

The Thread

*"Stitching our community together,
one thread at a time!"*

Message from the President

Spring is right around the corner – flowers are starting to bloom, and birds are returning. With the warm weather comes some changes for us. If you are making hats for cancer patients it is time to switch to lighter-weight yarn or soft cotton. We will still need hats for cold weather so we can be able to provide them to multiple places when it is back to school time at the end of the summer!

We are approaching month six of our amazing group! It is hard to believe how fast time has gone and how much the group has grown. We now have 48 members which is tremendous growth since our first meeting of 11 members in Nov. 2022.

We have added several new items to the handmade things we make available to our recipients. If you have ideas for anything new we might want to make/offer, please let us know.

Thank you all for what you do for our recipients. Anyone who has made a delivery would tell you how happy and grateful they are for the things you make for them. The folks who receive the clothing items are so appreciative. Sadly, the clothes are most often delivered to people in nursing homes who have little to no clothing. Others are individuals for families who need clothing they simply cannot afford. What a great feeling to be able to help individuals thanks to the generosity of our members, their friends, and their families.

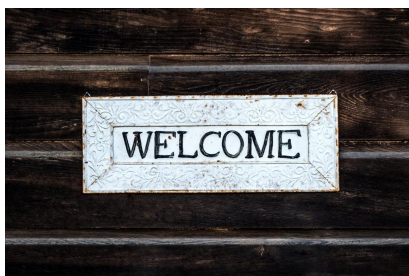
Thank you for all you do for our community!

Pam

Community Threads

Our Mission Statement:

*Our mission is to serve the community
by providing items of warmth,
comfort and dignity,
hand crafted by our volunteers
and clothing donated by
our neighbors.*



New Members

- Melody Craig
- Sharon Caudell



Inclement Weather Policy

Meetings will be cancelled if
Spotsylvania schools open late
or are closed due to weather.

Stitch Count	Last Month's #s	Grand Total
Handmade Items	414	1839
From the Closet	Last Month's #s	Grand Total
Clothes	65	1864

April Birthdays

- Bertha Rector



\$\$\$\$ FUNdraising \$\$\$\$

Thank you to all who have donated!

The **Ruritan** does not charge us a fee to hold our meetings but there will be a donation envelope at each meeting for those that wish to make a donation to help with the operating costs of the facility.

There will also be a **Community Threads** donation envelope at each meeting for those that wish to make a donation by cash or check to help with the overhead and the operating budget of our group.

Donations can also now be made via our website communitytheadsva.org and click on Donate.

Seeking sponsors/grants: If you know of a person or business that might be willing to make a donation or become a sponsor or offer a grant, please reach out to them or provide us with the contact information.

Immediate Needs

Volunteers to help sort clothing. Contact Pam 540-661-7967 or email communitythreads@comcast.net

- I Spy bags
- Shawls for men & women
- Lap blankets for men & women
- Wheelchair Totes & Walker Totes
- Button Shirts for dignity bibs

As always, we encourage you to make ANYTHING you like to make, and we will find a good home for it!

Community Spotlight:



Surgical Associates
Request

Surgical Associates has made a request for ladies' button up shirts. The shirts would be provided to ladies who have recently had a mastectomy. This will make it easier for them when they come in for a follow up exam as well as keeping them more comfortable.



Masks will continue to be optional. We want everyone to feel safe and comfortable. We know our members want the same & will remain home if having any symptoms.

**Ruritan Yard Sale
April 14th 7 - 4 15th 7 - 12**

Ongoing Needs

- Baby sweaters
- Baby hats must be STRETCHY and at

One person's trash is another person's treasure!

Proceeds of the yard sale provide scholarships to local students. Donations can be dropped off in the morning of the 12th & 13th.

Event Schedule - Fredericksburg

Unless otherwise noted; all Events are at the Chancellor Ruritan Club 5994 Plank Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22407

Member Meetings 9:30-12:30

APRIL 5 th	Wednesday
APRIL 18 th	Tuesday
MAY 10 th	Wednesday
MAY 23 rd	Tuesday
JUNE 7 th	Wednesday
JUNE 17 th	Saturday Workshop 10- 3
JUNE 20 th	Tuesday

Event Schedule - King George

All Events are at the Smoot Library Room A
9533 Kings Highway. King George, VA 22485

Member Meetings - Friday

10:30 am - 1:30 pm

APRIL 7th
APRIL 21st
MAY 5th
MAY 19th
JUNE 2nd
JUNE 16th
JULY 7th
JULY 21st

Meet the Board

Pam Greswolde – President 540-661-7967
Jeannie Duris - Secretary
Linda Foldvik – Treasurer 703-395-4064
Kathy Weaver – Communications 571-774-8488
Bertha Rector - 540-907-5259
Doris Bowling - 540-406-7237

- least the size of a grapefruit blankets
 - Lap/large and baby blankets
 - Dignity bibs
 - Fiddle aprons/mats
 - Hats – adult/children - male & female
 - I Spy Bags
 - Scarves – adult/children
 - Shawls -Men & women
 - Shirt protectors
 - Toys
 - Walker totes
 - Wheelchair totes for back & side
-

June Workshop Classes/Demos

1. Morning Demo - wheelchair/walker totes
2. Afternoon Demo on Basic quilting techniques
3. Afternoon - class

This could be basic crochet, reading patterns, using a loom, or joining squares. What do you want?

There may also be mini-classes offered during our regular meetings. Watch your newsletter for more details.

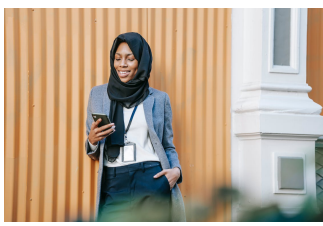


Another **WORKSHOP** this Fall
Mark your calendars now:
Saturday, Nov 4th 10 -3 at the Ruritan.
Save the date and watch for more news.

Board Member Resigns

Hello beautiful fiber artists,

It has been my sincere pleasure to serve as the Creative Director of Community Threads since November 2022. During this time, I've been working diligently behind the scenes, facilitating and collaborating on such deliverables as our organization name, logo, website, Facebook, and



Please reach out to any of the board members with comments, thoughts, and suggestions

more.

Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, I must resign from my role effective 3/24/23. I intend to continue contributing as a fiber artist only, as well as continuing to champion the cause, and hope to see you all (and possibly more members) at the workshop this summer!

It is with a heavy heart and a lot of consideration that I made this decision, but it is what's best for the mission because I am unable to continue with the capacity this role and organization deserves.

Thank you all for your support,
Hollie Seibert, Creative Director

Share Tips, Tricks & Resources:

1) **Patterns;** Ones you have created or ones you have permission to share. We would love colorful ones as they look so nice in the newsletter.

2) **Links** to a tutorial you have found useful.

Send an email to communitythreads@comcast.net so your pattern or link t can be posted in an upcoming newsletter.



Tips of the Month:

Crochet hooks are no longer sliding smoothly along could mean that it is time to clean your hooks with a little soap & water. NOT for wood/bamboo hooks; there is a special conditioning oil for these hooks. I believe this could apply to knitting needles also.

Sewing Tip: Put new life in your old pins by putting your pin in a bar of soap; this will help the pins glide through your fabric easier.

Project Size Guidelines For Community Threads

Constantly Needed Items

Project	Size	Notes
Large Blankets	48"x 50" up to full bed size	Large rectangular
Lap Blankets	32-36" square	not necessarily square, no less 32" width & length
Chemo Blankets	32-34 x 48-50"	Rectangular
Chemo caps	all sizes	no wool, washable - male & female colors winter - acrylic mix, fun fur with acrylic summer-cotton, acrylic & fun fur, or cotton & fun fur
Baby blankets	30" to 40" square	no wool
Baby sweaters	newborn to toddler	no wool
Baby hats	fit a grapefruit or larger	no wool – hats should fit a 5" ball
Baby booties	newborn	no wool
Hats & Scarves	all sizes - child to adult	matching sets are helpful - male & female colors wool mix okay - tag with red yarn can be made & turned in year-round
Shawls	all sizes	

Appreciated when available

Project	Size	Notes
Book Totes	Approx. 8 x 10	Kits or fabric & ribbon available
Fiddle Mats		Sewn – Men & Women (pattern and fabric available)
Dignity Bibs		Men & Women
Shirt protectors		Sewn – Men & Women (pattern & fabric available) Velcro at neck
Sweaters	child to adult	all male & female colors
Walker totes		Sewn – Men & Women (pattern and fabric available)
Wheelchair tote for back		Sewn – Men & Women (pattern and fabric available)
Wheelchair tote for side	Approx. 8 x 10	Kits or fabric & ribbon available
Toys	all types	crochet, knit or sewn – example: blankets & hats for bears
Pet cozy	18" up to 3 feet any shape	Blankets for animals in distress great way to use slightly soiled yarn or scratchy yarn

The above projects are suggestions, but anything you want to make will warm the hearts and bodies of those in need.

Helpful Tips

- Please tag every item. There are tags available at every meeting, and you may take a stack home.
- On items containing wool, please tie on the item tags using red yarn so that we can identify them. Some people are sensitive to wool.
- Yarn is available at every meeting, or you can use your own. If you use Community Threads yarn, the yarn should be logged out on a Sign-In/Sign-Out sheet, and any completed items using Community Threads yarn should be logged in on a Sign-In/Sign-Out sheet.
- If you wash item(s), please do not use scented fabric softener, many are allergic.
- If you write on the back of the item tag, please put only your first name and/or washing instructions.
- Remember to tie at least 2 knots when not using the magic knot to ensure it does not come undone in washing.
- Weave ends in more than inch and trim closely.
- To ensure your donation is distributed to the intended group, please make sure it meets the requested size. Many times, you can add a border if needed.

If you need help, contact: communitythreads@comcast.net

Pam Greswolde (540) 661-7967 or Kathy Weaver (571) 774-8488

Slouchy Beanie

The slouchy beanie can be worn in many different styles. Slouch it to the front to form a floppy brim, slouch it to the back for a relaxed look, or to the side as a traditional beret. This beanie is able to fit my head, which is small, and my friend's large head since it's made to be loose and roomy. Just in case you find that it doesn't fit the way you like, there are instructions for altering the beanie in the pattern.



Skill Level: 
EASY

Finished Size: One size fits most adults

Materials:

Medium Weight Yarn (approximately 150 yards)
Crochet Hook I (5.5 mm)



Gauge:

11 dc = 3"

4 rows = 2"

Gauge Swatch: 3" w x 2" h (7.5cm x 5cm) ch 14.

Row 1: dc in forth ch from hook and in each ch across

Row 2 – 4: ch 3, turn, dc in each dc across

Finish off.

Crochet Pattern: Beanie

Round 1: ch 4, 12 dc in 4th ch from hook, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of rnd: 12 dc

Round 2: ch 3, 2 dc in each dc, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of rnd: 24 dc

Round 3: ch 3, (2 dc in next dc, dc in next dc) around, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of rnd: 36 dc

Round 4: ch 3, (2 dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc) around, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of rnd: 48 dc

Round 5: ch 3, (2 dc in next dc, dc in next 3 dc) around, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of rnd: 60 dc

Round 6: ch 3, (2 dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc) around, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of rnd: 72 dc

Round 7: ch 3, (2 dc in next dc, dc in next 5 dc) around, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of rnd: 84 dc

Round 8 – 14: ch 3, dc in each dc around, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of rnd: 84 dc

Round 15: ch 3, (dc2tog, dc in next 5 dc) around, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of rnd: 72 dc

Round 16: ch 3, (dc2tog, dc in next 4 dc) around, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of rnd: 60 dc

Round 17: ch 3, (dc2tog, dc in next 3 dc) around, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of rnd: 48 dc

Note: by now the bottom of the beret should fit snugly above your ears. If it is too loose, add another round of decrease and if it is too tight, remove round 17.

Round 18 – 19: ch 3, dc in each dc around, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-3 at beg of rnd: 48 dc

If you would like your beret to be longer, repeat the last round in the pattern as desired

<http://www.crochetpot.com/free-crochet-pattern-slouchy-beanie/#more-1670>

Peggy Lunardini's Knitted Snowball

Cast on 8 stitches.

Row 1 - knit

Row 2 - purl

Row 3 - knit and increase in every stitch (16 st)

Row 4 - purl

Row 5 - knit and increase in every stitch (32st)

Row 6 - purl

Rows 7-20- knit odd rows, purl even rows.

Row 21 - knit two together across (16 st)

Row 22 - purl

Row 23 - knit two together across (8 st)

Row 24 - purl

Using a sewing needle, remove stitches from knitting needle and pull tight.

Sew seam most of the way.

Invert and stuff.

Complete sewing closed.



Special Event: Workshop

Saturday June 17, 2023 - Ruritan 10-3

Food, Fun, Friends and YARN - lots of YARN!
Watch for upcoming details!

Any suggestions for
the newsletter please email
communitythreads@comcast.net

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