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, New Point 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.

Next spring the same pair of ospreys that built this nest on Queens Creek in Mathews will return from South America and add more twigs to their high rise nursery.

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. mathews-chamber.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 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.

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

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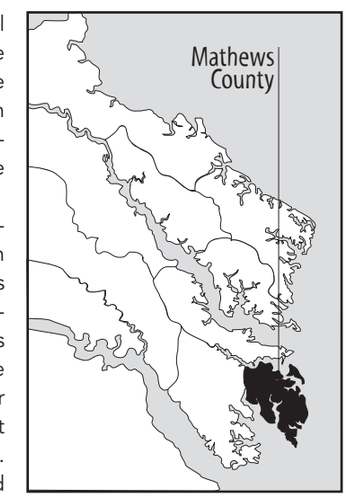

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by local watermen.

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.

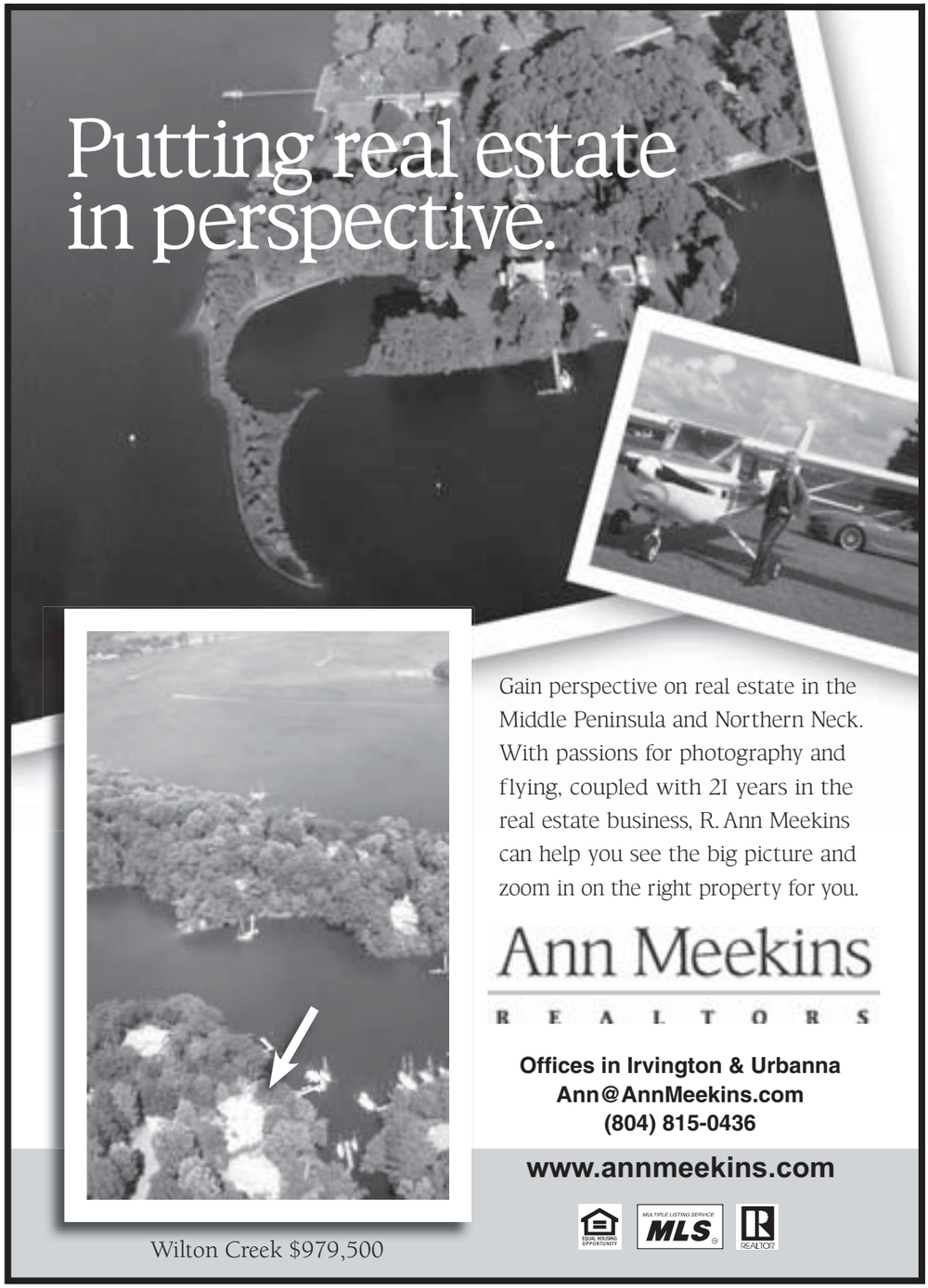
Piankatank River Landing on Route 632, with beach.

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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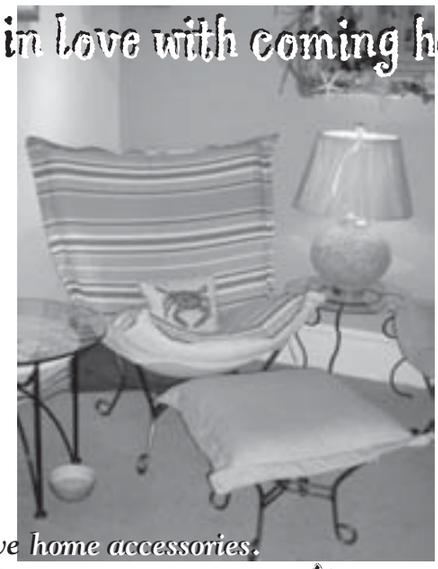

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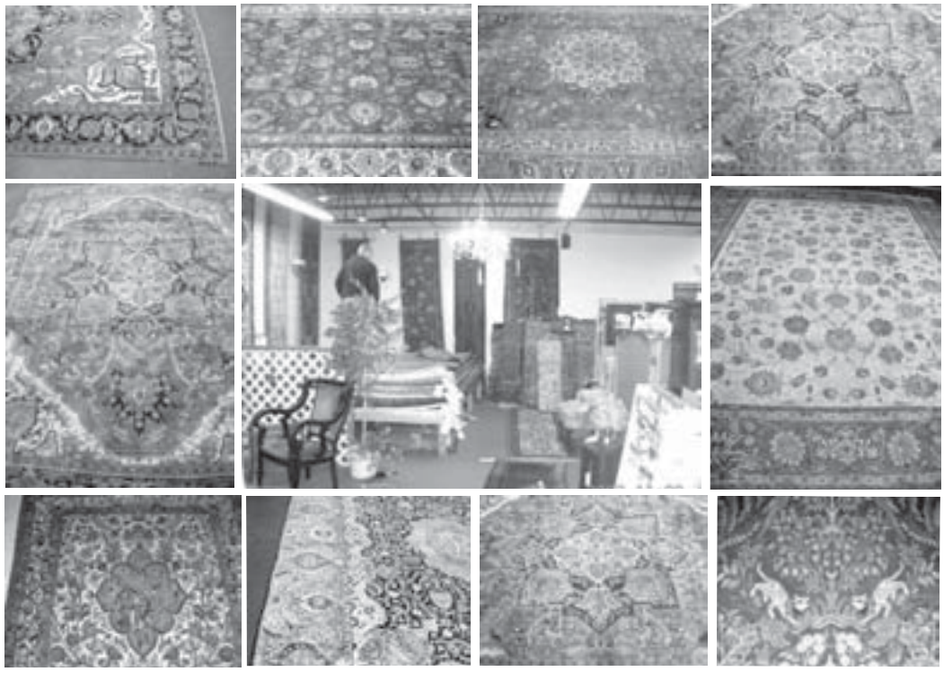

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Best Boat Name Contest Winners

Thanks to all who took time to enter our Best Boat Name Contest this summer. The Rivah Visitor's Guide staff judged the entries, and the owners' explanations about how the boats were named, and came up with these winners. Congratulations to all!

Satisfied (Almost)

1 Ginger & I had shopped for a boat for several months before purchasing this one. The next morning we were lying in bed talking about the boat and Ginger asked, "Are you satisfied?" I replied, "Almost," and the boat was named.
The boat is kept at Norton's in Deltaville.

David Viers, Mechanicsville

Dinner for two prepared & delivered to the boat by David's Last Chance, Locust Hill.

Sloopless in Deltaville

2 We have been sailors for many years and have cruised from the Chesapeake to the Bahamas. When we decided to go power we couldn't do so without bringing our sailing heritage along. "Sloopless" was our choice and adding the sails to the two L's set it off.
We berth her at our home at Mariners Point on Wilton Creek in Hartfield.

Richard and Neena Rodgers

Dock & Dine:
Dinner for two at CoCoMo's, Broad Creek, Deltaville

Turn Around

3 My wife loves to fish, but as soon as I take the boat out in the Chesapeake Bay and it starts to get a little warm, she will say, "It's too hot out here for me" or "The boat rocks too much; just **Turn Around** and take me back!" The boat is berthed at Horn Harbor Marina near Burgess.

Clyde Koon, Richmond

Dock & Dine:
Dinner for two at Fairport Marina, Cockrells Creek, Reedville

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Where did it get its name?

Wicomico is both the name of a river and a village in Northumberland County. The oldest known form of the word is found on John Smith's 1606 map in which it is spelled Wighcocomoco.

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Welcome to Northumberland County

■ Size: 222 square miles ■ Shoreline: 438.4 miles
■ Population: 12,400

History

Northumberland County was originally known as Chickacoan, an Indian district on the Northern Neck between the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers, tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay.

Presumably settled by the English in 1640, Northumberland was officially established by an act of the Burgesses in Jamestown in 1648. It was later divided into three additional counties, Lancaster, Richmond and Westmoreland Counties.

At its heart is Heathsville, the county seat. In 1992, the National Register of Historic Places designated Heathsville as an Historic District, along with the original courthouse and tavern, now an operating restaurant, gift shop and museum.

Northumberland was once dependent upon tobacco as its major cash crop and currency. Later, most of its residents relied on the water for their livelihoods. The quaint fishing village of Reedville, with its "Millionaire's Row" of Victorian homes remains a tribute to the area's heritage and the Reedville Fisherman's Museum provides a comprehensive overview of the village's fishing industry, both past and current.

With more than 220 miles of scenic shoreline, Northumberland's rustic atmosphere has lured many urbanites. So much so, that in recent years, Northumberland's population has been changing from that of full-time residents to one of many weekenders, vacationers and retirees.

Government

County Administrator Kenneth D. Eades, Route 360, Heathsville. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 580-7666 or co.northumberland.va.us.

Tax rates (per $100): Real estate, $.36; personal property, $3.60.

Chamber of Commerce

Northumberland County Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center, Route 360, Callao; Thursday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. 529-5031. rivnet.net/chamber/.

Services

Trash and Recycling Service Northumberland County has three trash collection sites which also offer recycling: on Route 360 in Lottsburg behind the school board office; on Rt. 360 across from Route 639 at Horsehead; and on Route 200, 1.8 miles north of Kilmarnock. The centers are open from 7 a.m.–7 p.m. daily.

Day Care/Baby Sitting Lighthouse Christian Academy and Day Care, Wicomico Church. Summer day care runs June 7–August 20 for ages 2–10 (as long as potty trained). Paid on weekly basis. 435-2435.

Northumberland Family YMCA, Heathsville, provides weekly summer camp sessions in conjunction with the public schools. 580-8901. peninsulaymca.org.

Churches Rev. Mike Ramming; 529-9930 (will refer according to denomination).

Ferry Boat The Northumberland connects Route 644 from Sunnybank to Ophelia; Normally operates Monday–Saturday, 7 a.m.–7 p.m.

ABC Store Route 360 in Callao; Hours: Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–7 p.m. 529-7125.

Fuzzy the clown entertains children at the Callao Day Parade in October. (Photo by Reid Pierce Armstrong)

Veterinary Services Heathsville Animal Hospital, Route 360, Heathsville. Doctor's hours: 9–11 a.m. and 1–3 p.m. weekdays; Mon., Tues. and Thurs. nights, 7–8 p.m., Sat. 9–11 a.m. Hospital hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. weekdays; 8 a.m.–noon Sat. 580-5135 or (800) 809-7779.

Recreation

Fishing Piers The Great Wicomico Public Fishing Pier is on the southern shore of the Great Wicomico River just off State Route 200 near the bridge at Glebe Point. It is open from sunrise to sunset.

Boat Cruises

Capt. Billy's Charters, Wicomico Church. Cruising packages available for up to 41 passengers. (Bay and River). Private trips include sunset cruises, business, birthday, wedding parties. Also available: Tangier Island, Onancock, Creek peek, historic Reedville trips. 580-7292. captbillyscharters.com.

Claud Somers at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum sails every other Saturday at 10 a.m. starting May 28. $20 members and $25 non-members, limited to 20 people. 453-6529. rfmuseum.org.

Crabbe's Charter Fishing and Cruises, Reedville. Cruises on the scenic waters of the Little Wicomico River and the Chesapeake Bay aboard the 43-foot Kit II. Cruise to Smith or Tangier islands. 453-3251. eaglesnest.net/fishing.

Pittman's Charters Inc. Sunset and sightseeing cruises, Reedville. Charter fishing aboard Mystic Lady II, May–December, 1–25 passengers. Open 7 days. 453-3643.

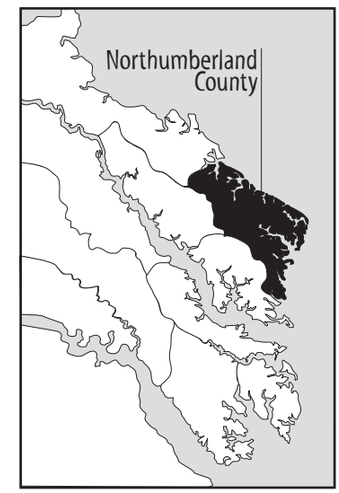
Smith Island Cruise aboard the Captain Evans departing from KOA Campground at the end of Route 650 in Reedville. Follow the blue and white signs from Route 360. In operation from May–October. Reservations required. 453-3430. cruisetosmithisland.com.

Tangier Island Cruise on the Chesapeake Breeze departs from Buzzard's Point Marina at the end of Route 656 in Fairport. The cruise runs 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. daily May–October. Follow the billboards from Route 360 near Reedville. Reservations required. 453-2628. tangiercruise.com.

Rental Boats Ingram Bay Marina, Wicomico Church, rents canoes and small skiffs, 14–18 foot. Fishing licenses included in rental. 580-7292. captbillyscharters.com. Chesapeake Bay/Smith Island KOA Campground, Reedville. 453-3433.

Public Beach Vir-Mar Beach at the end of Route 643 in Hack's Neck.

Ball Fields Callao Ruritan Club on Route 712, men's and women's softball leagues, hours vary. 529-7860. Northumberland County



Athletic Park and Little League Park at the Northumberland County Middle School, Route 360 one mile east of Heathsville, ball park and soccer complex, hours vary. 529-6134.

YMCA Northumberland Family YMCA provides programming throughout the year. 580-5455.

To change or update Northumberland information, contact rarmstrong@rrecord.com.

Fairfields Fall Festival set for October 7 in Burgess

Fairfields United Methodist Church will hold its 11th annual Fairfields Fall Festival October 7 on Routes 360 and 644 in Burgess.

The festival is expecting many craft people, artists and collectors in a variety of specialties. Exhibit spaces are still available for a $25 fee. Crafts people, artists and collectors can call Margaret at 580-8613 for information and applications.

A full day of entertainment is planned for all ages. The "Free Kids Korner" will be back with hay rides and pumpkin painting. Other activities scheduled for the children include face and hair painting, a dinosaur dig and a fishing well. The Virginia State Police will fingerprint the children. New this year will be performing clowns and a magician.

For the guys, there will be a vintage car and tractor show. Anyone interested in displaying their cars or tractors can call Fred Paul at 580-9801 for information.

There will be musical entertainment throughout the day. Fairfields United Methodist Men will sell North Carolina-style pork barbecue sandwiches and in take-out containers. Baked goods by the Fairfields United Methodist women will include homemade cakes, cookies, brownies, pies, breads, jellies, jams, pickles, soups and chili.

Where did it get its name?

The village of Reedville was named after Elijah Reed a sea captain from Maine who pioneered the menhaden fishing industry in the Northern Neck.

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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.

Visitors look at photographs of gristmills at the Richmond County Museum in Warsaw. The museum will continue its exhibit on the county's old gristmills through October and add an exhibit on archaeology.

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

VIMS offers free public tours on Fridays at 10:30 am weekly except for major holidays. These 90-minute guided walks include the Visitor's Center and Aquarium, a research laboratory, and other sites on campus. The tours are most interesting for adults and older children. Call (804) 684-7846 or e-mail programs@vims.edu in advance for reservations, or to arrange special group tours at other times. VIMS also offers monthly after hours lectures, an annual Marine Science Day, and self-guided weekday access to the visitor center from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For directions and more information visit www.vims.edu. VIMS is on Rt. 1208, Greate Rd., at Gloucester Point.

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 of 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 stem-

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More Rivah Museums & Exhibits

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ware 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.

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."

The museum also features a variety of other county memorabilia, including Civil War military items, Indian relics, a mastodon tooth, maritime items (including the pen and ink ship drawings of Dr. A.L. Van Name, long-time county physician, retired), agricultural and industrial tools, toys and personal effects.

The exhibits are free and open to the public. There is a gift shop. Membership is available and donations help operate the museum. Volunteers are welcome. 758-3663.

Northumberland

Reedville Fishermen's Museum

The Reedville Fishermen's Museum on Main Street in Reedville offers visitors a glimpse of the rich heritage of the fishermen and watermen of Virginia's Northern Neck and the Chesapeake Bay.

In addition to the Covington Building housing its permanent and changing exhibit galleries, the museum features the Pen-dleton Building with its boat and model workshops and the historic William Walker House.

In the water, the museum showcases the Claud W. Somers, a 42-foot skipjack built in 1911, which offers tours twice monthly, and the Elva C., a 55-foot traditional workboat built in 1922, which offers tours to members only.

The museum is open daily from 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. through October. Admission is $5 for adults and free for children under 12. For more information, call 453-6529 or visit the web site at rfmuseum.org.

Richmond

Richmond County Museum

The Richmond County Museum is on East Richmond Road in Warsaw in the county's old jail. Built in 1872, the jail was previously used as an office for the board of education and court.

The museum includes three galleries and exhibit rooms and an office. The jail's hanging chamber is also on the second floor and is a point of interest.

Through October, the museum will feature the exhibit, "Gristmills of Richmond County," which includes photographs, maps and tools used at the mills.

From October 1 through November 22, the museum will celebrate Virginia Archaeology Month with the exhibit "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Archaeology." Included will be a history, procedures and tools of the trade along with recent trends and technology.

On permanent display at the museum is a scale model of the historic 1748 Richmond County Courthouse, the third oldest courthouse in Virginia.

The museum is open Wednesday–Saturday from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Group tours may be arranged by calling 333-3607.

Westmoreland

A. T. Johnson Museum

The A. T. Johnson Museum at 18849 Kings Highway near Montross preserves the history and legacy of education for African American students in the Northern Neck, especially in Westmoreland County.

The museum is a depository for collections, artifacts, memorabilia, documents and other items related to education.

Built in 1937 in the Colonial Revival style, A. T. Johnson High School was the first public education facility serving African American students in Westmoreland. The

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More Rivah Museums & Exhibits

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school was named for Armstead Tasker Johnson, a black educator and community leader instrumental in its construction.

The museum is open on Saturdays 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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45th Art Exhibit is set

The Rappahannock Art League's 45th annual Art Exhibit will take place Wednesday, August 30, through Labor Day, September 4, at the Harold Porter Eubanks Art Center at Routes 608 and 200 in Kilmarnock.

The hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on August 30 and Labor Day and otherwise 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Jeffrey Allison of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond will be the judge. Viewers also pick their favorite.

Often called the "Labor Day Show," chairman Don Kennedy said that the exhibit has not always been held over the Labor Day weekend.

"The art league had exhibits from its first year in 1949. There was a break in the '50s and then the annual art exhibits resumed in 1962. They have been held in various places including the Kilmarnock firehouse, the Masonic building, church halls and the library," he said.

"This year's show will include two pieces by Gladys Bryant Ashburn of Irvington who has exhibited since 1949," continued Kennedy. "We feel that this show has become part of the fabric of our community. It is a real showcase for the tremendous artistic talent in the area."

Last year's Viewers' Choice Award winner was Dan McDermott of Lively, a nationally known sculptor, whose eight-and-half-foot-high bronze sculpture, "Dance of Life," won the award.

McDermott's large sculpture, "Youth," was commissioned by the city of Valencia, Spain, for its exposition. His "Joy of Dance" is on permanent display in Japan.

The RAL's Studio Gallery on Main Street in Kilmarnock will be open every day of the show.

18th-century reenactment planned in Gloucester

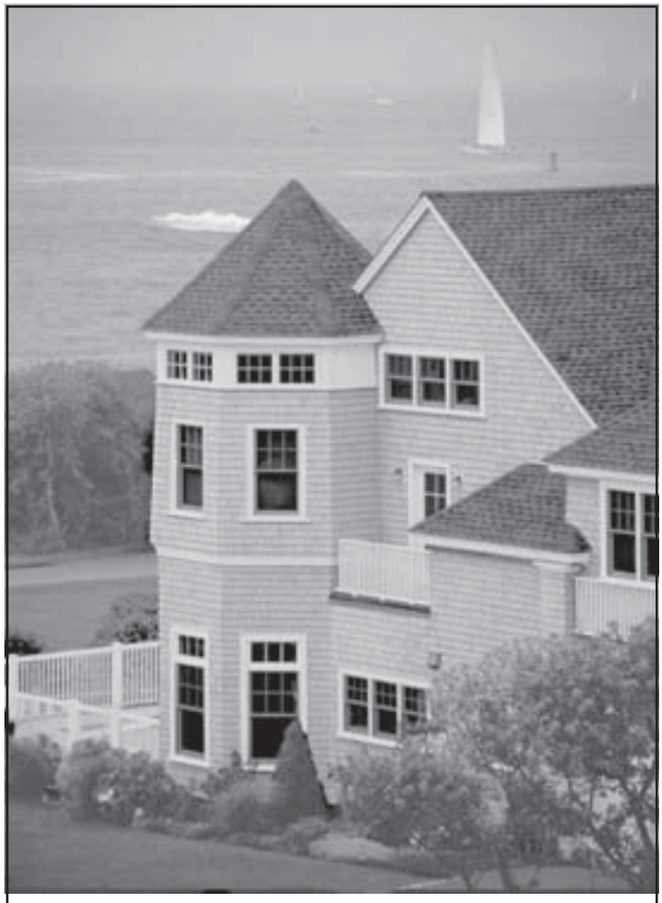
On October 6-8 artisans and re-enactors of 18th-century life will rendezvous on the historic Court Circle at Gloucester.

Now in its fourth year, Black Powder & Paint Living History Weekend offers something for people of all ages and interests. Authentically clothed artisans exhibit and demonstrate their crafts—weaving, spinning, gunsmithing, tinsmithing and more.

In addition, a Sutler brings beads and arrowheads; meals are cooked over an open fire; military life is portrayed; 18th century medicine is demonstrated; and there's live music.

Many colonial period items, including beads and arrowheads will be for sale. Food will be available.

The event takes place at the Historic Court Circle on Main Street in Gloucester. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday. There is no admission charge. For more information, call 693-0014.



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Celebrate America's 400th Anniversary!

by Joan McBride

All over America, little towns and big cities are finding ways to celebrate the 400th anniversary (quadra-centennial) of the founding of the English settlement Jamestown in 1607. What's happening here?

Some Gloucester folks are heading to England to visit the places where the colonists came from and to which famed Indian maiden Pocahontas traveled, possibly crossing watery paths with a group of modern-day English pilgrims coming over here to help us celebrate in the very same month.

Two separate equally ambitious and historically-minded local groups—one from the Reedville area and one from the Deltaville environs—are building replicas of the famed barge Chesapeake Bay explorer Capt. John Smith sailed in as their contributions to the big observance.

The customs and traditions of America's first inhabitants, the Native Americans, will be presented by members of the Rappahannock Indians in several venues while various communities intend to take this opportunity to tell of the important contributions of African Americans in the fabric of America's culture.

Re-enactments, character interpretations, museum exhibits, at least one dedication of a building, quilting displays, and demonstrations of old-time crafts and artisans' skills are scheduled all over the 10-county region during the next 16 months or so.

Many of these communities will be encouraging home gardeners and Main Street merchants to use a red, white, and blue theme in their yards, plots, planters, and hanging baskets as endorsed by the Commonwealth's garden club leaders.

You could say emblems of patriotism will be popping up all over.

Always looking for ways to make history come alive for school students, educators, librarians, and museum curators are designing creative projects for fine art projects, essays, public speaking, and dramatic productions.

Now for a closer look at the celebratory plans specific communities in the two peninsulas are making to observe this grand occasion.

From this December to March, the Mary

Reedville Fishermen's Museum volunteers brave a cold February chill to attach the ribs to the keel of The Spirit of 1608. From left Aubrey Henry, Clif Ames, Dave Abbot, and Wendell Haynie. Photo courtesy of the museum.

Pocahontas visited England in 1616 and met the British royalty and also saw her old friend Capt. John Smith.

Jamestown 400 Northern Neck Anniversary

Ball Washington Museum and Library in **Lancaster County** will have an exhibit focused on Pocahontas and seven other important women. It's entitled "All Virginia Women."

Pocahontas, daughter of famed Indian Chief Powhatan, helped bring peace between the hostile Indian tribe and the English colonists with her marriage to John Rolfe in 1614, according to researcher Lyn Neira of the museum.

Together they had one son before the three traveled to England in 1616. The Virginia Indian princess was presented to British royalty and enjoyed a reunion with her older friend, Capt. John Smith, whom she was amazed to see again having believed he had died.

Pocahontas had first met Smith in 1607 after he had been captured near Jamestown by some of Powhatan's natives. She "reportedly saved Smith's life," Neira said.

After spending seven months in England, the Rolfe family set sail to return to Virginia in March 1617. When Pocahontas became deathly ill aboard ship and died at age 22 she was buried in a mass grave in Saint Georges Church in Gravesend, England.

Back in the colonies, the Kilmarnock Museum intends to celebrate by offering displays which reminisce about Lancaster County's own 350th anniversary held a few years ago, while the Morattico Waterman's Museum is scheduling a Fall Festival.

The Rappahannock Record is running a column, Virginia Vignettes. Produced by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, the column focuses on the 400th anniversary of Jamestown.

Two-thirds of the current plans in **Richmond County** feature the Rappahannock Indians. The main spring and summer exhibit at the Richmond County Museum will highlight the tribe's culture while on May 26 a highway marker at Totuskey Creek will be dedicated to them. That event will include drumming and dancing by the Rappahannocks.

In honor of the "America's Anniversary Gardens" theme promoted by the Virgina Garden Club, the Chinn House Garden at Rappahannock Community College will be expanded for the special anniversary event.

According to C.J. Carter of the Garden Club of the Northern Neck, the garden was just completed last April by the club, whose member Mary Young Tracy did the design work.

"We're thrilled," said Carter about the college's plan to expand the herb and flower garden.

Volunteers at the Reedville Fisherman's Museum in **Northumberland County** started celebrating the important anniversary early in 2006 by tallying 4,000 hours to put in place all aspects of building The Spirit of 1608, a re-creation of the open barge Capt. John Smith and his crew of 14 Jamestown colonists used to explore and chart the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries in 1608.

Prior to the keel laying on January 17, volunteers had spent hundreds of hours researching and designing the historic vessel, then they and many others—a total of 63 volunteers—went to work to build the replica.

"Our volunteers are the backbone of this institution," proudly stated the museum's executive director, Chuck Backus.

Research of the colonists' narratives, diaries, and eyewitness accounts provided the historical clues for what Smith himself referred to as "the discovery barge."

The Spirit of 1608 is roughly 28 feet in length with a bluff bow and wineglass stern. It carries a mainsail and jib, although it is powered primarily by oars.

Acknowledging that historians still disagree on "some design details," Backus said the re-creation "represents our best interpretation of clues based on solid historical research."

A documentary team from the PBS series NOVA came to Reedville this past July to film the project for an upcoming program on Jamestown, causing the volunteers to hustle to meet a deadline many weeks earlier than the one they had set originally.

The Spirit of 1608 will travel to the National Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., next year.

The Reedville Fisherman's Museum Quilters are commemorating the quadra-centennial by constructing a "Hands across the Sea" quilt. The Reedville quilters created the center section, then sent it to a quilting group in England, according to Backus.

Then the English quilters added a section around that center section and shipped it back to Reedville. The Reedville quilters added more and back across "The Pond" it went. And back and forth and back and forth. . . .

Anticipating a historical attack by kids and adults, the Northumberland County Library has ordered new books for all ages and will be finalizing a theme for the 2007 kids' summer reading program around "following history's trails," according to library director Jayne McQuade.

Westmoreland County plans to add some new events to its calendar to observe our nation's very big anniversary celebration, in addition to annual occasions such as the September "Come Home to Westmoreland" Cultural Heritage Festival at Westmoreland State Park, the April "Monroe Day Program" at the James Monroe Birthplace near Colonial Beach, and Market Days which are the last Saturday of each month in the summer in Colonial Beach.

According to information from the Town of Colonial Beach, the tradition of Market Days in the Old Dominion springs from those organized in Jamestown in the 1600's.

The family of future fifth President of the United States James Monroe arrived just 43 years after the founding of Jamestown, according to G. William Thomas Jr., president of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation, which is working in partnership with other governmental and local organizations "to restore the Monroe Farm to its authentic mid 18th century appearance."

Thomas said President Monroe spent more time at this farm than he did at any other place during his lifetime.

On June 16 another replicated vessel, this time a visiting 30-footer which its builders call a shallop, will lay at anchor on the waterfront in Colonial Beach for public viewing.

According to information from the town, it is one of 31 landing sites chosen by Sultana Inc., an educational organization based in Chestertown, Md., which chose to commemorate what it considers Smith's "extraordinary voyage of exploration" by constructing its own shallop.

Sultana's shallop was constructed at the Sultana Shipyard and launched last November in Chestertown. Fourteen "modern-day explorers, historians, naturalists and educators" will set out next year in the shallop to recreate Smith's 1608 voyage, according to information from the organization.

To educate the public about Capt. Smith's "legendary voyage," this crew will retrace the route taken by Capt. Smith and his crewmen. Powered only by oar or sail, the open boat

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Volunteers at the Reedville Fisherman's Museum in Northumberland County started celebrating the important anniversary early in 2006 by tallying 4,000 hours to put in place all aspects of building The Spirit of 1608, a re-creation of the open barge Capt. John Smith and his crew of 14 Jamestown colonists used to explore and chart the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries in 1608.

A colonial attired woman visits with a festival-goer at the "Come Home to Westmoreland" event.

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plans to stop in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and Washington, D.C., traveling 1500 miles in 127 days.

In September, the "Come Home to Westmoreland " cultural heritage festival will be held on the waterfront at Westmoreland State Park. Adding to the festivities will be a grand entrance by the Rappahannock American Indian Dancers.

Music will be offered all day by The Chantey Singers of the Menhaden Boats, Kat Face Band and the Colonial Beach Soggy Bottoms. Other activities include fun things for kids, displays from area historical sites and wine tasting from local Virginia wineries.

Stratford Hall Plantation is cooking up some extra-special celebratory events in addition to observing the 200th anniversary of Robert E. Lee's birth on January 19.

Special presentations will be offered each month next summer.

"The 'Cliffs' before Stratford: A 17th century Potomac Story" will be offered in May and will also include information on the Native American presence in the area that became Stratford.

A first-person character interpretation of one of the men who traveled with Smith in his early Chesapeake explorations will be offered in June coupled with a visit from The Spirit of 1608, according to Jim Schepmoes of Stratford Hall.

The July presentation will be "A 17th Century Chesapeake Voyage —A visit by the Sailing Ship The Dove," which will explore early commerce in the Chesapeake region.

Starting in the spring and

Jamestown 400 Middle Peninsula Anniversary

running to the end of the year, the **Essex County** Museum will feature an exhibit on Capt. John Smith and the Rappahannock Indians.

According to museum curator David Jett, there also will be art and essay contests for school children.

In June a delegation from Essex County in England will be the honored guests at Tappahannock's RivahFest, when Lord Harrington brings a group of 15 from Essex County, England, back to the colonies.

In August, The Sultana will sail to Tappahannock for a visit.

Middlesex County boasts a mixture of perennial and extra-special new events.

On October 14, the Holly Point Art and Seafood Festival will take place in Deltaville, marking a visit from Godspeed, a replica of one of the three 1607 vessels which brought English travelers to found the first successful colony in America.

The new Godspeed is 88 feet long, 17 feet wide and has three masts with an historically-accurate 17th century design. However, some modern technology has been utilized such as lights and twin engines to help it get into tight harbors.

Godspeed started its celebratory voyage in June leaving from Alexandria on its northern sail to Boston.

At its several ports of call, the crew will offer "hands-on" history when they "teach visitors about how to set and handle sails on a square ship in the 17th century," according to Homer Lanier of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, which is hosting the tour.

Another Smith boat replica, Explorer, will be launched September 23 at Deltaville's Maritime Museum with former Gov. Linwood and Mrs. Jinks Holton christening the open barge at the Deltaville Boat Yard.

According to Raynell Smith, museum president and no relation to the famous explorer, Capt. Smith called his vessel a barge, which she says is "a military man's name for a shallop."

According to museum research, Capt. Smith's barge was described as having a foremast, which indicates that the boat had two masts, a fore and main. The museum president said a thumbnail sketch of the boat appears on Smith's Map of Virginia, but reveals few details.

Museum committee members traveled to England, France, and the nearby Calvert Museum at Solomons Island, Md., to research the famous vessel. The group came up with specific design parameters for their barge that Jim Thimsen, the museum's resident marine designer, translated into a set of

Jamestown Anniversary Commemorations Calendar

Fall 2006

September

9 Jamestown Anniversary Kickoff at Market Days "Mathews Past" Exhibit — Mathews Bay School
16 "Come Home to Westmoreland" — Westmoreland State Park
23 Explorer Launch — Deltaville Boatyard
29 Market Days — Colonial Beach
29 Schooner Virginia visits — Mathews County

October

13-14 Godspeed visits — Deltaville
14 Holly Point Art & Seafood Festival — Deltaville

November

3-4 Urbanna Oyster Festival — Urbanna
Explorer visits
Lancaster 4th and 5th graders participate in "Jamestown Live!" webcast — Kilmarnock

December

Mathews County African-American Heritage Exhibi — Antioch Baptist Church
9 Pocahontas Exhibit — Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library

Scheduled in 2007

January

19 200th Anniversary of Robert E. Lee's Birth — Stratford Hall Plantation

February

All month, "The African American Story" — Gloucester Museum

April

14 Love and Hate in Jamestown lecture and book-signing — Goucester County Library
28 "Monroe Day Program" — Monroe Birthplace near Colonial Beach

May

12-13 Jamestown Anniversary Weekend — Jamestown
19 "The 'Cliffs' Before Stratford" — Stratford Hall Plantation
26 Dedication of Highway Marker to Rappahannock Indians — Totuskey Creek

June

16 English delegation visits RivahFest — Tappahannock
16 Potomac River Festival — Colonial Beach
The Sultana visits
23 "Early Potomac Exploration" — Stratford Hall Plantation
Character interpretation
Spirit of 1608 visits

July

21 "A 17th Century Chesapeake Voyage" — Stratford Hall Plantation

August

12 The Sultana visits — Tappahannock

September

14-15 "The Quilts of River Country" Quilt Show — Gloucester
15 "Come Home to Westmoreland" — Westmoreland State Park
15 "Down on the Farm" Tri-County Farm Tour — Gloucester, Middlesex and Mathews counties

October

5,6,7 Black Powder and Paint Living History Weekend — Gloucester

November

2-3 Urbanna Oyster Festival 50th Anniversary; Godspeed visits — Urbanna
Mathews & Gloucester Courthouse Players present the play "1776" — Gloucester

Undated events and those extending over several months:

Winter/Spring

"Pocahontas and Jamestown Relics" exhibit — Gloucester Museum
Pocahontas exhibit — Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library
Rappahannock Indian Culture exhibit — Richmond County Museum
Presentation of 1976 musical "Crickets on the Hill" — Mathews High School
Captain John Smith and the Indians Exhibit — Essex County Museum
Mathews County African-American History Exhibit — Mathews County Museum
"Retracing Smith's Route through King and Queen County Exhibit — Courthouse Tavern Museum
America's Anniversary Gardens — Gloucester County

America's Anniversary Gardens — Mathews County
Speakers at the January and April meetings of the King and Queen County Historical Society — King and Queen Circuit Courthouse

Summer

Rappahannock Indian Culture Exhibit — Richmond County Museum
Following History's Trails Summer Reading Program — Northumberland Library
Market Days (last Saturday of each month) — Colonial Beach

Fall

"Come Home to Westmoreland" Cultural Heritage Festival — Westmoreland State Park
Fall Festival — Morattico Museum
Farm Tour — Middlesex County

plans for its Explorer, according to R. Smith.

Thanks to aggressive fundraising and generous donations, the museum was able to hire master carpenter Stefan Auer "to construct [Capt.] Smith's barge with the help of his son and numerous volunteers," said R. Smith.

Until its launching on September 23 at the Deltaville Boatyard, Explorer can be viewed on the museum's park grounds.

Middlesex County's Jamestown 2007 Committee boasts an ambitious schedule of commemorative events and activities. The committee was formed about one year ago to plan and implement six major undertakings, several of which involve the arts.

A calendar of community events showcasing kids' artwork is in the works as are plans to bring all the county's various church choirs together for a community sing in January, in honor of religious freedom.

All year long the committee will be researching local history events and publishing stories once or twice a month in the Southside Sentinel. According to committee member Claudia Soucek, some of the stories will be coordinated with the monthly themes chosen by the Commonwealth's Jamestown commemoration committee.

A huge ongoing project undertaken by the committee is writing and publishing a book on the history of Middlesex County. Soucek said that local teacher Julie Bray is the primary author, but others will be helping. The group expects to finish the book sometime in 2008.

A fall farm tour is being planned to coordinate with the overall state theme of "Come Home," with the county's theme being "Come Home to Middlesex County." Soucek said the committee is encouraging residents to have family reunions and to study family history and learn about their roots.

Urbanna will have its own significant anniversary celebration—the 50th anniversary of its annual Oyster Festival on November 2-3, 2007.

Students who learn something about roots will take center stage in **Mathews County** in 2007 to present "A Moment in Time."

Students will be invited to research and document historical events that occurred in the early years of Jamestown and link those events to the land that is now Mathews County, according to Bette Dillehay of the county's Jamestown commemoration committee. A compilation of the presentations will then be created and published.

Dillehay said the Mathews committee chose to create a year-long string of events for their celebration, designating each one a "pearl."

The Mathews Market Days this September will be the kickoff event where maps will be provided to visitors to help them find locations and events of the local "pearls." The Master Gardeners of Mathews and the Mathews Garden Club are coordinating the creation of red, white, and blue "America's Anniversary Gardens' all over the county next year and seeds for planting will be distributed at this event.

A "legacy project" to be completed in early 2007 is the relocation of the Mathews Visitor's Center to the historic Court Green in the former clerk's office.

Then, starting in December 2006, the Mathews County African-American Heritage Exhibit will open in the L.W. Wales Center at Antioch Baptist Church's in Susan.

"The exhibit using artifacts and documentation will tell the rich history of the Mathews African–American community," said Dillehay.

A spring event to anticipate is the Mathews High School revival of the 1976 musical "Crickets on the Hill." Then later in the spring Mathews and Gloucester counties will be arranging for students/adults to ride buses to the Jamestown festivities.

On September 29, the Schooner Virginia will visit Williams Wharf in Mathews County for three days.

The historical offerings in **King and Queen County** include an exhibition of Smith's route through the county in 1607, "as well as the Indians who were here to receive him," according to spokesman Jack Spain. The King and Queen Historical Society also has scheduled special speakers at the two spring meetings in the Circuit Courthouse.

Virtually all of **Gloucester County** will be celebrating

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Visitors can take a look at Explorer on the Deltaville Maritime Museum grounds any day from 9 a.m. until dark.

The new Godspeed is 88 feet long with a width of 17 feet and three masts, with a historically accurate 17th century design. However, some modern technology has been utilized such as lights and twin engines to help it get into tight harbors.

The Chantey Singers perform at Westmoreland State Park.

Carolee Day christens the Spirit of 1608 in a dedication ceremony at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum dock on Cockrells Creek.

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and commemorating the 2007 Jamestown Anniversary theme of "Come Home," but with a twist. They've added a "Step Back in Time" component.

Starting in January and running until the end of the year, the Gloucester County Museum will highlight an exhibit called "Pocahontas and Jamestown Relics."

An "America's Anniversary Gardens" campaign will also run the whole year with patriotic-themed gardens being encouraged all over town, even as themes for school dances and proms.

A special February exhibit titled "The African-American Story: Slavery and Beyond—A Pictorial View" will address this very important issue in American history.

The county library will sponsor a spring lecture and book signing by David Price, the author of *Love and Hate in Jamestown*.

In June, county residents will travel to London, Gloucestershire, and Gravesend in a discovery tour of English roots and history.

The Mathews and Gloucester Courthouse Players will stage a production of the play "1776" in the fall.

Also in the fall, a quilt show called "The Quilts of River Country" will adorn buildings in and around Gloucester's historic Court Circle.

A tri-county "Down on the Farm" tour will take place in Mathews, Middlesex and Gloucester counties in September. Native Americans and a storyteller will be at one of these sites to entertain and educate visitors, according to the official Gloucester County event calendar.

An October encampment in Court Circle for Black Powder and Paint Living History Weekend features artisans and craftsmen portraying life and the skills of the mid-1700's to the early 1800's.

Join the celebrations in your area and help celebrate America's 400th Anniversary.

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