Rivah Parks & Natural Areas

Essex

Marsh Street Park Marsh Street in Tappahannock, run by Essex County Parks and Recreation Department, Pool open starting June 11, Tuesdays–Saturdays 11 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m.–6 p.m. 443-2470.

Gloucester

Beaverdam Park at the end of Route 616, Roaring Springs Road, contains a 635-acre freshwater lake. Built in 1990, 11 fish attractors and several species of fish are found there. Canoes, paddleboats, and Jon boats with or without electric motors are for rent, or you may launch your own boats for a fee. Motors powered by fuels are not permitted. The park also has a playground, picnic shelter and an extensive hiking trail system including an interpretive trail, a multi use trail for horseback riding or biking and an exercise trail. The park is open year around from sunrise to sunset. Fishing and hunting licenses, bait and snacks are available at the ranger station. For information call 693-2107 or 693-2355.

Tyndall Point Park contains remnants of Confederate and Union fortifications. It is the site of colonial Gloucester Towne, the first building of which was a tobacco warehouse built in 1632. The park is off of Route 17 at Gloucester Point and has open play areas.

Riverwalk at Gloucester Point Beach offers fishing with no license required, public beach and playground, restrooms, snack bar, an elevated observation deck with high powered binoculars to view birds and wildlife.

Lancaster

Belle Isle State Park Route 683. A 700-acre park on the Rappahannock River, Mulberry and Deep Creeks. Open daily sunrise to sunset. Picnic areas, handicap accessible boardwalk and fishing pier, hiking/biking trails, bridle paths, overnight accommodations, motorboat ramp ($3 fee). Canoe and kayak rentals ($6 per hour; $12 for four hours), bicycle rentals ($3 per hour; $8 for four hours) and motorboat rentals (from $10-$18 per hour and $50-$90 per day); guided canoe trips, nature programs. Parking fee $3 weekends/holidays, $2 weekdays. 462-5030 or <dcr.state.va.us>.

Mathews

Bethel Beach Natural Area Preserve Turn left on Rt. 611 just south of the town of Mathews. Turn right on Rt. 643, then left on Rt. 609. This 50-acre parcel contains a sandy beach, low dunes and salt marsh habitat bordering the Chesapeake Bay. Over 90 bird species have been reported on the preserve, which also protects the globally rare Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle.

Port Fun with a playground, ball fields and tennis courts, is on Route 14 about a mile north of Mathews Courthouse.

Middlesex

Taber Park Rappahannock Avenue in Urbanna (for residents and guests of residents): playground, swimming and tennis.

Deltaville Community Association Park Route 33 in Deltaville (for residents and guests of residents): playground, tennis, swimming and basketball.

Holly Point Nature Park in Deltaville offers a tranquil retreat on the banks of Mill Creek by Fishing Bay. There are benches and space for picnicking, bird watching or walking the wooded nature trail. Visitors can explore the fish-shaped wildflower meadow and view the boats exhibited on the grounds by the Deltaville Maritime Museum. There is a delightful children's garden with plants marked to exploit their taste, smell and touch. The park plans to have exercise stations along the trail and a nautical playground. The park is open daily from 9 a.m. until dusk.

King George

Caledon Natural Area Rt. 218. A National Natural Landmark, Caledon was the early colonial seat of the Alexander family. John and Philip Alexander founded the city of Alexandria and established Caledon Plantation in 1659. Caledon is the summer home for one of the largest concentrations of bald eagles on the East Coast. Preservation of the national bird's habitat is the primary focus of the natural area. Five hiking trails in the natural area are open year-round and take park visitors through environmentally sensitive marshlands and picturesque wooded areas of the park. The 3.5-mile Boyd's Hole Trail leading to the Potomac River is the most popular of the trails. Because human traffic disturbs the park's summer population of roosting and foraging eagles, this trail is only open from Oct. 1–March 31. Limited tours of the eagle area are offered mid-June through August by reservation only. Park guests can learn more about the natural history of Caledon and the American bald eagle by touring the visitor center. Interpretive Programs: Eagle tours, Junior Rangers night hikes, conducted walks, astronomy, storytelling, bonfire programs, birdwatching and crafts. (800) 933-PARK.

Barnesfield Park Highway 301 at the Potomac Gateway Welcome Center, King George. 175-acre county park on the Potomac River with nature trails, picnic areas and playground. Nature trails and beach fishing along Potomac River shore. (540) 663-3205.

Northumberland

Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve At the mouth of Bush Mill Stream freshwater meets the saltwater of the Great Wicomico River. Fresh to brackish tidal marshes and mud flats are hidden between the steep-sided forested shores of this upper Coastal Plain stream. The quiet waters are home and resting area for an abundance of waterfowl and wading birds, including colonial nesting birds, raptors and large numbers of great blue herons. Access can be gained by foot or canoe. Public access facilities are open during daylight hours and include trails, a boardwalk, a wildlife viewing platform and interpretive signs. Four miles from Heathsville on Route 201, continue straight on Route 642 for half a mile, and turn left at the sign.

Hughlett Point Natural Area

continued on following page

Experience the Somerset Difference
in several fabulous locations!

GLOUCESTER TOWN COMMONS

Historic Gloucester
Enjoy elegant living in the charming small-town neighborhood of **Gloucester Town Commons**.

- Spacious, flexible floorplans
- Luxurious owner suite
- 2-car garages
- Abundant storage space

Priced from the low $300s.
Phone: (804) 693-1166

Coming Soon

RIVER CLUB AT TWIN ISLAND

Gloucester
River Club features a wide variety of home options along the York River, from condominiums and duplexes to stand-alone single-family homes.

- Water front living
- 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom homes
- Spacious designs, some with lofts
- Outdoor pool and fitness center
- Community beach
- Community pier

Phone: (804) 642-3612
Open May!

Chesapeake Watch

Deltaville
Fulfill your dream of waterfront living in one of **Chesapeake Watch**'s exclusive villas on the Rappahannock, complete with private piers and a clubhouse.

- 2 - 3 bedroom designs
- Vaulted ceilings and sunrooms
- Outdoor pool and recreational facilities
- Tree enclosed picnic area
- *Limited offer – local marina boat slip rental for 3 years or $7500 toward purchase*

Priced from the $400s
Phone: (804) 776-8500

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
MHBR# 387

Somerset HOMES
When You Appreciate the Difference
www.somersethomes.com

Brokers warmly welcomed.
Prices, specifications and availability subject to change at any time without notice.

More Rivah Parks

continued from previous page

Preserve This 205-acre preserve has sand beaches on the Chesapeake Bay and the mouth of Dividing Creek, hiking trails and observation decks to view shorebirds, deer, turkey and migratory waterfowl. The beaches are home to the threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle. From Kilmarnock, take Route 200 north then right on Route 606 to the end. Turn right on Route 605. From Burgess, take Route 200 south then left on Route 606 to the end. Turn right on 605. 225-2303.

Dameron Marsh Natural Area Preserve This 316-acre preserve contains one of the most significant wetlands on the Chesapeake Bay for marsh-bird communities, and its pristine sand beach habitat is highly important for the threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle. Public access facilities include a trail and boardwalk, a wildlife viewing platform, and a small parking area. Part or all of the preserve may be periodically closed for resource protection or resource management activities. For additional information or to arrange a visit, contact Rebecca Wilson at 225-2303.

Richmond

Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, 336 Wilna Road, Warsaw. This is the newest of four refuges that comprise the Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Established in 1996, the goal of the refuge is to protect 20,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands along the river and its major tributaries. As of November 2004, the refuge had protected 6,545 acres. Archeological and historic sites are abundant on both sides of the river. The 18th century Bristol Iron Works was located adjacent to the refuge's Toby's Point Tract, while the Leedstown Resolves, a 1766 protest against the Stamp Act, was signed near the refuge's Mothershead Tract. Old pilings can still be seen from the days when steamboats made regular stops to pick up produce and passengers for transport to the Port of Baltimore. At least four federally-listed threatened or endangered species may be found within the refuge boundary, including the American bald eagle, peregrine falcon, shortnose sturgeon, and sensitive joint vetch. The state's largest wintering roost for bald eagles is located within the refuge boundary. Shorebirds, neotropical migrant songbirds, raptors, and marsh birds rely on the Rappahannock River's corridors during the spring and fall migration periods. The refuge is restoring native grasslands and riparian forests along the river and tributary streams to provide additional habitat for these species. The Refuge hosts three sites on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail. For more information about this trail, please visit <www.dgif.state.va.us/wildlife/vbwt/index.asp>.

Totuskey Tricentennial Park with boat landing, Route 3 at Totuskey Creek Bridge.

Wilna Pond, a 35-acre site, is now open to public fishing. The pond is home to largemouth bass, bluegill sunfish, fliers, yellow bullhead catfish and American eel. The Wilna Unit is open for wildlife observation and photography daily, sunrise to sunset. Access for canoes and kayaks to engage in these activities is available at Wilna Pond. Please note: All Virginia boating laws apply to Wilna Pond. All other refuge units are open for wildlife observation and photography by advanced reservation only. To schedule a visit, please call (804) 333-1470. The refuge headquarters is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., except federal holidays. From Tappahannock, take US-360 E (across the Rappahannock River, toward Warsaw). Follow US-360 E for 4.1 miles, then turn left onto Rt. 624/Newland Rd. Follow Newland Rd. for 4.2 miles, then turn left onto Strangeway/Rt 636. Follow Strangeway for 1/4 mile, then turn right onto Sandy Lane/Rt 640. Follow Sandy

continued on page 37

Welcome to Mathews County

■ Size: 87 square miles ■ Shoreline: 214 miles
■ Population: 9,200

History

Mathews County was an established shipbuilding center for the Chesapeake Bay when it broke away from Gloucester in 1791 to become a separate county.

About that time, 12 sailing ships over 20 tons each were built in a single year in Mathews, which the Chiskiake Indians had called Werowocomico.

Between 1790 and 1820, approximately a third of the ships built in Virginia came from Mathews. The sharp, fast vessels, popularly known as Baltimore Clippers, were built throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. Before the War of 1812, these fast ships were simply known as "Virginia built."

In 1801, Congress authorized the building of a lighthouse at the county's southern tip, Point New Comfort. The stone structure still towers over the Bay today, though the land has eroded from around it.

From 1802 to 1844, Mathews was an official port of entry for the registration and enrollment of ships. During this period, 10,000 vessels called at the "Port of East River." The customs house stood at Williams Wharf (marker 13), which was a center of maritime activity until the steamers quit running in the 1940s.

Cricket Hill, near Gwynn's Island, was the site of one of the last naval engagements of the Revolutionary War. In June 1776, Continental forces bombarded the British fleet and encampment on Gwynn's Island. Lord Dunsmore, the last royal governor, was driven from the colony, ending British rule in Virginia.

When water was the highway, boats were the standard means of travel. The arrival of steamships at Williams Wharf with cargo from Norfolk, Newport News or Baltimore was a daily highlight.

World War II put most of the steamboat lines out of business. In 1942 the government requisitioned most of the bay and coastal steamers for service in the war effort.

Even before the war, faster means of transportation and better roads caused stiff competition for the boats.

The last remaining steamboat line, the Old Bay Line, stopped its York River to Baltimore run in 1942. About 20 years later, the Old Bay Line dropped passenger service between Baltimore and Norfolk.

The steamers stopped for good in the spring of 1962.

New Point Comfort Observation Walkway at the end of Route 600 in southern Mathews offers a view of the 1805 lighthouse and has interpretive signs explaining its history.

Government

County administrator Stephen K. Whiteway, 725-7172. Most county government offices are in Liberty Square at 10604 Buckley Hall Road (Route 198). The main mailing address is P. O. Box 839, Mathews, Va. 23109. Except as noted, county office hours are 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday.

Other frequently called numbers are: animal warden, 725-7177; clerk of circuit court, 725-2550; general district court, 758-4312; landfill, 725-3000; parks and recreation, 725-7305 or 725-7171; wetlands board secretary, 725-5025; zoning administrator 725-4034.

Tax rates (per $100): Real estate: $.53; personal property (cars), $3.60; boats, $1.45; other personal property, $2.14.

Chamber of Commerce

Mathews County Chamber of Commerce. 725-9029. <mathewschamber.com>.

The Mathews Visitor and Information Center, on the corner of Main and Church streets inside Maggie's Store near the historic courthouse, is open Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. 725-4bay (4229). <visitmathews.com>.

Services

The Gwynn's Island Drawbridge on Route 223 operates 24 hours a day. Boats have priority over cars and bridge operators will open the bridge only when the crossing boat is in sight. Boats should sound a horn (one long and one short blast) to alert operator. Bridge operator will answer with a similar siren sound. The bridge operator may be called on VHF radio channel 13, CB radio channel 11, or by phone at 725-2853. The maximum width is 80' and there is a deep channel (about 12') on the north side of the bridge opening. Several shoals in the area are marked with day markers.

Special Navigation Notice Boaters should remember a navigation quirk in Milford Haven and Hills Bay which reverses the navigational markers, meaning boaters traveling east towards the Bay are considered to be going upriver and red markers should be kept on to the right through marker 12. At marker 16, go back to standard marker delineation.

Boaters traveling west and entering Hole in the Wall and Milford Haven from the Bay should use standard "red right returning" through marker 16. Beginning at marker 12, red should be kept to the left.

Red markers should be kept to the left through the narrows at the bridge.

Trash Disposal The trash transfer station is on Route 14, two miles west of Route 198. It is open 9 a.m.–7 p.m. Thursdays–Tuesdays; closed Wednesdays. 725-2654 or (800) 683-0922.

Recycling The transfer station accepts newspaper, glass, cardboard, aluminum, used motor oil, antifreeze and numbers 1 and 2 plastics.

Day Care/Baby Sitting Day care is provided for children ages six weeks to 12 years by Westville Day care on Main Street in Mathews. Hours: 6 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday–Friday. 725-7640.

Churches About 28 churches serve Mathews County. Rev. Wayuen Moore of the Mathews Christian Ministers Association will assist persons in finding a local church. 725-2414.

ABC Store Buckley Hall Road behind the Hardee's in Mathews. Open 10 a.m.–6 p.m. 725-2100.

Veterinary Services Mathews Veterinary Services, Route 198, Blakes. 725-4123.

Recreation

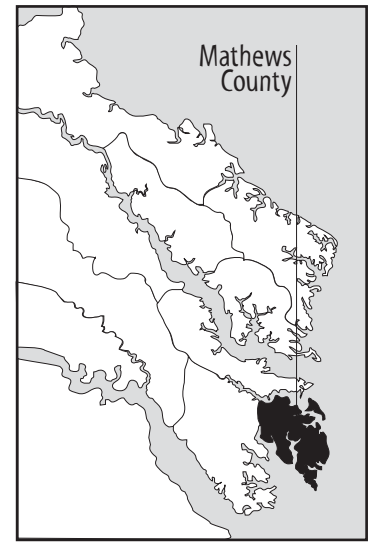
Mathews Recreation Park is next to Mathews High School. It has a softball field, a basketball court, a playground and two tennis courts with lights.

Public Water Access Most of the following public access areas may be used for fishing, picnicking and swimming. Some uses are restricted at certain access points and some sites are bordered closely by private property; please avoid trespassing:

Auburn Public Landing off Route 620 is on the North River.

Bayside at the end of Route 633 on Gwynn's Island at the Bay is a very small beach.

continued on following page



CATTAIL'S

Elegant Gifts and Rare Finds
for inside and outside your home

- Garden Accessories
- Hand-painted Glassware
- Chesapeake-themed Ceramics
- Art Pillows
- Alexandria Scented Lamps
- Jewelry
- Wind Chimes

Habersham Wax Pottery
Scented, Flameless
Vessels and Spheres

Tues – Sat 10–5
291 Main St. • Mathews
(804) 725-2886
Julie Tyler • Carol Joyce

THE MATHEWS ART GROUP
"THE GALLERY"

- Paintings and Prints
- Pottery
- Carved Eggs
- Soft Sculpture
- Decorative Glassware
- Baskets and Walking Sticks
- Stained Glass
- Bird Carvings
- Jewelry
- Stoneware

Artists of the Month
Boats & Birds
Ben Richardson • Jim Kurovicks
Warren Robinson • Linda Walker
10 A.M. — 4 P.M.
MONDAY — SATURDAY
206 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 973 •MATHEWS, VA 23109
(804) 725-3326

continued from previous page

Davis Creek Landing, with a 175-foot pier, is on Route 689 and leads to Mobjack Bay. It is used by local watermen.

Doctor's Creek Landing is at Route 691 and the Bay.

Route 645 at the Bay has a beach and a portable boat may be launched there. Please observe no trespassing signs.

Haven Beach on Route 643 at the Bay has a beach and a portable boat may be launched there.

White's Creek Public Landing at Route 682 and the Bay is used commercially now.

Horn Harbor Landing is on Route 698 at the Bay.

Edwards Creek Public Dock on Route 672 is used by local watermen.

New Point Comfort Island at the Bay is accessible only by boat at high tide.

New Point Comfort Observation Walkway is at the end of Route 600 and offers a view of the historic lighthouse.

Winter Harbor Landing is at Route 611 and Winter Harbor.

Winter Harbor Haven is at Route 608 and Winter Harbor.

Warehouse Landing at Route 631 and Piankatank River.

Piankatank River Landing on Route 632, with beach.

Roane's Point Landing on Route 630 accesses the Piankatank River.

Rose's Creek is at Route 662 and the Bay and is used by local watermen.

Williams Wharf Landing is a public access facility for small engineless watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, rowing shells and small sailboats. There are two floating docks for easy launching of boats, and the facility also offers opportunities to learn to row for exercise or fun. At the end of Route 614 (Williams Wharf Road) off of Route 14, two miles south of Mathews Courthouse, it is open daily during daylight hours. It's the training site of the Mathews High School and Mobjack Rowing Association crew teams. Call Mimi Ulsaker at 693-5160 to schedule lessons. Groups are encouraged but individuals can be coached privately as well. Boats and coaches are provided.

To change or update Mathews information, contact <tchillemi@ssentinel.com>.

Bay Trails Outfitters

Waterfront Kayak Farm
Guided Kayak Tours, Rentals, Sales & Instruction
Winter Harbor in Mathews County

200 boats in stock and growing !
Free try-before-you-buy program

- Eddyline
- Old Town
- Wilderness Systems
- Dagger
- Perception
- Swift paddles
- Bell Canoe Works
- Wind Rider Trimarans

2221 Bethel Beach Rd., (Rt. 609) Mathews County
From the Hardees in Mathews, follow Rt. 14 east 3.75 miles. Left on Rt. 608. Left on Rt. 609. One mile on right.
804-725-0626 Toll free: 888-725-7225
Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
Appointments accepted
Shawn and Jan Towne, proprietors
www.baytrails.com email: kayak@baytrails.com

continued from page 35

Lane for 1.1 miles, then turn left into Rappahannock River Valley NWR. 333-1470.

Westmoreland

Hurt Field at Legion Park Route 3 west of Montross. Four-acre public park adjacent to Chandlers Mill Pond offering both active and passive recreational opportunities for county residents.

Oak Grove Park Route 205 between Oak Grove and Colonial Beach. Eight-acre public park featuring a sports field with bleachers, playground and picnic area.

Robin Grove Park on Robin Grove, off Monroe Bay Avenue, Colonial Beach.

Voorhees Nature Preserve A 729-acre preserve on the northeast bank of Rappahannock River, next to the Westmoreland Berry Farm. It is home to the bald eagle and many other birds. Four miles of wooded trails for self-guided walks. The difficulty level is moderate. A trail map and brochure are available at the adjacent Westmoreland Berry Farm store. There are picnic sites, restrooms and pick-your-own fruits and vegetables at the farm. The preserve is open on weekends, 8 a.m.–6 p.m., from April 22 to December 17. For information, call (434) 295-6106.

Westmoreland State Park Six miles northwest of Montross off Route 3. The park extends about one and a half miles along the Potomac River, and its 1,299 acres neighbor the former homes of both George Washington and Robert E. Lee. The park's Horsehead Cliffs provide visitors with a spectacular view of the Potomac River. The park offers hiking, camping, cabins, fishing, boating and swimming. The visitor center, open during summer, gives an informative historical and ecological perspective to an important natural area on the coastal plain.

Sailing builds young spirits

For parents and grandparents looking for a growth-stimulating summer experience for their young ones, the Rappahannock River Yacht Club welcomes the participation of community youngsters ages 9 to 12 years in its 2006 Junior Sailing Program for Beginners and Advanced Beginners, July 17 to 21.

Instruction will be at RRYC on Carter's Creek.

"Junior Sailing programs have nurtured many a youth through life-shaping experiences in the guise of a fun activity. They join kids their own age, learn a sport in the sunshine, and do so in the reassuring presence of young adults just enough older to provide direction but not so old as to tune out," said program director Dee Byrne.

A Junior Regatta on July 28 will mark the "graduation" of participants and test their newly acquired skills against those of sailors from other area Junior programs.

For those wishing to continue building skill, the instructors will provide introductions to sailing programs offering higher level instruction. The program sails 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes a daily post-sailing dip in the club pool. Participants provide their own lunch and approved life vests.

The fee for non-club members is $295. Applications for the program are online (rryc.org) or call Byrne at 436-9270.

The deadline for receiving applications is June 1.

BUCKLEY HALL INN
circa 1850

Candlelight Breakfasts • Colonial Setting
Rocking Chairs under age-old oaks
(804) 725-1900 or (888) 450-9145
Beth and Gerald Lewis
Buckley Hall Road
Mathews Courthouse, Va. 23109
www.buckleyhall.com

Antique'n at the Rivah
Specialty Shops, Antiques & Treasures

Urbanna Flea Market & Antiques
Open Thurs. - Sun.
10 am-5 pm
We're the Dealers Shop
35 Vendors
Urbanna, Va. • 804-758-4042

MARY YOUNG'S HERBS & GARDEN SHOPPE

Tues. - Sat. 10-5
Herb Plants & Perennials
Rt. 202 • Hague, VA
1-804-472-3239

Please Join Us For The 3rd Annual
NORTHERN NECK ANTIQUES FAIR
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
Sat. May 27 9-5
Sun. May 28 11-4

COUNTRY HOUSE, INC.
Over 3000 sq. ft of Unbelievable Inventory!
Old, New and In-between
Furniture, Brick A Brack, Decorator Accessories, Jewelry
Nautical Items and Lots, Lots More!!
Always Open Thurs. - Sat. 10-5
804-453-5900
15170 Northumberland Hwy. Burgess, Va.

Secondhand Rose
Thrift, Antiques & Consignment
New Junk Daily
Tues to Sat 10-4
804-580-2084
1428 Hull Neck Rd. (Old Edwardsville Store)

Jean's Bargain Center
"Why Buy New When Used Will Do"
Open Mon., Thurs., Fri. Sat.
804-580-2850
*Route 360 • **Between Heathsville & Burgess***

MAIN STREET FINE ART & ANTIQUE MALL
15 North Main St.
Kilmarnock, VA
Open 7 Days a Week
804.435.7771

QUEEN STREET MALL
18th & 19th Century Furniture & Accessories ...
Country and Formal Furniture, Glassware, Pottery, Art, Civil War items, Oil Paintings, Prints and much more.
qsm@crosslink.net
804-443-2424
Open: Mon. thru Sat.
10:00-5:00 • Sun. 11:30-5:00
Tues. & Wed by chance
227 Queen Street • Tappahannock, VA

Urbanna Antique Mall
Multi-dealer store featuring:
Furniture, silver, Glassware
Oriental Rugs, Oyster Plates,
Shabby Chic, China, Prints &
Oils, Wicker, Stained Glass,
Vintage Housewares
Tuesday-Sunday 11 am-5 pm
124 Rappahannock Ave.
Urbanna, Va.
804-758-2000

Spring comes to Popes Creek Plantation May 6-7

George Washington Birthplace National Monument in Westmoreland County will host "Spring on the Plantation" May 6 and 7. Park Rangers and volunteers in colonial period dress will demonstrate colonial crafts, farm chores and domestic activities.

Interpreters in period dress will present activities such as open-hearth cooking, blacksmithing and spinning.

Sheep shearing demonstrations will be performed May 6 at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., and May 7 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. (weather permitting). Also, children can help preserve the memory of George Washington's agricultural legacy by planting this year's crop of tobacco.

George Washington was born on his father's Popes Creek tobacco farm on February 22, 1732. The 550-acre National Monument contains the birthsite, a complete commemorative plantation, a picnic area, nature trail, the Washington family burial grounds, beach area and numerous plants and wildlife.

The Book Store and Gift Shop at Popes Creek Plantation is operated by the George Washington Birthplace National Memorial Association. The group of public spirited park friends helps to support the National Park Service and the interpretation of George Washington with donations from the proceeds of sales. The shop offers an extensive selection of colonial period reproductions.

George Washington Birthplace is off Route 3 and Route 204. The park is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an admission fee of $4 for all visitors 16 years and older. For additional information, please call 224-1732.

Push our buttons.

CHESAPEAKE BANK

A Tradition of Innovation Since 1900

COFFEE • MUSIC • BOOKS • SURF • COFFEE

Paperback Writer

COFFEE • MUSIC • BOOKS • WiFi

367 Chesapeake Drive, P.O. Box 1087, White Stone

804.436.9339, *Fax* 804.435.2403

paperbackwriterinc.com

In a get-and-zip, grab-and-go, same-old same-old kind of world, Paperback Writer is a change of pace place where you can stop and smell the coffee. Sink back into an overstuffed, antique easy chair and surf the Net, savor quiet time, conversation or an eclectic jumble of clever books, music and gifts—all over a cup of the very best tea or coffee in the world. Our Seattle-trained baristas whip up shots of espresso, frothy lattes, rich mochas and more with fair-traded, certified organic, artisan roasted Arabica beans, pristine Cirqua water, freshly whipped cream, Monin flavorings and a killer chocolate syrup that takes us two whole hours to make. Our teas are topnotch. And our homemade scones, cookies, cakes, and soups are crafted with the same attention to quality and technique as our beverages.

Winter Hours: 8 am–5 pm Weekdays
9 am–5 pm Saturday
Spring Hours: 8 am–5:30 pm Weekdays
9 am–5 pm Saturday
Summer Hours: 8 am–5:30 pm Monday-Thursday
8 am–6:00 pm Fridays, 9 am–6 pm Saturday,
Noon–5 pm Sunday

Check our calendar for after-hours events, readings, book signings.

BOOKS • SURF • COFFEE • MUSIC • BOOKS • SURF • COFFEE • MUSIC • BOOKS • SURF

The "fountains" of our youth

by Tom Chillemi

If you're looking for a little more socializing with a meal than—"For here or to go?"—look no further than the few drug store lunch counters and soda fountains that are left in Rivah Country.

Original "fountains" can be found at Marshall's Drug in Urbanna and at "The Fountain" in Tappahannock Pharmacy, and Richardson's in Mathews. All three are continuing an original piece of Americana that is fast disappearing.

There was a time when just about all drug stores had lunch counters with soda fountains, but they have melted away like an ice cream cone on a summer day.

Richard Marshall, an owner of Marshall's Drug in Urbanna, said prescription sales used to help cover the cost of running the lunch counter, which is a "cash losing" part of the business. But shrinking prescription profit margins have made this more difficult.

Marshall said he didn't know how much longer his drug store could afford to keep the soda fountain open. "If there were money in this, everybody would have one."

Marshall said that even though the soda fountain-counter is a "cash losing" part of the store, he keeps it open because it's become a place where people socialize, and the rhetoric gets pretty deep at Marshall's Drug.

What's new?

At one time Marshall's was the only place to eat in Urbanna. Now there are several restaurants, but people come to "the drug store" to catch up on the news and to debate politics or sports. One customer said that another regular always "starts the day with something preposterous," as a way of getting things stirred up. "He just thinks up something on the way here. The way you know he's lying is when his mouth is open."

A woman chimes in, "He's made so many people mad, he'll have to pay for pall bearers."

"No he won't," adds yet another customer. "Everybody will be there to make sure he's dead." It's all done as good-natured ribbing and the laughter stimulates the spirit.

"They get loud in here most mornings," said waitress Amanda Luffey. "I threaten to give them decaf."

The horseshoe-shaped counters at Marshall's seat customers so they face each other, which invites conversation. It's the type of place where people want to hear what you have to say, if only so they can add their own "two cents."

Urbanna resident Judy Richwine explained that husbands meet at Marshall's and when one man got sick and could no longer drive, his wife drove him to the morning social club. "She knew it was important to him."

When the man died his wife kept coming to Marshall's and the friends of her late husband became an informal support group to help her get through the grieving.

If the regulars don't come in for two days, someone will call to see what's wrong, said Richwine. "Some people think this is just a group of people gossiping, but they are a caring group that send cards when someone is sick."

When the late Burton Leaf turned 90, the drug store crowd all signed a card for him. And when he died, they collected $300 as a donation in his memory to Urbanna Methodist Church.

Bob Crump, a new member of the Middlesex County Board of Supervisors, has been coming to Marshall's on Saturday mornings to keep in touch with the people he represents and to "get raked over the coals."

Marshall's menu is displayed on the wall and many regulars get the same sandwich every day.

A drug store specialty is the limeade, made to order with real limes, a choice of carbonated or regular water, and sugar.

What's better than an old-fashioned ice cream soda?

Saturday morning at Tappahannock Pharmacy.

You can still get a cherry Coke, a real milkshake, a sundae, a float, ice cream soda and ice cream by the scoop.

Breakfast is served all day starting at 8 a.m. and the counter closes at 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. On Saturday it's open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Marshall's Drug is on Cross Street and can't be missed . . . and it shouldn't be. Call 758-5344.

"A tradition"

The chatter and laughter at "The Fountain" at Tappahannock Pharmacy almost never stops once the crowd rolls in.

Brad Mitchell, 25, has been coming to The Fountain since he was a kid growing up in Tappahannock and still prefers to eat lunch there. "It's a more friendly atmosphere. It's not something you'd get in a fast-food restaurant," he said over a lunch special of barbecued riblets, candied yams, string beans and rolls—a home-cooked meal served to him only a few minutes after he sat down.

Left and above: Richardson's in Mathews is "a flash from the past."

Home-cooked meals are ready when you are at The Fountain in Tappahannock Pharmacy.

Brad's grandfather used to eat at The Fountain and his father, Fred, has been a steady customer for 23 years. "It's almost like a tradition," Brad said. "They'd sit around and talk about whatever was going on in their lives." Weather, sports and politics still carry conversations today between friendly neighborhood people.

Nancy Headley, Virginia Helskill and Peggy Garnett do the cooking and waitressing. There's a fair amount of ribbing that goes with the job and they can take the customer wisecracks and give them back with the best of them.

Tallie Davis has been eating there for 43 years and has lunch just about every day with a group of guys, including Fred Mitchell. "Sometimes I don't have to order," said Mitchell. "Some days they give you whatever they have." It's just like being home where whatever your mother made was what you ate.

Mitchell and Gene King both had a birthday recently and the staff got a small cake for both of them.

When Davis is asked what his favorite dish is, he answers, "Whatever they fix." Virginia, a waitress who overheard the question, answers, "Me!" with both arms raised in the air.

Everything at The Fountain is

continued on following page

Coffee-fueled conversations are lively at Marshall's Drug in Urbanna.

continued from previous page

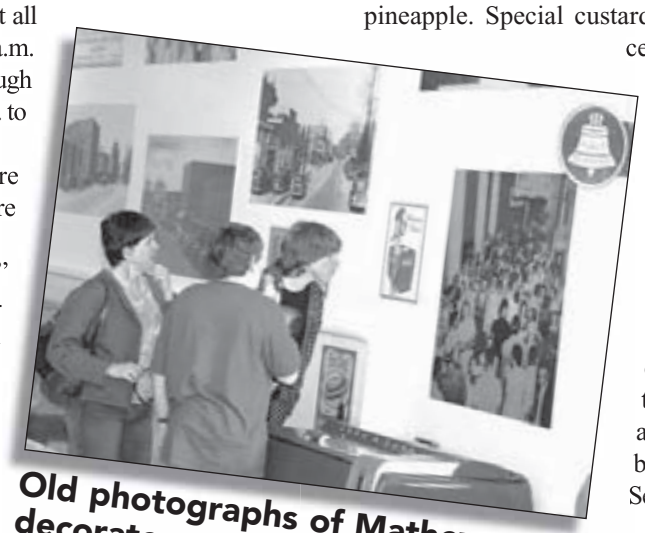
homemade, said Headley, from the cole slaw and potato salad, to the tuna, egg and chicken salad, and the specials.

You can get breakfast all day, which runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Fridays, and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

Real milkshakes are on the menu, so are floats and sundaes.

Major Clifford "Pops" Grotz, a longtime customer, seemed to speak for the majority of The Fountain's satisfied customers. "I wouldn't go anyplace else."

The Fountain is located on Route 17 across from Lowery's Restaurant. Call 443-3461.



Old photographs of Mathews decorate a wall of Richardson's.

"A flash from the past"

Richardson's Drug Store was a Mathews institution at the corner of Main and Church streets from 1922 until it closed in the 1990s.

The new owners, Celia and Jim Sease of Mathews, had planned to renovate two apartments on the second floor and were not sure what they would put downstairs where the old drug store and lunch counter had been. "It was a shame for it to be empty," said Mrs. Sease. Some people wanted a wine and cheese shop, others thought of a micro-brewery. However, the Seases are raising their triplets and thought the county needed something for the kids.

The people of Mathews helped them make up their minds. "Hundreds of people begged us to open it as a lunch counter and told us how they used to come here when they were young," said Celia Sease.

Meeting all the regulations caused some delays, but eventually the lunch counter reopened in 2004 simply as "Richardson's" with Mrs. Sease at the helm.

It's a popular place for lunch and sweet concoctions, including homemade frozen custard in such tempting flavors as Heath Bar Crunch, mocha, and fruit flavors, as well as vanilla, chocolate and pineapple. Special custard flavors available at certain times, include brownie batter and cake batter.

Banana splits, hot fudge sundaes, and hot fudge cakes and fruit smoothies are also on the menu.

Limeade and lemonade are made fresh to order. "Limeade and milkshakes are our biggest sellers," said Sease.

Daily lunch specials include Reuben sandwiches, barbecue platters and chicken pot pie. Robin S. Dehoux said she and her fellow workers at Country Cuts always try to get to Richardson's for the chicken pot pie, made fresh on Thursdays.

Friday is Guinea Pig Day where customers' "suggestions are put to the test."

On Sundays homecooked meals are served because a lot of people come in after church.

The Seases worked hard to keep the original look and feel of this historic building. Old photos of Mathews Courthouse from the days of dirt streets have been enlarged and hung on the walls. They even found an original menu in the Gloucester Gazette.

The booths are vintage, the panels of the high tin ceiling are painted light blue, and the ambience helps you forget there's an interstate highway just 45 miles away. True to the message written on their shirts, Richardson's is "A flash from the past."

Richardson's is open every day but Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and ice cream and frozen treats can be ordered at its walk-up window until 9 p.m from May through September. Call 725-3833.

Country cookin' done right at The Fountain.

Back when sodas were too much fun

The ice cream sundae originated in the last century when certain groups felt that drinking "soft drinks" should not be enjoyed on the Lord's Day. An enterprising soda fountain owner developed something that could be enjoyed guilt-free on Sundays, and spelled it "sundae," so no one would be offended.

The temperance movement was perhaps not without a little justification. In the days before the Food and Drug Act, soft drinks used to contain all kinds of things; some ingredients later became illegal. In fact, during the 1930s stores in Virginia had to be licensed to sell soft drinks.

At least with a sundae, you could see what you were eating, and you knew the cream in ice cream came from a cow.

Ladies Clothing, Jewelry & Accessories
Petite Missy Plus
24 W. Church Street. • Kilmarnock, VA • 435-2200
Mon.–Sat. 10-6 • Sun. 12-4

Monday - Saturday 10 am-5 pm
Sunday by chance or by appt.
422 Chesapeake Drive (next to Peppers)
White Stone, Virginia
Debbie Davis 804-436-8300

Discover Deltaville

Middle Peninsula
Insurance & Financial Services
Serving Eastern Virginia since 1908
Free review & quote for all your needs.
(804) 776-6082

Sandy Bottom Market
Specialty & gourmet foods.
Deli Restaurant. Choice A meats.
Marina transport. Friendly service!
(804) 776-8803

Latitudes
Fun Jewelry & Accessories
Casual & Resort Wear
Home & Garden
Books & Baby Gifts
(804) 776-0272

Deltaville Depot
Where past memories become your present reality! One-stop shop for Lionel, MTH, Bachman & LGB model trains.
New & used. Repairs & Service.
(804) 776-7250

Deltaville Market
Rt. 33
Fancy, fresh produce.
Fresh meats.
Full-service deli.
Marina pickup service.
(804) 776-6131

Dozier's Regatta Point Marina
Deltaville's premier marina, clubhouse, conference room
www.doziermarine.com
(804) 776-8400

Coffee Creations
Deltaville's Coffee Bar. Gourmet coffees, Wraps, Paninis, Sandwiches & Soft-Serve Ice Cream. Open late Fri. & Sat.
(804) 776-0303

At the tip of Middlesex County, the village of Deltaville lies between the Rappahannock and Piankatank Rivers at the edge of the Chesapeake Bay. It is rich in watermen's history as boatbuilding and "working on the water" were once key commercial activities.

Today, Deltaville is a thriving tourist destination with over 3,000 boats based in the area and some 18 marinas on Broad Creek, Jackson Creek and Fishing Bay.

Lots to do in Deltaville!

Shopping is a joy at the many shops and galleries with their selection of fine art and gifts, whimsical wares, nautical items and RIVAH resort wear. Shop on at the Farmers Market every fourth Saturday from April through November and find everything from flowers to food to crafts to clothing.

When you're not fishing, boating or swimming in the community pool, spend an afternoon browsing the new Deltaville Maritime Museum and Holly Point Nature Park, or climb the Stingray Point Lighthouse replica. Later on, you can catch a semi-pro baseball game at the local park or head out for a bite to eat.

Your choices for dining destinations range from a gourmet coffee and pastry shop to bistro-style, seafood or waterfront restaurants, with a little lounge nightlife thrown into the mix for good measure! Partying on your boat or beach? Many of the wonderful Deltaville restaurants offer catering and takeout, as well!

Lots to see in Deltaville!

- Heritage Day Celebration: Parades, Baseball Games, Arts, Crafts, Live Music, Food, Fireworks, and Fun!
- Southern Chesapeake Leukemia Cup Regatta Series: Sail Race Weekend, Junior Regatta, Kayak Tour, Art Show, Auction, more!
- Annual Holly Point Art & Seafood Festival
- Jackson Creek Boat Tour: Cruise the Creek at Christmastime (and see Santa, too)!

Lots to love in Deltaville!

Visit www.deltavilleva.com and discover Deltaville for yourself!

Deltaville Dentistry
C. Ben Lennon, D.D.S.
Cosmetic • Restorative
Family Dentistry
(804) 776-9484

Norton's Yacht Sales, Inc.
#1 Hunter Dealer Sales & Service
Hunter & Jeanneau Yachts Dealer
Sailing School • Charters • Brokerage
Full-service marina
www.nortonyachts.com
(804) 776-9211

Pat's Gallery & Gifts, Ltd.
Custom framing as it should be.
Frames and mats to fit
all your framing needs.
(804) 776-7160

Yates House
Fine Art and Craft Gallery
Fine local art & craft
Custom framing
Beading supplies
(804) 776-8505

The Galley
Deltaville's favorite gathering place!
Steaks • Seafood • Fun!
Come enjoy our original
Galley BBQ recipe!
(804) 776-6040

Hurd's Hardware
Let us help you!
A TrueValue Store
(804) 776-9241

Annapolis Yacht Sales, South
Beneteau Power & Sail • Sabre
Wauquiez • Call in and see us at
Deltaville Marina on Jackson Creek
(804) 776-7575

Welcome to Middlesex County

■ Size: 142 square miles ■ Shoreline: 135 miles
■ Population: 9,600

History

Middlesex County was formed around 1669 from Lancaster County, which makes it one of the oldest English settlements in the United States. Many plantation homes still stand from the Colonial era and it is rich in history that spans nearly 350 years.

Bordered by the Rappahannock and Piankatank rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, much of its history centers around the water. The town of Urbanna was formed in 1680 as a center for shipping tobacco from surrounding plantations.

Urbanna was the county seat until 1852 when it was moved to Saluda, a more central location for area citizens. Throughout the county are homes built in the 1700's and wartime stories abound dating back to the Revolutionary and Civil wars. During these wars, plantations such as Providence and Rosegill were bombarded and looted.

Stingray Point near Deltaville gained immortal fame as the spot where Captain John Smith was nearly killed by a stingray.

Three centuries ago ships from London, Liverpool, Bristol and Glasgow were common sights on Urbanna Creek. Just across the creek from Urbanna is Rosegill, one of the oldest plantations in America. It was for many years a center of influence in the Colony and a power in the political and commercial life of this area. It was the home of five generations of Wormeleys, one of the most influential families in the colony. Colonial governors Sir Henry Chicheley and Lord Howard of Effingham made Rosegill their home.

During the Civil War, General George McClellan formulated a plan of attack to take Richmond by starting from Urbanna. The plan was named the Urbanna Plan, but it was never instituted.

In 1862, several Yankee warships bombarded the town but legend has it that the only thing the Yanks killed was an old hare. One of the cannonballs did hit the old courthouse, which today is the Middlesex Woman's Club building on Virginia Street.

During the bombardment the townsfolk congregated on the creek bank near where the Urbanna Bridge is located today. Legend has it that an old man by the name of Montague stood at the top of the hill and whenever he saw a flash of a cannon firing he would scream "squat" and the townsfolk would squat down to the ground.

Art lovers from across the East Coast will converge on the historic waterfront Town of Urbanna on Saturday, May 13, for the annual Art on the Shell festival (above) on Rappahannock Avenue. Over 60 juried artists and craftspeople are expected to display and sell their creations. Also, the Urbanna Farmers Market will take place that morning in town.

Government

Middlesex County Administrator Charles M. Culley Jr., Courthouse annex, Saluda. Open 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Mon.–Fri. 758-4330.

County tax rates (per $100): Real estate, $.48; personal property, $3.50.

Urbanna Town Administrator Lewis Filling, Cross Street, Urbanna. Open 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Mon.–Fri. 758-2613.

Town tax rates (per $100): Real estate, $.22; personal property, $.65.

Chamber of Commerce

Urbanna Business Association, Urbanna. (800) 523-4711.

Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation. 758-0368.

Services

Trash and Recycling Services Four convenience centers offer trash collection and recycling: the Deltaville Convenience Center on Route 33 across from Rt. 660 (Jackson Creek Road), open daily 8 a.m.–5 p.m.; the Saluda Convenience Center at Stormont on Faraway Road (Route 705), open daily except Thursday from 7 a.m.–5 p.m.; the Jamaica Convenience Center on Route 640 near Church View, open daily 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; the Hartfield Convenience Center on Route 730 in Hartfield, open daily 6 a.m.–8 p.m. For information call the courthouse, 758-4330, or transfer station/Saluda convenience center, 758-0542.

Day Care/Baby Sitting Urbanna Baptist Day Care Center, 758-4783; Wee-Bear Nursery School, 758-4414; and Good Beginnings Preschool, 776-9825 or 776-6250.

Churches Middlesex Ministerial Association, Chauncey Mann, 776-9171.

ABC Store Urbanna, Virginia Street.

Veterinary Services Hartfield Animal Hospital, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Mon.–Fri. Doctors hours by appointment only, phone 776-9219. Saluda Veterinary Clinic, 2–5 p.m. Mon., Wed. and Fri. Phone 758-2303 or in emergencies, (800) 225-0256, Pager 237797. Sandy Creek Kennels (boarding, grooming and in-home pet care), call (888) 266-3084.

Recreation

Middlesex County Sports Complex Walking track, volleyball courts, basketball courts, soccer/football field (open dawn to dusk), softball/baseball fields (must be scheduled through Sports Complex Committee. Concession stand open during scheduled events.

Tennis Courts Taber Park, Urbanna (for residents and guests of town residents) and Deltaville Community Association (for residents and guests of the Deltaville area).

Ball Fields Deltaville Ball Park, home of the Deltaville Deltas, a semipro baseball team. Games scheduled on weekends in the spring and summer.

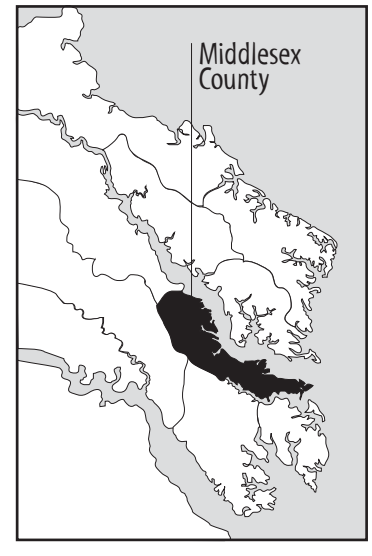
Public Beach Wake Beach at the end of Route 627.

Swimming Pools Town of Urbanna and Deltaville Community Association in Deltaville (for residents and guests of residents).

Public Docks Day mooring at Millstone Landing in Water View and at Locklies Pier on Locklies Creek.

Boating and Fishing Charter fishing boats are concentrated on Locklies Creek and in the Deltaville area. The Bethpager, a 44-passenger deadrise, cruises from Bethpage Camp-Resort or Urbanna Creek, 758-4349. Windsurfing lessons are offered by Parrott Island Adventures in Topping, 758-

continued on following page



continued from previous page

2414. Lazy Day Adventures in Urbanna offers kayak rentals and eco-tours of local waters, along with camping on the waterfront. Reservations recommended. 758-9302.

To change or update Middlesex information, contact <lchowning@ssentinel.com>.

The Moving Wall is coming to Warsaw

The Moving Wall, a traveling reproduction of the Vietnam War Memorial, will arrive May 18 and be in Warsaw until May 22 on the campus of Rappahannock Community College.

Plans are under way for a brief opening program, a large Armed Forces Day event May 20, and a closing ceremony May 22. As part of the obligation for hosting The Moving Wall, a reading will take place throughout the days of the 58,228 names inscribed on the memorial.

The project will be produced jointly by the Richmond County Fair Association and the Northern Neck Tourism Council. A fundraising effort to fund the $6,000 needed to host The Moving Wall and the expenses associated with it, is under way. Contributions may be sent to the Richmond County Fair Association, P.O. Box 152, Warsaw, VA 22572. Note on check, Moving Wall. To volunteer, call 333-3420 or 333-1919.

Kirking of the Tartan due April 30

The 11th annual Kirking of the Tartan at Christ Church will be held April 30 at 12:30 p.m.

The procession into the church will be led by the Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band. Special music during the service will be provided by the choir of Grace Church and the pipe band.

At the close of the service, the pipe band will lead the tartan-wearing attendees out of the church and through the gates for an informal short concert.

RAYMARINE
World leaders in marine electronics

C-series
- 7", 8", 12" Color LCD Display
- Chart Plotter
- Paper chart-like clarity

NAVIONICS Gold
THE LEADER IN ELECTRONIC CHARTS

with optional
FISH FINDER
Patented Raymarine HDFI Digital sonar technology

or RADAR
unmatched radar performance

Mobile installation and service available

C120-C80-C70
• Direct sunlight viewable 256 color displays
• Excellent contrast and a wide viewing angle

Marine Electronics

(804) 776-9802 • 888-676-9802
Rt. 33, 11007 Puller Highway, Hartfield
Factory Authorized Sales and Service
of Hartfield

Can we offer you a lift?

EAST COAST BOAT LIFTS

Urbanna, Va.
(804) 758-1099 or (800) 718-5737
www.eastcoastboatlifts.com

Boat Lift Features
• Hot Dip Galvanized Steel Construction
• Stainless Steel Cables
• GFCI Protected Motors
• Enclosed Covers
• Standard & Custom Design
• Optional Remote Controls

Boat Lift Types
• Low Profile
• Personal Watercraft (standard & rotation)
• Overhead Beam
• Aluminum Overhead Beam
• Boathouse

Kathleen Noffsinger
presents a new limited edition giclee reproduction

"River's Edge, Great Blue Heron"
Limited Edition of 300 S/N Price: $45

Available at Fine Art Galleries or Visit us at
Art on the Half Shell
Saturday, May 13 in Urbanna

(804) 776-7191
http://www.kathleennoffsinger.com