



Photo by: Jim Giese

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A Great Day for Collington

by George Newman

Collington Board Chair Annetha Hall called it the "best day of the year." She was referring to the weather -- crystalline air, comfortable temperatures, a porcelain- blue sky -- but she could also have meant the spirit of celebration that animated Collington's 25th anniversary gala on Sept. 6.

In addition to the Board Chair, Kendal CEO John Diffey, Residents Association President Grant Bagley and Collington Executive Director Marvell Adams addressed the gathering. All proclaimed that Collington, in partnership with Kendal, was undergoing a renaissance, "a return to its origins," in Diffey's words, "a rebirth" in



**Collington Board Chair
Annetha Hall**

Adams'. And all agreed that the quality of the residents defines the institution -- "a rich body of life work that has not been left behind," as Adams said.

The ceremony also honored the 11 Collington pioneers --



the remaining original residents -- and the one original employee, Receptionist Priscilla Atkinson. After the brief speeches, residents, staff and friends

enjoyed a munificent buffet, complete with ice sculpture, prepared by Dining Services Director Eli Ayoub and his hard-working staff. Truly a great day.

New Collingtonian Editor Named

by Jim Giese

Welcome George Newman, editor of the Collingtonian beginning with this issue. Although relatively new to Collington, George comes with extensive journalistic experience.

George and his wife, Barbara Fairchild, a retired school librarian, moved here from Chesapeake Beach in March. When Barbara, a member of the Annapolis Chorale, learned that Pat and Joe Howard (Joe also is in the Chorale) had moved here, she and George decided to take another look at Collington and signed up. George has a son who is an attorney and a step-daughter who is a nursing student.

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Although journalism has been his lifetime calling, George said he approaches the Collingtonian editorship with some trepidation, still having much to learn about Collington. His goal is to build upon the work of his predecessors and he feels privileged to have former editors around to help.

That the Collingtonian is solely produced and financed by residents makes it unique and George wants it to serve as their voice. He hopes the newsletter will always be interesting and occasionally entertaining. While there already is a large staff, he hopes to involve even more residents in its production.

George sees possibilities for expanding the newsletter's service to residents through greater use of the KeepingupwithCollington web site and plans to work with webmaster Curt Bury on adding new features.

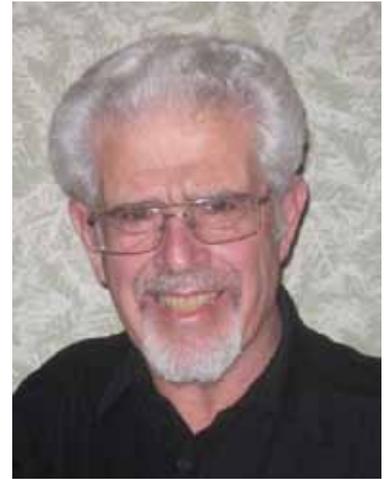
"What makes Collington what it is," George says, "are its residents. I want the Collingtonian to be a showcase for their talents."

George was born in Austria, but shortly thereafter Hitler annexed Austria and George's family fled to the United States, settling in Massachusetts.

After graduation from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, George enrolled in the Columbia University School of Journalism and in 1960 was hired by the Associated Press (AP) as a summer fill-in in New York. After Army service he rejoined AP and was sent to Salt Lake City and then back to New York.

George left AP in 1966 and did public information work for Columbia University and for the Peace Corps. He then served as public relations director of Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y.

Returning to journalism after a 10-year hiatus, George joined the Utica (N.Y.) Observer-Dispatch, eventually becoming editorial page editor and writing a weekly column on politics. Also, for three years he was a regular panelist on a political discussion program on the local ABC-TV affiliate.



George Newman—JKG

After 16 years, George left the paper to join the U.S. Information Agency. Before he retired 10 years later in 2002, George and Barbara were posted to Vienna, Austria; Leipzig, Germany; and the countries of Togo and Zambia in Africa.

The Collingtonian

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The Collingtonian invites all Collington residents to submit articles, photographs and story suggestions, preferably concerning Collington and its people. We also welcome "Letters to the Editor" commenting on the Collingtonian and its content. Submissions may be e-mailed to collingtonian@gmail.com or placed in the Collingtonian mailbox. All submissions are subject to editing for length, clarity and style.

Marvell Adams on His Two Years as CEO:

Five years' worth of change, 'couldn't happen without Kendal'

On Aug. 7, two years and a day after he took office as Collington's Executive Director, Marvell Adams sat down with Collingtonian Editor George Newman to review Collington's recent past and address its future. The interview ranged from the state of Collington's grounds, to future "right-sizing," to the extraordinary generosity of Collington residents. Clearly, Marvell came to Collington at a challenging time. He noted that over the past two years many of those challenges have been met, but many remain. Following are some highlights of the interview. For the full transcript, visit keepingupwithcollington.org to read "Collingtonian Extra," our new web supplement to the print Collingtonian. A paper copy of the transcript has been placed in the library, in the room containing filed Collingtonians.

Interview excerpts:

• **On the pace of change and the Kendal affiliation:** Over the past two years, Collington has dealt with the "strategic planning process, a major refinancing, an almost-new leadership team. Most [organizations] would see that happen in five years. We've seen it in two, and it would have been impossible without Kendal's support. And it's important to use the word 'support' because I think a lot of folks believe that Kendal calls the shots, and that's so far from the truth. We have our own independent board of directors; I report exclusively to our board; I don't report to anyone at the Kendal Corp. I work in collaboration with members there, and I think the thing that makes the difference is, each time I talk with someone at Kendal, they always ask, 'Is there anything

else we can do to help?' and that says to me there's no agenda being imposed, we are one big family, and how can we all improve?"

• **On Kendal's influence in Collington's beginnings:**

..."It's a fact that I think is not widely known that one reason the Kendal affiliation worked is that Collington is modeled on a Kendal community ... The



Marvell Adams

For a very different view of our CEO see back page

founding committee at Collington 25-plus years ago went to Kennett Square in Pennsylvania

and toured Kendal Crosslands and came back and built what they saw ... If you tour Kendal Crosslands, it looks very similar,

[with] covered walkways around a community center... But what the Kendal affiliation has meant, really, is Collington getting the support to get the bigger things done."

• **On the thinking behind hiring Kevin Seawright as Chief of Facilities:** "When I arrived Collington had two departments that served the bricks and mortar of the organization. You had Plant Operations -- maintenance, grounds -- and you had Environmental Services -- security,

CEO Cont'd p.4

transportation, pest control, that kind of thing. ... Even though they worked together as needed, it still left two departments. So I made a decision that we needed to restructure so that it was one department, and that brought forth bringing in a Chief of Facilities who could oversee and understand all sides of it, not only gaining efficiencies but also gaining effectiveness in, quite frankly, just getting the job done. I think we've seen improvements in the grounds, but every time I say that, the

“In years past there was a path of just getting by”

caveat is, we have a lot more to go.

At Collington 10 years ago, there was a path of just getting by, and that's manifested itself over the years where we have some serious issues like our HVAC [heating and air conditioning] system needing to be replaced. ... There's some real substantive stuff [needed] to get things moving in the right direction and Kevin's recruitment was a big part of that.”

• **On the need for rapid change:** “We went from the lowest of the low, when Collington's occupancy was 67 percent, and that was April 2012 -- not very long ago -- and we're now at about 74.3 percent. For an organization that's 25 years old, it's really hard to move that fast, because you've got people moving out or transitioning through the continuum just as much as you have people moving in. So we had to go from having five or six people move in each quarter -- pushing to get to 10, 12 people, so you had to have the infrastructure that could steward that, and that's still something that Kevin and [Marketing Director] Susan Deller are working on.”

• **On Collington's finances and its**

relationship with lending banks: “Collington has, in a sense, a mortgage with four banks ... Collington has never missed a mortgage payment, but that doesn't matter to those four banks that no longer want to be in this service line... Our letter of credit that

“The partnership with residents makes Collington better”

they hold is about to expire. So we've begun conversations about what it would look like to refinance with a different set of banks. ... We've gotten a lot of support and assistance from Kendal, and support and guidance from our board, and it's moving along really well. Our hope is ... a tangible deal by the end of this calendar year or at the very least by the first part of next year.”

• **On residents' participation in Collington's governance and whether it complicates life for the administration:** “You'll find other communities where residents are on the board but do you find that residents are constantly part of the interview process, that the residents' fiscal committee gets a report on the finances every month? Not really. The way I see it, [in the administration] you spend the time one way or another. Either you spend it on the front end and try to be as transparent as possible, or if you don't you'll spend time on the back end explaining what the heck

“We've seen improvement in the grounds, but there's a lot more to go”

you just did. I think the partnership makes Collington better. The one line I've drawn, and at times gotten pushback on, is when it comes to personnel matters. ... I think people don't always understand that when someone ... leaves Collington, whether they chose to or

we asked them to, that the employees deserve some privacy.”

• **On residents’ financial support:** “When I talk to colleagues [at other retirement communities] and I say that for our Employee Appreciation Fund, residents raise a six-figure amount ... most campuses that I know of don’t come close to that amount. [For our employee scholarship fund] we had a resident who [made] a \$25,000 gift [with] a matching campaign. That turned that \$25,000 into a total of over \$60,000 within a span of maybe 45 days. ... So ... it’s time for us to think big... With Pam Patterson coming on board as our philanthropy director, as a staff member of the foundation, that’s been a big plus, because I think residents now feel there’s someone they can talk to not just about how I can give money but to talk about estate planning, to have that expertise in house.”

“In philanthropy, it’s time for us to think big”

• **On Collington two years hence:** “I think we will have right-sized the community. Collington right now sits at 355 independent living units and 100 in the health center. I see that 355 working its way down and the occupancy rate creeping up ... with something like 320 as a maximum occupancy and most likely always having 300 or 305 [occupied]. That gives us the opportunity to think what do we do with all [the extra] space. There are 12 to 18 homes in each cottage cluster. If we went for 10 to 13 ... maybe we could use one as an office for residents, or a satellite fitness area, or storage or just a meeting area where people can have a drink together. I’m looking to hear from the clusters what that space should look like.”

Journal Recognizes Joan Zorza

by Jim Giese

The National Bulletin on Domestic Violence in its July issue published a tribute to Collingtonian Joan Zorza, who is now in the process of retiring from her life-time legal career dedicated to aiding and advocating for the victims of violence, especially domestic and sexual violence. The article was written by Barbara Hart, who is, according to Joan’s husband, Richard Zorza, “a legendary advocate in her own right,”

Hart describes Joan as being “perhaps the most prodigious legal writer on domestic violence and sexual assault in the United States,” citing two bi-monthly newsletters she founded as well as numerous other publications with which she has been associated as author or editor.

Richard was particularly pleased with this concluding paragraph for the article: “Joan is a consummate knitter. Needles and yarn accompanied her to the highest reaches of government, as well as meetings with survivors. Multitasking, perhaps. Seemingly working the detail and complexity of her legal analysis into each line. Surely knitting her passion into each stitch. We honor and thank you, Joan, for your extraordinary productivity and unequalled passion for survivors and wish you well in your retirement.”

“Talk about getting old. I was getting dressed and a Peeping Tom looked in the window, took a look, and pulled down the shade” -- Joan Rivers

Colorful Happenings



70 Years of Love and Luck

John and Mary (better known to us as Ricky) Evans marked their 70th wedding anniversary Aug. 27 by dining in the Bird Room with daughter Becky, visiting from her home in Nottingham, England. On another day they celebrated by dining at the Pirates Cove Restaurant in Galesville. Later, daughter Judy, of Boulder, Colo., will join them.

Ricky, a Washington native, and John, who is from Ohio, met and fell in love at Oberlin College. John was called to active duty in the Army Reserves upon graduation. They married in Washington while John was on a three-day pass. Their wedding dinner was at Zang's Pier, which has since been replaced by Pirate's Cove.

John attributed their long marriage to their "getting to love each other and taking 'till death do us part' seriously." Ricky said it was due to "just dumb luck."—JKG

Dramatic Evening at the Woodshop

By Margot Starr Kernan

Those hotshot impresarios, Grant Bagley and John Lees, offered an evening of thrills and chills Aug. 31, showing action-packed entertainment on the outdoor movie screen up the hill at the Woodshop.

Preceded by a heart-pounding episode of a "Perils of the Darkest Jungle" serial starring Tiger Woman, the feature film "Wagon Train," made in 1940, offered a refreshingly modern twist to time-worn Western plots.

Indians played second fiddle in a story of criminal intrigue on the trail with a dastardly villain outgunned and out-romanced by hero Tim Holt.

Popcorn and other refreshments added to the pleasures of the evening.

Where were you on Nov. 22, 1963?

This November will mark 50 years since the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Most of us remember vividly what we were doing on that fateful day, how we heard the news and how we reacted.

What about you? We'd like to learn about Collingtonians' memories of half a century ago.

Email your recollections to collingtonian@gmail.com or place them in the Collingtonian mailbox (next to the library box at the far end of the mailboxes). We'll publish them in the November edition. If we receive more than we can fit in print, we'll post the rest on our new online "Collingtonian Extra."

Deel Does It Again in Labor Day Regatta



And they're off! Boats are bunched at the start. The eventual winner, David Deel's Addy (No. 45) is second from right. -- Photos by Pat French



Addy crosses the finish line

Co-Director of Facilities David Deel, who had never sailed prior to his victory in the Memorial Day Regatta, triumphed again on Labor Day. In contrast to his earlier win, when he volunteered to pilot a skipper-less late entry, David built his own boat this time.

On a warm day, with just enough breeze to power the small craft (and make steering tricky) David's *Addy* and Jack Yale's *Eva J.* traded the lead for much of the race, which required two circuits of the lake. Entrants wielded radio controllers to adjust the sails and rudder of their craft, which were propelled only by wind power.

An innovation this year was pari-mutual betting. Half the proceeds went to the Residents Association, the other half to the winning bettors. **-GN**

Beaver's Not Yet a Leaver

You may have noticed the wire netting around some trees by the lake. It's been successful in protecting them from our wood-chomping resident beaver. But at last word efforts to trap said beaver haven't succeeded, inspiring Judith Shaw to this limerick:

Rodent Hum

The song of the Collington beaver,
A tune of strong anti-beast fever.

It stays in the lake,
White waves in its wake.
The trapper is not a retriever.

Next Month: More limericks by Judith, including rhymes for "Collington" and "Mitchellville."

"How old would you be if you didn't know how old you was?" -- Satchel Paige

We Welcome Our New Neighbors

by Barbara Allen and George Newman

Constance Hammond

Apartment 250,
Extension 5059.
Constance came
to Collington from
Annapolis, but her
life's path took her over
much of the world,
thanks to careers in



both the Air Force and the Foreign Service. After retiring from the military in 1980 with the rank of lieutenant colonel, she spent 10 years as a Foreign Service officer; her last assignment was as administrative officer at the U.S. embassy in Istanbul, Turkey.

In addition to Turkey, Constance has lived in Lesotho, Thailand, Germany and Okinawa. A native of Ashton, Idaho, she holds a B.S. (Ed.) from the University of Idaho and an MBA from Syracuse University. She has a sister in Madison, Wisc., and 10 nephews and nieces throughout the United States.

Constance reports she has been made to feel welcome here. Her interests include golf, which she plans to play at the Enterprise course.

Donald and Joan Lewis

Cottage 4011, Extension 7343. Joan is that rarity -- a native Washingtonian -- although she has also lived in Virginia, Atlanta, New Orleans, Huntsville, Ala., and London, England, as well as Maryland. The Lewises are moving here from Silver Spring. Donald, who was born



in Kansas City, Mo., has lived in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, California, Louisiana, Florida and Washington, D.C.

Donald, who graduated from high school in Los Angeles, retired in 1994 from the General Services Administration. He has had a part-time career playing drums since he was 12 and is now interested in jazz and classical mandolin. He would like to get together with other musicians "just for enjoyment."

Joan, holder of a B.A. in sociology from Newcomb College, retired from GEICO, where she was a systems analyst. She took a course for the ministry sponsored by the



Episcopal Church, and she has done volunteer work for the church and for schools. As a sideline Donald raises bonsai trees and now has 12 trees. The Lewises have two daughters and two sons, all married. They have three granddaughters, one grandson and two great-granddaughters.

John and Denise Bunting

Cottage 2109,
Extension 7274.
The Buntings came
to Collington from
Richmond, Va., where
John retired in 2005
as program director of
the Math and Science



Center and Denise had been a registered nurse and cardiac sonographer.

A native of Buffalo, John holds bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Buffalo. He was an elementary school teacher in East Aurora, N.Y., and assistant superintendent of schools in Lancaster, N.Y., before retiring and moving to Richmond with Denise in 1988. She was born in Zanesville, Ohio, and has also lived in Plainfield, Ill., as well as Buffalo and Richmond.



Both Buntings have been active in the Episcopal Church and have served as docents -- she at the Buffalo Zoo, he at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. John was a member of the Lions Club for many years and lists his former hobbies as golf, brewing beer and model railroading. Denise, a master gardener, describes herself as a lover of plants and animals. She plays bridge, mah jongg and pinochle.

The Buntings have a daughter in Silver Spring, a son in Buffalo and three grandchildren. Their household includes "two spoiled cats" named Simon and Garfunkel.

Katrina "Winkie" Hatton

Cottage 3104, Ext. 7319. Katrina was born in New York City and grew up in Connecticut. She went to boarding school in Baltimore.

After her marriage she lived with her husband in Cambridge, Mass., while he acquired a B.A. and



M.B.A. at Harvard Business School. While her husband served in the U.S. Army they lived in Harvard, Mass. After his Army service her husband became a commercial banker and for 25 years they lived in Winnetka, Ill., and in Mequon, Wisc., for 29 years.

Katrina moved to Collington from Mequon. While she had no paid employment, she stayed busy with volunteer work, especially for historic restoration, and served as president of her condominium association. She has also traveled in Europe and the United States.

Katrina loves music and loves to sing. Her family consists of three adult children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Pigging out on July 4. Tyrone Jones and Thurman Mack of Dining Services show off a roast pig that was part of the lavish July 4 barbecue. Residents and guests enjoyed a similar feast on Labor Day. Photo by Joe Howard

New Hospital to be Near Collington

A new 259-bed hospital and medical campus will be within minutes of Collington near the intersection of Lottsford Road and Arena Drive. The final decision was made Aug. 22 by the board of directors of Dimensions Healthcare System, which oversees healthcare facilities owned by Prince George's County.

The University of Maryland Medical System will operate the \$645-million hospital campus, which will include a full-service medical and trauma center offering specialties and general care. Plans call for completion in 2017.

The 26-acre site is between Largo Town Center and the Boulevard at Capital Center shopping centers and is adjacent to the Largo Metro station. It was a combination of nearness to Metro, proximity to the Capital Beltway and the availability of a suitable site that led to the Largo site being chosen, according to newspaper reports. Retail Properties of America, owner of the Boulevard, will relinquish a lease it has on 16 acres of county property and donate another 10 acres for the hospital.

With the hospital, residents can expect a significant number of new doctors' offices to be built near by. Already, the owner of vacant land on the Collington side of Landover Road (MD 12), between Lottsford Road and St. Joseph's Drive, has been seeking subdivision approval for medical offices among other development. — JKG

"The aging process has you firmly in its grasp if you never get the urge to throw a snowball" -- Doug Larson

The *Collingtonian* now has its own email account: Collingtonian@gmail.com Use this address to submit articles, photos and story suggestions. Those without email may place written material in the *Collingtonian* mailbox.

For Bagleys, it's 'Vive le Tour'

By Frances Kolarek

In Paris, staying at an hotel on the Rue de Rivoli, Grant and Margaret Bagley were curbside as the Tour de France wound down.

Grant stood for hours as the spectacle rolled by. "I could have reached out and touched the riders," he said.

One hundred sixty-nine bicycles flying by, ridden by 169 men wearing boldly colorful helmets and outfits, created a unique pageantry. The show started early in the morning of July 23 when the cyclists set out from Versailles for the 135-kilometer ride to the Place de La Republique by way of the Arc de Triomphe in the heart of the city. As the cyclists circled and recircled various venues along the route, *tout Paris* had the opportunity to see and feel the excitement of this long and challenging race.

Margaret and Grant, with their 11-year-old granddaughter Sarah, joined a tour group which included children, parents and grandparents. They were all very nice people, Grant says, but after a few days of desultory conversation at mealtime he was impatient to return to Collington and the interesting, stimulating companionship of its residents.

Collington loses a trouper

By Frances Kolarek

Born into a theatrical family, Betty Bryson, who died last month, was off to an early start as a performer.

While still a teen-ager, she appeared in a 1934 Cary Grant movie, *Kiss and Make Up*, as a client of beauty shop owner Grant. There were other roles in movies including *Fiesta*, starring Esther Williams in 1947.



Soon Betty hit the road, singing jazz in clubs in Vegas and New York. Her marriage to Harry Jaeger, a drummer in Benny Goodman's band, was short-lived, but he introduced her to Harry James, who was looking for a singer. She lost out to Frank Sinatra.

After USO work in World War II, Betty returned to the stage and a period of exhaustive touring in plays that ran the gamut from *Uncle Vanya* to *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Her post-war marriage to Herbert Bryson endured to his death.

She joined us at Collington in 2008. A few days before her death, severely ill, she nevertheless attended a recorded performance in our auditorium of her monologue from Jeffrey Hatcher's comedy *13 Things about Ed Carpolotti*.

A trouper to the end.

Bill Preston on Gardening



Much of our garden effort this past year can be discussed in light of what we might do next year to alleviate problems.

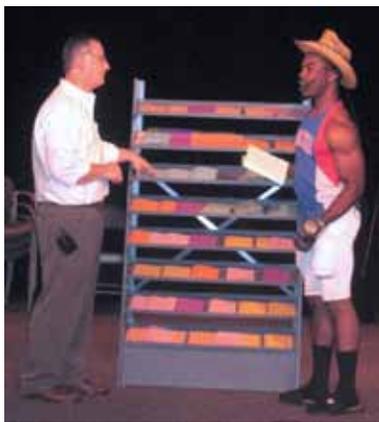
Disease occurred during the year in cucumbers, cantaloupes and squash. This was a bacterial wilt, introduced by infected 12-spotted cucumber beetles. Next year we will plant a "trap crop" of irresistible candytuft plants very early, and when they are covered by these bugs, we'll kill 'em all before they move to their regular crop plants.

For tomato blights, we'll plant resistant varieties, make certain they are mulched as soon as they are planted, and regularly inspected for any diseased lower leaves.

Many sorts of weeds gave us problems, including red root pigweed, lambsquarter and morning glory. The first two produce millions of seeds, and the latter produces seeds that live in soil for up to 50 years. Mulching the crop plants helps prevent their germination. Nutgrass is a perennial weed almost impossible to eliminate because each time you pull it up, you leave little nuts that send up more shoots. For this weed, an impervious mulch is necessary.

Successes? We still picked plenty of tomatoes, cut loads of zinnias and marigolds. Okra did well, beans were picked, and Hilda Jay's cucumber crop was fabulous!

Employee Talent Show



Performers at the Aug. 22 show -- Clockwise from bottom right: Co-Director of Facilities Dwindle Robinson leads the Facilities Choir; the Activities Group Whacko Boomwhacker Choir; Dwindle Robinson front and center; Co-Director of Facilities David Deel and IT Administrator Donan Sibedwo perform a skit; Administrative Director Karen Cheney on guitar with the admin group; Executive Director Marvell Adams rehearsing with the admin group; Therapy Manager Rick Bosworth on the banjo. Center: Marvell Adams in his star turn as Tina Turner.

Photos by Jim Giese, George Newman and Curt Bury

