

# Northern Neck News

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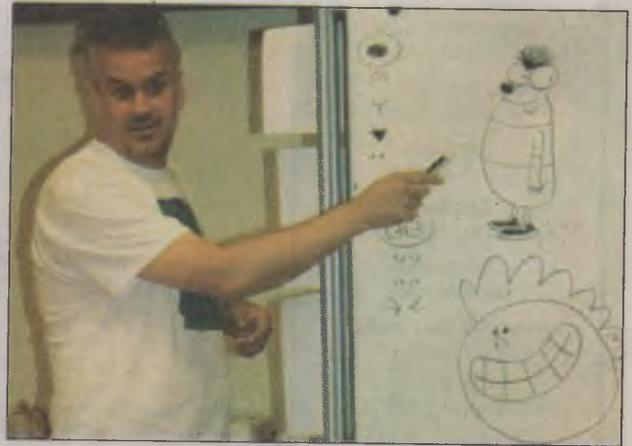
## Art of cartooning takes spotlight in summer teen workshop

By Karen Kagey Reynolds

Among the many programs offered by the Richmond County Public Library, mini-workshops are a favorite of students and adults. A "cartooning" workshop was held on Saturday, May 30, by comic book artist Jamie Cosley, who is also an illustrator of children's picture books.

Cosley is from Mechanicsville and has traveled throughout the Northern Neck giving workshops at libraries and other venues for the past six years. He has 27 illustrated children's books to his credit and is currently involved with the Topps Card Company designing a Stars Wars collection in his distinct style.

"I would describe my style as soft and fluffy," Cosley said. "I'm a huge fan of Scooby-Doo and my genre is illustrating picture books for young children."



SEE CARTOONIST, page A9 Jamie Cosley brings his cartooning skills to Warsaw.

### Cartoonist

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Before he began illustrating as a full time working artist, Cosley sold high end office furniture. When the economy tanked out, he found that with increased marketing and by using the social network, he was able to turn his hobby of illustrating to a full time rewarding career.

"I remember that first big contract I got," Cosley said. "I submitted my work to a company overseas that was looking for an illustrator and by that afternoon I had a contract. I knew then that I could make a living with my art."

Cosley's comic strip "Animal Office Funnies" appears every other week in the pages of MMQB- the online magazine for contract furnishings. He also illustrates a comic book series "Priscilla" for the publisher Salinos Slugger Studios.

Cosley's workshop on Saturday led the participants on a

journey of cartooning using basic shapes. He demonstrated the simplicity involved in adding a line here or there to a basic shape that produced a recognizable cartoon character.

"All the classic cartoon characters have a basic shape," Cosley said. "For example, Mickey Mouse's head is three circles with a little bit of embellishment."

One of Cosley's latest books was written by Chris Yambar, an award winning writer, pop art painter and speaker. Yambar's writing history include some of the most popular comic cartoon characters in history, including Bart Simpson, Popeye and Mr. Magoo. It was their combined talents that created the "Midnight Nursery," a story where Monster adults bring their babies at night. To learn more about Jamie Cosley visit his website at [www.jamiecosley.com](http://www.jamiecosley.com).