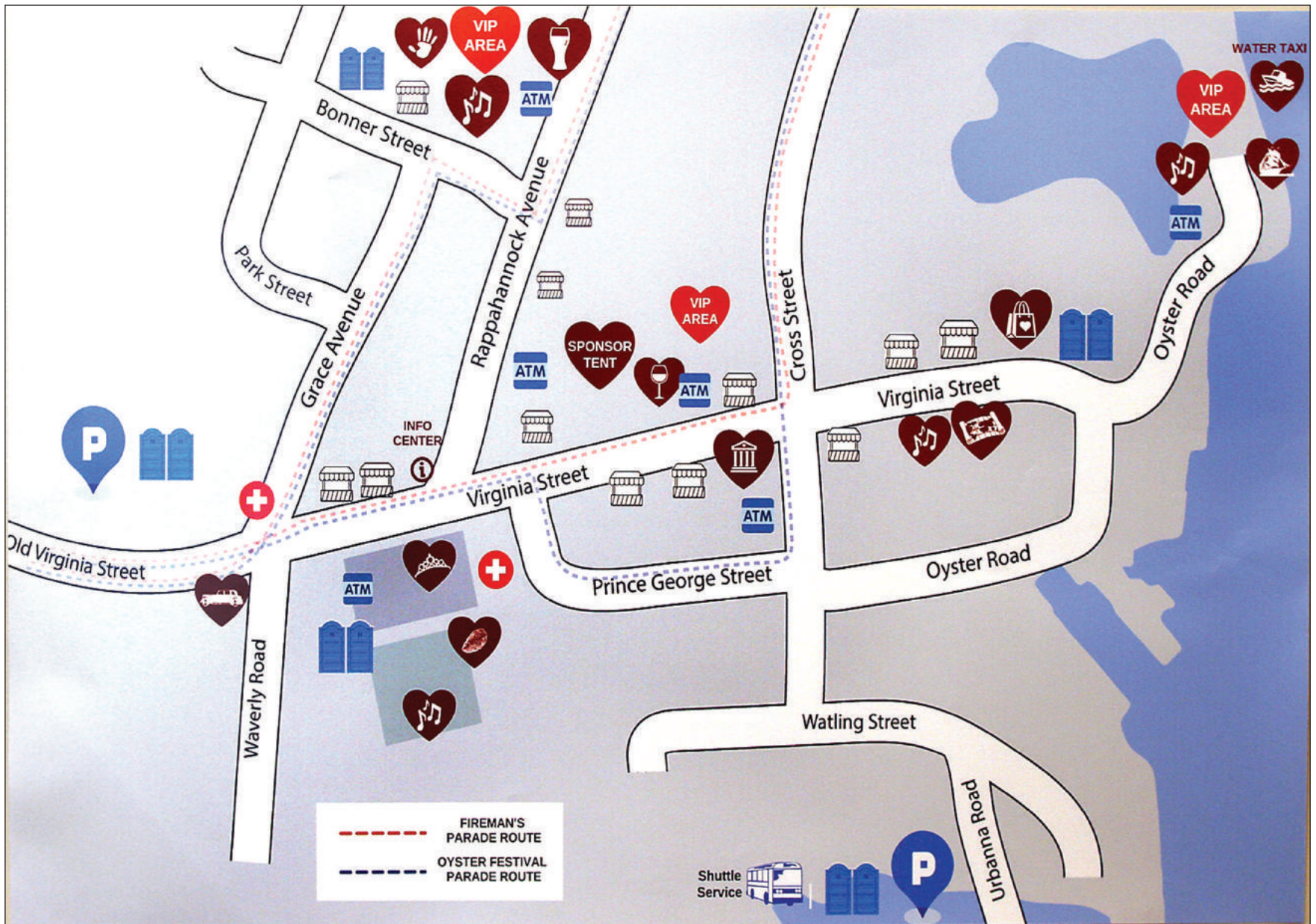


Welcome to the 64th annual
Urbanna Oyster Festival



2021 Supplement
to the
Southside Sentinel




ON THE COVER: Ms. Oyster, Jamaica shucking sensation, expected to return

Virginia State Oyster Shucking Champion Deborah Pratt, far left, of Jamaica in Middlesex County, won last year's Urbanna Oyster Festival shucking competition. She poses with, continuing from left, Urbanna Oyster Festival mascot Ms. Oyster

and 2020 men's division winner Robert Minor of Mathews. In the background are people modeling the 2020 Urbanna Oyster Festival T-shirts. Some were volunteers who ran the shucking contest. Due to COVID-19 concerns, last year's shucking

competition was presented as an online, rather than in-person, event. This year, however, things are back to normal and great fun is on tap. See *related stories, page 8*.

(Photo by Tom Chillemi)



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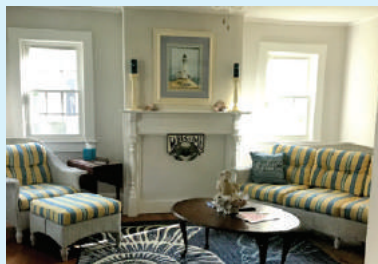
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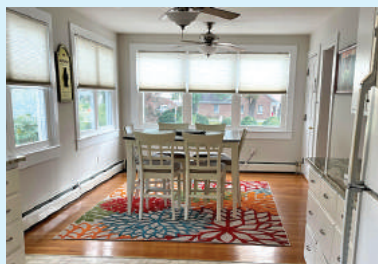
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Welcome to the 64th Urbanna Oyster Festival

by Tom Chillemi

When leaves change color and the air is crisp, it's time for the Urbanna Oyster Festival — Virginia's official Oyster Festival!

The 64th Urbanna Oyster

Festival is set for Friday and Saturday, Nov. 5 and 6, and once again the event promises good times, delicious food, two parades, live music on three stages, historic buyboats, crowning of the Oyster Festival Queen and Little Miss Spat, the Virginia Oyster Shucking Contest and more.



This year's festival marks its return to its full, traditional, in-person format, after using a scaled-back, mostly online format last year in response to COVID-19 concerns.

However, this year, streets of Urbanna will again be lined with food vendors vying for the palates of thousands of visitors. Oysters, prepared with flair, will be everywhere — raw on the half shell, roasted, fried, warmed in stews and sandwiched as fritters. But, save room for dessert. How about a funnel cake, a festival favorite?

In addition, visitors can enjoy crab soup, crab bisque, seafood chowder, clams, crab cakes, shrimp, fish, corn dogs, sausages, hamburgers, hot dogs, turkey legs, roast beef, kettle corn, roasted nuts, ice cream, cotton candy, snow cones, candy apples and many other goodies.

As always, the Kiwanis Club of Middlesex will offer its raw and roasted oysters, the Woman's Club will dip up its famous crab bisque and the Middlesex Lions Club returns this year with its mouth-watering oyster fritters.

After you've eaten your fill, take a rest at one of the three music stages for some continuous live music.

Then stroll down to the Urbanna Town Marina at Upton's Point to see and tour restored oyster buyboats and

the schooner "Lynx," a replica of an American privateer.

At the waterfront visitors can try the hands-on oyster exhibits, touch tank ecosystem and enjoy the music and displays.

Walking will help work up an appetite. So, mosey back up town to Festival Village, get a snack. If it's Friday, get a seat for the crowning of the Urbanna Oyster Festival Queen and Little Miss Spat at 1 p.m. inside the Urbanna firehouse. This year, the four Queen contestants and four Little Miss Spat contestants raised more than \$19,998 and contributed more than 496 hours of community service.

Stick around on Friday for the Fireman's Parade at 7 p.m. It's just the first of two parades. The Fireman's Dance featuring the top 40 sounds of the Janitors band follows Friday's parade at 8 p.m.

Again this year, antique and classic vehicles will be on display at the corner of Waverly and Virginia streets, across from the Urbanna firehouse, on Saturday, Nov. 6, starting at 9 a.m.

On Saturday, the Virginia Oyster Shucking Championship is at 11 a.m. behind the firehouse. If you've ever tried to open an oyster, you'll marvel at the speed and dexterity as professional contestants shuck two dozen oysters in less than 3 minutes. You'll also enjoy watching the amateurs wrestle with opening the tight bivalves.

On Saturday at 2 p.m., the popular Urbanna Oyster Festival Parade with more than 50 entries winds its way

through town on a route that bypasses the main part of Virginia Street.

Community Row, featuring local vendors, will be on one side of Virginia Street on the way to the waterfront.

On Saturday only, six shuttles will transport senior and handicapped persons across the bridge to and from parking areas on the Rosegill (east) side of town. The shuttle runs from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The fee is \$2 per person each way with proceeds benefiting the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department of Urbanna.

A variety of entertainment has been booked for the Urbanna Oyster Festival's three stages and on the porch of the Old Tobacco Warehouse on both Friday and Saturday. See pages 12-13 for a full entertainment schedule.

The festival runs from 10 a.m.-midnight on Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday.

Official Oyster Festival parking prices on both sides of town will be \$20 on Friday and Saturday. A portion of the parking fees offset Oyster Festival expenses and contribute to Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation programs and its promotion of the festival. Since 1991, the foundation has sponsored the festival.

There are a number of smaller parking lots in town that will be available Friday and until 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Vehicles will be restricted from entering or leaving town between 6-8 p.m. on Friday.

Cars parked in town on Saturday will not be able to leave until the roads are re-opened at about 8 p.m.

Handicapped parking is on the west side of town and will be at the corner of Virginia Street and Red Hill Drive. It is operated by the K-9 Alert Search and Rescue Dogs, which benefits from the parking fees. Follow the signs.

Come early, stay late and wear walking shoes, because there's lots to see, hear and do at the Oyster Festival. It's all happening only in Urbanna, as it has since 1957.

For information, visit www.urbannaoysterfestival.com.

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Four high school seniors seek title of Urbanna Oyster Festival Queen



Kaydence Congleton and Faith Whitaker



Madysen Davis and Emalynn Norwood



Haylie Foster and Piper Anderson



Kendall Lucas and Caroline Entsminger

The 2021 Oyster Festival Queen and Little Miss Spat will be crowned Friday, Nov. 5, at 1 p.m. inside the Urbanna firehouse at 335 Virginia St. This year, the four Queen contestants

and four Little Miss Spat contestants raised more than \$19,998 and contributed more than 496 hours of community

(See Queen, Page 7)

Oyster Festival Queens from yesteryear listed

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1960 – Jean Stone | 1990 – Stephanie Henley |
| 1961 – Tommy Lou Cusimano | 1991 – Genessa Dail |
| 1962 – Mary Kay Mercer | 1992 – Tammy Lynn Jackson |
| 1963 – Chalie Pierce | 1993 – Jennifer Wright |
| 1964 – Sandra Ward | 1994 – Addie Rowson-Hall |
| 1965 – Frances Marie Hall | 1995 – Katie Rothery |
| 1966 – Barbara Davis | 1996 – Jenny Walters |
| 1967 – Julie Marshall | 1997 – LaNae Briggs |
| 1967 – Joyce Bowen | 1998 – Crystle Felthouse |
| 1968 – Patrice Thrift | 1999 – Hannah Chowning |
| 1969 – Sheila Moore | 2000 – Ashley Rowe |
| 1970 – Debra Marshall | 2001 – Kelly Proctor |
| 1971 – Susan Harrow | 2002 – Casey Haynes |
| 1972 – Sandra Hogge | 2003 – Lily Smith |
| 1973 – Carolyn Norton | 2004 – Brittany Jones |
| 1974 – Sharon Harrow | 2005 – Charlee Eades |
| 1975 – Susan Crittenden | 2006 – Kenleighe Longest |
| 1976 – Kathy Redmon | 2007 – Maggie Ballantyne |
| 1977 – Shannon Warren | 2008 – Ashley Figg |
| 1978 – Leslie Pugh | 2009 – Kendall McNamee |
| 1979 – Diana Durham | 2010 – Lauren Figg |
| 1980 – Tammy Jackson | 2011 – Allison Crittenden |
| 1981 – Michele Mankowski | 2012 – Allison Payne |
| 1982 – Tara Fuccella | 2013 – Leigh Harrow |
| 1983 – Sandra Brahn | 2014 – Angel Abbott |
| 1984 – Noele Mankowski | 2015 – Austen-Taylor Dozier |
| 1985 – Kelly McMurtrie | 2016 – Hailey Walton |
| 1986 – Sara Townsend | 2017 – Haley Revere |
| 1987 – Gloria Mercer | 2018 – Elizabeth Wilding |
| 1988 – Lisa Handley | 2019 – Marissa Halbig |
| 1989 – Connie Wright | 2020 – Katie Brooke |

(Photos by Don Richeson)

Oyster Festival Little Miss Spats from yesteryear listed

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1966 – Marie Barrett | 1977 – Carrie Randall | 1988 – Heather Wilson | 1999 – Christine Rodgers | 2010 – Emma Fairheart |
| 1967 – Karen Strickland | 1978 – Margaret Montgomery | 1989 – Jennifer Reardon | 2000 – Allison Crittenden | 2011 – Abigail Smiley |
| 1968 – Emma Jean Williams | 1979 – Wendy Coulson | 1990 – Sharon Carole White | 2001 – Sarah Grace Hurley | 2012 – Bailey Fairheart |
| 1969 – Gwendolyn Major | 1980 – Jennifer Jenkins | 1991 – Jamie Mears | 2002 – Sarah Goodrich | 2013 – Anna Carey |
| 1970 – Stacey Green | 1981 – Kate Gaskins | 1992 – Blair Rainier | 2003 – Lauren Bleeker | 2014 – Kallie Robins |
| 1971 – Linda Linthicum | 1982 – Farrah Schultz | 1993 – Patricia Tanksley | 2004 – Maggie Bull | 2015 – Rori Stuart |
| 1972 – Janna Fuccella | 1983 – Brooke Ailsworth | 1994 – Kimberly Hayes | 2005 – Hailey Walton | 2016 – Hannah Lambert |
| 1973 – Stephanie Brill | 1984 – McKann Folliard | 1995 – Abby Rose Cosimini | 2006 – Emilie Smith | 2017 – Bailey Pullman |
| 1974 – Wendy Burch | 1985 – Catherine Woodard | 1996 – Elly Montague | 2007 – Sarah Walton | 2018 – Nadya Crader |
| 1975 – Cathy Kirby | 1986 – Shannon Russell | 1997 – Kristin Jessie | 2008 – Hope Britton | 2019 – Adalyn Parsley |
| 1976 – Allison Hight | 1987 – Lisa Boone | 1998 – Maggie Hall | 2009 – Katie Brooke | 2020 – Caroline Ward |

Queen . . .

(Continued from page 6)

service for the betterment of this community.

As the Oyster Festival has evolved over the years, so has the selection of the Queen and Little Miss Spat (a spat is a baby oyster). What was once a beauty pageant is now a scholarship-based competition for the Queens. The Queen contestants must be high school seniors and residents of Middlesex County. Each Queen contestant mentors a first-grade contestant as her Little Miss Spat.

The Queen and Little Miss Spat competition starts early in the spring and extends until the crowning. The 2021 Queen contestants and their Little Miss Spat contestants include Kaydence Congleton and Faith Whitaker; Madysen Davis and Emalynn Norwood; Haylie Foster and Piper Anderson; Kendall Lucas and Caroline Entsminger

The Queen contestants are judged in five areas: individual community service project, individual judges' interview, academic achievement, a spontaneously written response to a random question, and overall participation in the competition.

The Little Miss Spat contestants are judged separately from the Queens in the following areas: participation at an ice cream social and a tea party, individual judges' interview, and overall participation.

The foundation of this competition is character building and community service. Each Queen contestant must volunteer a minimum of 25 hours benefiting Middlesex County.

Scholarships for the Queen contestants have been made possible by the generosity of local businesses. Queen sponsors are Bethpage Camp-Resort, C&F Bank, Dr. C. Ben Lennon, Faulkner Funeral Homes Bristow-Faulkner Chapel-Saluda, Ferguson Oyster Company Retail Seafood Market, Grey's Point Camp, Jason and Emilie Rowe, J&W Seafood, Riverside Walter Reed Hospital, Rosegill Development LLC, Primis Bank, Thurston Properties, Thurston Spring Service, Towne Insurance, River Wood Works, and Ryman's A/C & Heating.

Sponsors for the Little Miss Spat competition are River Birch Nursery, Unique Golf Carts, and Massey Urbanna Builders' Supply.



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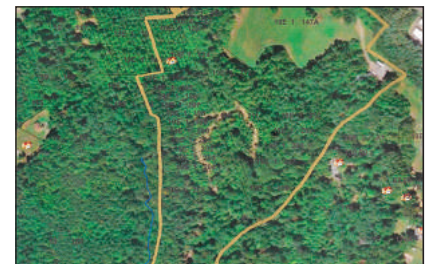
PIANKATANK RIVER - Hartfield - 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with wide river views of the Piankatank River. Living room with fireplace, eat-in kitchen. Nice waterfront deck. Lots of space for addition! 2.16 ac with appx. 200' frontage on the river. **\$449,000**

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Oyster Shucking Contest is at the firehouse



The Urbanna Oyster Festival Oyster Shucking Competition involves both amateurs and pros and always attracts a large audience behind the Urbanna firehouse.

(Photo by Tom Chillemi)

The Virginia Oyster Shucking Contest, sponsored by Rappahannock Oyster Company, will start at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6, behind the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department firehouse at 335 Virginia St.

Since Urbanna is the home of Virginia's "official" Oyster Festival, it is only appropriate that some of the best oyster shuckers in the world practice their trade near the town. The top professional shucker in the contest wins \$300. The first place prize in each of the men's and women's divisions is \$100; second, \$50; and third, \$25.

The winner is declared state champion and

advances to compete in the National Oyster Shucking Contest in St. Mary's County, Md., in October 2022.

Expected to compete are former national women's oyster shucking champions Clementine Macon and Deborah Pratt of Jamaica in upper Middlesex. Pratt, the current state champion, is a six-time national oyster shucking champion.

There will be an amateur shucking competition with a plaque for the winner, and an official Oyster Festival poster for second and third place finishers. Registration begins at 9 a.m. behind the firehouse.



The Virginia Oyster Shucking Contest, sponsored by Rappahannock Oyster Company, is always a popular event. It will start at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6, behind the firehouse. There will be professional and amateur divisions. Registration begins at 9 a.m. behind the firehouse.

(Photo by Tom Chillemi)

Shucking sensation Pratt won last year, expected back

Deborah Pratt of Jamaica won yet another Virginia State Oyster Shucking Championship last year. Pratt prevailed against men's division winner Robert Minor of Mathews in the Oct. 31, 2020 competition in

Urbanna.

Pratt claimed the title by shucking 24 oysters with a time of 3:34 minutes to Minor's 4:04.

Pratt has won numerous Virginia State Oyster Shucking Championships and been

featured in tourism media posters. She also once finished second in the world oyster shucking competition in Ireland.

Carla Rudolph of Hayes was only other shucker competing in the women's division in Urbanna last year and she finished four seconds behind Pratt with a "corrected" time of 4:41 to Pratt's 4:37. The corrected time is determined by evaluating how cleanly the oysters are shucked. For example, there are time penalties added if an oyster is not free from the shell, or there is a piece of shell in it. The judges were Keith Clark and Larry Shores Jr.

Five shuckers competed in the men's division in 2020. The finishing order, with corrected times, is as follows:

- First, Robert Minor, Mathews, 3:57.
- Second, Davila Redmond, Jamaica, Va., 4:24.
- Third, Joe McComas, Topping, 4:39.
- Fourth, Kasay Smith, Deltaville, 4:42.
- Fifth, Sam Davis, Urbanna, 5:09.

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Scholarship sponsors

Scholarships for the Queen contestants have been made possible by the generosity of local businesses. Queen sponsors are Bethpage Camp-Resort, C&F Bank, Dr. C. Ben Lennon, Faulkner Funeral Homes Bristow-Faulkner Chapel-Saluda, Ferguson Oyster Company Retail Seafood Market, Grey's Point Camp, Jason and Emilie Rowe, J&W Seafood, Riverside Walter Reed Hospital, Rosegill Development LLC, Primis Bank, Thurston

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Sponsors for the Little Miss Spat competition are River Birch Nursery, Florist & Gifts, Unique Golf Carts, and Massey Urbanna Builders' Supply.

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Meet the festival grand marshal

Hardin named grand marshal two years straight

by Larry Chowning

The Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation named former Southside Sentinel editor Tom Hardin of Saluda grand marshal of the Urbanna Oyster Festival in 2020.

Since the 63rd festival in 2020 was scaled down due to COVID-19 without a parade and other events, the foundation has decided to make Hardin the 63rd/64th oyster festival grand marshal.

“We selected Tom grand marshal for all the things he has done for our community — as editor of the Sentinel



in showcasing Urbanna and Middlesex County,” he said. “People who have never been to Middlesex before come to the festival, look around and say, ‘This is a place I’d like to live some day.’ It has been very good for the local economy.”

Hardin praised the foundation for establishing community row, the queen competition and providing an annual opportunity for non-profits to raise funds through their food booths.

Community row

The festival grew out of Urbanna Days that was started in 1958. Urbanna Days was created to showcase the town’s businesses and to give church groups, Boy Scouts (now called Scouts BSA), nonprofit organizations and local artists and craftsmen an opportunity to participate in fundraising events.

As the festival grew and vendor fees kept going up, the creation of community row in 1999 was an effort by the foundation to make sure local artists, craftsmen and nonprofit organizations could continue to afford to be apart of the festival.

“Bev has sold her jewelry on community row for 15 years and the festival is her best event of the year,” he said. “There are many small nonprofits that have booths on community row where they raise money or use the exposure to promote their cause,” said Hardin.

“I think part of the success of the festival has been that the foundation has never forgotten its roots,” he said. “It started as a local festival and community row is an effort to keep that part of the festival’s heritage alive.”

Queen Competition

Since before the oyster festival, Miss Middlesex and Miss Urbanna beauty contest competitions were offered in the county. Early on, the festival sponsored beauty pageants as part of the festival.

(See Marshal, Page 11)

Former Southside Sentinel editor Tom Hardin has been named grand marshal of the 63rd/64th Urbanna Oyster Festival. Due to the pandemic, the mostly online 63rd festival was scaled back and so the foundation decided to select Hardin again for this year (the 64th). He will ride in festival parades and participate in other 64th festival activities.

and all the things he has done as a person,” said Joe Heyman, co-chairman of the festival.

“As editor of the Sentinel, Tom was always there for the festival,” said Heyman. “Anything we needed we just called Tom and it happened. There was never any hesitation.

“We also wanted to honor him for all he has done for the community. Tom founded the Middlesex County Youth Basketball League in the 1970s and under his guidance that program provided so much positive interaction for so many youth of the county,” said Heyman. “We are extremely honored to name Tom our grand marshal.”

Fresh out of Hampden-Sydney College (near Farmville), Hardin moved to Middlesex in 1975 after marrying county native Bev Anderton. He brought with him a love of writing and of sports.

After short teaching stints at Christchurch School and

Middlesex High School, in 1976 he became the first full-time Sentinel reporter and was named managing editor in 1981.

“I have not missed an oyster festival since I moved to the county in 1975,” said Hardin. “It is an amazing event and a testimony to generations of dedicated volunteers who have put their hearts and souls into keeping it going.

“The one thing I’ve noticed every year about the festival is that everyone seems to be so happy,” he said. “It is a feel good event. It lifts everybody’s spirits.

“It’s like an annual homecoming when friends and families all come together and we all meet on the streets of Urbanna,” he said. “My children, Bailey and Molly, grew up with the festival and had their friends come. It is a day that is always marked on our calendar.

“I think the festival is a gift to the entire state of Virginia and it has played a major role

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Southside Sentinel President Fred Gaskins, right, presents a plaque to former Southside Sentinel editor Tom Hardin during his retirement luncheon. The Oct. 21 luncheon, which was delayed 18 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was at Piankatank River Golf Club in Hartfield. The plaque reads, "Presented in grateful appreciation to John Thomas 'Tom' Hardin. Reporter, Photographer, Managing Editor, Editor, Executive Editor, 1976-1981 (and) 1987-2020, by the Southside Sentinel, Urbanna, Virginia, March 27, 2020. You Made a Difference." (Photo by Tom Chillemi)



Former Southside Sentinel editor Tom Hardin, left, receives a gift six pack of Mountain Dew and a "IN CASE OF ACCIDENT, MY BLOOD TYPE IS Mtn Dew" T-shirt during his retirement luncheon. Presenting the gifts is Southside Sentinel President Fred Gaskins. Hardin was known for fueling his efforts as editor by drinking impressive quantities of the soda as he worked. (Photo by Tom Chillemi)

Marshal . . .

The Oyster Festival queen competition took on a new meaning in 1996 as contestants were judged on different criteria including community service. The name was changed to "Urbanna Oyster Festival Queen Scholarship" and some of the largest local scholarships are awarded to local college-bound students who go to become winners of the competition.

"I've been impressed with how the queen competition has become," said Hardin. "I'm amazed at how hard the girls work on their community service projects and how much money they take in to help charities. They

take in thousands of dollars for our community and it has become a very important part of the festival."

Volunteers

"The strength of the festival comes from foundation volunteers and the volunteers of all the nonprofit groups that participate in the festival," said Hardin.

"When I was at the Sentinel, the one thing I looked forward to every year was my Lions Club oyster fritter," he said. "Every year I covered some portion of

the festival and I loved to go stand in line, buy my fritter, come back to my office and eat my lunch. It was my personal festival tradition.

"It takes dedicated volunteers to run a food booth and dedicated volunteers to put on a festival," he said. "The Urbanna Oyster Festival is a symbol of what a strong volunteer commitment can accomplish."

Hardin said he was surprised when he was told he had been named festival grand marshal. "I have not been a volunteer in the festival and when I think of

all the people who have given countless hours to putting on the festival, I think some of them are more deserving than I.

"I do want to thank the foundation board for this

honor," he said.

Hardin and festival captains Chip and Jock Collamore are scheduled to ride in parades and participate in other festival events this year.

(Continued from page 10)



Tom Hardin, right, shares a moment at his retirement luncheon with his daughter, Bailey (Hardin) Carson. His wife, Bev Hardin, sells her jewelry creations at the Oyster Festival every year. (Photo by Tom Chillemi)

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2021 Urbanna Oyster Festival

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Festival Village	10 a.m. - noon	Nate Oyler (Americana)
Festival Village	12:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Sweet Justice Band (Classic Rock)
Firehouse	1 p.m.	Queen Crowning
Waterfront	10 - 11 a.m.	Stuck On A Name (Reggae)
	Noon-1 p.m.	Stuck On A Name (Reggae)
	2-3 p.m.	Stuck On A Name (Reggae)
Tobacco Warehouse	10-11 a.m.	Robert Keyes (Multi-faceted Solo Guitarist)
	Noon-1 p.m.	Robert Keyes (Multi-faceted Solo Guitarist)
	2-3 p.m.	Robert Keyes (Multi-faceted Solo Guitarist)
Children's Area	10 a.m.-noon	Jonathan Austin (Juggler/Magician)
	1-4 p.m.	Jonathan Austin (Juggler/Magician)
Fireman's Parade	7-8 p.m.	
Firehouse	8 p.m.-midnight	Janitors (Top 40)



Stuck On A Name



Sweet Justice



The Janitors



Nate Oyler

Val Entertainment Schedule

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Festival Village	10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Rip Tide Band (Southern/Classic Rock)
	1-5 p.m.	Rip Tide Band (Southern/Classic Rock)
Waterfront	10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	The Collectiv3 (Soul/R&B)
	2-5 p.m.	Nate Oyler & The Unknowns (Americana)
Tobacco Warehouse	9-10 a.m.	Robert Keyes (Multi-faceted Solo Guitarist)
	11 a.m.-noon	Robert Keyes (Multi-faceted Solo Guitarist)
	1-2 p.m.	Robert Keyes (Multi-faceted Solo Guitarist)
	3-4 p.m.	Robert Keyes (Multi-faceted Solo Guitarist)
Oyster Festival Parade	2-3 p.m.	



The Collectiv3



Rip Tide Band



Robert Keyes

Meet the Oyster Festival captains

Father-son duo fiberglass boat-building pioneers

by Larry Chowning

Pioneers in Virginia's fiberglass commercial boatbuilding industry, John (Chip) Collamore III and his son, John (Jock) Collamore IV, both of Deltaville, have been named captains of the 63rd/64th annual Urbanna Oyster Festival.

The Collamores were selected last year, the 63rd festival but due to COVID-19 and last year's limited festival activities, the foundation decided to make them Captains for the 63rd and 64th festivals.

The annual selection of captains is to honor and acknowledge Urbanna's and Middlesex County's long seafood and boatbuilding heritage.

When Chip and his wife,



Father-son boatbuilders John (Chip) Collamore III, left, and John (Jock) Collamore IV, both of Deltaville, have been named captains of the 63rd/64th annual Urbanna Oyster festivals. The Collamores were named captains of the 63rd festival but because it was scaled down due to COVID-19, the foundation has selected them to be captains of the 64th festival too. Along with grand marshal Tom Hardin the Collamores will be the first to be grand marshal and captains of the festival for two consecutive festivals. (Photo by Larry Chowning)

Susie Collamore, moved their family to Deltaville during the Christmas holiday of 1972 there were 21 active wooden boatbuilders in town. Deltaville was known as

the Boatbuilding Capital of Chesapeake Bay.

Chip came to Deltaville, from an apprenticeship in fiberglass boat construction with Bristol Yachts in Bristol, R.I., and Allen Vaitses of Mattapoisett, Mass., who wrote the book "Covering Wooden Boats with Fiberglass." The Collamores were contributors to the book.

While apprenticing in Rhode Island, Chip started thinking about starting his own business — but where? The cost of real estate and doing business in Rhode Island was expensive, so he started looking south. While at the Annapolis (Md.) Boat Show he met the late Carl Pederson, who at the time was building wooden boats in Deltaville.

Pederson knew where there was a piece of land in Deltaville for sale and "for the right price." Chip bought the land and during the Christmas season of 1972 he and Susie moved to Deltaville to oversee the construction of the shop and started Hulls Unlimited East-Inc. He started the business with orders for a 52-foot ketch and

a 60-foot motor yacht.

Chip's father, the late John (Pop) Collamore Jr., and his mother, the late Nancy Collamore, were living in Providence, R.I. The senior Collamore was general manager for a manufacturing firm when he decided to quit over union issues. In 1973, Chip's mother and father moved to Deltaville. Nancy took over as secretary of Hulls Unlimited-East and the father-son team started building boats together.

Although the Collamores started out building pleasure yachts they found it to be risky business, so they switched to building boats for commercial watermen. In partnership with Whitey Laurier of Glass Marine in Hayes, they built one of the first fiberglass classic Chesapeake Bay deadrise workboats in Virginia.

"We thought we could develop a product where we would build the 42-foot workboat hull out of glass and have wooden boatbuilders in Deltaville build and install decks and houses out of wood," said Chip. "That didn't work and the locals thought we would be out of business in six months. We lasted 26 years."

At first watermen wanted nothing to do with fiberglass. This led the Collamores to start looking at other styles of workboat platforms. The late naval architect Harry Bulifant encouraged them to try one of his designs that became known as the "Deltaville Garvey." The garvey is a very popular workboat design used by bay watermen to this day.

Along with the garvey, watermen, realizing the maintenance value of fiberglass verses wood in a boat, began placing orders for 42- to 50-foot fiberglass classic deadrise boats.

"We built boats, but we also built anything out of fiberglass we could sell," said Chip. The Collamores built tack boxes for horses, planters for commercial

(See Captains, Page 15)

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Captains . . .

greenhouses and a variety of elements used for shedding of soft-shell crabs and growing oysters.

Chip and Susie's children, Whitney and Jock Collamore, were given a taste of the business. "We encouraged the children to participate in building one boat to see if they had any interest in carrying on the business," said Chip. "When they both finished their projects and we asked about them taking over the business they both said, 'Hell no! There has got to be an easier way to make a living than this!'" Jock is now a police officer with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

The Collamores sold the Deltaville boat shop in 1998 and Chip retired from the business. Afterwards Chip took on some one-off projects and 13 years ago Jock talked his father into one last project.

Colonial Seaport Foundation

Colonial Seaport Foundation (CSF) was established in 2007 by Jock as a maritime educational group. "The purpose of

CSF is to preserve facets of America's colonial maritime heritage by providing historically-accurate information and education to the public," he said.

Chip joined the foundation to help rebuild and modify a 50-foot ketch (two-masted sailboat) into a replica of a 1788 Virginia sloop named Luna. The project is expected to be completed this year.

Luna will be home-based in the lower Chesapeake Bay. "What we are looking for are communities that have good waterfront, such as Urbanna, and where we can stay for a week or two to accommodate our educational programs and then move on to the next port," said Jock.

CSF has also been exploring possibilities of hauling commercial freight via sail to and from former colonial seaports. Jock noted that East Coast colonial seaports were a vital part of America's economic growth and heritage and visiting these communities will educate people of that heritage. It will also promote eco-friendly (low-carbon)

transportation.

The organization intends to use Luna to display and demonstrate the operation of the vessel, and display vintage equipment, tools, procedures, skills and lifestyles used or experienced within 17th and 18th century maritime communities.

The group's other areas of interest and expertise depicted in its reenactments and addressed in its educational programs

include life in coastal and maritime communities; life aboard a vessel of the period; common trades within the maritime community; and coastal transportation along the Atlantic Seaboard.

The actual construction of the Luna in Deltaville is currently being used as an education tool by Boy Scouts of America's Sea Scouts out of Mechanicsville who are helping with the construction process. "Sea Scouts have

(Continued from Page 14)

played a vital role in building the vessel and, at the same time, the boys are learning boatbuilding skills," said Jock.

Oyster Festival Chairman Joe Heyman said the Collamore Family played an important role in the development of the modern era of Middlesex County boatbuilding. He said, "The Oyster Festival Foundation is honored that they agreed to be captains of the festival!"

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Parades to be featured Friday and Saturday

The annual Fireman's Parade is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5, and the Urbanna Oyster Festival Parade is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6.

The Fireman's Parade will wind its way through town, while the Oyster Festival Parade will bypass the main part of Virginia Street. Both parades will assemble on the west side of town.

The route of the Fireman's Parade will be as follows: from the staging on the west side of town, east on Virginia Street, left on Grace Avenue, right on Bonner Street, left on Rappahannock Avenue, right on Marston Avenue, right on Cross Street, right on Virginia Street, and return to the staging area. The judges stand will be at the Urbanna Firehouse.

The Fireman's Parade will feature 60 fire and rescue units, beauty queens and dignitaries. It is sponsored by the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) of Urbanna.

The Fireman's dance follows the parade on the

firehouse grounds from 8 p.m.-midnight with the band "The Janitors" (beer garden gates open at noon on Friday). The dance is sponsored by Al Pugh Distributing with Budweiser, Bud Light, Michelob Ultra and Devils Backbone.

Saturday's Oyster Festival Parade will have about 35 units, leading off with the main sponsor, Quarles Petroleum. A special parade guest will be the Smokey Bear. About five or six high school bands will be marching in the parade.

The route of the Oyster Festival Parade is as follows: from the staging area on the west side of town, east on Virginia Street, left on Grace Avenue, right on Bonner Street, left on Rappahannock Avenue, right on Marston Avenue, right on Cross Street, right on Prince George Street, left on Virginia Street, and return to the staging area. The judges stand will be at Virginia Street and Rappahannock Avenue, which is also the location of the festival headquarters for the weekend.



Firefighters come to Urbanna from near and far to display all sorts of fire trucks in the Fireman's Parade (above) Friday. On Saturday, it's the Urbanna Oyster Festival Parade (below), which attracts an entertaining range of entries, sometimes even a trumpet-playing, rope-jumping unicyclist. (Photos by Larry Chowning)



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Bring your appetite -- food choices abound



Middlesex Lions Club members prepare some of their delicious oyster fritters at a previous Urbanna Oyster Festival. (Photo by Tom Chillemi)

Lions will again sell oyster fritters

Middlesex Lions Club members will be at the 64th Urbanna Oyster Festival Nov. 5 and 6, selling the Lions famous oyster fritters. Also, they will be selling crab cakes, drinks, and cotton candy. They will accept credit cards as well as cash for your purchases this year.

As you all know this is a big event and they are reaching out

to the public for volunteers to help during this event. They would appreciate any time you could offer.

All the proceeds that they make go back to the public for ones in need.

Call 804-384-6627 to volunteer or for details on what Lions members are doing.

The club's motto is "We serve."

More than 100 vendors will be open for business when the festival begins at 10 a.m. on Friday and goes until midnight with the dance at the Urbanna Firehouse, and on Saturday the festival runs from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Bring your appetite. An array of foods will be available from more than 30 food vendors. The honored oyster is always featured in a variety of presentations -- raw, roasted, fried, steamed and stewed. The famous Middlesex Lions Club oyster fritters return this year at their same location on Virginia Street at Rappahannock Avenue.

In addition, around town visitors can enjoy crab soup, crab bisque, seafood chowder, clams, crab cakes, shrimp,

fish, corn dogs, sausages, hamburgers, hot dogs, turkey legs, roast beef, funnel cakes, kettle corn, roasted nuts, ice cream, cotton candy, snow cones, candy apples and many other goodies.

In addition to great food and desserts, visitors will delight in

the variety of crafts available throughout town. Among the many offerings are stained glass, wood carvings, sculpture, pottery, dolls, brass, silver, leather goods and jewelry. Many craft vendors will be in Taber Park on Rappahannock Avenue at Festival Village

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64th Urbanna Oyster Festival
NOVEMBER 5 & 6, 2021

"Oysters on the Creek" Photo by Lajean Machen

Beautiful 2021 Urbanna Oyster Festival posters available

This year's official Urbanna Oyster Festival poster, "Oysters on the Creek," can be purchased for \$20 at the Oyster Festival information RV that will be on the corner of Virginia Street and Rappahannock Avenue. It can also be purchased by calling the festival office at 804-758-0368. Other official Oyster Festival souvenirs will be for sale under the tent near Primis Bank on Friday and Saturday. Free Oyster Festival programs will be distributed at parking areas and at the information center near Primis Bank. (Poster photo by Lajean Machen)

Kiwanis using optimum safeguards at oyster tent



Middlesex Kiwanis Club leaders have been busy planning for the Urbanna Oyster Festival. According to a Kiwanis spokesman, Kiwanis wants those who come to their tent to eat oysters (either raw or roasted) to experience a

redesigned process that will be as safe as possible.

"We all hope and pray that ... the threat of COVID-19 will have decreased, but Middlesex Kiwanis will be prepared to provide two things on Oyster Festival day —


optimum safeguards for the Kiwanis tent, and delicious Rappahannock oysters," the spokesman said.

For information, email Kiwanis Program Chairman Dana Burnett at dburnett@odu.edu.





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VIP treatment is sold out, but plan for 2022

The VIP Oyster Lovers Experience returns for its fourth year and has sold out for both days.

Included for VIPs are exclusive VIP tables and seating, support from a festival concierge to help navigate the event, private restroom facilities, bottled waters, discounts at local businesses from November 2021 to April 2022, VIP seating at

the Virginia Oyster Shucking Contest on Saturday, Nov. 6, a 2021 Urbanna Oyster Festival commemorative poster, six wine tastings, six beer tastings, six oyster tastings, and a gift "swag bag."

Plan ahead for 2022 and find VIP ticket information at urbannaoysterfestival.com.

VIPs must be 21 years or older to purchase a ticket. An ID will be required.



VIP Oyster Lovers Experience celebrants raise their wine glasses. (Photo by Tom Chillemi)

Festival parking, street closings info announced

On Friday, Nov. 5, the Oyster Festival begins at 10 a.m. and closes at midnight. On Saturday, Nov. 6, the festival runs from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Under the Oyster Festival plan, the town will be closed to motor vehicle traffic as a safety precaution on Friday from 6-8 p.m. for the Fireman's Parade, and on Saturday from about 9 a.m.-8 p.m. There will be no exceptions. Town residents and guests are urged to make their plans accordingly.

The town streets may also be closed to motor vehicles on Friday as pedestrian conditions dictate.

On Saturday only, six shuttles will transport senior and handicapped persons across the bridge to and from parking areas on the Rosegill (east) side of town. The shuttle runs from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The fee is \$2 per person each way with proceeds benefiting the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department of Urbanna.

Official Oyster Festival parking prices on both sides of town will be \$20 on Friday and Saturday. A portion of the parking fees offset Oyster Festival expenses and contribute to Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation programs and its promotion of the festival. Since 1991, the Foundation has sponsored the festival.

There are a number of smaller parking lots in town that will be available Friday and until 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Vehicles will be restricted from entering or leaving town starting between 6-8 p.m. on Friday.

Cars parked in town on Saturday will not be able to leave until the roads are re-opened at about 8 p.m.

Handicapped parking is on the west side of town and will be at the corner of Virginia Street and Red Hill Drive. It is operated by the K-9 Alert Search and Rescue Dogs, which benefits from the parking fees. Follow the signs.

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Magician/juggler Jonathan Austin will wow the crowd with his high energy and mesmerizing acts in the children's area on Friday from 10 a.m. to noon and again at 1 to 4 p.m. (Contributed)

Magician-Juggler Jonathan Austin to entertain kids

Wildlings Play Scapes will sponsor the children's activity area in Festival Village, where children ages 4-10 will get creative. Hands-on crafts available for children include paper bag puppets, foam animal hats, sand art, necklaces, face painting and many zoo animal themed crafts. "The students are excited to be part of providing this high-quality children's experience!" said a

festival spokesman.

Magician/juggler Jonathan Austin will wow the crowd with his high energy and mesmerizing acts in the children's area on Friday from 10 a.m. to noon and again at 1 to 4 p.m.

There will be carnival games provided by Adventure Family Amusements.

Make your way to this crafty area in Festival Village where it's all about kids!

Waterfront will be abuzz with activity

Two water taxis will operate from the Urbanna Town Marina on both Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. They will transport visitors to and from their boats anchored in the harbor. Boat tours of the creek also will be available.

The Urbanna Oyster Festival waterfront at the Urbanna Town Marina will showcase the area's varied history and emphasize the conservation and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

Since its days as a crucial colonial port, Urbanna's waterfront has always been an essential part of town life. In its recent past, its docks were filled with Chesapeake Bay buyboats and deadrise workboats as watermen bought and sold oysters and crabs they had harvested.

During the Oyster Festival, history comes alive at the waterfront. Festival-goers are welcome to board the Lynx, a replica of "an American privateer" sailing schooner that engaged British ships in the War of 1812 and was involved in one of the war's larger naval battles that occurred on the Rappahannock River.

Waterfront activities

The waterfront area of the



American privateer sailing schooner, The Lynx

festival provides opportunities for visitors to look at the beautiful Urbanna Town Marina and harbor, learn about the marine life of the Chesapeake Bay region, and listen to live music. Come to the waterfront to climb aboard a historic boat, examine marine creatures in touch tanks, and taste some local seafood.

Highlights for this year include:

- A replica of the American privateer Lynx will be open for tours. The original tall ship was

involved in the War of 1812.

- A variety of hands-on exhibits from the Watermen's Museum, the Fairfield Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and the Tidewater Soil & Conservation District.

- Music and refreshments.

Come to the waterfront to look, listen, and learn and you will love your time at the festival, said Waterfront Coordinator Kathy Swinehart.

On Thursday, Nov. 4, the Marine Science Legacy Program of the Oyster Festival Foundation hosts the Oyster Festival Education Day. This year the Education Day will take place under a big tent at Middlesex Elementary School.

Students from area schools will take their learning out of the classroom and have the opportunity to immerse themselves in hands-on activities that will nurture their understanding and respect for marine history and the environment.

The Oyster Festival Foundation is pleased to be able to bring exhibitors to the schoolchildren on Thursday to nurture an appreciation for the culture of the rivers and bay before setting up at the Urbanna Town Marina for Friday and Saturday, said Swinehart.




"Take a taste of Oyster Festival Home with you"

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The Urbanna Museum and Visitor's Center offers various interesting map exhibits.
(Photo by Larry Chowning)

Urbanna Museum offers interesting historical exhibits

The historic James Mills Scottish Factor Store (formerly called the Old Tobacco Warehouse), which houses the Urbanna Museum and Visitor's Center on Virginia Street just up the hill from Urbanna Creek, will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days of the Urbanna Oyster Festival. Robert Keyes, a multi-faceted solo finger-style guitarist, will perform on the front porch both days.

A museum exhibit, "Oyster is King," traces the influence of the oyster industry on the area.

Also on display is the rare 1755 John Mitchell Map, one of the earliest maps of the original 13 colonies. It was used to negotiate the treaties between Britain and the

United States that ended the Revolutionary War. The map was recently restored and fills an entire wall.

There will be a live and video presentation of the historic James Mills Scottish Factor Store and the Mitchell Map inside the museum.

The museum porch

overlooks "Community Row," sponsored by Primis Bank, which will be on Virginia Street between Cross Street and the waterfront. Community Row will feature crafts, demonstrations and exhibits from Middlesex artists and local non-profit groups.



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First responders available to help

The police headquarters will be at the intersection of Cross and Prince George streets in the parking lot behind Bay Design.

Emergency medical services will be covered by zones and stationed at the Urbanna firehouse on Virginia Street near Urbanna Market; Bonner Street and

Rappahannock Avenue near Festival Village; and the intersection of Virginia and Cross streets.

Lost and found will be at the Oyster Festival Information RV near Primis Bank.

For information, call the Oyster Festival Foundation at 804-758-0368 or visit urbannaoysterfestival.com.



Look for The Rivah Visitor's Guide
On newsstands now!

Southside Sentinel

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PUBLIC NOTICE 2021 OYSTER FESTIVAL STREET AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The Virginia Department of Transportation has approved the following 2021 Urbanna Oyster Festival Street and Parking Restrictions pursuant to a Resolution of the Urbanna Town Council:

Parking Restrictions

Parking restrictions will be in effect within the corporate limits of the Town of Urbanna between 2 a.m., Friday, November 5, 2021 and 11 p.m., Saturday, November 6, 2021 in order to ensure pedestrian safety, safe movement of police, fire and rescue vehicles as well as safe parade operations. Certain streets will be opened for parking earlier than 11 p.m. Saturday depending on the progress of cleanup crews.

No Parking areas will be designated as Tow Away Zones and towing will be at the owner's expense. The no parking-tow away zones for both sides of the streets in Urbanna include:

Urbanna Road from the bridge to the Watling St intersection. Watling St from its intersection with Urbanna Rd at the traffic triangle to Cross St. Cross St from its intersection with Watling St all the way past Marston Ave intersection. Prince George St from Cross St to Virginia St. Virginia St east from Waverly Rd to Oyster Rd. Marston Ave from Cross St to Rappahannock Ave. Rappahannock Ave south from the Marston Ave intersection to Virginia St. Marston Ave east from Cross St to first house on each side of street. Bonner St west from Rappahannock Ave to Linden Ave. Grace Avenue from Bonner St to Virginia St. Park St from Rappahannock Ave to Linden Ave. Upton Lane by the Post Office, Hilliard St, Rappahannock Ave, Cross St, Oyster Rd, Prince George St and Kent St in their entirety.

Parade Routes and Times

The Friday, November 5, 2021, Fireman's Parade will begin at 7 p.m. and commence east on Virginia Street from the area of the Urbanna Professional Center, left on Grace Street, right on Bonner Street, left on Rappahannock Avenue, right on Marston Avenue, right on Cross Street, right on Virginia Street to a disband area where the parade began. The Saturday, November 6, 2021, Oyster Festival Parade will begin at 2 p.m. and will commence east from the staging and formation area at the Waverly Commons Office Building on Virginia Street, left on Grace Street, right on Bonner Street, left on Rappahannock Avenue, right on Marston Avenue, right on Cross Street, right on Prince George Street, left on Virginia Street to the disband area where the parade began.

Urbanna Street Restrictions

Other Restrictions: On Friday, November 5, and Saturday, November 6, 2021, law enforcement authorities may close selected streets to routine traffic as crowd and public safety actions dictate.

Town Entrance Restrictions

Friday, November 5, 2021, vehicular traffic entering or leaving the Town will be prohibited beginning at 5 p.m. on the west side (Route 602) in the vicinity of Lord Mott Road and beginning at 6 p.m. on the east side (Route 227) in the vicinity of Rosegill for the Fireman's Parade. These Routes will be closed to all traffic attempting to enter the Town of Urbanna except to facilitate the movement of police and emergency vehicles. The Town of Urbanna will remain closed until 9 p.m. or later depending on pedestrian traffic.

Saturday, November 6, 2021, 9 a.m. or earlier if deemed necessary by law enforcement authorities, State Route 227 (Urbanna Road) will be closed in the vicinity of the Molly's Way, and State Route 602 (Virginia Street) will be closed in the vicinity of Red Hill Drive. These Routes will be closed to all traffic attempting to enter the Town of Urbanna except to facilitate the movement of police and emergency vehicles. The Town of Urbanna will remain closed until 8 p.m. or later depending on pedestrian traffic. At any time, law enforcement authorities may temporarily close the Town to routine traffic as crowd and public safety actions dictate.

Golf Carts are not allowed in the Festival Area



Antique cars return to Oyster Festival

An old tradition — an antique auto show — returns to the Urbanna Oyster Festival this year. Classic vehicles will be on display at the corner of Waverly Road and Virginia Street across from the Urbanna firehouse on Saturday, Nov.

5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This will be a “people’s choice” voting event. The winners in each class will be featured in Saturday’s Oyster Festival Parade.

The car show is sponsored by Ken Houtz Chevrolet-Buick.

Middlesex Woman’s Club raffling off quilt at fest

Again the Middlesex County Woman’s Club will raffle a beautiful quilt at the upcoming Urbanna Oyster Festival. The quilt is made of fabric given to the club by Jessie DeBusk. The pattern features sailboats and is named “Jessie’s Fleet.” Tickets are available from all members of the club or by calling Jean, 804-758-8417. The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday of the festival. You do not need to be present to win. (Contributed)

Wine, beer tasting offered at festival

Returning this year to the Urbanna Oyster Festival is wine tasting featuring Virginia wineries. The wine tasting area, courtesy of IsaBell K. Horsley Real Estate Ltd., will be on Virginia Street next to the post office from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on both festival days. There is a \$15 admission fee.

“Boutique” oyster tasting from Rappahannock Oyster Company of Topping will bring the flavor of its Merroir oyster-tasting room at Locklies Marina in Topping to the wine tasting. The taste of these aquaculture-raised specialty oysters varies from

heavy salt, sweet, and mildly salty, depending on where they were raised. Chefs will prepare the oysters, pairing them with local wines from Mattaponi Winery, Williamsburg Winery, Byrd Cellars and Zoll Vineyards.

The craft beer tasting event will be at the far end of Festival Village. Craft beers include Ardent, Blue Mountain, Bold Rock, Devils Backbone, Hardywood, New Realm, Port City and That Damn Mary.

The \$10 admission includes a souvenir and four tastings. Brewery reps will be on hand to answer questions.

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