



Newsletter

November
December
2021

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You probably all read my note to the Board of Directors (courtesy of Martha Buell) that the Williamsburg City Council unanimously approved, on October 14, a zoning variance permitting FISH to occupy the buildings at 312-314 Second Street. With this approval, we can begin the real work of relocating FISH. We are expecting proposals from two local construction companies to perform the demolition and reconstruction of the interiors of both buildings. Once the proposals are received, Mike Motes, Dan Fontaine and I will carefully consider each and select the one that represents the best overall value to FISH. We anticipate that demolition will begin immediately after permits are received and that reconstruction will be completed by the middle of January, barring any unforeseen setbacks. The actual move will be in phases to minimize the time we will have to close. A move like this requires a myriad of decisions and actions, so I fully expect to reach out to many of you for assistance during the process.

While our attention has been consumed with the impending move, the good work you all do on a daily basis continues, as does the generosity of the community we serve. With the expiration of many pandemic-related benefits in early September, we are slowly seeing an increase in clients each week and

believe that this will continue. As in years past, we expect the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays to be very busy for all of us with both an increased client workload and larger donations.

Last week, Chick-fil-A on Mooretown Road sponsored a "Trunk or Treat" event (also supported by area police and fire departments). We left the FISH van open and returned two hours later to find the van full with ten crates of donated canned food. A day later, five FISH volunteers visited Norge Elementary School where 570 students filled the FISH van with 2,600 items. In a class competition to gather the most groceries, the third graders were victorious! Our future is bright if these kids are any indication.

Holly and I wish each of you and your extended families a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. We all have so much to be thankful for!

Jack Trotter
President

A Big FISH Thank You!!

FISH needs generous donors and dedicated volunteers to fulfill our mission. We want to highlight the organizations that have provided grant funding in 2021. The compassion of the groups in the list below enables us to help those in need.

- Bruton Parish Church
- Empty Bowls Virginia Peninsula
- Food Lion Feeds
- St. Martin's Episcopal Church
- Williamsburg Community Foundation's Community Emergency Response Fund

We are grateful for this extraordinary kindness. It is an honor to partner with these organizations to fight hunger in our community.



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DONATIONS

Norge Elementary School



Norge Elementary School's 570 students filled the FISH van with 2,600 items to fight food insecurity in the Williamsburg area. The third graders were victorious in a class competition to gather the most groceries. Roadrunners pictured (from left) are Student Support Teacher Lori Harms, Principal Veronda Matthews, SCA President Brynn Larson, SCA Environmental Protection Officer Trinity White, SCA Secretary McKenna Nardi, SCA Vice President Audrey White, and Vice Principal Elizabeth Scott. SCA Treasurer Faris Malkawi also helped lead the effort. FISH is an all-volunteer service organization that relies on community support to provide food, clothing and small housewares to our neighbors in need.

Thank you for your generosity!

Online donations may be made by

Donate

clicking the  button on our website.

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

Visit our website:

<https://williamsburgfish.weebly.com>

COSTUME SALE FUNDRAISER

The **Costume Sale**, also known as a pop-up Campus Thrift Extravaganza, is a fundraiser sponsored by William & Mary's Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) for FISH, historically held in October.

All clothing items have been donated to FISH and sorted as unusual: vintage, international, formal, holiday. These attic treasures are designated for the CCM students to include in their annual campus fundraiser.

All proceeds from The Costume Sale go directly back to FISH. Since 2017, the event has raised about \$5,000 annually. During the pandemic year 2020, the event went virtual with a smaller, but still substantial return. The preliminary 2021 result is a record \$5,627.

Many thanks to the students of Catholic Campus Ministries and to Karen Berquist for their commitment to FISH.



Thomas & Tessie (TnT) of CCM



Volunteer Spotlight

Donna Koenig grew up in western Pennsylvania and graduated from Edinboro State College with a BS in Art Education. In 1983, while working as a Supervisor for the US Army crafts shops in Bremerhaven, Germany, she met and married Wayne Koenig. Wayne left the Army for federal service a few years later.



Frequent moves made finding employment difficult for Donna, so she returned to school and earned her Elementary teaching certification and a Master's degree in Special Education. She taught Learning Disabilities (K-2) in the public school system, as well as Title I for six years as a private contractor in two private Newport News schools.

The couple moved to Williamsburg in 2015, and love living here. Finally, they are now only a few hours from their only daughter, Elizabeth.

Since retiring, Donna devotes her free time to painting (especially folk painting on wood), doll collecting and designing one-of-a-kind knits. She became interested in volunteering for FISH after serving as the Williamsburg Knitting Guild's Point of Contact for FISH donations. You may see her at FISH several times each month where she fills grocery bags and helps clients shop for clothing.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

Marsha Schmidt

Rhonda De Chirico

Joanne Mertens

Thank you for choosing FISH!



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, FISH will follow the Williamsburg-James City County Schools' schedule.

This year differs from previous years in that if schools open late, then FISH **will** open late too.



2021 Closures

January 1	New Year's Day	Friday
January 18	Martin Luther King Day	Monday
February 15	Presidents' Day	Monday
May 31	Memorial Day	Monday
July 5	July 4 observance	Monday
September 6	Labor Day	Monday
October 11	Columbus Day	Monday
November 24	Closes at Noon	Wednesday
November 25 & 26	Thanksgiving Holiday	Thursday & Friday
December 24	Christmas Eve	Friday
December 31	New Year's Eve	Friday



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