

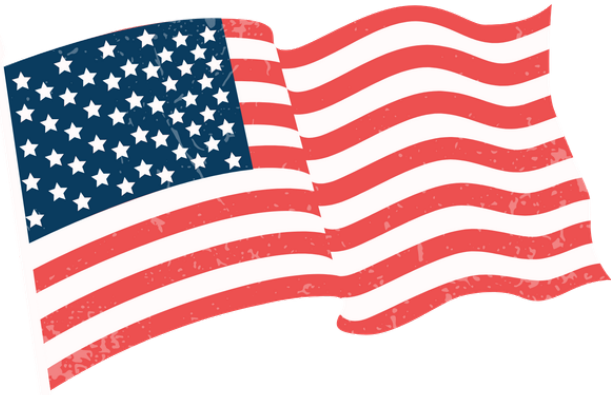


Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



July 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July has brought hot (very hot!) muggy days, but cooler weather will head our way if we're patient.

What a wonderful Celebration for the first 250 years of our Nation! With so many special events, activities, fireworks, and more fireworks on July 4, it was truly great to see so much spirit and flags everywhere. America #250!!

While I've mentioned this in past newsletters, this is a reminder that the **#250FoodDrive** is an effort to collect 250,000 pounds of food by mid-September. Collaborating on this project are FISH, Williamsburg House of Mercy, St. Olaf's Food Pantry in Norge, and Grove Christian Outreach Center. Each of these food pantries weighs all the food that comes their way. A very long dinner table with 250 seats will extend down Duke of Gloucester Street for the finale of this project. What a great way to finish this common goal! And I'm not doing the dishes!

How is our new building on Pocahontas Trail coming along? "Very well" is our answer. For some financials and pictures, see the article on page 2. We will not have a mortgage! We do not have a move-in date yet. Some important work still needs to be done, plus inspections and the Occupancy Permit; then the Big Move can begin.

If you happen to have some bubble wrap tucked in a closet, we can use it to pack dishes and housewares. Door #5 is the collection point for this...and we thank you!

Jill Holroyd
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Donate



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Acknowledgements and Announcements

Capital Project Update for FISH New Home



The Capital Campaign remains strong, and we are closing in on the final amount needed to complete the renovation on our new home at 7129 Pocahontas Trail.

The most recent items completed are:

- Sidewalks
- Railings
- Parking lot resurfaced, striped, and marked appropriately for handicapped spaces
- Main landscaping

The generosity of this community has been amazing, and we are so grateful. Could you please help us close the gap and get us over the goal line?

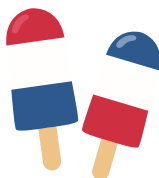


[CLICK HERE TO
SUPPORT THE
CAMPAIGN](#)

*thank
you*



FISH President Jill Holroyd presents Grace Rutledge, of **Williamsburg Area Meals on Wheels**, with a check to support their "**Summer Meals for Kids**" lunch program.



The **Three Jolly Coachmen's Coffee House** once again selected FISH to receive a donation from the July 10 concert featuring the **Runaway String Band**. Several FISH volunteers were in the audience tapping their toes. We are honored that the group has chosen FISH as the partner charity several times.



Presenting a check to FISH President Jill Holroyd are Lynn Trott (band member) and Greg Davy.

Acknowledgements and Announcements

FISH Brings Musical Joy to Students

Our generous community donates many items to FISH each day. Although we share guidelines for clothing and housewares, we occasionally receive unexpected donations. Recently, two donated $\frac{3}{4}$ -size violins arrived in need of repair, prompting us to find the best way they could serve the community.

I reached out to my niece, a music teacher in Newport News middle and high schools, to ask whether she could use them. She was delighted and explained that repairing the violins would cost much less than purchasing new ones.

The violins will now have a new home at **Gildersleeve Middle School** in Newport News. The Gildersleeve Seahawk Orchestra had an outstanding year, with seven students earning places in the district orchestra. The group also competed in Music in the Parks, where it received superior ratings and was named Best Middle School Orchestra.

FISH is grateful that these donated violins can be repaired and placed in the hands of middle school students, helping nurture their creativity, confidence, and personal growth.

- Dan Fontaine



Gildersleeve Middle School Orchestra



Seven students were named to the district orchestra



Freedom Fest

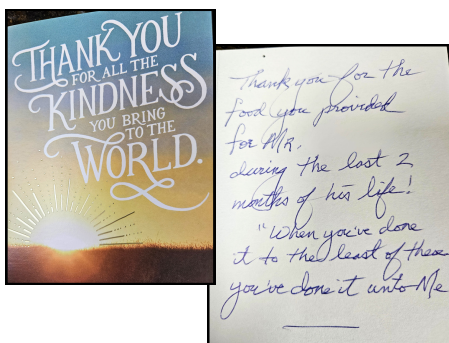
June 13, 2026

This annual festival is a collaboration between the NAACP--York County/James City County/Williamsburg branch, and JCC Parks & Rec.

It was held in Freedom Park to help celebrate emancipation. Fun, food, and information sharing were the order of the day in the 90+ degree weather.

Representing FISH were L-R: Deb Naglee, Sandy Zuri, Susie Van Rijn

- Tracy Parris, Director and Special Events Co-Coordinator



Inspiring Thank You

Thank you for the food you provided Mr. ____ during the last 2 months of his life!

"When you've done it to the least of them, you've done it unto Me."

DONATIONS

Bruton Parish



Many thanks to the **Bruton Parish** volunteers for their annual summer food drive to keep the shelves full at FISH.

PORCH



Once again, the **PORCH Williamsburg** volunteers from First Colony collected a wonderful donation.

-- Maura Rush, VP and Food Donations Coordinator

CMA's Williamsburg Ford



Ashley Irby from **CMA's Williamsburg Ford** conducted a food drive for FISH that helped stock our shelves.

-- Maura Rush
VP and Food Donations Coordinator

Junior Woman's Club of Williamsburg



Representing the **Junior Woman's Club of Williamsburg**, Amanda Woollard, delivered 20 wonderful bags of pantry items.

Thrivent



James Tobias of **Thrivent's Piedmont Financial Associates** invites his local clients annually for a free lunch and an opportunity to support a local nonprofit. This year James chose FISH, and their team delivered two checks and many bags of groceries.

-- Susie van Rijn, Director
and Special Events Co-Coordinator

★ ★ ★
**THANK
YOU**
★ ★ ★

DONATIONS

June's Community Volunteers



Thanks to the volunteers from the Williamsburg Baptist Church who helped the Clothes Closet every Tuesday morning in June. During their total of 40 hours of volunteer time, they prepared many summer items for children. They inspected each item to determine whether it should go in the Clothes Closet or in the bins and racks outside as play clothes. The volunteers fold and label the clothing going into the Closet. All the volunteers enjoyed seeing summer fashions, especially the girls' sundresses.

Some of the volunteers who helped throughout the month (L to R): sitting Kay Cheves, Fran Whitney, Tresa Bobbitt, Carol Schoch; standing Barbara Curtis.

Going Beyond Holding a Clothing Drive

In late Spring, James City Community Church (JC3) held a summer-clothing drive for both adults and children with a focus on males. They collected two **carloads** of new socks and underwear and new or gently used clothing.

They were interested in knowing what happens to the clothing after it gets delivered so we invited them for a special work visit. Four members spent an afternoon touring the Clothes Closet, learning about our procedures, and helping us prepare ladies' tops for our clients. It was a fun, productive visit.



Representing the Life Group are left to right: Grace Chartier; Darren Chartier; Jamie Corkran; Steve Corkran; Chris Massengill; Jennifer Massengill; Lisa Snyder and Don Snyder.

Getting Ahead of the Class



Can you believe our Back-to-School preparations have begun? We could use your help with donations of new underwear and socks and new or gently used athletic shoes for students ages 4 - 18.

In addition, we need new or gently used clothing for students ages 10 - 18. Thank you for helping all students be ready for school.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director and Clothing Co-Coordinator



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Patti Caccavale New Board Member



What do you do when a friend never stops talking about FISH? Mary Ann Brown and I volunteer at a local elementary school each week. Mary Ann, a longtime FISH volunteer and thank-you writer, never stopped talking about her work at FISH, so I had to check it out. When Volunteer Coordinator Martha Buell took me on my first tour, I liked what I saw. The rest is history.

Previously, I taught school for 40 years, and I loved every minute of the last 25 as a Gifted Resource teacher. Volunteering at two elementary schools has helped me ease into retirement. Working at FISH is the "icing on the cake". Also, my 20 years of experience with PORT (People Offering Resources Together) Winter Shelter for the unhoused have made me comfortable working with those in need.

My opportunities at FISH include Pantry tasks (see below), Reception, and now Board member. When a director's seat became available due to a move out of area, I knew I would be privileged to serve on the Board of Directors of this amazing organization.

When I'm at the Reception window, I enjoy chatting with the clients. Recently, a young hospital aide came to FISH for the first time. She had just come from work. It was clear she felt awkward and wasn't sure that enrolling as a client was the right thing to do. She kept apologizing for asking for help and said she had never been in this situation before. I assured her that we are open to everyone and that it doesn't matter what circumstances brought her to FISH. I let her know that we are here to help and that she could come as little as once or every month for as long as we are in business. By the end of her visit, we were laughing about the increase in food prices for all of us. You've got to laugh, or you would cry. She was so grateful, and I was pleased that we could lighten her load.

My husband, Fred, also volunteers in the Pantry. We have three grown sons and six wonderful grandchildren. They live in Yorktown and Ashburn, Virginia, and Geneva, Switzerland (see [December 2025 newsletter](#)). Needless to say, we see some grands more than others.

In reflection: I've met so many wonderful FISH volunteers. I think some of them "live" at FISH; they are there so often. Thank you, Mary Ann, for your commitment and shining example.



*A typical day in the Pantry
filling a client's order.*

