# THE 66TH ANNUAL URBANNA OYSTER FESTIVAL

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS DE 3

OYSTER FESTIVAL QUEEN pg.6 SHUCKING CONTEST pg. 8 PARADE ROUTE pg. 3

2023 SUPPLEMENT TO THE Southside Sentinel



# Mason Realty, Inc. and URBANNA OYSTER FESTIVAL

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CEDAR POINTE - Urbanna - 2.24 beautifully wooded lot. 1.800 Central water/sewer. sqft minimum. Nearby access to community beach and boat ramp with small annual fee. NOW \$39,900 Zani Autry 804-512-8350 • zani@masonrealty.com



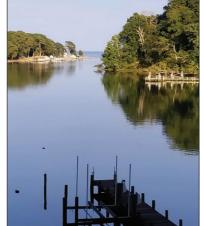
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HARTFIELD - Mariners Woods - New construction - 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, oversized garage/bonus room. 1.64 acres Community water access. \$495,000 RD Johnson 804-815-8320 rd@masonrealty.com



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TOWN OF URBANNA - Commercial Opportunity - 7,600 sqft building in the heart of Urbanna. Remodeled in 2012, new plumbing, electrical and HVAC. Original wood floors, tall ceilings, lots of character! Many different uses possible. Town water/sewer. Off street parking. Great for owner occupant and others. \$495,000 Eric Johnson 804-815-8374 eric@masonrealty.com



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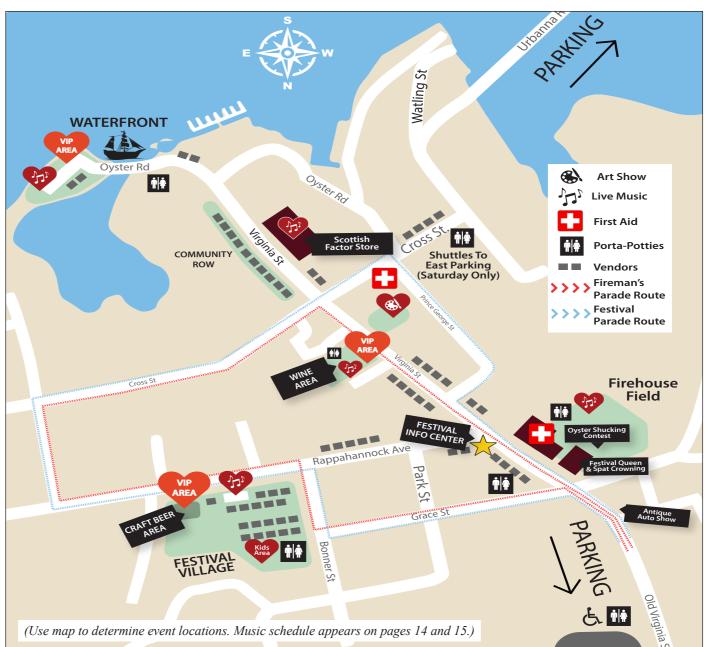


## **ON THE COVER:** 2023 UOF POSTER

This year's cover features elements of the 2023 officia Urbanna Oyster Festival (UOF) poster, which was created by Carol Lane Stephenson, of Sharps, VA. It was the winning submission in a UOF poster contest.

The poster can be purchased for \$20 at the Urbanna Oyster Festival information center RV that will be on the corner of Virginia Street and Rappahannock Avenue. It can also be purchased by calling the festival office at 804-758-2122 or through the UOF official souvenir partner Bayside Design Embroidery and Digitizing at https://www. baysidedesignemb.com/.

Other official Urbanna 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 the info center.



## **UOF Friday events include:**

- 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fine art show.
  11 a.m.-5 p.m. Craft beer tasting.
  11 a.m.-5 p.m. Virginia wine tasting.
- 4 p.m. Festival Queen and Spat crowning.
- 7 p.m. Fireman's Parade.
- 8 p.m. Fireman's Dance.

## **UOF Saturday events include:**

- 9 a.m. Antique auto show.
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Fine art show.
- 11 a.m. Virginia oyster shucking competition.
- 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Craft beer tasting.
  11 a.m.-5 p.m. Virginia wine tasting.
- p.m. Festival Parade.
- 3:30 p.m. NuCanoe raffle dr wing.



# Welcome to the 66th Urbanna Oyster Festival

#### by Tom Chillemi

The 66th Urbanna Oyster Festival is set for Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3 and 4, 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. Admission is free, however, parking is \$20.

See the special section in the Nov. 2 print edition of the Southside Sentinel and online at SSentinel.com for all the details on the 2023 Urbanna Oyster Festival.

#### Parades

The annual Fireman's Parade is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, and the Urbanna Oyster Festival Parade is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4.

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



#### Out of the past

This year, Urbanna's first fir truck, a 1941 Ford Oren, will open the parade by circulating alone on the parade route in a tribute to all first responders. This will be the first outing of the truck that has been revived recently after sitting idle for decades.

The Fireman's Dance follows the parade on the Urbanna firehouse grounds at 330 Virginia St. from 8 p.m.-midnight with the band "Exit 38" (beer garden gates open at noon on Friday). The dance is sponsored by Carts Inc. with Budweiser, Bud Light, Michelob Ultra and Devils Backbone beers being served.

Saturday's Oyster Festival Parade will have about 35 units, leading off with our honorees, grand marshal and captain, and queens and spats. And, about fi e or six high school bands will be marching in the parade.

#### Festival Queen

The 2023 Oyster Festival Queen and Little Miss Spat will

be crowned Friday, Nov. 3, at 4 p.m. inside the Urbanna fir house.

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 scholarshipbased 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 foundation of this competition is character building and community service. Each queen contestant must volunteer a minimum of 25 hours benefiting Middles x County.

The Queen and Little Miss Spat competition starts early in the spring and extends until the crowning.

This year there are just two queen hopefuls - Carina Bednarczyk and Sophia Koontz. Both are 16-year-old Hartfiel residents. Little Miss Spat co-contestants include, for Carina, 6-year-olds Lacey Paige Edwards of Saluda and Cayden Miller of Locust Hill; and for Sophia, 6-year-olds Caitlynn Brooke Epperly of Locust Hill and Margeaux Violet Page of Topping. Normally, there is a single Little Miss Spat hopeful paired with a Queen hopeful, but due to fewer Oueen contestants this year there are two Little Miss Spat hopefuls per queen.

This may be the first year since the competition's founding in 1960 there are only two queen contestants, according to Christy Hogge, who serves as a competition co-coordinator with Kristin Harris. She said originally there were six queen contestants signed up this year to participate, but two dropped out early due to scheduling conflicts and two more dropped out later due to work, school and family responsibilities.

The Queen contestants are judged in fi e areas:

• Individual community service project.

• Individual judges' interview.

• Academic achievement.

A spontaneously written response to a random question.
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

• Overall participation.

#### History

Urbanna Museum and the historic James Mills Scottish Factor Store (formerly called



open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days of the festival. Go inside and see the rare John Mitchell Map, which is a first edition, third impression that was published 1755. This map was used to define the boundaries of America following the Revolutionary War. Find out the exciting history of why Urbanna has this priceless map! Robert Keyes, a multifaceted solo finge -style guitarist, will perform on the front porch both days.

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

#### **Community Row**

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 nonprofit roups.

#### **Car Show**

An old tradition — an antique auto show — returns again 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. 4, 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 Gloucester Toyota.

#### Food and crafts

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 its same location on Virginia Street near the intersection with

(See Festival, Page 5)

## Festival ...

#### (Continued from Page 4)

#### Rappahannock Avenue.

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, 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 will be 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.

#### **VIP Oyster Lovers**

The VIP Oyster Lovers Experience returns for its fift 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 water, discounts at local businesses from Nov. 2023 to April 2024, VIP seating at the Virginia Oyster Shucking Contest on Saturday, Nov. 4, a 2023 Urbanna Oyster Festival commemorative poster, six wine tastings, six beer tastings, six oyster tastings, and a gift swag bag.

Plan ahead for 2024 and fin VIP ticket information at urbannaoysterfestival.com. VIPs must be 21 years or older to purchase a ticket. An ID will be required.

#### Waterfront

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 Ovster 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 tall ship 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 largest naval battles that occurred on the Rappahannock River. The original Lynx was granted a letter-of-marque and reprisal by President James Madison. This allowed the ship to attack British vessels and seize their cargo legally. Privateers were different from pirates in that they operated with the authorization of the government, whereas pirates acted independently and outside the law.

For more, visit https://www. tallshiplynx.org/education.

#### Waterfront activities

The waterfront area of the 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:

• The tall ship Lynx.

• A variety of hands-on exhibits from the Yorktown Watermen's Museum, the Fairfield Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Friends of the Rappahannock, Christchurch School, and the Tidewater Soil & Water Conservation District.

Music and refreshments.

#### **Oyster Shucking Contest**

The Virginia State Officia Oyster Shucking Contest, sponsored by Rappahannock Oyster Company, will start at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4, behind the Urbanna firehouse

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 firs 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 2024.

There will be an amateur shucking competition with a plaque for the winner, and an official Oyster Festival poster for second and third place fi ishers. Registration begins at 9 a.m. behind the firehouse Multi-time state champion Deborah Pratt will return to defend her honor.

#### Wine tasting

Returning this year is wine tasting featuring several Virginia wineries. The wine tasting area, courtesy of IsaBell K. Horsley Real Estate Ltd., will be on Virginia Street next to the Urbanna Post Office from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on both days of the festival. There is a \$20 admission fee.

"Boutique" oyster tastings by Rappahannock Oyster Company of Topping, also will bring the fl vor of its oyster-tasting room named Merroir that is located 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. Their names give a clue to their fl vor — Ölde Salts, Rappahannock River Oysters, and Stingray Oysters. Chefs will prepare the oysters, pairing them with local wines from 7 Lady Vineyards, Jolene Family Winery, Mattaponi Winery; Saude Creek Winery, Family Wind Vineyards and Zoll Vinevards.

#### **Craft beer tasting**

The Craft beer tasting event will be at the far end of Festival Village. Craft beers include:

- Bold Rock
- New Realm
- Midnight
- That Damn Mary
- Devils Backbone
- Hardywood
- Landshark

The \$15 admission includes a souvenir and four tastings. Brewery reps will be on hand to answer questions.

#### Fun for children

A Craft Zone will be available in 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. "Students are excited to be part of providing this high quality children's experience!" said a festival spokesperson.

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 from 1 to 4 p.m.



# Two high school seniors seek title of Urbanna Oyster Festival Queen

The 2023 Urbanna Oyster Festival (UOF) Queen and Little Miss Spat will be crowned Friday, Nov. 3, at 4 p.m. inside the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department station (the Urbanna firehouse) at 335 Virginia St. This year, the two Queen contestants and four Little Miss Spat contestants raised thousands of dollars and contributed dozens of hours of community service.

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.

This year there are just two queen hopefuls — Carina Bednarczyk and Sophia Koontz. Both are 16-year-old (at sign-up time) Hartfield residents. Little Miss Spat co-contestants include, for Carina, 6 year olds (at sign-up time) Lacey Paige Edwards of Saluda and Cayden Miller of Locust Hill; and for Sophia, 6 year olds (at sign-up time) Caitlynn Brooke Epperly of Locust Hill and Margeaux Violet Page of Topping. Normally, there is a single Little Miss Spat hopeful paired with a Queen hopeful, but due



Sophia Koontz, foreground, is one of two teens vying for the 2023 Urbanna Oyster Festival Queen crown. Margeaux Page, back, left, and Caitlynn Epperly are her Little Miss Spat (Contributed co-contestants.

to fewer Queen contestants this year there are two Little Miss Spat hopefuls per queen. Each team and contestants have been featured in the Southside Sentinel.

This may be the first year since the competition's founding in 1960 there are

only two queen contestants, according to Christy Hogge, who serves as a competition co-coordinator with Kristin Harris. She said there were six originally signed up this year to participate, but two dropped out early due to scheduling conflicts and two more dropped out later due to work, school and family responsibilities.

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. • 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.

All smiles as they look forward to the Urbanna Oyster Festival Queen competition

are, from left, Cayden Miller, Carina Bednarczyk and Lacey Edwards. (Contributed)

judges' Individual interview.

• 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. UOF Queen and Little Miss Spat competition sponsors include: • Bethpage Camp RV Resort.

• C&F Bank.

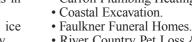
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- Rymans Inc.
- Thurston Properties.
- Towne Insurance.
- Middlesex Woman's Club.
- Diane Gravatt.

· Massey Urbanna Builders. • River Birch Nursery, Florist & Gifts.

For scholarship sponsor opportunities, email christyhogge82@gmail.com or call 804-832-0036.





# Urbanna Oyster Festival Queens from 1960 to 2022 recalled

1985 – Kelly McMurtrie 1960 - Jean Stone 1972 – Sandra Hogge 1997 – LaNae Briggs 2010 – Lauren Figg 1998 – Crystle Felthouse 2011 – Allison Crittenden 1961 – Tommy Lou Cusimano 1973 – Carolyn Norton 1986 – Sara Townsend 1999 – Hannah Chowning 1962 – Mary Kay Mercer 1974 – Sharon Harrow 1987 - Gloria Mercer 2012 – Allison Payne 1963 – Chalie Pierce 1975 – Susan Crittenden 1988 – Lisa Handley 2000 - Ashley Rowe 2013 – Leigh Harrow 2014 – Angel Abbott 1976 - Kathy Redmon 1989 - Connie Wright 2001 – Kelly Proctor 1964 – Sandra Ward 1990 – Stephanie Henley 2015 – Austen-Taylor Dozier 1965 - Frances Marie Hall 1977 – Shannon Warren 2002 – Casey Haynes 1991 – Genessa Dail 1978 – Leslie Pugh 1966 – Barbara Davis 2003 – Lily Śmith 2016 – Hailey Walton 1967 – Julie Marshall 1979 – Diana Durham 1992 – Tammy Lynn 2004 - Brittany Jones 2017 – Haley Revere 1967 – Joyce Bowen 1980 – Tammy Jackson Jackson 2005 – Charlee Eades 2018 – Elizabeth Wilding 2006 - Kenleighe Longest 1968 – Patrice Thrift 1981 – Michele Mankowski 1993 – Jennifer Wright 2019 - Marissa Halbig 1969 - Sheila Moore 1982 – Tara Fuccella 1994 – Addie Rowlson-Hall 2007 – Maggie Ballantyne 2020 – Katie Brooke 1970 – Debra Marshall 1995 – Katie Rothery 2008 – Ashley Figg 2021 - Madysen Davis 1983 – Sandra Brahn 2009 – Kendáll MčNamee 2022-- Courtney Harrow 1971 – Susan Harrow 1984 – Noele Mankowski 1996 - Jenny Walters

# Yesteryear's Little Miss Spats lisited

1966 – Marie Barrett 1967 - Karen Strickland 1968 – Emma Jean Williams 1969 – Gwendolyn Major 1970 – Stacey Green 1971 – Linda Linthicum 1972 – Janna Fuccella 1973 - Stephanie Brill 1974 - Wendy Burch 1975 – Cathy Kirby 1976 - Allison Hight 1977 – Carrie Randall 1978 - Margaret Montgomery 1979 – Wendy Coulson 1980 – Jennifer Jenkins 1981 - Kate Gaskins 1982 – Farrah Schultz 1983 – Brooke Ailsworth 1984 – McKann Folliard 1985 – Catherine Woodard 1986 - Shannon Russell 1987 – Lisa Boone 1988 - Heather Wilson 1989 - Jennifer Reardon 1990 – Sharon Carole White 1991 – Jamie Mears 1992 – Blair Rainier 1993 – Patricia Tanksley 1994 – Kimberly Hayes

1995 – Abby Rose Cosimini 1996 - Elly Montague 1997 – Kristin Jessie 1998 – Maggie Hall 1999 – Christine Rodgers 2000 – Allison Crittenden 2001 – Sarah Grace Hurley 2002 – Sarah Goodrich 2003 – Lauren Bleeker 2004 – Maggie Bull 2005 - Hailey Walton 2006 – Emilie Smith

- 2008 Hope Britton 2009 – Katie Brooke 2010 - Emma Fairheart 2011 – Abigail Smiley 2012 - Bailey Fairheart 2013 – Anna<sup>'</sup>Carey 2014 – Kallie Robins 2015 – Rori Stuart 2016 – Hannah Lambert 2017 – Bailey Pullman 2018 – Nadya Crader 2019 – Adalyn Parsley 2020 - Caroline Ward
- 2021 Emalynn Norwood







# Oyster Shucking Contest is at the fi ehouse

The Virginia Oyster Shucking Contest, sponsored by Rappahannock Oyster Company, will start at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4, behind the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department station (the Urbanna 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 typically 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 2024. The National Champion then travels to Galway, Ireland to participate in the World Championship. Middlesex County's Deborah Pratt has made several trips to Galway, Ireland



Deborah Pratt, left, of Jamaica and Robert Minor of Gwynn's Island, compete in the final round of the 2022 Urbanna Oyster Festival's oyster shucking contest. Closely watching are contest officials, from left, Eric Faudree, Jayla Casuccio and Wayne Jessie. Minor ended up winning the Virginia State Shucking Championship title and Pratt was the runner-up. (Photo by Don Richeson)

to defend her championship. Although the emphasis is on speed, other factors on which the contestants are judged include the amount of shell fragments, clean separation of the oyster from the shell and damage to the meat of the oyster.

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 10 a.m. behind the firehouse

Last year's Urbanna Oyster Festival Shucking Contest winners appear below.

Amateur division, shucking 12 oysters:

• First — David Jackson, Urbanna, 2:15.94.

• Second — Eric Speth, Williamsburg, 2:55.16.

• Third — Cyrus Brame, New Kent, 2:57.09.

Professional Women, shucking 24 oysters:

• First — Deborah Pratt, Jamaica, 4:16.06.

• Second, Hannah Bush, Manassas, 4:35.41.

• Third, Jaime Southern, Norfolk, 4:51.19.

Professional Men, shucking 24 oysters:

• First — Robert Minor, Gwynn's Island, 3:20.78.

• Second — Ian Johnson, Norfolk, 3:26.03.

• Third — Sam Davis, Urbanna, 3:41.03.

Overall Winner, shucking 24 oysters:

• First — Robert Minor, Gwynn's Island, 3:28.34.

# Urbanna Oyster Festival 2023 Oyster Shucking Competition

SPONSORED BY

Rappahannock

# **11 a.m. Saturday, November 4 behind the Firehouse** \$300 Grand Prize

Professionals: Separate Divisions for Men & Women Vriginia Residents only for the Professional Competiton (ID required) \$100 for 1st Place • \$50 for 2nd Place • \$25 for 3rd Place Amateur: Plaque awarded for 1st place

2nd and 3rd places will receive official Oyster Festival t-shirts Sign up behind the Firehouse Saturday morning at 10 a.m.



# **Festival** food choices abound

More than 100 vendors will be open for business when the 2023 Urbanna Oyster 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 ovster fritters are expected to return this year at their same location on Virginia Street at Rappahannock Avenue.

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, funnel cakes, kettle corn, roasted nuts, ice cream, cotton candy, snow cones, candy apples and many other goodies.



Karen Glasgow, a visitor from Delray Beach, Fla. who was staying at Grey's Point Campground, chomps on a giant barbecued turkey leg as she strolls down Rappahannock Avenue on the first day of the 2022 Urbanna Oyster Festival. (Photo by Don Richeson)

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, Many craft vendors will be in Taber Park on Rappahannock Avenue at Festival Village.



In addition to great food leather goods and jewelry.

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# Meet the festival grand marshal

## Aubrey Hall to serve as festival grand marshal

#### by Larry Chowning

he Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation (UOFF) has named Aubrey Hall of Urbanna the 2023 grand marshal of the Urbanna Oyster Festival set for Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3 and 4.

"I was completely overwhelmed when Bruce DeSimone (chairman of the UOFF) called me and asked me to be grand marshal of the festival," said Hall. "It is truly an honor and I'm delighted that the foundation felt that I am worthy of the honor."

DeSimone said, "I have known Aubrey since he helped me purchase our first house in 1983. I have watched as he has made major contributions to our community and I am very pleased that the UOFF chose to honor his work by selecting him as the 2023 Urbanna Oyster Festival grand marshal."

#### Roots

Born and raised in Deltaville



Urbanna resident Aubrey Hall will serve as grand marshal of the 2023 Urbanna Oyster Festival. (Photo by Larry Chowning)

and a 1958 graduate of Middlesex High School, Hall eventually ended up in Urbanna

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chawkins@verizon.net www.hawkinsboatbrokerage.com when during his senior year at the University of Richmond he married Margie Bacon Folliard (Hall), an Urbanna girl.

After graduation, Hall taught music and physical education in Culpeper County Public Schools, but eventually found his way back to Middlesex when he landed a teaching job at Christchurch School.

From there he went on to a successful career in real estate and land development and eventually founded Jacob's Ladder, a nonprofit group dedicated to giving gifted, atrisk children learning opportunities through summer camp enrichment settings.

#### Youth Basketball

That's not all he has done. In 1976 when Saluda resident Tom Hardin was going about starting the Middlesex Youth Basketball League (MYBL), Hall was one of the first coaches in the league and served on the first MYBL board of directors. He coached Doc Jones Used Auto Parts for seven years and his team won the first league championship, said Hardin.

"I don't know that I could have gotten the league off the ground without Aubrey," said Hardin. "It took a great deal of coordination between the schools and board of supervisors for us to get permission to use the gymnasiums and Aubrey knew who to talk to and he knew what to say."

Even before the MYBL was founded, Hall and his brother-in-law Archie Soucek had started a weekend basketball program for underprivileged children. "We used a Christchurch School bus to go pick them up and got permission to use the school gym on Saturdays," he said.

#### Music

Hall grew up singing in the youth music program at Zoar Baptist Church and started out majoring in music at the University of Richmond. When he graduated he had switched his major to education, with a minor in music and he had earned a certificat to teach physical education.

"I have always loved music and I have made it a point for music to always be a part of my life," he said.

Since 1968 and for 55 years, Hall has been the choir director at Urbanna Baptist Church and has over the years directed numerous special community music programs at Christmas time and at other times of the year.

#### Jacob's Ladder

In 1986, Hall and his wife Margie, along with pastor Don Reid and his wife Sarah, took a group of young people from Urbanna Baptist Church on a mission trip to the Eastern Shore of Virginia. They provided Bible study and other activities for children of migrant workers. It was on that trip that Aubrey

(See Marshal, Page 11)

## Marshal...

#### (Continued from Page 10

came back home with the notion there was a real need for a program like Jacob's Ladder. "Jacob's Ladder is an enrichment program for children who are deemed to be at risk and who are also identified as gifted by their school systems," said Hall. "When I got home from

"When I got home from the Eastern Shore it struck me, having taught for 12 years, that there were some real bright kids there stuck in that environment with zero opportunity to get out of it," he said. "I saw a need but at first I had no idea how to approach the problem."

One day while taking a walk on Virginia Street and thinking about the problem "a light bulb came on and I got the idea of having a summer enrichment camp for at risk and gifted children," he said.

Since the start of Jacob's Ladder in 1990, the program has served nearly 400 elementary and middle school



Aubrey Hall, far right, is joined by his fellow Urbanna Baptist Church choir members, Colleen Cusack and Janet Kirby, as they sing Christmas carols in 2021 during the Urbanna Town Green Christmas tree decorating competition, the Festival of Trees. Hall is expected to carol again at this year's Urbanna Festival of Trees, which is set for 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Urbanna Town Green, 241 Virginia St., the grassy Virginia Street lot between the Urbanna Post Office and the Urbanna ABC liquor store. For information, call 804-837-1108.

(Photo by Don Richeson)

children resulting in participants receiving \$20 million in scholarships for their secondary and college educations. "The enrichment camp provides a great deal of opportu-

nity for these kids," he said. "Ninety-four percent of our students have gone to college and the rest have mostly gone into the military. How successful they have been is amazing!"

Friends of Urbanna Hall is also president of Friends of Urbanna, a nonprofi

Friends of Urbanna, a nonprofi group dedicated to preserving the Town of Urbanna's circa 1763 Scottish Factor Store. It is the only English Scottish Factors Store building of its kind still standing in the United States. "There is a need for a \$250,000 structural restoration of the building," said Hall. "We are working with a number of organizations to fin funds to restore the building."

Hall has already spearheaded successful grant proposals through River Counties Community Foundation to fund an engineering study of the building and has also obtained grant funds to reconstruct the interior of the building to what it was in colonial days.

"We have several grant proposals out there for the \$250,000 renovation project," he said. "This is perhaps the only colonial Scottish Factors mercantile store left in America. I think we will be able to find the funding to preserve this treasure."

As grand marshal, Hall will ride in the Fireman's Parade on Friday night of the festival and in Saturday's Oyster Festival Parade and he will attend other events associated with the 2023 festival.



# Parades to be featured Friday and Saturday

The annual Fireman's Parade is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, and the Urbanna Oyster Festival Parade is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4.

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.

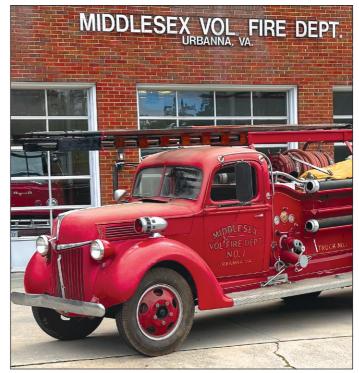
The Fireman's Parade will feature 80 fire and rescue

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 "Exit 38," which performs rock and roll, Southern rock and Motown tunes (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 more than 50 units, leading off with our honorees and grand marshal and captains, queens and spats. About five or six high school bands will be marching in the parade.

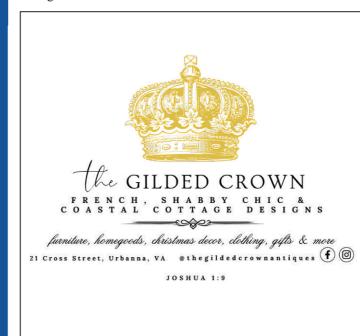
The route of the Oyster Festival Parade is as follows: from the staging area on the west side of town, east on Virginia Street, left on Grace Avenue, right on Bonner Street, left on Rappahannock Avenue, right on Marston Avenue, right on Cross Street, right on Prince George Street, left on Virginia Street, 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. Prime viewing is on Marston Avenue or Prince George Street.



This 1940 Ford "No. 1" fire truck, reportedly the very first fire truck used in Urbanna, will lead the Fireman's Parade on Friday, Nov. 3 as a tribute to first responders. Tom Chillemi, a reporter for the Southside Sentinel, took on the project to revive it, after it had been sitting idle for decades. This will be its first run since it left the garage a few weeks ago. The main parade starts at 7 p.m., however, this antique truck will make a solo run on the parade route at 6:50 p.m. Once it's back at the Urbanna fir house, the main parade begins will other fire and rescue units taking to the streets. Make sure you're there for the show to hear the original 83-year-old siren. (Contributed)

#### **Fireman's Parade history**

In 1939, Urbanna residents met to organize the first



Volunteer Fire Company in Middlesex County. After its organization, the new department purchased its first piece of equipment, a 500-gallon Ford pumper. The 1940 Ford, still owned by the department today, was the first and only fire truck in Middlesex.

By 1986, the parade on Saturday had gotten so large that festival officials decided to have a "Fireman's Parade" on Friday night. This exciting parade will feature more than 80 units from all over the state, including everything from giant ladder trucks to small brush trucks, ambulances and historic fire vehicles from the past. The units' sirens will be loud -- be sure to bring ear protection.

The men and women participating in this parade, unselfishly serve to protect property and save lives.



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# Lively parades, other fun thrills festival crowds



Shriners show off precision moves as they race their miniature NÁSCAR-inspired cars (above) in formation on Cross Street during the 2021 Oyster Festival Parade. They are also known to race miniature tractor trailers. More than 50 entries are expected for this year's parade, which is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4. Festival attendees (left) from near and far discover downtown Urbanna is the place to be. Many carry inflatables and other festival souvenirs. (Photos by Don Richeson)

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# **2023 Urbanna Oyster Festival Music Schedule**

# **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

Festival Village Waterfront	10am- 1pm 10am -11am	Morgan Stewart (R&B and Soul)
	12pm -1pm 2pm - 3:30pm	Chris & Jane (Americana)
Scottish Factor Store		
	10am -11am 12pm -1pm 2pm - 3pm	Robert Keyes (Solo Guitarist)
Festival village	1pm-4:30pm	Sweet Justice - (Classic Rock)
Virginia Wine Area	11am -12pm 1pm - 2pm 2pm - 3pm	<b>Slowburn Duo</b> (Americana)

Firehouse

8pm -12am

**Exit 38** (Southern Rock/Classic Rock)



**CHRIS & JANE** 



**SLOWBURN MUSIC DUO** 



# **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

**RAPPAHANNOCK CROSSING** 

Scuffletown

# Meet the Oyster Festival captain

## Ray V. Rodgers III named captain of 66th Oyster Festival

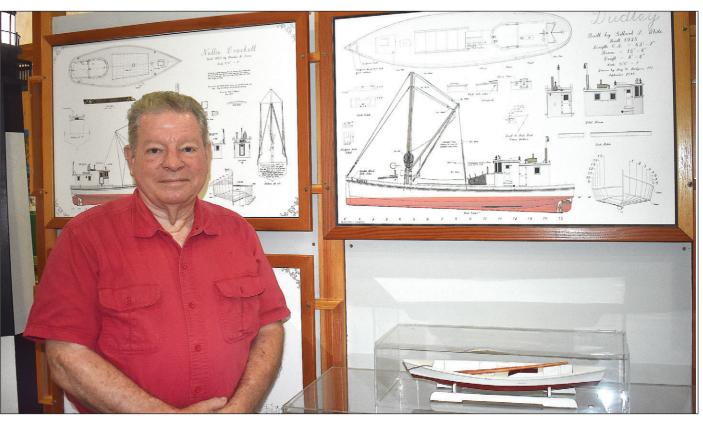
#### by Larry Chowning

he Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation (UOFF) has named Ray V. Rodgers III of Urbanna captain of the 2023 Urbanna Oyster Festival set for Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3 and 4.

UOFF first began naming captains of the festival in 1988 as a way of honoring people who are either a part of the area's oyster heritage or who have played a role in enhancing and preserving that heritage and culture.

Rodgers is an artist, model maker and boatbuilder who about 20 years ago started pulling lines (measuring each aspect of the hull and decks) off Chesapeake buyboats to provide authentic scale drawings to make his model boats. With toscale line drawings this allows other model makers to build more authentic boats too and it gives maritime historians and those interested in the boats a true image of what they are and how they were built.

Chesapeake Bay buyboats are large wooden deadrise (V-hull) vessels that were used to haul freight and to buy crabs, fish and oysters from area watermen out on the water. Thus the name buyboat origi-



Artist and model maker, Ray V. Rodgers III has been named captain of the 2023 Urbanna Oyster Festival. (Photo by Larry Chowning)

nated.

"When I started building models of buyboats the firs one I built was the boat the P.E. Pruitt," said Rodgers. "Before I started I went out and looked for plans and I soon came to realize there were no professional drawings of buyboats. The boats were built from rackof-eye with no plans and each builder built a little different."

Rodgers has always been one about being precise. After build-

ing a model of the P.E. Pruitt without plans he was not happy with the lack of authentic detail in the model, so he decided he would go out and measure boats and document everything on them from door knobs to windowsills.

When he started it was to build a better model but as he got further involved he realized that the drawings were as significant as the models in that they were authentically preserving an aspect of the Chesapeake Bay's maritime history that had not been done before.

Rodgers has gifted his drawings and rights to those drawings to sell to model makers and others to the Deltaville Maritime Museum. His drawings are framed and hanging on the walls at the museum and are an artwork unique to nowhere else.

Rodgers has taken the lines off a dozen boats. Some were in a state of decay while others were up on the hard for repair at a railway. "I can get some of the measurements on the boats when in the water but to get a finished drawing the boat needs to be out of the water," he said. He went to Coles Point to take the lines off the buyboat L.R. Smith built in 1925 by Lennie and Alton Smith of Mathews County. The boat was in a state of disrepair with one side caved in. "If I had waited too much longer, I would have missed that opportunity," he said.

A short history of the boat is also part of Rodger's drawing. "The L.R. Smith started life as an open deck fish pound boat," he has written on the drawing. "Later she was decked over and fitted for crab dredging as shown above. The deck house was added in the 1950s."

His travels have taken him from one end of the bay to the other. He took the measurements off the 1948 Mildred Belle in Baltimore Harbor when the boat was up on the rails and traveled to Georgetown on the Sassafras River to take lines off the 1926 Muriel Eileen and the 1925 Nellie Crockett.

Rodgers has also measured the 1949 Rebecca Ann built by Deltaville boatbuilders Moody, Alvin and Raymond Walden when she was on the grounds of the Deltaville Maritime Museum and the 1946 Mobjack built by Deltaville builder Linwood Price when the boat was at Smith Marine Railway in Dare.

Rodgers has lived in Urbanna since his family moved to town in 1965 when his father, who worked for IBM, was transferred into this area. After graduating from Middlesex High School, he attended Virginia Tech, and he decided he wanted to live, work and raise his family in Middlesex.

Over the years he has built several small boats and a 25-foot fantail launch he named after his daughter Rachel. He built and learned to fly an airplane and built the house he and his wife Kathy have lived in for 35 years.

"We picked Ray as our 2023 captain, not only because of what he has done to preserve the boats with his drawings but because of how much he has brought to our community," said Pam Simon of the UOFF.

Rodgers will ride in the festival parades on Friday and Saturday and will be honored throughout the weekend at the festival.



# See historic vessels at town marina

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 festival, history comes alive at the waterfront.

The shallop Explorer, a replica of the ship John Smith used to explore the Chesapeake Bay in the early 1600s, will be docked at the Urbanna Town Marina during the festival. Deltaville Maritime Museum (DMM) Special Events Coordinator Bill Powell will be on hand to talk and answer questions about DMM's building of the Explorer.

Festival-goers are also wel-



In this History Channel promotional photo from 2017, the Deltaville Maritime Museum's "Explorer" seems to have been captured by some Spanish soldiers. This picture was from one of the times the History Channel rented the vessel for a historical reenactment documentary. This "shoot" was in Georgia. (Photo courtesy of the History Channel)

come to board the tall ship 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 largest naval battles that occurred on the Rappahannock River. The original Lynx was granted a letter-of-marque and reprisal by President James Madison. This allowed the ship to attack British vessels and seize their cargo legally. Privateers were different from pirates in that they operated with the authorization of the government, whereas pirates acted independently and outside the law.

For more, visit https://www. tallshiplynx.org/education.

#### Waterfront activities

The waterfront area of the 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 and enjoy refreshments. Come to the waterfront to climb aboard a historic boat, examine marine creatures in touch tanks, and taste some local seafood.

A variety of hands-on exhibits from the Yorktown Watermen's Museum, the Fairfield Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Friends of the Rappahannock, Christchurch School, and the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District will also be available.



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These watercolor images depict the Urbanna homes on the tour, top, from left, Payne House, Lansdowne, Little Key House; and bottom, same order, Tavern, Rosegill and White Rose Cottage. (Contributed)

# Get homes tour info at inn during festival

Urbanna Main Street announces the return of the popular Urbanna Holiday Home Tour, which will take place Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

From the regal Rosegill plantation overlooking the Rappahannock River and the recently renovated town Tavern, to the quirky Little Key House and the stately Lansdowne estate on Urbanna's main street, the Urbanna Holiday Home Tour will feature six of Urbanna's most notable, historic and beautiful homes to stroll through and the Urbanna Women's Club, all decked out for the season. This year's



event will raise funds through sponsorships and ticket sales to provide resources to the Urbanna Main Street initiative to support revitalization, tourism and local commerce.

Urbanna Main Street is offering a variety of sponsorship levels. The Chesapeake Inn & Ballgown Barefoot lead the sponsorship program as the event's presenting sponsor. Each sponsorship level includes recognition in the official event booklet and tickets to the event, as well as other benefits depending on the contribution level.

General admission tickets to the event will be available in advance for \$40 and \$50 on the day of the event, if available, as a limited amount of tickets will be issued. Visit tour reps during the 2023 Urbanna Oyster Festival, Nov. 3 and 4, at the Urbanna Main Street booth located at The Chesapeake Inn at 250 Virginia St. in Urbanna for complete information and to enter a raffle to win tickets and a stay at the Inn. For complete sponsorship details and to purchase tickets, visit: urbannamainstreet.com.

Sarah Jane Wyatt and Gari Lister, co-chairmen of the Urbanna Holiday Home Tour, jointly stated: "We are thrilled to resume the Urbanna Holiday Home Tour this year as a way to celebrate our amazing town and to serve as the kick-off event in our efforts to raise funds for Urbanna Main Street to support our strategic plan to drive tourism, ultimately benefitting our local businesses and community. We hope you will join us this year, and please be sure to follow us on social media for the latest information!"

The Urbanna Holiday House Tour is a Urbanna Main Street project in association with Urbanna Beautification Inc. (a 501c3 Non-Profit organization).

All donations in support of the 2023 Urbanna Holiday Home Tour are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

For information and event updates, visit Urbanna Main Street on social media:

• Facebook — Urbanna Main Street.

• Instagram — @ UrbannaMainstreet.

#### About Urbanna Main Street

Founded in 2023, Urbanna Main Street is part of the Virginia Main Street Program, a preservation-based economic and community development initiative that follows the Main Street Approach by the National Main Street Center. The program offers a range of services, grants and assistance to communities interested in revitalizing their historic commercial districts. Virginia Main Street has helped transform Warsaw, Kilmarnock, Mathews, Gloucester and many small communities across the commonwealth.





# Kayak raffle

The Urbanna **Ovster** Festival (UOF) Foundation is selling raffle tickets on a Flint NuCanoe Tundra kayak/canoe, along with a Hardcore life jacket, Earth Pak waterproof dry bag and LuxoGear emergency whisle. The tickets are \$10 and are available at the Urbanna Town Office at 390 Virginia St., Suite B or the Urbanna Festival Office at 390 Virginia St., Suite C on Thursday, Nov. 2. Then on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3 and 4, the tickets are available at the Urbanna Oyster Festival information trailer at the corner of Virginia Street and Rappahannock Avenue. The drawing will be 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, following the UOF Parade. Ticket sale proceeds go to benefit the UOF Foundation and go toward festival-sponsored events and expenses.

(Contributed)

## Check out antique cars at Oyster Fest

An old tradition — an antique auto show — returns again 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 Gloucester Toyota.

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Participants in a recent ceremony marking Urbanna Oyster Festival signing Bayside Design to be its official souvenirs vendor include, front, from left, Oyster Festival Chairman Bruce DeSimone, Oyster Festival Administrator Pam Simon, Bayside Design Owner Becky Harris, Oyster Festival Souvenirs Chairman Michele Hutton and Bayside Design Owner Andy Harris. (Contributed)





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# Urbanna Oyster Festival names souvenir vendor

Urbanna Oyster Festival (UOF) staff recently introduced their new official souvenir vendor, Bayside Design. Owners Becky Harris and Andy Harris operate their business from Wake in Middlesex County.

They offer top quality products and services, said a festival spokesman. "We are looking forward to additional sales, which will be coming to their website, baysidedesignemb.com. Be sure to check it out and your apparel."

During the Nov. 3 and 4 festival, their booth will be set up on the corner of Rappahannock Avenue and Virginia Street.

Becky Harris has been sewing for 30 years and found a love of embroidery 10 years ago. She decided to open her own small embroidery business in 2014, which has now grown into a full direct-to-garment printing, embroidery, and digitizing business.

"We are excited about our new partnership with Bayside Design and all they have to offer," said an Oyster Festival official. "Not only are they bringing great products to the table, their online capabilities to view and order merchandise are something the festival did not have available in the past. We are pleased that Oyster Festival supporters now have this option."



The Urbanna Museum and Visitor's Center offers various interesting map exhibits. A couple checks out the rare 1755 John Mitchell Map during a previous Urbanna Oyster Festival.

# Museum items interesting

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.

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 nonprofit groups.

# Indulge a love of oysters with this simple appetizer

delicacy. The speed with which oysters go from bodies of water to people's dinner tables belies just how difficult it can be to harvest them. For instance, in her book "Eula Mae's Cajun Kitchen" (Harvard Common Press), the late Eula Mae Doré, a legendary cook who plied her trade on Louisiana's Avery Island for decades before passing away in 2008, described the backbreaking work of harvesting oysters. That work required oyster fishermen to haul up heavy nets and baskets filled with oysters in their shells, after which the oysters were sorted, iced down and sent to market.

Thankfully, oyster aficionados need not contend with such labor. For many oyster lovers, simply feasting on this tasty delicacy is enough. And there's always unique ways to enjoy oysters, such as in this recipe from Doré herself.

#### **Mini Oyster Tarts**

Makes one dozen three-inch patties or three dozen small patties

Ingredients include:

• Half cup vegetable oil.

• Three-quarters cup all-purpose flour.

• Two-and-a-half cups chopped yellow onions.

• Half cup seeded and chopped green bell peppers.

• Half cup seeded and chopped red bell peppers.

Two garlic cloves, pressed.
Half cup sliced white button mushrooms.

• Half cup (one stick butter).

• One quart oysters, well drained and liquor reserved.

• Salt, white pepper and freshly ground black pepper to taste.

• One-eighth teaspoon Tabasco brand pepper sauce.

• Three tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley leaves.

• Two tablespoons finely chopped green onions (green part only).

• One dozen three-inch patty shells or 36 bite-size patty shells.

Follow these steps

1. Heat the oil for two minutes in a large, heavy saucepan over medium heat. Add the flour, blend, and cook, stirring constantly and slowly, to

Oysters are a beloved make a roux the color of peanut licacy. The speed with which butter.

Add the onions and cook, stirring, until very soft, about 15 minutes.

Add the bell peppers, garlic, mushrooms, and butter and cook, stirring, until very soft, about 15 minutes.

Add the reserved oyster liquor and reduce the heat to medium-low.

Simmer, stirring often, until the mixture thickens.

Add the oysters, season with salt, white pepper, black pepper, and Tabasco, and cook until the edges of the oysters just begin to curl. Remove from the heat.

Stir in the parsley and green onions. Let cool to room temperature.

2. Preheat the oven to 350 F. 3. Fill the patty shells about three quarters full with the filling. Put them on an ungreased baking sheet and bake until golden, 20 to 25 minutes. Serve immediately. Chesapeake Ove MARINA

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# Authorities to guard festival goers' safety

The Urbanna Oyster Festival (UOF) 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 fir house 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.

At last year's UOF, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) responded to 40 calls during



Virginia State Police motorcycle troopers were part of the security team at last year's Urbanna Oyster Festival. (Photo by Tom Chillemi)

the festival, reported Middlesex County Sheriff David P. Bushey. There were 14 calls on the

festival's first day with only one person being transported to a hospital. On the second day, there were 26 calls with eight persons transported to a hospital.

A tall ship's apparent firin of a ceremonial cannon reportedly triggered calls inquiring about the source of the sound of an explosion, though fir works may have been involved as well. No injuries were reported in the incident.

For information, call the Oyster Festival Foundation at 804-758-2122 or visit urbannaoysterfestival.com.



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Showing off their Urbanna pilsner glasses in the craft beer area are 2021 festival celebrants, front, from left, Francesca Sperberg of Lancaster, Rose Ribeiro of Richmond; and back, same order, Kirstie Milne of Richmond, Joy Laurence of Richmond, Kassi O'Brien of Richmond and Volunteer Jenny McMurtrie of Hartfield. (Photo by Don Richeson)

# Beer, wine tasting offered

#### Craft beer tasting

The craft beer tasting event will be at the far end of Festival Village. Craft beers include:

- · Bold Rock.
- New Realm.
- Port City.
- That Damn Mary.
- Devils Backbone.
- Hardywood.
- Dividing Creek.

The \$15 admission includes a souvenir and four tastings. Brewery reps will be on hand to answer questions.

#### Wine & Oyster tasting

Returning this year is wine tasting featuring several Virginia wineries. The wine tasting area, courtesy of IsaBell K. Horsley Real Estate Ltd., will be on Virginia Street next to the Urbanna Post

Office from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on both days of the festival. There is a \$20 admission fee.

"Boutique" oyster tasting from Rappahannock Oyster Company of Topping will bring the flavor of its oystertasting room, Merroir, located at Locklies Marina, 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. Their names Olde Salts, Rappahannock River Oysters, and Stingray Oysters. Chefs will prepare the oysters, pairing them with local wines from Mattaponi Winery, Williamsburg Winery, Saude Creek Vinevard and Zoll Vineyards.

# IT'S ALMOST TIME...

fo celebrate, drink, and EAT OYSTERS!

# **ARE YOU** RECYCLING our o SHELL?

FRIENDS OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK & THE URBANNA OYSTER FESTIVAL FOUNDATION ARE USING THE OYSTER SHELL TO RESTORE OYSTER REEFS IN **URBANNA CREEK!** 

YOU CAN DROP SHELL OFF IN THE CONTAINER AT THE URBANNA TOWN MARINA OR CONTACT JENNIFER.SAGAN@RIVERFRIENDS.ORG FOR MORE INFO

# **VIP** Oyster Lovers Experience returns; sold out once again

Experience returns for its sixth 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 2023 to April 2024, VIP seating at the Virginia

The VIP Oyster Lovers Oyster Shucking Contest on Saturday, Nov. 4, a 2023 Urbanna Oyster Festival commemorative poster, six wine tastings, six beer tastings, six oyster tastings, and a gift swag bag.

Plan ahead for 2024 and find VIP ticket information online at urbannaoysterfestival.com. VIPs must be 21 years or older to purchase a ticket. An ID will be required.





## Middlesex County Woman's Club is raffling off crab guilt during festival

Again the Middlesex County Woman's Club will raffle a beautiful quilt at the upcoming Urbanna Oyster Festival. Club members lovingly created this queen-size "Blue Crab of Middlesex" quilt by hand. It is displayed by club members Jean Kostesky, left, and Bebee Fritter. Tickets are available from all members of the club or by calling club member Kostesky at 804-758-8417. Tickets are only \$1 apiece or \$6 for five. "The price is very reasonable, the ladies haven't raised the ticket price for years and years," Kostesky said. The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday of the festival. You need not be present to win. The winning ticket will be drawn Saturday afternoon. (Contributed)



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& FONVILLE

REAL ESTATE



Magician and juggler Jonathan Austin "wows" the Taber Park crowd in 2021 with his high energy and mesmerizing acts in the children's area of the Urbanna Oyster Festival. (Photo by Tom Chillemi)

# Child-friendly fun offered

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!

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.

## Share your fun at the Oyster Festivall

Send photos with a caption about your Urbanna Oyster Festival experience.

- We're looking for photos of what you enjoyed. "Selfies" with a festive background — art photos.
- Tell us:
- Where are you from?
- How many Urbanna Oyster Festivals have you attended?
- What are your favorite things at the festival?
- What happened that was unusual?
- Anything you want to share.

Your story and photos could be part of a Southside Sentinel slide show or in the newspaper!

Please email to tchillemi@ssentinel.com no later than 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 6.

**Oyster Festival** sponsors named

The Urbanna Oyster Festival is helped greatly by its sponsors, which include:

- · Carts Inc.
- · Mike's Custom Golf Carts
- River Counties Community Foundation
- Virginia Tourism Corporation · Dominion Energy
- Malise/Friday's Marine
- Superior Plus/Quarles Propane
- · Ryan Homes
- · Virginia Lottery
- · Virginia Spirits Board
- All Points Broadband
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- Primis
- · Rappahannock River Oysters
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- · Lower United Methodist Church
- Mason Realty, Inc.
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- Bristow, Jr. Tom Davis - WRAR Radio
- Transition and Vocational Program
- The Town of Urbanna · University of Virginia
- Urbanna Business Association
- Urbanna Market Foods
- Urbanna Town Marina at Upton's Point
- Virginia Dept. of Alcoholic Beverage Control
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Virginia Peninsula Public Service Authority
- Virginia State Police
- Work Transportation Program

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# TOWN OF URBANNA

# PUBLIC NOTICE 2023 OYSTER FESTIVAL STREET AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The Virginia Department of Transportation has approved the following 2023 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 3, 2023 and 11 p.m., Saturday, November 4, 2023 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 3, 2023, 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 4, 2023, 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 Rappahannock Avenue, 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 3, and Saturday, November 4, 2023, law enforcement authorities may close selected streets to routine traffic as crowd and public safety actions dictate.

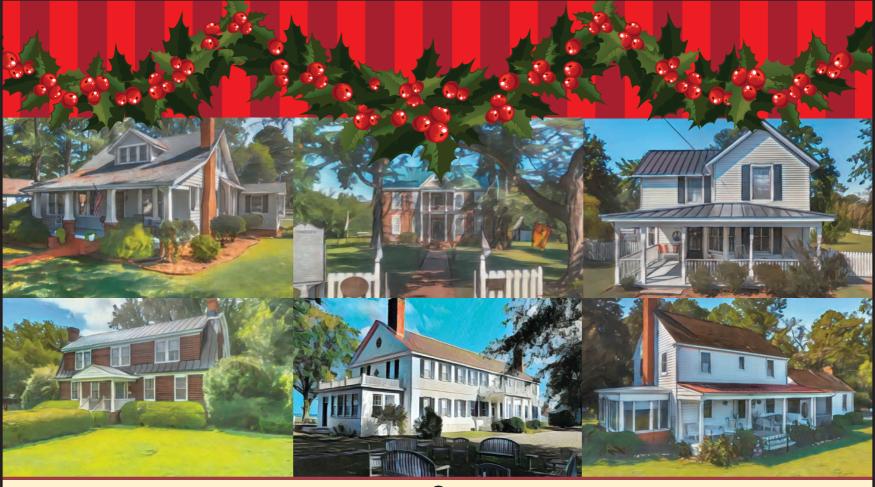
## **Town Entrance Restrictions**

Friday, November 3, 2023, 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 4, 2023, 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.







# DECEMBER 9, 2023 | 11AM-4PM

Celebrate the holidays strolling through some of Urbanna's most notable, historic and beautiful homes, all decked out for the season – from the regal Rosegill plantation overlooking the Rappahannock River, to the recently renovated town tavern, to the quirky Little Key House, to the stately Lansdowne estate on Urbanna's main street.

This year's Urbanna's Holiday Home Tour builds on a tradition started in 1985 by Urbanna Beautification Inc. (UBI) to raise funds for lampposts, artwork and other town enhancements. Urbanna Main Street, a local volunteer community revitalization initiative, is joining with UBI to host this year's home tour, the most enjoyable yet.

All ticket purchases and donations are tax deductible to the extent permittable by law. Following the tour, The Chesapeake Inn is hosting an invitation-only reception for those who donate \$100 or more.

The 2023 Urbanna Holiday Home Tour is made possible by our presenting sponsors The Chesapeake Inn & Ballgown Barefoot, and all of our generous donors.





## \$40 in advance | \$50 at the door | All ticket sales online

No cash or checks accepted. Check in at The Chesapeake Inn to receive your wrist band for admission to the home tour. Tickets include admission to six homes and Urbanna Woman's Club. To purchase tickets or become a sponsor, visit: https://urbannamainstreet.com or use this code.