

West Point Tri-Rivers Chamber of Commerce

AUGUST 2014 NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Chamber has hired a new Chamber Coordinator, Lindsey Johnson. She will be in the Chamber office Tuesday-Thursday from 9:00-2:00.

Lindsey comes to us from Charles City, where she lives with her husband and two children, both of whom are students in the West Point School System. Her experience spans more than 11 years with the same non-profit, Central Virginia Health Services, Inc. Lindsey has a wealth of experience utilizing the latest internet and social media technology. We have already made some technological changes at our most recent Board of Directors meeting. Please make it a point to stop in to see Lindsey to wish her well and offer up some volunteer time.

Your President,

John P. Crowder, III

WHAT'S THE POINT?

I think all of us have this feeling from time to time about almost everything, especially requests for commitment of time. Well let me chip in my two cents.

For many years we have raised money for the Chamber through a variety of events. Where does this money go? We have partnered with the town to make possible the downtown park, stage project, playground, fencing, paving of the alleys, and the directional sign project on 14th street to name a few. We have also partnered with many non-profits to facilitate their fundraising efforts, given thousands of dollars in scholarship assistance to students in West Point, King William, New Kent, and King and Queen. These are things that immediately come to my mind without doing longer-term research.

At this time we are more focused on projects that have a more direct economic impact, and we welcome your input. Being a non-profit community business organization, it is improper to spend our funds on projects that solely benefit one or two businesses, however we are receptive to projects which will benefit groups of businesses.

Ideally, we would like to foster growth of existing businesses and increase new business development. Some ideas which have surfaced recently include possible docking facilities on the 7th street waterfront. This is a big idea which will probably require partnering.

The Chamber also offers the opportunity to work with and get to know people who can facilitate development of your project. The Chamber provides an opportunity to “float” a project before shelling out precious funds. It also provides a way to leverage your own effort and partner with others, and to create an outcome that would be larger than you would accomplish alone. Give us the chance to make your point.

JAMMIN ON THE POINT

The last Jammin for this year was held on August, 8, 2014. “Sweet Justice” played to a very pumped crowd, while the Ruritans cooked food. A big thanks goes out to all of our sponsors and everyone who came out to make our Jammin events a huge success!



CRAB CARNIVAL

The Chamber, through the Crab Carnival Committee, newly chaired by Tripp Wise, is making exciting changes and is pushing ahead with plans for the **32nd Annual Crab Carnival** which will be held this year on Friday, October 3rd and Saturday, October 4th.

T-shirts have already been printed and soon will be distributed to be sold. We are still in dire need of volunteers to work Crab Carnival, so please consider giving some of your time to help make this event a success. Our next meeting is Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Downtown Business Center. Please mark your calendars, as we welcome your attendance!

Crab Carnival is our biggest outreach to our larger community and provides a visitation opportunity to prospective new residents and businesses who may consider relocating to West Point. What else could we be doing to bring in 20,000 people to downtown? To pull this off requires a lot of planning and execution, and much of this “work” is quite fun. Additionally, the day to day operations of the Chamber makes necessary some commitment of volunteers. Our new Chamber Coordinator, Lindsey, is available by phone (804-843-4620) or email (wpchamber@verizon.net) and welcomes volunteers and visitors.

CHAMBER MEETING

Our next regular scheduled Chamber meeting is Thursday, September 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Downtown Business Center at 621 Main St. Hope to see you there!

2014 VIRGINIA VOLUNTEERISM CONFERENCE

The VA Office on Volunteerism & Community Service and the [Virginia Service Foundation](http://www.vaservice.org) will host the 2014 Virginia Volunteerism Conference on September 11th and 12th. This will be an interactive conference providing an array of workshops, opportunities for service, and the chance to network. It will be held at the Double Tree Koger Center in Midlothian, VA and the cost is \$95. Please visit <http://www.vaservice.org> for more information on this conference.