



# WINGS, WHEELS & WATER

GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS

## GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Section C

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

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

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 self-confidence. The constant learning is fun."

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.



a private license and began flying 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.

Her top rating is as a passenger transport pilot.

The airline industry was a male-only 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 the U.S.

"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 March of 1979, just before he went into the Army.

"The accident beat me up 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 car, but it isn't quite finished yet. A new hood doesn't yet match the bright yellow of the 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 here.'"

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 Mustang.

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 for racing.



SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

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.

SEE VEGA MAN, PAGE 2C



Y M C K





# Cutting a wake

Outboard 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.



SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

## POP Yachts

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 dime ever.
- Award-winning 5-star customer service.

**561-419-6623**  
**TeamSpires@popsells.com**

# Oyster Cove Boatworks & YACHT BROKERAGE

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

## YAMAHA

5195 George Washington Memorial Highway  
Gloucester, VA 23061  
Phone: 804-824-9904  
Fax: 804-824-9916  
<http://www.oystercoveboatworks.com>

## 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 Andreeasen Evinrude, founder of the Evinrude company.

### VEGA MAN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C)

"It was pretty fast," he said. "I'd take it to the drag strip on weekends."

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 to race.

Forrest experienced a religious epiphany a number of years ago and was saved, and he told his pastor he had a dilemma.

"I asked him if God was going to make me get rid of my old fast muscle cars," he said with a laugh. "But he said no, you'll be fine."

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 just go cruising."

# Get Your Car Moving In The Right Direction

## Lube, Oil & Filter Change, Tire Rotation

**\$59<sup>95</sup>**

Up to 8 qts. of Synthetic Oil

**\$49<sup>95</sup>**

Up to 6 qts. of Synthetic Oil

\*excludes Mobil 1 Oil

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

**Goodwrench Service**

## 10% off all Major Services

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

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

**Goodwrench Service**

## 10% OFF ACCESSORIES

Expires 5/29/21

## Front-End Alignment

Set Toe  
Caster, Camber Adjust Extra

**\$69<sup>95</sup>**

reg. \$89.95

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

**Goodwrench Service**

## Coolant Flush

plus coolant

**\$85<sup>00</sup>**

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

**Goodwrench Service**

## BUY ONE GET ONE 50% OFF WIPER BLADES

Expires 5/29/21



Give us a try before you buy!



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





SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

### 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 with 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 over. 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.



# SWORDS



## MARINE SERVICE LLC.

- 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**

NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY OTHER SOURCE • KNOW THERE'S ONLY ONE.....

# AUTO MAX

OF GLOUCESTER



At Seawell's Ordinary  
OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED  
[www.automaxofgloucester.com](http://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

**\$15**

EXPIRES 5/28/2021

**FREE**

Brake Check  
with  
Tire Rotation

See Manager  
for details.

EXPIRES 5/28/2021

**10% Off**

Parts & Labor

Not to be  
combined w/any  
other coupon

EXPIRES 5/28/2021

TIRE  
ROTATION  
&  
BALANCE

Includes weights

**\$59<sup>95</sup>**

EXPIRES 5/28/2021

OIL, LUBE &  
FILTER CHANGE

Up to 5 qts.  
of reg. oil

**\$30<sup>34</sup>**

Full synthetic oil available.

EXPIRES 5/28/2021



24-Hour  
Towing

24-Hour  
Towing

**All-Around *AUTO REPAIR***  
**WE'RE THE BEST ALL-AROUND  
FULL SERVICE AUTO REPAIR**  
1856 BUCKLEY HALL ROAD • DUTTON, VA  
ALLAROUNDAUTO@YAHOO.COM • 804-725-8313

**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

*Terry S. Hearn*

**C-3  
AUTOMOTIVE  
725-3006** LLC

**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

**GUNN'S  
BODY SHOP**  
SINCE 1954

**We do *MORE* than Bodywork!**  
*Expert Collision Repair • Four Wheel Alignment  
Front & Rear Alignment • CV Joint & Front End  
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



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 vehicles evolve a little further. What once was popular or essential gets updated with something new and a little more innovative. While certain car parts may always be necessary, others may age out or evolve over the years.

One of the challenges automotive repair professionals often face is the constant need to stay abreast of the changes in automotive design. 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 the assembly line these days.

Carburetor: Vehicles previously used a carburetor, which was a bulky device that sat on top of the engine. Classic cars have carburetors, but modern ones do not. Most car manufacturers stopped using carburetors in the 1980s because fuel injector systems proved to be more efficient and improved fuel economy. Carburetors created an air-fuel mixture needed for engine combustion. Very often carburetors were the culprits in poor engine performance

because they weren't creating the right air and fuel mixture. Also, jets on the carburetor could easily become clogged.

Generator: Modern automobiles no longer use a generator, which is a device used to produce electricity through the rotation of fine wires in a magnetic field. Cars today use alternators. Instead of an armature rotating inside a stationary magnetic field as with 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 speeds and idling.

Audible turn signals: Turn signals, also called blinkers, typically have a clicking sound to alert the driver that the signal is still engaged and needs to be switched off after a turn. However, many modern cars are phasing out audible turn signals.

Car keys: Newer vehicles do not have stamped metal keys, 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 find them and engage.

**Complete Automotive & Diesel Repair & Service  
Transmission Service & Rebuild  
Tires & Wheels  
Locally Owned and Operated**  
4009 George Wash. Mem. Hwy., Hayes, Virginia 23072  
804-642-2960

**GRAFTON  
COLLISION | CENTER**  
Yorktown • Williamsburg

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

**757-898-7015**      **757-585-7200**  
101 Greene Dr., Yorktown      212 Second St., Williamsburg  
New Location      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**

**Pruitt  
AUTOMOTIVE**

**Paul W. Pruitt**  
**3905 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy.,  
Hayes, VA**  
(across from Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church)  
**757-707-0266**  
www.pruittauto.com

**Hudgins  
HORN HARBOR  
Marina**  
804-725-5225

**Covered and open slips,  
travel lift, gas and diesel,  
pool, club house,  
bathrooms and showers**  
**2.5 miles from the Chesapeake  
Bay on beautiful Horn Harbor.**  
80 years in business  
http://hornharbormarina.com  
308 Railway Road, Port Haywood VA 23138



5 tips to successfully sell your car



Buyers may be waiting in the wings to purchase used vehicles that have been well-maintained.

(METRO) Selling a used vehicle does not have to be a complicated process. But too often private sellers struggle to sell their vehicles because they are unsure of how to do so. A little information on 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 should research the market 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 relatively 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 unearth 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 as well.

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 face-lift and a good wash. Vacuum floors, floor mats, seats, and

the trunk. Clean the interior, and wash windows inside and out. A fresh wash and wax can improve the appearance of the vehicle and help it to photograph well for sale pictures.

Advertise the sale. Advertise the vehicle in a variety of different formats. Opt for the classifieds section of a local newspaper, post it online and share through social media. A sign on the vehicle is also smart. This will improve the chances of it being seen.

Selling a car can take some effort, but with the right tactics, cars can be sold quickly and at prices that make sellers happy.

*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

Shannon Kirschbaum | Design | Long and Foster Real Estate Agent

**O'Reilly**  
AUTO PARTS

Recycle Oil, Filter and Batteries  
\$10 Gift Card for Automobile Batteries

PROUD MEMBER OF **Team O'Reilly**

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

804-684-1269  
804-993-3065

www.oreillyauto.com

**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

**Boat Lettering**

Logo Design  
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  
Specializing in Front-End or 4-Wheel Alignment  
Front-End Repair • Suspensions  
Tire Sales & Services  
Brake Repair

**JohnBean**

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

Nobody Covers  
Gloucester and Mathews  
Like We Do

**GAZETTE-JOURNAL**  
Bird counters renew New Year's ritual in Mathews

**Subscribe Today**  
804-693-3101  
www.gazettejournal.net

HELPING BOATERS SINCE 2001

**DELTAVILLE DYC**  
YACHTING CENTER

**CHESAPEAKE CYS**  
YACHT SALES

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

New! 2021 True North 34OE Coming Soon!	New! 2020 Catalina 425 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

**NAPA** OF GLOUCESTER

**AAA MEMBERS  
SAVE 20%  
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 anything or not to speak to them ... They thought a woman being in the cockpit 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-a-half 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 grown.

In 2015, Shipko wrote a book about her experiences, "AVIATRIX: 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 Delta. And over the years, said Shipko, the number of 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."

*Sail Yorktown*  
*Aboard the*  
*Schooner*  
*Alliance*

*Daily Sightseeing*  
*Cruises April to November*

*Morning, Afternoon*  
*and Sunset Cruises*

*Pirate Cruises*  
*Memorial Day to Labor Day*

*Bring the kids to*  
*Capt. Mahems's School of Piracy!*

*Sailing from Riverwalk Landing*

*1-888.316.6422 - www.sailoryktown.com*

**GROVER'S**  
**AUTO REPAIR**

**SINCE 1968**

**SERVICE NOW...SAVE LATER!**  
**COMPLETE CAR SERVICE**

**NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART HUNTER**  
**ENGINEERING**  
**FRONT-END/4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT**

- STATE INSPECTION
- 23 1/2 HOUR WRECKER SERVICE

**804-725-7129**

NIGHTS: 804-366-3314

153 MAIN STREET, MATHEWS (Located Beside Food Lion)

**INDIAN CREEK**  
YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB

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

**NEW IN 2021!**  
**NEW RESTAURANT**  
**\* BANQUET SPACES**  
**NOW OPEN!**

ICYCC.COM 804.435.1340  
362 CLUB DRIVE, KILMARNOCK, VA 22482

**SUZUKI SPRINGTIME SALES EVENT**

**Don't Wait Another Day.**

**SUZUKI MARINE** | **THE ULTIMATE OUTBOARD MOTOR**

**SUZUKI INSTANT SAVINGS**  
SAVE RIGHT NOW ON SELECT SUZUKI OUTBOARDS

**REPOWER FINANCE**  
\$ SUZUKI MARINE | **THE ULTIMATE OUTBOARD MOTOR**

**INSTANT SAVINGS**  
INSTANT SAVINGS ON SELECT MODELS WHEN YOU BUY A NEW SUZUKI OUTBOARD. SEE YOUR DEALER FOR DETAILS.

**REPOWER FINANCE**  
RATES AS LOW AS 5.99% ON NEW SUZUKI OUTBOARDS ON APPROVED CREDIT. \* (60 MONTHS)

**Friday's MALISE MARINE**  
SALUDA, VIRGINIA

804-758-4131 ~ 14879 George Washington Memorial Highway, Saluda, Virginia 23149  
Located in Gloucester County – Glens Area (right next to the 7-Eleven)