



# West Point/Tri-Rivers Chamber of Commerce

## DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

### *A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.....*

Dear Friends,

It has been a year of tumult. We had to replace our long-time secretary, Janice McGowan, our past Crab Carnival chairman, Darius Merritt, and make difficult decisions as the Board of Directors. We have gone through transition and our membership continues to evolve.

We did an exhaustive search for our secretary replacement, which included more than 30 applications. We have replaced our past secretary, Janice, with Lindsey Johnson who is now our Chamber Coordinator. She has been doing a capable job and we are happy to have her. Lindsey has in the past and continues to work part-time for Central Virginia Health Services, Inc. in Charles City County. In addition, Lindsey has helped introduce and refine new technologies into our management and workplace at the Chamber.

Tripp Wise, a relatively new West Point resident, took over as chairman of the 2014 Crab Carnival Committee. Tripp is an employee of Henrico County and also works part-time as a waterman. In addition to Crab Carnival, he has helped with setup and management of the Jammin on the Point concert series with Stuart Jackson. Tripp has also organized a new non-profit social organization, the West Point Social Club, which we will see at more activities. Under Tripp's stewardship, the 2014 Crab Carnival had one of its most financially successful years ever. Tripp also established a new format of activities for Crab Carnival which will be utilized moving forward, and will improve the profitability of the event for vendors and the Chamber.

The Jammin on the Point concert series which has been spearheaded by Stuart Jackson, made the difficult decision to raise the price of beer at the event. This was done after much discussion and heated feedback. The purpose of this change was the fact that after the 2013 summer concert series, the combined profit from all the concerts was only \$700. There are many costs related to all the activities we do which are not directly covered, and for an event as large as this series and the number of volunteer hours spent, \$700 just is not a satisfactory return. By raising the price of beer, the event is now on sound financial footing and we are looking forward to next year.

Spring's-A-Poppin in the Food Lion shopping center was somewhat disappointing in vendor participation, and will be reviewed in depth for 2015. Our Scholarship Dinner Auction was quite successful in raising around \$4,000 which was all given out in scholarships within West Point and surrounding communities. Our base of volunteers is steady, but we are in need of growth. There are many needs for volunteer participation and Lindsey Johnson can gladly plug you into an activity which suits your interests.

As we kickoff the Christmas season, the Chamber held its annual Christmas on the Town event on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Fun was had by all! Events included shopping, carriage rides, a parade, entertainment, and photos with Santa. The event closed with the lighting of the Christmas tree in Town Park, and Tree of Life names being read in honor of or in memory of loved ones dear to our hearts. We'd like to thank our sponsors- Dr. Sam E. English, II, Wyatt-Ogg Furniture, Thrift Insurance, C&F Bank, Baylands Federal Credit Union, Milby Oil Company, West Point Pharmacy and the West Point Police Department.

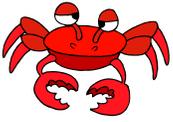
At this time the Chamber has accumulated significant amount of funds for donation back to the town. We are trying to identify the best use of those monies, and are hopeful that we will be able to create an improvement to river access here in town. This is a drawn out process and study is proceeding with involvement of several committees of the town government. The position of the Chamber Board is that improving river access will not only be a significant quality of life issue, but will reinforce our history and provide economic stimulus to the community. We will share more information with the community as this project develops.

As always, we need your financial support and physical participation. We will be having a general membership meeting after the first of the year and look forward to your input and sharing more information with you at that time.

On behalf of the Chamber, I wish you and your family happy holidays!

Cordially yours,

John P. Crowder, III



## **Crab Carnival**

The 2015 West Point Crab Carnival will be held Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Crab Carnival Committee will hold its first 2015 meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Downtown Business Center. We are in need of volunteers so please consider coming out to hear about ways you can help.



## **2015 Annual General Membership Meeting**



Please join us on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the West Point Country Club for our annual general membership meeting, which will also be open to the public. We encourage you to come out and hear about what the Chamber has accomplished over the past year, and the plans we have for 2015, including projects we are looking at to enhance the community and business environment. You will also have a chance to meet the new slate of officers for 2015. Light refreshments and wine will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!