Virginia Center Commons Mall Oral History Pre-Interview with Larry

Conducted by Joa Kearney on March 27, 2025

Tags: History, Introductions, Local history, Mall decline, Mall shopper, Nostalgia, Oral history, Virginia, Virginia Center Commons, Voice Call

System [00:00] This call is now being recorded.

Joa Kearney [00:06] Okay, I'm gonna start.

Joa Kearney [00:14] First, when I start recording, when I start our interview, I'm going to say today's date, my name, and then I'm going to say I'm interviewing Larry remotely through a voice call.

Joa Kearney [00:43] So this interview is going be part of a history project I'm doing on the Virginia Center Commons mall. And it is a topic that I'm doing for a student-based project for my oral history course at ODU. The purpose of this project is to explore the reasons why the mall is closed now and I will accomplish this goal by hearing from shoppers and possibly those who used to work there.

Joa Kearney [01:12] And I plan to make this project available on a website that I plan to make to collect, preserve, and share those perspectives. And then once I say that, I'm going to ask you a few questions. When I ask you those questions during the actual interview, it's going to be questions relating to the mall.

Joa Kearney [01:43] And your experience at the mall. And while you why you were at the mall. At Virginia Center Commons and what stores you used to go to and stuff, things of that nature and I'm not going to tell you the actual questions that I'm going to ask you during this preinterview.

Joa Kearney [02:13] that we're undertaking right now because I don't want you to be prepared to answer. I want you to answer as naturally as possible. I don't want you to answer like as a robot. That's why I did not send you the questions ahead of time. So, the topics that I'm going to, I already told you the topics of the questions that I'm going to ask you during the actual interview.

Joa Kearney [02:41] Do you have any questions that you need to ask me? So let me know what I need to do for this interview.

Larry [02:52] I have nothing right now.

Joa Kearney [03:05] Okay, I plan to save this recording after I go through it myself, this recording of this pre-interview, and I'll send it to you through email if you want me to.

Organized by Joa Kearney for a student led project on Virginia Center Commons Mall

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Larry [3:31] Okay, that will be fine.

Joa Kearney [03:34] All right. Will you like me to make a transcript of this pre-recording as well? Or would you want me to just do that for the actual recording day, the actual interviewing day?

Larry [3:57] That would be fine. Today will be fine.

Joa Kearney [3:59] That would be fine. That's pretty much it.

Joa Kearney [04:03] Since we've already covered everything that we needed to do for the preinterview. And you say you don't have any questions. We'll end this here.

Joa Kearney [04:16] Well, I'm here if you have any additional questions, you can either text or email me and I'll get in contact with you as soon as possible. I'll see you. I'll meet with you again on the actual interview day and that will be-

Joa Kearney [04:35] and that will be on Sunday at 11 a.m. and it's going to take up to probably-

Joa Kearney [04:47] The actual interview will be on Sunday. That we agreed on. Sunday, March 30th at 11 a.m. The interview will take up to one to two hours depending on how long the interview will take.

Joa Kearney [05:08] And we had agreed on this time through text message.

Larry [05:15] That is correct.

Joa Kearney [05:15] Yes. Okay. Then I will see you then, okay. I'm going to be sending the recording.

Joa Kearney [05:28] Since you don't have any questions you need to ask me.

Larry [05:32] Okay.

Joa Kearney [05:33] Okay. I will end this recording now.