



Creative Voice

PUBLISHED BY THE ISLE OF WIGHT ARTS LEAGUE

A changed world

COVID19 has altered plans, but passion for the arts remains strong

Editor's note:

This newsletter usually recaps recent programs and announces what to look forward to in coming months. With many activities cancelled and planned events uncertain, IWAL's program directors have provided messages about what has changed and how we're looking to the future.

Dear Arts League members and friends,

I know how challenging these past several weeks have been, especially for those passionate about art. We're currently planning for the day when we can get back to providing you a plethora of visual and performing arts events. We have a variety of fabulous suggestions, from free Friday night concerts at the gazebo, our popular Members Art Show at the Arts Center, a couple of house concerts and the Terrific Teen classical recital. You'll have a wealth of choices to inspire your next adventure. So, go ahead and dedicate some time to arts, crafts and and music, knowing the Arts League has wonderful events waiting for you! Until then, know we're all thinking of you and your families. Be strong, be well and continue to prepare for a bright tomorrow. Art is in your future!

-- Isle of Wight Arts League President **Diane Milner**

The Apr. 19 performance of the **Botetourt Singers** from William & Mary, as well as the Music of Ed Bland Concert on May 24, have been cancelled. Both concerts will be rescheduled. The next SAF event will be the **Terrific Teen Talent Concert** on Aug. 2. A few spots on the program are unfilled at this time; local teens who currently study with a private teacher are eligible to audition. For additional information please see <https://www.smithfieldarts.com/terrificteen.html>.

Sundays at Four

The Mar. 8 performance of the **Washington Saxophone Quartet**, followed on Mar. 9 by a master class for Smithfield High School band students, was a great success. The concert attracted 70 attendees and more than 40 students participated in the class.



The **Arts Center @ 319** suspended public operations Mar. 18 for the safety of our volunteers, staff and patrons. However, we still desire to provide joy and hope through the arts to all the folks in isolation in our community and to that end, you should know:



- We are developing new ways to serve our community during the lockdown. One way will be to connect you to virtual gallery tours from the Arts Center and other locations. Please let us know if you are offering online classes we can promote.
- We are still here, planning for the future and keeping the gallery ready to reopen when it is safe to come in. We are also investigating avenues to help our local artists recover the income lost while galleries and shows have been shut down.
- We are committed to serving our community in the future. We are developing more class offerings and activities to allow patrons to de-stress, socialize and create.

Many of our artists are in their studios during the lock-down, skillfully creating new artwork and trying new things. Our next scheduled exhibit will be the annual **Open Members' Show**. In the meantime, stay well, stay safe and keep washing your hands!

-- Arts Center Director *Sheila Gwaltney*

Opening of the **Summer Concert Series** has been postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis and Gov. Ralph Northam's "stay at home" order. The 2020 series had been scheduled to begin on May 17 with an afternoon of blues and jazz to conclude the Smithfield Arts Festival. Isle of Wight Tourism has cancelled the weekend festival and all events related to it. A performance of the Williamsburg Swing Band on May 29 has also been cancelled. The series is now tentatively scheduled to begin the first or second Friday in June, depending on when the stay at home order is lifted. This summer's lineup, which is subject to change, includes:

- June 5 – **Pasture 3** (local children's bluegrass group)
- June 12 - **TRADOC** Army combo
- June 19 - **Chris Campbell** (ventriloquist children's show)
- June 26 - **Higher Ground** gospel group
- July 3 - **Tidewater Concert Band**
- July 10 - **Chisman Creek** (bluegrass/mountain)
- July 17 - **Hard Knox** (bluegrass)
- July 24 - **Kim Persons & Lana Puckett** (Country)
- July 31 - **Little Bit of Swing**
- Aug. 7 - **Billy Joe Trio** (Blues)
- Aug. 14 - **Sounds of Motown**
- Aug. 21 - **Nu Blu** (Americana/mountain sounds)
- Aug. 28 - **Navy Brass Band**
- Sept. 4 - **Clay & Nancy Griffin** (country)

The Summer Concert Series is sponsored by the Isle of Wight Arts League in partnership with the town of Smithfield. Concerts are held at 8 p.m. each Friday on the Gazebo Stage located in front of The Smithfield Times at 228 Main Street.

News Roundup

IWAL volunteers earned over \$1695 for Smithfield Music and Arts Center programs by providing services to Smithfield VA Events BOB Fest on Jan. 18. Our The BOB Fest celebrated its seventh year, growing from 900 attendees in 2014 to 2500 in 2020. Since Smithfield VA Events held their first event, they've returned more than \$1 million to the community. Several IWAL programs have benefitted; SVAE grants have been used to fund contributions to county schools, underwrite musical performances and upgrade the Arts Center point of sales system. The April 2020 Wine and Brew Fest has been cancelled; however, volunteers are needed for Bacon Fest on Oct. 3. Contact [Barbara Mastaglio](#) to sign up.

The **Smithfield Music** house concert with singer/songwriter **Dan Navarro**, scheduled for April 25, has been cancelled. Future concert plans will be announced at a later time.

The **Arts Center @ 319** received a Bronze Award in the Art Gallery category in Coastal Virginia Magazine's annual "Best Of" competition. Winners will be published in the July issue.

The Isle of Wight Arts League extends its gratitude for the financial support of the Arts Center@319 provided by these entities:



Creative Voice is available online at www.smithfieldarts.org

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