

Who's that singing in the
a thrasher. PAGE 6

SPORTS Knotts Island player pulls
off rare unassisted triple play. PAGE 13

BEACON



FIRST FRIDAYS ART WALK

TOWN CENTER KICKS OFF EACH MONTH IN STYLE

By Irene Bowers
Correspondent

BAYSIDE

Town Center is drawing crowds with its First Fridays Art Walk. As the name implies, the next event is this week, the first Friday in June.

The free monthly event kicked off May 1, as pedestrians perused art work around the perimeter, and musicians added their notes to the air.

In the center of the plaza, well known artist Louis Jones attracted an audience as he painted on canvas.

"It really adds to the

See FRIDAY, Page 10

going?

What First Fridays Art Walk

Where Fountain Plaza at Town Center

When 5 - 8 p.m. June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4

Cost Free

FRIDAY

Continued from Page 1

neighborhood feel of Town Center," said resident Matt Johnson. "I've always liked that we had a little bit of everything here, and an art show brings out more people and gives it a friendly feeling."

The art walks will continue on the first Friday of each month through September. More than 30 artists will show and sell their creations, which include oils and watercolors, sculpture, jewelry, photography and pottery. They are organized through the Virginia Beach Events Unlimited.

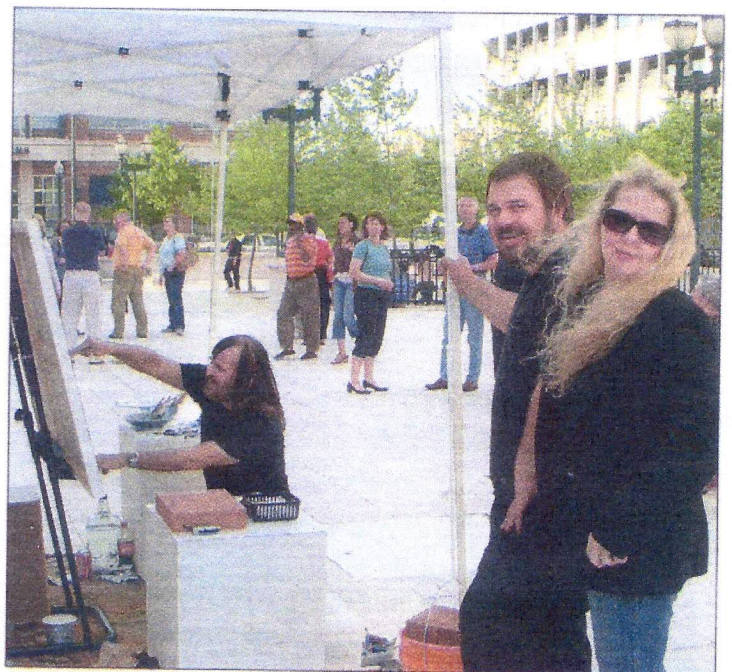
"Town Center has a special charm, and this adds to it," said Virginia Beach resident Kelle Stewart, who was walking her dog Jasmine.

"It's a great opportunity for people to support local artists and for us to promote art," said Pat Yoder of Clay Escapes Pottery, which creates functional, decorative pottery. She operates the South Birdneck studio with Margie Romano.

Virginia Beach photographer Linda House said the diversity of Town Center appealed to her.

"In some cases, people came specifically to see the art," said House, whose digital images are largely of nature and travel, with many framed in handcrafted stained glass. "But many other people were on their way to dinner or a show, and we brought art to them in a happy surprise."

Virginia Beach painter Kim Longo's watercolors and acrylics include local



IRENE BOWERS

Louis Jones paints for the crowd, as his wife, Susan, and son, Ryan, join him at the opening First Fridays Art Walk at Town Center on May 1.

beach scenes.

"It's great that Town Center is giving local artists exposure," she said. "It was fun to see people linger and look, instead of hurrying on by to their destinations."

The She family from Kempsville stopped by to enjoy dinner at one of the Town Center restaurants and stayed to observe Jones as he worked.

"It was very enjoyable to watch him paint, especially as the waterfall began to appear," said David She, who was accompanied by his wife Kelly She and children Tony and Jeannie.

The Jones Art Gallery - run by Louis, his wife, Susan, and son, Ryan Jones - will offer

painting demonstrations on each of the First Friday Art Walks.

"It's great to be out here, meeting folks and making art available to them," Susan said.

The Jones' spectators included an audience in rows of chairs, as well as passers-by and the occasional dog. In their first demonstration, an 11-month-old Great Dane named Luke amused the crowd by joining Louis at his easel.

"A Great Dane puppy will always upstage the artist," he said, laughing. "He's better looking than me, too."

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