



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS

June 2023



STATE OF AFFAIRS

Good News Flash:

The remediation contractor has completed the project, removed the temporary plastic wall and his equipment. We are now ready to re-open on Tuesday morning.

Background: For those of you who may not be aware of the situation, FISH experienced a plumbing/sewage problem on Wednesday afternoon, June 14. This affected the Food Pantry only with the backup, but it does appear that it might impact our overall plumbing facilities.

In an abundance of caution, we hired a remediation company to clean the affected area and remove all evident moisture. They also placed air scrubbers and dehumidifiers in the area.

Since the remediation happened so quickly, it has been confirmed that none of our food was damaged and all is safe for consumption.

With that in mind, we felt it best to close FISH on Thursday, Friday and Monday with plans to reopen on Tuesday morning, the 20th.

We are meeting with our plumber for estimates, and have begun preliminary conversations about our approach to our landlord with respect to the financial responsibility of this event.

Many thanks to Dan Fontaine and Joe Benedetti for their quick actions, and to Bob Stanzone, a new volunteer who recently agreed to be Building Manager, for taking the lead on the cleanup with the contractor, and reporting to the Board.

Thanks to all who jumped in to help!

-- Mike Motes, FISH Treasurer



After



Before

IN THIS ISSUE

[Appreciation](#)
[Foodbank Team & Shoppers](#)
[Page 2](#)

[Donations](#)
[Page 2-4](#)

[Donate Now](#)
[New Volunteers](#)

[Local News](#)
[Page 5](#)

312 Second Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185
757-220-9379
www.fishwilliamsburg.org
fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com



Appreciation to Foodbank Team and Foodbank Shoppers

As one of the partner agencies working with the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank (VPF), FISH will be participating in a home-cooked breakfast on June 29 for the Foodbank Team to show our appreciation for their hard work. The team does so much to ensure millions of pounds of food are moved in so many ways to reduce food insecurity. Nothing says LOVE like a meal!

FISH has worked with the VPF for over seven years to obtain free and low-cost food. In addition to reducing food costs, shopping at the VPF enables FISH clients to receive some foods not otherwise available, like fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen meat, poultry and seafood.

There are always several representatives of organizations like FISH shopping at the VPF. Shoppers are trying to quickly get as much of the types of food they can use at their facility. It can get hectic for VPF staff and volunteers trying to meet numerous shoppers' needs, but they always remain calm, helpful and courteous.

We also want to express appreciation for our Foodbank Shoppers for their dedicated effort in obtaining food from VPF and stocking shelves, refrigerators and freezers upon their return. Nine members of the James City Lions Club shop at the VPF for FISH. They are: Lions Gary Boxeth, Marla Boren, Don Butts, Phil Giles, Frank Hermes, Mike Holloman, Bill Magowan, Roy Madsen and Bill Williamson. Several of the Lions' spouses regularly assist.

In the last six months, with the help of staff and volunteers at the VPF, our Foodbank Shoppers have delivered 16,302 pounds of food to FISH for our clients.



Left to right: Bill Williamson and Don Butts

-- Don Butts, Former FISH President



Rotary Club of the Historic Triangle

FISH President Jack Trotter was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of the Historic Triangle and received a generous donation of \$1,000.

Pictured from L to R :
Mark Anderson, Rotarian and FISH Volunteer
Jack Trotter, FISH President
Nick Fairbanks, Club VP
Clay McEldowney, Club Director
Dave Kleppinger, Club President



Saint Bede Catholic Church



The first weekend in June, the generous parishioners of Saint Bede Catholic Church collected and donated 420 bags of groceries plus \$160. They also restocked the Pantry for the following week.

FISH provided bales of grocery bags and lists. The Knights of Columbus stapled the lists to the bags and transported them to St. Bede's to use in this collection. Another example of our community working together!

Thank You

Williamsburg Kiwanis Club



On June 11, the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg had its annual picnic, and here is the haul that was collected for the Homeless in Hotels and the Summer Meals for Kids programs.

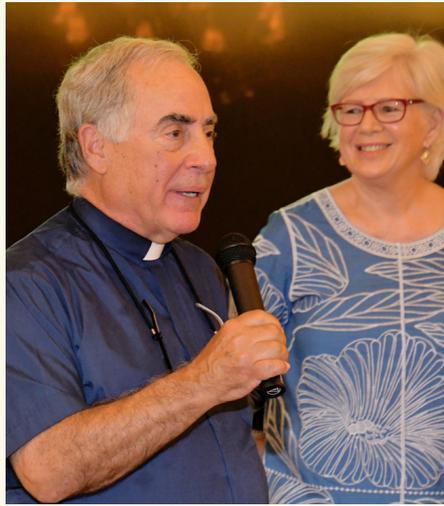
11th Hour Service

11th Hour Service donated \$500 toward the Meals on Wheels Summer Meals for Kids program.

Pictured here are Jill Holroyd (L), FISH Director and volunteer, and Laura Arndt (R), an 11th Hour Service employee and also a FISH volunteer.



This generous donation will go a long way in feeding the children in our community during the summer months.



St. Demetrios Greek Festival

At the St. Demetrios Greek Festival dinner on Saturday, June 12, Father Milton Gianulis presented FISH Director and Clothing Co-Coordinator Cindy Tocci with a \$400 check.

This is the first year that St. Demetrios was able to expand its reach with donations to 3 nonprofits that included FISH.

In addition to the check, the church regularly collects food and clothing for FISH.

We are honored to be selected to receive these generous donations.

Williamsburg Landing



Williamsburg Landing residents donated clothing, kitchen items, and food.

Thank you for your continued support of FISH!

What's in the bag?

We never know what we will find!

These items arrived this month and the volunteers (who always enjoy putting outfits together) went with the "Party Time" theme.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director &
Clothes Closet Co-Coordinator



Amidst the excitement and activity of receiving and shelving donations, the volunteers always try to get a picture and basic information. Any omissions are not intentional.

Donate Now

Donate online by clicking this Donate button



or by scanning this QR code



or by purchasing through the [Target Wish List Registry](#)



To scan a QR code:

- Open your cellphone's camera.
- Focus the camera on this QR code.
- Follow the instructions on your phone screen to complete the action.

All donations directly support FISH services to our neighbors in need.

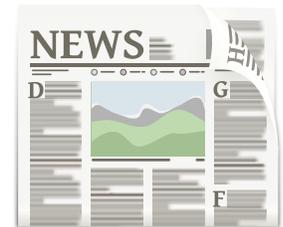
Welcome

New Volunteers

Mark Prosser
Patti LeCornu

Thank you for choosing FISH!

Local News



The Daily Press gave FISH first mention in its May 25 article: **"One family's discards can help another family in need. Here's where you can donate."**

<https://www.dailypress.com/2023/05/25/one-familys-discards-can-help-another-family-in-need-heres-where-you-can-donate/>

We appreciate the support of the local media and Karen McPherson, reporter.

P.S. The Volunteer Spotlight will return in July.