



Vol. 30 No. 6 A Monthly Publication of The Collington Residents Association June 2018

Regatta Sails Past Logistical Headwinds

by Peggy Latimer



The skipjack fleet finds clear sailing. Photo by Joyce Koch.



Dick Garrison, skipper for the winning "Priscilla," displays his trophy. Photo by Elizabeth Gill.

It was May 16 and the skipjacks had been holed up for months in the "Cow" pod at the apartments' parking lot. Organizer Bill Colby was concerned about the pod's up-and-down temperatures and humidity. There were other issues: Where's the promised space to work on the boats? What shape are they in? How can the skipjacks be overhauled and their handlers trained by the 26th? And no power at the dock?

see Skipjacks, p.2

Skipjacks from p. 1

Bill wondered whether to cancel the Regatta.

But this is Collington. In short order, Larry Harris and his truck were carting the boats up to the woodshop. Skipjack crews were out practicing daily. Bill and Grant Bagley toiled with last-minute repairs.

Now it was 10 a.m. Regatta day: Grant began his droll commentary; the Rev. John Evans proclaimed the Blessing of the Fleet; the cannon boomed; and the skipjacks were off..

Favorable wind and captains' dexterity resulted in a second circuit. The crowd cheered the skipjacks on while enjoying Ana Amaya's refreshments.

By the way, Dennis Evans and "Hearts Delight" came in first in the initial lap. Then, in the final circuit, after a brief encounter with Dennis' boat, Dick Garrison and "Priscilla" ended up this year's winner!



The Rev. John Evans conducts the traditional blessing of the fleet. Others visible are Dennis Evans, Nancy Eichert, Dick Garrison and Pat Kirkham. Photo by Peggy Latimer.

Next Collingtonian in September

The Collingtonian doesn't publish in July and August, but we'll be back in September. If you're interested in writing, photography or copy editing, we'd love to see you at our first staff meeting of the new season on Aug. 10 at 2:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Newer residents are especially welcome. Have a great summer!

The Collingtonian

**Financed by Residents,
Written by Residents for Residents**

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Published monthly (except July and August)
by the Collington Residents Association, Inc.

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Distribution Manager: Ernie Blake.

This issue and many past issues of the Collingtonian are now online 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.

Exercise Your Right to Vote

By James Giese

Tuesday, June 26 is Primary Election Day in Maryland, but voting will have begun well before that. Statewide, Democrats will nominate one of nine candidates to run against Republican Governor Larry Hogan, who seeks a second term. For U.S. Senate, incumbent Ben Cardin is facing seven Democrat challengers while Republicans will choose an opponent from a field of 11. Many county offices are on the ballot; the primary will be tantamount to the general election in this Democratic stronghold of Prince George's County.

Democrats must deal with a two-page paper ballot listing 115 candidates running for 25 offices. Republicans have an easier task. Theirs is a one-page ballot that lists 21 candidates for nine offices.

On the Republican side, only the offices of U.S. Senate and the non-partisan Board of Education are being contested. In contrast, among Democrats, only the Fourth Congressional District member of the House of Representatives and the state offices of Comptroller and Attorney General are uncontested. In those offices, incumbents are seeking reelection. Also, six incumbent judges of the Circuit Court are seeking nonpartisan reelection without being challenged. Last on both ballots, but not least, is election of a District 6 member of the school board, also non-partisan.

The Green and Libertarian Parties will not have primary elections. They have nominated candidates by convention for some offices and those names will be on the General Election ballot. Those party members and unaffiliated registered voters may still vote in the Primary for the two non-partisan offices.

It is too late to register to vote. If you are registered, there may still be a chance for Collington residents to vote absentee. A request to have a mailed or faxed ballot sent to you must be received at the Prince George's County Board of Elections by June 19. If you want to download a ballot from its website (elections.maryland.gov), your application must be received by June 22. Our local board is just down Lottsford Road

at Mercantile Road and you can fill out your form there. You can also request a ballot online if you have a Maryland driver's license or I.D. card.

Maryland offers early voting from June 14 to 21 between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. There are 11 county locations, the nearest being the Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Road, next to FedEx Field. On election day, Collington residents can vote at the Charles H. Flowers High School, 10001 Ardwick Ardmore Road (right on North Campus Drive, right on St. Joseph's Drive, school on the left past fire station) from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Both election places are handicap accessible but require walks down long corridors. Collington provides transportation to the voting precinct (see the Courier for details and other voting information).

Before the election, voters are mailed registration cards. Yours will tell you where to vote. Take it with you to the polling place, although generally identification is not required.

During early voting or on election day, you will first see an election clerk to be checked in and be given a paper ballot to hand mark. Use the pen provided to fill in the oval next to your choices (remember, Democrats have a two-page ballot). Review your ballot choices, place your completed ballot into the privacy sleeve provided and take it to the scanner. An election worker will direct you to insert your ballot into the scanning unit to cast your vote. Your ballot will be scanned and dropped into a secure ballot box. Thus, your vote will be counted electronically, but there will be a paper ballot for recounts.

Space is not available to review all the election contests. Comprehensive election and candidate information is available in the 2018 Voters' Guide prepared by the League of Women Voters of Prince George's County at lwvmd.org/prince_george_s_county. The League also has an interactive guide at www.vote411.org.

We Welcome Our New Neighbors

Judythe Alston (Cottage 2008, Ext. 7556): New Yorker with Widespread Interests

By Mary Bird

Nursing and life-long learning drive Judythe Alston.

For a few years after graduating from nursing school, Judythe left her home near Albany, N.Y., to experience the West, working in the San Francisco Bay Area and Seattle for a few years. She missed the changing seasons and the warm summer beaches along the east coast, so returned home to work at the Albany Medical Center. Then a friend invited her to spend a weekend in New York City, capping it with a Broadway Show, "Sweet Charity."

The day she returned to Albany, Judythe handed in her resignation. Two months later, she was living in an apartment five blocks from the Metropolitan Museum, and she was still living there when she decided to move to Collington. It was hard to give up.

Judythe completed a B.S.N. from Hunter College and a Master's in Education at Columbia University. She made a career in nursing education, finally at Elmhurst Hospital Center in Queens, a hospital noted for its high immigrant population, both patients and staff.

Judythe remained in New York for 10 years after she retired, enjoying travel, theater (church basements to Broadway), art, films, and peer education at the New School's Institute for Retired Professionals.

She loves the movies, and after seeing "Out of Africa" was inspired to join a tour to East Africa. While visiting Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe,



African art caught her attention and she began a collection of masks and other art.

In May, Judythe completed a cruise on the Rhine, but a most memorable European tour was with The Band of Brothers tour group, following the trail of Easy Company of the 101st Airborne Division through France, Belgium, and into Germany. Judythe found the reverence shown in each village through war memorials, June 6th celebrations, and statues, remarkable. She also focuses much of her reading and film viewing on the World War II era.

Judythe is descended from an Irish grandmother (Gilligan), a 100 percent city girl. However, she visits her many North Carolina relatives for annual cousins' reunions. She also has visited Ireland several times to see Galway, where her grandmother grew up, as well as other areas.

Judythe began to look at CCRCs several years before she moved to Collington. She wanted to be near a big city and was impressed by the Quaker philosophy. Since moving here, she attends meeting of the Trips, Building, Health Services, and Marketing Committees; participates in the Mystery Book Discussion Group; helps maintain the periodicals room; takes SAGE classes; and makes regular trips into Washington.

Jim and Karen Kirts (Cottage 2217, Ext. 7297): Architecture and Design

By Marion Robbins

Born and raised in Erie, Pa., the oldest of four daughters growing up in a one-bath house, Karen learned about construction very early from her father. He was transferred to New York City when she was 16, and the family settled in Stamford, Conn., where she attended high school, sang in the choir and worked as a soda jerk.

Karen wanted to study interior design. However, she had to convince her dad, who by then had been transferred to St. Louis. She ended up going after her heart's desire at Moore College of Art in Philadelphia. She managed to get a working grant and worked for five professors. During



her junior year she competed against four seniors for a traveling fellowship and came in as first runner-up. Undaunted, she re-applied during her senior year and won! Greatly interested in studying Scandinavian design, she traveled to Copenhagen,

Oslo, Stockholm, and Helsinki, where she met many designers and made lots of friends.

Karen's first job was as a draftsman for the St. Louis Junior College District, which at the time was building three campuses. There was plenty of work for her, and that is where she met Jim, who was working for an architectural firm designing one of the campuses. They married and bought a house in St. Louis, but Jim was soon transferred to Denver. They lived there for 12 years while Karen worked for a national design firm that did corporate work. This required a great deal of travel. Then it was her turn to be transferred, and she took a position with the prestigious firm, Gensler Architects, doing an unusual job: they wanted someone to do facilities planning and move coordination for Verizon. She oversaw the contractors, was her own boss, and kept the client happy for 18 years before she retired.

Jim was born in Dayton, Ohio, but grew up in Indianapolis. He started studying Mechanical Engineering and quickly switched to Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis. When he graduated in 1963, the United States was getting more involved in the Vietnam War, so he joined the Navy Reserve in St. Louis and was sent to Norfolk, Va., for active duty. He ended up spending two years on a destroyer.

Jim started working for a small St. Louis architectural office that had a contract for one of the Junior College District campuses where Karen was working. He had decided early on not to do



any residential architecture, but instead to focus on office, school and medical buildings. When his project manager opened his own firm, he asked Jim to join him in designing several schools. Later, his new boss was killed when his small airplane crashed, and the firm subsequently was bought by senior people within it. Jim was then asked to move to Denver to work on projects there. He also performed construction observation, advising building owners of potential problems during construction. He became interested in facilities management, modifying buildings to make them more functional for people. Later he worked on a contract basis for Mountain Bell and was offered a full-time position, but he followed Karen to Washington instead.

Jim found work in a small architectural firm in Baltimore. He then moved to work on a contract basis doing building consolidation for the main headquarters of the World Bank. He went on to work nine years for Leo A. Daly, an international architectural and engineering firm, before retiring in 2009.

Karen and Jim have enjoyed many trips together. They spent one month driving through the North and South islands of New Zealand. Karen also won a round trip ticket for two to anywhere in the world, which led them to spending one month traveling in China.

Karen has already become a big asset to Collington: At Joe Howard's request, she is slowly assuming part of the responsibility for the OO Shop, and is currently working on reshaping the available space for the OO Shop as part of the Administration's renovation to create new space for the Hobby, Interiors, and Frame Shop.

Jim is looking forward to helping in the wood shop, as well as trying his hand at billiards. They are happy to be here with Abby, their dog, and Karen is most happy that she does not have to cook dinner every night.

Collington's Merry Month of May

After a brutally cold winter, Collington residents found much to celebrate in spring. On May 11, the Collington Foundation hosted "An Evening in Paris," a French-themed gala that raised some \$70,000. Among those enjoying the *joie de vivre* – and the goodies listed on the menu board (below) – were Mary Godfrey and Nini Almy (top, right). Photos by Joyce Koch.



A culmination of the May 26 regatta was the Hospitality Committee Committee's Commodore's Ball (middle, right). Music was provided by our own Kolling Katz and, for dancing, by the Randy Pendleton 8. Photo by Peggy Latimer.



A Toast to the Ivy Lounge

By Frances Kolarek

When Collington underwent an expansion program some years ago, the Ivy Lounge was a new feature. Equipped with a bar and bar stools, it stood for some time absent drinkers or servers.

Until one day Eli Ayoub, then head of Dining Services, approached Yolanda

Johnson of our culinary staff and said: "We need a bartender." Equipped with maturity and charm, Yolanda found herself in the Ivy Lounge, charged with stocking its bar and serving its clientele, who rapidly filled the space.

Meanwhile, a Steinway grand piano had been moved into the room, and Lloyd Henderson, a professional musician who "had always wanted to play a Steinway," offered his services at the cocktail hour, twice a week. He was joined by fellow resident Don Lewis, a professional drummer who replaced his now-retired set with new drums and became a regular performer. Then Lloyd fell ill and moved away.

Yolanda, swamped with orders for Manhattans, Old Fashioneds, etc. was hustled off to bartender school, from which she graduated with a certificate qualifying her to handle cocktail orders.

Meanwhile, other pianists volunteered their talents – Eulane Rose took over Friday's entertainment – and for a while we had music four days a week -- but not on Saturdays, to the astonishment of newcomers. And recently the Bagleys, Margaret at the piano and Grant on bass, joined



*Yolanda Johnson in pouring mode.
Photo by George Newman.*

the ranks. Another pianist would be most welcome; calls have gone out for a volunteer.

When an emergency arose and Yolanda needed time off, there was no qualified back-up at hand until Christian Ramsey, Culinary Services Director, chose Vionna Carson from among his staff to fill

the job and she, too, went to bartender school. Today, she fills in when Yolanda is off and also takes care of wine service at The Landing.

The Ivy Lounge is a godsend to many Collington singles, allowing them to meet and mingle with others. Today, experts say that successful aging requires three elements -- regular physical exercise, consistent mental exercise, and a circle of close friends.

And scientific studies have shown that moderate use of alcohol can be good for us. It has been postulated that it isn't the alcohol that does the trick. It's the congeniality that results when people get together over a glass.

A visit to Collington's Ivy Lounge lends credence to this view. Congeniality prevails and numerous groups of friends crowd in to enjoy a glass during the cocktail hour.

If you aren't already a patron, why not drop in one evening?

Restaurant Review: Zaytinya: Attractive but Under-spiced

By Carl Koch

This restaurant features the eastern Mediterranean cuisine and wines of Lebanon, Turkey and Greece, served as small plates, or mezze. Opened in 2002 by the renowned Spanish chef and restaurateur José Andrés, it has been a popular venue ever since. The Michelin Guide for Washington favored it for its excellent food, good value and warm, friendly service.

The February 2018 issue of Washingtonian magazine lists Zaytinya as number 80 of Washington's 100 very best restaurants. They mentioned its Aegean tones, accented by the olive-oil vessels and meats turning on spits in the open kitchen. They particularly liked the lemony snail kibbeh and lamb tongue souvlaki. Prices were deemed moderate.

A few blocks from both the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro station and Metro Center, it is convenient to the Capital One Center, Smithsonian American Arts Museum, National Portrait Gallery and Chinatown. It has valet parking, seasonal outdoor dining and is wheelchair accessible.

The menu offers 60 small plates, some vegetarian, and desserts in half or full portions. There is a chef's tasting menu for \$55 and a four-course lunch for \$25. Small plates, whether tapas or mezze, are a good choice for us older folk who are not "plowing the back 40" all day. The proclivity of many restaurants to supersize their dishes runs counter to our desire to dine out but not gain weight.

Joyce and I had lunch at the Zaytinya restaurant recently and we were immediately impressed by the high ceilings and large windows, which gave our table a sunny, open feeling. We

both ordered the \$25 per person four-course lunch, which offered a choice of one of four dishes in each of three groups, plus two dessert choices. From section one we selected Baba Ghannouge, an eggplant dish seasoned with tahini, lemon and garlic and Fattoush, a no lettuce salad featuring small tomato halves and radish slices. From the next section we ordered Falafel, a chickpea fritter, and Kotopoulo Youvetsi with chicken, orzo and tomato. After which we had Adana Kebab, a seasoned skewered ground lamb, and Keftedes Kapama, beef and lamb meatballs with feta cheese, rustic tomato sauce, cinnamon and allspice.

We both had the Turkish Delight -- walnut ice cream, yoghurt mousse, honey gelee, orange-caramel sauce and toasted pine nuts. If a dish has ice cream, we like it. This dessert did not disappoint

Two glasses of Lebanese red wine made in the Bordeaux style were excellent.

The service was very good with an appropriately attentive waitress and the table was regularly bused. The bill was \$79 with tax but not tip. Vast amounts of money were saved by scoring street parking in front of the door.

The overall experience was excellent except that I found the food overcooked and very mildly seasoned. If you have eaten eastern Mediterranean food in the past and liked it, this is your place. If you want to try something new, this is your place. It will never be my place.

Zaytinya
701 9th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001
202-638-0800
info@zaytinya.com
Sunday and Monday – 11 am – 10 pm
Tuesday – Thursday – 11 am – 11 pm
Friday and Saturday – 11 am – 12 am

Memories of the Poor People's March

By James Giese

Fifty years ago last month, the Northeast contingent of the Poor People's March on Washington came for lunch to Greenbelt, just up the road from Collington, and the marchers were stranded there.

That was a turbulent time for the nation and particularly for Washington, D.C. It began with the April 4 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., followed by ugly demonstrations in cities throughout the country. In Washington, there was much burning and looting. Demonstrations of all kinds, many peaceful, some not, continued thereafter; both for civil rights and against the war in Vietnam. The assassination of Robert Kennedy two months later and the turbulent Democratic National Convention in Chicago led to more demonstrations, rocking the nation and its capital.

Ralph Abernathy, who succeeded King at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), chose to proceed with the already planned Poor People's March. Participants were to come from all parts of the country to encamp on the mall in Resurrection City to advocate for an economic bill of rights. The Southern contingent, led by a mule train, received the greatest publicity.

I was city manager of Greenbelt. One day the minister of my church came to tell me that his church and another were going to provide lunch for the Northeast contingent of the March. Although Greenbelt was a liberal community, its residents, then nearly all white, were divided and disturbed by all the demonstrations taking place. The city council had chosen to stay out of national



Poor People's March participants demonstrate near the White House. Wikimedia photo.

affairs and stick to local politics. I was left alone to handle this matter.

The Greenbelt Police Chief and I met with the Prince George's County Chair of the County Commissioners (then the highest-ranking county official) and the county police chief. We agreed to keep a low profile with almost no police pres-

ence, but to have many officers close by in case.

Area officials were concerned about what would happen in their jurisdictions when the demonstrators arrived. They lacked information on when and where. A secret meeting of area administrators with FBI and government officials was held within the confines of Lorton Prison in Virginia. There, I was the only one to give specific information. The Arlington County Manager was furious, knowing that the Mule Train would pass through Arlington. That night the press reported the Mule Train had arrived in Washington.

Shortly thereafter, the Northeast contingent, probably several hundred, arrived by bus in Greenbelt as planned. They were met by church members, a throng of press and one police officer. Marshals, husky young men, jumped off the buses and their leader told the officer they would take over. The officer walked away. Upon off-loading, the buses left. Participants were divided between the churches, and lunch went off without a hitch.

The city chief, in civilian clothes, and I went

see March, p.11

D-Day Monument: The Backstory

By Carl Koch

Editor's Note: *This is a sequel to Carl's Memorial Day article in the May Collingtonian.*

Ten years after D-Day, the town of Bedford, Va., created a monument bearing the 40 names of Bedford men killed in Europe during World War II. The survivors went on with their lives, but some felt the need for a National D-Day Memorial. Company D's Bob Slaughter of Roanoke formed a committee for this purpose in 1988.

Because the 50th anniversary of D-Day was approaching, awareness of D-Day's importance was reawakened nationwide. This helped assure that enough funds were raised for a magnificent memorial on a 50-acre site near Bedford. Early in that effort Charles Schultz, the Peanuts cartoon artist and one of America's most famous World War II veterans, pledged \$1 million.

Schultz was asked to head the fund-raising campaign. He and his wife had long known about Bedford's sacrifice and agreed. Soon other well-known figures made large contributions. Steven Spielberg, who researched D-Day events and was keenly aware of Bedford's story, made a hefty contribution. Twenty-five million dollars was the final total raised.

Senator John W. Warner of Virginia initiated a bill in Congress to name the Bedford site as the National D-Day Memorial. Almost everyone agreed that Bedford, and not Washington D. C., should be the location. On June 2, 2001, President George W. Bush opened the Bedford D-Day National Memorial. A book in our library,



*The National D-Day Memorial at Bedford, Va.
Photo by pixabay.com.*

titled "The Bedford Boys," by Alex Kershaw, contains more information about the events mentioned above, plus a full description of the pain suffered by the residents of Bedford.

Bedford is less than 245 miles from Collington and just east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The D-Day Memorial is open 10-5 each day. Should you drive there and not use the Interstates, the scenery on the way is particularly beautiful in the spring and early summer.

Alternatively, you can drive about 25 miles east on Route 50 and visit the Maryland World War II Memorial outside Annapolis. From 50, take the Route 450 exit in the direction of the Naval Academy. The Memorial is at the crest of the hill right before you descend to the Severn River Bridge. Turn left into the parking lot. There is information about Maryland's participation in World War II. The 29th Infantry Division of D-Day fame is one of the units featured. This division suffered 19,814 casualties in Europe. Their battle cry was "29 Let's Go".

If you continue on 450 and descend to the Severn River, the view is spectacular. The beautiful river, the city of Annapolis and the Naval Academy can be seen. A prominent structure at the Naval Academy is the chapel, which memorializes members of the naval forces who have died in service.

Before you cross the bridge is the pricey Severn Inn where you can dine while viewing the Naval Academy across the river. Also nearby is the iconic Cantler's Crab House, but you will need a native guide or a GPS to find it. In your travels, remember the fallen.

Bill Preston on Gardening



Pulling up the Facts About Weeds

What do most gardeners spend their time doing? WEEDING!

Almost all of our weeds have been imported by our forefathers. Now we have to deal with them. What follows is a brief discussion about some of our most persistent garden problem makers.

Garden weeds include pigweed, lambsquarter and goosegrass. All these produce millions of seeds. Use your hoe while the seedlings are small, and once your crop plants are established, mulch them to prevent weed germination.

Lawn weeds are the unsightly ones like dandelion, crabgrass and garlic. Herbicides are the best control for large expanses of lawn. Pulling them out is an endless and frustrating job.

Wood-edge weeds include honeysuckle, bittersweet and porcelain berry. You can thank our weed warriors for tackling these tough climbers here at Collington.

Thorny weeds challenge us to be wary. Horse nettle, wineberry, and our native catbrier require snippers and careful handling.

Tree seedlings can come up anywhere, and here at Collington we can expect seedling maples of several kinds, and black locust. Also, seedlings of Cattery (Bradford) pear seem to appear everywhere in open fields and wood edges.

Berry-fruited weeds are spread mainly by birds: poison ivy (native), porcelain berry, wineberry, Callery pear and wild asparagus.

Weeds with persistent roots include Bermuda grass, ground ivy (not an ivy), and several mints. Chopping these weeds only multiplies them; you must remove and discard all roots and pieces of roots. Nutsedge is special: You can pull the

grassy shoots and never kill it; the nut stays in the ground and re-sprouts forever.

So, what's new on the weed horizon? It's Japanese Stillgrass, which invades lawns and woodlands. Unhampered, it will grow two feet tall and three or more feet across, supported by stilt-like stems. It produces enormous numbers of seeds. Even if you cut the weed to two inches tall, it still produces plenty of seeds. It is spread mostly by feet: yours and mine.

March from p. 9

about the area. There were some 20-30 reporters milling around and the chief noted that a good many of them were undercover police or FBI.

We quickly learned that the buses were not coming back. Further, Resurrection City was not ready for occupancy. The churches were adamant that their hospitality was for lunch only. Neither the city or county would pay public funds to help in that politically charged climate.

Enconced in the church rectory, however, were a young aide from the commissioner's office, the county civil defense director and SCLC representatives. They found churches to house participants, private buses to take them there and cots and other supplies needed. By late afternoon, the marchers had left and Greenbelt returned to normal.

Resurrection City grew to a population of 5,000 (some said 10,000). The plywood shack community was much criticized as a blight on Washington. Daily demonstrations were held at the Capitol and elsewhere. When the permit expired in late June, the Park Service evicted the residents, tore down the structures and restored the area.

The Poor Peoples Campaign had received much publicity, both good and bad, but had failed in its objective to get an economic bill of rights.

Talent on Display in the Arbor

Commemorating National Nursing Home Week in mid-May, a show in the Arbor highlighted the work of resident artists, most of them from the Creighton Center.

The left panel contains work by Hilda Jay (Arbor), Ellen Sistare (arts and craft teacher),

Ruth Taylor (Arbor), Rose Ryskewich (Arbor) and Mary Ellen Hines (Chesapeake).

The middle panel is by Jessie Colson (Arbor), Rose Ryskewich, Ruth Taylor and Rose Ann Potter (Chesapeake). The painting at right is by Charles Casto (independent resident).



Improvements to the Auditorium

By Mike McCulley

At one time, when people talked about HDMI cable or VGA cable, my eyes would glass over and my mind went into hibernation. Not anymore, since Rob Reigle, our Information Technology Manager, provided training sessions on how to use new, improved and simplified audio-visual equipment in the auditorium.

Rob has been going non-stop during the almost two years he has been at Collington, focusing on a variety of campus-wide technology issues. He has done significant research on the needs of the auditorium. His goal is to make the auditorium audio-visual experience a “great one for the entire community.” Toward that end, he has been getting significant feedback from resident and staff to determine what they want in that experience.

The result is new, sophisticated and EASY TO OPERATE equipment. You may be aware of the new, wide angle camera that has been put into service for community meetings and concerts. Because the equipment is so easy to use, Rob is conducting multiple training sessions with the goal of training a significant number of residents. Every committee that uses the auditorium should have at least one member who has been trained – that is a short term goal.

Watch the Courier for training session announcements. If a technology-challenged person like me can learn the system, you know it is easy, and you know you are capable of learning it, too. Give it a try; you’ll be pleased and will be providing a service to the community.