The Pearl

Trolley begins service in Urbanna

Bay Transit, a service of Bay Aging, is pleased to announce that Urbanna's trolley, "The Pearl," has started its new season and will continue through Labor Day weekend.

The Pearl has two additional stops this year—Something Different Country Store and Lazy Daze Blaze & Glaze pottery store.

The Pearl is a convenient and economical way to tour the Urbanna area with its rich and vibrant heritage of historic importance and natural beauty. Residents and visitors will want to take advantage of the trolley during the July 4th weekend for easy, safe and fun traveling. The trolley can, of course, be used as an alternative form of transportation around town—a nice way to visit local banks, the library, or stores.

One can visit Bay Aging's website at www.bayaging.org for more information on Bay Transit public transportation services or to learn more about Bay Aging's many programs and services for the frail and older adults.

Farmer's Market due July 8 in Urbanna

The Urbanna Farmer's Market will be held again Saturday, July 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The market provides a wide variety of hand-crafted and homegrown items over a range of specialties. Although the vendors change every month, past products have included handmade soaps, custom-made wreaths, and fresh flowers, as well as organic and homegrown fruits and vegetables, when in season. Previous hand-crafted items have ranged from embroidery to wooden pens, including handmade jewelry. Also available are baked goods and other food.

The Town of Urbanna and Urbanna Business Association sponsor the market, which will be held on the second Saturday of each month through October.

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Urbanna plans family-fun events

New Urbanna Recreation Director Suzanne White hopes for active participation for her big summer plans. White has planned several revolutionary activities to involve both adults and youth in the park and on the waterfront.

As July 4th rolls around, consider entering boats in the annual boat parade. Independence Day activities include the parade, fireworks, face painting, food, and a concert by "Sweet Justice" continuing from 5 p.m. until dark.

The boat parade, though, is a favorite because of the creative decorations on each craft. Memorable boats from across the years included a Gilligan's Island theme, a human flag, a moveable wooden crab, a submerged shark, and President Nixon accompanied by Lady Liberty. Boats are judged on their patriotic display or sheer creativity. White hopes boat owners will sign up early and come with fun decorations. All will be held on the waterfront at the marina.

White has planned another family event at the marina for July 22. White believes a concert and pot-luck supper will be "an old fashion family gathering" and encourages all to "bring your family and sit by the water." The concert will feature Steve Keith and should be a chance to see neighbors in a fun, "relaxed atmosphere."

A youth self-defense class is also set for late-July. The classes have already gained some popularity and are especially geared towards children. The self-defense classes will be held on Saturday mornings at Taber Park.

White also has plans for adult water volleyball. White plans to start the practice in August in order to avoid interference with swim team practice. Adult water volleyball should be both a good workout and good entertainment. Also planned for August is an adult water-aerobics class.

White also hopes to raise money for a new pool with an August Gala. The event is still in the making, but look for the event in later news. The ongoing "pool fund" has raised only $30,000 in 5 years. The goal was $100,000 for the construction of a new pool. With so much money still needed, this charitable event will need quite a turnout to succeed.

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July 4th fun planned in Urbanna

The Town of Urbanna will host its traditional 4th of July celebration. The festivities will begin at 5 p.m. at Upton's Point Marina on Urbanna Creek.

The ever popular band "Sweet Justice" will start performing at 5 p.m. and continue until dark.

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office Auxiliary will serve a wide selection of food and drinks from 5 p.m. until dusk.

There will be face painting for children of all ages.

At 6:30 p.m. the annual boat parade and judging begins with prizes offered for the most patriotic, most creative and most outrageous boat designs. Winners will be announced at 8 p.m. at the band stand at Upton's Point Marina.

A boat parade entry form can be picked up at the town office. There is no cost to enter. For more information, call Suzanne at 804-815-0062, Dianne at 758-5440, or the town hall at 758-2613.

The boat parade can be viewed from Upton's Point Marina. The boats will gather near the bridge and go past the judges' station at the marina, turn around near Queen Anne's Cove, and go back past the marina.

The grand fireworks display will commence at dark over Urbanna Creek.

The public is encouraged to bring lawn chairs and enjoy a fun-filled evening on Urbanna Creek.

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Queen's Creek

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An area rich in Civil War lore

by Larry S. Chowning

With the Confederate capital of Richmond just 60 miles away, and major battles fought near the York River on the Peninsula and at Fredericksburg, just upriver on the Rappahannock River, the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula certainly felt the impact of the Civil War of 1861-65.

Although no major battles were fought here, there were many incidents that occurred as Rebel and Yankee forces moved through the area and up and down local rivers.

All Rivah counties have erected monuments to those who fought in the Civil War and there are several exhibits in museums honoring those who participated in the bloodiest war ever fought on this country's soil.

Middlesex County

On the grounds of the Middlesex County Courthouse there is a monument erected to those native sons of Middlesex who died during the Civil War. It was erected by the Middlesex Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy in 1910.

The courthouse itself also holds some Civil War treasures. The classic 1852 courtroom has several paintings of prominent men who fought in the war, and a list of county Civil War veterans is posted on the wall.

There is a painting of William X. Smith of Saluda clad in his Rebel grays. Smith was shot the same night as Stonewall Jackson at the Battle of Chancellorsville and died three days later. Smith was the soldier chosen by his company to appear on the Chancellorsville Roll of Honor.

There is also a painting of William (Captain Billy) Steptoe Christian of Hewick, a home just outside of Urbanna. Christian fought most of the war and was captured and imprisoned at Johnson's Island.

Yankees shelled the Town of Urbanna in 1864. The old courthouse, which is now the Woman's Club building on Virginia Street, was hit by a cannon ball. When renovations were done to the roof in the 1930s, the cannon ball was found lodged in the roof.

This haunting embossment on the Lancaster County Civil War mounument shows an angel of mercy giving comfort to a wounded soldier.

Union General Justin Kilpatrick's "Mounted Devils" ransacked the Middlesex Courthouse in 1863 in an effort to destroy Middlesex County records that dated back to the late 1600s. The county clerk at the time, P.T. Woodward, had been ordered to bring the records to Richmond for safekeeping. However, Woodward and local judge Richard Christian decided to hide the records, feeling that neither Richmond nor the courthouse were safe from the Yankee torches.

Woodward instead hid the records under some straw in a barn on an island in the Dragon Run. Supposedly, Kilpatrick's men happened upon the barn and their horses ate some of the straw, but did not dig deep enough to discover the county records.

Mathews County

A Civil War monument and historical road sign are on the grounds at Mathews Courthouse. The marker commemorates the service of Captain Sally Tompkins. She was the only woman to become an officer in the Confederate Army and the first woman to be commissioned in the armed forces of the United States.

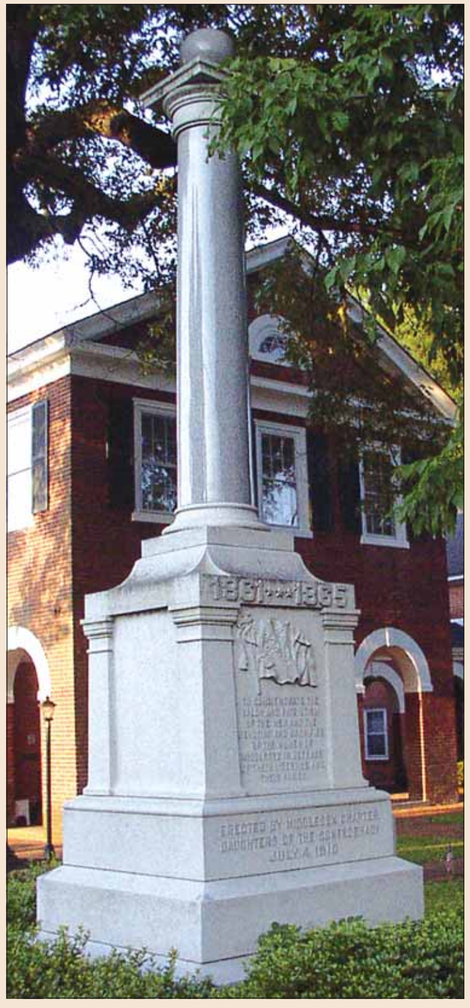
Born in Mathews County, Tompkins was honored for her efforts as supervisor of Robinson Hospital in Richmond where she and others cared for hundreds of wounded and dying soldiers.

A family store, Tompkins Cottage, is now the headquarters for the Mathews Historical Society. It is the oldest wooden structure on the courthouse grounds and has various exhibits, some of which relate to the Civil War. The cottage is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through October, and by appointment by calling 725-4332. There is no admission charge, but donations are welcome.

There also is a monument at the grave of Captain Sally Tompkins and a historical marker at Kingston Parish Church on Williams Wharf Road. Etched in stone on the monument is a description of the role Captain Tompkins played at the hospital in Richmond.

King and Queen County

On the grounds at King and Queen Courthouse is a very decorative statue honoring soldiers and sailors from King and Queen County who fought in the Civil War. The embossment on the statue states: "Fate denied them victory but gave them the love and veneration of their native land. The wonder and admiration of the world."



This monument at the Middlesex County Courthouse was erected in tribute to the men and women who sacrificed so much during the Civil War.

Gloucester County

In the center of the 1700s Courthouse Circle is a monument to those who fought in the Civil War from Gloucester County, including Lt. Catesby Jones, who assumed command of the "Merrimac" during the epic ironclad battle with the "Monitor."

Also on the grounds is a monument honoring a Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor winner. It's one of the few Civil War markers on the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck that honors a Union soldier. Pvt. James Daniel Gardner of the 36th U.S. Colored Troops fought for the Union. He was from Gloucester County and served as a private. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery at the Battle of Chapins Farm on September 29, 1864. A stone on the courthouse grounds has a picture of Gardner. The marker was erected by Gloucester County in 2005.

There are also Civil War artifacts in the Gloucester Museum of History and Visitor's Center, located in the Botetourt Building on Main Street near the historic Courthouse Circle.

Tyndall's Point at Gloucester Point has the distinction of having earthworks from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. There is a historical display that relates the importance of gun batteries in lower Gloucester during the Civil War. At one time, the troops at the battery were under the command of Colonel Ulric Dahlgren, who was killed in King and Queen.

Tyndall's Point is one of 388 Civil War sites in Virginia that are part of a three-state Civil War Trails program. For more information about the Civil War Trails, call 1-888-Civil War.

Essex County

In the middle of Prince Street in Tappahannock is a monument to the many Essex County men who fought in the Civil War. Just outside of Tappahannock was the Confederacy's Fort Lowery.

The Town of Tappahannock was bombed and invaded in 1863 by the Yankees as they traveled the Rappahannock River.

Inside the county courthouse are portraits of favorite sons of Essex who went off to fight.

continued on following page

The Tavern at King and Queen Courthouse was the only building spared by Yankee torches in 1864. In order to save the building, a King and Queen resident told the Yankees there was an old man sick upstairs with smallpox. Rather than risk getting smallpox, the Yanks moved to another building.

Smallpox to the rescue

"The Tavern," next to King and Queen Courthouse, houses the King and Queen County Museum. During the Civil War, Kilpatrick's Mounted Devils burned the courthouse, the clerk's office, the jail, several stores and a home in the village. The only building spared was The Tavern.

To make King and Queen citizens pay for an earlier ambush in which Union Colonel Ulric Dahlgren was killed (see related story), Yankees went from building to building and ordered everyone out, and then lit each building on fire. When the Yankees came to The Tavern and ordered everyone out, several local people said a sick man was bedridden upstairs. The Yankee captain ordered several men to get the man out of the house. Before going into the building, one of the soldiers asked, "What's wrong with him?" A King & Queen man in the crowd yelled, "He has smallpox!"

With that, the Yankees left The Tavern and it was spared.

An embossment of a Civil War cannon is on the side of the monument at King and Queen Courthouse to honor those who fought for the South.

This marker with a small Confederate flag was placed at the foot of the grave of Captain Sally Tompkins at Kingston Parish Church on Williams Wharf Road in Mathews County.

Masonic Apron saves the day

Spencer Hodges of the Glebe (Anglican parsonage) in Mathews County recalls a story that when his great-grandmother, Cornelia Green Thurston, was a child the Yankees came to the house in which Hodges now lives. He is the sixth generation of his family to live there.

The Yankee officer and men came into the house looking to pillage and take food. Thurston hid under the bed on which her mother had left her father's Masonic apron. Her father was off fighting for the Confederacy.

The Yankee officer was also a Mason, and when he saw the Masonic apron he told his men to go outside. He told Thurston's family members they would not be harmed that night. "It just shows you the power of the Masonic movement in those times," said Hodges.

continued from previous page

The Courthouse Tavern Museum and the Essex County Museum and Historical Society, both in Tappahannock, currently have two Civil War displays. One is a general display on the Confederacy and the other is on Confederate Captain Edward Baird, the youngest member of General George Pickett's staff.

Westmoreland County

In Westmoreland there is Stratford Hall, the birthplace of one of the greatest Civil War generals. Robert E. Lee was born at Stratford Hall Plantation on Route 214 (off Route 3) near Montross in 1807. He went on to become the commander of the Confederate forces and is considered one of the most brilliant generals in history.

Stratford Hall Plantation was also home to Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee, both signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Stratford Hall is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Admission is $7 for adults, $6 for seniors, and $4 for children ages 6-11. Children under 6 are admitted free.

Montross is the county seat of Westmoreland County and on the courthouse grounds is a Civil War monument recognizing those from the county who fought in the war.

Lancaster County

The Steamboat Era Museum in Irvington (438-6888) has a Civil War exhibit entitled "The Bay at War." The displays and exhibits focus on skirmishes and other action along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries during the war.

The museum has several visual and audio historical displays where area historians tell on tape and video some of the local history and lore of the Civil War. Some amazing models and exhibits have been produced by local craftsmen.

The museum also features a map that points out where Confederate and Yankee soldiers fought in the area, and there also is a display of charred wood and metal of the "Harriet De Ford." This vessel was captured in Maryland in 1865 by Captain Fitzhugh and brought to Dymers Creek. Fitz-hugh sold the ship's goods in Kilmarnock and then burned the vessel to the waterline. It was the last naval engagement of the Civil War.

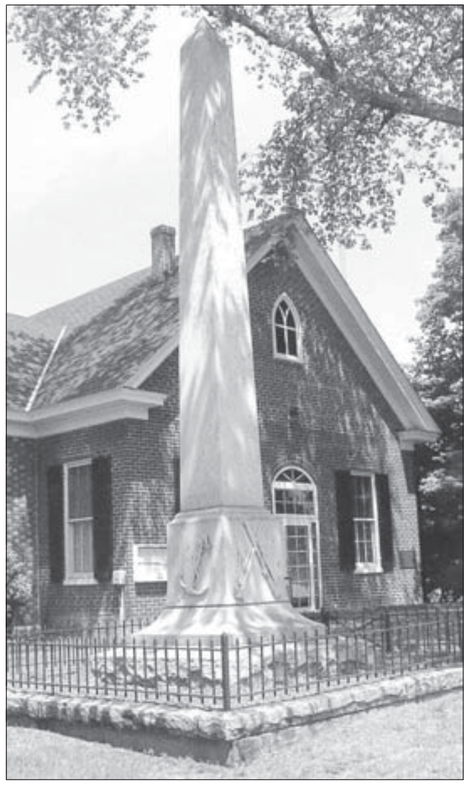
There are also displays titled "Ship to Shore Action" and "Ship and Sailors" in the museum.

Very near Lancaster County Courthouse is a large Confederate monument dedicated to those in Lancaster who fought in the Civil War. It states: "To the gallant souls of Lancaster County who gave their lives in protection of their state and the South."

Next door to the monument is the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library, which was erected in 1876. The museum has a Civil War display that will be in the museum until Labor Day. It is entitled "When the Yanks Came Ashore." The display includes Confederate flags, Civil War guns, swords and information on when the Yankees invaded Lancaster. For more information, call 462-7280.

"Fate denied them victory but gave them the love and veneration of their native land. The wonder and admiration of the world."

— Embossment on the statue at King and Queen Courthouse



The monument directly in front of King and Queen County Courthouse was erected to honor soldiers and sailors who fought for the South.

Wheatland survives

The riverfront home of Wheatland is in upper Essex on the Rappahannock River. The story goes that Union gunboats sailed to Wheatland and a Yankee commander ordered Wheatland owner John Saunders to get everyone out of the house because he was going to destroy it with his cannons.

Instead, Saunders called everyone — slaves, children and adults — into the house and ordered them to the front porch steps where the Yankees could see them clearly. Saunders then hollered, "If you are going to take Wheatland, then you will have to take us all!" The Yankees then turned their guns on a nearby barn and blew it to pieces, leaving Wheatland and its stubborn owner safe and sound.

Northumberland County

On the courthouse grounds in Heathsville stands a monument to those who fought from Northumberland in the war. Being on the Potomac River, activities in this county were watched closely by Union gunboats.

There were strong smuggling operations on the Potomac, and the Coan River in Northumberland also was a hotbed for this type of activity. In 1864, two Union flotilla vessels went up the Coan and destroyed 31 boats that had been used to support smuggling activities. A local force attempted to stop the Yankees, but was driven off.

Although, the Civil War has been over for 141 years, relatives of Civil War soldiers have strong connections and memories of how life was in those unsettled times.

The flag of the Confederacy is on display as part of an overall Civil War exhibit at the Mary Ball Washington Museum in Lancaster.

Civil War rifles are cut into this stone monument in Heathsville that honors men from Northumberland County who fought in the war.

This monument on the Mathews County Courthouse grounds honors those from the county who fought in the Civil War.

Dahlgren's Corner

One of the few land battles that occurred in the area was at what is today called Dahlgren's Corner near Stevensville and Mantapike in King and Queen County. There is a historical marker on the road that tells of the battle. In 1864, Union officer Colonel Ulric Dahlgren was part of a raid that was to free Union officers and soldiers who were being held captive at Belle Isle and Libby Prison near Richmond. The plan called for Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick, commander of the Army of the Potomac Cavalry, to move down from the north and Dahlgren's troops would move on the prisons from the south.

As the Yankees moved toward Richmond, they ran into strong resistance from the homefront. Dahlgren and his troops ended up in King and Queen, where they were attacked by home forces led by Captain James Pollard. The Confederates set a trap for the Yankees at Dahlgren Corner. Dahlgren was killed and several Union soldiers were captured.

When the news came that Dahlgren had been shot to death in King and Queen County, and that citizens of the county had helped in the attack, Kilpatrick sent over a thousand troops from Gloucester Point to the county on March 10, 1864. Their mission was to make the citizens suffer for their part in the battle.

The Steamboat Museum in Irvington has the charred remains of the vessel "Harriet De Ford," a Yankee vessel that was captured in Maryland, brought to Dymers Creek in Lancaster, and burned to the waterline. The incident was the last naval engagement of the war.

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Rivah Museums & Exhibits

Essex

Essex County Museum and Historical Society, 218 Water Lane in Tappahannock, is surrounded by the town's historic buildings and is near the courthouse green and Ritchie House.

Continuing museum exhibits include prehistoric fossils, Native American and colonial artifacts, and items from the American Revolution, Bacon's Rebellion, the Civil War, and World Wars I & II. Steamboat travel on the Rappahannock River is detailed, along with other periods of interest.

Later this summer a new exhibit, "A Journey by Faith: History of Early Black Education in Essex County," will begin. Another exhibit, "A Family Political Dynasty" featuring the Garnett family, will be an ongoing display throughout the year.

The latest exhibit is "Epping Forest: Exploring an Essex Legacy." This highlights 10 generations of Rouzie and Baird families and their lives at Epping Forest including during the Civil War.

The museum gift shop offers books and other items of interest about Essex County and the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. Hours are Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday 1 to 3 p.m. Walking tours are available by reservation. 443-4690.

The latest exhibit at the Gwynn's Island Museum in Mathews includes artifacts from an 18th-century house foundation that was uncovered by Hurricane Isabel in 2003. The museum, open 1 to 5 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, houses a diverse collection on its two floors.

Gloucester

Gloucester Museum of History

The Gloucester Museum of History and Visitor's Center is in the Botetourt Building on Main Street (Route 17 Business) near the historic Courthouse Square.

The building, built about 1770, was New's Ordinary, a roadside tavern where travelers could get a meal and rent a room.

Permanent exhibits at the museum include Native American artifacts dating to 800 B.C., copies of a 1655 land gift from an Indian tribe, artifacts from the Old Free School House (ca. 1676), Civil War relics, and items from Hotel Botetourt, an Old Country Store and the Bank of Gloucester.

The museum is open Mondays–Fridays from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. Call 693-1234 or 693-2659.

Pocahontas Museum

The Pocahontas Museum at Gloucester Courthouse has information, artifacts and pictures relating to the Indian Pocahontas, Captain John Smith and the Powhatan Indians. On display is a rock traditionally known as the one on which Capt. John Smith's head was placed when Pocahontas saved his life at Werawocomoco (Wicomico) in Gloucester County.

The museum is open on the second Saturday of each month through October from 1–4 p.m. by appointment, phone 693-2795.

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

The visitor center for the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) is open Monday–Friday from 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Visitors will find aquariums, audio-visual displays, and life-sized models to help them better understand and appreciate the marine ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay. There is no charge for admission.

VIMS is on Rt. 1208, Greate Rd., at Gloucester Point. For directions and more information, call 684-7000 or visit the web site at vims.edu.

Lancaster

Carter Reception Center and Museum

A visit to the adjacent Carter Reception Center and Museum completes a tour of historic Christ Church. The complex is at the intersection of Routes 646 and 709 between Irvington and Weems.

The museum houses the original communion silver engraved by order to the Parish Vestry in 1720.

The church is open to the public from 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., free of charge. The reception center and museum are open April–November from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday–Saturday and 2–5 p.m. Sundays. Call ahead for group tours, 438-6855.

Kilmarnock Museum

The Kilmarnock Museum at 76 North Main Street features displays and exhibits focusing on Kilmarnock's past and present, including areas of commerce and banking; maritime, seafood and agricultural concerns; schools, churches and social customs; and children's interests. A miniature of Leon Rice's Soda Shoppe, made and donated by Nancy Clark, was added to the museum's permanent display last year.

A rotating exhibit celebrating Kilmarnock's 75th anniversary will be on display through the summer. The exhibit will include photographs and memorabilia depicting life in the town in 1931.

The museum is open Thursday–Saturday from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. 436-9100.

Mary Ball Washington Museum

The Mary Ball Washington Museum, named for George Washington's mother, is on Route 3 in the heart of Lancaster Court House. The museum is housed in a five-building complex on the Court House Green across the highway from the historic Lancaster County courthouse. The complex includes the Old County Jail (1819) and first Clerk's Office (1797) as living history museums.

A special exhibit, "The Bay at War — And Then They Came Ashore," depicts the local homefront during the Civil War period. Private family collections, as well as museum archives of the period, are on exhibit through Labor Day. Visitors will see sabers, pistols, guns, bullets and bullet molds, medical instruments and various Confederate articles such as currency, bonds and enlistment certificates. A family silver tea service that was buried for safe keeping from the Union troops is displayed.

Photographs of both President Abraham Lincoln and General Robert E. Lee are on display. A framed lock of Lee's hair, along with an autographed Carte DeVisiste photo of Lee are of special interest.

The museum gift shop currently has Belle Isle Belgian crystal stemware in stock, along with heirloom lace items, a newly published book by local author Susan Schmidt, "Landfall Along the Chesapeake — In the Wake of Captain John Smith," and other historic and genealogy publications.

The museum is open to the public from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Tuesday–Friday. Admission is $2.

The genealogy library is open from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Wednesday–Saturday. There is a $5 search fee for non-members.

continued on following page

More Rivah Museums & Exhibits

continued from previous page

The entire Court House area is designated an Historic District and is on both the Virginia and the National Registers of Historic Places. 462-7280.

Morattico Waterfront Museum

The Morattico Waterfront Museum is housed in the former Morattico General Store building (circa 1901) at 6584 Morattico Road.

The museum offers exhibits related to country storekeeping, watermen's activities and agriculture in the former working watermen's village. Also on display are Native American artifacts and photos and documents relating to the village's history.

The museum is open May–October on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

Steamboat Era Museum

The Steamboat Era Museum at 156 King Carter Drive in Irvington preserves the history of the Chesapeake Bay steamboat era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Among the permanent exhibits are a diorama of Irvington's steamboat wharf in the 1920's, artwork, photography, maps and memorabilia. The museum is preparing to restore the pilothouse of the steamboat Potomac, which is on the Irvington Commons adjacent to the museum.

The current exhibit, entitled "The Bay at War," provides a look at steamboat activities during the Civil War and features an introductory film narrated by Roger Mudd.

Summer hours for the museum are Thursday–Saturday from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 438-6888.

Mathews

Gwynn's Island Museum

The Gwynn's Island Museum, open 1–5 p.m. each Friday, Saturday and Sunday May–October, has two floors of exhibits, a research library and gift shop. Visits by groups of eight or more can be arranged on weekdays by appointment. Admission is free.

A new exhibit include artifacts from a mid-18th century home site that was uncovered by Hurricane Isabel, including glass and pottery shards dating from the 17th century, a King George III half penny dated 1773, Native American points, pottery and fossils. There also are photos of two barrel wells.

Also on display are items relating to the Black American history of Gwynn's Island, and prehistoric Native Americans.

Other exhibits include an extensive history on the life of Captain John Smith and his connection to Gwynn's Island. Exhibits include a large collection of antique medical instruments from the estate of the late Mathews physician, Dr. James Warren Dorsey Haynes, and the old Grimstead Post Office (complete with postmaster).

The book "Gwynn's Island Times" by Elsa Verbyla Cooke has been republished and is on sale in the gift shop.

The museum is on Route 633 at Rose Lane. From Route 198 at Hudgins, take Route 223. After about two miles, it turns into Route 633 (Old Ferry Road). The museum is on the left just past the Gwynn's Island Cemetery. 725-7949. www.gwynnsislandmuseum.org

Tompkins Cottage

Near the Mathews Courthouse is Tompkins Cottage, a museum and headquarters of the Mathews Historical Society. The oldest wooden structure in the courthouse, it was used by Christopher Tompkins as a general store starting in 1816.

The museum houses a permanent exhibit of Mathews history including information on Captain Sally Tompkins, the only woman officer in the Confederate Army. Also included is an area of changing exhibits, a wonderful county map, and a sales area offering several publications concerning Mathews history and related gift items.

Of interest is an exhibit on New Point Comfort Lighthouse, which was completed in 1805 and still stands today.

There is no admission charge. The museum is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. through October and by appointment. 725-3487.

Middlesex

Deltaville Maritime Museum

The Deltaville Maritime Museum and Holly Point Nature Park are on 30 wooded and cultivated acres on the edges of Mill Creek just off General Puller Hwy. (Rt. 33) on Jackson Creek Road and Rt. 660 east of the village of Deltaville. The grounds of the park surround the museum buildings and the land-based boats that are among the museum's displays.

An outside boat shed has been built to shelter some of the historic vessels on display. The W.A. Johns is a 34-foot three-log bottom sailing canoe that has had a number of working lives in Deltaville waters. Also displayed is an old sora skiff once used for bird hunting in the Dragon Run, and several small skipjacks and deadrise workboats. The seven log F. D. Crockett, a bay buyboat, is at the dock and is being restored.

In the museum, artifacts and models from when Deltaville was the "Boat Building Capital of the Chesapeake" are being gathered and shown.

In the boat shop visitors can see under construction a flat-bottomed utility skiff typical of Deltaville boats of the past or whatever new project the "boat guys" are working on at the time.

In the park are picnic tables, walking trails through the woods, and a new children's garden laid out and planted just to appeal to their senses and tastes and size. There is good bird watching and plenty of butterflies to chase through the fish-shaped wildflower meadow.

The park is open daily from 9 a.m. until dusk. Museum hours are Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sun. from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment.

For more information about membership, programs and events go to deltavilleva.com and click on the museum website, or call 776-7200 during museum hours or 776-9811.

Middlesex County Museum

The Middlesex County Museum in Saluda (777 General Puller Hwy.) is a short half-block west on Business Route 17 from the Middlesex County Courthouse. It is open Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

The museum features a large country store exhibit, the super center of yesteryear. Memorabilia and medals of Lt. General Lewis B. (Chesty) Puller USMC (Ret.), the most decorated Marine in U.S. history, are displayed.

A new exhibit this summer is "Dressed for the Good Old Days: Clothing from Middlesex County, 1850–1920."

continued on following page

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More Rivah Museums & Exhibits

continued from previous page

days from 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Sundays from 2 p.m.–4 p.m. and other times by appointment, 493-7070.

Kinsale Museum

The Kinsale Museum is "On The Green" in the heart of the historic village of Kinsale on Route 203, off Route 202.

Located on a low bluff at the head of a branch of the Yeocomico River, Kinsale has enjoyed a rich maritime history.

The museum is dedicated to the preservation, collection, exhibition and interpretation of local history. It's in a late 19th century barroom, which was used as a meat market in the 1920's; next door is a soda fountain built in 1922, and the 1909 Bank of Kinsale building stands just off the green beside the Kinsale Motor Corp. building (1919).

At the foot of Steamboat Hill is the old Kinsale Wharf, a hub of activity for some 350 years. See it for yourself and imagine the schooners, sloops, pungies, warships, steamers, tugs, pleasure boats and barges seeking a deepwater port.

The museum is open Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sundays from 2–5 p.m. Exhibits and artifacts depicting Kinsale's exciting years and walking tours are featured throughout the year. 472-3001.

Museum at Colonial Beach

The Museum at Colonial Beach is housed in the former Hoffman Gas Building (circa 1893) at the corner of Hawthorn and Washington Streets.

The museum depicts Colonial Beach heritage through various artifacts donated or on loan from local residents. Collections continue to grow as the community becomes more involved in the project, spearheaded by the Colonial Beach Historical Society. Emphasis is on the period from 1890 through 1958 when the town was a busy river tourism attraction that drew huge summer crowds.

The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1–4 p.m. and other times by appointment. 224-3379.

Westmoreland Museum

The Westmoreland County Museum and Visitor Center is on Courthouse Square in Montross. The Westmoreland County Visitor Center welcomes visitors as they enter the foyer of the building. The museum and visitor's center share quarters with the Hungerford Library, Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society and Northern Neck Historical Research Library, where visitors can trace the roots and the steps of Westmoreland County forefathers.

Outdoors, visitors can stroll in the Presidents Garden, which honors the three U. S. Presidents born on the Northern Neck: George Washington, James Madison and James Monroe.

The museum is open six days a week (closed Sunday). From April 1–October 31 the museum is open 10 a.m.–5 p.m. From November 1–March 31 the museum is open 10 a.m.–4 p.m. There is no admission fee but donations are welcome. 493-8440.

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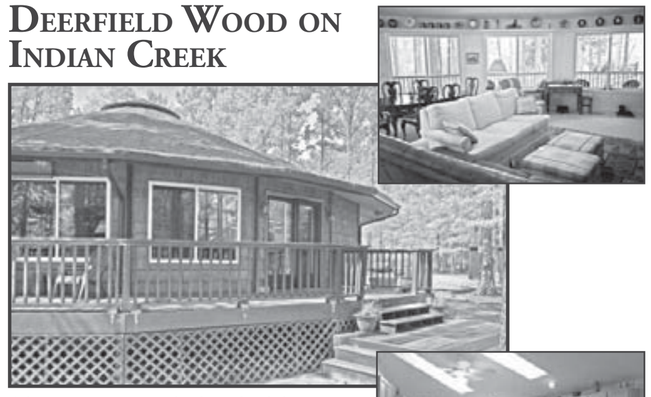

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Welcome to Richmond County

■ Size: 203 square miles ■ Shoreline: 141.9 miles
■ Population: 8,800

The historic home of Congressman William Atkinson Jones on Route 360 in Warsaw has undergone major renovations. The private residence was open to the public during Historic Garden Week.

History

Known commonly as the Gateway to the Northern Neck, Richmond County was established in 1692 from the old Rappahannock County.

Originally explored by Captain John Smith in 1607–1608, the county was settled in 1640 when people migrated up from settlements below the Rappahannock River. It was presumably named after the First Duke of Richmond, cousin to both King William III and Queen Mary. One of the early settlers was Colonel Moore Fauntleroy, who patented land in the county in 1650.

The first county seat was thought to be at the mouth of Little Carter's Creek, then moved to Naylors, an early river settlement. The seat was moved inland in 1730 and renamed the Richmond County Courthouse. In 1831, the name was changed to Warsaw in sympathy with the Polish struggle for independence. Warsaw was incorporated as the county's only town in 1947 and is now the site of the court house, built in 1748, and the 188-year-old clerk's office, which housed the Richmond County Museum from 1992 to 1999.

Richmond County became the Gateway to the Northern Neck in 1927 when the Downing Bridge across the Rappahannock River at Tappahannock was opened, connecting Richmond County to Essex and opening up travel to and from the Northern Neck. The bridge, which replaced 200 years of ferry service, was dedicated by Sen. Thomas Downing of the Northern Neck.

Richmond County was the home of the last president to be elected under the Articles of Confederation. In 1788, Judge Cyrus Griffin was elected president of the U.S. Congress Assembly and held that position until the U.S. Constitution was adopted and his successor, George Washington, was elected as the first President of the U. S.

William A. Jones gained recognition for Richmond County in 1916 when, in supporting self-government for all people, he authorized a bill that guaranteed independence for the Philippines. In 1924, the people of the Philippines erected a memorial at Jones' gravesite in the St. John's Episcopal Churchyard in Warsaw.

Government

County Administrator: William E. Duncanson, Route 360, Warsaw. Phone: 333-3415; Fax: 333-3408. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

County tax rates (per $100): real estate, $.63; personal property, $3.50.

Warsaw Town Manager: John Slusser, Belleville Road, Warsaw. Phone: 333-3737. Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Warsaw tax rates (per $100): real estate, $.08; personal property, $.60.

Chamber of Commerce

Richmond County Chamber of Commerce, 313-2252.

Services

Trash Service Town of Warsaw, P.O. Box 730, Warsaw, Va. 22572; phone: 333-3737. Collection sites are on Route 624 near Heritage Park Resort; on Route 360 near Indianfield, and on Route 3 in Farnham. Hours: 7:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday–Friday; 7 a.m.–7 p.m. Saturday, and 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Sunday.

Day Care/Baby Sitting Walnut Street Day Care, 102 Walnut Street, Warsaw, state licensed, full- and part-time day care available. 333-9322. McKenna & Friends Children Center, 235 Main Street, Warsaw, state licensed, full- and part-time day care available. 333-4006.

Churches Call Rev. Rodney Sidney, 333-4280, for reference and directions to all denominations in Richmond County.

ABC Store Route 360 in Warsaw, Times Square Shopping Center, 333-3505; Hours: Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Veterinary Services Warsaw Animal Clinic, Dr. Samuel Marston and Dr. Michael Molineaux, North Lakeside Drive, Warsaw. Phone: 333-3433. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Recreation

Public Boat Ramps Fishing Pier, Route 624 to Route 638; Fones Cliff, Route 624 to Route 622; Route 3 at Totuskey Creek Bridge; Canoe Landing, Route 608 at Farnham Creek.

Public Beach Naylors Beach and Campground. Take Route 360 to Route 624 to Route 634.

Boat Cruises Tangier and Chesapeake cruises, visiting Ingleside Plantation. 453-BOAT.

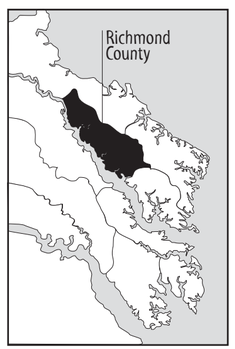
Heritage Park Resort $2 admission fee, tennis courts, boat ramp, picnic area, hiking and nature trails; Route 624.

Public Hiking Trails Richmond County trail behind Rappahannock Community College, Route 360, Warsaw.

Ball Fields Richmond County Little League, Route 3 in Warsaw. Hours vary. 333-5105.

Public Recreation Richmond County YMCA serves the public with various programming throughout the year. Public swimming pool in Lively. 333-4117.

To change or update Richmond County information, contact lvaldrighi@rrecord.com.



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Thursday, July 27th
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Deltaville Library
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Deltaville, Virginia
Speaker: Joseph T. Buxton, III
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Tim Lovelace to give concert July 15

Tim Lovelace, a comedian, musician, and songwriter, will be in concert at Tibitha Church of God on Fleeton Road in Reedville July 15 at 7 p.m.

Lovelace has traveled with the Florida Boys, the Kingsmen and Jake Hess. He was featured on the Gaither video "Joy In The Camp."

His comedy songs, "Don't Sit In My Pew" and "The Wall Song" have received national radio chart success.

He has received nominations for a Grammy, a Dove award,comedian of the year and instrumentalist of the year.

An offering will be received to underwrite the expenses of the concert.

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Old-Timers Baseball Game is July 1 at Deltaville Ball Park

The annual Deltaville Old-Timers Baseball Game will start at 8 p.m. at Deltaville Ball Park on Saturday night, July 1, as part of Heritage Day festivities.

The Middle Peninsula Regional Security Center Color Guard will present the colors and James Madison University student Ashley Moore will sing the National Anthem.

Heritage Day grand marshal Lorraine Stewart will then throw out the first pitch to her son, Bobby Stewart. In the 1960s, Stewart was a first-team All-American baseball player at the University of Richmond.

Crittenden said this year's game should have more Old-Timers than ever before because he has worked hard to contact them.

There has been a Deltaville semi-pro baseball team every year since the 1930s. The current ballpark land was purchased in the late 1940s and a sandlot ball park was built.

"We've got some real old-timers coming back and it's going to be a lot of fun," said Crittenden.

The game will end around 9:15 p.m. and be followed by the annual fireworks display.

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Deltaville Heritage Day set for July 1

The Deltaville Community Association will celebrate its annual Deltaville Heritage Day on Saturday, July 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the theme "Heroes in our Community." Planned activities include:

• 9 a.m., Pet Parade on the DCA grounds. The judge is Lizz Lester, assisted by Thyra Harris and Theresa Linn.

• 9:45 a.m., Children's Parade on the DCA grounds. The judge is Amy Bull, assisted by Elizabeth Johnson.

• 10:30 a.m., Crab Races (24 races with a free t-shirt for every winner) on the DCA grounds. The judge is Bob Walker, assisted by Onna Grimm and Maggie Hall.

• 9 a.m.-3 p.m., a display in the Deltaville Community Association main building of photos and memorabilia to honor the grand marshals of this year's parade, Andy Turner and Lorraine Stewart of Deltaville. Artists will also be displaying their work inside the Deltaville Community Association main building.

• 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Music by the band "Playin Simple."

• 1 p.m., A parade on Route 33 begins at the rescue squad building. Participants in the parade are the Richmond Acca Shriners, Oyster Festival Queen and Little Miss Spat, numerous floats by local businesses, new and antique cars, and local and visiting fire and rescue units.

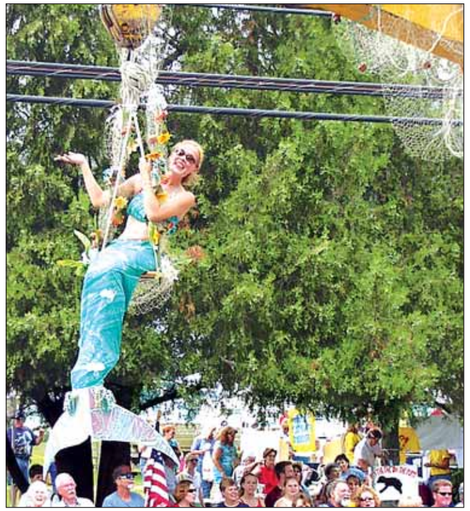
• The Deltaville Community Pool will be open at no charge all day.

• 5 p.m., Baseball game at the Deltaville Ball Park between the Deltas and Tappahannock Tides.

• 8 p.m. (approximate), the annual Old Timers Baseball Game with grand marshal Lorraine Stewart throwing out the first pitch to former University of Richmond All-American Bobby Stewart. Also featured will be the Middle Peninsula Regional Security Center Color Guard and JMU student Ashley Moore of Deltaville singing The National Anthem.

• 9:15 p.m. (approximate), A fireworks display at the ballpark.

The public is invited to all activities. Contact Kris Scherrer at 776-7117 or Nevin Ramsburg at 776-6216 for more information.



A mermaid dropped in during last year's Heritage Day Heroes Parade in Deltaville. This year's parade begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 1.

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Music, 'discdogs,' parade to be at Water View July 1

The Upper Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department will host their annual Independence Day celebration on Saturday, July 1, beginning at 4 p.m. at the Water View Firehouse on Route 640.

The event will feature food, crafts, vendors, children's games, a moonwalk for the smaller children, lawn mower races, "The Boogie Sharks Band" playing danceable music from the 1960s through today, the "Great American Discdog Show" featuring Jeff Stanaway and Larry Beatty with their world-renowned Australian shepherds and border collie, the firemen's parade beginning at 7:30 p.m., and the fireworks finale at 9 p.m.

Anyone wishing to participate in the parade, secure a craft or vendor booth, or get additional information can do so by contacting Amy Ellis at (804) 758-4816 or Cathy Russell at (804) 758-5591 after 6 p.m.

Trophies will be awarded in 12 different parade entry categories.

The fire department is also accepting donations toward the fireworks. "Come join the fun and support the UMVFD," said an event spokesperson.

Virginia Derby is July 15

Colonial Downs, just off Interstate 64 in New Kent County, will hold its thoroughbred race season through August 12.

Racing will be held Fridays through Tuesdays. Post time for races on Fridays, Mondays and Tuesdays is at 5 p.m. Post time on Saturdays and Sundays is 1 p.m.

Nine or 10 races are usually held each race day.

Colonial Downs will host the Virginia Derby on July 15. For more information visit www.colonialdowns.com.

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Woodside Country Club A nine-hole course on Route 17 north of Tappahannock. Pro shop. Snack bar. 443-4060.

Hobbs Hole An 18-hole course behind Wal-Mart on Routes 17 and 360 in Tappahannock. Pro shop. 443-4500.

Gloucester

Gloucester Country Club A 9-hole course off Route 17 at Gloucester Court House. Pro shop. Snack bar. 693-2662.

Lancaster

The Golden Eagle An 18-hole course on Route 646 in Irvington. Operated by The Tides resort. Pro shop. Full service restaurant. 438-4460.

The Tartan An 18-hole course on Route 646 in Irvington. Pro shop. Restaurant. 438-6005.

King Carter Golf Course A new 18-hole course at 480 Old Saint Johns Road in Weems. 435-7842.

Middlesex

Piankatank River Golf Club An 18-hole course on Route 629 in Hartfield. Pro shop. Full service restaurant. 776-6516.

Northumberland

The Village Green A 9-hole course on Route 360 in Callao. Pro shop. Full service restaurant. 529-6332.

Quinton Oaks An 18-hole course on Route 600 in Callao. Pro shop. Full service restaurant. 529-5367.

Westmoreland

Miller's Glen Formerly Bushfield. A 9-hole course on Route 711 at Mt. Holly. Pro shop. Restaurant. 472-2602.

Send information on upcoming golf events to editor@ssentinel.com

The Golden Eagle in Irvington is rated one of the finest golf courses in Virginia. Above, Roger Murch hits his approach shot to the 18th green, which is elevated and protected by water in the front and three bunkers.

photo by Tom Hardin

Rivah Golf memorial planned

The Third Annual and Probably Never-to-be-Repeated Cliff Asbury Golf Classic will be played September 29 at the Royal New Kent Golf Club in Providence Forge. The captain's choice, four-man team tournament will open with a shotgun start at noon.

Box lunch and dinner included. Non-golfers welcome. The registration fee is $100 per person, or $400 per team. The tournament benefits Friends of Cliff Asbury, a charity serving youth. To sign up, call Ed Richardson at 757-229-8727, or e-mail RichardsonRun@aol.com.

Golf tourney to benefit Bay Aging

The 7th annual Bay Charity Golf Tournament will be held Monday, October 2, at Piankatank River Golf Club at Hartfield. Proceeds will be used to provide services to the elderly through Bay Aging.

The format is four-person captain's choice and the entry fee is $320 per team. The tournament begins at noon.

The fee includes range balls, greens and cart fees, prizes will and dinner served at the end of the event.

To register a team or provide a sponsorship, call Robin Field or Kay Sheldon at 758-2386.

The past six tournaments have raised a total of over $70,000.

Charger Golf Classic set for June 30

Middlesex High School will hold its sixth annual Charger Golf Classic at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 30, at Piankatank River Golf Club at Hartfield.

Registrations forms are available at the golf course and at Middlesex High School. Call the golf club at 776-6516 for more information.

The cost is $300 per four person team, and the format is four-person captain's choice.

All players will receive a gift bag, BBQ chicken dinner, awards and prizes, and a great day of golf. The prize for holes-in-one on a certain holes will be a new car or $50,000 cash.

A variety of sponsorships are still available. All proceeds benefit the MHS athletic department.

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Family concerts continue at Belle Isle State Park on July 8 & 15

The Music by the River family concert series continues on second and third Saturdays through the summer at Belle Isle State Park in Lancaster County.

Upcoming concerts include Doug Parks and the Lonewolves July 8 and Gerry Maddox July 15.

Music by the River concerts are from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Folks are urged to bring their children, grandchildren, neighbor's children, lawn chairs, blankets, picnic baskets and non-alcoholic beverages. There will be crafts for the children prior to each concert and during intermission.

The concerts are free, however parking fees apply.

Music by the River is sponsored by the Friends of Belle Isle State Park with financial support from the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kilmarnock-Irvington-White Stone Rotary, the Bethel Emmanuel United Methodist Men, the Rappahannock Record and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

To raise funds for the series, the Friends of Belle Isle State Park will conduct a raffle. The grand prize is a hand-crafted schooner, The Belle Isle II. Chief ranger Mike Lambert built the ship. Only 500 tickets will be sold. Call 462-5030 for details.

Deltas have 4 more home games

The Deltaville Deltas semi-pro baseball team plays at least one home game at Deltaville Ball Park through July 22. Below is the remainder of the Deltas's 2006 schedule.

Friday, June 30, Away, 7:30 p.m., Tappahannock Tides

Saturday, July 1, Home, 3 p.m., Tappahannock Tides

Friday, July 7, Home, 7:30 p.m., Yorktown Cannons

Sunday, July 9, Away, 1 p.m., Richmond Senators (DH)

Friday, July 14, Away,* 7:30 p.m., Middle Peninsula Mariners

Saturday, July 15, Home, 7:30 p.m., Middle Peninsula Mariners

Saturday, July 22, Home, 5 p.m., Spotsylvania Eagles (DH)

Tournaments to be announced.

*Home games and all games against the Mariners are played at Deltaville Ball Park.

Admission is $5; 12 and under free.

For information, contact Jerry Crittenden at (804) 241-5630.

July 4th fun planned in Gloucester

An Independence Day celebration will be held all day on Tuesday, July 4, at Gloucester Point Beach.

A variety of free activities, music and competitions will be featured.

All of the beach's facilities can be used at no charge.

From noon to 3 p.m. there will be karaoke with "Randy and Dan," and from 6 to 9 p.m. "Premiere" will be in concert.

At dusk there will be a fireworks display over the York River.

Lions pancake breakfast set

The Middlesex County Lions Club will offer a benefit blueberry pancake breakfast in conjunction with Deltaville Heritage Day on Saturday, July 1.

The Lions will serve a breakfast of delicious blueberry pancakes, sausages, fried apples, coffee and juice at their tent to be set up near the DCA building in Deltaville between 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. The public is invited to start Heritage Day with a hearty breakfast.

Mathews cancels fireworks display

An Independence Day fireworks display and celebration planned for Williams Wharf on the East River in Mathews County on Saturday, July 1, has been cancelled.

Call the Mathews Visitor's Center at 725-4229 or email mcvic@visitmathews.com for more information.

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Cookie Haynie to lead Reedville parade July 1

Cookie Haynie of Reedville, will serve as grand marshal for the Reedville Independence Parade, beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 1.

She remembers riding on a fire truck in the parade years ago when she was "just a kid."

She has been a member of the Northumberland County Rescue Squad for 32 years, holding the office of president, captain, second lieutenant and training officer. Haynie now serves on the board of directors, and is an instructor of CPR for the American Heart Association. She is also the vice-chairman of the Northern Neck pre-hospital committee for the Peninsula EMS Council.

Sponsored by the Fairfields Volunteer Fire Department, the parade is "a true community parade," featuring kids on bikes, almost every volunteer fire department vehicle in the Northern Neck and an audience that lines Main Street eagerly waiting for candy thrown to them by participants and politicians.

Parade organizer Danny Haynie asks that anyone wishing to participate in the parade contact him at 453-3127. There is no fee for being in the parade, as there are no trophies presented to winners.

The traditional Reedville Independence Day celebration will be held throughout the village on Saturday, July 1.

Other activities include arts and crafts booths, music, children's games, an afternoon parade and evening fireworks.

The annual Firecracker 5k Fun Run/Walk will begin at 8 a.m. Signup will start at 7 a.m.

An artist's arena craft fair and children's activities will be held throughout the day on the grounds at Bethany United Methodist Church.

A morning pie-eating contest for children will be held on the grounds between Bethany and the Reedville Fishermen's Museum.

The museum opens at 10 a.m. and will hold a children's boat-building event from 10 a.m. to noon.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the museum will hold its annual small boat show, which this year features boats from Butler's Boatyard in celebration of the yard's 100th anniversary.

The Blue Heron Cafe will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Special music featuring the YMCA Day Campers singing campfire songs, the Northern Neck Bay Tones Barbershop Octet, M.O.M gospel singers, Jessica Haynie, the Riversong Barbershop Quartet and the duet of Don Bassett and Alice Hershiser will be held under the museum pavilion from noon to 3 p.m.

The festivities will conclude at 9 p.m with fireworks.

The celebration is sponsored by Bethany United Methodist Church, the Reedville Fishermen's Museum, Northern Neck State Bank and the Fairfields Volunteer Fire Department.

Nature park plans July 29 'trash and treasure workshop'

There will be a "trash and treasure workshop" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 29, at Holly Point Nature Park in Deltaville.

There is no limit to the many things that can be enhanced with a little paint and creativity, so aspiring artists are urged to find an old clay pot, piece of wood, boat paddle, mall table or some yard sale bargain, bring it to the workshop, and create a hand-painted treasure.

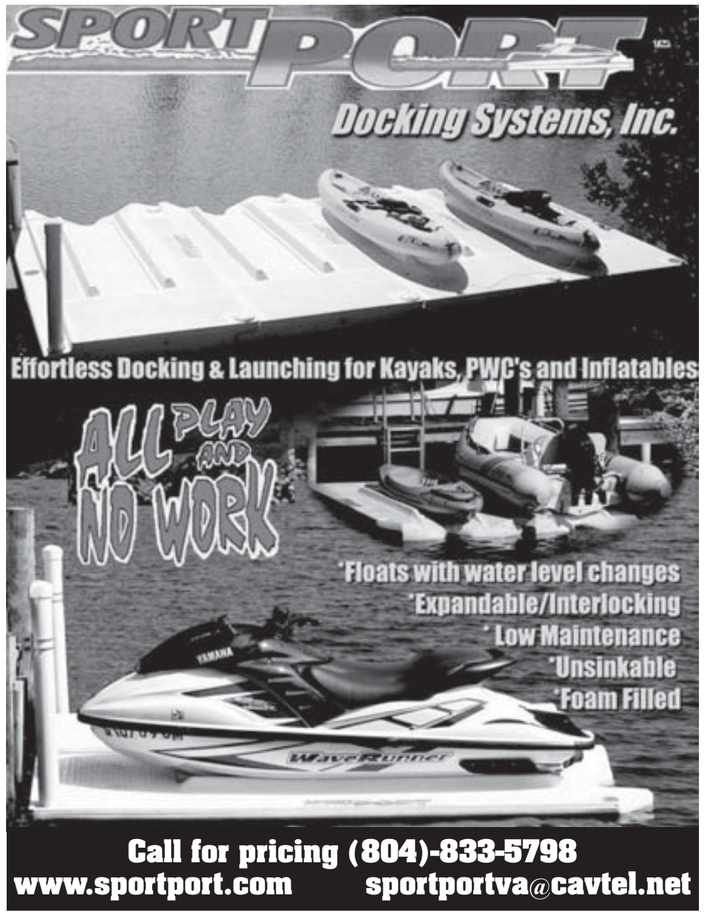
This workshop is for beginners to fully-skilled artists. All brushes and paints are furnished, attendees just have to bring the surface to paint on.

There will be demonstrations and hands-on instruction by artists Trudi Goodman and Joan Mannell.

The fee is $45, which includes all supplies except the item to paint. Please bring a covered dish to share for lunch.

At 3:30 p.m. there will be an artists' reception and display of their days' work. Refreshments will be served.

For more details, stop by Joan Mannell's booth on July 1 at Heritage Day in Deltaville.



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Museum to host youth art classes

The Steamboat Era Museum on King Carter Drive in Irvington will host summer art lessons for youth in grades 7 to 12.

Taught by Shauna McCranie, the art teacher at Lancaster High School, the class will meet Monday, July 10, through Friday, July 15, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The museum exhibit, "The Bay At War," features a series of storyboards that McCranie's high school art classes designed to illustrate a local Civil War engagement, the capture and burning of the Union steamer "Harriet DeFord" in Dymers Creek.

The summer class will offer drawing and painting in natural settings around the village of Irvington.

The fee is $100 per student and covers all class materials.

To reserve a space, call Terri Thaxton, the director of the Steamboat Era Museum, at 438-6888.

Art classes offered in Urbanna

The Middlesex County Woman's Club is sponsoring classes in acrylic painting for beginners. The classes, held each Tuesday afternoon through July 25 at the clubhouse in Urbanna, will be from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The fee for the six classes is $60 and includes basic materials.

Betty Burton, a professional artist, will instruct the classes. The public is welcome and reservations may be made with Peg Davis at 758-3196.

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Centennial Boat Show to feature Butler boats

The "Glenna Fay" returns to Reedville with a load of fish from the pound nets. The Glenna Fay, a round-stern deadrise, was built in 1946 by George P. Butler. The boat has been in the Rogers family for two generations. It is now owned by Walter Rogers, who uses it for pound net fishing.

The Reedville Marine Railway on Main Street in Reedville is this year completing its hundredth year of continuous operation by members of the Butler family. During that time the term "Butler-built" has become a well-known and highly respected synonym for excellence in the construction of traditional wooden boats.

In recognition of this centennial the Reedville Fishermen's Museum will host an exhibit of Butler-built boats on July 1 as part of the town's Independence Day celebration. This will be a rare opportunity to see in a single viewing such a collection of traditional Chesapeake Bay wooden craft.

There will be some 25 boats at the dock behind the museum all day. They will range from a 10-foot hydroplane, one of the very rare boats built by the Butlers from printed plans rather than simply "by eye," up to a 46-foot charter fishing boat, with a variety of work and pleasure craft in between

There will be flat-bottomed rowing and outboard skiffs and deadrise outboard and inboard types. Among them will be a small oyster-dredging rig, a small pile-driving scow and a traditional Chesapeake sailing skiff. The ages of the boats will range from almost completed to 60 years, and there will be printed descriptions of them as well as knowledgeable people on the dock to answer questions.

In 1906 Sam Butler bought out his partner in the Reedville Marine Railway. He continued to build and maintain purse boats for the menhaden industry, workboats for the local fishermen, crabbers and oystermen and occasional yachts. He was assisted and then succeeded by George P. Butler, his son, who in turn was assisted and succeeded by his son, George M. Butler.

George M. currently operates the railway, essentially as a one-man enterprise, building traditional Chesapeake Bay wooden boats primarily for pleasure use and providing maintenance facilities critical for local workboats.

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Art classes planned at Yates Gallery

Several art classes have been planned for this summer at Yates House Fine Art & Craft Gallery in Deltaville. Classes and workshops are suitable for various ages.

Questions about the course can be directed to Blanche Scharf at 776-8505. Pre-registration for any of the offerings is required.

On Saturdays, July 8 and July 15, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., Tom Norris, noted local photographer, will teach a two-session course in "Basic Photo Shop."

Beginning on Thursday, July 13, and continuing until August 31 from 1 to 3 p.m., Mary Ann Carr, creative writer and dynamic personality, will teach an eight-week course using "The Artist's Way" by Julia Cameron.

From Monday, July 17, through Friday, July 21, Caroline Long, Midlothian artist and exhibitor at Yates House, will teach "Book-binding," from 9 a.m. to noon, and from 1 to 4 p.m. and students will learn "Oil Stick and Oil Pastel" techniquesf.

On Saturday, July 22, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., folk artist Tom Blunt will teach a "Folk Art" workshop.lb.

Call the Yates House Gallery at 776-8505 to register.

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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.

Sailors find conditions nearly perfect on Stutts Creek near Gwynn's Island in Mathews.
photo by Tom Chillemi

Government

County administrator Stephen K. Whiteway, 725-7172. Office open 8:30 a.m. ato 4 :30 p.m. Monday-Friday. 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.

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.

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 to certain access points and some sites are bor-

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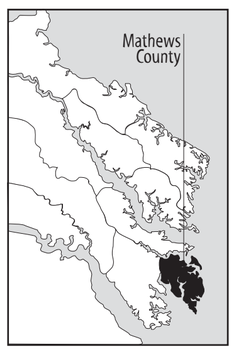

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continued from previous page

dered 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.

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.

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

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