

A circular logo with a scalloped edge, containing the text "65th Annual" in a stylized font. The "65" is large and the "th" is smaller. The word "Annual" is written below it. The logo is set against a background of a marching band member in a colorful costume.

65<sup>th</sup>  
Annual

The title "Urbanna Oyster Festival" is written in a large, bold, orange font with a white outline. The word "Urbanna" is on the top line, and "Oyster Festival" is on the bottom line. A small icon of an oyster shell is placed to the left of the word "Oyster". The text is overlaid on a background of marching band members in colorful costumes.

**Urbanna**  
**Oyster Festival**

**Nov. 4 and 5**

**2022 Supplement to the Southside Sentinel**





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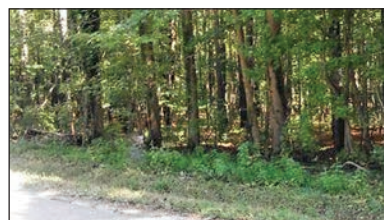
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An Aqua String Band member does his thing.

## ON THE COVER: Aqua String Band


The Aqua String Band is expected to headline the 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5 Urbanna Oyster Festival Parade. The band is known for its longtime participation in the annual Philadelphia Mummers New Year's Day Parade. Its members dress in breathtaking, one-of-a-kind costumes and further wow onlookers using banjos, saxophones, accordions and percussion.

According to the group's website, the band was organized in 1920. The name "Aqua" is a reflection on the life and times of the United States during the band's birth. Latin for the word water, "Aqua" was chosen as an ironic reference to the then raging controversy over Prohibition – "aqua," or water, being the only legal drink at the time.

The band travels extensively entertaining millions of viewers, parade goers, and concert attendees.

For information, visit <https://www.aquastringband.com>.







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# Welcome to the 65th Urbanna Oyster Festival

by Tom Chillemi

**W**hen leaves change color and the air is crisp, it's time for the Urbanna Oyster Festival — Virginia's Official Oyster Festival!

The 65th Urbanna Oyster Festival is set for Friday and Saturday, Nov. 4 and 5, 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.

## Oysters will be everywhere

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.

## Music, Lynx and Godspeed

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, and the tall ship Godspeed, a re-creation of one of the three ships (Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery) that in 1607 transported America's first permanent English colonists to Virginia. At the waterfront

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

## Queen competition

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 4 p.m. inside the Urbanna firehouse. This year, the five Queen contestants and four Little Miss Spat contestants raised more than \$12,100 and contributed more than 251 hours of community service.

## Fireman's Parade, dance

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.

## Shucking contests

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.

## Oyster Festival Parade

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.

## Shuttles, water taxis

On Saturday only, six



"Miss Oyster" waves to admirers at last year's Urbanna Oyster Festival. (Photo by Don Richeson)

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.

You are also welcome to come by boat — two water taxis will be available both days. The harbor fare is \$5 per adult and \$2 for age 11 and younger; dock pick-up is available on Urbanna Creek (\$6 per adult or child) and at Robinson Creek Community Ramp (\$10 per adult or child with a \$30 minimum). Scenic boat tours are also available for \$20 per hour (\$60 minimum). For information, call Capt. Murray at 804-516-2026, Capt. Loftis at 804-366-1778 or Capt. Tebow at 540-841-2155. The use of the Upton's Point Marina dinghy dock is also available.

## Other entertainment

A variety of entertainment has been booked for the Urbanna Oyster Festival's three stages and on the porch of the James Mills Scottish Factor Store 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.

## Parking

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](http://www.urbannaoysterfestival.com).

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

The 2022 Urbanna Oyster Festival (UOF) Queen and Little Miss Spat will be crowned Friday, Nov. 4, at 4 p.m. inside the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department station (the Urbanna firehouse) at 335 Virginia St. This year, the five Queen contestants and six Little Miss Spat contestants raised more than \$12,100 and contributed more than 251 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. The 2022 Queen contestants and their Little Miss Spat contestants include:

- Sara Hale and Piper Gill.
- Courtney Harrow and Kayleigh Carias.
- Makayla Seamster and Julianna Gobush.
- Abigail Smiley and Lucy Myers and Olivia Payne. (Abigail has two Spats because a Queen contestant dropped out).
- Grace Wynberry and Finley Welch.

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.
  - Individual judges' interview.



Sara Hale and Piper Gill



Courtney Harrow and Kayleigh Carias



Makayla Seamster and Julianna Gobush



Abigail Smiley and Lucy Myers and Olivia Payne (Abigail has two Spats because a Queen hopeful dropped out)



Grace Wynberry and Finley Welch



Madysen Davis and Emalynn Norwood (2021 winners)

• 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. This year's Queen and Spat contestants have volunteered well more than the required time, completing over 251 hours and donating more than \$12,100 for the

betterment of this community. Scholarships for the Queen contestants have been made possible by the generosity of local businesses. UOF Queen competition sponsors include:

- Unique Golf Carts.
- Bethpage Camp-Resort.
- C&F Bank.
- Carroll Heating and Plumbing.
- Faulkner Funeral Homes-

- Bristow-Faulkner Chapel-Saluda.
- Grey's Point Camp.
- J&W Seafood
- Dr. C. Ben Lennon DDS.
- Price Properties.
- Primis Bank.
- River Wood Works.
- Riverside Walter Reed Hospital.
- Rosegill Development LLC.
- Jason and Emilie Rowe.

- Ryman's A/C & Heating.
- Thurston Properties.
- Thurston Spring Service.
- Towne Insurance.

UOF sponsors for the Little Miss Spat competition include:

- Massey Urbanna Builders Supply.
- River Birch Nursery.

For info on scholarship sponsor opportunities, email [wendyhopeburch@gmail.com](mailto:wendyhopeburch@gmail.com).



# Urbanna Oyster Festival Queens from yesteryear listed

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

## Past Little Miss Spats named

1966 – Marie Barrett	1985 – Catherine Woodard	2005 – Hailey Walton
1967 – Karen Strickland	1986 – Shannon Russell	2006 – Emilie Smith
1968 – Emma Jean Williams	1987 – Lisa Boone	2007 – Sarah Walton
1969 – Gwendolyn Major	1988 – Heather Wilson	2008 – Hope Britton
1970 – Stacey Green	1989 – Jennifer Reardon	2009 – Katie Brooke
1971 – Linda Linthicum	1990 – Sharon Carole White	2010 – Emma Fairheart
1972 – Janna Fuccella	1991 – Jamie Mears	2011 – Abigail Smiley
1973 – Stephanie Brill	1992 – Blair Rainier	2012 – Bailey Fairheart
1974 – Wendy Burch	1993 – Patricia Tanksley	2013 – Anna Carey
1975 – Cathy Kirby	1994 – Kimberly Hayes	2014 – Kallie Robins
1976 – Allison Hight	1995 – Abby Rose Cosimini	2015 – Rori Stuart
1977 – Carrie Randall	1996 – Elly Montague	2016 – Hannah Lambert
1978 – Margaret Montgomery	1997 – Kristin Jessie	2017 – Bailey Pullman
1979 – Wendy Coulson	1998 – Maggie Hall	2018 – Nadya Crader
1980 – Jennifer Jenkins	1999 – Christine Rodgers	2019 – Adalyn Parsley
1981 – Kate Gaskins	2000 – Allison Crittenden	2020 – Caroline Ward
1982 – Farrah Schultz	2001 – Sarah Grace Hurley	2021 – Emalynn Norwood
1983 – Brooke Ailsworth	2002 – Sarah Goodrich	
1984 – McKann Folliard	2003 – Lauren Bleeker	
	2004 – Maggie Bull	



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# Oyster Shucking Contest is at the firehouse

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 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 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 2023. 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 to defend



Competing in the 2021 professional women's division during the Oyster Shucking Contest are, from left, Deborah Pratt of Jamaica, Isabella "Gator" MacBeth of Virginia Beach, Hannah Bush of Manassas and Brooklynn Paul of Delaplane. MacBeth won and also won the overall title. Pratt was the runner-up. The event is set for Saturday, Nov. 5 behind the Urbanna firehouse. There will be professional and amateur divisions. Registration begins at 10 a.m. behind the firehouse and the main competition starts at 11 a.m.

(Photo by Don Richeson)

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 Oyster Shucking Contest winners include:

- Overall first place — Isabella McBeth, Virginia Beach, two minutes, 46 seconds.
- Overall runner-up — Ian Johnson, Norfolk, two minutes, 50 seconds.
- Professional Division Men first place — Ian

Johnson, Norfolk, two minutes, 39 seconds.

- Professional Division Men runner-up — Davilla Redmond, Topping, three minutes, 42 seconds.

- Professional Division Men third place — Sam Davis, Urbanna, four minutes, 21 seconds.

- Professional Division Women first place — Isabella MacBeth, Virginia Beach, three minutes, 14 seconds.

- Professional Division Women runner-up — Deborah Pratt, Jamaica, three minutes, 36 seconds.

- Professional Division Women third place — Hannah Bush, Manassas, three minutes, 45 seconds.

- Amateur Division first place — Brooklynn Paul, Delaplane, two minutes, 10 seconds.

- Amateur Division runner-up — Kasay Smith, Deltaville, two minutes, 13 seconds.

- Amateur Division third place — David Jackson, Urbanna, two minutes, 35 seconds.

## Urbanna Oyster Festival 2022 Oyster Shucking Competition

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2nd and 3rd places will receive official Oyster Festival t-shirts

Sign up behind the Firehouse Saturday morning at 10 a.m.







# Satisfy hardest appetites -- food choices abound

More than 100 vendors will be open for business when the 2022 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 oyster fritters are expected to return this year at its 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.

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.

Middlesex Lions Club member Michael Pullman of Wake fries up hundreds of delicious oyster fritters in the club's tent on Virginia Street during the 2021 Urbanna Oyster Festival. (Photo by Don Richeson)

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# Meet the festival grand marshal

## Vesley-Massey to act as festival grand marshal

by Larry Chowning

Former Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation (UOFF) board member Kathy Vesley-Massey has been named grand marshal of the 65th Urbanna Oyster Festival that is planned for Friday and Saturday, Nov. 4 and 5.

“Kathy has been a longtime supporter of the festival,” said Pam Simon, event administrator for UOFF. “She was on our board of directors from 2002-2004, was chairman of the souvenir and shuttle committee for many years and



Kathy Vesley-Massey has been named grand marshal of the 65th Urbanna Oyster Festival. (Photo by Larry Chowning)

has judged both the Little Miss Spat and Queen competitions for us.”

“She has a long, positive history with the festival and we wanted to acknowledge her longstanding work,” said Simon. “We are honored to have Kathy as our grand marshal for the 65th festival.”

Vesley-Massey moved to Urbanna in 1998, leaving Richmond where she was deputy commissioner of Aging for the State of Virginia. “I had a great job and a great future in Richmond, but I also had a 9-year-old son who I wanted to grow up in an environment much the way I had grown

up — without fearing for his life. We lived in a good part of town, but we were still warned that our children should not play in our front yards.”

“I decided I was going to look for a new home where things were safer and when I crossed Urbanna bridge (Beryl Newman Memorial Bridge) and looked over to the Rappahannock River at that view and drove through town where there was not one stoplight I knew Urbanna was the place,” she said.

Vesley-Massey took a job with Bay Aging making \$20,000 less than she was making in Richmond. “It was

a sacrifice to come here, but it has been well worth it,” she said.

She is now CEO of Bay Aging in Urbanna and head of the \$36.65 million nonprofit agency that works to bring quality of life to seniors in the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and beyond. “When I arrived here in 1998 Bay Aging worked from a \$2 million budget,” she said.

Vesley-Massey purchased a home in Urbanna next door to the late Liz Newbill. “Liz was a great neighbor and she filled me in on the importance of the oyster festival to this region,” she said.

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# Urbanna Oyster Festival posters on sale at info RV

This year's official Urbanna Oyster Festival poster features the Charlotte Catherine, a Chesapeake Bay deadrise used to harvest oysters in the Rappahannock River by Lee Walton and Thomas Lee Walton, the father and grandfather of the poster photographer, Ashley Walton. It is named after Ashley's great-grandmother, who was better known as "Nano." Nano and her sister, Beatrice Taylor, ran Payne's Crabhouse, for many years located at the bottom of the hill on Virginia Street.

The poster can be purchased for \$20 at the 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.

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 the info center.



### A Family Tradition

65<sup>th</sup> Annual Urbanna Oyster Festival  
November 4 - 5, 2022

*By Ashley Walton*

The 2022 official Urbanna Oyster Festival poster is on sale at the festival's information RV.

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**Saturday, Nov. 5**  
GRAYSON TORRANCE 11<sup>AM</sup>-2<sup>PM</sup>  
JP EXPERIENCE 3<sup>PM</sup>-6<sup>PM</sup>





# 2022 Urbanna Oyster Festival Entertainment Schedule

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

<b>Festival Village</b>	<b>10 a.m.- 1 p.m.</b>	<b>Morgan Stewart &amp; DJ Hammer</b> (R&B and Soul)
<b>Festival Village</b>	<b>1-4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Sweet Justice Band</b> (Classic Rock)
<b>Firehouse</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>	<b>Queen &amp; Spat Crowning</b>
	<b>8 p.m.-midnight</b>	<b>Exit 38</b> (Rock, Southern Rock, Motown, R&B)
<b>Waterfront</b>	<b>10-11 a.m.</b>	<b>Rappahannock Crossing</b> (Bluegrass)
	<b>Noon-1 p.m.</b>	<b>Rappahannock Crossing</b> (Bluegrass)
	<b>2-3 p.m.</b>	<b>Rappahannock Crossing</b> (Bluegrass)
<b>Wine Area</b>	<b>11 a.m.-noon</b>	<b>Warren Ahrens, Betsy Green-Shafer</b> (Americana, Oldies)
	<b>1-2 p.m.</b>	<b>Warren Ahrens, Betsy Green-Shafer</b> (Americana, Oldies)
	<b>3-4 p.m.</b>	<b>Warren Ahrens, Betsy Green-Shafer</b> (Americana, Oldies)
<b>Scottish Factor Store</b>	<b>10-11 a.m.</b>	<b>Robert Keyes</b> (Multi-faceted finger-style guitar)
	<b>noon-1 p.m.</b>	<b>Robert Keyes</b> (Multi-faceted finger-style guitar)
	<b>2-3 p.m.</b>	<b>Robert Keyes</b> (Multi-faceted finger-style guitar)
<b>Children's Area</b>	<b>10 a.m.-noon</b>	<b>Jonathan Austin</b> (juggling, magic)
	<b>1-4 p.m.</b>	<b>Jonathan Austin</b> (juggling, magic)
<b>Fireman's Parade</b>	<b>7-8 p.m.</b>	

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

<b>Festival Village</b>	<b>10 a.m.-noon</b>	<b>Rip Tide Band</b> (Southern/Classic Rock)
	<b>1-5 p.m.</b>	<b>Rip Tide Band</b> (Southern/Classic Rock)
<b>Waterfront</b>	<b>10 a.m.-1 p.m.</b>	<b>Chris &amp; Jane</b> (Americana)
	<b>3-5 p.m.</b>	<b>Chris &amp; Jane</b> (Americana)
<b>Wine Area</b>	<b>11 a.m.-noon</b>	<b>Warren Ahrens, Betsy Green-Shafer</b> (Americana, Oldies)
	<b>1-2 p.m.</b>	<b>Warren Ahrens, Betsy Green-Shafer</b> (Americana, Oldies)
	<b>3-4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Warren Ahrens, Betsy Green-Shafer</b> (Americana, Oldies)
<b>Scottish Factor Store</b>	<b>9-10 a.m.</b>	<b>Robert Keyes</b> (Multi-faceted finger-style guitar)
	<b>11 a.m.-noon</b>	<b>Robert Keyes</b> (Multi-faceted finger-style guitar)
	<b>1-2 p.m.</b>	<b>Robert Keyes</b> (Multi-faceted finger-style guitar)
	<b>3-4 p.m.</b>	<b>Robert Keyes</b> (Multi-faceted finger-style guitar)
<b>Parade</b>	<b>2-3 p.m.</b>	



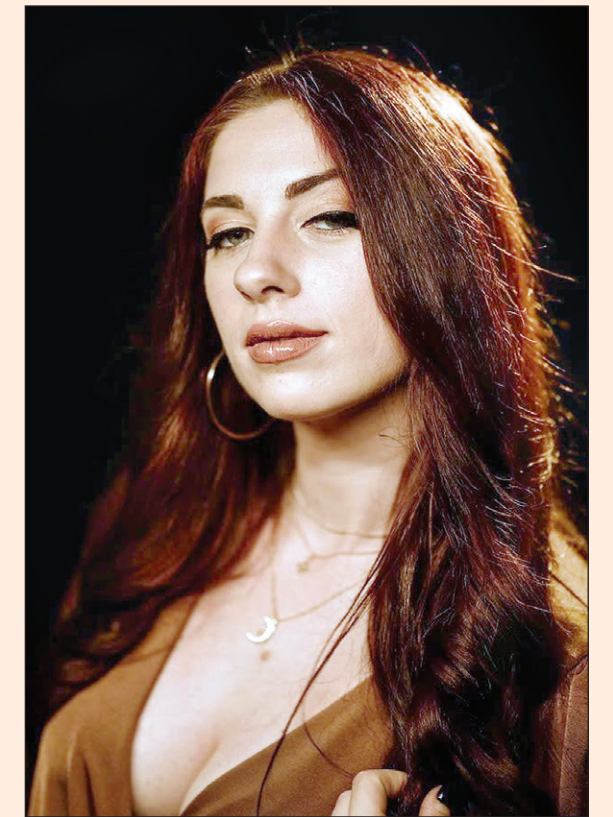
DJ Hammer



Sweet Justice



Rappahannock Crossing



Morgan Stewart



# Meet the Oyster Festival captains

## Four Waltons named captains of 65th Urbanna Oyster Festival

by Larry Chowning

The Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation (UOFF) has named brothers and fourth generation Urbanna commercial watermen Thomas Lee, Tony and Ricky Walton and Thomas Lee's son, Lee, a fifth generation waterman, as captains of the 65th annual Urbanna Oyster Festival.

After the August storm of 1933, the Waltons' grandfather and great-grandfather, Avery Payne, moved from Tangier Island with his family to the Town of Urbanna. He worked the water and operated Payne's Crab House until his death in 1977. After his death, the brothers' mother Catherine Via and aunt Beatrice (Payne) Taylor operated the crab house at the end of Virginia Street until it closed a few years ago.

As boys, Thomas Lee, Tony and Ricky worked with their grandfather and mother at the crab house and from them they learned the ways of the water and the seafood business.

Thomas Lee founded Walton Seafood and Tony started Tony Walton's Seafood, both located just outside of Urbanna on Old Virginia Street Road. Ricky is an independent



The Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation has selected four local watermen as captains of the 65th annual festival. They are all sons and a grandson of Catherine (Payne) Via, who along with her sister Beatrice (Payne) Taylor, operated the iconic Payne's Crab House that was located at the end of Virginia Street until it closed a few years ago. Pictured above are, from left, festival captains Ricky and Thomas Lee Walton, the late Catherine Via and her son Donnie and festival captain Tony Walton. (File photo)

commercial waterman who oysters and crabs and Lee runs Walton Seafood with his father, Thomas Lee.

### Heritage

When Avery Payne moved to Urbanna in 1933, his guardian and adopted father Henry Dize had already left Tangier and had established a home on Howard Street in town. Anecdotal town history



Father and son, Thomas Lee, right, and Lee Walton are being honored by the Urbanna Oyster Festival as oyster festival captains, along with two of Thomas Lee's brothers, Ricky and Tony Walton. (Photo by Larry Chowning)

has Dize as the first Urbanna waterman to harvest hard crabs using a crab pot. Trotline was the main gear form used here to harvest crabs until 1937 when Dize, who had seen the pots elsewhere, made some that were laced together with cotton twine and wire — no

hog rings as they use today.

In a 1987 interview with Dize's grandson, the late Ed Payne, said that Henry, who lived on Perkins Creek, would get up early and scull over to Buster Ferguson's Seafood dock (on LaGrange Creek) and buy a box of fish for a

dollar (for bait). "A box held a hundred pounds in it then. After he got his bait, he'd pole out into the river where he had 36 pots tied to wooden stakes. Granddaddy would come to a stake, tie his boat to it, pull her up, and empty her. He'd take his time. It wasn't like we are today — going as hard as we can to catch as many crabs as we can," said Ed.

"While Granddaddy was potting, Grandma each morning would run a little trotline in the creek to help out and they would ship their catch to Baltimore. A seafood truck would come to Urbanna each day to pick up crabs. In the early spring, they would get \$7.50 a bushel for jimmies (large male crabs). That was good money back then. During the summertime, the price would get as low as \$3 a bushel, and sometimes, they didn't get enough to pay freight. Times were tight, but we kids didn't know it. We were all happy-go-lucky and thought everything that shined was gold," said Ed.

(See Captains, Page 17)

An advertisement for M&amp;M Building Supply. On the left is a colorful "Welcome" sign with illustrations of crabs, pumpkins, and a starfish. To the right is a white box with the M&amp;M logo and contact information for three locations: Hartfield (804-776-7777), Mathews (804-725-7647), and Port Haywood (804-725-7156). It also includes the website mandm.doitbest.com and social media links for facebook.com/mandmbuildingsupply.



# Godspeed, other vessels on display

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. Festival-goers are welcome to board the square-rigged tall ship Godspeed, a replica of one of the three ships on the 1606-1607 voyage to the New World for the English Virginia Company of London. The journey resulted in the founding of Jamestown in the new

Colony of Virginia.

A replica of the 1700s tall sloop Luna will also be on display. The Colonial Seaport Foundation's Jock Collamore will be on hand to talk about the full history of the Luna and answer questions about sailing in colonial times. A third vessel will be on display — the shallop Explorer, a replica of the ship John Smith used to explore the Chesapeake Bay in the early 1600s. 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.

#### 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.



A replica of the 1700s tall sloop Luna will also be on display. (Contributed)



During the festival, history awaits at the Urbanna waterfront — folks can board the square-rigged tall ship Godspeed, a replica of one of the three ships on the 1606-1607 voyage that resulted in the founding of Jamestown. (Contributed)

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# Parades to be featured Friday and Saturday

The annual Fireman's Parade is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, and the Urbanna Oyster Festival Parade is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5.

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 followed by the Aqua String Band – a member of the Philadelphia Mummers String Band. A special parade guest will be Harris Ferguson carrying Deborah Pratt and Davila Redmond in his homemade tricycle with bench seating. A special treat will be Step Up Into T.L.C. – traveling miles to bring smiles with their Clydesdale horse, pony and miniature horse. And, 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.

## 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 "Firemen'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 men and women participating in this parade, unselfishly serve to protect property and save lives.



John Henry Tyler of Baton Rouge, La., left, and Henry Straub of Lexington wave to the Lower Middlesex County Volunteer Fire Department entry in the 2021 Urbanna Oyster Festival's annual Fireman's Parade. This year the Fireman's Parade is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4. (Contributed)



Beautiful custom designed home on Urbanna Creek has 2 primary en suites. Open and airy. Attached garage. Long pier, boat lift, fire pit add amenities to this year around resort property. Lower level has a separate entrance or can be accessed from 1st floor. The water side has a Florida room, patio and a shaded porch for leisure. Within walking distance to Town of Urbanna. Adjacent lot available for purchase. \$799,000

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## Wacky wheels pack parade

Shriners show off precision moves as they race their miniature NASCAR-inspired cars (above) in formation on Cross Street during the 2021 Oyster Festival Parade. A large contingent of Shrine Club hillbillies (below), complete with prop possoms and moonshine jugs, adds a lighter touch to the 2021 parade. More than 50 entries are expected for this year's parade, which is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5. (Photos by Don Richeson)



## Captains . . . (Continued from Page 14)

“The Walton and Payne family represents a long line of commercial watermen who have played a major role in the town’s oyster and seafood heritage,” said Pam Simon of the UOF.

This is the second time that Thomas Lee Walton has been named captain of the festival. He was so honored in 1989, while his mother and aunt, Catherine and Beatrice, received the honor in 1993.

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## Festive fun packs 'em in, in Urbanna in 2021

Festival attendees from near and far discover downtown Urbanna is the place to be.  
(Photo by Don Richeson)



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 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 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.



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## 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.





## Middlesex County Woman's Club members craft quilt, raffling off at festival for only \$1 a ticket

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

## *In case of an emergency*

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 more information, call the Oyster Festival Foundation at 804-758-2122 or visit [urbannaoysterfestival.com](http://urbannaoysterfestival.com).

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## Oyster Festival sponsors named

The Urbanna Oyster Festival is helped greatly by its sponsors, which include Cirrus Vodka, Dominion Energy, Gloucester Toyota, Green Top, Quarles/Superior Plus, Rappahannock River Oysters, Raymond Moore Financial Services, Secure Testing Services, Virginia Lottery, Bethpage Camp Resort, C&F Bank, C. Ben Lennon DDS, Carroll Plumbing Heating, Faulkner Funeral Home, Grey's Point Camp, J&W Seafood, Jason and Emilie Rowe, Price Properties, Primis Bank, River Wood Works, Riverside Walter Reed Hospital, Rosegill Development, Rymans Inc., Thurston Properties, Thurston Spring Services, Towne Insurance, Unique Golf Carts, Massey Urbanna Builders, River Birch Gifts, AARD Screenprinting, Bobcat of Tidewater, Land and Coates and WY Daily VIP Winner.



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 oyster-tasting 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 give a clue to their flavor — 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 Vineyard and Zoll Vineyards.

## VIPs Oyster Lovers Experience returns; sold out again

The VIP Oyster Lovers Experience returns for its fifth 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

2022 to April 2023, VIP seating at the Virginia Oyster Shucking Contest on Saturday, Nov. 5, a 2022 Urbanna Oyster Festival commemorative poster, six wine tastings, six beer tastings, six oyster tastings,

and a gift swag bag.

Plan ahead for 2023 and find VIP ticket information online at [urbannaoysterfestival.com](http://urbannaoysterfestival.com). VIPs must be 21 years or older to purchase a ticket. An ID will be required.

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## Antique auto show returns this year

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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## Share your fun at the Oyster Festival!

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@s sentinel.com](mailto:tchillemi@s sentinel.com) by Tuesday, Nov. 8  
Hold on to those memories.



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## Southside Sentinel

*Published in the Interest of the Territory  
Lying South of the Rappahannock River*

Published by Rappahannock Press Inc.

P.O. Box 549, 276 Virginia Street, Urbanna, VA 23175

Phone: 804-758-2328 • Fax: 804-758-5896 • [www.SSentinel.com](http://www.SSentinel.com)

Don Richeson, Editor

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The Southside Sentinel (USPS 504-080; print ISSN 2833-7948; web ISSN 2833-7956) is published each Thursday except Christmas week. Periodicals postage paid at Urbanna, VA 23175. Subscriptions: \$32 per year in Middle Peninsula counties and \$40 per year elsewhere. \$29 per year for e-Edition.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Southside Sentinel, P.O. Box 549, Urbanna, VA 23175

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# TOWN OF URBANNA

## PUBLIC NOTICE 2022 OYSTER FESTIVAL STREET AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The Virginia Department of Transportation has approved the following 2022 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 4, 2022 and 11 p.m., Saturday, November 5, 2022 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 4, 2022, 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 5, 2022, 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 4, and Saturday, November 5, 2022, law enforcement authorities may close selected streets to routine traffic as crowd and public safety actions dictate.

### **Town Entrance Restrictions**

Friday, November 4, 2022, 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 5, 2022, 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.



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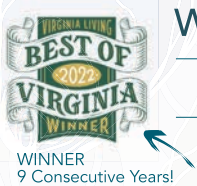
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