

Buckingham

Beacon

December 28, 2018 - January 31, 2019 One Copy FREE • Like Us on 

BUCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Happy New Year



Meet Tom Grasso

Activity Director at Heritage Hall

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Holiday Family Fun Night
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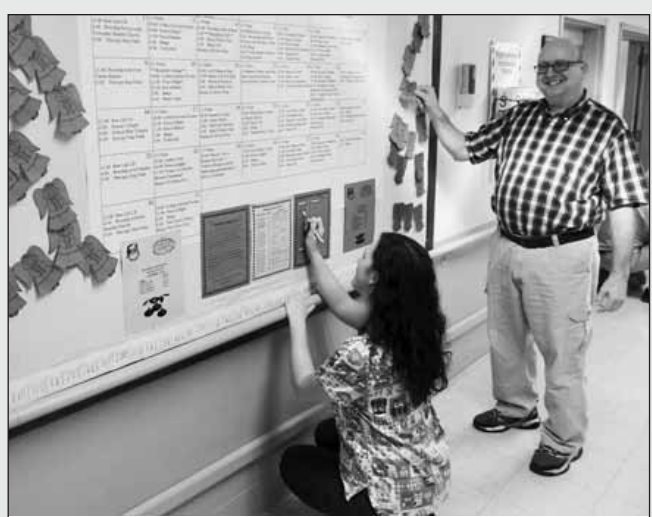
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Buckingham Beacon

A monthly publication



The monthly activities are always posted in the main hall of Heritage Hall for both residents and their families. December's calendar not only involved Christmas activities, complete with a visit from Santa, but also a Secret Santa party where residents were showered with gifts from staff and friends. Tom Grasso is shown with CNA Jennifer Presho reviewing the month's activities. Photo by Sue A. Miles.

Cover designed by Marilyn Ellinger

Publisher

C.M. Santos
valleyeditor1@gmail.com

Office Manager

Edee Povol
edee@fluvannareview.com

Advertising Director

Judi Price
judi.valleypublishing@gmail.com

Graphic Designer

Marilyn Ellinger

Writers

Martha Louis
Sue Miles
Joanne Yeck

Contributors

Thomas Jordon Miles, III

E-mail: valleyeditor1@gmail.com

Mailing address: P.O. Box 59,
Palmyra, VA 22963

Office location: 106 Crofton Plaza,
Suite 1, Palmyra VA 22963.

Phone: (434) 591-1000

Fax: (434) 589-1704

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Correction



John Griffin served in the Merchant Marines in both the Mediterranean and Pacific from 1943-1946.

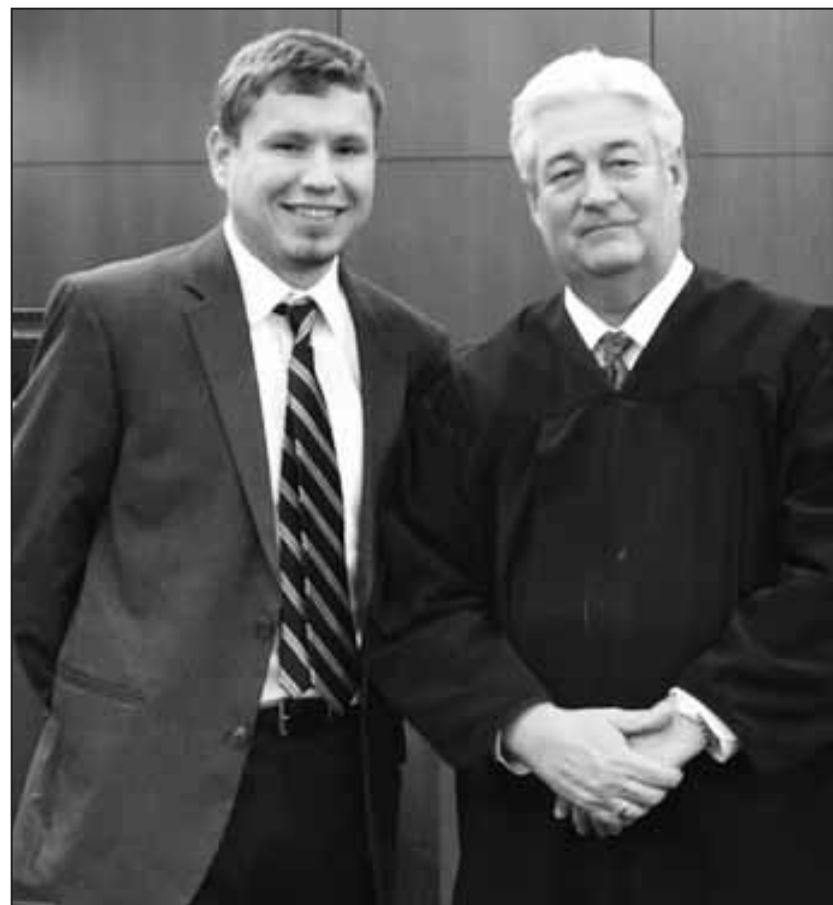


John Griffin a member of the Greatest Generation of World War II. Photo by Sue A. Miles

World War II veteran John Griffin's name was misspelled in last month's edition. We regret the error.

Justin Midkiff: Youngest Clerk in the Commonwealth

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent



The Honorable Donald C. Blessing, of the 10th Judicial Court, is shown with the newly sworn in Clerk of the Circuit Court Justin Midkiff. Midkiff is a graduate of Buckingham County High School and the University of Virginia and the son of Dale and Kathy Midkiff. According to the president of the clerks association, Midkiff, at the age of 26, is currently the youngest clerk in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Photo Provided by Justin Midkiff.

Chamber continues to grow and flourish

Contributed by Jordan Miles, a director on the chamber board

Like the many small and large businesses in our county and region, the Buckingham Chamber of Commerce has been buzzing with energy and momentum — all in the name of strengthening businesses.

The chamber of commerce looks very different from when first formed as the Buckingham Business Boosters in the 1970s. We've come a long way, but our mission has not changed, and that is to connect, encourage and grow business in Buckingham County.

The chamber currently has more than 150 members, and we're continually growing. Chamber membership includes promotion, discounts, networking, education, advocacy, and learning.

The chamber has been working hard to not only promote Buckingham and our members businesses and what they have to offer, but to bring more people to Buckingham and to allow those who live here opportunities to better enjoy their community.

This has come in many forms over the years. Most recently, we began our "Chamber Business of the Month," where the chamber selects a member business each month, promoting that business on social media throughout the chamber and community. Often times, the selected business will offer a discount on services or goods when consumers mention "the chamber special."

We host monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at the VFW Hall on Route 60 in Buckingham, where we gather, enjoy a meal, and talk business in an informal manner. We have a speaker each month who talks about their business or an event in the community.

There's much more. We held our annual Christmas House Tour on Sunday, Dec. 16, which featured five homes in the county decked with Christmas trimmings, bows and ribbons, along with the newly dedicated Adams Museum on Route 60 behind the Housewright House. It's a great way to get into the holiday spirit and get a look in many beautiful homes.

Monthly, we bestow our Community Pride Award to a business in the county, rewarding them for keeping their business tidy, neat and clean, while offering great services to customers. Our most recent award winners are Buckingham Branch Rail Road, Special Touch Florist & Gifts, and Nancy's Gift Shop.

We facilitate the publication of the annual Guide Book, one that includes telephone numbers, contact info for election and appointed officials, stories of local



Jordan Miles.

The chamber currently has more than 150 members, and we're continually growing. Chamber membership includes promotion, discounts, networking, education, advocacy, and learning.

interest, and discounted advertising for chamber members.

We've also contributed financially to clubs and organizations in the county that involve our youth, including teams in the Buckingham County Youth League.

We recognize the hard work of those in our community through our annual awards banquet, which will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 15. We're accepting nominations for Lifetime Achievement Award, Volunteer of the Year, Business of the Year, and Youth Achievement Award.

Most recently, we agreed to take ownership of the four "Welcome to Buckingham" signs located on Routes 60 and 15, which feature logos representing Buckingham's civic groups. We have already formed great partnerships to continue to promote our hard-working volunteer organizations.

Here's the best part — for only \$35 a year, you can be a part of this thriving and growing chamber in the rural Heart of Virginia, attending our monthly meetings and networking with other business owners, serving on committees, receiving chamber discounts, and supporting other businesses in the chamber — many of which lie outside Buckingham County.

For more information on the chamber, becoming a member, or any of these programs and events, give us a call at 434-983-2372 or email us at info@buckingham-chamberofcommerce.com.

Jordan Miles is a member of the board of directors of the Buckingham Chamber of Commerce, where he also serves as chairman of the community pride award committee. His email address is thomas.jordan.miles@gmail.com.

BUCKINGHAM FOOD PANTRY CALENDAR

BLUE RIDGE FOOD TRUCK

The truck will be at Crystal Cathedral on the following days:

Blue Ridge Food Truck will come January: Jan. 11th and 25th (2nd and 4th Friday's)

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One of the favorite activities at Heritage Hall is bingo. "They take it seriously," said Grasso. Shown with Grasso is Helen Campbell and Alfred Anderson. All photos by Sue Miles.

Tom Grasso's Vital Role at Heritage Hall

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

Consider how much fun it would be to have someone in your life in charge of entertaining you with activities, games, music, decorations, and fun things to do. Many families might call that person "mother". The residents of the Heritage Hall, American Health Care facility in Dillwyn call that person, Tom Grasso. Grasso has been the Center's activity director for the past four years. His role is vital in the health, happiness, and well-being of anyone who resides there, whether it be for a short rehabilitation visit or for a long-term stay.

Grasso, who is originally from Galveston, Texas, was brought to Buckingham by his wife of 27 years, Tammy, who is a nurse at Heritage Hall. "We attended the same college in South Carolina," he said. Grasso started at Heritage in the house-keeping department before taking on his current position.

And, quite a position it is when you consider the impact he has on the residents. "My most basic goal," said Grasso, "is to give them a better quality of life. To try to make things better for them." He also sees his role as one to not only entertain the residents but to also make them feel needed.

"They say every person has the need to feel needed and wanted," said Grasso. "I want to help the residents feel that they are not here just because they are out-casts, because they are older, but that they are still living. I want to make them feel that they are part of a community and family. I try to be like a nice 'brother' or 'son'. I'm here for them, this is their home."

That spirit of giving and love is reflected in everything that Grasso does in his role as activity director. That would be best reflected in the holiday decorations that were on display throughout Heritage Hall during the Christmas season. "December is a big month for activities," said Grasso. "We have an Angel Tree so that family, staff, organizations, and visitors can adopt a resident for the holiday." The climax of the season is a big Christmas party (this year on December 20th) with Christmas music, singing, activities, food, and a special visit by Santa. The event is known to get quite lively.

However, Christmas is only one opportunity to shower the residents with love



Many of the Christmas supplies are shown in their containers, waiting to be part of the celebration of the holiday season.



Grasso is shown in his office surrounded by decorations and accretments that he uses throughout the various seasons of the year for the residents of Heritage Hall. His goal is to provide activities and events that make each day fun and enriching.

and attention. Every month starts out with a big birthday party for anyone born in that time period. If you should visit during February the halls and dining room will be full of red hearts and other decorations, along with the crowning of a Valentines' King and Queen and

a candlelight dinner on Feb. 14. March sees the residents celebrating Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day. April is Volunteer Appreciation Month while May brings in American flags as Memorial Day is celebrated, along with

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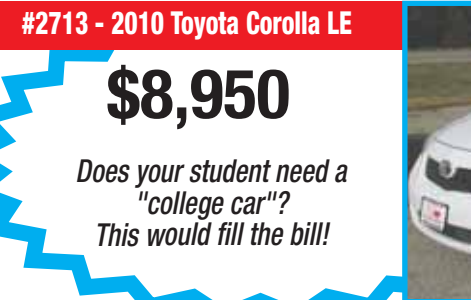
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Ribbon cutting held for C&K Sheds



C&K Sheds and Carports, located at Sprouse's Corner in Dillwyn, along with the Buckingham Chamber of Commerce, held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, Dec. 7. Along with Chamber leadership and members, Anna McClung, C&K owner and operator, was on hand for the event. "The chamber is proud to welcome this new business to Buckingham," said Chamber President Eddie Slagle. "We encourage our residents and those who work here to shop local and check out what C&K has to offer." Pictured are, from left, Faye Shumaker, DuVal Shumaker, Sandra Moss, Jewel Harris, Eddie Slagle, Marie Slagle, Jordan Miles, Anna McClung, Watson Frazier, Adam Reams, Chloe Cunningham, Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, Kendall Arthur, Mary Ann McClung, and Mark McClung.

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Director from page 5

activities for National Skilled Nursing Care Week. Summer months bring in July 4th activities, along with the annual end-of-summer cookout.

October's Halloween is a big event in Heritage Hall as trick-a-treaters are invited in. "We had over 300 children come in last year," said Grasso. In order to provide candy for the residents to hand out, Grasso looks for donations from staff, families, and others. Thanksgiving is also a special time as residents invite family and friends in for a delicious turkey dinner.

All that activity would seem to satisfy the average person. But, there's more. Throughout the month Grasso has a regular series of activities taking place; movies (every Tuesday), ice cream socials, soda floats, cook and cocoa socials (in the winter months), Happy Hour (with non-alcoholic drinks), cheese and cracker socials, a men's poker club (which meets every week), and bingo three times a week. "They love bingo," said Grasso. "They take it very seriously."

Along with these activities Grasso is responsible for working with the many community volunteers who come to the facility. "We have a devoted group of people in the community to help us out," he said. Along with therapy dog visits, the students of the Central Virginia Christian School visit once a month to sing and the Country Cutups (Nancy and Clayton Faxon) perform monthly. You will likely also see a karaoke performance on the 2nd and 4th Friday with Grasso and volunteer, Thelma Horne Bennett. There are also a number of community churches who

come in on a regular basis to visit, sing or provide a Bible service for the residents. "It's a very busy place if you consider all of the activities," said Grasso.

When considering his role in the lives of the residents, Grasso become reflective. "I'm here for them," he said. "This is their home and we are here as their guests whether they officially invited us or not. It's important to gain their trust. Some give it easily, others you have to earn it. Once you get it, it's a pretty strong bond. My goal is to not break that trust."

Over the past four years Grasso says that he's had moments that he knew he was making an impact. "We have a resident who has physical and mental issues and you couldn't get a lot of words out of him. Sometimes he sits and doesn't have a lot of reaction to the activities. But if you put on the right music, he will start dancing in his chair, his face will light up, and he'll sing. When I first saw that, I said wow." Grasso said that he enjoys his work. "The job, being that my focus is on the residents, is a joyful thing. To know like I make a difference in their lives makes me feel like I'm doing something right."

As the season ends, we'd like to salute Tom Grasso for his energy and dedication as the activity director of Heritage Hall. How wonderful to have such a person who makes each day, and every week, month, and season special and fun. He's obviously a welcome guest for the residents of Heritage Hall, who benefit from his presence on a daily basis.

The Habitat House

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

Even a cold December Saturday afternoon would not stop a Habitat ground-breaking. Doreen Jones (center) is shown with a dedicated group from Farmville Habitat for Humanity/ Buckingham Build who, with Jones' help, will complete the Habitat's fifth house to be built in Buckingham. Along with Doreen are Habitat volunteers (left to right) Bill Kemp, Brooke Rogers (Jones' Habitat volunteer Advocate), Donna McRae-Jones, and construction supervisor Ralph Dunnivant. Habitat hopes to have the house completed by spring and welcomes volunteers to join in the effort with jobs such as: clean up, assisting with crew meals, providing transportation for other volunteers, or assisting with the actual building of the home.

For more information go to www.farmvillehabitat.org or contact Habitat in Farmville at 434-394-300. In Buckingham you can call Donna McRae-Jones at 703-405-0093.



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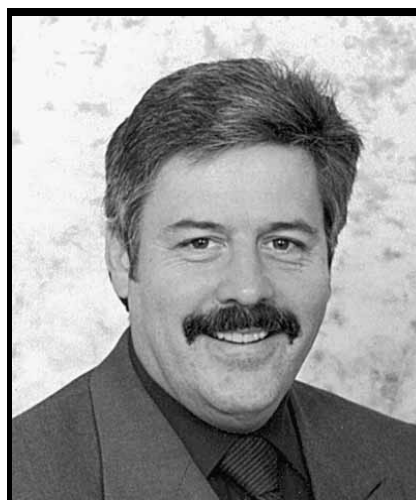
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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tavern on the James
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Mon. Dec 31: New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball, featuring The Bennie Dodd Band; 8:30 p.m.-1:00 a.m.



County Christian Fellowship plans trip

Something exciting is going to happen in 2019. The Buckingham County Christian Fellowship Association, a non-profit organization, is sponsoring a 3 day 2 night trip to Lancaster Pennsylvania on Tuesday, April 2nd through Thursday, April 4th.

The trip includes a round trip motor coach transportation, two nights lodging, two deluxe continental breakfasts, two dinners, a 2-hour farmland tour, time for shopping and the show "Jesus", at sight and sound Theater.

For pricing and pick up points contact President Barry Miles at 804-492-5806 or 434-315-4181 on or before March 1st.

Dillwyn Garden Club Receives Gift

The Buckingham County Arts Council received a special gift from the Buckingham Dillwyn Garden Club when club members gathered to decorate the building for the annual community open house. The Garden Club members, recently celebrating their 85th anniversary, participate in a variety of activities to not only enhance their gardening skills and knowledge but also to beautify the county. Informative meetings on butterfly gardens, bee keeping, floral design, and informative field trips are just an example of what they do. They also support 4-H scholarships and donate children's books to the library as well as have a plant sale at Mayfest. The club meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Arts



Shown left to right are: Jackie Fairbarns, Agnes Cramer, Pat Johnson, Peggy Reed, Glenda Harris, Barbara Knabe, Sharon Byrum, and Suzanne Vandegrift. Marie Flowers (left, front) is with Rusty. Kay Carter is amongst the greenery in front. Photo by Sue Miles

Counsel. After taking a short winter break the Club will start meeting again in March. Anyone wishing to join the Garden Club (and, yes, there are men who are members) can contact Glenda Harris at **983-7673**.

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MONDAYS 5:00-7:00pm Teen craft activity – (supplies available from front desk)

TUESDAYS 10:30 am – Preschool STORY TIME

WEDNESDAY 11:00am Computer classes

FRIDAY Noon – Family friendly Movies



2nd SATURDAY of each month – family activity and movie
January 12 – Snow Days – Create a snow painting, make snow slime and learn how snow is made. The movie FROZEN at 10:00am and 2:00pm.
February 9- Valentine fun and games. Make a card and a special gift !

The Buckingham Triad meets second Thursday of every month at 1:30pm at the Buckingham VFW building off of Route 60. Triad is based upon the partnership between the Office of the Attorney General, police chiefs, sheriffs, older Virginians, and senior service providers. Triad provides a forum to exchange information and forge community solutions that combat crime through education and prevention. “ In a nutshell, “reducing crime against the elderly”



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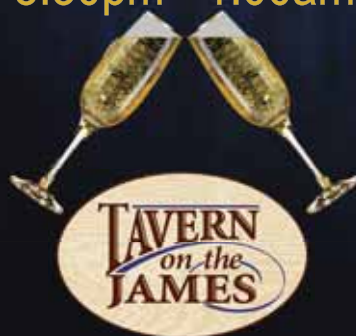
Our 30th edition Calendars for sale will be available at Dillwyn Pharmacy, Nancy's Gifts, Historic Village, Housewright and Adams Museums, Roger Hill Ins., and The Spa of Buckingham. They are only \$6 and make great New Year's gifts.

New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball

Fifth Annual

December 31, 2018

8:30pm - 1:00am



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Felicia Myles - Wheel of Fortune

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

Likely a first for Buckingham county, Felicia Spradley Myles of Dillwyn was recently on Wheel of Fortune. The Beacon asked Felicia to share her experience in her own words. You'll feel her excitement as she takes you through the process she went through to be on the show.

"I have been watching Wheel of Fortune for 35 years, since I was nine. I am a HUGE fan! I usually solve the puzzle with just a few letters up there. My family has always said maybe one day I could get on the show.

I have been a Wheel Watcher's Club Member since 2004 and was one of the first 1,352 members to join. They have millions of Club Members now. I was distraught back in 2004 when I was watching an old show and saw my Spin ID on that screen and I missed out on a trip. Ever since that day I didn't miss another. If I am not home I DVR it and watch it later.

Wheel sends me emails all the time about being a contestant and sending in a video and filling out an application. Earlier this year I decided to send in a video and application. The video had to be under one minute. You tell why you should be on Wheel of Fortune and something interesting about yourself. I sent in a 30-45 second video explaining how I used to watch Wheel when I was little. Back then when you won you had to shop out your prize money. They had price tags on different items and the contestants would pick the items out they wanted to buy. I used to put price tags on my grandmother's furniture and when I solved, I would pick out the furniture I wanted to buy in her living room. I also told them how I solved really quickly and I was a diehard Dallas Cowboys fan. I let them know I had a hidden talent...that I can beat box really good!

I truly had forgotten about sending in the video! Then around the second of August I received an email asking me to come audition in Washington DC. I was initially shocked, then excited, then nervous! When I arrived in DC there were about 40 others who had been invited. Once inside we were told there would be three rounds. We would be solving puzzles, taking a timed written quiz, and then IF you were chosen from the first two rounds you would stay to solve more puzzles. They told us they were looking for people who were energetic, enunciated words, were quick thinkers and knew how to block out distractions and concentrate. They would spin a little wheel and we played until we solved or lost. I was SO happy I solved a puzzle and received a Wheel of Fortune bag as my prize. We had a little break and came back for the timed test. They only kept 12 people...I was in the 12! We had several rounds of puzzle solving. We were told that in exactly 14 days we would receive a letter letting us know if we were chosen as a contestant. That if you received a letter you would typically tape within 18 months. They were very adamant that it took exactly 14 days to receive a letter. I told my husband this is going to be the longest 14 days of my life.

Four days later I received an email from the Wheel of Fortune contestant department asking me to come out to Los Angeles, California in three weeks to tape The Thanksgiving Theme Week shows! NO WAY..I thought! They said they really wanted me! They told me if I couldn't make that tape date they would notify me later of another date. I was so scared that I wouldn't get another date so I emailed them and accepted the tape date! They explained that they were not responsible for any fees associated with contestants coming to tape. You were responsible for your own airfare, hotel, meals, transportation from the studio after taping, and any other fees. That's why they tell you the tape date might not work because you have a two-week window and everyone isn't financially able to go in that time span. I wasn't prepared either, but it was a once in a lifetime experience! I had to make it happen!

My husband, McKinley, went with me. They wanted us in LA the day before the tape date because you had to be in the studio at 7:45 AM. We arrived on September 13, 2018.

The next morning at 7:35 a black Mercedes van picked me up outside my hotel. When we arrived, we were greeted by the Contestant Department Staff and we cleared security. There were 16 of us; 15 for the five shows and one extra in case of emergencies. We were taken into a no cell phone zone room and in that room all of our Wheel of Fortune dreams started coming true. They had breakfast and snacks in the room for us and a refrigerator full of drinks. We had a schedule for the day and the very first thing on the schedule was the legal formalities. The contestants are given an attorney and you have to sign about 25 pages of legal documents and non-disclosure agreements. People say how could you not tell anyone and keep it a secret! I said I signed all those legal documents, that was enough to silence anyone! We were told we were not to give any details about anything that happened that day, not even a tape date until they released the photo two weeks before the air date!

While in with our attorney, we had a guest....VANNA WHITE!!! She came in and talked to us, to make us feel welcome. She came in before she did her hair and makeup. So we got to see the REAL Vanna! After she left, and we finished with our attorney it was time for hair, makeup, and practicing for our local TV promos. We then practiced our promos for our local stations. I did a promo for WRIC TV 8 Richmond.

The next thing was the studio tour, spinning the wheel, and height adjustments. We then were split into five teams. I was team leader. We had to draw numbers to decide which date we would tape for and then draw to see in which order we go. I reached in and pulled out five which meant my team was taping for the Friday, November 23 show. We then had to do practice rounds. We had to spin, do toss-ups, try to solve. My group was really good, it was hard trying to win with those two!

The actual taping started at noon. Our families were in a section to themselves in the studio audience. After the contestants taped their shows they are allowed to



After years of being one of the Wheel's biggest fans, Felicia Myles was invited to be a contestant on the program. Although she did not win the big bucks, she came back riding on cloud nine for having had the experience. Photo Credit: Carol Kaelson

stay for the rest of the tapings.

We met Pat Sajak before the tapings started. After each round when the TV audience sees commercials, the contestants come down, have makeup redone, are told how we are doing, are reminded about the upcoming rounds and about what is expected from them. It takes about 22 minutes to tape a show. Pat and Vanna go change clothes in between each taping, Vanna comes back out and engages with the audience. She answers questions and will even take pictures with people for their birthday. After you finish taping, you go upstairs to get your tax information straight. They tell you before you even accept the invite that you will not receive prizes until 120 days after the show airs. You then collect your belongings and are escorted out of the studio. I was amazed at how nice everyone at that studio was. Not just to us but to each other! They were so welcoming and excited for us. I was really shocked by how small the wheel is! TV makes it look huge, it's not!! My best memory of being on the show is just the simple fact that out of tens of thousands of people who tryout each year only 600 are chosen each year and I was one in that 600!!!

On November 9th I received the photo from Wheel of Fortune and was given permission to tell everyone!! I was disappointed because my show did not air on TV 8 because of the Virginia versus Tech game! Some people saw me on Channel 29 but most saw the YouTube video I sent out. Channel 8 and Wheel of Fortune are trying to see when they can air it so my family and friends can watch me on ABC! Stay tuned...

If you didn't get a chance to see Felicia on November 23 you can go to YouTube and see the show. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qb0qTpsEUWk or search their website with Felicia Myles Wheel of Fortune.

• • •



On The Move With Joanne Yeck

Joanne Yeck has been fascinated with Buckingham County for over twenty years. Since late 2012, she has shared her collection of Buckingham facts and photos on her blog, "Slate River Ramblings" (slateriverramblings.com). Her newest history, *Peter Field Jefferson: Dark Prince of Scottsville & Lost Jeffersons*, is now available locally and online (braughlerbooks.com).



Buckingham Houses: Mt. Rush Mt. Rush. Sketch by Margaret Pennington. Courtesy Historic Buckingham.

In 1938, Elizabeth McCraw surveyed the "Mt. Rush Homestead" for the Virginia Historical Inventory. Located 3.6 miles west of Buckingham Court House, she dated the house's construction to 1804, tracing the ownership back to John Morris and noting that the estate was contested in court for many years in a suit called "Vawter vs Morris." She described the impressive and well-maintained house and grounds as follows:

The approach to this "large white house" is very pleasing. A driveway from Route #60 leads across the yard and makes a semi-circle in front of the house. The yard is rolling and contains shade trees and much shrubbery. A double porch with four columns and railing is noticeable even from the highway. Through plain double doors, one enters a large reception hall. From this hall a two flight stairway leads to the second floor. There are three large rooms back of this hall, and one large room on each side of the said hall. The mantles in the house are very high, narrow and plain, except for the "Wall of Troy" design just below the shelf part. Around the fireplace the mantle is curved or has the half moon effect, not square as is often found.

Wainscoting made of two very wide planks are put together so well as to give the appearance of one solid board, is down stairs, while the chair rail is in the rooms on the second floor. The door frames are made in one piece, but beveled down to three thicknesses. The rooms on the first floor are high-pitched while those upstairs are rather low. Some of the original plastering is still on the walls, but to a great extent the walls have been replastered. There are ten rooms in the house.

When Elizabeth McCraw surveyed Mt. Rush for the Virginia Historical Inventory, she included a lengthy statement under "Historical Significance," writing:

This house, "Mt. Rush", was built in 1804 and was remodeled in 1904. The architectural lines of the front of the house were changed somewhat, when the wings were raised a half story, thus making the entire house two stories. The double front porch is the original and a great deal of the original beaded weatherboarding was saved and is in perfect condition. The original stairways, one in each wing, (the wings were not communicative) were taken down and made into one stairway in the front hall.

The original owner and builder, a Mr. John Morris, name the place "Mt. Rush," Rush for a very close friend by that name, and Mt. because of the elevation or hill on which the house was built.

After the death or removal of the Morris family, "Mt. Rush" was a bone of contention for years, in a suit, "Vawter vs Morris." In 1899, A. S. Hall was appointed Special Commissioner to settle up the estate and in 1902 the place was sold at public auction to R. S. Ellis, the highest bidder, for sixteen hundred and seventy dollars. The land was sold in gross and not by the acre, though the track was supposed to contain about 500 acres.

R. S. Ellis restored the house where it could be restored and remodeled for convenience at the same time. The house is now beautifully kept and is an outstanding home in Buckingham.

Due to the burning of Buckingham County's courthouse records, in 1938, Elizabeth McCraw had to reconstruct the story of Mt. Rush without benefit of a complete deed history. Today, it is believed that Dr. James Walker built the house, which was bequeathed to his half-brother, Richard "Dick" Holland, Jr., before it was purchased by John Morris.

History is always a work in progress and, though there were errors (and perhaps hearsay) in Mrs. McCraw's survey, it was a valuable step on the way to preserving what was known in the 1930s about Mt. Rush.

Buckingham Notables: Dr. James Walker

Dr. James Walker, of Mt. Rush, was a forward-thinking doctor, inoculating citizens of Buckingham County against smallpox as early as 1801. According to John Jones, "Walker's medical practice was apparently centered near Walker's Church, which is now in Appomattox Co." Another Slate River Ramblings reader, Steve Craig wrote to me extensively about the doctor, explaining that Dr. James Walker never married and died about 1814 (the last year that he paid tax on his 400-acre tract in Buckingham County, located four miles west of the courthouse). Through 1830, Mt. Rush was described in the tax records as "Dr. Walker's former residence."

Walker was the son of Maj. Henry Walker and Martha Jones, who subsequently married Capt. Dick Holland, and gave birth to Walker's half-brother, Richard "Dick" Holland, Jr. Steve Craig went on to note that the land was willed to Richard "Dick" Holland, Jr., who died in 1819. John Morris, who married Richard Holands's sister, Nancy, then purchased the tract. In 1846, the farm was described as Mt. Rush. The house, now owned by the Ellis family, is believed to have been built in 1804 and, apparently, was originally Dr. Walker's home.

John and Nancy (Holland) Morris are Steven Craig's 4x great-grandparents and the subject of his book, *Along the Willis River: Descendants of Nathaniel & Nancy (Jeffries) Morris*, which is for sale by Historic Buckingham.

Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 "The Alienist" author
- 5 Hang down
- 10 Box-office bomb
- 14 Orchestral reed
- 15 North Carolina's _____ Banks
- 16 Greet the judge
- 17 Paper purchase
- 18 City served by The Daily Planet
- 20 Classic Cadillac
- 22 Pig's innards
- 23 Floral necklace
- 24 Date-night hirees
- 25 Hollywood Foreign Press awards
- 30 Bay window
- 31 Maid Marian's man
- 32 Barbecue bit
- 35 Actress Tuesday

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56					57				58			
59					60				61			

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- 36 Question
- 37 Foal's mother
- 38 "___ a chance!"
- 39 Lethal loop
- 40 Kind of roll
- 41 Bright side
- 43 Mayor in Madrid
- 46 Irish rebel group
- 47 "Death of a Salesman" writer
- 48 Texas nickname
- 53 Modest
- 55 Bit of filming
- 56 Blood fluids
- 57 Chop finely
- 58 Rainbow goddess
- 59 Paleozoic and Mesozoic
- 60 Look of disdain
- 61 Small price to pay
- 12 Basket willow
- 13 Annoyances
- 19 Communion plate
- 21 Casting need
- 24 Lamenting one
- 25 Prom purchase
- 26 Cookie with Peeps and Peppermint varieties
- 27 Cheerful tune
- 28 Disco favorite, "Shake Your _____ Thing"
- 29 No-good sort
- 32 Indian princess
- 33 Hotel amenity
- 34 Floating ice mass
- 36 Low spirits
- 37 Like some religious orders
- 39 Frasier's brother
- 40 Bring on board
- 41 Cantina dips
- 42 Hang around
- 43 Give the giggles
- 44 Eyelid cosmetic
- 45 Red Cross founder Barton
- 48 Cash biopic "Walk the _____"
- 49 Grimm beginning
- 50 Scale deduction
- 51 Comparable (to)
- 52 Medical advice, often
- 54 Time div.



Sarah Haines displays her crocheted hats and shawls. All photos by Martha Louis



Brenda Spencer displays her photography.

Village Christmas Market a Big Success!

By Martha Louis
Correspondent

Even with the threat of snow on the weekend, Saturday, Dec. 8th, was just about a perfect day. The warm sun shone on beautiful arts and crafts displays like leather work, hats and scarves, monogrammed items, wreaths, handmade candy, signs, and more displayed outside on the village lanes. Inside all 3 buildings were tables of jewelry, Amish baked goods, ornaments, wood turnings, and more. Attendees were invited to enjoy the beautiful period decorations of fresh greenery and fruit while listening to live Christmas carols, and eating homemade chili and BBQ.



December Snowfall

A record snowfall of one foot or more has fallen in Buckingham so far this December. Photo by Martha Louis



Desiree Butwin and Rachel Allen display their soaps, lotions, and monogrammed wares.



Beautiful work by Master Gardener Bunny Snoddy and her assistant Grace Barlow over the Slate office door.



Shown with Santa is five year old Emoni Holman (left), who asked for a bouncie ball, a Jojo Siwa doll and a make-up kit, and four year old Alyssa Madden, who asked for a Barbie gym house and BB dolls. Photo by Sue Miles

Holiday Family Fun Night

By Sue Miles
Correspondent

Over 240 students and their families came to the sixth annual Holiday Family Fun Night at Buckingham Pre-School. Along with a visit from Santa, participants were served refreshments and made ornaments, and also a jingle bell necklace.

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Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from page 11

C	A	R	R	D	R	O	O	P	F	L	O	P	
O	B	O	E	O	U	T	E	R	R	I	S	E	
R	E	A	M	M	E	T	R	O	P	O	L	I	S
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N	O	T	N	O	O	S	E	H	O	N	O	R	
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S	E	R	A	M	I	N	C	E	I	R	I	S	
E	R	A	S	S	N	E	E	R	C	E	N	T	



The library staff with Santa - L to R Seated Stephanie Hatfield, Amy White, Santa Claus, Rick Ewing. Standing L to R: Megan Almond, Morgan Hayes, Grace Barlow, Brenda Hackett. All photos by Martha Louis

Polar Express Big Success


By Martha Louis
Correspondent

Over 50 children came to ride the train The Polar Express (aka Buckingham Branch Railroad) and listen to The Polar Express read by Joyce Barton, 2nd grade teacher . After the train ride, the children crossed the street to the library and were treated to hot chocolate and cookies and were able to produce some wonderful Christmas crafts. There is no charge for this memorable event but there is a limit to the number of tickets. The event is sponsored by Central Virginia Regional Library.

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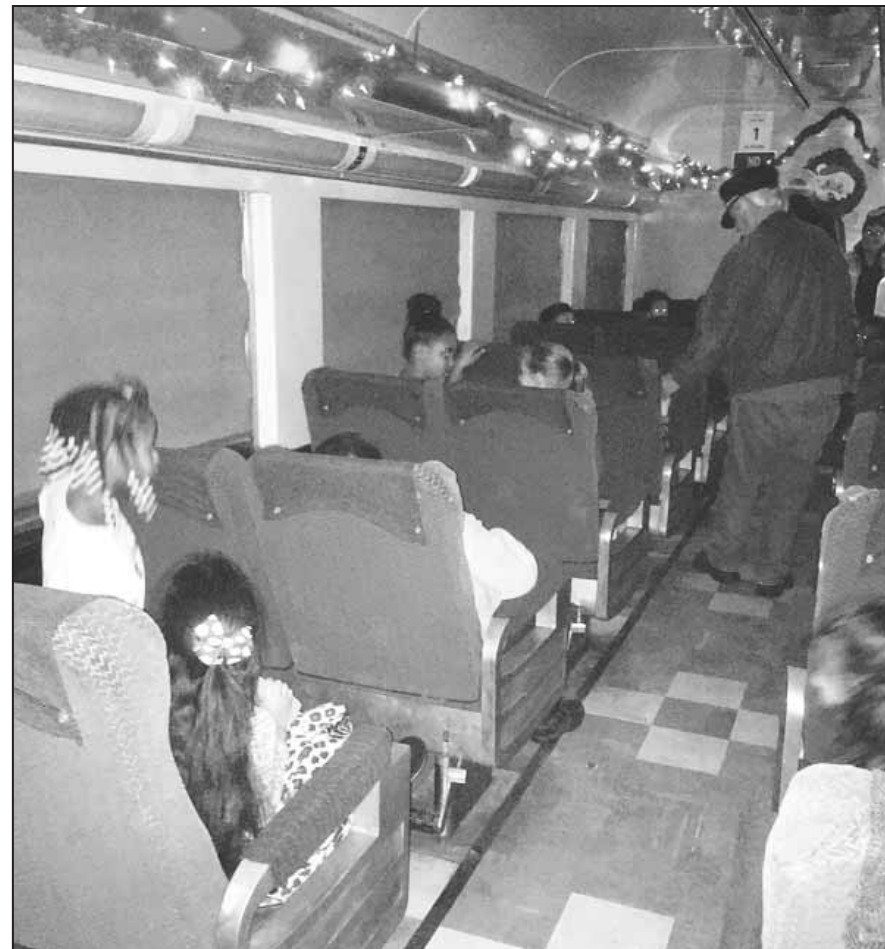
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