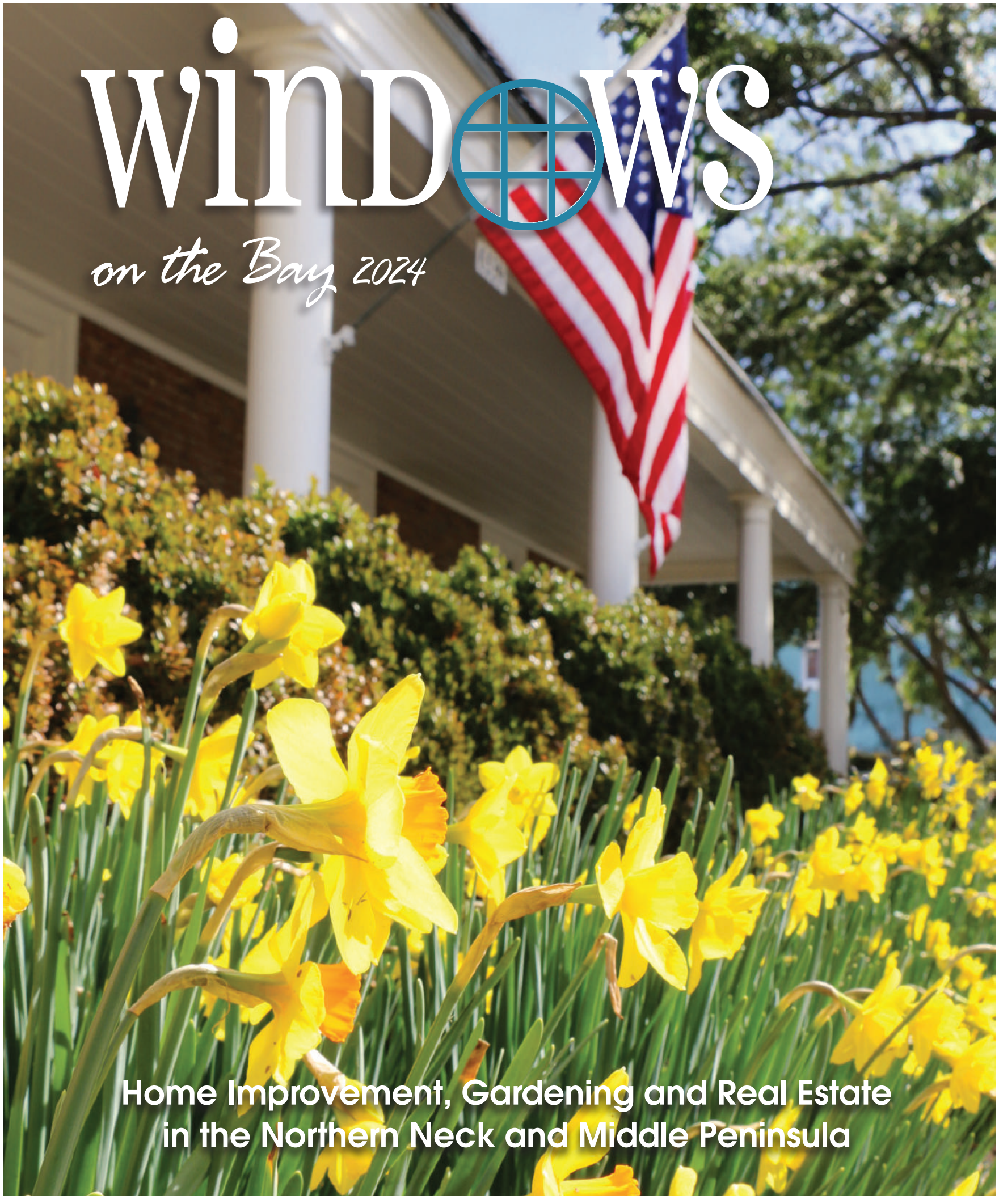
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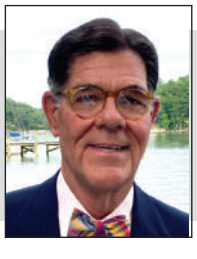
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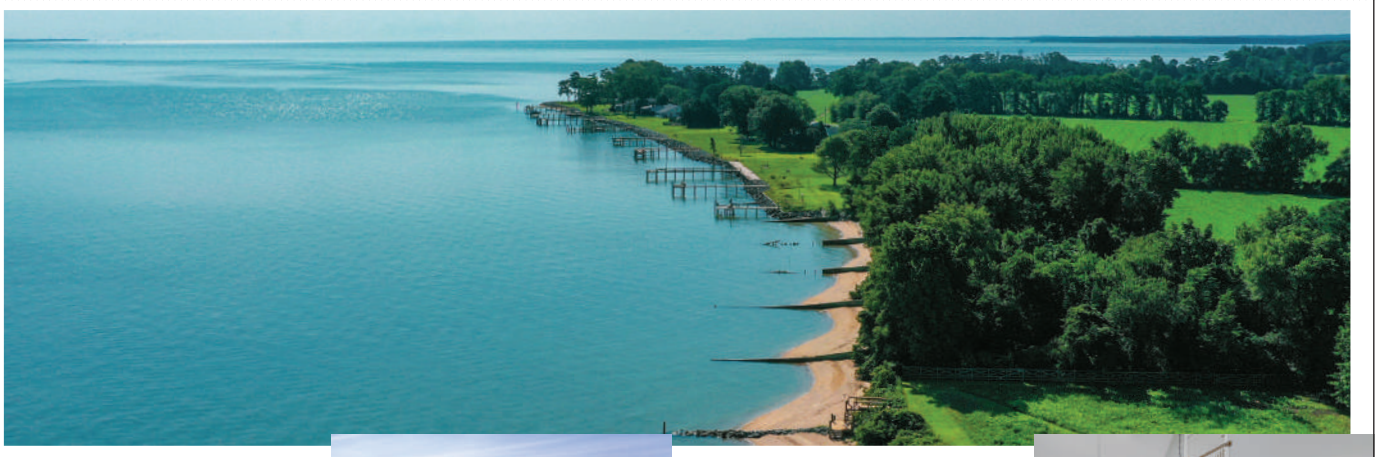
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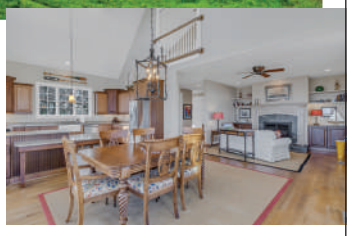
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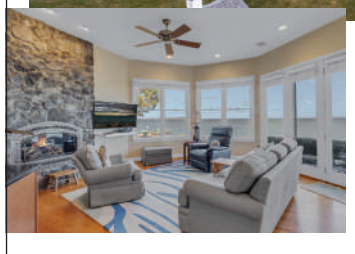




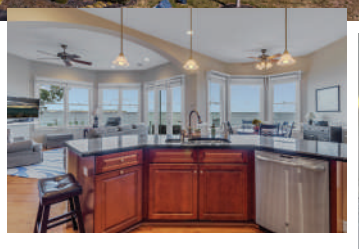


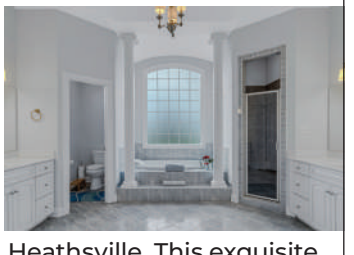
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Creating a thriving butterfly habitat

They're vibrant and elusive, often vanishing as quickly as they appear—making each unexpected visit all the more memorable.

There are over 102 butterfly species that have been observed in Virginia, according to butterflyidentification.org.

But Mary Free, a Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener serving Arlington County and the city of Alexandria, has noticed a decline in the number of winged visitors to her garden over the last 17 years, reported the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.

"Habitat loss is a major factor in the decline of insect and bird populations," Free said. "Everyone who creates a butterfly habitat adds a steppingstone to reverse that trend by providing a place where pollinators can safely eat and reproduce, planting trees and shrubs that reduce carbon, and using fewer chemicals."

Creating a thriving butterfly habitat can be as simple as several potted plants or as expansive as acres of flora.

"The key is to provide the plant food butterflies need as both caterpillars and adults," Free said.

Free encourages sticking with native plant species, as they attract native butterflies, provide the quality food they need, adapt to local climates and conditions and promote biodiversity.

Every butterfly is different, with some species and their caterpillars feeding on a variety of plants while others only need one host plant.

Some host plants may already be growing in gardens, like parsley, carrots, dill and fennel, which attract Eastern Black swallowtail caterpillars. Some may exist in neighborhoods, like white clover and oak, wild cherry and flowering dogwood trees.

Free suggested finding what native host plants are nearby, and planting something different to maximize results.

Consider incorporating a rock in a sunny spot for butterflies to warm their wings, and a puddling area for male butterflies, as they need soil minerals for reproduction. Planting densely is preferred, she said, as butterflies need refuge from wind and rain.

windows on the Bay 2024

Everyone has a favorite season. It's hard to pick. Summer offers lazy days with the kids out of school, boating and fresh seafood. Fall means bonfires and roasted oysters. And winter has lots of family gatherings, holiday parties and, if we're lucky, a few snow days. But spring in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula offers the promise of warmer weather with brown lawns turning to a lush green, flowers breaking ground and trees filling out with colorful blooms.

The season is also a time for sprucing up around the house and yard. In our annual edition of Windows on the Bay, we offer advice on lawn care and maintenance, on how to grow fruits, vegetables and flowers through all the seasons with a do-it-yourself backyard greenhouse and on innovative, new ways to protect your shoreline from erosion.

We've also highlighted two homes, one a centuries-old Victorian and another a modern take on building with shipping containers.

And as we do every year, we've given you an extensive look at the homes and gardens featured in this year's garden week tours in the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and Gloucester.

Welcome, spring.

Susan & Lisa

susan@rapprecord.com
lisa@rapprecord.com



on the cover

Daffodils: A sure sign of spring's arrival.
photo by Savannah Haugdahl

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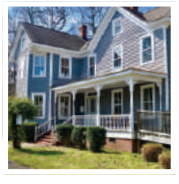
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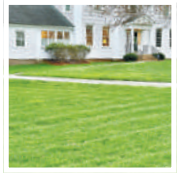
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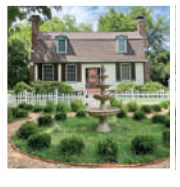
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Role of nature in home design for years to come

Outdoor living spaces were prioritized during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, when public gatherings were greatly limited and individuals were urged to stay home as much as possible. Such demands have had a ripple effect on various industries, including home design.

According to a survey conducted by the New Home Trends Institute in collaboration with Pro Builder, 58% of the more than 300 residential architects, designers and design-minded builders who participated said connection to the outdoors/nature will be an important influence on their design choices in the years to come.

In addition, 45% of respondents indicated increased attention will be afforded to outdoor entertaining spaces.

So what might the outdoor spaces of homes built in the not-so-distant future look like? Respondents to the survey anticipated a growing demand for various built-in outdoor features, including:

- Firepits or fireplaces.
- Outdoor kitchens.
- Gazebos or pergolas.
- Pools.
- Spas or hot tubs.

Although trends and consumer demands are ever-shifting, architects and designers are anticipating that future homeowners will want more developed outdoor living spaces and greater access to nature, which is something current homeowners can keep in mind when renovating their properties.

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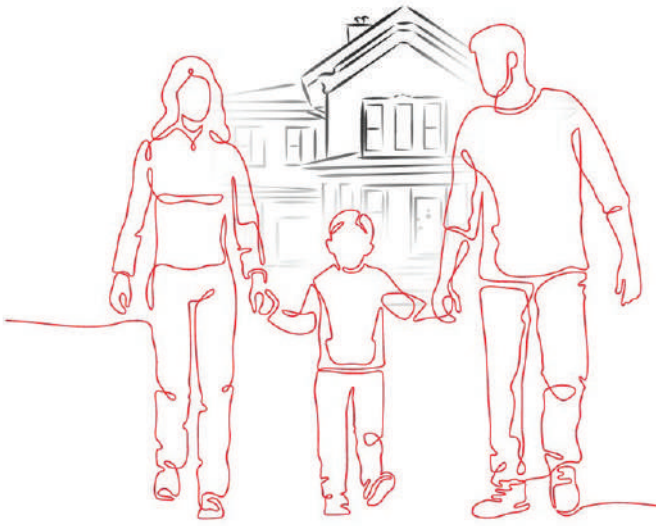
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Beautiful spring blooms will be the focus of the garden fundraiser for the Middlesex County Museum on May 19.

Indulge your senses at Millmont spring garden party

Join the Middlesex County Museum and Historical Society from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, at historic Millmont on the Rappahannock for the museum's spring fundraiser. Step into a world of elegance and enchantment at this upcoming garden party extravaganza. Organizers say it will be an unforgettable afternoon filled with sensory delights, set amidst the breathtaking beauty of Millmont located on the Rappahannock River at 987 Mill Wharf Road in Wake.

The half house, built in 1810, features heart pine floors, hand hewn beams and additions from the 1940s and 1994. The home is located atop a gently sloping hill along the southern shore of the Rappahannock River with sweeping views up the river and of the Chesapeake Bay.

Wine and food pairings

Savor the exquisite flavors of carefully curated wines expertly paired with delectable culinary creations. Let your taste buds dance amidst the lush greenery as you explore a symphony of flavors.

Live music

Be serenaded by the melodious tunes of live music, adding a harmonious backdrop to our garden oasis. Clayton Neal, a guitarist with the musical group "Jumbo Lump Daddy," will provide music. Lose yourself in the rhythm and melody as you mingle with fellow guests under the open sky.

Floral design showcase

Susan Marie Rhodes, certified horticulturist with 30 years experience in interior plantscape and landscape preservation design, will create stunning masterpieces from the garden's flowers.

Garden and waterfront house tours

Embark on a journey of discovery as you explore the hidden treasures of an enchanting garden and waterfront oasis. There will be tours of the grounds, providing you the opportunity to immerse yourself in a kaleidoscope of colors and scents that celebrate the beauty of the spring blooms. And inside the home, knowledgeable guides will lead you on tours from 3-4 p.m., revealing the secrets and stories behind each picturesque corner.

Proceeds from the ticket sales will support the museum in its mission of education, through programming and exhibits, of the county and its vast history.

Tickets are $75 and can be ordered on the website at middlesexmuseum.com, or emailing the museum at info@middlesexmuseum.com. Tickets purchased after May 14 will be $85.





Home in a box



This is the first container home in Lancaster County. It's a two-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath house made from shipping containers.

Story and Photos by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

If you're looking for an innovative home design, try shopping at a local shipyard.

Container homes—yes, homes built from those large metal shipping containers—are growing in popularity as folks are trying to 'go greener' in all aspects of their lives. The homes, also known as shipping container houses, have become increasingly popular because of their unique designs and affordability, both in materials and in maintenance costs.

"You are looking at the Yeti [cooler] of homes," said Bradley Walker of Walker Homes Inc. in White Stone. "This thing is airtight so if you cool it or heat it to a certain temperature, it's going to stay there."

Walker and partner Arthur Lang completed Lancaster County's first container home for owners Norm and Ryan Faulkner in 2022. The build took about six months but Lang and Walker came on board when the process was already underway. Because it was a 'non-traditional' build it stumped some of the previous contractors on the project and as the first of its kind in the county, "it was a challenge for the building inspector," said Lang.

"Thank goodness for Walker Homes. They came in and fixed everything," said N. Faulkner.

Like tiny homes—another popular building trend—container homes have been getting lots of air time on home improvement-themed networks. HGTV airs a show called Container Homes, which follows builders across the country who are designing and building simple, affordable tiny homes to tricked-out, complex ones made of dozens of containers. The design options are only limited by the imagination with these custom box homes.

"You can stack them [for multiple stories], connect them for a more traditional design or have a porch roof from one to another to create more space and a dif-



Although the containers are narrow, they can easily include a well-equipped kitchen with full-size appliances.



The containers do not touch in this u-shape design.

ferent look. The possibilities are endless," said Lang.

And just like a traditional build, a container home can be affordable or costly, depending on the materials and design.

"The reason we chose that particular structure, we wanted to have as ecologically-friendly build as we could," said N. Faulkner. "Part of that was to refurbish containers and have everything inside as ecologically friendly as possible to reduce volatile organic compounds.

"The design we chose didn't lend itself to being as economical as it could have been," he added. "None of the original contractors we used had any experience in that type of construction and we ran into some issues early that had to be corrected. The windows and the doors were an issue."

Challenges

One challenge with metal containers is cutting holes in them for windows and doors, which requires welding. "This type of build requires a whole other trade you don't need in traditional building," said Lang.

The 960-square-foot home is a u-shape design with a central patio area in the center of the 'U'. None of the three containers are connected, except by an outdoor deck, which means residents have to go outside to access the guest restroom and the two primary bedrooms, which each contain a full bath—one with a deep garden tub, the other with a large shower.

However, containers can easily be connected, butted together with portions cut out to make more of a square house, said Lang.

The containers are 40 feet long and must be insulated with spray foam insulation, which means instead of being 8 feet wide, they're more like 7.5 feet wide. And because they're so airtight, a proper air ventilation system is a must, whether you're using the containerized home for living, storage or as office space.

They're narrow and long, which makes for some interior design limitations. Faulkner's rental home has a living area with a large dining table and a kitchen with full-size appliances. Each of the two side containers of the u-design have a bedroom and bath. There also is a separate half bath, accessible only from outdoors, at the end of one container.

"Unlike most tiny homes which are 300 or 400 square feet, you can make these as big or as small as you want. Some can be 3,000 square feet if you want," said Lang.

The Faulkner house also has a roof, which isn't really necessary, said Lang.

"The big appeal here is you're taking something that would otherwise be discarded and repurposing it," said Walker.

The ones seen on shows like Container Homes are new, unused containers. To be really 'green,' go buy one



A living area and dining table are just off of the kitchen.



The 960-square-foot house includes two full baths—one with a deep garden tub, the other will a large shower—and a half bath.



Arthur Lang and Bradley Walker of Walker Homes Inc. in White Stone completed this container home at Bridge Pointe.



The u-shape design of this container home allows for optimal outdoor living with a large deck and crushed oyster shell patio area. The owners plan to include more outdoor seating and a fire pit.



A bedroom in one of the containers has a sliding glass door which allows access to the deck.

from the shipyard, said Walker.

Shipping container builds are ideal for the do-it-yourselfer, he said. You can take your time, "it's already closed in and weatherproof, so you can go out there and tinker with it on the weekends," he said.

Usage

Containers also make great sheds or workshops.

The containers, which can often be found for sale online but require the buyer to move, arrive dry and ready to go.

"There's also no real maintenance, nothing like with a normal house. You don't have to worry about it rotting or leaking or termites," said Walker.

And because the frame, walls and ceiling are all one piece and welded, it's very weather-resistant. "It's every bit as strong as a wood frame house, maybe stronger," said Lang.

A quick internet search revealed dozens of do-it-yourself books on building container homes, and believe it not, prefabricated container home kits ranging from $12,000 to $30,000 on Amazon. Order the kit and finish the house to your liking.

The Faulkners had a short-term rental in mind when they built the container home on an 8-acre tract in White Stone known as Bridge Pointe. They plan to build six structures of varying construction on the property; three have been completed. All of the houses are 800 to 900 square feet. The plan now is for longer, short-term rentals, think six months to a year. "What we were thinking with all of the housing we're planning for that little community there, it's all going to be very outdoor oriented with lots of outdoor living spaces," said N. Faulkner.

With its bright blue exterior walls and its crushed oyster shell courtyard off the deck, the container home offers great outdoor living.

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Gardening can fight inflation

Inflation has garnered countless headlines in recent years, and much of that news has focused on the notably higher cost of food. Though the cost of some items at the grocery store has gone down in 2024, many items remain significantly more expensive than they were as recently as three or four years ago.

In an effort to overcome rising food costs, some consumers have thought about gardening. According to Washington State University, the average household with a food garden spends around $70 per year on seeds and garden supplies. The reward for that small investment is roughly $600 worth of food.

Though the financial investment associated with a food garden might be minimal, it's important for prospective gardeners to recognize that the commitment of time required to establish and sustain a food garden can be significant.

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Backyard greenhouse: a space to grow your own

by Jackie Nunnery

Spring is here and if you are a gardener, you are already looking excitedly at the first signs of green. After a winter spent browsing plant and seed catalogs, you are anticipating getting your hands in the dirt. Imagine being able to extend the season with the addition of a greenhouse.

Greenhouse in a box

Although around for centuries before first gaining popularity during the Victorian era, greenhouses saw a surge in demand during COVID lockdowns as people began growing more of their own food. Folks then realized that having a greenhouse would allow them to extend the growing season by starting plants earlier or even to have fruits and vegetable year-round. There are now countless kits available online depending on budget, size or materials.

That is how Cindy Dittfield of Heathsville got started with her dream of a greenhouse. She and husband Mike "started out with a 6' x 8' kit we bought online," but after working with it for a little while, "found it was too small." All was not a complete loss though, as they were able to reuse the corrugated panels when they built a larger 10' x 12' frame out of wood and recycled windows. Every year they add a little more. First, it was adding electricity and ventilation. Then they realized they needed to run a longer hose for easier watering and another big step was creating shelving by recycling wooden pallets. "It tells us what it needs."

They have the same approach to what goes on inside the greenhouse. "We start seeds and we also grow tomatoes and some herbs year-round," Dittfield said. Walk into the greenhouse on a gray and chilly March day, not only are you are greeted with 60-degree temps but now also the smell of citrus. A couple of years ago they expanded into small orange, lime and lemon trees, experimenting to see what works. Since the fruit trees are kept inside and require pollination, Dittfield



Using ingenuity and some recycled materials, the Dittfields' greenhouse is both a useful and attractive addition to their Heathsville property. Photo by Cindy Dittfield

has to step in and do the job with a cotton swab. But so far, she is happy with the results. "I love making plans each year and seeing the development of what I created. You know, the fruits of my labor," she said.

Growing to meet growing needs

Pamela Alexander's Gwynn's Island greenhouse started out as a hobby and continues as a labor of love. Her large 22' x 12' kit greenhouse is a hive of activity nearly year-round. Thanks to the helpful handiwork of her husband Tommy Daniels, they built the greenhouse and he outfitted it with temperature controls through vents, fans and heaters. He also solved the watering issue through rain barrels and an indoor irrigation system to water plants. With a thermostat to control temperature, much of it is "no fuss," which gives Alexander time to focus on other gardening activities.

In addition to overwintering plants, the greenhouse allows Alexander a place to start seeds in February, "especially the herb seeds that take a longer time to germinate," she said. By spring she has an abundance of young plants that she often shares with neighbors. The combination of greenhouse and outdoor raised-bed garden have been a "godsend" according to Alexander, who is an herbalist and on a plant-based diet. With freezing and canning some of the harvest for later in the year, Alexander says she is able to "pretty much provide all of what I need."

While greenhouses can provide plants some protection from the elements, they are not care-free. "Because the plants are so close together, it's easier for things to spread. I'm constantly checking for problems like fungus or mites," she said.

A house of your own

If owning a greenhouse sounds like heaven, there are a few things to keep in mind:

• Location: You need a level piece of ground with full sun (at least six hours of sun per day). Southern exposure will maximize sunlight in the winter months. Anything less in terms of sunlight and you may need to supplement with grow lights. Also keep in mind access to electricity and water. Keeping air moving with fans is necessary to prevent disease. Hauling water may be good exercise



It may be Zone 8 outside, but inside the greenhouse it is frost-free and warm. It is perfect for cultivating citrus, which usually is grown in Zones 9-11. Photo by Cindy Dittfield



Warmer, controlled temperatures of the greenhouse allow gardeners to get a jump start with seed germination in February and March. Photo by Cindy Dittfield



Pamela Alexander's large greenhouse is the center of gardening activity on the Gwynn's Island property. Photo by Pamela Alexander

but not practical for keeping plants hydrated.

• Materials: Wood, plastic or metal frames? Glass, polycarbonate or PVC sheets? Each choice has impact on durability and price. Plastic frames and PVC sheeting are inexpensive, lightweight materials that make the greenhouse easier to move if needed, but may not hold up to winds.

• Size: Consider what activities and how many plants you can handle. A cold frame, which is essentially a mini greenhouse, can be used to both overwinter small plants and start seeds but for a fraction of the cost, space and effort. Kits are widely available for both freestanding frames and those that can placed over planting beds.

If you are a real do-it-yourselfer, there are plans and how-to videos for building your own using conventional materials, cattle or hog panels covered with plastic sheeting, or recycling old windows. Sheds can also be converted to a greenhouse by adding larger windows, skylights and vents to increase sunlight and air movement.

Greenhouses can provide a creative outlet, a healthy hobby and be a beautiful addition to a yard. Choose a structure to suit your needs and budget and enjoy the process of filling it with delicious fruits and vegetables or exotic plants that otherwise would not grow where you live.

In your planning, do not forget to leave a little space for yourself so you too can enjoy the extra sunshine and warmth during the colder months while you dream of the gardening season to come.



While some greenhouses become garden rooms to relax in, every inch of space in Pamela Alexander's greenhouse is productive. Shelves lining both walls are used for storage and starting plants. Photo by Pamela Alexander

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Tips to make a yard less attractive to ticks

Backyards are ideal places to spend warm afternoons soaking up some sun. Lazy days in the yard are a big part of what makes warm weather seasons like spring and summer so appealing. But those afternoons can quickly go off the rails when an unwelcome visitor makes its presence known.

Ticks can be found throughout the world, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes that only a select few types of ticks transmit bacteria, viruses and parasites, or pathogens, that cause diseases in people. But even if the number of tick species that transmit diseases to humans is relatively low, ticks that can infect humans are a notable threat. Such ticks carry pathogens that the CDC notes can cause a number of diseases, including Bourbon virus, Ehrlichiosis and, of course, Lyme disease, among others.

Human beings can come into contact with ticks in their own backyards. But humans can take various steps to make their lawns less welcoming to ticks.

These steps include:

• Cutting your grass short and keeping it that way. Black-legged ticks are transmitters of Lyme disease, which the CDC notes is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States. Lyme disease also poses a growing threat in Canada, where data from the Public Health Agency indicates human-reported Lyme disease cases increased fromm 144 in 2009 to more than 2,100 in 2022. Black-legged ticks do not like environments that are dry and hot, so short grass makes lawns less attractive to this type of tick. Consumer Reports advises homeowners who have let their grass grow a little too high (around five or six inches) to bag their clippings when cutting the grass. Lots of clippings on the grass can provide a respite from the heat for black-legged ticks.

• Creating a tick barrier if your property abuts woods. Woods provide a cover from summer heat that black-legged ticks crave. So properties that abut the woods may be more vulnerable to these unwanted guests than yards that do not border woodlands. A barrier of dry mulch made of wood chips between a property and a bordering wooded area can help repel ticks, who won't want to settle in often dry, hot mulch beds.

• Planting with infestation prevention in mind. Some plants can help to repel ticks because they boast certain characteristics that ticks cannot tolerate. The fragrances, textures and oils of plants like garlic, mint, lavender, marigolds, and others create less welcoming conditions for ticks. Homeowners can speak with local garden centers for advice on tick-repellant plants that can thrive in their particular climate and on their properties.

• Removing yard debris. Piles of wood, leaves and brush can make for good conditions for ticks that transmit disease. After raking leaves and gathering brush, discard the resulting piles immediately.

These measures will not necessarily prevent all ticks from establishing themselves on a property, so individuals are urged to inspect their bodies and the bodies of their pets after a day in the yard.

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Innovative solutions offered to maintain area shorelines



These triangle-shaped, concrete shoreline forms with oyster shells embedded in the concrete are used in shallow shoal waters to discourage erosion and encourage oyster larva to attach to the form. Photo by Larry Chowning

by Larry Chowning

God's wind, waves and tide are constantly moving and changing the shoreline of waterfront properties on the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck. With climate change pushing sea water levels even higher, maintaining local shorelines is becoming even more of a challenge.

Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (PAA) is charged with setting aside public access sites for all types of recreational activities important to the area's economy and finding ways of maintaining the area's shoreline and protecting the valuable waterfront tax base that is associated with it.

Recently, PAA officials went on a boat tour of Hogg Island in the York River. They left from Golden Oyster Marine Services and BioGenics (GOMSB) on the Perrin River to study the latest in shoreline protection technology that could change the fate of shoreline management up and down the Atlantic coast and Gulf of Mexico.

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC) Executive Director Lewis "Lewie" Lawrence said sea level rise and shoreline protection is one of the greatest challenges for waterfront landowners and that PAA is partnering with and supporting private enterprise in developing "trailblazing" shoreline protection technology.

"This is a coastal wide problem and [sea level rise] is a coastal issue that is slowly killing our natural environment," said Lawrence to a group of 10 local public officials on the boat.

The PAA has been working with the private sector in finding "more environmentally effective and affordable" shoreline reef structures and other methods of saving the shoreline for waterfront landowners, said Lawrence.

Ron Gorton III, vice president of GOMSB, has recently purchased waterfront land on the Perrin River where he hopes to create a "Home Depot" to showcase innovative shoreline reef structures and other methods of saving the shoreline.

"We want this site to be where waterfront landowners can come and see all of the different technology available and where they can select the one that is best suited for them," he said.

Gorton has also invested in dredge equipment that he said will provide "affordable dredging of small creeks, coves, and will accommodate small homeowner shoreline jobs."



Vice President of Golden Oyster Marine Services and BioGenics Ron Gorton III shows local county officials his floatable Piranha pump that he will use for dredging and shoreline state-of-the-art restoration projects. Photo by Larry Chowning



These concrete stations have been placed near marshes south of Hogg Island in the York River to protect the island from erosion. Photo by Larry Chowning



These hollow forms with legs allow fish to swim in and under to feed off algae growing on the forms, to provide a clutch setting for oysters and to discourage erosion. Photo by Larry Chowning

Lewis "Lewie" Lawrence, executive director of the Middle Peninsula Regional Planning District Commission, has spearheaded an effort to find more affordable methods to protecting waterfront from erosion. Photo by Larry Chowning

Dr. Russell Burke of Biogenic Breakwater Reefs spoke to the group and said that the latest technology in living shoreline reefs is "practical, innovative, cost-effective, sustainable and effective.

"It also provides replicable solutions to shoreline erosion, wetland and forage fish habitat loss, property damage in the face of rising sea level and provides more places for oysters to settle, thrive and attract further generations of oyster recruits than traditional stone riprap and wood bulkhead methods," said Dr. Burke.

Lawrence said this new technology industry is revolutionary and the PAA is laying groundwork for the Middle Peninsula to be the place for the creation of new and innovative coastline management. "I can foresee a major job market opportunity coming to our area with this," he said. "We need jobs here and that's one of the things that has been expressed to me over and over since I've been at the MPPDC.

"This new industry will bring us jobs and I mean high paying jobs to the Middle Peninsula," Burke said. "This new technology will be affordable in an environmentally responsible way that will protect the homeowner and that valuable tax base for the localities of the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck."



Geotube is an innovative and inexpensive sludge and mud de-watering tool that can be used for small dredge projects that prevents the need for creating expensive spoil sites. Photo by Larry Chowning



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30th Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar slated April 13

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners (NNMG) Association will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar (GNN) on April 13. The seminar will be held at Lancaster Elementary School, 191 School Street, Kilmarnock.

The theme will be "Creating Outdoor Spaces—Defining Your Lifestyle."

"We are proud to be hosting this very popular seminar for 30 successful years, and this year could be the best one yet," said NNMG president Lynn Osborn. "We have three marvelous speakers who will delight, educate and entertain everyone who attends."



Mary Palmer Dargan



Barbara W. Ellis



Lorraine Ballato

Speakers will be Mary Palmer Dargan, an award-winning author, professor, botanist and landscape architect; Barbara W. Ellis, freelance writer, editor, lifelong gardener and author; and Lorrainne Ballato, professional horticulturist and author of *Success with Hydrangeas*.

The fee is $50 with the option of a boxed lunch for $20. Payment at the door will be $60. Lunch registration is required by April 3. Proceeds help fund the NNMG Scholarship program and other educational and outreach projects.

Register at www.nnmg.org.

Mary Palmer Dargan

Dargan is chief executive officer of Dargan Landscape Architects Inc. Dargan, with her husband and partner Hugh Dargan, specializes in creating "utopias," or energized, nourishing stress-free living environments that allow seamless flow between interior and exterior spaces. Their goal is to design places for people to flourish in their home environment.

She will present "Couture Garden Design – May Your Landscape Fit Your Lifestyle Like a Glove."

Dargen has authored several books including *Timeless Landscape Design: The Four Part Master Plan*, and has been featured in many publications including Better Homes and Gardens, House Beautiful, and Garden and Gun. She has taught landscape courses at Clemson University, University of South Carolina and College of Charleston and has won numerous awards for her innovative landscape design approach.

Barbara W. Ellis

Ellis, horticulturist and lifelong gardener, will talk on "Fun with Plants: Creating Successful Container and Small-space Gardens for the South." The author of *Container and Small-Space Gardening for the South*, Ellis will offer a look at how pots and small plantings make it easy to add flowers, foliage or tasty edibles throughout a property.

She will share creative and practical advice on topics ranging from easy-to-use techniques for building plant combinations and ideas for making low-cost containers from recycled items to keeping maintenance manageable.

Ellis served as publications director at the American Horticultural Society and editor of American Horticulturist, now The American Gardener. She also was managing editor of Garden Books at Rodal Press and a prolific freelance writer.

Lorraine Ballato

Ballato is a self-described plantaholic and hydrangea specialist. She is a professional horticulturist and an instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, where she is regarded as the resident hydrangea expert. Her talk, "Success with Hydrangeas in the Northern Neck," will affirm that no garden is complete without this queen of American shrubs.

Attendees will learn about hydrangeas, including recent introductions that have hit the market, their proper care and the hardy cultivars that perform well despite over-enthusiastic pruning and finicky weather. They will hear essential growing tips that can make a huge difference in getting the most from hydrangeas.

Success with Hydrangeas - A Gardener's Guide, written by Ballato, will be available for purchase at the event.





The Ice House Fields Victorian home was constructed circa early 1900s and has taken on the role of a family home, office space, retail space and of course the former ice house. It once sat closer to Rappahannock Drive and now is back in the corner of the field. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank

If a Victorian could talk: *the Ice House Fields legacy*

by AnnGardner Eubank

Tucked in the back corner of the commercial tract known as Ice House Fields is a gorgeous Victorian-style home that may be often overlooked and its history forgotten.

Believed to be the oldest structure in White Stone, the picturesque Victorian home offers a glimpse into the town's history from over a century ago.

Now a hub to numerous businesses including Miss Mary Seafood, Crews & Brews and Etudes Ballet School, Ice House Fields was once the go-to spot for a much needed necessity—ice.

In the open field of the property today, a bit of a low spot in the grass is fairly visible several yards from the asphalt of Rappahannock Drive. According to property owners Ann and Greg Sutton, that was where the Victorian originally sat when it served its purpose of the town's ice house.

Built in the very early 1900s, the stately Victorian served the community for decades as the ice house, which allowed for area residents to come purchase ice to keep their meats and produce fresh.

Prior to becoming the "ice house," the home was constructed as a fully furnished wedding gift built by David James for his bride, Ruby Spriggs.

Perhaps the most notable feature of the home is the number of large picturesque windows throughout. Those windows were intentional. Tuberculosis was rampant in that day and age and sunshine was known to be a healer of the lungs. James kept that in mind as he constructed a house that would welcome lots of sunshine.

After some time, the house eventually became an ice house.

Pre-dating electric refrigerators as domestic appliances in the late 1920s and a common household item in the 40s, an ice box was used by most families. When they needed to restock their ice, particularly in the summer months, they would head to the ice house. Ice houses, which were prominent throughout the south, stored food and other perishable items plus the ice.

According to Greg, those operating the ice house would go to the Rappahannock River in the frigid winter months and break off chunks of ice from the frozen river. They would haul the slabs of ice back to the house in wagons and store them in the highly insulated rooms for the summer market.

Straw and wood chips were the primary means of insulation, Greg said. Because of those pretty and charming windows, it's even more impressive that those operating the ice house managed to keep the ice frozen.

"They had to keep the ice blocks very low and had to be par-



Ann and Greg Sutton are the current property owners of Ice House Fields. They honor the heritage and history of the area by keeping the name of Ice House Fields as well as incorporating ice cube structures and designs in company logos and branding. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank



The home has maintained much of its original charm and characteristics over the course of more than a century. It still has its original trim, staircase and several fixtures. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank

"It's been preserved extremely well. The only major exterior modification really has been the addition of a handicap ramp." –Greg Sutton

ticular about how they were stored," he said.

Ice houses were critical for maintaining a healthy population as they served as a means to keep fresh foods available for a longer duration.

In addition to acting as a distribution center, the operators set out on a number of horse-drawn deliveries, Greg said.

As the refrigerator became a more common appliance, particularly following the Great Depression, ice houses became obsolete.

Although the ice operation ceased, the Victorian remained in tact and began taking on multiple uses. In the 1940s the house was relocated to the back of the field where it would serve as a family home.

According to Greg, the process of moving a home, particularly in that day, was meticulous and time consuming. A permanent foundation was built on the new site about an acre from its original spot.

Once the foundation was set, the building was jacked up and placed on a trailer, the move was incredibly slow to make sure the building was transported safely and securely.

"When buildings were moved like that, you could put a martini glass on a table inside and by the time it got to its destination, there would still be liquor in the glass," Greg said.

Once the house was moved, it began a new life as a residence in the heart of town.

Over the next several years, several office buildings were developed throughout the field. By the early 1990s, an investor from Farmville, Luther Gilliam, had taken interest in the property. He had been making trips to the area on weekends with his family since the 60s to their cottage on Carter Creek.

In expanding his real-estate portfolio, he came across the properties of Ice House Field and purchased them as an investment. Now, decades later, his daughter Ann and Greg own and operate the property to honor his legacy.

"He purchased the land for his family as an investment. He loved the area and wanted us to have roots here, too," Ann said.

According to Ann, the decision to keep the name "Ice House Fields" was an ode to the historic Victorian home and the area's history.

"It's always been Ice House Fields and it will always be Ice House Fields," she said.

In addition to the name, the property signage along the road is adorned with ice cube statues as a nod to the past and the property's heritage.

The structure has hardly seen changes beyond simple upkeep items like paint and other general maintenance.

"It's been preserved extremely well. The only major exterior modification really has been the addition of a handicap ramp," Greg said.

To have the eldest building in a town maintain so much of its original integrity is as impressive as it is charming.

"Everything about the house is Victorian. The oval doorknobs, the trim on the inside and the outside, even the staircase is the original architecture," he said.

Over the years, the Victorian has been a home to families, office space for numerous companies and retail space for SewLoveLee. It is currently a real estate office for Bay Properties and an artifact of heritage and history.

If the Victorian could talk, it would be able to tell stories of the camaraderie of a waterfront community, the perseverance of neighbors surviving hardships, impressive development and generations of families living and contributing to the charming and fascinating history of White Stone.



Despite the impressive amount of sunshine that pours through the Victorian windows, back in the day those operating the ice house managed to keep bulks of ice frozen through insulation using wood chips and straw. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank

"When buildings were moved like that, you could put a martini glass on a table inside and by the time it got to its destination, there would still be liquor in the glass."

–Greg Sutton

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Program offers incentives for planting native trees

Thanks to a new statewide initiative, Virginians can help improve the state's ecosystems, meet a variety of landscaping goals and save money.

Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) has teamed up with retail nurseries across the state to launch the "Throwing Shade VA" program this spring, reported the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation (VFBF). Through May 1, or while supplies last, shoppers at participating nurseries can access customer discounts of $25 on eligible native trees and shrubs valued at $50 or more. Nurseries are reimbursed for discounts with allocated state water quality improvement funds.

"We wanted folks to get a discount for taking the initiative to plant native," said Molly O'Liddy, DOF urban and community forestry partnership coordinator, who is managing the program.

By lowering the cost for purchasing native species, DOF officials hope to spread awareness of their environmental benefits and expand biodiversity in the state.

"The overall goal is to get more trees and shrubs in the Virginia landscape, which, in turn, provides so many benefits for water and air quality, wildlife and pollinators," said Delaney Long, DOF urban and community forestry project coordinator, who is helping manage the program.

Trees improve water quality by filtering out pollutants, storing harmful greenhouse gases and reducing erosion. Native trees and shrubs that evolved in Virginia's ecosystems also are more adapted to their natural environment than ornamental species and more likely to thrive. They also provide essential food and habitat for wildlife.

"Whether it's meeting aesthetic goals, attracting more wildlife or providing shade, you're bound to find something that will fill your need just by learning more about Virginia's native species," said Long.

Expert staff at participating nurseries can help identify the right species and growing conditions for meeting specific landscaping goals. "It's always good to ask a lot of questions to make sure you're planting the right tree in the right place," Long said.

Customers can receive a $25 discount on their purchase at a participating nursery by selecting a native tree or shrub with a "Throwing Shade VA" tag, scanning the QR code on the tag to record where the tree will be planted and showing the cashier that the information on the QR code was collected.

Information collected from the QR codes will help track water quality improvement goals and allocate funding for additional planting projects across Virginia.

Project officials hope to continue the program and open applications to interested nurseries this fall for next spring.

For a list of participating nurseries and more information, visit bit.ly/49TH7GW.



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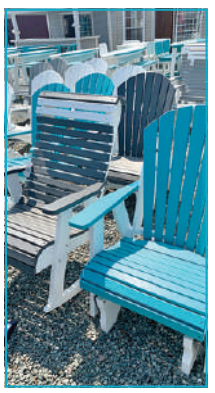
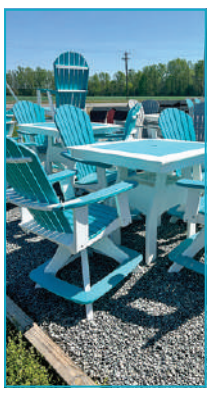
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Lawn success:

A custom program is needed

A lush lawn adds beauty to a home. Photo by Tom Chillemi

by Tom Chillemi

A healthy lawn of 2,500 square feet will produce enough oxygen to meet the daily needs of a family of four, said Brandan Minor owner of Organic Green Lawn Care Inc. in Topping.

Minor uses a scientific approach to establishing a lawn. "It takes time. It is not an overnight success story, but establishment can be achieved in two to four years. Some properties will take more than others. Not all lawns, including your neighbor's, may have the same soil including compaction, sandy, or even clay."

Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck soils vary so much, which can make it challenging. For this reason Minor creates a custom program for each lawn.

Testing

Soil testing allows one to enrich and balance the soil for a healthy lawn in time, he explained. "Knowing what to put down and the recommended rates provides the soil with beneficial nutrients for proper plant uptake," he said.

"It's easy to buy the shiny bag with a photo of a nice lawn on it and put it down not following rates. Most of us think more is better, but in reality, it's not and the plant can not use up all the nutrient which in turn leads to run off or a burnt lawn.

"Soil testing shows us how to treat the property correctly," said Minor. "It's no different than a doctor doing blood tests to see levels within our body and how to treat them. Blindly, we cannot treat lawn issues properly without knowing the underlying issues," said Minor.

"Know before you throw. This not only helps you establish a healthy lawn but helps our industry and the waterways in which we all enjoy one way or the other. It is important to read and follow the label."

Process

Minor reviews each property in person. It's critical to measure the lawn and know the exact square feet. This helps calculate how much and what to apply to the lawn based on the soil test.

He looks at what is growing in the lawn and analyzes the conditions. “The types of weeds in a lawn can tell you a lot about the soil,” he added.

Minor studies how the sun hits the property and shade conditions, and what the homeowner can do to improve growing conditions. If areas won’t grow grass, there may be options to eliminate runoff and improve the landscape.

He considers what turf grass will work best for the customers’ conditions. “We have to decide if the lawn needs to be fully renovated or if we can save the existing turf to replenish it and when it is the proper seeding time based on the turf we are trying to establish,” said Minor.

Maintenance

Once a lawn is established, a maintenance program is set up. “Maintenance programs will be tailored to the soil test and treatment will include crab grass pre-emergence and selective weed controls as needed,” said Minor.

Minor will explain details to customers and what to expect moving forward. If needed he can give referrals for topsoil or irrigation if the property would benefit from it.

Weed control

Applying pre-emergence weed control aids in creating a barrier to help with weed pressure, Minor said.

Spot or blanket spray treatments are used to clean up emerged weeds until full density of turf grass is achieved.

Establishing grass density within the lawn will help by not giving weeds room to grow, and leads to minimizing the need for selective weed controls.

Non-selective treatments are used in beds and driveways to eliminate weeds.

All applications can be done with newer generation safe products or fully organic, said Minor, adding all applications can be applied safely if you follow the label.



Mowing is a way to keep nature from taking over. Photo by Tom Chillemi

“I gotta mow the grass.”

by Tom Chillemi

“I gotta mow the grass.”

The word “gotta” makes it sound like the grass will take over if you don’t intercede. Maybe you “gotta” mow to fulfill your inner desire to establish order.

There was a time when I liked to mow grass. But after years of mower noise and dust, it’s just not fun anymore.

A mower was the first machine I controlled. I’d walk behind my father when he mowed, eager to take the handle. It was a powerful machine. And could do a lot of work with less effort. It felt good to make things look neat. I made $3 mowing lawns — when a snack and soda at 7-Eleven was 25 cents.

But that was in the suburbs, where people lived in fear of having that one weed show up on their manicured lawn. Twenty years later I had the power of a Ford 9N tractor with a bush hog and “raged” against the vegetation that had taken over.

It is better to leave your grass height a little longer than shorter, it chokes out the weeds. I have found that leaving areas natural, with tall grass, are islands for wildlife. Things work out better for them and me. For instance, crickets used to come into our house in the fall. If I left them a habitat they stayed in the tall grass, away from my house. Their chirping is so relaxing so long as it’s not in the house when you’re trying to sleep. (I once had to use a BB rifle in the middle of the night to get one hiding under a baseboard heater.)

When I finally mowed the natural areas, I’d see little green crickets scurrying for their lives. I quit mowing the area until winter when they are hibernating or dormant.

Years ago we scattered wildflower seeds. The black-eyed Susans did extremely well and have seeded themselves all over the yard. The yellow blossoms last from midsummer on.

Prevention vs. cure

We had a neighbor with a weekend place

that had a lot of grass. They would come down on Friday and mow for two days. Really, not every blade of grass has to be cut.

Then the weed eater comes out and buzzes, right before the blower. This reminds me of people who iron bed sheets. No wrinkles are tolerated … uniform and smooth. But when tufts of grass grow faster than others, it's time to mow. This type of lawn care is way down on my list of things I "gotta" do.

I'm in a minority that abhors straight lines. Water in a lake is one of the few things in nature that is absolutely straight. The rest is craggy, curved and bent trying to find a route to survival.

Sheep were once used to groom the expansive lawns. Grass is a resource, absorbing sunlight, collecting nutrients from the earth and converting them into food — a sustainable idea that Dominion Energy is using sheep to help control grass at several solar farms including one in Middlesex County.

A well-manicured lawn is a sign of affluence. It means you have enough money to pay someone to upkeep the green carpet, or you have time to do it yourself.

Grass was the most important plant in civilization. Its seeds were food that could be stored for people and animals. And fermented into alcohol — which at one time was safer to drink than contaminated water.

Why do people have their lawn so perfect? Years ago, a longtime area resident told me this: Anywhere that can't be mowed will eventually sprout woody plants, like pine trees that will need be cut with tools or chainsaws and carried away. That's a lot more work … I gotta mow the grass.

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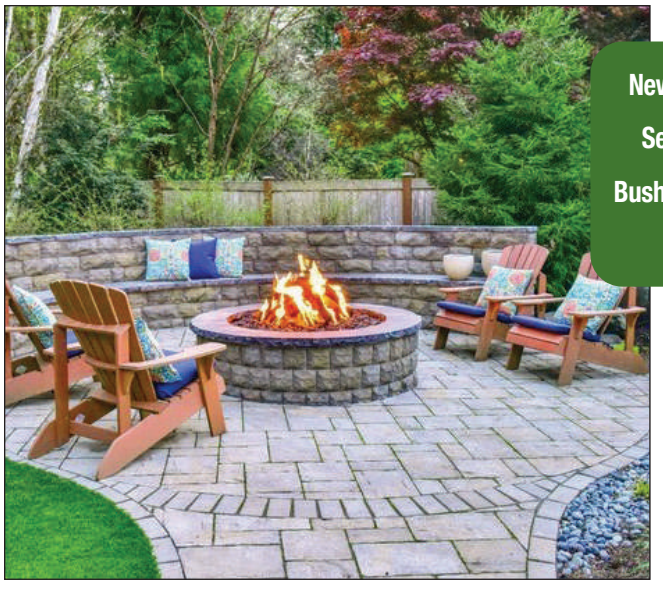
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In addition, authors of a 2022 study published in the journal Urban Forestry & Urban Greening concluded that gardening during the COVID-19 pandemic helped people cope with coronavirus-related stress through outdoor activity.

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Middle Peninsula Garden Club Tour to showcase sites in northern Essex



Rich in history and lying along the scenic Rappahannock River, this year's Middle Peninsula Garden Club Tour, part of the Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week (HGW), will showcase Tappahannock and the pastoral northern part of Essex County on Friday April 26. Enjoy a scenic drive along U.S. Route 17 to access the five properties that represent four centuries of architecture, rich history, pastoral landscapes, gardens, and river vistas. This will be the only HGW tour in the area occurring on Friday, April 26.

Located on the Rappahannock River in the upper end of Essex County, two of the properties on tour are historic Wheatland and Mountcastle House.

Wheatland is a historic plantation home built in 1848 by an early ancestor of the current owners. Wheatland's steamboat wharf, originally constructed in 1890s to handle river traffic and rebuilt in 1916 after a fire, is the only one still in existence in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

In contrast, Mountcastle House is a modern farmhouse, completed in 2022 as a vacation home, which sits high above the Rappahannock River. From the land's edge, you see a peninsula and a wide expanse of the river. The interior is bright and airy and features earthy, nature-inspired tones and textures with pops of bold colors.



Thornbury is a stately two-story Greek-Revival home built between 1915 and 1920, which is situated on a green expanse of lawn that overlooks the Rappahannock River.

Historic Garden Week

Three unique properties are on tour in the town of Tappahannock:

• Thornbury is a stately two-story Greek-Revival home built between 1915 and 1920, which is situated on a green expanse of lawn that overlooks the Rappahannock River.

• Little Egypt, which dates to the 1750s, is graced with 200 year-old cedar trees, gardens and mature shrubbery, which make this three-acre property a place of serenity and beauty. The current owners redesigned the barn on the property to create a library with soaring shelving, hand-wrought ironwork, and thousands of books.

• The Essex Inn, which currently serves the Tidewater area as a bed and breakfast, is an impressive brick Georgian mansion in the heart of Tappahannock. Built in 1850, the Greek revival style structure of white stucco over brick sits atop a high English basement. Twice this house was occupied by Union troops and served as a medical facility when former physicians, including the original owner, Dr. Rhone, owned the property.

In addition to the lovely homes and gardens on tour, the Essex County Museum will offer discounts to tour ticket holders in its Rappahannock Gift Shop. The Tappahannock Art Gallery (TAG) will sponsor a plein air painting event for TAG member artists at one of the homes on the tour. Other businesses in Tappahannock will be offering discounts on the tour day.

Advance tickets ($35) may be purchased at middlepeninsula@vagardenweek.org ($45 on the day of the tour). Across the street from Essex Inn is the beautifully restored 1710 Tavern (314 S. Water Lane), where visitors may pick up pre-purchased box lunches between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Pre-orders are available until April 19 by visiting info@1710tavern.org. or by calling 925-6710.

For information about the Middle Peninsula tour and all 30 tours throughout Virginia that are scheduled April 20-27, please visit www.vagardenweek.org. A statewide pass providing access to all the tours during Historic Garden Week is also available on the website.

The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula, a member of the Garden Club of Virginia, works to promote gardening among amateurs, to protect native trees, wildflowers, and birds, to encourage conservation of natural resources, to promote civic planning, to encourage roadside beautification, and to aid in the restoration and preservation of historic gardens in Virginia.



Little Egypt dates to the 1750s and is graced with 200 year-old cedar trees, gardens and mature shrubbery, which make this three-acre property a place of serenity and beauty.



This is a charming birdhouse on Little Egypt's grounds.

Showcasing local heritage, Northern Neck garden tour includes waterfront cabins, historic home and farmstead

Samples of the Northern Neck's inspiring vistas, tranquil gardens and Colonial architecture will be on display during the Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week tour in Westmoreland County in April.

The owners of five homes and a flower garden in the Hague/Coles Point area will open their properties to ticket holders during the tour from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24.

The homes include three waterfront getaways on the Potomac River in Coles Point, the carefully-restored, centuries-old Hague House and a modern interpretation of a country farm house. This will be the first time these homes have been opened to the public. The tour also marks the first time the gardens at Lee Hall in Hague will be featured during Historic Garden Week.

"We expect over 700 guests to explore one of the most historic and beautiful counties in Virginia," said Ann Thornton, president of the Garden Club of the Northern Neck, which is organizing the tour. Club members will decorate the homes with elaborate flower arrangements, a feature that dates back 91 years when the annual house tour was inaugurated.

Advance tickets are $40 per person at vagardenweek.org. On tour day, tickets will be $50 at the website as well as tour headquarters, St. Paul's Catholic Church, 7808 Cople Highway, Hague. Food trucks will be serving seafood and other specialties at The Hague Winery, 8268 Cople Highway, Hague. The winery will offer tastings.

The tour is partially self-driving. Parking will be available at Lee Hall, Hague House and Woodlawn. Shuttle service will be provided for the Coles Point-Salisbury Road properties.

"Our club is part of the country's only statewide house and garden tour which draws 26,000 visitors across the state each year," Thornton said. "Net proceeds raised by the 48 local Garden Club of Virginia chapters are dedicated to the restoration of 41 important historic gardens and landscapes including Stratford Hall, Monticello and Mount Vernon."

Northern Neck tour sites will include:

• Lee Hall Gardens, 8311 Cople Highway, Hague, owned by Mary Young and Chuck Tracy. The gardens at Lee Hall



Sisson/Proffitt Home

have been maintained by members of a Westmoreland County family for three generations. They feature nearly 40 roses, beds of daffodils, old varieties of peonies and crepe myrtles, as well as other perennials.

These gardens will be open to the public for the first time since 2008 when the owner closed an herb shop on the premises.

• Hague House, 8667 Cople Highway, owned by Jeffrey Miller and Johnny R. Hunt. Bracketed by two double-ramped exterior chimneys and capped by a two-sided roof not found on any other local structure surviving from the era, the house was built as early as 1742. The center hall entrance retains its original pine plank floors and extends past a stairway casement sheathed in its original pine panels. Two rooms flank the hall and are visually anchored by massive brick fireplaces. The original house contained only four rooms.

A modern kitchen occupies a fifth room, added years ago. Members of the Lee family once occupied the home, once part of early Lee family holdings in the neighborhood, which remains a landscape of farm fields and woodlots. Owners Jeffrey Miller and Johnny R. Hunt earned the John Paul Hanbury Award from the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society after restoring this compact structure in 2022.

• Woodlawn, 9249 Cople Highway, owned by Betsy and George Sisson. Built in 1991, Woodlawn suggests the old farmsteads that were once the center of Northern Neck family farms in the 19th century. Built on 95 acres where cropland rotates between small grains, soybeans and corn and at the end of a long driveway lined with crepe myrtles, the setting exudes a sense of history.

The two-story main structure is balanced, with wings on both sides and features a central entry foyer that welcomes guests and opens into a formal parlor, dining room and rear quarters. Wall coverings blend with trim painted in historic colors to harmonize interior furnishings and exterior charm. The rooms contain the family's ancestral furnishings



Hague House



Woodlawn



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and other pieces passed down for generations. Woodlawn is surrounded by a large lawn with mature trees and extensive landscaping that includes a brick patio and swimming pool.

• The Cabin, 1554 Salisbury Park Road, Coles Point, owned by Douglas and Kathleen Luzik. Built in 1927 at the point where Lower Machodoc Creek empties into the Potomac River, this home originally served as a hunting lodge.

The current owners bought the property in 2004 and commenced a complete renovation to winterize the structure, rebuilding a porch and adding a heating system, new roof and boat dock to create a rustic yet comfortable family getaway.

Built of pine logs harvested from nearby woods, The Cabin features a massive stone fireplace and chimney constructed of ballast stones.

• Sisson/Proffitt Home, 786 Salisbury Park Road, Coles Point, owned by Rod Sisson and Corey Proffitt. Built in 1985 as a basic riverside getaway, this structure has received a series of renovations, including an upstairs en suite bedroom, first floor expansions to the primary bedroom and kitchen and windows to capture a panoramic view of the Potomac River.

The current owners have continued to develop the cottage's personality since buying the property in 2019, refinishing its pine floors, adding wallpaper and original art, renovating a screened porch, which doubles as an outdoor living and dining area. They also converted a tool shed to serves as a gym and home office.

• Potomac Delight, 182 Salisbury Park Road, Coles Point, owned by Linda Darr. Built in 1930, this spacious and airy log cabin at the tip of Coles Point commands a 180-degree view of the tidal Potomac River and the historic Ragged Point Lighthouse.

The cabin features a wide porch. Shingles conceal the log cabin's construction from the outside, but the interior showcases the rich brown warmth of the logs that rise in parallel rows between layers of white mortar. A huge hearth constructed of smooth river stones anchors the rustic interior of this log house. The natural theme is continued with an Adirondack-style railing along the stairway to the second floor.



Potomac Delight



The Cabin





River Promise

Gloucester-Mathews Garden Week tour to showcase three homes overlooking Ware River

Come and explore the stunning beauty of Gloucester-Mathews as the communities showcase their historic gardens and breathtaking landscapes. The main in-person event is set for Saturday, April 20. A second separate event is set for Sunday, April 21. Organizers invite you to immerse yourself in the charm and elegance of these enchanting locations.

Gloucester-Mathews is known for its picturesque scenery, and during this event, you'll have the opportunity to witness the beauty firsthand. The main Saturday tour includes access to three private waterfront homes whose owners have cultivated beautiful gardens and collected paintings, sculptures, and objets d'art in their travels. Visitors will want to linger and take in the variety and quality of these collections, impressive in their sheer numbers. The featured properties are River Promise (1987), Paget (1928), and the Mazzocco home (1990), all overlooking the Ware River.

The second, separate Sunday tour will feature the Gardens of Goshen, which are expansive and filled with world-class sculptures by renowned artists tucked into small gardens and spread across the sweeping lawn fronting the Ware River. Please note, admission to the Gardens of Goshen requires a separate ticket.

Whether you're seeking inspiration for your own garden or simply looking for a delight-

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ful day out, the Historic Garden Week Gloucester-Mathews Tour promises an unforgettable experience. Don't miss this chance to explore the hidden gems of Gloucester-Mathews and indulge in the wonders of nature.

Mark your calendars and join them for an extraordinary day of discovery and relaxation in the heart of Gloucester-Mathews. They look forward to welcoming you on this remarkable journey through history, gardens and natural beauty.

This is a shuttle only tour. Shuttle to River Promise and Paget from TC Walker Education Center (6099 TC Walker Road), with the last shuttle at 3:30 p.m. Shuttle to the Mazzocco home from Ware River Yacht Club (5992 Ware Neck Road), with the last shuttle at 4 p.m. Onsite parking at the Fine Arts Museum of Gloucester (6894 Main St.).

A separate ticket allows access to the extensive Garden at Goshen on Sunday.

For information, email gloucester@vagardenweek.org.

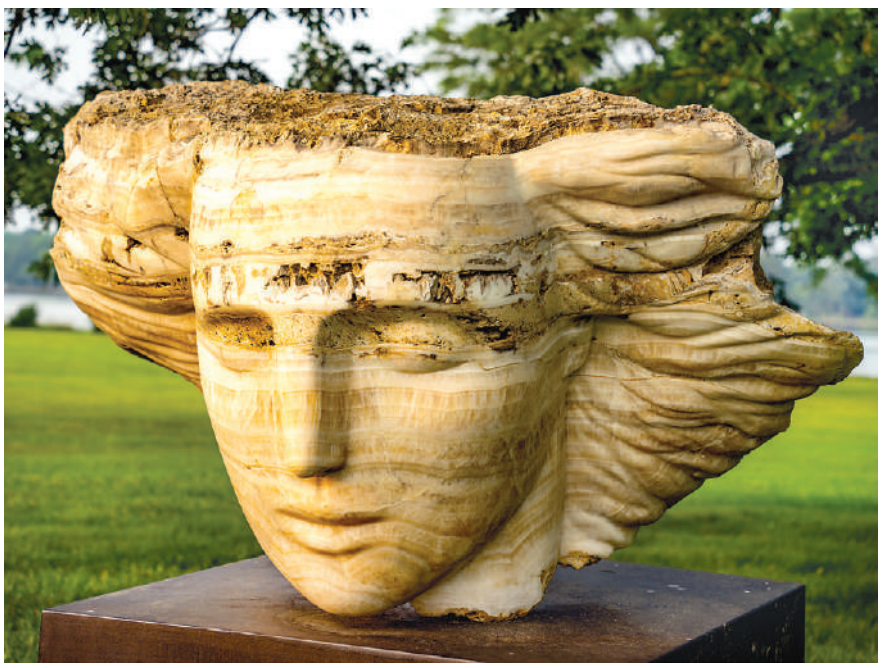
(The photos appearing with this story were taken by either Katherine Mazzocco or Becky Meeker.)



Paget



Mazzocco



Gardens of Goshen



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1215 FISHING BAY ROAD
DELTAVILLE – $1,495,000

Legacy Farm House • Endless views on Fishing Bay
Broad Sand Beach • 5 BD/2 Full BA • Vintage detailing,
exquisite wood trim • Wrap-around front porch
Fabulous outdoor living spaces • Unfinished 3rd FL
Steps away from Fishing Bay Yacht Club



Neena Rodgers
804-436-2326

Sandi Lent
804-694-6101





441 MOLLYS WAY
URBANNA – $882,500

Urbanna Creek • 3447 SF • 4 BD/3.5 BA
Open Floor Plan • Vaulted Ceilings,
Hardwood FL, & Plantation Shutters
Chefs' kitchen • 1st FL Primary Bedroom
New WF Fire Pit and
Screen Porch



Neena Rodgers
804-436-2326

McKann Payne
804-815-4192





470 BRIGHTWATERS DRIVE
WHITE STONE – $769,000

Windmill Point Creek • Pier
Water views from every room
3 BD/4 BA • All Ensuite w/Private Balconies
Awesome Community Beach
2 Acre natural lot



Shelley Ritter
301-717-5157

Andrea Holt
804-854-9530





2999 LITTLE BAY ROAD
WHITE STONE – $579,000

Waterfront Cottage • Antipoison Creek
2 BD/1.5 BA
Pier with 5' MLW • Multiple Lifts
Hardwood FL • Fireplace



Shelley Ritter
301-717-5157

Andrea Holt
804-854-9530



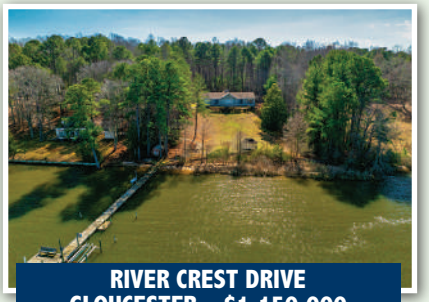


411 RAPPAHANNOCK AVENUE
URBANNA – $485,000

Historic Craftsman Home
4131 SF • 3 BD/3 BA
1.1 Acre Woodland Lot in Golf Cart River Town
Very Large Great Room
Apartment & Guest Wing
Town Marina, Pool, Shops



Ron Courtney
804-514-5475

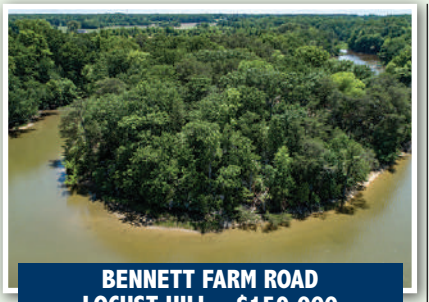


RIVER CREST DRIVE
GLOUCESTER – $1,150,000

Piankatank River Life at Its Best
Gorgeous & Bright
3 BD/3.5 BA Contemporary + 3BD/1BA Guest
Cottage • 10 Acres • Pier, large garage
w/HVAC, Pool, Expansive Decks!



Bernadette La Casse
804-384-7740

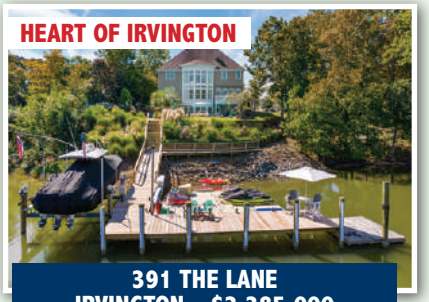


BENNETT FARM ROAD
LOCUST HILL – $159,000

Build your dream home on Whiting Creek
at the Rappahannock! 2.78 AC lot,
approved for 4 BD septic.

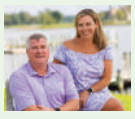


Bernadette La Casse
804-384-7740



391 THE LANE
IRVINGTON – $2,385,000

CARTERS CREEK • 6' MLW • AMAZING Pier
Pool • Ex. Buildable WF Lot
Stunning 5000 SF • 5 BD/5.5 BA
Golf Cart to Town Amenities!



David Dew
804-436-3106
Katie Horsley Dew
804-361-9141



400 NORTH SHORE ROAD
LOCUST HILL – $1,985,000

HUGE River Views • Pier w/3' MLW & Lifts
SAND BEACH • Custom High-End Home
Multiple Wings Perfect for Ext. Families
3 Bay Garage • Screen Porch
Potential Pool Area



124 WATERVIEW POINT LANE
WEEMS – $2,295,000

CARTERS CREEK • 5' MLW at Pier w/Lift
5 BD/4.5 BA • Heart Pine FLS • Fireplace
Open Kitchen & Dining Area
Double Porches • Outdoor Shower • Patio



66 OLD FIELD ROAD
IRVINGTON – $499,500

BRAND NEW CONSTRUCTION
In Hills Quarter Comm w/Amenities
Pool, Tennis, Lawn & More!
1-FL • 3 BD/2 BA • Overlooking Pond



370 CLOSE QUARTERS DRIVE
WHITE STONE – $1,295,000

Rappahannock River • Fabulous Sand Beach
Circa 1897 • In Mint Condition!! • 4 BD/3 BA
10' Ceilings • Hardwood FL • Large Rooms
Detached WF Cabana • 3.76 AC • No HOA



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