needed. Set aside clothing, blankets and pillows for several days to take with you. Have a place to go to if you leave town or have to leave your home due to no air conditioning or heat (friends' homes, hotels, relatives).

Emergency Information:

- Fire/Police: Dial 911
- JCC (James City County) Emergency Hotline: 757-875-2424
- JCC Emergency Management: 757-564-4315

Utilities:

- Dominion Power: 1-866-366-4357
- Water/Sewer: 757-229-7421; 757-566-0112 (after hours)
- Virginia Natural Gas: 1-877-572-3342

A Summer-Ending Party and Eclipse --Phil Casey

On a beautiful Sunday, August 27, the Activities Committee organized an end of summer (almost) pool party which was attended by residents from across New Town neighborhoods. All enjoyed pizza, snow cones, drinks and cookies in addition to the pool itself.



While the group was together, it was a good time to check in with a cross section to see how New Town experienced the solar eclipse this month.

Relatively new neighbors **Ed and Mo Bowen** of Charlotte Park stayed in their New Town backyard and watched using their pin hole device. Grandson Ben, here from his home in upstate New York, joined them.

John and Ellen Morgan joined other neighbors on Chelsea Green for part of it, but also caught the TV coverage. John was watching for associated animal behavior and reports he spotted a bird sitting unusually still during the reduced light in the neighborhood.

Jim and Janice Kavitz of Foundation Square were eating lunch in Williamsburg at the Golden Horseshoe. Janice was sufficiently curious to leave the restaurant for a bit to observe the sun through a pin hole. When she returned to the restaurant, Jim had not moved.

On the other hand, **Kate Vitter** traveled all the way from Foundation Square to Charleston SC for the express purpose of seeing the eclipse to the maximum extent. Since she was concerned about the cloud coverage there, she and her travelling companion then drove two hours outside of Charleston and settled in with a spontaneous group of other travelers to get a great view while picnicking. Someone in the group had a telescope and focused an image to a paper screen for all to see. While in Charleston, Kate heard other New Town residents, the Chestons of Charlotte Park, were there and they were able to link up.

Noah Locascio, who is a student at The College of William and Mary, was still at home in Charleston SC during the eclipse. He and his friends there had equipped themselves with the special glasses for viewing an eclipse. They got together on a pier for about two hours to watch the whole show. He reports it really did get dark for about two minutes. Noah recently arrived in New Town for the next semester during which he will be living on Center Street.

Our pool lifeguard, **Jan Hintermüller**, reports the pool stayed open for business during the eclipse and there were several residents prepared to watch it from there. One resident loaned glasses to Jan so he was able to enjoy it with them.

And then there is the hard-working couple **William and Brooke Verhines** from Foundation Street. William says he was at work in Toano but he a group of co-workers were able to go outside to try to capture a digital photo without any real success. But the group used the diversion to have a good time. Meanwhile, Brooke was at home in New Town, too busy taking care of their baby to even get outside for a peek during the height of the event.

Those are just some of the neighbors who were at the pool party. Just this one event, common to us all, demonstrates the different approaches we took. What if I had asked them something like, "If you could have any super power, what would it be?" Maybe next time.

 A business card for Curtis Griffin, Managing Broker at ChantelRay Real Estate. The card features a photo of Curtis Griffin on the left. The text on the card includes:

- ChantelRay Real Estate logo
- Curtis Griffin, Managing Broker
- 757-206-5678
- Curtis@ChantelRay.com
- 12090 Jefferson Ave. Suite # 1720, Newport News, VA 23606
- 757-747-0597
- "Overcoming Obstacles Equals Results"
- www.ChantelRay.com

NTRA Committee Meetings

Residents should check the [HOA Calendar of Events](#) for the most up to date information on dates and times as they may change after publication.

Board of Directors

TBD

3rd floor meeting room, Sun Trust Building

Contact:

Tim@TownManagement.net (Tim Grueter)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Residential Advisory Board

Wenesday, September 20, 9:00 a.m.

Town Management Office, Sun Trust Building

Contact: cmssas@aol.com (Chuck Stetler)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Architectural Review Committee

Monday, September, 4:00 p.m.

Town Management Office, Sun Trust Building

Contact: flowerslibby@gmail.com (Libby Flowers)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Activities Committee

Tuesday, September 5, 3:30 p.m., CakeAlicious

Contact: nnealena@aol.com (Neal Witherspoon)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Communications Committee

Wednesday, September 6, 4:00 p.m., CakeAlicious

Contact: stuardopp@cox.net (Stuart Dopp)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Emergency Preparedness Committee

TBD

Contact: thomasnichols@cox.net (Tom Nichols)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Landscaping Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 19, 4:00 p.m.

Town Management Office, Sun Trust Building

Contact: cmssas@aol.com (Susan Stetler)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

All New Town Committee meetings are open to residents for information and concerns.

Visit <http://www.newtownwilliamsburg.com> for more information or check <http://www.facebook.com/NewTownWilliamsburg>



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Communications Committee:

Stuart Dopp – Chair
 Anthony Dunleavy
 Phil Casey
 Susan Mulnix
 Kathy Mullins
 Rebekah Roberts
 Harry Wiley
 and
 Dave Burket - RAB Advisor

We encourage your comments. Send them to the editor as noted below.

Phil Casey, Editor
ntratown.crier@gmail.com

New Town Clubs and Small Groups

New Town has a number of clubs and small groups that meet regularly to talk, play and enhance ties within the community. Listed below are the current clubs and their contacts.

Book Club. If interested in joining a book club, contact Lucy Painter:
hokiegirl70@gmail.com

Bridge Club. Play one of your favorite games with others in New Town in an informal, social setting. Contact Mina Hering: mina24@cox.net

Chess Club. Interested residents should contact Keith Rowles:
keithrowles@hotmail.com

Golf Group. Join us on Thursday afternoons for golf outings at the Kiskiack Golf Club. We welcome all players, walkers or riders, for 9 holes of some low-key fun! Contact Janet Hoffman: jrhoffman27@cox.net

Retired Men's Club. Meets for lunch on the fourth Thursday of the month to talk about what's going on in New Town and the larger community. Contact Rick Fisher: fisherrick636@gmail.com

Walking Club. Join other residents on Friday mornings to walk the sidewalks and trails of New Town. We meet 8:30am at Sullivan's Square. This is an especially easygoing way for new residents to meet other neighbors.

**New Town Clubs operate independently from the
 New Town Residential Association**

Save the Date:

- September 12:** Noon Time Talk at the Center Street Grille
- September 20:** Resident Phil Casey plays at Cogan's Deli
- September 24:** Octoberfest in New Town at Paul's Deli
- December 15:** New Town Christmas Party at Legacy Hall

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