

WINGS, WHEELS & WATER

GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mary Shipko's life in the skies began at an early age

Flying was a part of Mary Shipko's life from the time she was born. "My first flight was as an infant sitting on my dad's lap," she said.

The Gloucester Point resident and former airline pilot grew up in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where her father, Charlie Bush, owned a general aviation business and taught people to fly, making regular flights to the Bahamas and the Caribbean. He taught all seven of his children the basics of flying, letting them take turns piloting. Shipko herself started flying in high school.

"It's one of those things that's easy to love," she said. "It's exciting. You use all your senses, and when it works out good, it builds your selfconfidence. The constant learning

Shipko started out in a Piper Cherokee, a single-engine trainer, and moved on to a Cessna Aerobat.

"In South Florida back then, you'd do a little bush flying, like in Alaska where you visit small villages with not many navigation aids," she said.

While she and her siblings all had the same opportunity to fly, said Shipko, she and one brother were the only two who actually ended up becoming pilots.

"I was allowed to dream, to believe that hard work would get me where I wanted to go," she said.

Shipko said she didn't have any grand plan for her career in flying. She just took on new challenges and opportunities as they appeared, always learning new things and moving forward. At the age of 18, she got





Mary Bush Shipko of Gloucester Point was one of the first women in the U.S. to become a pilot for a major airline. After growing up in the airline industry, she earned a number of commercial pilot licenses before finally achieving the ultimate certification that allowed her to fly commercial passengers. She flew planes such as the one at left for Hughes Airwest in the 1970s and 1980s, one of fewer than a dozen female pilots in the nation. She is shown at right in the cockpit.

transport planes, moving up to the larger ones, such as the DC-6 Constellation, or the DC-3 or C-46.

Every new level of accomplishment required new licenses, from instrumentation to multi-engine to command. Each license required hours of study and flight time, and Shipko had to pass a written test, an oral test, and a flight test each time.

a private license and began flying Her top rating is as a passenger

transport pilot. The airline industry was a maleonly industry until 1973, when Emily Howell Warner became the first woman hired as an airline pilot. Shipko realized then that she could become one, too, so she began to work hard to achieve it. The job requires a four-year college degree, so Shipko earned her bachelor's degree in Industrial Technology at Florida International University, completing a two-year course of study in just one year.

All the while, she was flying transports for cargo companies out of Miami International. The planes she flew had all once been passenger planes, but had been converted for cargo use.

Finally, at the age of 26, in 1976,

Shipko got a job as an airline pilot for Hughes Airwest, the airline owned by Howard Hughes. At the time, she was one of fewer than a dozen female commercial pilots in

"As an airline pilot, you get to fly the best equipment, and you have the best working environment,"

SEE LIFE IN THE SKIES, PAGE 6C

A lifelong love affair with the Chevy Vega

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

Steve Forrest of Hallieford has had a lifelong love affair with the Chevrolet, but the one he's loved the longest is the Chevy Vega.

The first Vega he ever loved was a 1971 model that his stepfather owned when Steve in high school. Forrest unfortunately totaled that car in car, but it isn't quite finished March of 1979, just before he went into the Army.

pretty bad," he said, "but I got beyond that.'

His stepfather then bought a 1973 GT Vega, and on visits home, Forrest worked on it, pulling parts from the wrecked car to make it whole, adding shiny wheels and driving it as much as he could.

"He didn't trust me very far," said Forrest with a laugh. Later, Forrest's sister owned a 1974 Vega, and Forrest borrowed it to drive to Fort Stewart, Georgia.

"And that was the end of that car after that," he said.

Over the years, Forrest has owned 156 cars, trucks and motorcycles, fixing them up and selling them, one after the other. He even owned two buses and a 1950 Chevrolet he paid \$7 for at the age of 12 and never got to drive. But he never had a Chevy Vega of his own, until now.

In 2019, Forrest bought a

1973 Vega GT and set about restoring it, replacing the old aluminum engine with a Chevy V-8, along with a new transmission and rear-end. He said the title showed the mileage was beyond the mechanical limit, so he figures it had at least 120,000 miles on it when he got it.

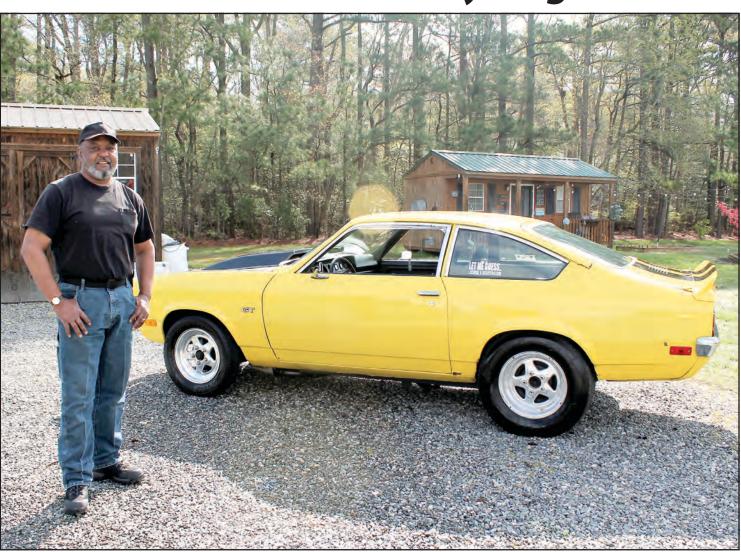
Forrest has spiffed up the yet. A new hood doesn't yet match the bright yellow of the "The accident beat me up rest of the car, and he wants to put some flashier wheels on it and do a few other things. When the pandemic ends and the economy picks up, he said he'll finish it.

"My wife and son said 'you'll do nothing but sell it," said Forrest, "but I said, 'no, y'all will sell this when I leave

Forrest said he's always wanted a 1962 Chevy Impala, and while he doesn't particularly like Fords in general, he'd like to have a 1966 Mus-

For years, Forrest said he drag raced cars. His older brother would drive down from his home in Detroit in one fast car or another, and Forrest spent some time living with him and learning to race. He eventually a 1966 Chevy Nova 2 and fixed it up

SEE **VEGA MAN, PAGE 2C**



Steve Forrest of Hallieford has owned over 150 vehicles over the years, but the one he always wanted was a 1973 Chevy Vega. He still has more he wants to do to the bright yellow car, but he drives it regularly.





Cutting a wake

utboard motor collector Michael Gregg said legend has it that Ole Evinrude, the inventor of the first widely used outboard motor under his previous company, was at a party on an island one day, when his fiancée asked him for an ice cream. He took his rowboat back to the mainland to get the ice cream, but it melted on the way back. He realized his task would've been easier if the boat had a motor, and he invented one. Most of Gregg's motors are either Evinrudes or Johnsons, although he does have a 1959 Chris Craft Challenger, which was noted for its speed.







Outboard motor

collection

Michael Gregg of Foster, treasures items that have been a part of his life,

and since he grew up on the East River, boats and their motors are among those he treasures. He has a collection

of nearly two dozen outboard motors, most of which he has used himself. As

a preteen, he ran the river using a 1953 Johnson that he said is his favorite. One

of his motors, an Elto Evinrude Light Twin Outboard, is the motor that built

the second outboard career of Ole An-

dreeasen Evinrude, founder of the Evin-

VEGA MAN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C)

"It was pretty fast," he said.

When Forrest's son Steven Jr. was 16, Forrest offered him

the Nova, but he didn't want it, so Forrest sold it. Then they bought a 1980 Chevy

Malibu together and fixed it up at Cam's Racing Engines

in Gloucester for the younger

Forrest experienced a reli-

gious epiphany a number of years ago and was saved, and

he told his pastor he had a di-

"I asked him if God was going to make me get rid of myold fast muscle cars," he said with a laugh. "But he said no,

Forrest and his wife Antichella are the pastors of Kingdom Covenant Ministries,

established on Ridge Road in Mathews in 2018. In addition

to Steven Jr., their blended

family, all grown and living their own lives, includes

Shakila, Sylvia and Jarius. While he still loves a fast car, Forrest isn't racing his Vega. "I just drive it," he said. "

"I'd take it to the drag strip on

rude company.

weekends."

Forrest to race.

you'll be fine."

lemma.





Skip & Rene' Spires

What we do? We work for Pop Yachts We are Regional Sales Representatives We work with boat buyers and sellers

Pop Yachts is known for:

Never a fee to list your boat.

Your boat will be advertised on 160+ websites. We only get paid a commission if we sell your boat. You can still sell your boat on your own, and we aren't owed a

Award-winning 5-star customer service.

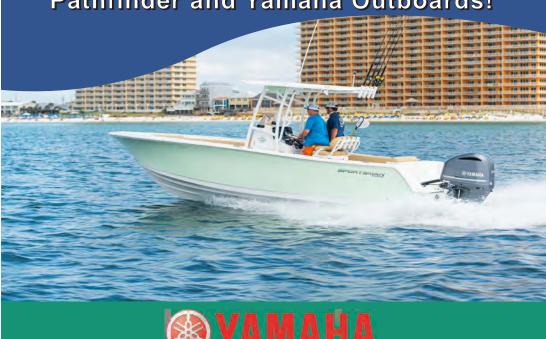
561-419-6623

TeamSpires@popsells.com



YACHT BROKERAGE

A proud dealer of Sportsman, Cobia and Pathfinder and Yamaha Outboards!



EYAMAHA

5195 George Washington Memorial Highway

Gloucester, VA 23061 Phone: 804-824-9904 Fax: 804-824-9916

http://www.oystercoveboatworks.com

Get Your Car Moving In The **Right Direction**

Lube, Oil & Filter Change, Front-End Alignment **Tire Rotation**

Up to 6 qts. of Synthetic Oil Up to 8 qts. of Synthetic Oil *excludes Mobil 1 Oil

Must present coupon at time of service write-up. Expires 5/29/21**■ Goodwrench Service**

% Off all Major **Services**

30,000, 60,000, 90,000 mile services

■ Goodwrench Service

10% OFF ACCESSORIES

Set Toe Caster, Camber Adjust Extra

reg. \$89.95

Must present coupon at time of service write-up. Expires 5/29/21 **■** Goodwrench Service

Coolant Flush

plus coolant

■ Goodwrench Service

BUY ONE GET ONE 50% OFF





Rt. 17, Gloucester, VA 1-800-693-2828 VA DLR 804-693-2828

just go cruising.'





SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

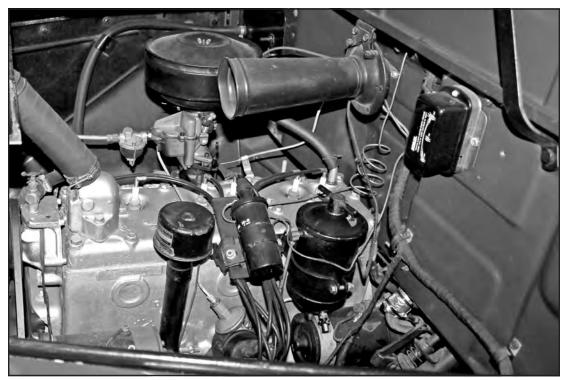
CUSTOM YACHT CANVAS (804)776-7044 17693 General Puller Hwy. shipstailor@shipstailor.com www.shipstailor.com Deltaville, VA 23043

Sloop Creek Boatworks

CUSTOM FIBERGLASS BOAT REPAIR Small repairs on up to full structural restoration Specializing in epoxy repairs and custom parts 25 + years experience (804-384-3388) Mon.-Fri. 9 AM - 5 PM • Sat. Closed • Port Haywood, VA

Restored'51 Dodge pickup

Michael Gregg of Foster, owner of the vintage outboard motors shown on page 2C, has another classic engine under his roof. Gregg has owned this 1951 Dodge pickup truck since he was 16 years old. He said his dad bought it for him, and Gregg stripped it to its frame and restored it completely. The 96 horsepower engine "goes about 50 miles per hour with a good tailwind," he said with a laugh.





5 simple towing tips for novices

(METRO) Drivers may haul trailers for a variety of reasons. Some may haul trailers on vacation, while others may do so when moving to a new home. Regardless of why drivers tow, it's important to keep certain things in mind before hitching up, especially for those drivers will little or no experience towing.

Use the right hitch. Novices may not immediately recognize if they have purchased an incorrectly sized hitch, but vehicle a manual may suggest which size hitch to use. If not, consult with a representative at your local auto parts retailer to determine the correct size.

Make sure the trailer is level. When attached to a vehicle, trailers should be level. Trailers that do not appear level or those that seem to be rising on otherwise flat roadways should be inspected if not brought to the attention of a mechanic.

Drive more carefully. Discomfort or inexperience may propel many drivers to be extra careful when towing a trailer, but even drivers with significant experience towing trailers should keep greater distance between their vehicles and other cars and trucks sharing the road. That's because braking takes longer for heavier vehicles, such as those towing trailers.

Practice turns. Turning is complicated when towing a trailer. Beginning a turn later can help drivers avoid having their trailers clip curbs, a potentially sticky situation that can cause trailers to flip

Avoid reversing when possible. Many people towing trailers for the first time and even some drivers with significant experience towing have difficulty going in reverse. Avoiding situations that require putting vehicles in reverse is ideal for novices. Those who think they cannot avoid going in reverse should practice their technique in empty parking lots before hitting the road, even hiring an instructor to help them, if necessary.





- Mercury Motor Sales, Repairs, Service
- We Service Most Brands
- Electronics Sales & Installation
- Boat Trailer Sales & Repairs
- Boat, Motor & Trailer Parts



5331 Buckley Hall Rd, Cobbs Creek 23035

804-695-4770

LOADRITE A



OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED www.automaxofgloucester.com 804-695-0660

Service Department Hours:

> 8:30 am - 5 pm **Monday thru Friday**

Service Department Phone: 804-642-8880

VIRGINIA **STATE INSPECTION**

EXPIRES 5/28/2021

Brake Check with **Tire Rotation**

See Manager for details.

EXPIRES 5/28/2021

Parts & Labor

Not to be combined w/any other coupon

EXPIRES 5/28/2021

ROTATION BALANCE

Includes weights

EXPIRES 5/28/2021

FILTER CHANGE! Up to 5 qts. of reg. oil







StateFarm™

Joshua D Junker, Agent PO Box 2155

6728 Sutton Road, Gloucester, Virginia 23061-2155 Bus 804-693-9141 Fax 804-693-9040 www.joshuajunker.net

josh@joshuajunker.net

24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®



Day 804-725-5960 Night 804-725-7726

TOM HEARN AUTO SERVICE

• State Inspection • Repairs • Maintenance • Air Conditioning • Tire Sales • Installation • Computer Balancing Lock Out Service • 24-Hour Towing

5645 Buckley Hall Road (Rt. 198) P.O. Box 67 Hudgins, VA 23076





State-of-the-Art **John Bean Alignment Machine**

> **Preventative Maintenance Brakes • Shocks • Steering**

STATE INSPECTION

Dave Skirvin • Master Mechanic • 47 years' exp.

7408 Buckley Hall Rd. (1 mile from 7-11), Mathews, VA c3autoshop@gmail.com



People in the market for new vehicles should familiarize themselves with features that already are extinct or are slowly becoming obsolete.

Automotive parts and features that are now obsolete

(METRO) Each model year because they weren't creating vehicles evolve a little fur- the right air and fuel mixture. ther. What once was popular Also, jets on the carburetor or essential gets updated with could easily become clogged. something new and a little more innovative. While cer- biles no longer use a generatain car parts may always be tor, which is a device used to necessary, others may age out or evolve over the years.

sign. As features change, so does the knowledge required to keep vehicles on the road. The following are some of the components you likely won't find rolling off of the assembly line these days.

Carburetor: Vehicles previously used a carburetor, which was a bulky device that modern ones do not. Most car and improved fuel economy. dible turn signals. Carburetors created an aircarburetors were the culprits in poor engine performance

Generator: Modern automoproduce electricity through the rotation of fine wires in One of the challenges au- a magnetic field. Cars today tomotive repair profession- use alternators. Instead of an als often face is the constant armature rotating inside a staneed to stay abreast of the tionary magnetic field as with changes in automotive de- a generator, an alternator has a magnetic field that rotates around a stationary armature, according to the online resource Electrical Technology. Alternators are more efficient because they can produce more power, even charging a car battery, at low engine

Audible turn signals: Turn sat on top of the engine. Clas- signals, also called blinksic cars have carburetors, but ers, typically have a clicking sound to alert the driver that manufacturers stopped using the signal is still engaged and carburetors in the 1980s be-needs to be switched off after cause fuel injector systems a turn. However, many modproved to be more efficient ern cars are phasing out au-

speeds and idling.

fuel mixture needed for en- not have stamped metal keys, gine combustion. Very often which have been replaced by electronic fobs. When the fob is near to the vehicle, doors automatically unlock. The fob is used in combination with a push-button ignition, making

a key start obsolete. Full size spare tires: Not too long ago, if a flat tire required a roadside change, drivers could rely on a full-sized spare in the trunk or under the vehicle. According to AAA, spare tires have been replaced by tire inflator kits on millions of vehicles in the last 10 model years. Finding a full-sized spare is a rare occurrence.

Control knobs: Radios, heating and cooling systems and other car features are increasingly being activated by buttons or digital displays. Gone are knobs and actual levers. This may be one feature that may have decreased safety and efficiency. Buttons rather than easily manipulated knobs require drivers to take their eyes off the road to findthem and engage.





- All Insurance Welcome
- Accept All Major Credit Cards
- SIKKENS Automotive Finishes
- Guaranteed Color Match
- Lifetime Warranty on All Work

757-898-7015

New Location

757-585-7200

101 Greene Dr., Yorktown 212 Second St., Williamsburg www.autohausva.com

Morningstar Marinas Gwynn's Island

www.gwynnsisland@morningstarmarinas.com



249 Mill Point Rd., Hudgins 804-725-9343

Full Mechanical Service Dry Storage • Ships Store 100% Ethanol Free Gas



Bay on beautiful Horn Harbor.

80 years in business http://hornharbormarina.com

308 Railway Road, Port Haywood Va 23138



Repair • Tail Pipe & Muffler • Brakes Coolant Repair • Under Coating Tires - All Brands • AND MORE!

Main Street, Gloucester • 804-693-3350



Tidewater Collision & Towing

Automotive Collision Repair Boat Collision Repair RV/Motor Home Collision Repair Routine Maintenance/Tires **Towing & Roadside Assistance**

804-699-3450 • 804-699-3451 Fax

4230 George Washington Memorial Hwy., Hayes, VA 23072

tidewatercollision19@yahoo.com tidewatercollisioncenter.com



5 tips to successfully sell your car





Recycle Oil, Filter and Batteries

\$10 Gift Card for Automobile Batteries PROUD MEMBER OF Team

3192 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Hayes, VA 23072

> 804-684-1269 804-993-3065



Looking for a new career? CMTI is here! Call (800) 642-CMTI

Chesapeake Marine Training Institute offers over 50 U.S. Coast Guard approved courses. All testing is done on-site and our license consultants are ready to handle all your application needs. Ever thought of being the Captain of your own boat?? Well... think about it no longer, let's make it "happ'n Capt'n"!

Chesapeake Marine Training Institute

Bringing Professional Mariner Training To You! www.chesapeakemarineinst.com 3566 George Washington Memorial Hwy., P.O. Box 1153 Hayes, VA 23072-1153



Apparel Screen Printing - Embroidery Signs for Home & Business - Boat Lettering

Coastwise Design Signs & Screen Printing

725-7446 (SIGN) www.coastwisedesign.com 330B MAIN ST., MATHEWS, VA

The Dent Pro

PAINTLESS DENT REPAIR Small Dents, Door Dings, Hail and **Dented Plastic Bumpers**

804-413-3053

130+ 5 star Google reviews. 100+5 star BBB reviews/ A+ BBB rating

STILTNER'S Repair

Computerized 4-Wheel Alignment & Balance Specialzing in Front-End or 4-Wheel Alignment Front-End Repair • Suspensions **Tire Sales & Services Brake Repair**

John Bean

Wheel Balancing • Brake Service Drums & Rotors Turned CV Axles Installed Twin 1-Beam Bending

804-693-3660

Located 2 1/2 miles north of Belroi on Rt. 614 across from Peasley Middle School . Gloucester

(METRO) Selling a used ve- the trunk. Clean the interior, hicle does not have to be a and wash windows inside complicated process. But too and out. A fresh wash and often private sellers struggle wax can improve the appearto sell their vehicles because ance of the vehicle and help they are unsure of how to do it to photograph well for sale so. A little information on pictures.

the selling process can make it easy to unload vehicles quickly and at prices that sellers desire.

Know the market. The experts at Edmunds say sellers share through social media. should research the market A sign on the vehicle is also before putting their vehicles up for sale. Compare the prices of similar makes and models, and track whether those vehicles are moving quickly. Cars that are hot commodities will sell rela- ers happy. tively quickly. Even though these may not be the flashy vehicles, family sedans, trucks and vans tend to turn over fast. Convertibles, classic cars or those with special features may take longer to move and will have to be priced accordingly.

Determine the vehicle's worth. Just because sellers want to get predetermined amounts for their vehicles doesn't mean those figures are the going rates for their cars and trucks. Using resources like Kelley Blue Book, NADA Guides and Autotrader.com can help sellers determine the value of their rides according to factors such as mileage, age, model, and condition of the vehicle.

Gather receipts and other paperwork. Sellers should dig through their files to un-earth maintenance receipts and other documentation on their vehicles. For those who can't find receipts, ask for such receipts where the vehicle was serviced. According to Kelley Blue Book, proof of regular oil changes and other services can be a good selling point because it shows that the seller maintained the vehicle to the best of his or her ability. It could be worth the investment to pull the CarFax report on the vehicle as well to see how it measures up. Some buyers will request that information

The Department of Motor Vehicles also suggests gathering a release of liability form to keep sellers from being liable for any damages incurred after the vehicle is sold; warranty documents if the car is still under a manufacturer's warranty; and the vehicle's title.

Prepare the vehicle. Prior to selling, give the car a facelift and a good wash. Vacuum floors, floormats, seats, and



www.gazettejournal.net

Fabric Fiesta Defining style through design.

A custom interior design workroom in Cobbs Creek, Va with in-boat consultation by appointment 804-725-5966 | fabricfiesta@gmail.com

INDOOR & OUTDOOR COLOR SHADES & BLINDS **BOAT & DECK CUSHIONS** AND MANY

OTHER CUSTOM WINDOW TREATMENTS

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE

hannon Kirschhaum | Design | Long and Foster Real Estate Agen



Explore - Relax - Make Memories New & Used Sail & Power



Advertise the sale. Adver-

tise the vehicle in a variety of

different formats. Opt for the

classifieds section of a local

newspaper, post it online and

smart. This will improve the chances of it being seen.

Selling a car can take some

effort, but with the right tac-

tics, cars can be sold quickly

and at prices that make sell-







New! 2021 True North 340E Catalina 425 Coming Soon! On Site Now!

1981 DeFever 44' "Second Fantasy" \$125,000

1993 Catalina 42 "Gannet" \$89,900

804-776-9898

info@dycboat.com www.dycboat.com 18355 General Puller Hwy., Deltaville, Va. 23043



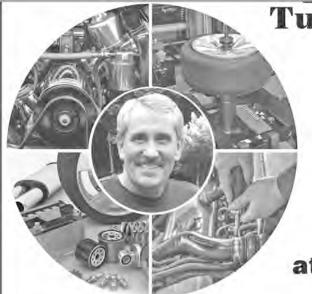
OF GLOUCESTER

IN STORE AND ONLINE. ALL MONTH LONG.

www.napaonline.com **BUY ONLINE** PICKUP IN-STORE

NAPA RESERVE ONLINE More Parts. More Savings.

6577 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Gloucester, VA 23061 804-693-4114 • www.napaonline.com Mon.-Fri. 8-7 • Sat. 8-5 • Sun. 9-5



Turn your wheels in to....

Bobby's **AUTO SERVICE** CENTER-

Bobby Polk / OWNER

at 2862 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy. Hayes, VA · 804-642-4950

for all your vehicle needs foreign and domestic

✓ Alignment ✓ AC Check ✓ Tires ✓ Oil Change ✓ Suspension

LIFE IN THE SKIES: Mary Shipko dreamed of being a pilot from an early age



A small, single-engine Cessna Aerobat was one of the first planes that Mary Shipko flew. She graduated to this aircraft after first learning in a Piper Cherokee.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C)

said Shipko.

But the working environment wasn't the best for the female pioneers who first flew passenger planes.

"There was a period of adjustment with the males," said Shipko. "There were those who would say not to touch was dangerous, a threat to the all-male environment, and there was a lot of sexual harassment ... The good old boy system was very strong, and very isolating.'

The stress of a hostile work environment was hard on Shipko, and after five-and-ahalf years, on her doctor's advice, she gave up the job. But she didn't give up on aviation. At the end of her career, she was grading pilots on Cockpit Resource Management, a successful model for flying that creates a team environment rather than everyone following the captain's rule, as was the practice in the past.

After resigning, she continued to fly small planes, but eventually settled down as a stay-at-home mom until her sons, David and John, were

In 2015, Shipko wrote a book about her experiences, "AVIA-TRIX: First Woman Pilot for Hughes Airwest." It shares the details of her life, her love of flying, and the difficulties she encountered as one of the nation's first female airline pilots.

Over the years, Shipko remained active in the Experimental Aircraft Association, which holds an annual event called Airventure, and she speaks at annual aviation

events such as the Women in Aviation Conference. For the past 10 years, she has emceed at Hughes Airwest reunions.

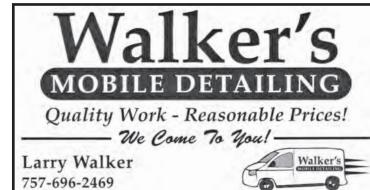
"It's nice they embraced me after all these years," she said. "Better late than never."

Hughes Airwest underwent changes over the years, merging with other airlines until its final merger, when it became anything or not to speak Delta. And over the years, to them ... They thought a said Shipko, the number of woman being in the cockpit female pilots has grown, until today there are 5,000 female pilots in the U.S., and 10,000 worldwide.

Looking back over her career, Shipko said that she was blessed to have had the opportunity that so many women before her hadn't had. Although "being a pioneer is not always an easy path," she said, "thankfully, it's better for female pilots today, and I encourage young women to think about flying as a career."

Today, Shipko and her husband, Gary Smith, volunteer with the U.S. Power Squadron, a group that does free vessel safety checks.

"Boating kind of took the place of flying," she said. "It's lower to the ground, but there's still a cockpit and a lot of navigation aids.





7286 John Clayton Mem. Hwy, **Gloucester Court House** Call 824-5561 or

Message Our Facebook Page @JWsCarWash







WHERE LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS BEGIN

A LIFESTYLE OFFERING COMMUNITY, **CONNECTIONS AND SERVICE EXCELLENCE**

AMENITIES INCLUDE:

- GOLF
- SWIMMING • RACQUET SPORTS
- (INDOORS & OUTDOORS)
- ACTIVE SOCIAL LIFE • MARINA & YACHT CLUB
- CASUAL & FINE DINING • YOUTH PROGRAMS
- MARINA & YACHT CLUB CASUAL & FINE DINING
- YOUTH PROGRAMS

362 CLUB DRIVE, KILMARNOCK, VA 22482

