

Spring visitors praise employee hospitality

Warm weather has brought visitors and a number of letters praising Colonial Williamsburg hospitality.

*Patricia Ellis of Zephyrhills, Florida wrote to thank Colonial Williamsburg for the way her husband was treated during the family's April visit.

"My husband is handicapped and everyone was so pleasant and helpful to him. I did not note everyone's name, but I mention those I did: **Robb Warren** at Carter's Grove, **Jodie Norman** and **Keeley Sutphin** at the Palace, **Kathy Thompson** and **Daryl Combs**.

***Russell Bridgeforth** at Christiana Campbell's Tavern received a letter from David Campbell, who called the tavern "the near perfect place for hospitality and good food."

Mr. Campbell continued, "Your enthusiasm and grace during the meal seemed to reflect an earlier and far friendlier time in our history and seemed totally appropriate for the present. Our guests were from out of town and told us after dinner that of all the delightful things they experienced during their visit to Williamsburg, they were certain they would remember your pleasant and cheerful person the most."

*Bessie Natsios of Lowell, Massachusetts, wrote, "I am very impressed by the cleanliness of Williamsburg. Congratulations to those responsible for the upkeep of the historic area—a job well done!"



The members of the **Facilities and Property Management** team are to be commended for their hard work. It shows!



Welcome aboard!

Dennis Montgomery, an

historical writer and long-time journalist, joined Colonial Williamsburg as senior staff writer in the Communications Department June 3.

A reporter and editor for two decades, Dennis is at work on two books about early Jamestown, one detailing the hardships of the Virginia colony's first 18 years, the other a biography of planter John Martin.

Born in Norfolk, Dennis is a 1968 journalism and sociology graduate of Memphis State University and a 1976 recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Professional Journalism Fellowship. From 1985 to 1989 he was the Associated Press bureau chief in Richmond.

"We are most fortunate to attract someone with Dennis' writing ability and proven experience in a variety of media," said Norman Beatty, vice president of Communications and Government Relations.

Carter's Grove archaeology museum opens June 27

We are now in the final month of work to complete the Winthrop Rockefeller Archaeology Museum at Carter's Grove. The 7,000-square foot underground museum will open to visitors Thursday, June 27.

Employees can tour the museum at a special employee open house 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, or during the *community open house* 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, June 26. In addition, tours for public contact personnel are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 25 and 26.

"Discovering Martin's Hundred" is the name of the museum's permanent exhibit. Curated by retired CW archaeologist Ivor Noël Hume, the exhibit mixes the 1619-1622 history of Martin's Hundred and its principal settlement, Wolstenholme Towne, with the story of the lost town's discovery through archaeology in the 1970s.

The displays include the first intact face-covering helmets found in North America, fragments of pottery and iron, detailed models, reconstructive paintings and museum-quality antiques that show what the archaeological finds looked like when whole.

We will have more information on the Winthrop Rockefeller Archaeology Museum in the late-June issues of the *Extra*.

What's happening

- ✓ **Nimble Thimbles, Mondays, 5:30-7 p.m., Motor House Caucus Room. For information call Brenda Pruitt at ext. 7658.**
- ✓ **Fencing, Tuesdays, 5:45 p.m. in the PTB.**
- ✓ **Town Criers Toastmasters, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, noon, PTB.**
- ✓ **Volleyball, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6-8 p.m., Franklin Street Sand Courts.**
- ✓ **Lecture, "The Americanization of Virtues: Middle Class Society and the Achievement of Justice," Wednesday, June 12 at 4 p.m., Wallace Gallery.**
- ✓ **Products Division Employee Scratch & Dent Sale, 5-8:30 p.m., Thursday, June 20, Commonwealth Hall.**
- ✓ **Employee Family Picnic, Saturday, June 22, noon to 4 p.m., Bassett Hall.**
- ✓ **Winthrop Rockefeller Archaeology Museum Employee Open House, Tuesday, June 25, from 5 to 8 p.m.**



Follow the Yellow Brick Road! CW Chorus presents music from the *Wizard of Oz* to children at Matthew Whaley School. Shown left to right are Elaine VonCannon, parts clerk at Automotive Services; Ethel Coles, musical consultant; Tim Edwards, foreman of Millwork Shop; and John Greenman, character interpreter who plays Benjamin Waller at the Courthouse. Not shown are accompanist Heather Hamsher, historic interpreter; and Ken Ritter, visitor aide. The Chorus is currently taking a summer break, but will begin again in the fall.

Six *Phantom of the Opera* tickets still available

Take a day for a wonderful play! Join the *Phantom of the Opera* bus trip to the Kennedy Center September 18.

The bus to Washington leaves at 8 a.m. You can have lunch on your own at Union Station, then see the 2 p.m. matinee. (It lasts approximately two and a half hours.) The group will have a light dinner at Clydes (choice of chicken breast, cheeseburger, or chef salad) and arrive back in Williamsburg about 9:30 p.m.

All of this for only \$95 (\$50 down payment due June 13). Only six tickets are left. Confirmation is based on first pay, first go. If you have any questions, please call Virginia Cooke at ext. 7068 or Sue Houser at ext. 7029 #2.

Learn 18th-century dance

Employees and spouses are invited to learn 18th-century country dances at a series of ten dance classes held at the Fife and Drum Building 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays, June 17 through August 19.

The classes promise great fun, exercise, and an opportunity to meet people. Registration is requested, but the only requirements are tennis or aerobic shoes. For more information, contact Kathy Baker at ext. 2337.

Golf memberships available

All full-time, regular CWF or CWHPI employees are eligible to pay for individual golf memberships to the Golden Horseshoe and Spotswood golf courses through payroll deduction. A percentage of the membership rate is required for a down payment, and the remainder of the fee is paid through payroll deduction. Current Golden Horseshoe fees are \$700 for the year. Spotswood fees are \$350 for the year. For applications and further information, please call ext. 3120.

Beat the heat

As summer temperatures soar, why not cool off in the air-conditioned comfort of the Tazewell Club Fitness Center. Exercise in a refreshing atmosphere and firm up at the same time. The indoor pool is a great deterrent to skin problems caused by the sun. A limited number of regular and mid-day memberships are available. Call ext. 7479 for tours and information.

Do you know your COBRA rights?

Do you know you or your dependents can lose group health benefits if:

- you leave Colonial Williamsburg voluntarily or involuntarily, including retirement;
- you become a casual employee;
- you become legally separated or divorced;
- your dependent child is no longer dependent on you for support; or
- you die?

COBRA, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, allows you to continue your health coverage in all cases (except for termination because of gross misconduct).

You can continue your health coverage by transferring your health insurance to a non-group plan with your current insurer (either Blue Cross and Blue Shield or Sentara, depending upon your coverage).

You also can continue your health coverage by staying in the group plan and paying the full cost of the insurance PLUS a 2% administrative fee. The cost of this option is more than you have been paying because Colonial Williamsburg contributes more than 60% toward group insurance premiums.

You have several responsibilities to ensure that COBRA laws are met in a timely way.

- If you become legally separated or divorced, or if one of your dependents is no longer a dependent, you should immediately contact benefits coordinator Mildred Wiley at ext. 7026.

- If you leave Colonial Williamsburg or become a casual employee, your supervisor must send a completed Automatic Turnaround Document (ATD) to the Records Center (FSO 137) within one day of the change.

Once informed of these events, the benefits coordinator will notify you about how you may continue your health benefits.

COBRA is the law. Colonial Williamsburg is committed to ensuring that you and your dependents are provided the continued coverage to which you are entitled. The Compensation and Benefits department asks that employees and managers promptly call Mildred Wiley at ext. 7026 when any event occurs that entitles an employee to COBRA coverage.

The *Extra* is published weekly by the Communications Department. Deadlines are 5 p.m. every Tuesday. Call Sally Riley, ext. 7968, for assistance. Send announcements via interoffice mail to *CW News Extra*, GBO. Or, FAX them to Sally Riley, ext. 7702.