HISTORY • REAL ESTATE • FOOD • FUN
Shore First
ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA
November 2026
Vol. 10, No. 7



Taqueria Maria Isabel provides flavor on the highway in Parksley | Page 10



Cranberry orange muffins a seasonal treat | Page 12

FREE
TAKE ONE

ARTISANS GUILD HOLIDAY TOUR PROVIDES THANKSGIVING TREAT

Painters, sculptors, potters (Jamie Kirkpatrick, who designed these mugs) and others show their work during self-guided driving tour | Page 6



Nov. 7 | Pocomoke City
Christmas Arts and Crafts Festival

■ CRAFT FESTIVAL: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Pocomoke Community Center, 1410 Market St., Pocomoke City. The Christmas Arts and Crafts Festival will feature over 35 vendors, kids activities, giveaways every half hour, concessions, and visits with Santa from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is $5. Children under age 12 will be admitted for free.



Nov. 7 | Cape Charles
Eastern Shore of Virginia Decoy Show

■ DECOY SHOW: From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the fourth annual Eastern Shore of Virginia Decoy Show will bring carvers from across the mid-Atlantic to a variety of spaces on Mason Avenue in Cape Charles.



Nov. 7 | Pungoteague
Eastern Shore Art League Paint Night

■ PAINT NIGHT: 3 to 5 p.m., St. George's Episcopal Church, 30118 Bobtown Road, Pungoteague. The Eastern Shore Art League is hosting a paint and sip. Participants will be guided step by step on how to create a painting of pine trees at twilight. This is a free event.

Friday, Nov. 6

■ BINGO: Doors open at 6 p.m., games start at 7 p.m., Chincoteague Fire Company, Chincoteague. The Chincoteague High School After Prom committee is hosting bingo. The cost is $1 for three cards. There will also be door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, a basket raffle, and concessions.

■ LIVE MUSIC: 6 to 8 p.m., Lemon Tree Gallery, Cape Charles. Bill Armstrong and the Moonlight Rangers perform live. There will be a cash bar.

Saturday, Nov. 7

■ CHICKEN AND DUMPLING DINNER: 4 to 6:30 p.m., Remson Christian Church, 4249 Sheephouse Road, Pocomoke City. The church is hosting a chicken and dumpling dinner. Eat in and carryout are available. The menu includes chicken and dumplings, mashed potatoes, turnip greens, coleslaw, baked tomatoes, a roll, and dessert. The cost is $18 per dinner.

■ ANNIVERSARY: 5 p.m., Onancock Elks Lodge, Accomac. The Tasley Volunteer Fire Company is hosting a 100th anniversary celebration. There will be a dinner, drinks, raffles, and a silent and live auction.

■ PLAY: Doors open at 5:30 p.m., curtain goes up at 6 p.m., Chincoteague Community Center for the Arts, 6309 Church St., Chincoteague. The Chincoteague Island Theatre Company presents "Bad Apples." Each ticket includes a three-course meal catered by Better. Tickets are $55. To purchase visit https://tinyurl.com/23zdehuk

Sunday, Nov. 8

■ LECTURE: 1:30 p.m., Caserta Farm, Caserta Drive, Eastville. The Northampton Historic Preservation Society is hosting a lecture on the lawn at Caserta Farm. The lecture will be given by David Scott. He will discuss the history of Caserta, as well as other historic homes in the area. To RSVP visit https://tinyurl.com/yv55yw2p

Friday, Nov. 13

■ BINGO: 6:45 p.m., Great Pocomoke Fairgrounds, 2037 Broad St., Pocomoke City. The fair is hosting a cash and purse bingo. There will be food, pull tabs, raffles, and special games. Tickets are $30 in advance. To purchase tickets call 410-726-8012 or 410-422-9195.

Saturday, Nov. 14

■ PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Doors open at 8:30 a.m., breakfast served from 9 to 11 a.m., American Legion Post 56, 21201 N. Bayside Road, Cheriton. Everyone is welcome to this free Veterans Day pancake breakfast.

■ TURKEY SHOOT: 10 a.m., AJ's on the Creek, Chincoteague. The Sons of the American Legion 159 are hosting a turkey shoot. The maximum barrel length is 30 inches. The maximum choke is full (no turkey chokes). House guns will be available. The cost is $5 per round. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. The rain date is Nov. 21.

■ CHILI COOK-OFF: 4 to 6 p.m., Craddockville United Methodist Church, 33464 Boston Road, Belle Haven. The church's men's club is hosting its annual chili cook-off. All are welcome to taste or enter a chili for this free competition. To enter email craddockvillechurch@gmail.com. Donations collected at the event will fund scholarships to Camp Occohannock on the Bay.

Sunday, Nov. 15

■ CONCERT: 3 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, 23395 Drummondtown Road, Accomac. The Northampton Concert Choir, directed by Caroline Gibson, will present "A Harvest Celebration in Song." A reception will follow.

Thursday, Nov. 19

■ PARTY: 5:30 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. The library is hosting a dinosaur party for kids with a variety of dino crafts.



Nov. 14 | Cape Charles
Diabetes awareness day

■ AWARENESS DAY: 10 a.m. to noon, The Impact Center, 1500 Old Cape Charles Road, Cape Charles. The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority is hosting Blue and White Path to Better Health, a diabetes awareness event. There will be medication education and guidance, foot and ankle health assessments, blood pressure and glucose screenings, healthy eating tips, meal planning, and education and resources from the American Diabetes Association.



Nov. 14 | Belle Haven
Painting Christmas ornaments

■ ART CLASS: 10 a.m. to noon, ESO Arts Center, 15293 King St., Belle Haven. Attendees can create three paint pour ornaments. The cost is $30. All supplies are included. Call 757-442-3226 to register.



Nov. 14 | Bloxom
Bloxom Volunteer Fire Co. Sportsman's Bash

■ SPORTSMAN'S BASH: Doors open at 5 p.m., music begins at 6 p.m., Bloxom Volunteer Fire Company, Bloxom. The fire company is hosting its annual Sportsman's Bash. Live music will be provided by Audiohum. There will be prize giveaways every hour. Tickets are $40 each and include all-you-can-eat food. Beverages will be available for purchase. For tickets visit https://tinyurl.com/yc5n5nrh



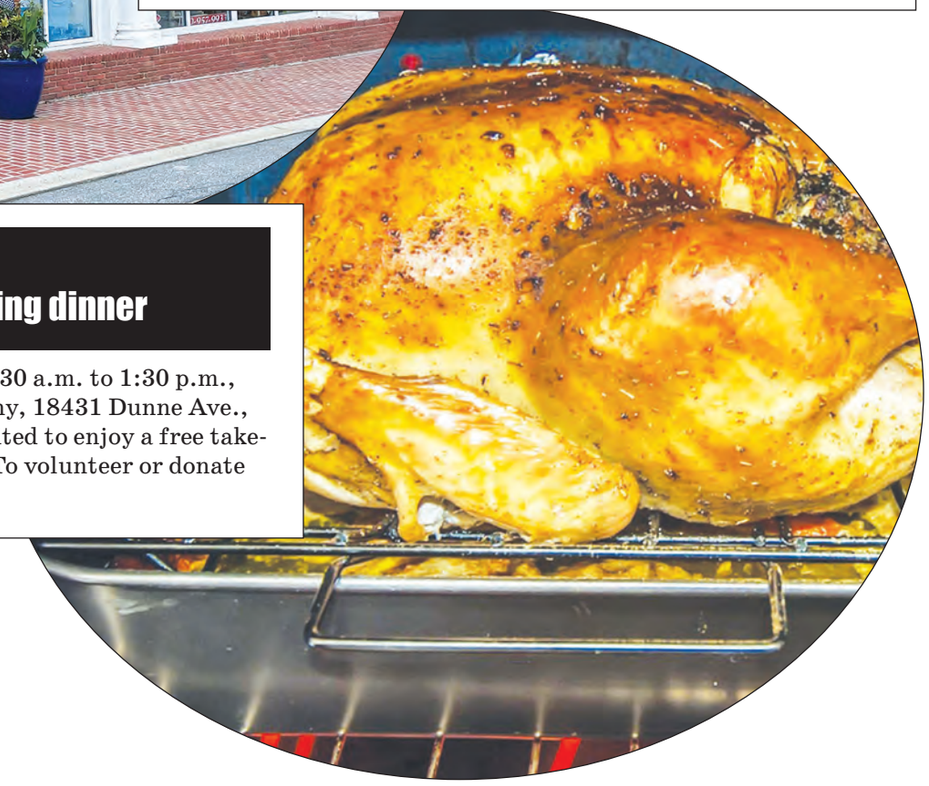
Nov. 21 | Nassawadox
Northampton Turkey Trot

■ TURKEY TROT: Registration opens at 8:15 a.m., race starts at 9 a.m., Riverside Eastern Shore Family Medicine, Nassawadox. Northampton County Parks and Recreation is hosting a Turkey Trot. The run will begin in the empty lot next to Riverside Eastern Shore Family Medicine. The cost is $10 per person. There will be prizes for overall winners, and participants will be given a T-shirt while supplies last.



Nov. 25 | Pocomoke City
Storytime at Delmarva Discovery Museum

■ STORYTIME: 10 to 11 a.m., Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City. Children age 5 and under and their guardians are invited to hear a story and make a craft. To register visit https://tinyurl.com/5n89b7zm



Nov. 26 | Parksley
Community Thanksgiving dinner

■ THANKSGIVING MEAL: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Parksley Volunteer Fire Company, 18431 Dunne Ave., Parksley. The community is invited to enjoy a free take-out-only Thanksgiving dinner. To volunteer or donate call 757-894-3268.

Saturday, Nov. 21

■ CRAFT SHOW: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Chincoteague Center, 6155 Community Drive, Chincoteague. The center is hosting its annual craft fair. Admission is $1 or one donated canned item. There will be baked goods, decoys, crafts, wreaths and florals, home decor, jewelry, and more.

■ SOUP SALE: 11 a.m., Island Community House, 6246 Mumford St., Chincoteague. The Island Community House will be selling 12-ounce bowls of Italian wedding soup with a roll, oyster crackers, and a drink for $12. Visit https://tinyurl.com/yz25v995 to place order. Eat in and takeout are available.

■ CONCERT: Doors open at 6:30 p.m., music starts at 7 p.m., Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., Chincoteague. Trio Niche will perform music from the classical period, including Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. Tickets are $15 for adults and $5 for those under age 18. To purchase tickets visit chincoteagueca.org

Tuesday, Nov. 24

■ TEEN CARD CLUB: 3 to 5 p.m., Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague. Children in sixth through 12th grades can join the Next Wave Trading Club, facilitated by retired teacher Jon Adams. Children can bring their own cards or borrow starter decks from the library. Students can play Pokemon, Yu-Gi-Oh!, Magic: The Gathering, Flesh and Blood, Disney Lorcana, or any other trading card game.

■ BIKE RIDE: Meet up at 5:40 p.m., ride starts at 6 p.m., Cape Charles Love Sign, Cape Charles. Join a leisurely 5-mile bike ride on the Beaver Moon. Decorated bikes and costumes are encouraged. All ages are welcome.

Thursday, Nov. 26

■ THANKSGIVING MEAL: Noon to 1 p.m., American Legion Post 56, Cheriton. The legion will host a free Thanksgiving lunch.

Friday, Nov. 27

■ HOLIDAY EVENT: From 5 to 8 p.m. Festive Fridays will bring holiday cheer to Mason Avenue and Strawberry Street in Cape Charles. There will be a petting zoo, a balloon artist, face painting, train rides, crafts and activities, live entertainment, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and free holiday movies at the Palace Theatre.

Saturday, Nov. 28

■ OYSTER ROAST: 5 to 8 p.m., Cape Charles Museum, 814 Randolph Ave., Cape Charles. The museum is hosting its annual oyster roast. The menu includes oysters, burgers, and clam chowder. The Stingrays will perform live, and there will be raffles and an auction. Tickets are $65. To purchase visit https://tinyurl.com/38a9bbvk

Monday, Nov. 30

■ PARADE: Beginning at 7 p.m., Pocomoke City is hosting its annual Christmas Parade. There will be floats, marching bands, community groups, and more.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

■ CHRISTMAS EVENT: 5 to 8 p.m., Exmore's Old-Fashioned Christmas will be held with businesses open late and food trucks, music, shopping, and an appearance from Santa. There also will be a strolling violinist. It is held in conjunction with New Ravenna's Holiday Faire in town.

■ CHRISTMAS EVENT: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., New Ravenna's annual Holiday Faire will be held at 3268 Broad St., Exmore. It includes holiday gifts and handcrafted goods. Visitors are invited also to explore the town during Exmore's Old-Fashioned Christmas. New Ravenna's Holiday Faire is open to all. Call 757-442-3379 for more information.



Nov. 27 | Onancock
Fil Rhythm

■ LIVE MUSIC: 6 to 9 p.m., Blarney Stone Pub, Onancock. The Fil Rhythm Band performs live.



Nov. 30 | Chincoteague
Bingo on Chincoteague Island

■ BINGO: 1 to 3 p.m., Chincoteague Community Center, 6155 Community Center, Chincoteague. Island Community House and Village Neighbors are hosting bingo. The cost is $5 per card or $20 for five cards. Cash only.



Dec. 5 | Chincoteague
Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade

■ PARADE: Beginning at 6 p.m., the Chincoteague Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade. There will be floats, marching bands, community groups, and more.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ann Crain paints in her studio. Crain is one of many on the Artisans Guild of the Eastern Shore Holiday Tour.

Artisans Guild tour back for Thanksgiving weekend

Every year on Thanksgiving weekend, the Artisans Guild of the Eastern Shore of Virginia showcases its member artisans and their unique crafts and talent in a self-drive show and sale event.

This year's event will take place on Friday, Nov. 27, and Saturday, Nov. 28, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

This is the 24th annual Holiday Open Studio Tour.

There are two contests. Pick up a Passport to the Arts card at your first stop. Have it initialed at each tour stop. Then turn in your passport card to the artist at your final stop.

You will be in the drawing for certificates ranging from $50 to $300 to spend with your favorite artist on the tour.

The second event is the annual photo contest. Take photos throughout the day at tour stops and email your three favorite and most creative photos to photos@esvaartisansguild.org.

First prize wins $100, second prize wins $50, and third prize wins $25.

The deadline for submitting is Dec. 6. Winners will be notified by email.

There are two stops on the tour that are wineries.

Vessel Farm Winery, at 4198 Latimer Siding Road, just north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, will offer local artisanal wines and oyster tastings. Call 757-678-6335.

Chatham Vineyard, 9232 Chatham Road, Machipongo, also will be offering wine and oysters. Call 757-678-5588.

Studio No. 1

Pearl Market, 4198 Latimer Siding Road, Cape Charles

■ Nancy Gormley. Unique small-batch functional pottery uniting colors and textures. 757-469-0432

■ Janet Pane-Joyce. Tiny pots, fish bowls, exotic lidded jars — pottery that makes mud amusing. 508-469-3788

Studio No. 2

Carole Peirson Fine Art Studio, 3214 Jacobia Lane, Cape Charles

■ Carole Boggemann Peirson. Local scenes and colorful abstract work in oil and cold wax. 757-678-3340

■ Jessica Randall. Silversmith and jewelry designer, and fabricator of wearable artwork. 214-906-4425

Studio No. 3

Windsor Woodworks, Edwins Farm Drive and Lankford Highway, Cape Charles

■ Kurt and Sally Lewin, Windsor Woodworks. Custom woodworking from fine furniture to cutting boards. 757-331-4848

■ Kathy and John Grook, Sea Glass by Kathy. Unique sea glass and gifts, acrylic paintings. 757-752-1135

■ Ray and Julita Wood, Gecko Pottery. One-of-a-kind decorative and functional handmade pottery. 757-284-4824

■ Doug Brady. Hand-carved decoys, shorebirds, whales, clams, and oysters. 757-284-6658

(Continued on page 8)

2026 Artisans Guild Holiday Tour

1. Vessel Farm Winery
4198 Latimer Siding Road
Cape Charles, VA 23310
757-678-6335

2. Chatham Vineyards
9232 Chatham Road
Machipongo, VA 23405
757-678-5588

1. Pearl Market
4198 Latimer Siding Road
Cape Charles, VA 23310
757-678-3340

2. Carole Peirson Fine Art Studio
3214 Jacobia Lane
Cape Charles, VA 23310
757-678-3340

3. Windsor Woodworks
4245 Edwin's Farm Road
Cape Charles, VA 23310
757-331-4848

4. Noisy Crow Studio/ Shooting Star Studio
5236 Mockhorn Bay Drive
Cape Charles, VA 23310
Noisy Crow - 757-641-8069
Shooting Star - 757-641-8861

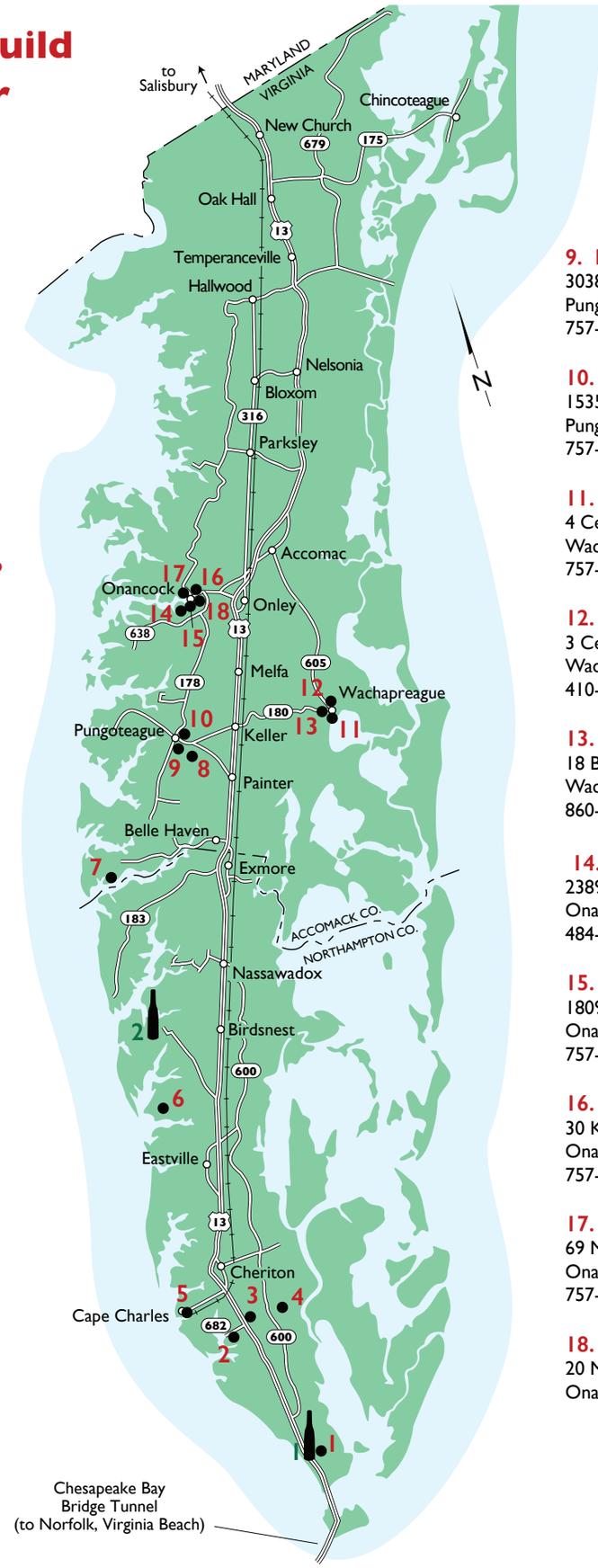
5. Cape Charles Museum
814 Randolph Avenue
Cape Charles, VA 23310
757-331-1008

6. JK Pottery
4325 Wilsonia Neck Drive
Machipongo, VA 23405
303-681-4713

7. Elizabeth Rhoades Fine Art
9444 Quail Walk
Belle Haven, VA 23420
860-841-3939

8. Milby Barn Studio at Chatham Flower Farm
31094 Boggs Road
Painter, VA 23420
508-524-5405

Cartography by
Bill & Colette Nelson



9. High Point Glassworks
30389 Bobtown Road
Pungoteague. VA 23422
757-442-7155

10. Ocean Skye Gallery
15355 Pungoteague Road
Pungoteague, VA 23422
757-710-3408

11. Lynne Rogers Studio
4 Center Street
Wachapreague, VA 23480
757-710-5335

12. Ann Crain Studio
3 Center Street
Wachapreague, VA 23480
410-610-2007

13. Carrie Jacobson Studio
18 Bayview Avenue
Wachapreague, VA 23480
860-442-0246

14. Bay Leigh Studios
23895 Bailey Neck Drive
Onancock, VA 23417
484-999-4897

15. Marsh Ryon Studio
18092 Leatherbury Drive
Onancock, VA 23417
757-710-4659

16. Vesna Zidovec Studio
30 Kerr Street
Onancock, VA 23417
757-678-3712

17. Ker Place History Museum
69 Market Street
Onancock, VA 23417
757-787-8012

18. Fosque Building
20 Market Street
Onancock, VA 23417

Studio tour

(Continued from page 6)

Studio No. 4

Noisy Crow Studio/ Shooting Star Studio, 5236 Mockhorn Bay Drive, Cape Charles

■ Nancy A. Kinzinger, Noisy Crow Studio. Copper, brass, and sterling silver jewelry constructed from recycled metal. 757-641-8069

■ Brenda C. Wright, Shooting Star Studio. Art photography, leather cuffs created from upcycled leather belts. 757-641-8861

Studio No. 5

Cape Charles Museum, 814 Randolph Ave., Cape Charles

■ Marina Pierce, Photo by the Bay. Fine art photography of the landscapes and animals of the Eastern Shore. 703-209-5540

■ Michelle Truslow, Cape Charles Mudworks. Small-batch functional pottery reflecting the natural beauty of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. 434-607-5735

■ B.J. Rogers, Blue Jay Pottery by B.J. Varied but recognizable pottery in its quirky, colorful point of view. 757-442-6642

Studio No. 6

JK Pottery, 4325 Wilsonia Drive, Machipongo

■ Jamie Kirkpatrick. Thrown, hand-carved sculptured vessels, glazed functional ware. 303-681-4713

Studio No. 7

Elizabeth Rhoades Fine Art, 9444 Quail Walk, Belle Haven

■ Elizabeth Rhoades. Original fine art oil and pastel landscapes, nationally awarded and recognized for excellence. 860-841-3939

Studio No. 8

Milby Barn Studio at Chatham Flower Farm, 31094 Boggs Road, Painter

■ Kate Fitzpatrick, Milby Barn Studio. Oil painter of local landscapes, coastal and farmland. 508-524-5405

■ David Justice. Sculptures designed, carved, painted, and inspired by the beauty of nature. 757-894-5638



COURTESY PHOTO

Sculptor Janis King will be on the Artisans Guild of the Eastern Shore Holiday Tour this year.

Studio No. 9

High Point Glassworks, 30389 Bobtown Road, Pungoteague

■ Ken Platt. Hot glass with live demonstration. 757-442-7155

Studio No. 10

The Ocean Skye Gallery, 15355 Pungoteague Road, Pungoteague

■ Anne Winston. Working light, color, and life in mixed media. 757-710-3408

Studio No. 11

Lynne Rogers Studio, 4 Center St. Wachapreague

■ Lynne Rogers. Oil paintings, sculptural details, mixed media. 757-710-5335

Studio No. 12

Ann Crain Studio, 3 Center St., Wachapreague

■ Ann Crain. Mixed media with abstract thoughts, acrylics, oils, found objects, and more. 410-610-2007

Studio No. 13

Carrie Jacobson Studio, 18 Bayview Ave., Wachapreague

■ Carrie Jacobson. Bright, bold oil paintings made with palette knife. Birds, florals, landscapes, animals, and more. 860-442-0246

■ Dave Groshong, Dave's Garden Fish. Whimsical garden sculptures. 206-939-7677

Studio No. 14

Bay Leigh Studios, 23895 Bailey Neck Drive, Onancock

■ Janis King. Figurative sculptures and paintings, plus multimedium Santas. Demonstrations with clay. 484-999-4897

Studio No. 15

Marsh Ryon Studio, 18092 Leatherbury Drive, Onancock

■ Marsh Ryon. Nature inspired artwork in a variety of media. 757-710-4659

Studio No. 16

Zidovec Studio, 30 Kerr St., Onancock

■ Vesna Zidovec. Handmade functional and decorative pottery. 757-678-3712

Studio No. 17

Ker Place History Museum, 69 Market St., Onancock

■ Diana M. Davis. Award-winning watercolors depicting the Eastern Shore. 757-350-0261

■ David Farlow, Seaside Decoys. Fourth-generation decoy carver in the Eastern Shore tradition. 757-442-9097

■ Douglas Greer, Greer Studio. Wildlife and landscape detail in acrylics and water-soluble oils. 757-710-1847

■ Brenda Llewellyn, Llewellyn Ceramics. Porcelain and stoneware functional pottery of organic design. 240-478-7647

■ Guy Shover, bronze and salvaged wood sculpture. 757-894-1924

■ Amy Felske, Incipient Madness. Fiber sculpture, art dolls, original sewing patterns, doll making kits. 757-331-0976

Studio No. 18

Fosque Building, 20 Market St., Onancock

■ Donna Stufft, Painted Stitches. Art quilts, painted fabric embellished with thread sketching. 443-616-2665

■ Joel Simpson. Hand-carved utensils and turned bowls — functional art in wood. 757-710-1822

■ Dawn Simpson, Optic Fibers Crochet. Charming stuffed creatures, wearables, accessories. 757-710-5917

■ Laura McGowan, Laura McGowan Fine Art. Original oil paintings inspired by the Eastern Shore. 757-710-7600

■ Ginny Rutherford, Two Shores Art. Handbuilt functional and decorative pottery inspired by nature. 609-385-3766

■ Bryce Lee. Paintings in watercolor, oil, acrylic, and pencil. 845-527-0641



COURTESY PHOTO

Daryl Minus took office as president of Eastern Shore Community College on July 1, 2025, but was officially installed by the Virginia Community College System on Friday, Oct. 2, at the Historic Palace Theatre in Cape Charles.



COURTESY PHOTO

In addition to Eastern Shore Community College administration, board members, staff, faculty, and students, the audience included a large representation from the Virginia Community College System, including many college presidents and statewide educational leaders.



COURTESY PHOTO

The occasion also brought together past ESCC presidents Jim Shaeffer and Linda Thomas-Glover to support and celebrate the installation of Daryl Minus as the sixth college president.



COURTESY PHOTO

The chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, David Doré, oversaw the installation, and the ceremony also featured music by the Norfolk State University Choir, the Northampton High School Choir, and the Second Ending Brass Quintet.

Taqueria Maria Isabel: Flavor on the highway

Traveling north on U.S. Route 13, it is easy to miss Taqueria Maria Isabel.

It sits just off the highway north of Parksley. If you don't spot the sign in time, it is well worth making a U-turn for some delicious food.

The day I stopped, the truck was serving pupusas, quesadillas, and cheesesteaks.



Sarah Barban

However, it also serves tamales on Thursdays and I will definitely be making a trip back to sample them.

The smells wafting from the little blue truck were absolutely heavenly and a steady flow of diners came and went as I waited with bated breath for my food. I knew I was in for something good.

I sampled the truck's pupusas, handformed flatbread stuffed with beans and cheese. I believe I also detected chicharrón in the filling, which are essentially pork rinds, because the filling was deliciously porky. The tender shells were griddled perfectly.

On the side was a delightful salsa filled with a nice warm spice that slowly spread a mellow burn across my tongue without being scorching. The chili flavor cuts through the rich fattiness of the beans, but at the same time the beans and cheese mellow out the spice. It's a perfect balance.

I also ordered an al pastor quesadilla. It truthfully might have be the biggest quesadilla I've ever seen. The

(Continued on page 11)





The asada quesadilla, above, at Taqueria Maria Isabel boasts a generous portion of tender steak and gooey cheese. At left, Taqueria Maria Isabel is located just north of Parksley on Lankford Highway.

SHORE FIRST/
SARAH BARBAN

The Eastern Shore of Virginia is home to a number of taco trucks producing delicious fare that you might not have tried. Sarah Barban of the Eastern Shore Post and Shore First staff is going to find them and report back monthly on what she ate. She expects to see readers more frequently at our local bonanza of taco trucks.

Tacos

(Continued from page 10)

box could barely contain it. The portions are very generous at Taqueria Maria Isabel.

The flour tortilla was nice and crisp and stuffed with juicy, lightly spiced pork and plenty of cheese. If you're the kind of person who enjoys a good cheese pull, you will not be disappointed. A bit of lettuce adds a nice crunch and the salsa served on the side lifts the dish with a pop of fresh tomato and cilantro.

The spice of the salsa wakes the dish up and keeps the gooey cheese and juicy pork from feeling too overindulgent, although I did contemplate taking a nap after eating my lunch. The food at Taqueria Maria Isabel is so comforting and satisfying, it feels like someone's abuela is hugging you and wrapping you up in a warm blanket. I kept going back for more, even when I was full.

I also got an asada quesadilla. It is equally as large, perfectly griddled, and cheesy. The steak was beautifully tender and well seasoned. It was wonderfully flavorful and the salsa rounds it out perfectly, bringing mellow heat, freshness, and a nice sauciness that puts the moist steak over the top. As always, the lettuce adds a nice crunch.

Now that the weather is getting crisper and the days are growing shorter, I would love nothing more than to curl up on the couch with a warm pupusa or a cheesy quesadilla and watch a movie. It's pure comfort.

Taqueria Maria Isabel is located at 20249 Lankford Highway, Parksley. The phone number is 757-387-0552.



SHORE FIRST/SARAH BARBAN

The al pastor quesadilla from Taqueria Maria Isabel packs a lot of flavor and a lot of bang for your buck at just $10.



Cranberry orange muffins are great for Thanksgiving

Try not to fill up on these delicious little treats on Thanksgiving morning; make sure you leave some room for dinner!



Laura Davis

In the past couple of weeks, I've seen fresh cranberries popping up in my neighborhood grocery stores.

I love fresh cranberries for their color and their tartness. I also enjoy stringing them with popcorn to make tree garland!

I couldn't resist picking up a couple of bags.

Cranberry and orange has always been one of my favorite flavor combinations, so I thought it would be fun to incorporate cranberries and oranges into a scrumptious muffin.

Muffins are one of our favorite go-to breakfast items around here.

With the morning rush of getting the boys off to school, something that we can just grab and go with is a sheer savior sometimes.

I think these would be a great breakfast option for Thanksgiving morning as well.

They could definitely fill you up, but they are also light enough to leave plenty of room for an early dinner!

(Continued on page 13)



PHOTO COURTESY LAURA DAVIS

Cranberry orange muffins with streusel topping are the perfect grab-and-go breakfast option for Thanksgiving morning.

Laura Davis, of Chincoteague Island, is a food writer and blogger at www.tideandthyme.com. Her recipes have been featured on Huffington Post and www.craftbeer.com, among other publications. She is a frequent guest on WBOC-TV's DelmarvaLife show, where she showcases her culinary talents for viewers. Her work appears monthly in Shore First.

Cranberry Orange Muffins

What you'll need

- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup + 2 Tbsp sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 beaten egg
- 1/2 cup milk
- zest from 1 orange
- 1/4 cup fresh orange juice
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup cranberries, coarsely chopped

For the topping

- 3 Tbsp flour
- 3 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds

What you'll do

- Preheat oven to 400. Line 12 muffin cups with paper liners. Set aside.
- To make the streusel topping, combine the flour, sugar, and cinnamon in a small bowl. Mix to combine. Using two forks, cut in the butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Mix in sliced almonds.
- In a medium bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Make a well in center of flour mixture; set aside.
- In another bowl combine egg, milk, zest, orange juice, vanilla, and oil. Add egg mixture all at once to flour mixture. Stir to combine until just moistened. Batter should be lumpy. Fold in cranberries.
- Divide the batter evenly among muffin cups, filling each two-thirds full. Sprinkle streusel topping over muffin batter in cups. Bake in preheated oven for 18-20 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Cool in muffin cups on wire rack for 5 minutes before removing.

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Bus: 757-442-6100

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Chincoteague: The most famous place on the Shore

The peninsula's No. 1 tourist attraction, every year Chincoteague's fame as a vacation spot grows

Chincoteague is without a doubt the most famous place on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and the peninsula's No. 1 tourist attraction.

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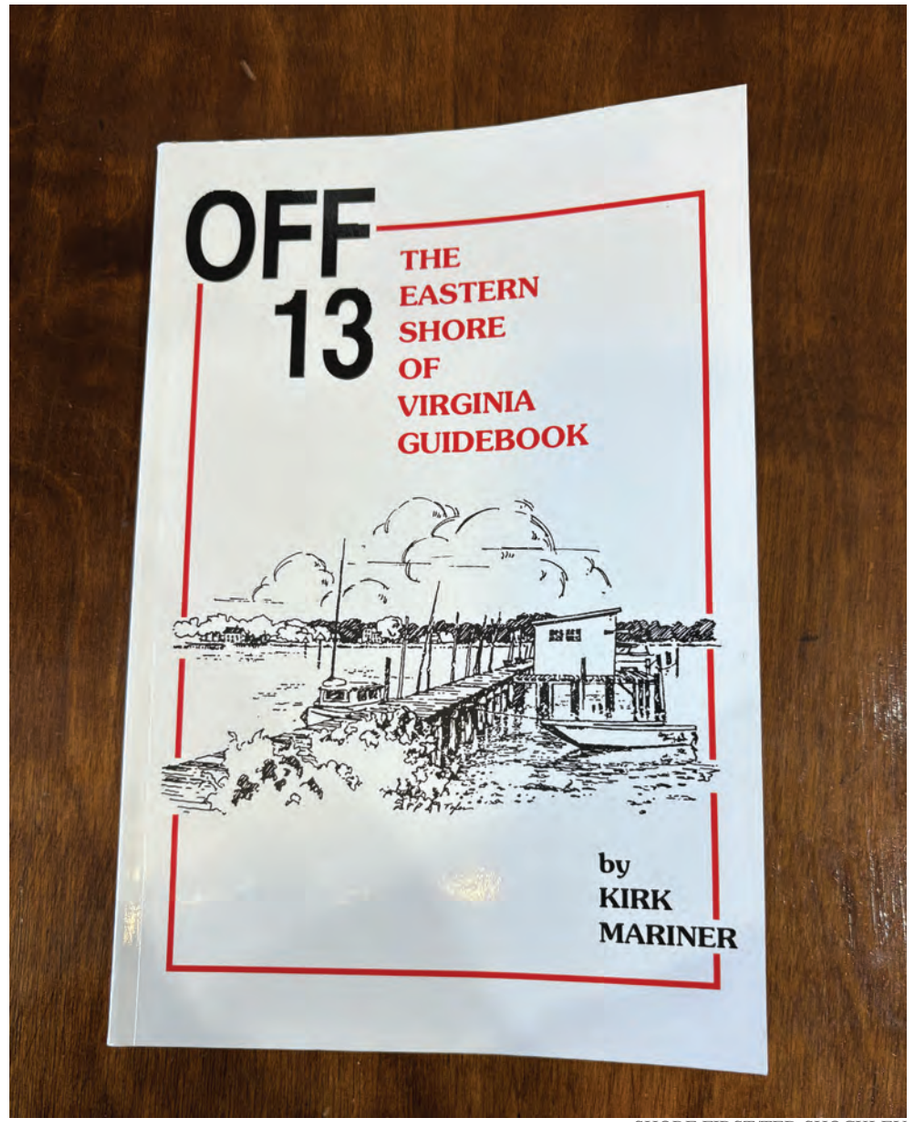
Kirk Mariner

You had better plan your trip and your reservations in advance, especially if you want to see the famous Pony Penning.

Every year Chincoteague's fame as a vacation spot grows, and you might find yourself sharing the island with 50,000 other people at the height of the tourist season.

Although it is a small town and geographically contained, Chincoteague is in another sense many places and possibilities. Most people come for the ponies or for the beach on Assateague Island (or both). Many others come for the fishing and the seafood. And then there is the town itself — noteworthy and charming at any season.

Long before it was the premier travel destination it is today, Chincoteague was a remote piece of property to the early English settlers of the Eastern Shore, inaccessible and, despite the island traditions, unsettled by the Indians.



SHORE FIRST/TED SHOCKLEY

This excerpt is taken from Kirk Mariner's "Off 13: The Eastern Shore of Virginia Guidebook."

Though Englishmen obtained title to the island as early as 1671, it was not until 20 years later that William Kendall and John Robins laid permanent claim to it. Between them, they divided the island into two equal sections, Kendall taking the northern and Robins the southern half. Shortly thereafter, Robins sent George and Hannah Blake to his part of the island to take care of his cattle there; the Blakes were probably Chincoteague's first settlers.

For more than 100 years, Chincoteague and Assateague islands were in use as a convenient natural livestock range. By 1800, the population had grown to only 60, and cattle and farming were still the principal sources of income.

By 1831, there were 500 people on the island and 26 substantial homes. In 1833, the Assateague Lighthouse was erected. It was razed and rebuilt in 1867 and remains one of the oldest structures on Assateague and Chincoteague.

Gradually, seafood replaced livestock and farming as the main industry, and Chincoteague began to send the produce of its waters northward to Philadelphia and New York, where there were ready and eager markets.

By the 1850s, a central village began to coalesce among the scattered settlements across the island. There were over 100 families, two churches, a post office, and a physician.

(Continued on page 15)

The Rev. Kirk Mariner was an Eastern Shore author, historian, and United Methodist minister whose book, "Off 13: The Eastern Shore of Virginia Guidebook," is an indispensable volume for natives and visitors alike. Mariner died in 2017. His work appears in Eastern Shore First courtesy of Miona Publications. This first appeared in his book, "Once Upon an Island: The History of Chincoteague."

Mariner

(Continued from page 14)

In 1861, when the rest of the Shore seceded from the Union, Chincoteague voted to remain in the fold, and it stayed a part of the Union throughout the Civil War. Throughout the war, Chincoteague continued its trade in seafood with the Northern cities. It also became perhaps the first place in the nation to engage extensively in the private planting of oysters.

When the railroad was built from the North to the mainland opposite Chincoteague, Northern markets became even more accessible, and the island entered a period of growth and prosperity.

Two events of the 1920s shaped modern Chincoteague. First, in 1922, the causeway to the mainland was opened, ending the island's long isolation from the rest of the Shore.

Then, a series of disastrous fires destroyed a major portion of the downtown section, and the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company was organized to fund new firefighting equipment. It was in 1925 that pony penning was expanded to include a carnival, pony swim, and a two-week celebration in support of the fire company.

Pony penning put Chincoteague on the map. The fame of the island spread, bolstered by news coverage, magazine articles, and the publication of Marguerite Henry's "Misty of Chincoteague" in 1947. Henry's book was adapted into a Hollywood movie in 1960.

In the years following World War II, Chincoteague also became the Eastern Shore's largest marketer of poultry, and chickens rivaled seafood as the chief industry for a time until the advent of large-scale tourism.

Chincoteague is today the largest community on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, a prosperous place and a proud place. Old insular attitudes, like the island dialect, have faded.

What was once one of the most remote and forgotten places on the Eastern Shore is now the very reason many people come here.





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A cold, breezy day spent on a skipjack dredging

Few classic Chesapeake Bay skipjacks survive today, and those that do are more likely racing than dredging oysters



Curtis Badger

I spent two winters in Alaska working as a photographer for the U.S. Air Force. Much of the work I did there was outside, and I can report that in winter, Alaska is a cold place. The coldest I've ever been, though, was on a day in November on the Choptank River with Captain Wade Murphy aboard the Sigsbee.

Captain Wade was one of the handful of watermen still dredging oysters under sail, and a friend who was related to Wade thought I might like to go along and document life aboard a working skipjack.

We were out on the water well before dawn on a very cold and breezy day when the sun didn't actually rise — it simply became a luminescent cloud bank in the eastern sky. The Choptank was rolling and hissing, and when Wade's crew hoisted the sails, the Sigsbee sat up like the old girl she was and got up on her hind legs. When the dredge went overboard, she paused and groaned, took a deep breath, and caught her second wind.

Our day aboard the Sigsbee was memorable for two reasons. One, I had messed around on boats for most of

(Continued on page 17)



COURTESY PHOTO

Curtis Badger spent a cold November day on the Choptank River dredging oysters aboard the Sigsbee, a skipjack captained by Wade Murphy. Capt. Murphy was one of the handful of watermen still dredging oysters under sail at the time.

Curtis J. Badger is a Delmarva native who majored in English at Salisbury University and, with the exception of four years traveling as a U.S. Air Force photojournalist, has enjoyed a career photographing and writing about his native coast. His books include "Salt Tide: Cycles and Currents of Life Along the Coast," "Bellevue Farm: Exploring Virginia's Coastal Countryside," and many others. He lives in Accomack County.

Badger

(Continued from page 16)

my adult life, but I never had to make a living doing it. I'll always deeply respect the men and women who choose to work on the water. And two, Alaska can be cold, but there is no cold like being on the water when it's cold. It's a relentless cold that goes right through you, and I can still remember it.

The Sigsbee had been part of an earlier era of oystering on the bay. It was built on Deal Island in 1901 and had been one of more than 1,000 shallow-draft centerboard boats made between the 1880s and 1910.

Few classic Chesapeake Bay skipjacks survive today, and those that do are more likely to be known for participating in skipjack races than for dredging oysters. In fact, the Sigsbee sank during a race in 1991, was recovered, and is now part of the Living Classrooms Foundation fleet.

The oyster industry fell on hard times beginning in the 1960s because of overfishing, destruction of habitat, and the parasites MSX and Dermo. Annual catches in Virginia in the late 1950s surpassed 4 million bushels, but over the next three decades, those numbers plummeted. By the year 1996, the catch barely surpassed 18,000 bushels.

In the early 2000s, Virginia began a series of programs to rebuild public oyster reefs in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, including the creation of oyster sanctuaries. Slowly, the population began to rebound. In 2013, the harvest was 400,000 bushels, and the following year it increased to 500,000.

Today, the oyster industry has reinvented itself, and the oysters you take home from the seafood shop will probably have a pedigree more associated with farming than sailing.

Like hardshell clams, most commercial oysters are produced by aquaculture. Larval animals are raised indoors in a controlled setting, and then small adults, called spat, are planted in suspended beds in the natural environment until they grow to market size, which takes about two years.



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Eastern Shore Post

Coward's 'Present Laughter' comes to Palace Theatre

Arts Enter Cape Charles, a nonprofit organization celebrating 30 years of the arts in Cape Charles, presents Noël Coward's sparkling comedy "Present Laughter" at the Historic Palace Theatre, Nov. 20 to 22, with Friday and Saturday performances at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday performance at 3 p.m.

The production is sponsored in part by Tankard Nursery and an anonymous donor. This support helps bring live theater to the community.

Set in early 1940s London, this sophisticated, three-act comedy follows Garry Essendine, a charismatic and self-absorbed stage star whose preparations for an overseas tour unravel amid romantic entanglements, unexpected visitors, and the demands of his theatrical circle.



COURTESY PHOTO

The cast of "Present Laughter" is ready to perform at the Historic Palace Theatre.

Surrounded by admirers, an aspiring playwright, and friends determined to manage his affairs, Garry finds his private life becoming as dramatic as anything he performs on stage.

One of Coward's favorite semi-autobiographical comedies, "Present Laughter" offers an affectionate yet mischievous portrait of theatrical life. Its clever dialogue, memorable characters, and delightfully tangled situations reveal the vanity, vulnerability, and enduring humanity behind the glamour.

Coward's strong, intelligent female characters are more than a match for the polished, charming, and occasionally unscrupulous men around them.

Their exchanges provide much of the play's wit, while its observations about fame, friendship, love, and growing older continue to resonate with audiences.

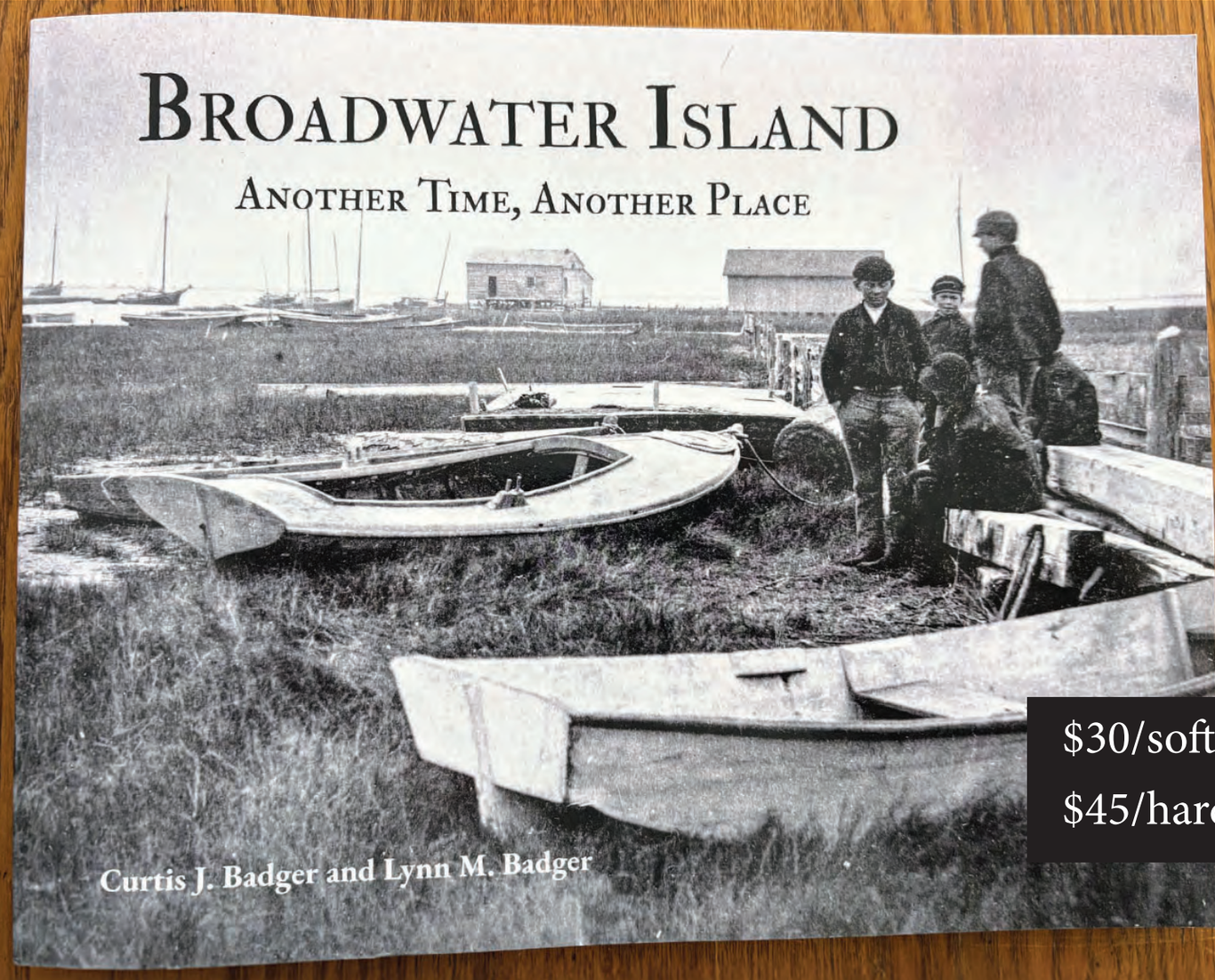
An acclaimed English playwright, actor, and composer, Coward was celebrated for his sharp wit and sophisticated comedies.

He began performing professionally at age 12 and achieved recognition as a playwright with "The Vortex" in 1924.

Join Arts Enter Cape Charles for an evening of laughter and theatrical charm as it celebrates three decades of bringing the arts to Cape Charles. Tickets are $30 and can be purchased at www.artsentercapecharles.org



Broadwater Island – Another Time, Another Place



$30/softcover
$45/hardcover

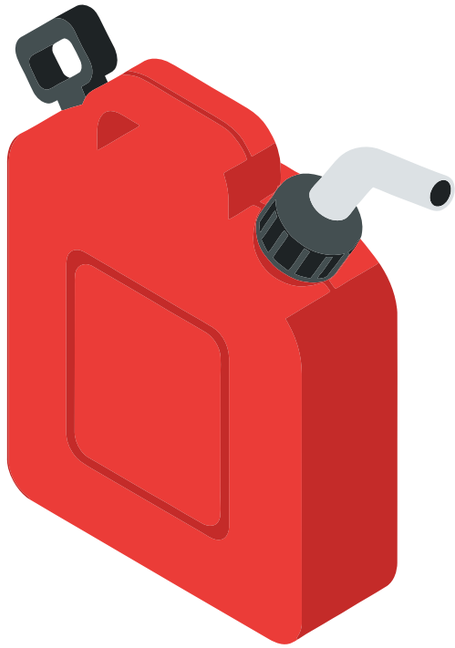
A Timeless New Look at the Eastern Shore's Past

Recently discovered photographs from the 19th century bring Broadwater Island back to life.

In the 1890s investors from Philadelphia bought most of Hog Island, changed the name to Broadwater Island, and began a coast-to-coast publicity campaign to sell beach property. They arranged presidential visits, the University of Pennsylvania football team came for summer practice, and a famous architect designed a beach cottage like none other.

What remains of Broadwater Island today lies under the sea, but a treasure of photographs has been found that brings the island development back to life. Curtis and Lynn Badger spent two years researching legal documents and newspaper archives, and they have created a written narrative that couples with the photographs to provide a fascinating account of another time and another place on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Copies of *Broadwater Island – Another Time, Another Place* are available directly from the publisher, Salt Water Media in Berlin. Visit the website at www.saltwatermedia.com. Copies also are available at local book retailers. Softcover copies are $30 and hardcover editions are $45. Copies purchased online are personally signed by the authors.



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Important people read it.

Paint the Shore event set for Nov. 12

On Thursday, Nov. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m., the VES Land Trust presents "Paint the Shore: a plein air art show" on Thursday, Nov. 12, at Ker place, 69 Market St., Onancock. People's choice voting ends at 7 p.m.

Paint the Shore is a plein air painting exhibit designed to bring conservation to the public through visual art. Paint the Shore welcomes artists to conserved land, highlighting both the art of plein air painting and the unique natural environment on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

In addition to professional artists, Paint the Shore will feature local student artwork. At the reception, artists and VES Land Trust staff will be present to talk more about the paintings, the plein air process, and more.



100 years ago
November 1926

Duck shooting begins

The sportsmen of the Eastern Shore and many from the northern cities and other places made a rush for the gunning grounds on both sides of the peninsula Monday, the first day of the open season for duck shooting.

Personal applications and applications by mail are flooding the Accomack and Northampton offices. It is estimated that more licenses will be issued this year than usual.

Workmen who frequent the gunning grounds report birds arriving in large quantities, and the prediction is that fine shooting may be expected on the opening day of the season.

Broadbills and black ducks are here, possibly in the largest number seen in the local marshes at this time of the year for several seasons. Many of the local gunners are expecting well-filled bags.

It is reported that the local "Duck Shooters" and the "Off Shore Sportsmen" who regularly visit the marshes during the open season of November, December, and January have made reservations for the entire season with the guides on both the seaside and bayside, but a few open dates remain unfilled with the better equipped guides.

— The News and Advance

Chincoteague water supply to be ready in 60 days

With 14 2-inch wells and one 6-inch well already driven on the mainland opposite the island and a pipe line 4.5 miles over marsh land and creeks running from the wells to the island, Chincoteague will soon have ample pure water supply from its 1,000,000 gallon capacity storage tank and a pumping capacity of 200 gallons per minute.

The island town now has a population of around 5,000 and has always had trouble in securing an adequate water supply free from brackishness and contamination, with rain water being the only source of supply for home consumption.

The plant is expected to be in operation in about 60 days. It is said to be one of the greatest forward steps ever undertaken by Chincoteague people.

— Ledger-Star

Terrapins sold to city clubs

There will be terrapin in Baltimore Thanksgiving Day! Many have been shipped to clubs there from Onancock. The prices prove that this delicacy is not extinct in the Chesapeake Bay. Terrapins measuring 7 inches are being sold at $72 per dozen, 6-inch terrapins for $50, 5.5-inch for $30, and 5-inch for $20.

Last week, Harvey C. Mears shipped from his terrapin farm near Onancock more than four barrels of about 15 dozen each. They went to New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore clubs for the Thanksgiving menus. They were worth about $900 per barrel.

Mears embarked in the raising of terrapin for club consumption about 22 years ago. The terrapin requires about 15 years to mature to market size.

There are two requisites to the growing of terrapin. The first is a pound large enough to give them both land and water; the second, get the terrapin. This is all. For food, they will eat crab shells and table refuse. The pen need be no more than 100 feet square for each 1,000 adult terrapin or 2,000 young ones. Then time is marked until the first shipment is made.

— Ledger-Star

Sets new record for hog raising

Keeping pace with the productiveness of the Eastern Shore of Virginia and breaking all previous records for hog raising, Captain T. Somers, of Bloxom, killed a Poland-China hog this past weekend that tipped the scales at 1,157 ½ pounds after it was dressed.

The hog was three years old and measured 8 feet, six inches from nose to tail. For feed, Captain Somers used middlings, meal, and corn, and the feeding took place twice a day. During the last week of the pig's earthly career, three feeds or more a day were given, depending on the animal's appetite and mood.

— Culpeper Star-Exponent

75 years ago
November 1951

75-foot yacht runs aground off Cape Charles

Damage to the Voyager II, the yacht that went aground near Cape Charles last night with six people aboard, today was estimated at about $40,000. The six people aboard the boat were rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard and were being brought to Norfolk.

The yacht, which normally draws about 9 feet of water, was hard aground in two feet of water, the Coast Guard reported, and was practically a total loss.

A lifeboat crew from Cobb Island Life Boat Station removed the six people.

The Voyager II, owned by Frederick Ferris, of Morristown, N.J., is a 75-foot vessel. She was reported to be having engine trouble at the time of the grounding.

—The PortsmouthStar

New court action on loss of sheep on Chincoteague

A Chincoteague couple yesterday renewed their court battle to obtain damages of $8,500 in the death of 400 sheep on Wallops Island.

Elton Bowden and Loretta Amanda Bowden, the plaintiffs, appealed a judgment entered in U.S. District Court in Norfolk on Oct. 28 dismissing the suit.

In the suit asking the valuation they placed on the herd, the Bowdens attributed the death of the sheep to the use of insecticide by the U.S. Navy. Former managers of the Wallops Island Club, the Bowdens were given the sheep by the club when the U.S. condemned the island early in 1947 for guided missile experiments.

While expressing sympathy for the plaintiffs, United States District Judge Robert N. Wilkin, a retired judge from Ohio who was presiding in Norfolk at the time of the trial, ruled that the death of the sheep was due to the negligence of the owners in not removing them from the island.

— The Virginian-Pilot

Temperanceville post office case defendant held

Theodore "Peaches" Myrick, 20, of Miami, Fla., was brought to Norfolk yesterday from Miami on a removal order to face Federal Court action on a charge of burglary of the Temperanceville Post Office in Accomack County.

There are three other defendants in the case — John D. Wade, Robert W. Fowler, and John W. Williams. Fowler now is in custody in New York. The other two men have not been apprehended.

(Continued on page 22)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 21)

The men, who worked as migrant laborers in Accomack County, are alleged to have broken into a side window of the post office on the night of July 15 and removed a safe. It contained $191 in cash, $200 worth of stamps, and United States savings bonds valued at $1,800.

Myrick is confined in Norfolk City Jail in default of a $2,500 bond.

— *The Virginian-Pilot*

50 years ago
November 1976

‘Well, the water’s different. That’s all.’

There are dozens of communities like Willis Wharf on the Eastern Shore. Small, frame, bleached-white homes, immaculately kept and huddled against marsh-strewn creeks that lead eventually to the Chesapeake Bay or Atlantic Ocean.

Many of the men work on the water — oysters, clams, crabs, fish — and the women work at the chicken or vegetable processing plants, the shirt manufacturer, the local chain store, the restaurant, or at the Shore’s only hospital, which opened 48 years ago in Nassawadox.

There is probably a country store. The usual goods, simple things not worth traveling all the way to the shopping center to get. The watermen are often there when the wind blows sharp and cold out of the northeast and the water gets too rough to work.

They smoke and talk about another lost day on the water and look furtively toward pine trees bending in the wind.

Otho T. Outten glanced over the work boats, oyster shells, and marsh grass at Willis Wharf, and his gaze settled on a stack of worn-out crab pots.

He is a large man, well over 6 feet tall, and despite his 75 years readily explains that he is as strong as ever, though maybe a bit slower. “It’s strange how things come around,” Outten said, looking at the crab pots. “Here I am. Been on the water all my life. Been all the way to Gloucester, Mass., dragging for red fish, down to Hatteras and dredging for oysters, and now it’s back to where I started — piddling around with a few crab pots. I don’t go into it in a big way, just 80 pots and 20 to 25 baskets of crabs. I just use a little scow with an outboard. I keep it over on Hungars Creek on the bayside, where I grew up.”

Later, at Outten’s home on “the main lead” running out of Willis Wharf to Exmore, he talked about the Shore and about the fascination of the place.

“It’s a beautiful land,” he said. “It never stays the same long. Of course, when I came along, you never looked forward to going anywhere. Just to Cape Charles — it took all day. But people on the Shore never went nowhere. No reason to. Maybe an excursion on the steamer to Philadelphia or Baltimore.”

“The J.C. Walker Fish Co. made me captain of one of their pound fishing boats 48 years ago. Now it’s back to the beginning. I guess I’ve spent almost half of my life on the water waiting out the tide.

“I just loved the water all my life. It’s the kind of thing that gets in your blood. When you get away from it, it feels strange to you. I started sailing on the creek when I was just a kid. First boat I had was a little skiff with sails made out of fertilizer bags. My father had a sailing canoe we went fishing in. I watched how he sailed, how he set her into the wind and all, and that’s how I learned.

“Farming never did suit me. Just like the walk to school every morning. I left after the third grade. Seemed like you did a day’s work before the sun even came up. Feed the hogs and mules and then go to breakfast. It wasn’t even light yet and you’d worked a day without pay.”

Reminded that he had mentioned having to get up at 2 a.m. in his pound fishing days, Outten thought a moment, then said simply:

“Well, the water’s different. That’s all.”

— *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Virginia Shore meetings set on water controls

Federal laws are gradually tightening around the narrow strip of the Eastern Shore, encompassing the two Virginia counties of Accomack and Northampton.

The latest clamp has been applied by the State Water Control Board, which has officially designated the two counties as a “critical groundwater area.”

A public information meeting has been scheduled, and the water control board will spell out the details and restrictions imposed on both counties.

The Groundwater Act brings the two counties under the administration of the water control board in regard to water usage in an effort to prevent groundwater pollution. Standards for water wells have been set by the board, which will also evaluate industrial or commercial applications for water withdrawals. The new edict will give the board control of groundwater usage in the interest of ensuring a continuing water supply on the lower Shore.

The groundwater survey was first requested by Northampton County in 1974 when Brown and Root first completed its $5 million land purchase near Cape Charles.

However, the new designation of critical groundwater area is not expected to affect the Texas firm’s proposed facility there. Brown and Root has agreed to comply with the board and provide test wells under the guidelines set up by the board and to submit the results to the county planning office.

Accomack County views the news of the board designation of critical groundwater as unnecessary. Officials said that there has been no decline in groundwater noted in Accomack County, nor has any saltwater intrusion into the water supply been reported. The board of supervisors objected verbally and by written report to the water board, asking to be excluded from the critical designation, citing lack of evidence to justify being included with Northampton County in groundwater levels.

The county of Accomack is in the process of developing an industrial park to be located near Melfa. However, a spokesman for the park said that only light industry is being recruited that will not need the gallonage that would require a special permit from the water control board.

Accomack’s two largest water users are chicken processing plants. A geologist with the board told the county board that two wells have been drilled by the board, one each on the property of the two chicken processing plants. He said that the board has funding for eight more wells to be drilled on the Shore.

Under the Groundwater Act, existing groundwater users are exempted from board control by the grandfather clause. Agricultural use wells are also exempted from restriction.

However, the state has the authority to move in and take control of industries that are using water from underground resources if the industry fails to file a groundwater claim within a limited period required by the board.

— *The Daily Times*

(Continued on page 23)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 22)

25 years ago
November 2001

Town still helping out NYC

Messages from the hearts of islanders will head to New York City and Washington, D.C., in the near future, according to Therese Hamilton, director of The Chincoteague Center.

Oversized "community cards" have been collecting signatures at the town office and The Chincoteague Center since shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

More than 1,000 people have signed the cards, many including personal messages of encouragement to citizens, officials, and relief workers in New York and Washington, D.C.

The last blank spaces on the cards were filled last Tuesday as voters headed to polls at the center.

"It was just thrilling to see the people come in and sign the cards first, then go and vote," Hamilton said. "It was a good comment on patriotism."

The cards will accompany disaster relief funds collected by the town, she said. The funds, including $950 collected during the center's recent Community Hope event, are set to be mailed in December.

Meanwhile, the town continues to collect donations for the fund.

Disaster relief collection boxes have been placed at several island restaurants and convenience markets, as well as at F&M Bank. Donations may also be brought to the town office or mailed to Chincoteague Town Office, Disaster Relief Fund, 6150 Community Drive, Chincoteague, VA 23336.

— *The Daily Times*

A day to pause and give thanks

It takes a lot of love and patience — and lots of clothes, groceries, and a really big van — to be parents of 16 orphaned Russian children.

Mike and Meg King acknowledge it's a busy life, with grocery bills exceeding $700 a month and endless laundry.

And there are the awkward moments — like the wide-eyed stares and the time a Wendy's worker asked Meg over a drive-thru speaker whether she *really* wanted 16 milkshakes.

But the Kings say there is also a lot of joy in watching the children grow up in a country full of opportunity.

The Kings recently moved from Richmond to their Eastern Shore summer home largely because of the educational opportunities. Thirteen of the children attend Broadwater Academy while the other three receive day care in Accomac.

Though the school day gives Meg some respite, it's usually the time when she washes clothes, buys groceries, and makes dinner. She says the routine begins at 6 a.m. and ends after the 11 p.m. news.

However, today's schedule will be slightly different because Thanksgiving marks the anniversary of the Kings' first adoptions in 1993, the twins Mary Catherine and Molly, 9. The adoptions have continued through this year with Mark, 7, and Mariah, 4.

"People always say the children are so lucky, that they are so blessed," Meg said. "But it's really the other way around."

On a recent visit, Meg and Mike, an insurance salesman who commutes to Richmond, talked about love and schedules and Russia. Meg said the children come from 13 different time zones across Russia.

They started adopting children when Meg went to Russia on a teacher-exchange program that she said "changed her life."

While there, she learned that Russian orphans do not attend schools because, without a family, they are considered handicapped.

The Kings' orderly lifestyle is apparent in their daily routine. Olivia, one of the older children, makes 16 lunches every day while the others bathe and dress the younger children.

The evenings are filled with homework, dinner, and other activities. On some nights, the family goes to Market Street United Methodist Church for services.

"Our mission is to give these children a family, an education, love, security, and the freedoms America has," Meg said. "You don't realize what a wonderful country this is until you travel somewhere else."

— *The Daily Times*

Students building dreams

Afternoons behind the Center for Careers and Technology at Northampton High School resonate with the sound of nails being hammered. The smell of sawed timber lingers as students in the building trades class eagerly work on the Habitat for Humanity house. For them, the afternoons aren't long enough.

Often, students start before the period begins. They come to the site right after lunch and get straight to work, according to Jon Mindurski, building trades instructor.

There are 12 students working on the project, all of whom are seniors in the building trades program who have completed preliminary building courses.

The project is a unique partnership in which the Eastern Shore Habitat for Humanity funds construction and students build the home on two steel beams at the school. It will later be moved to a foundation on a yet-to-be-named property. The students hope to get the house closed in by the end of the semester.

"It's great. I get to do what I like doing, and I get to teach these guys. They're really a lot of fun to work with," said Mindurski, whom the students refer to as "Durk."

According to Mindurski, the building inspector makes visits to the site to check on the project, and Habitat sends representatives to check on the progress about once a week.

"We're a little ahead of schedule so far," said Mindurski.

The project helps the students learn the necessary career building skills to obtain jobs after the completion of their education. And, as some students have discovered, it teaches them another lesson that can't be found in a book.

"I like building the house. It's good for people to learn on," said Luke Carpenter, one of the seniors working on the project.

"It's good experience for us to help someone who needs this house. It makes us work harder on it," said Keyon Wiggins, another senior involved in the construction.

"They're really proud of their work," said Mindurski.

According to Mindurski, his other classes act as precursors for projects like this one. The school's first building class constructs sheds, while the second class focuses on masonry.

Although Habitat is funding the construction project, it is not able to fund everything needed to complete the home.

But according to Mindurski, Dick Foster of Baymark Construction "has offered to help any way he can."

Next semester, Thomas Jones' electricity and plumbing class will be wiring and installing the plumbing during the winter and spring months.

— *The Daily Times*



Seaside Woodlands: 21.42 acres of indigenous woodlands lay off a private road, close enough to the sea to smell and feel the breezes. Surrounded by cultivated fields, the county boat ramp and dock on Parkers Creek is less than a mile away. This dock is easily navigable to the Virginia Inside Passageway, barrier island, and the Atlantic. Very private indeed. **$199,000**



Island Life Double Opportunituy: This cleverly appointed duplex is posted as an active Airbnb. Each duplex has 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, dining, sitting room with a spacious deck and fenced-in front grounds, super for pets. You only need to bring your provisions; it is turn-key with bookings in place. Located on Tangier Island. **$140,000**



Maple Wood Premiere: 1700s-1920. Refreshed and restored, historical 1843 sq' home located in Pungoteague, that has a rich history dating back to Native American inhabitants., The home sits on an elevated site. 3/4 acres. 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths an eat-in kitchen, a utility room, a deck, and a detached two-car garage. New everything, roof, plumbing, split system heat & air, electric, etc. Bright and spacious. **$279,000**



Clustered Neighborhood in the countryside: Completely renovated–from foundation, flooring, windows, and heat–this 995 sq' home is well designed with 3 bedrooms, a sitting room, an eat-in kitchen, a full bath, a utility room, and a deck overlooking the countryside, plus a sturdy shed. The homes in this cluster are well-maintained, offering just enough neighbors without crowds. Move-in ready. **$135,000**



Located approximately 5 miles outside the town limits of Onancock in the small village of Southside Chessconessex. 1/2 acre corner lot with 4 bedroom septic and well already installed. Public boat ramp is just a stone's throw away. Bring your building plans and your boat - the Chesapeake Bay waters are just around the corner. **$57,500**



Nancock Gardens: Close by is the town of Onancock, no town tax here. Well-maintained 2 bedroom, 2 baths, family room, dining room and sitting room too. Attached one-car garage and two garden sheds. Lovely views of surrounding farms. **$225,000**



Spring Hill: Our county records indicate the combined parcel's acreage is 13.02. Excellent elevations. Mature indigenous trees of every description with afternoon sun striking the sleepy forest floor like tiny, rousing spotlights. This suggests a family estate, evoking Shinrin-Yoku, the Japanese wellness practice of forest bathing. **$100,000**



Village of Bloxom conveys this multi-generational property. Built in the late 50s, it has been completely renovated while preserving its charming features. There are 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, an eat-in kitchen, an enclosed porch, and a sitting room. Renovated She-Shed. Location is convenient to life's necessities. New baths, new roof, heat & air systems, and hot water on demand, too. Double-car detached garage. Property is surveyed. **$298,000**

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Explore the Possibilities

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