

MEET THE FORT SUMTER HOUSE STAFF



JOE YETSKO, Building Manager

Few people know that Joe was a Navy helicopter pilot for 12 years, logging more than 3,000 hours at the controls of the H-53. He performed mine-sweeping operations in Vietnam and the Suez Canal in addition to flying cargo in Sicily. Makes his current job as FSH Building Manager seem somewhat sedate!

You may not realize how much is involved in managing the Fort Sumter House—and Joe is in the middle of it all—HVAC, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, painting, managing a staff, insuring integrity in our finances, and coordinating vendors. Our beautiful but aging building takes a lot of upkeep!

Joe started working on the farm in Pennsylvania at age 13 and has been working ever since. As a teenager he worked on a tobacco farm in Connecticut. In high school he was in the marching band, and at only 140 pounds played tight end on the football team. He graduated from Penn State with a B.S. in aeronautical engineering and then went into the Navy OCS and flight program. He retired from the Navy after 20 years, the last few as Director of Training and Exercises, where he trained Navy pilots in mine sweeping. After the Navy, he worked in the construction industry and became a master electrician. Joe has been married to Karen since 1988. Their daughter Kelsey is a sophomore at the College of Charleston majoring in marine biology. Their son Mathew is a senior at Wando and will start at the College of Charleston in the Fall.

He started at FSH in 1996 and has worked hard to keep our building in good shape. Joe says his favorite part of the job is interacting with owners and residents. We appreciate the work he does.



LANWOOD BEALL (LANNY)— Security/Maintenance & pool operator

If you have met Lanny you know that he wants love, happiness and togetherness at the Fort Sumter House. It shows in his personality and his behavior as he helps all the FSH residents.

Lanny has a long history with our building. Both his father and uncle worked in the restaurant at the old Fort Sumter Hotel from the 1950's until the building was converted to condos in the mid-1970's. His father was a server and bartender and his uncle was a server. Lanny worked here from 1979-81 and then came back in 2004. Today he works various shifts, loves working here and intends to eventually retire from FSH. In addition to helping residents, he paints, replaces ceiling tiles, and helps Joe and others as needed.

Lanny attended Murray Vocational School and then graduated from Rivers High School. He has been married to "Tommy" since 1989 but has known her for 37 years. One daughter, Tamisha, (age 20) still lives at home and works retail. Another daughter, Victoria (age 26), is married to an Army major, lives in upstate New York, and she will also be an officer in the Army.



ERIC GREEN, Night Custodian/Security

Known to many as "E" or "Big E", Eric Green has had a 26 year career as a chef. After graduating from Garrett high school, E attended and graduated from Johnson and Wales. Since 10th grade E has been working in restaurants. He has cooked at many restaurants in both Atlanta and Charleston—Abbey, The Mansion, the Oyster Factory, Shem Creek, and even a restaurant owned by the son of Puff Daddy.

He considers himself to be an old school chef, cooking many continental dishes. His dream is to someday have a business packaging his own prepared foods for people who want a quick "heat and eat" meal.

E is taking a break from the heat of the kitchen and is working as Night Custodian/Security. During the 11 pm to 7 am shift he patrols the parking lots and building ensuring our safety. He also performs light housekeeping duties.

Eric lives with his girlfriend and has a 22 year old son (who will soon start classes at Trident Tech) and a 3 year old son (who isn't quite ready for school). E's brother told him that his father used to work at the Fort Sumter Hotel, also as a chef. So E has some history with us.



CHRIS WEINER, Maintenance Technician

Did you know that Chris helped build the James Island Connector, the MUSC Wellness Center, TridentTech and the Cummins Engine plant? He is a man of many skills and high work standards.

Chris started working for the FSH in October, 2011. He does routine and preventive maintenance work on the building to include carpentry, drywall, plumbing, tile, painting, plastering, all aspects of swimming pool upkeep, and minor electrical work. One notable aspect of Chris' work is that he insists that it be done right. If you have seen the front doors, or the lower surface of the building front, or the laundry room you will understand this.

Chris graduated HS in Massachusetts, where he played football and baseball and was the lead in the senior class play. In 1989 he began work in home remodeling and contracting. He also obtained his construction supervisor's license. While working to support himself and his family he obtained his Associates degree in Liberal Arts and Human Services at Trident Tech and his BS in Physical Education and Elementary Education from the College of Charleston. Following his C of C degree he taught PE at Mitchell Elementary school.

Chris and his wife, Christine, have four children, ages 17-28, all of whom live in the Charleston area. He also has two grandchildren.



DAVE FERGUSON, Night custodian/Security

John Grisham can't write enough new books to satisfy Dave's interest in the legal mysteries. He has read nearly all of Grisham's books and is eagerly awaiting the next one, Sycamore Row.

When not reading Grisham, Dave works the night shift (except for Sunday when he works 3-11). He shoos people from the Murray Ave parking lot at 2 in the morning, helps keep the building clean, delivers the morning papers, and remains vigilant to handle emergency situations.

Dave played linebacker and running back in high school in Ohio, but his real love was wrestling. In that sport he had to rely on his own skills and all wins and losses were entirely of his own making. After high school he worked as a route sales person, delivering potato chips to supermarkets. He then spent 10 years paving driveways and parking lots in Ohio. He has installed epoxy floors, delivered papers, and performed maintenance on apartment buildings.

Dave has four children, ages 25, 21, 20, and 19. Two of them live with him and his girlfriend, who also has two children of her own, making for a lively household. He also enjoys rooting for the Pittsburgh Steelers and playing fantasy football.



DOUGLAS CURTIN, Night custodian/Security

A man seeks revenge for the death of his father but in the process stumbles upon creatures that will change the world. Sound a little strange? This is the storyline of one of the three books Doug has written. We also didn't know that Doug played the role of the bus driver in the Rosa Parks story and the role of Captain Hook in a different on-stage production. Another of his talents is poster art. Growing up in Peekskill New York Doug had the opportunity to exercise his many creative talents.

But the most important part of Doug's life is his 9-year old son, Ethan. His girlfriend, Courtney works during the day as the manager of Wonderworks, enabling them to take care of Ethan around the clock. Ethan is a 3rd-grader at Springfield Elementary School in West Ashley.

Doug has worked in supervisory positions in several retail stores such as A&P and Circuit City. One of his more interesting jobs was as a custodian at the Indian Hill Power Plant, where he had to take care not to "blow up the world." He now enjoys working at the Fort Sumter House, where he has been employed since August, 2013. Working the night shift, he not only cleans the building but keeps vigilant for fires, water leaks, medical emergencies, and noise-making revelers. We are happy to have him as a member of the Fort Sumter House staff.

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