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Security Team Has Us Covered

by Jeanne Slawson

You see them walking by your door, their quiet passage reinforcing the sense of well-being we enjoy at Collington. For the men and women of our security team, our safety is paramount.

Dameon Day, Security Coordinator, operates under the overall supervision of Kendall Brown, head of Safety, Security, and Transportation. Dameon regards Security as the “first line of

sight” for prospective residents and visitors. That important first impression is often made by the courteous and helpful responses visitors receive on entering the grounds. In addition, Dameon thinks of his team as “keepers of the kingdom,” always the first to respond to an emergency or an inquiry, ensuring residents of a place to turn for help of any kind. Any matter, large or small, is cheerfully received and swiftly dealt with, the caller reassured while the right referral is found – no small challenge at times.

Dameon joined the Collington staff as a part-time employee. Though he had studied journalism and intended to pursue it as a career, he found the work, the staff, and the friendly atmosphere of Collington suited him well. Eleven years later, he is convinced he followed the right



Security Coordinator Dameon Day checks camera views of the Collington gates.

Photo by George Newman

course. He heads a staff of eight full-time and three part-time employees, staffing the security desk and patrolling the grounds. Their cell phones keep them in touch with headquarters, which can monitor their location at any time; backup is provided by the 15 cameras (“I wish we had more.”) in the Clock Tower, the apartment building, and at all gates. Dameon describes his

goal as ensuring effective communication among residents and Security, as well as other staff. His team shares the amazing ability of all Collington employees to know residents’ names from the day they arrive, a source of admiration and pleasure to newcomers. Dameon notes that this promotes interaction and friendly relations between staff and residents. He is proud to wear many hats: security, customer service, maintenance, food delivery (think the Blizzard of 2016), “whatever needs doing!”

James Collins has been with Collington since 2001, switching careers after 28 years as a forklift operator with Giant Foods and then simultaneous jobs as executive chef at both the Marlboro Country Club and the Upper Marlboro

see Security p. 2

Courthouse. Finding this combination too stressful, he responded to a Collington ad for a security job. After a Collington downsizing in 2003, he moved to Dining Services, eventually moving up to Supervisor. Later he returned to Security, working one shift there and one in Landscaping. James is now with Security full-time, which he finds most satisfying. "I love to make people happy," he says. People often tell him they feel safer when they see him walking by. Over the years, he has established solid friendships among the residents, something he regards as "very special."

Vern Rious is the longest-serving Security employee, next to Kendall Brown, though she is now part-time. She has been with Collington since 1990 and in Security since 2002, having moved from the Dining Room, then Administration. Her full-time job is Office Manager to State Senator C. Anthony Muse, a job to which she was referred by a Collington marketing representative. She is delighted to be there, she says, "but I couldn't leave Collington." By coming in on Sundays from 7-3:00, "I can still work with residents," something she regards as a privilege she isn't willing to give up. She cites her connection with residents as something that has served her well in emergencies and that gives her great pride and satisfaction. One of those emergencies involved resident John Lees, who wrote in the December 2014 Collingtonian about Security's response when he suffered a heart attack: "Fast action by our Security, and especially Vern, saved my life," John said recently.

Resident Pat Duggan also has high praise for Security's response when she needed help, even though it wasn't an emergency. Henry Johnson has been her particular guardian angel. "I feel Henry has been looking out for me since I ar-

rived," she said.

Two members of the staff are on duty at all times, rotating assignments every two hours. This keeps everyone in touch with what's happening on campus and provides variety to the workday. Call response time is set at a maximum of five minutes. Sometimes a judgment call must be made whether to call a nurse or 911, or both.



James Collins makes his rounds. Photo by George Newman

Just in case anyone would like to try to match their feat of memorizing names, the Security staff members are: (full time) Dameon Day, James Collins, Janet Jeffreys, David Mack, Pierie Makie, Henry Johnson and Victor Busby; (part time) Vern Rious, Patrice Savoy, and Cynthia Williams.

The Collingtonian

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This issue and many past issues of the Collingtonian are now on line at collingtonresidents.org.

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.

Flying, 'Over the Hump'

Floyd Thiel Helped Ferry Supplies to Flying Tigers

By Don Singer

In 1942 future Collington resident Floyd Thiel, then 20 years old and living in Nebraska, enlisted in the Army Air Corps. In September of that year he was ordered to Louisiana to train as a navigator. Thus began a journey that was to take him to a place in sharp contrast to the flat plains of Nebraska.

After months of training Floyd was assigned to a crew and a C-46 transport. In July 1943 the crew was ordered to fly, along with several other C-46s, to Chabua air base in India -- a journey that was to take several days and cross several continents.

In Chabua they joined the India-China Wing of the Air Transport Command. The ATC in India was tasked with supplying American Army Air Corps units and Chinese forces fighting the Japanese in western China.

This assignment originated in the spring of 1942 when the Japanese overran Burma and occupied eastern China, cutting off the land route to western China. The flight to the Kunming airfield in China was relatively short, 530 miles, but rigorous and dangerous as it crossed the Himalayan mountain ranges. Leaving Chabua, 90 feet above sea level, fliers immediately encountered a mountain range of 10,000 feet, followed by higher ranges, the last topping 15,000 feet, which the crews labeled the Hump. Weather conditions were unpredictable, including violent



Floyd Teal, right, with Air Corps buddies in India.

winds. The ATC planes were neither armed nor escorted. Fortunately, Japanese fighter planes were reluctant to wander into the Himalayans. Nonetheless, flying over the Hump claimed more than 1,000 casualties in the three-plus years of the operation.

Originally the ATC lacked adequately trained navigators for the flights to China, but when Floyd arrived in India there was an abundance of navigators.

Therefore his primary assignment was to be a briefing officer,

providing maps and crucial information to crews going on a mission. But Floyd wanted to fly. He was able to volunteer for flights between briefing stints. In the roughly 20 months he spent in India he had 13 trips to China.

Cargos usually consisted of ammunition and 50-gallon drums of gasoline, and sometimes jeeps and small trucks. Crews didn't like carrying the latter two, as they could not be jettisoned in case of engine problems. The need for optimal cargo space meant that the navigator had no desk other than a 50-gallon drum. Pilots who had numerous flights over the prescribed route would often feel that they did not need the navigator's assistance. Floyd, with the aid of a flashlight, would nonetheless plot the course. A crucial concern was achieving a safe altitude in

see Flying Tigers p. 10

We Welcome Our New Neighbors

By Barbara Fairchild, Norman Kempster,
Peggy Latimer and Bobbie McCuskey

Vincent Russell

Cottage 2003, ext 7252. Shortly after the Berlin Wall fell in the early 1990s, Vincent was tasked by the U.S. State Department to lecture at Moscow State University on the role of labor unions in a democracy – the form of government that Americans expected to replace Communism in post-Soviet Russia.

Vincent was uniquely qualified for the job, having spent about 15 years as field director of higher education for the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the AFL-CIO-affiliated teacher's union.

In spite of Karl Marx's philosophy, independent unions have far more power in capitalist countries than under Communism. The U.S. government hoped to influence a significant sector of the evolving Russian economy by exposing Soviet-trained educators to U.S.-style unions.

Vincent said he was impressed by the luxury of the facilities at Moscow State. He said the university was, at the time, the most prestigious institution of higher learning in the Soviet Union.

For most of his 30-year career, Vincent was a leader of the AFT's effort to bring the militancy of old-time industrial unions into the classroom. It was not easy. Most teachers consider themselves to be middle class. For them, a strike is difficult to contemplate. Besides, teacher's strikes are against the law in every state but Alaska.

Nevertheless, Vincent led several strikes including a 1970 faceoff in Newark, N.J., which lasted three months, the longest in U.S. history.

About 95 percent of teacher's labor disputes are settled at the local level without resort to strike, he said. In one dispute that did put teachers on the



picket line, Vincent was threatened with arrest for breaching the no-strike law.

"I said, 'If you put me in jail, you'd have to come to the jail to negotiate with me.'" He was not jailed.

Vincent was born and grew up in New Hampshire. He is a graduate of Keene State College in New Hampshire and spent four years in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Jackie Priester

Apartment 221, Ext. 7535. Jackie arrives at Collington after 43 years in the Bowie area, including the last 11 years at Cedar Ridge, a group of condos for those 55 and older. She was attracted to Collington by its relatively small size, the balcony apartments and ample storage.

Jackie thrived as a stay-at-home mother as she raised three children who are now scattered around the country. Her oldest, a son, attended the Merchant Marine Academy in New York and is now a supervisor of longshoremen in Seattle. The middle child, a daughter, lives in Calvert County and her youngest daughter lives in Sacramento, Calif., where she works for the state of California.

Jackie enjoyed a very happy marriage of more than 19 years with her second husband, Wilbur, who worked for Aon insurance in Baltimore. She has been a widow for 11 years and often reflects on many enjoyable trips with Wilbur. Jackie and Wilbur especially liked traveling to the Caribbean island of St. Martin's, where both Jackie's French heritage and Wilbur's Dutch heritage were part of the culture.

And, in the true Collington fashion of connections, resident Ellie Hagan taught Jackie's son in Bowie. In addition, she and Nancy Phillips were scout leaders together.



Vena Darling

Cottage 2210, Ext 7291. When a tall woman sweeps into the dining room and first announces, "I'm Vena Darling," you know you're in for an adventure. Vena



was raised in Philadelphia, with stretches in Berlin and Santiago, Chile, due to her economist father's assignments.

After earning her B.A. in French Literature from the University of Pennsylvania, she accompanied her then-husband to Santiago, where she taught at an international school. In 1974, Vena received a master's in education from George Washington University and worked for the next several years as a community mental health therapist in Appalachia.

As she was completing a master's in social work at Smith College, Vena began hearing about a new profession, employee assistance programs (EAP). She thought this would be a perfect fit in that what she did best was listen and help people in crisis. With her degree and numerous EAP certifications, Vena spent the next 25 years initiating and managing EAPs, providing brief guidance and referrals, and developing EAP training programs. Among her clients have been federal agencies, including the Executive Office Building after 9/11; the Washington Hospital Center; the EAP of Bermuda; and the World Bank.

With the encouragement of friends at Capitol Hill's St. Mark's Church, Vena chose Collington. Because she still works part time, she has not become as involved in Collington as she'd like. She is meeting neighbors while walking her dog Daisy around campus, and looks forward to taking courses and long walks and learning to Kayak, as well as enjoying good conversation and food.

Most of all, Vena is looking forward to "having adventures." Her presence and sense of design reflect this. Although her cottage faces the Clock Tower, when you enter Vena's unit you might easily imagine that she lives in a pied-à-terre overlooking the French Riviera, momentarily pausing for the next adventure.

James Cassidy

Apartment 345, Ext. 7592. "Environmentally friendly pesticides" may sound like an oxymoron, but the quest for that goal has been central to James's career as a



chemist. James grew up in the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts. He recalls always knowing he would be a chemist. After obtaining degrees from the University of Massachusetts, University of Vermont and Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute, he took jobs with several chemical companies, ending up at CIBA-GEIGY for 22 years.

He was senior group leader for metabolism studies of pesticides in soils, plants, animals and fish. Sometimes his groups did not please his superiors because making pesticides more environmentally compatible would cost more money.

Early in his career he met a young woman named Barbara, also a chemist, who translated scientific studies written in any of five languages. They met when James needed to clarify an Italian translation.

James and Barbara's marriage produced two sons. The sons are married and there are six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Barbara freelanced in her field after the children were born. In fact, James and Barbara finished editing a German translation during the delivery of their second son in between labor pains because Barbara had a deadline to meet and the baby was arriving early.

From 1988 to 1995 James worked for JSC, an environmental company on K Street in Washington, doing the same type of work, but using contract laboratories. From 1986 to 2001 James and Barbara traveled frequently.

This past January Barbara broke her hip. James and Barbara had planned to remain in their home but Barbara needed rehabilitation. They had visited Collington before, but there was no room for her at the time she needed it. James moved here and Barbara is in rehab in the Greenbelt area. James does freelance work for the Washington Section of the Retired Chemists Group. The group is associated with the American Chemical Society. He hopes to become involved with the Sustainability Committee here.

A Generous Gift of Music



In life, resident Constance (Connie) Grisard was known for her love of music, at Collington and throughout the region. A Collingtonian article noted that she was “concerned about the welfare of our aging Steinway grand” piano.

Now, in death, she has confronted that issue. A \$50,000 gift from the Constance H. Grisard Trust, supplemented by a \$3,120 grant from the Collington Foundation, has given Collington a new Steinway grand, which has been installed in the Auditorium

An inaugural concert May 29 featured pianist Frederick Moyer, at left. A series of dedicatory recitals is planned for the fall. Connie Grisard, who died in December 2014, surely would applaud.

Photo by Peter Pfund

The annual Collington plant sale at the greenhouse went on as scheduled despite mid-May weather better suited to March. Shirley Denman made her selections with the help of her daughter, Barbara.

Photo by George Newman



Meet Collington's New COO

By Frances Kolarek

A quick smile and a trace of an accent that comes and goes -- these are the first impressions when meeting Karen Boyce, Collington's new Chief Operating Officer.

Karen explains the accent: "I was born in Brooklyn of parents, one from Trinidad and one from Jamaica, and I spent my childhood between those three places."

It was not her accent but her other qualities that impressed Collington's COO Search Committee. Says Executive Director Marvell Adams, "Her poise, expertise and detail-oriented mindset made her the ideal person for Collington's first COO in over half a dozen years.

"It's not always the case that our friends at Kendal reach out to give kudos on a new member of the leadership team," Marvell continued, "but after several of them met Karen at the Facilities gathering last month, well...let's just say all were so glad she joined us."

Karen's first job after graduation from Towson University was at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, where she worked in Dining Services rather than in patient care.

A few steps up the ladder found her at Manor Care, a group of communities offering assisted living and nursing care, where she continued to be primarily involved with administration.

And at Erickson, where she worked at Oak Crest in Parkville, Md., she was also involved in management on a wide scale. Asked to compare working at a for-profit Continuing Care



After work on May 25, Karen Boyce dropped in on the Flower Committee tea. Photo by Pat Howard. More tea pictures, p. 12.

Retirement Community and a not-for-profit like Collington, Karen noted that the individual Erickson CCRC's are run on a not-for-profit basis. The Erickson corporation, however, is for profit.

Her duties as COO here include oversight of Facilities, Health Care, Culinary Services and Information Technology. She will also be in charge of compliance -- seeing that we meet government regulations -- and attends meetings of the Collington Board of Directors.

We asked her views on the relationship between manage-

ment and Residents Association Operating Committees. Here she believes that compromise is essential in creating a balance on both sides.

At the moment Karen is tucked away in an office on the first floor of the apartment building, where Facilities staff occupies spaces intended as residences but are now adapted to office use. She is looking forward to moving into an Administration office on the third floor of the Creighton Center. Later, as bistro cafe construction dislodges that Administration suite, there will be another move.

She has a dog, a Bichon Frise. Two cousins who have children and also enjoy careers frequently ask her to babysit on weekends. She enjoys this time with youngsters, playing in the cul de sac where her home is located, just ten minutes from Collington.

"Get a Move On!"

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Across

- 1. Spanish eyes
- 5. Visits
- 10. Epps of "House, M.D."
- 14. Part
- 15. ___ Perot
- 16. Pitcher Hideo
- 17. Relo
- 20. "Take your pick"
- 21. Kathryn ___, of "Law and Order: Criminal Intent"
- 22. Cute little laugh
- 23. Oration station
- 24. Victorian overcoats
- 26. Lampoon
- 29. Plains tribes
- 30. Part of a Latin 101 trio
- 31. Sedative, for short
- 32. E.R. personnel
- 35. Bring to tears, maybe
- 39. Twisty curve
- 40. Felonious firing
- 41. ___ Brith
- 42. Connect to
- 43. Some sorority women
- 45. Party planner
- 48. Fan sound
- 49. Ran
- 50. Lobster eaters' options
- 51. Opposite of SSW
- 54. Put forward a plan
- 58. Anatomical network
- 59. Grammy category
- 60. Pantry invaders
- 61. North Carolina county
- 62. Like dishwater
- 63. The theme of this puzzle

Down

- 1. "Jaws" boat
- 2. New Testament figure
- 3. Oil of ___
- 4. When doubled, a breath cleanser

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		
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54					55	56					57					
58					59							60				
61					62							63				

- 5. Stevie Wonder song, "Ma ___ Amour"
- 6. Kaffiyeh wearers
- 7. Mother ___
- 8. Leary tripper
- 9. Kazakhstan, once: Abbr.
- 10. Beginnings
- 11. Israel's Dayan
- 12. Middle Eastern prince
- 13. Gertrude Stein concern?
- 18. Reverse, e.g.
- 19. Scholarly "And the following": Abbr.
- 23. It can slip, unfortunately
- 24. "Big Love" resident
- 25. Sole

- 26. Fill to the gill
- 27. "Famous" cookie guy
- 28. Greek consonants
- 29. "What the Butler Saw" playwright
- 31. "___, with Love"
- 32. Novelist Lardner
- 33. March Madness org.
- 34. Lindsay Vonn's Olympic gear
- 36. Bob, for one
- 37. Elder, for example
- 38. Otto's "over"
- 42. Crow's home
- 43. "Wow!"
- 44. Catchall abbr.
- 45. Three-time Oscar-winning director

- 46. Buenos ___
- 47. Fidelity
- 48. Oboes and clarinets
- 50. Ring
- 51. Chihuahua child
- 52. Parental punishment, perhaps
- 53. Start of Massachusetts' motto
- 55. Collington residents: Abbr.
- 56. Évian, e.g.
- 57. Tartan cap

Seeking Muskrats, Finding Skunks

By Carl Koch

During high school and my first year of college, my father and I trapped muskrats and mink in the streams of College Park, Md. Trapping was legal during the first two and a half months of each year and we enjoyed being in the woods and communing with nature.



One technique for catching mink was to set a trap in the small trails barely noticeable along the banks of the various streams. This meant we occasionally caught animals we did not wish to harm. We followed a rule that if you kill an animal you must assure that it serves a purpose; nature is sacred. Over these five years we caught a few dozen small raccoons and opossum, two gray foxes, and two skunks. All were skinned and their pelts sent to Sears Raw Fur market for cash.

Skunk number one was caught late in the season and voided its scent gland before we picked it up, placed it into a bag and took it home for me to skin. Conventional wisdom says that if you bury a skunk for one day, the soil will absorb the scent. I vividly remember the look on the face of my high school buddy the next day when we exhumed the skunk and much of the odor remained. After a second day I was able to skin the skunk and send the pelt to Sears. I believe I got a 25-cent check.

The scenario for skunk number two was different in several ways. It was caught along the North West branch of the Anacostia River on the other side of town, where the stream crossed University Boulevard. The location,

the location was later immortalized by construction of the original Ledo Pizza, known to anyone who attended the University of Maryland over the next 50 years. Also, it was the first day of the trapping season, I was a freshman at the

university and had a final exam and it was very cold (20 degrees F).

The skunk had been caught early the night before and was stunned by the cold. I shot the animal with a .22 caliber rifle and removed it from the bushes.

Since this skunk had not voided its scent gland, it seemed like a good idea to skin it on site. Off came the gloves, out came the skinning knife. When I was working at the animal's rear the knife punctured the scent gland and a thick yellow liquid ran down the knife blade and also my fingers. I had not properly calculated the gland size when not voided. What a horrible mistake!

I went home and tried various liquids to remove the scent – alcohol, vanilla, tomato juice and many others. When I went to the exam I wore a glove, sat in the far corner of the room, tried to concentrate. A semester before I had gotten an A in the subject, this time a C. I paid that price gladly for my love of nature. It might have been worse. There could have been more than two skunks!

approaching a new mountain range.

Closely connected with the flights over the Himalayans is the history of the Flying Tigers. This was the nickname applied to what was officially the American Volunteer Group (AVG), a contingent of American military pilots sent to China in 1941, before America's entry in the war, with the sub rosa approval of President Roosevelt. The nickname was derived from the painting on the fuselage of the AVG's fighter planes.

Ostensibly attached to the Chinese Air Force, the AVG trained in Burma prior to Pearl Harbor. Twelve days after that attack the AVG had its first taste of combat. From January until May 1942 the AVG, grossly outnumbered, inflicted heavy casualties on the Japanese Air Force in its successful Burma campaign. That first week of May the AVG's aerial attacks led to what proved to be a permanent halt of the Japanese push into western China. These exploits at a low point for the Allies in the Pacific War led to a glorification of the AVG, by then universally known as the Flying Tigers.

In July 1942 the AVG was disbanded, its pilots becoming the 23rd Fighter Group of the U.S. Army Air Forces operating in China. But common parlance still referred to the unit as the Flying Tigers.

In 1999 Floyd returned to China with his wife Ruth on a guided tour. At one point a tour guide named Chan asked if anyone had been to China before. Floyd answered, "Yes, I have been to China 13 times." "Thirteen times?" Chan repeated incredulously. Floyd replied, "It was 1943 and 1944, and I was flying war supplies to China." Chan exclaimed, "You were a

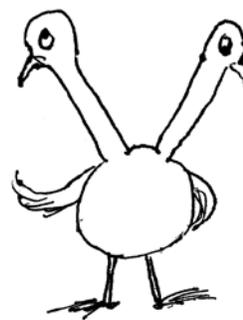
Flying Tiger!" "No! No!" Floyd said, "I was not a Flying Tiger. I brought supplies to them."

Somewhat to Floyd's embarrassment Chan told one and all that Floyd had been a Flying Tiger. In a way Chan was correct. If Floyd and his fellow airmen had not braved the perilous flight over the Hump it is unlikely that the Flying Tigers and the other Allied units in western China would have prevailed until the end of the war.

Next Collingtonian in September

It's summer vacation time for the Collingtonian. We don't publish in July or August, but we continue to welcome contributions and story ideas relating to Collington and its residents. Please email to collingtonian@gmail.com or use our snail-mail box, next to the library box on the far left.

We also welcome new staff members. If you're interested in writing, editing or photography – or just curious – come to our next meeting on Friday, Aug. 12, at 2:30 p.m. in the Board Room.



The Ambiguous Dilemma
Shaw

This is one of a collection of whimsical "birds" drawn by the late Judith Shaw.

A Blooming Good Time

Residents and visitors alike never fail to notice the beautiful flower arrangements throughout Collington's hallways and dining area. These are the products of hard work by our Flower Committee, day in and day out.

The annual committee tea on May 24 gave the "flower power" group a chance to relax and show off some imaginative headgear.



At top, Doris Strange, Ellie Hagan and Denise Bunting. Center, Ellie shows off her fashion statement. Bottom: Denise Bunting, Roberta Decker and Veronica Milford.



Photos by Pat Howard

