

U R B A N N A

OYSTER FESTIVAL

— 67TH ANNUAL —



URBANNA VIRGINIA
NOVEMBER 1-2, 2024

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CARTER HEUMANDLAK

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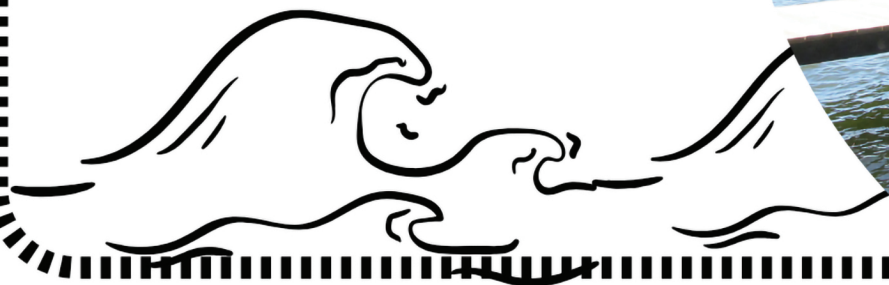
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ON THE COVER: 2024 UOF POSTER

Carter Helmandollar is the winner of this year's Urbanna Oyster Festival poster contest. Her entry, which appears on the cover of this supplement, was selected by the Oyster Festival Foundation Board based on the artistic skill and representation of this year's theme — the historic F.D. Crockett buyboat, currently based at Deltaville Maritime Museum. As the winner she will receive \$500.

Helmandollar is from the Richmond suburb of Moseley, but is currently finishing her Master of Fine Arts degree in Rome, Italy. She'll be done just in time to get home for the festival and will be there for the weekend.

Seizing an opportunity to show off a little, she posted on Facebook showing the process of creating the artwork that provides a great behind the scenes look as how it came to life. To check it out, visit https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1534578997414073&id=100025859630377&mibextid=CmRSLE&rdid=oKH5rIOYakWBILc5.

The poster, which is 18 by 24 inches, can be purchased for \$20 (unsigned) and \$25 (signed) 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.

Other official Urbanna Oyster Festival souvenirs will be for sale under the tent near the Primis Bank's Urbanna branch on Friday and Saturday. Free Oyster Festival programs will be distributed at parking areas and the info center.

Welcome to the 67th Urbanna Oyster Fest

by Tom Chillemi

The 67th Urbanna Oyster Festival is set for Friday and Saturday, Nov. 1 and 2, and once again the event promises good times, delicious food, two parades, live music on three stages, historic buyboats, crowning of the Urbanna Oyster Festival Queen and Little Miss Spat, the Virginia Oyster Shucking Contest and more. Admission is free; however, parking is \$20 which offsets festival expenses and contributes to the programs of the Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation.

Parades

The annual Fireman's Parade is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1, and the Urbanna Oyster Festival Parade is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2.

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 fire 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 second outing of the truck that was revived last year 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. to midnight with the band "Exit 38" (beer garden gates open at noon on Friday). The dance is sponsored by Mike's Custom Golf Carts with Budweiser, Bud Light, Michelob Ultra and Devils Backbone beers being served.

Saturday's Oyster Festival Parade will have about 40 units, leading off with our honorees, grand marshals and captain, and queens and spats. And, about five or six high school bands will be marching in the parade. The Official Oyster Festival Parade's special features this year include: TRADOC (United States Army Training and Doctrine Command) Army Marching Band from



Fort Eustis, StepUp Horses, Norfolk Khedive Shriners and special surprises!

Festival Queen

The 2024 Urbanna Oyster Festival Queen and Little Miss Spat will be crowned Friday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m. inside the Urbanna firehouse at 335 Virginia St. 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 foundation of this competition is character building and community service. Each queen contestant must volunteer a minimum of 25 hours benefiting Middlesex County.

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

This year there are seven queen hopefuls and eight Little Miss Spat contestants.

The 2024 Queen contestants and their Little Miss Spat contestants, in alphabetical order, include:

- Hailey Bruce and Leah Fuccella.
- Anna Crown and spats Holden Sweeden and Charlee O'Bryan.
- Elena Fomin and Josie Anton.
- Zikirah Morris and Felicity Acevedo.
- Kayleigh Moye and Rosie Robertson.
- Karli Parker and Monroe Hudnall.
- Cheyenne Sears and Scarlett Ebinger.

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.
- Overall participation.

History

Urbanna Museum and 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 festival. Go inside and see the rare John Mitchell Map, which is a first edition, third impression that was published in 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 multi-faceted solo finger-style guitarist, will perform on the front porch both days.

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 groups.

There will not be a car show this year, as there was in the past.

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 Rappahannock

(See Welcome, Page C5)

Welcome...

(Continued from Page C4)

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 sixth year and has sold out for both days. Historic Lansdowne at 271 Virginia St. will be the setting for the VIP event and check-in.

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 November 2024 to April 2025, VIP seating at the Virginia Oyster Shucking Contest on Saturday, Nov. 2, a 2024 Urbanna Oyster Festival commemorative poster, six wine tastings, six beer tastings, six oyster tastings, and a gift swag bag.

Plan ahead for 2025 and find VIP ticket information at www.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 Oyster Festival waterfront at the Urbanna Town Marina will showcase the area's varied history and emphasize the conservation and

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

During the Oyster Festival, history comes alive at the waterfront. Festival-goers are welcome to board Godspeed, a replica of one of the three ships of the 1606-1607 voyage to the New World for the English Virginia Company of London which resulted in the founding of Jamestown in the new Colony of Virginia.

In 1985, a replica of Godspeed (rigged as a barque, only 48 feet on deck) sailed from London back to Virginia. She had a crew of 14 and stopped at many places that the original Godspeed visited, including the Canary Islands and various places in the Windward Islands, before sailing to Jamestown. She carried 39 passengers, all male, and 13 sailors.

Other boats that will be open for tours include F.D. Crockett, a 100-year-old buyboat, and Explorer, a replica of the boat used by Captain John Smith to explore Chesapeake Bay in 1608. Both are based at the Deltaville Maritime Museum.

Also on display will be the sloop Luna, a replica of an 18th century sailing cargo vessel, built by the Colonial Seaport Foundation based in Deltaville.

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's waterfront include:

- 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.

- Music and refreshments.

Oyster Shucking Contest

The Virginia State Official Oyster Shucking Contest, sponsored by Walton Seafood, Tony Walton Seafood, T.M. Williams and Son Seafood and Urbanna Seafood and Raw Bar, will start at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2, on stage in the field 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 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 2025.

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

Wine tasting

Returning this year is wine tasting featuring several Virginia wineries. The wine tasting area at Historic Lansdowne on Virginia Street will be from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on both days of the festival. There is a \$20 admission fee.

Oysters will be available for tasting from Aylett Country Day School, Middlesex Kiwanis Club and Tidewater Oysters at the waterfront, pairing them with local wines from 7 Lady Vineyards, Jolene Family Winery, Mattaponi Winery, Wind Vineyards and Zoll Vineyards.

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, and Landshark.

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

Fun for children

The Children's Activity Village sponsored by Wildings Playscapes, a nature inspired play area for children and families, 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: Corn Sensory Play area, Mud Kitchen Play Area, Oyster Shell Painting, Performance Area entertainment, Storytime and Crafts presented by Nan Carlton, just to name a few fun-filled activities.

Master 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. Carnival and Midway presented by R.T. Carnival and Amusements will be at The Kids Zone featuring rides, an assortment of bounce houses, the Rock and Roll, the Whirlybird, the Tumble Weed and other surprises. For a one time fee of \$20 children can ride all day. Or purchase a wristband for \$15 for 15 tickets. Purchased separately each ticket is \$1.25. Each ride takes multiple tickets. Game Trailers are cash only, please no big bills. Amusements take cash or credit cards for wristbands and tickets.



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Seven high school seniors seek title of Urbanna Oyster Festival Queen

The 2024 Urbanna Oyster Festival Queen and Little Miss Spat will be crowned 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1 inside the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department station (the Urbanna firehouse) at 335 Virginia St. This year, the seven Queen contestants and eight 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's Queen hopefuls in alphabetical order include:

- Hailey Bruce.
- Anna Crown.
- Elena Fomin.
- Zikirah Morris.
- Kayleigh Moyer.
- Karli Parker.
- Cheyenne Sears.

This year's Little Miss Spat co-contestants in alphabetical order include:

- Felicity Acevedo.
- Josie Anton.
- Scarlett Ebinger.



Hailey Bruce and Leah Fuccella

- Leah Fuccella.
- Monroe Hudnall.
- Charlee O'Bryan.
- Rosie Robertson.
- Holden Sweeden.

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.
- 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.

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

Past queens

- 1960 – Jean Stone
- 1961 – Tommy Lou Cusimano
- 1962 – Mary Kay Mercer
- 1963 – Chalie Pierce
- 1964 – Sandra Ward
- 1965 – Frances Marie Hall
- 1966 – Barbara Davis
- 1967 – Julie Marshall
- 1967 – Joyce Bowen
- 1968 – Patrice Thrift
- 1969 – Sheila Moore
- 1970 – Debra Marshall
- 1971 – Susan Harrow
- 1972 – Sandra Hogge
- 1973 – Carolyn Norton



Anna Crown, Holden Sweeden and Charlee O'Bryan



Elena Fomin and Josie Anton

- 1974 – Sharon Harrow
- 1975 – Susan Crittenden
- 1976 – Kathy Redmon
- 1977 – Shannon Warren
- 1978 – Leslie Pugh
- 1979 – Diana Durham

- 1980 – Tammy Jackson
- 1981 – Michele Mankowski
- 1982 – Tara Fuccella

(See Queen, Page C7)



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Urbanna Antiques & Flea Market, Urbanna • The shops of 51 Cross Street, Urbanna


Aubrina Schryer


Queen...

(Continued from Page C6)

- 1983 – Sandra Brahn
- 1984 – Noele Mankowski
- 1985 – Kelly McMurtrie
- 1986 – Sara Townsend
- 1987 – Gloria Mercer
- 1988 – Lisa Handley
- 1989 – Connie Wright
- 1990 – Stephanie Henley
- 1991 – Genessa Dail
- 1992 – Tammy Lynn Jackson
- 1993 – Jennifer Wright
- 1994 – Addie Rowlson-Hall
- 1995 – Katie Rothery
- 1996 – Jenny Walters
- 1997 – LaNae Briggs
- 1998 – Crystle Felthouse
- 1999 – Hannah Chowning
- 2000 – Ashley Rowe
- 2001 – Kelly Proctor
- 2002 – Casey Haynes
- 2003 – Lily Smith
- 2004 – Brittany Jones
- 2005 – Charlee Eades
- 2006 – Kenleighe Longest
- 2007 – Maggie Ballantyne
- 2008 – Ashley Figg
- 2009 – Kendall McNamee
- 2010 – Lauren Figg
- 2011 – Allison Crittenden
- 2012 – Allison Payne
- 2013 – Leigh Harrow
- 2014 – Angel Abbott
- 2015 – Austen-Taylor Dozier
- 2016 – Hailey Walton
- 2017 – Haley Revere
- 2018 – Elizabeth Wilding
- 2019 – Marissa Halbig
- 2020 – Katie Brooke
- 2021 – Madysen Davis
- 2022-- Courtney Harrow
- 2023 — Carina Bednarczyk



Zikirah Morris and Felicity Acevedo



Kayleigh Moye and Rosie Robertson



Karli Parker and Monroe Hudnall



Cheyenne Sears and Scarlett Ebinger

Past Little Miss Spats

- 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 Foliard
- 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
- 2007 – Sarah Walton
- 2008 – Hope Britton
- 2009 – Katie Brooke
- 2010 – Emma Fairheart
- 2011 – Abigail Smiley
- 2012 – Bailey Fairheart
- 2013 – Anna 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
- 2022 — Kayleigh Carias
- 2023 — Caitlynn Epperly

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Oyster Shucking Contest is at the firehouse

The Virginia Oyster Shucking Contest, sponsored by T.M. Williams & Son Seafood, Urbanna Seafood & Raw Bar, Tony Walton Seafood and Walton Seafood, will start at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2, 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 2025. The National Champion then travels to Galway, Ireland to participate in the World Championship. Middlesex County's Deborah



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. They had a similar finish in 2023. (Photo by Don Richeson)

Pratt has made several trips to Galway, Ireland 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 include:

- Overall winner — Robert Minor, Gwynn's Island, adjusted time of 3:16.

- Second — Deborah Pratt, Jamaica, adjusted time of 4:33.

In the men's professional division, there were seven competitors. Professionals shuck 24 oysters. The winners include:

- First — Robert Minor, Gwynn's Island, adjusted time of 3:41.

- Second — Ian Johnson, Norfolk, adjusted time of 3:50.

- Third — Sam Davis, Urbanna, adjusted time of 3:51.

In the women's professional division, there were three competitors. The winners include:

- First — Deborah Pratt, Jamaica, adjusted time of 4:13.

- Second — Hannah Bush, Manassas, adjusted time of 4:34.

- Third — Jaime Southern-Kline, Norfolk, adjusted time of 4:39.

In the amateur division, there were 13 competitors. Amateurs shuck 12 oysters. The winners include:

- First — Kasay Smith, Deltaville, adjusted time of 2:34.

- Second — Bill Parrish, Virginia Beach, adjusted time of 2:37.

- Third — LaRenz Christmas, Urbanna, adjusted time of 2:56.

Urbanna Oyster Festival 2024 Oyster Shucking Competition

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\$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 in Fireman's Field Saturday morning at 10 a.m.





Quilt raffled at festival

Middlesex County Woman's Club quilters, from left, Mickie McCallum, Nancy Simon and Malilia Clark, show off the club's recently completed 2024 Urbanna Oyster Festival quilt. The quilt, called "Jewels of Middlesex," will be raffled off at the festival around noon Saturday, Nov. 2. Raffle tickets are now on sale. Proceeds from the raffle will go toward scholarships, community support and preservation of the club's historic "clubhouse," which served as the Middlesex courthouse in colonial times. You can purchase a raffle ticket Friday, Nov. 1 at the colonial courthouse at 202 Virginia St. in Urbanna. The cost is \$1 a ticket or six tickets for \$5. For information, email Jean Kostaskey at jgk25@verizon.net.

(Photo by Jean Kostaskey)

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Festival Friday events include:

- 10 a.m.-5 p.m. — Fine art show, carnival.
- 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.

Festival 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.
- 2 p.m. — Festival Parade.

Music schedule appears on pages 14 and 15.



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**PUBLISHED ON
NOVEMBER 21!**



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)

Festival food choices abound

More than 100 vendors will be open for business when the 2024 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 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.

In addition to great food and

desserts, visitors will delight in the variety of crafts available throughout town. Among the many offerings are stained glass, wood carvings, sculpture,

pottery, dolls, brass, silver, leather goods and jewelry. Many craft vendors will be in Taber Park on Rappahannock Avenue at Festival Village.

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Meet the Oyster Festival marshals

Deltaville father and son duo to serve as marshals

by Larry Chowning

The Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation (UOFF) has named Deltaville father and son duo Randy and Stephen Blue grand marshals of the 2024 Urbanna Oyster Festival.

“Randy and Stephen Blue embody the spirit of volunteerism that makes a small community like ours a better place to live,” said Oyster Festival Chairman Joe Heyman.

“They give so much of themselves without fanfare and have had an impact on the entire county that will last well into the future,” he said. “The UOFF is so proud to recognize these two amazing people as Urbanna Oyster Festival grand marshals.”



Deltaville residents Stephen Blue, left, and his father, Randy Blue, have been named grand marshals of the 2024 Urbanna Oyster Festival. (Photo by Larry Chowning)

Through the Deltaville Community Association (DCA), Randy and Stephen have spearheaded, along with others, a \$1 million restoration of the Deltaville Ballpark.

Randy has also been a longtime supporter of the Middlesex County Sports Complex at Locust Hill and a leader in the Middlesex

County Little League program, serving for years on the local Little League board of directors and umpiring games.

“When I go to the sports complex,” said Randy, “I park across the street at the (Middlesex) Elementary School and as I walk to the fieldhouse, I pass the softball field and glance over to the 90-foot baseball diamond, and playground.

“When all are full of children, full of hope, anticipation and just happy to be there,” said Randy, “I get a sense of pride and fulfillment

(See Marshals, Page C13)



Randy Blue, left, is all smiles as he deep fries some of the Middlesex Lions Club’s famed oyster fritters at last year’s Urbanna Oyster festival. Stephen Blue, right, operates a drone controller as he creates sky-high images above the Deltaville 5K in July. (Photos by Don Richeson)

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Marshals...

(Continued from Page C12)

that is difficult to describe — not because I am responsible, but because I'm a small part of a volunteer organization (Middlesex County Sports Complex Committee) that provides such a service to the community."

Yuletide spirit

Stephen's love of Christmas lights has led to a countywide Christmas extravaganza with his amazing Yuletide lighting display in the side yard of the Mason Realty Deltaville Branch building.

"I got the Christmas light bug when I was a child and we, as a family, would drive to Richmond for a tacky light trip," said Stephen. "My mother would decorate the front of the house and I'd get the back of the house with my tacky lights.

"Momma would make sure none of my lights could be seen from the front," he said. "When I grew up, I just continued to enjoy putting up Christmas lights and that led to the 182,000 light display that we do every year."

Deltaville Ballpark

The father and son duo were major players in the revamping of the Deltaville Ballpark. The nearly \$1 million renovation required a \$500,000 fundraising program and \$500,000 of in-kind donations from numerous businesses and people in the Deltaville area, said Stephen.

"This should not be all about us," said Randy. "The community opened their arms with so many volunteer hours and they opened their wallets to make the new ballpark come alive. We live in a wonderful, caring county.

"The DCA (Deltaville Community Association) has proven that a small volunteer group can provide assets for its citizens that are usually limited to towns and cities that are funded by taxes," he said.

"Tennis and pickleball courts, swimming pool, ballpark, railroad club annex, playground and over six acres are all developed, managed and maintained by volunteers with support from citizens of the community.



Stephen Blue's expansive, free-to-view Deltaville Lights display next to the Deltaville Mason Realty office spreads Yuletide joy on a massive scale this past Christmas season. (Photo by Stephen Blue)

"No project is too big or act is too small when you participate," said Randy. "Just pitch in!"

The Urbanna Oyster Festival in the Town of Urbanna is the largest volunteer-run festival in the State of Virginia and has raised millions of dollars for

local nonprofit organizations in Middlesex County since its conception in 1957.

"We know how important volunteerism is to small communities like ours," said Heyman. "Randy and Stephen are what we here at Urbanna Oyster Festival are all about."

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2024 Urbanna Oyster Festival Music Schedule

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Festival Village	10am- 4:30pm	Sweet Justice (Southern Rock)
Waterfront	10am - 3:30pm	Rappahannock Crossing Bluegrass Band
Scottish Factor Store	10am - 3pm	Robert Keyes (Solo Fingerstyle Guitarist)
Wine Area	11am - 4pm	Morgan Stewart (R&B and Soul)
Firehouse	8pm -12am	Exit 38 (Southern Rock/Classic Rock)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Festival Village	10am- 5pm	Tom Euler Trio (Blues/Rock)
Waterfront	10am - 4pm	Chris & Jane (Americana)
Scottish Factor Store	9am - 4pm	Robert Keyes (Solo Fingerstyle Guitarist)
Wine Area	11am - 4pm	Warren Ahrens & Betsy Green-Schaefer (R&B and Soul)



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Meet the Oyster Festival captain

Bryan Miller of Deltaville named Oyster Fest captain

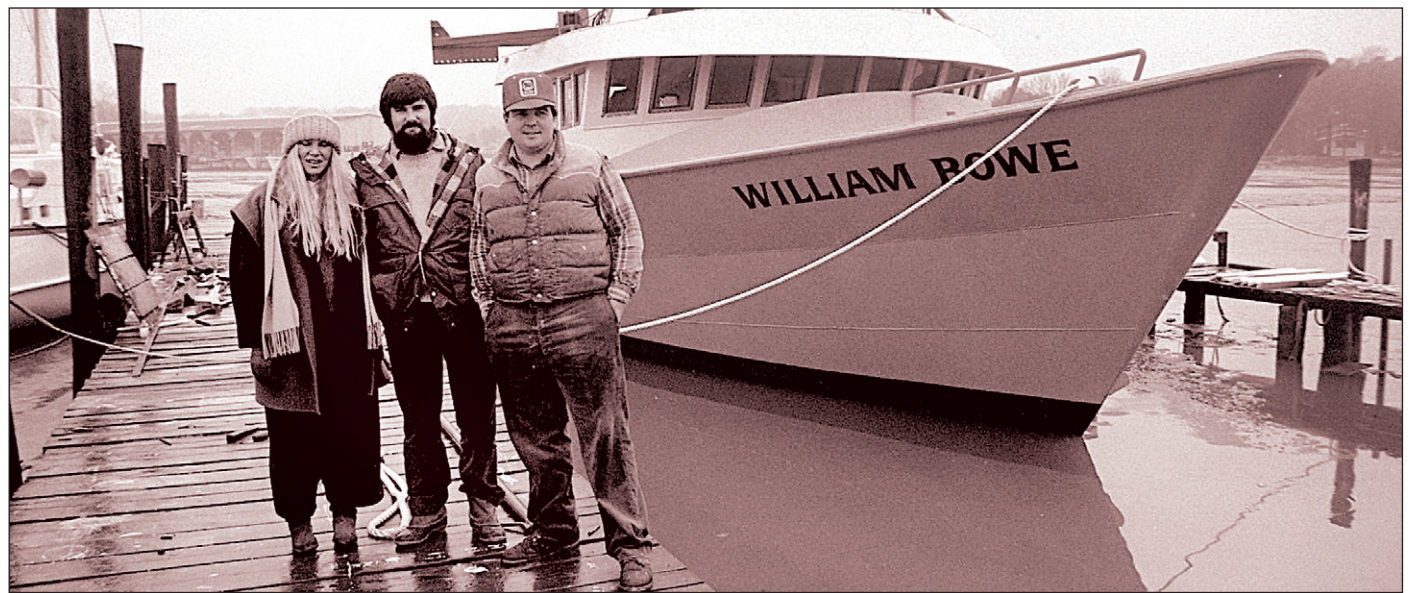
by Larry Chowning

The Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation (UOFF) has named boatbuilder Bryan Miller of Deltaville as a captain of the 2024 Urbanna Oyster Festival set for Friday and Saturday, Nov. 1 and 2.

The foundation 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.

Bryan Miller comes from a long line of boatbuilders and oystermen. His paternal grandfather, the late B.U. Miller, was an oysterman/boatbuilder in the Locust Hill area and his maternal grandfather Lee Deagle was owner of Deagle and Son Marine Railway on Fishing Bay in Deltaville.

Bryan Miller's father,



The "William Bowe" vessel was launched in 1985 in Deltaville. A young Bryan Miller, far right, stands with owners of the 72-foot lobster boat. Miller built the "William Bowe" and several other steel-hull commercial fishing boats in the 1980s for the New England lobster and trawl fisheries. Miller has been named the 2024 captain of the Urbanna Oyster Festival. (Photo by Larry Chowning from Deltaville Maritime Museum Chowning Collection.)

Virgil Miller, was one of the first in the Deltaville area to build steel-hull vessels for the New England lobster fishery. Bryan Miller got his start while still in high school when his family purchased Rice's Boatyard in Northumberland County in the late 1960s and he managed the railway.

Today, Bryan, along with his wife, Debbie Miller, and their two sons, Blake and Bryan Allen Miller, own and operate Miller Marine Inc. on Broad Creek in Deltaville and have built 60 tugboats there since the 2000s.

"I grew up on Lovers Lane next door to my grandfather, Lee Deagle, and across the street from Captain Johnny Ward," he said. "That in itself was a unique cultural experience." Lee Deagle

purchased old Price Railway on Fishing Bay in 1935 and repaired and built boats there. Captain Johnny Ward was a renowned waterman known up and down Chesapeake Bay and owned a fleet of bay buyboats.

"I learned a lot about how a boat was supposed to look by just growing up on Lovers Lane here in Deltaville," said Miller at the firm's office in Deltaville during an August interview with the Sentinel. "When I was a kid, there were 15 or more boatbuilders right here. Dick Norris, Wimpy Calls, Ishmael Jackson, Willard Norris, Hugh Norris, Lewis Wright, the Green brothers, the Walden brothers and Rob Dudley — that I can recall off the top of my head."

All of the boatbuilders mentioned were wooden boatbuilders and built from "rack of eye" without construction plans. "My Dad (Virgil Miller) was one of the first here in Deltaville to build boats off plans and to build in steel," he said. "When they started offshore lobstering in New England, fisherman Harry Hunt came to my father and asked him to build him a boat. Dad had (naval architect) Harry Bulifant draw the plans and he built off those plans."

When Virgil retired, Bryan picked up on that business and built several New England lobster boats and trawlers. One of his most famous clients was Bob Brown, made



Bryan Miller of Miller Marine Inc. in Deltaville has been named captain of the 2024 Urbanna Oyster Festival.

(Photo by Larry Chowning)

famous in the book and movie "Perfect Storm." Brown owned the vessel, F/V Andrea Gail, along with six crew members, who were lost at sea during that 1991 "nor'easter" storm.

The Rachel Leah was built by Bryan in 1988 for Bob Brown's son, Peter Brown. Bob and Peter Brown, along with Miller, were interviewed in Deltaville during the building process. The firm was featured in the December 1988 issue of National

Fisherman magazine, the nation's trade publication for commercial fishing. The article stated that "Miller has a reputation up and down the East Coast as a yard that turns out a quality product for northern offshore fisheries."

In the early 1990s, the firm made a business decision to go away from building commercial fishing boats to building tugboats and other maritime items. This would prove to be a good move.

Bryan's wife, Debbie, who has worked side-by-side with him for their 46 years of marriage, said, "The reason we have been successful at boatbuilding is because we have been willing to change and recognize that we needed to change," she said.

Urbanna Oyster Festival Chairman Joe Heyman said, "Bryan Miller comes from a boatbuilding tradition and he has adapted by building boats using modern methods and innovative designs.

"Small business is the backbone of Middlesex County and we are thrilled to recognize his contributions and leadership by naming him captain of this year's oyster festival," said Heyman.

Miller will ride in the two festival parades: the Fireman's Parade is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1; and the main Festival Parade, set for 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2. Miller will also be honored throughout the weekend at the festival.

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See historic vessels at Urbanna 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.

Fresh off its 100th birthday celebration in Deltaville this past summer, the famed buyboat F.D. Crockett will be on display at the Urbanna Town Marina.

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.

Festival-goers are also 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



The fully restored F.D. Crockett looks magnificent as it glides across the Rappahannock River near Deltaville earlier this year.

(Contributed)

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.



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Festival to feature parades Friday and Saturday

The annual Fireman's Parade is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1, and the Urbanna Oyster Festival Parade is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2.

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. to 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.

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

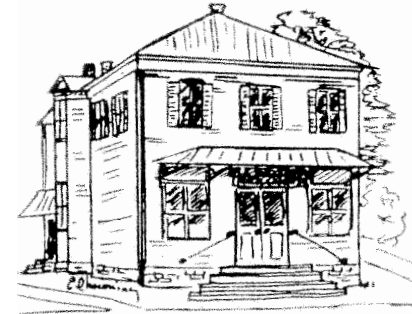
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The men and women participating in this parade, unselfishly serve to protect property and save lives.



The Middlesex High School band marches in last year's Saturday parade. (Photo by Don Richeson)

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Perfect weather brought thousands and thousands of visitors that filled Virginia Street on Friday afternoon during last year's Urbanna Oyster Festival.

(Photo by Tom Chillemi)

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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.



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.

(Photo by Tom Chillemi)

Indulge a love of oysters with this simple appetizer

Oysters are a beloved 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

make a roux the color of peanut 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.



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Check out antique cars at Urbanna Oyster Festival

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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Woman’s Club has bisque at festival

Middlesex County Woman’s Club members including Vera England, left, and Pam Jones, are working hard to make the club’s famous, secret recipe, crab bisque for the 2024 Urbanna Oyster Festival. Quart size containers of the club’s crab bisque are ready for sale at \$32. Email Sabrina Klunder at sklunder@gmail.com to reserve yours before they sell out or stop by 202 Virginia St. in Urbanna during the festival. Proceeds from sales go towards preserving the club’s historic colonial courthouse building, scholarships for local students and community support projects.

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VIP Experience returns; is sold out once again

The VIP Oyster Lovers 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 2024 to April 2025, VIP seating at the Virginia Oyster Shucking Contest on Saturday, Nov. 2, a 2024 Urbanna Oyster Festival commemorative poster, six wine tastings, six beer tastings, six oyster tastings, and a gift swag bag.

Plan ahead for 2025 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.

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Magician and juggler Jonathan Austin “wows” the Taber Park crowd in 2023 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.



No Limits Brain Injury Services

Now available in
Middlesex and
the Northern Neck!

No Limits Brain Injury Services (NLBIS) is a private nonprofit brain injury services provider. Our mission is to support survivors of acquired brain injury.

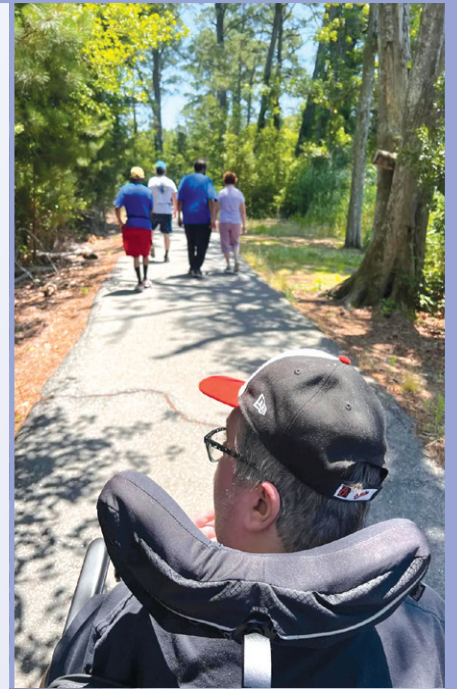
We provide case management and information and referral services at no cost to survivors.

Services include:

- Coordinating Care Providers
- Housing Assistance
- Employment & Benefits Assistance
- Mental Health Support

Contact us:

No Limits Brain Injury Services
804-724-9240
22 E Church St.
Kilmarnock, Va. 22482
nolimitsbis@gmail.com



Craft beer and wine tasting offered at far end of Festival Village

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 will be on Virginia Street in the area of 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.



Elect Kamala Harris for President: Leadership You Can Trust

In these challenging times, we need a leader who stands up for equality, fairness, and opportunity for all Americans.

Kamala Harris has a proven record of delivering results—not empty promises. As a prosecutor, senator, and vice president, she’s consistently fought for reproductive freedom, civil rights, and stronger social safety nets. She knows what it takes to build a safer, just society by advocating for affordable housing, sensible gun laws, and world-class education for every child.

Harris has put forward a plan for Medicare to cover long-term-care at home aimed at helping millions of Americans who are caring for aging parents.

Kamala Harris is also committed to strengthening our global alliances, supporting Ukraine, and ensuring America’s leadership on the world stage remains steadfast.

The Stakes Are High—We Can’t Afford Another Trump Presidency

Retired Gen Mark A. Milley, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who served while Donald Trump was President, said Trump is a “fascist to the core and the most dangerous person in the country” Just look at his Project 2025, a blueprint to roll back civil rights and dismantle democracy or how he praises foreign dictators.

Donald Trump has shown time and again that his actions threaten our democracy. From inciting violence on January 6 to spreading dangerous lies about the 2020 election, his divisive agenda risks undermining the values that hold our nation together.

Trump’s lies about FEMA aid, debunked by Republican governors of Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina, are causing harm to the victims of those areas devastated by Hurricane Helene. Trump doesn’t care about Americans, he only cares about being reelected.

On the economy, the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates Trump’s plan will increase the federal deficit more than double that of the Harris plan.

We cannot let Trump bring his divisive, dangerous and financially ruinous agenda back into the White House.

Choose Unity, Justice, and Progress. Choose Kamala Harris. Vote for Kamala Harris to keep America on the path to a brighter future.

Paid for by the Middlesex Democratic Committee. Not authorized by any candidate.

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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@ssentinel.com no later than 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 4.

Oyster Festival sponsors named

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

• **Sapphire** — River Counties Community Foundation.

• **Diamond** — Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Mike's Custom Carts and Parlett's Painting.

• **Emerald** — All Points Broadband, Dominion Energy, Friday's Malise Marine and Ryan Homes.

• **Gold** — Leafguard, Virginia Army National Guard.

• **Pearl** — Bethpage Camp RV Resort, C&F Bank, Carroll Plumbing Inc., Coastal Excavation, Gloucester Toyota, J&W Seafood, Jason & Emilie Rowe, Price Properties, Primis Bank, River Wood Works, Rosegill Development, Ryman's Inc., Thurston Properties, M/M Mullins, Towne Insurance and Westgate Williamsburg Resorts

• **Supporters** — Affordable Lawn Care, Bayside Designs & Embroidery, Camper's Trophies & Awards, C. Ben Lennon, DDS, Chesapeake Inn, Christchurch School Admissions, Christchurch School NHS, County of Middlesex, Creative deSigns of Virginia, In Memory of Diane Gravatt, Doc Jones Auto Parts, Dodd RV of Yorktown, East Coast Boat Lifts Inc., Eric N. Miller D.D.S., P.C., Family of Charles M. Bristow Jr., Faulkner Funeral Home, Franktronics, Hatton Homes, Inc., Hurd's True Value Hardware, Kathleen M. Hall,

C.P.A., Land & Coates Outdoor Power, Leasure's Wrecker Service Inc., Marshall's Drug Store, Mason Realty Inc., Massey Urbanna Builders, Middlesex County Health Department, Middlesex County Kiwanis Club, Middlesex County Rescue Squad, Middlesex County Sheriff's Office, Middlesex County Supervisors, Middlesex High School, Middlesex Woman's Club, Mi Jalisco Restaurant Inc., M&M Building Supply of Hartfield, Pitts Lumber Co. Inc., Professional Printing Center, Radio Communications of Virginia, R.T.'s Midway Entertainment LLC, River Birch Gifts, Nursery, River Country Pet Loss & Cremation Center, Shores & Shores Inc., Something Different, SRJ & Associates, startsmall. THINKBIG! Marketing, The Allen Group, The Town of Urbanna, Tom Davis - WRAR Radio, Tony Walton Seafood, Transition & Vocational Program, United Site Services Inc., Urbanna United Methodist Church, Urbanna Volunteer Fire Department, Urbanna Business Association, Urbanna Harbor Gallery & Art, Urbanna Marina Upton's Point, Urbanna Market Foods, Urbanna Seafood & Raw Bar, Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Peninsula Public Service, Virginia Department of Alcohol Beverage, Virginia Spirits, Virginia State Police, Walton's Seafood, Williams & Sons Seafood and Work Transition Program.



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TOWN OF URBANNA

PUBLIC NOTICE 2024 OYSTER FESTIVAL STREET AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The Virginia Department of Transportation has approved the following 2024 Urbanna Oyster Festival Street and Parking Restrictions pursuant to Resolutions 2024-RES-003 and 2024-RES-004 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 1, 2024 and 11 p.m., Saturday, November 2, 2024 in order to ensure pedestrian safety, safe movement of police, fire and rescue vehicles as well as safe parade operations. Certain streets may 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 Rd. 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 the 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 Ave. from Bonner St. to Virginia St. Park St. from Rappahannock Ave. to Linden Ave. Upton Ln. by the Post Office, Hilliard St., Rappahannock Ave., Cross St., Oyster Rd., Prince George St. and Kent St. in their entirety.

Urbanna Street Restrictions

Other Restrictions: On Friday, November 1, and Saturday, November 2, 2024, law enforcement authorities may close selected streets to routine traffic as crowd and public safety actions dictate.

Town Entrance Restrictions

Friday, November 1, 2024, 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 2, 2024, 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.

Parade Routes and Times

The Friday, November 1, 2024, 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 2, 2024, 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.

GOLF CARTS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE FESTIVAL AREA

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 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 the Urbanna Primis Bank.

In a typical year, UOF emergency medical technicians (EMTs) respond to 40 calls during the festival, reported Middlesex County Sheriff David Bushey.

In 2022, there were 14 calls on the festival's first day. On the second day, there were 26 calls.

For information, call 804-758-2122 or visit urbannaoysterfestival.com.



Virginia State Police motorcycle troopers are part of the security team at the Urbanna Oyster Festival. (Photo by Tom Chillemi)

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Whether you're looking to buy, sell, or explore your options this season, I'm here to guide you with care and professionalism.



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