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## Belmont Pumpkin Farm open for fall fun

BY TYLER BASS

After being closed for 2020, the Belmont Pumpkin Farm at North is open again. Last year, the farm was forced to close for the first time in the more than 30 years it has been in operation.

The reason for the farm's closure last year can largely be blamed on an unusually wet planting season, said owner Cammie Gustafson Flanagan. Within about 10 days, 10 inches of rain fell onto the farm, drowning the pumpkins.

With the lost crops and the continued threat of COVID, Flanagan said it was as good as any time to be closed. However, she said they felt stuck not being able to do or accomplish much. She said she stayed hopeful that the farm would reopen this year.

The same factors that caused 2020's closure threatened the farm again this year, said Flanagan. This season's first planting of 40 rows were hit with several inches of rain. She said after about two weeks, they planted again but only for 15 rows. Despite the smaller number, she said there are 15 different varieties of pumpkins in the fields.

Determined to have plants this year, Flanagan was surprised when some of the thought-to-be dead plants



TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

"The doors" are open again at Belmont Pumpkin Farm and the scarecrows are ready to greet new and returning guests alike.

came back from the brink. A lot of the growing crop is still green, so Flanagan ordered some pumpkins to help bol-

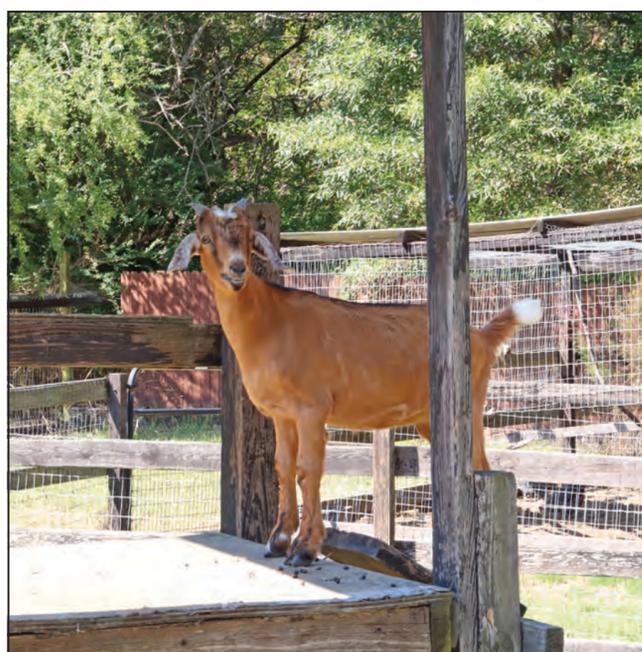
ster the numbers. Also in the field are sunflowers which are faring as well as the pumpkins. Flanagan said

those were planted at different times to have a cycle of blooming flowers. The corn maze is also ready for any

guests looking for adventure. Aside from the pumpkins and flowers, the farm has more to offer its guests, in-

cluding a small area with enclosed animals. Children can

SEE PUMPKIN PATCH, PAGE 3C



TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Pumpkins are not the only attraction at Belmont Pumpkin Farm as the vocal animals, such as this goat, are sure to remind you.



# Camellias come alive in fall

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

If you are searching for a pretty plant to begin blooming this fall in your garden, look no further than the camellia.

Lewis Hubbard of Cardinal, enjoys his camellias year-round, especially when they begin to bloom in the late fall. "I happen to love camellias," said Hubbard.

And love them he does. Hubbard has approximately 85 camellia plants of all shapes, sizes, colors and blooms. Some like the sunlight, while others thrive in shady environments. All of his camellias are perfectly planted and arranged around his house, in his backyard and they are also placed at the front of the drive to welcome visitors.

"They're a pretty plant," he said Hubbard.

Some of his eye-catching camellias include the Junie Lancaster of the species Japonica which has light red blooms with yellow anthers and pink filaments; Autumn Rocket belongs to the Sasanqua species

and is white with yellow anthers and white filaments; and his favorite being the Donckelarii of the species Japonica which varies in color.

"I love this plant because you don't know what you're going to get," he said about the Donckelarii.

Hubbard started his labor of love 20 years ago when he moved to Cardinal from Texas. Camellias bloom for a lot longer than azaleas, said Hubbard on why he decided to begin planting camellias. In fact, Hubbard has had camellias bloom for two or three months.

"They just get prettier and prettier," he said.

Hubbard also has a camellia called the Crimson Candle of the species Reticulata Hybrid. It is a bright rose-red color with golden anthers and pinkish-white filaments.

"They're all pretty in their own way," he said.

Hubbard said that the camellias will begin to bloom in November, covering his nearly two-acre property in an array of colors.



Hubbard has submitted many photos of his camellias over the past year and a half to the Gazette-Journal. Pictured above are his most notable fall and winter blooms from the 2020-2021 season; clockwise from top left, Camellia sasanqua, "Showa-No-Sakae," blooming in early October of last year; Camellia sasanqua, "Delilah," in late October; Camellia sasanqua, "Autumn Delight," in early November; Camellia sasanqua, "Hanna Jiman," in mid-November; Camellia japonica, "Junie Lancaster," in early December; and Camellia japonica, "Professor Charles S. Sargent," in late December.



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Lewis Hubbard of Cardinal, has approximately 85 camellia plants of all shapes, sizes, colors and blooms on his property. Hubbard is pictured above with his puppy, "Austin," in one of his many gardens.

## VDOF now taking tree seedling orders

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This year, seedlings can be ordered in quantities as low as five, and can be picked up from a Forestry Center or delivered to you from Feb. 22 until April 27, 2022.

To learn more about the nurseries, browse the seedling catalog and place an order, visit [www.BuyVaTrees.com](http://www.BuyVaTrees.com).

If you have questions or would like to discuss your tree-planting goals, call the Augusta Forestry Center at 540-363-7000 or Joshua McLaughlin at 540-363-5732.

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Hop on for one of Belmont Pumpkin Farm's hayrides to get to the pumpkin field in style.

TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL



TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL



After losing 2020 crops to an extremely wet planting season, the fields of Belmont Pumpkin Farm are once again filled with orange globes.

TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Belmont Pumpkin Farm has a number of treats for their guests to purchase. Butters and dressings can be found in the gift shop, while BBQ, pumpkin rolls and other tasty foods can be purchased at the concession stand.

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**PUMPKIN PATCH: Open and ready for fall fun**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C)

walk right up and see goats, sheep and turkeys behind fencing.

There is also a concession stand where guests can order pulled pork sandwiches, street tacos and apple cider. They also serve sweets like pumpkin bread, pumpkin pie and the farm's famous pumpkin rolls. The farm also sells an assortment of jarred goods such as apple and pumpkin butters.

The biggest difference for the farm and a disappointment to Flanagan is the absence of school field trips. She said she would be glad to have teachers come to the farm to take photos for their students.

She said some teachers have reached out, asking if she would be willing to come to speak to classes at the school, but she said she doesn't want to take the health risk at this time. She and her husband already contracted COVID early this year and she would prefer not to do so again.

Even if it isn't by the bus load, kids are still coming to the farm to have fall fun. The farm has games and activities for children to engage in like building their own scarecrow or painting pumpkins.

Belmont Pumpkin Farm is open Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Thursday and Friday the farm is open for its new Dog Day

starting at 3 p.m. and ending at 7 p.m. A dog is not required for entry, but dogs must be leashed and all times.

Tickets to Belmont Pumpkin Farm start at \$8 per person or \$25 for a family. Families of members of the military, first responders and public school teachers pay \$20. All pumpkins are priced by the size.

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# Fall Fun Roundup

A listing of things to do as the days grow shorter and pumpkins begin to glow. Here are some of our finds.

## FRIDAY, OCT. 15

**FALL FESTIVAL BEGINS AT SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Diggs, 5:30-7 p.m. Pizza dinner and sundaes provided.

**FISH FRY AT PIANKATANK RURITAN CLUB**, Hudgins, 5-7 p.m.; tickets at door, or Mathews Visitor Center and Unique Design floral shop also in Mathews; \$15 adults, \$6 ages 12 and under, but under 5, free.

## SATURDAY, OCT. 16

**BOO BASH AT THE GLOUCESTER LIBRARY**, Main Street Center. 10 a.m.-noon. Costumes, crafts and refreshments; no registration.

**MATHEWS MARATHON AND HALF-MARATHON**, 7 a.m. start, sponsored by Mathews Outdoor Club, beginning and ending at Put-In Creek Park behind Mathews Court Green. Registration is closed. For more information, visit [mocva.net/marathon](http://mocva.net/marathon).

**FALL FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD AT BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Gloucester Point, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Craft fair, food truck, vendors, pumpkin patch; free of charge.

**HARVEST FESTIVAL AT GLOUCESTER MOOSE LODGE**, 656 Moose Drive off Route 17, noon-4 p.m. Free admission; fundraiser for Toys for Tots. Children's games, hayrides, face painting, decorating contests, apple pie contests, magic show, cornhole tournament, vendor show, and a skit from "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown."

**HARVEST FESTIVAL CONTINUES AT THE GLOUCESTER MOOSE LODGE FROM 4-11 P.M.**, admission \$20 for games, raffles, magic, comedy show with Tom Holaday and Friends, and music from

8-11 p.m. by Rip Tide. Information: 804-693-3899.

**FALL FESTIVAL CONTINUES AT SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Diggs, 2-5 p.m. Bounce house, pumpkin painting, meet Bible heroes, games, crafts, shoebox donations.

**JEEP MEET AND GREET**, 4 p.m., Idk Raw Bar and Grill; details on Facebook.

**COURT HOUSE PLAYERS PRESENTS "Love, Loss and What I Wore"** at 7:30 p.m. at Flat Iron Crossroads, adult comedy, \$20.

## TUESDAY, OCT. 19

**GINGERBREAD HAUNTED HOUSE AT GLOUCESTER LIBRARY**, Main Street Center; decorate a gingerbread house at 6 p.m. Register by calling 804-693-2998.

## THURSDAY, OCT. 21

**GINGERBREAD HAUNTED HOUSE AT GLOUCESTER LIBRARY'S GLOUCESTER POINT BRANCH**, York River Crossing; decorate a gingerbread house at 6 p.m. Register by calling 804-642-9790.

## SATURDAY, OCT. 23

**FALL FESTIVAL** sponsored by the West Mathews Community League, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., held in the former Peninsula Schoolhouse (ca. 1913) at 4905 East River Road; clam chowder, fall plants, live music, and more.

**WELLNESS DAY at CA&J FARM**, 5620 East River Road, Foster. Admission \$10, under 12 free, all day with scheduled attractions: herbs work class at 2 p.m., weed walk at 3 p.m., 5-6 p.m. potluck, 6-8 p.m. drum circle. Also farm tours, labyrinth, peace path, farm shopping, and vendors.

**AN EVENING TO REMEMBER AT THE MOULIN ROUGE** at Gloucester Arts on Main, 10th annual fundraiser, 5-10 p.m., includes dinner, auc-

tion and dancing; tickets start at \$120. Visit [gloucesterarts.org](http://gloucesterarts.org) for more information.

**COURT HOUSE PLAYERS** presents "Love, Loss and What I Wore" at 7:30 p.m. at Flat Iron Crossroads, adult comedy, \$20.

## FRIDAY, OCT. 29

**ONLINE AUCTION** to benefit Mathews Historical Museum opens at 9 a.m. and continues through 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 1. Listings at CDR Estate Sales and Auctions on Facebook.

## SATURDAY, OCT. 30

**BRUNSWICK STEW SALE** will be held during the day at Salem United Methodist Church in upper Gloucester. Call 757-509-1718 by Oct. 28 to reserve a quart.

**THOMAS HUNTER MIDDLE SCHOOL**, Merchants' Market, Halloween Hot Rods, classic car show and Trunk or Treat, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

**HALLOWEEN CONTEST**, mask required, at Mathews Historical Museum, 200 Main Street; trick or treat, hot dog and chili sales. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **FALL FESTIVAL**, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity at 3725 George Washington Memorial Highway in Hayes from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fun for all ages.

**FALL FESTIVAL OYSTER ROAST AND BBQ RIOT** sponsored by Mathews Rotary at Williams Wharf Landing, 2-5 p.m.; \$30 in advance from the Mathews Visitor Center, Chesapeake Bank Mathews, Haskins Bayside Collision or any Rotarian; \$35 at the door.

**TRUNK OR TREAT**, 5-7 p.m. at Kingdom Covenant Ministries, Cobbs Creek.

**TRUNK OR TREAT** drive-thru at Union Baptist Church, Achilles, 4-6 p.m.

**TRUNK OR TREAT**, 5-7 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church, Gloucester Point.

**TRUNK OR TREAT**, 6:30 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church, Hayes, followed by a showing of "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown."

**TRUNK OR TREAT** at Petsworth Baptist Church, Gloucester, 5-7 p.m. **HALLOWEEN AT HYCO**, Main Street in Mathews, 5-8 p.m.; costume contest at 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 31**

**TRICK OR TREAT** on Gloucester Main Street, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Sponsored by Gloucester Main Street Association, Gloucester Main Street Trust and Gloucester Sheriff's Office. Road closed to through traffic 4-8 p.m. For more information email [director@Gloucester-village.com](mailto:director@Gloucester-village.com).

**TRUNK OR TREAT**, 5-7 p.m. at Mathews Baptist Church, Hudgins.

## TUESDAY, NOV. 2

**HALLELUJAH NIGHT** at Helping the Homeless Thrift Store, 7028 George Washington Memorial Highway, Gloucester. Fun, candy, games and a costume contest, but no scary costumes.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 6

**FALL BAZAAR & YARD SALE** 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Ordinary.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 20

**TIMBERNECK TURKEY TROT**, 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser at Machicomico State Park, Gloucester; 9 a.m.; \$50, register by visiting <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Hayes/TimberneckTurkeyTrot5kRun-WalkFundraiser>. Limited to 100 runners.

**BIRD DAY BASH**, the annual Friendlies Soccer Tournament, will be held all day at Woodville Park in Gloucester. The charity event benefits the local food pantry, Bread for Life. While there is no fee, each team is asked to make a monetary donation or bring non-perishable food items for the pantry. Games for all ages. Rules and registration can be found at [www.baystarsports.com](http://www.baystarsports.com).



**Planting for spring**

Now that it's fall, it is time to plant for spring blooms. Brent and Becky's Bulb in Ware Neck will offer a class on Saturday in planting a layered garden to produce spring blooms like this. The cost is \$25. To sign up, call 804-693-3966.

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Mathews Outdoor Club is hosting the first ever Mathews Marathon & Half Marathon this Saturday. Pictured above is the Put-In Creek Pavilion, which will be the starting and finishing point of the race.

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# 1st Mathews Marathon & Half Marathon to take place Saturday

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

Mathews Outdoor Club will host the first ever Mathews Marathon & Half Marathon this Saturday.

"It's probably the biggest running event Mathews has ever had," said race director Wrightly Reed.

Reed approached Christine Johnson, president of the Mathews Outdoor Club, about having a substantial race in Mathews. His initial thought was to have a 10K, but the two decided to go a bit bigger.

He said that the thought behind hosting a marathon and half marathon was: "If we're going to work together, let's go big."

According to Johnson and Reed, there are over 130 participants signed up for the race. A lot of local work and

support has gone into making the race happen.

According to Johnson, the Mathews County Visitor and Information Center has been very supportive with marketing for the event.

"MCVIC is thrilled to see MOC offer events like the Mathews Marathon for visitors and residents to enjoy the beautiful outdoor landscapes and waterfront scenery that Mathews has to offer," said Emily Allen of MCVIC.

Aiden Sowers, Mathews High School student athlete, designed the marathon logo—a blue heron wearing running shoes. The first- and second-place awards in each category were designed by local artist Virginia Coyle of the Bay School Community Arts Center. Hooded sweatshirts for the race were designed and

printed locally by Coastwise Designs.

Sponsors for the race are Tunstall Trucking, Salty Dog Pizzeria, Noble Pest Control, Peninsula Heating and Air, River Organics, Liquid Lighting, and Dot's Dog and Ice.

**Race day**

The race will start and finish in the town center of Mathews at Put-In Creek Pavilion. The full marathon participants will hit the roads at 7 a.m. and the half marathon runners will begin shortly after.

Race participants will be staggered in waves of 25 or fewer runners. Actual start time will be between 7-7:30 a.m. with the full marathon runners hearing out first. The course will have volunteers staged every two to three miles with water and gel.

The race course is along

open roads which will not be closed to traffic. "Caution Runner" signs will be prominently displayed along the route and participants are advised to be aware of other runners and motorists.

Participants must be at the half marathon point (13.1 miles) at three hours or sooner. Full marathon participants who reach the 13.1-mile (half-way) point after three hours will have his or her time clock stopped and will be considered finished with the event.

All race participants in the full and half marathon will receive a finisher medal and custom hooded sweatshirt to commemorate their accomplishment. Awards will be presented to fastest over-

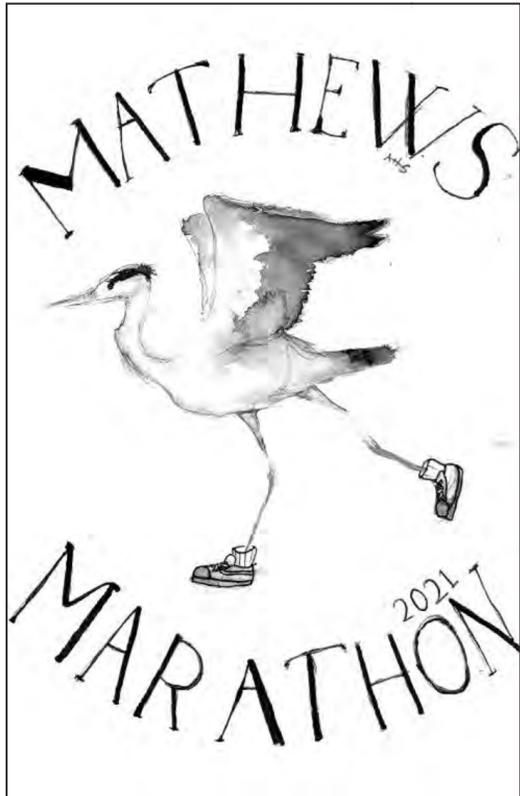
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Mathews High School student athlete Aiden Sowers designed the race logo, shown above.

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# Harvest Festival to benefit Toys for Tots

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

The Gloucester Moose Lodge is hosting its third Harvest Festival this Saturday as a fundraiser for Toys for Tots.

Children's events will begin at noon and last until 4 p.m. Events will include games, hayrides, face painting, a magic show and a skit of "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" which will be performed by youth actors. The children's portion of the day is free.

The next part of the day is from 4-11 p.m. and admission is \$20, which includes music, games and a meal—pig roast with sides.

There will be several performers at Saturday's event. The southern rock band "Rip Tide" will provide the music.

Comedians Tom Holaday, Rob Reibold and Sid Bridge will also perform. Magician Scott Friedinger will entertain for both the children's portion of the day and again later in the evening.

"I'm hoping it's going to be a really good turnout," said Rebecca Ferrell of the lodge.

After overhead costs are met, all proceeds of the event will go to Toys for Tots.

The lodge will accept monetary donations for Toys for Tots and will also have a toy collection bin for the organization. All toys must be unwrapped and new.

Volunteers are needed to help with Saturday's event. Text Ferrell at 804-854-3633 to find out more information about volunteering for the event.



The southern rock band "Rip Tide" will perform at the Gloucester Moose Lodge's Harvest Festival Saturday. All proceeds of the event will go to Toys for Tots. Pictured above, from left, are band members Don Lindsey, James Dunn, Steve Utley, Lori Ann Javier, Marshall Taylor, Dave Jones and Ron Reagan.

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Comedians performing at Saturday's event are, from top down, Tom Holaday, Rob Reibold and Sid Bridge.

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Pictured above are the cast members of Saturday's "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" skit. Cast members, bottom row, from left, Jacob Anderson, Presley Arthur, Dahlia McMullen, Peyton Arthur; top row, Gabriella Cortes, Carter Roane, Cora Rowe and Lily Anderson; not pictured, Clara Dodier-Fernandez.



Magician Scott Friedinger, at left, will also be performing Saturday.

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## VIMS to celebrate 'Oystober' throughout the month

Throughout the month of October, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science will celebrate "Oystober"—a month dedicated to learning more about oysters through lectures, oyster-themed lab tours, and special events on-line and in-person.

### Oyster tour

VIMS will have a special Oyster Tour Tuesday from 1:30-3 p.m., beginning at Watermen's Hall on the VIMS campus. During this tour, attendees will learn about the cutting-edge research taking place at VIMS that helps the institution understand the biology and ecology of the oysters that support the growing shellfish aquaculture industry.

Attendees will visit the VIMS Oyster Hatchery where Dr. Jessica Small will show them how VIMS research has helped produce the perfect dinner-table oyster. Guests will also visit the Shellfish Pathology Lab where Dr. Ryan Carnegie will describe how his team works to understand oyster diseases and keep the aquaculture industry safe and thriving.

Registration is required. To register, visit vims.edu.

### After Hours

This month's After Hours lecture will also be about oysters. "The Science Behind the Slurp: VIMS working to move the industry forward" will be presented on Oct. 28 from 7-8 p.m. in-person at VIMS and online.

Dr. Bill Walton, Professor of Marine Science and Coordinator of the Shellfish Aquaculture Program at VIMS, will highlight where Virginia's shellfish aquaculture industry stands now, how this industry helps environments and economies, and what the future holds as VIMS takes sustainable shellfish aquaculture to the next level.

The lecture will be held in-person at the McHugh Auditorium. Face masks are currently required for all individuals in indoor spaces on campus. This lecture will also be available as a livestreamed webinar. Registration is required for both in-person and webinar options. After Hours lectures are designed for an adult audience. Registration is now open on the VIMS website.

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### Spooky decorations

These Gloucester homes are as spooky as they come this Halloween season. Skeletons and tombstones and ghosts... oh my! Top and bottom left are photos of a home on Short Lane where the skeletons are staying busy with a range of activities, including walking their dogs! The display seems to expand each year. Bottom right is from a home in the Seawell's Trace neighborhood.

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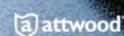
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**In the spirit**

These Gloucester and Mathews homes are certainly in the Halloween spirit. Pictured above is a home in the Seawell's Trace neighborhood of Gloucester, decorated with happy ghosts and pumpkins. Pictured at right is a Mathews home on John Clayton Memorial Highway, where hay bales are decorated as a smiling Frankenstein, happy mummy and a spider.



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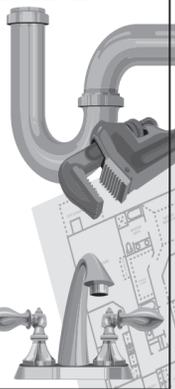
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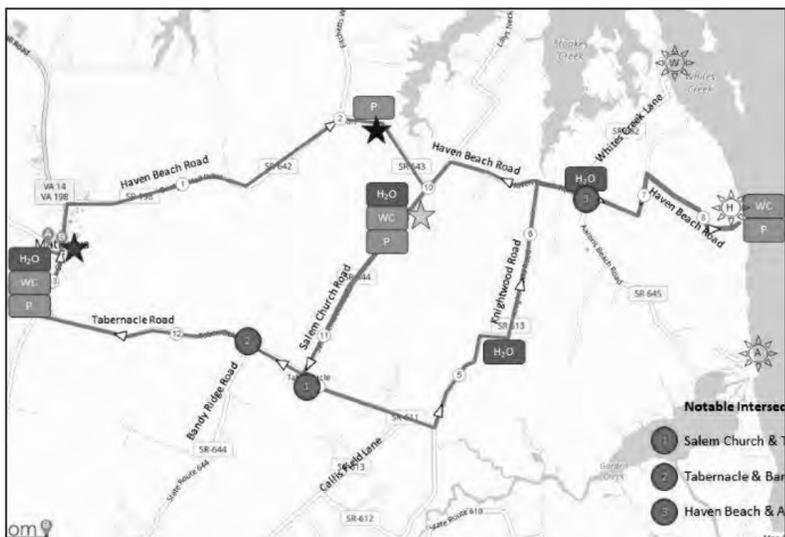


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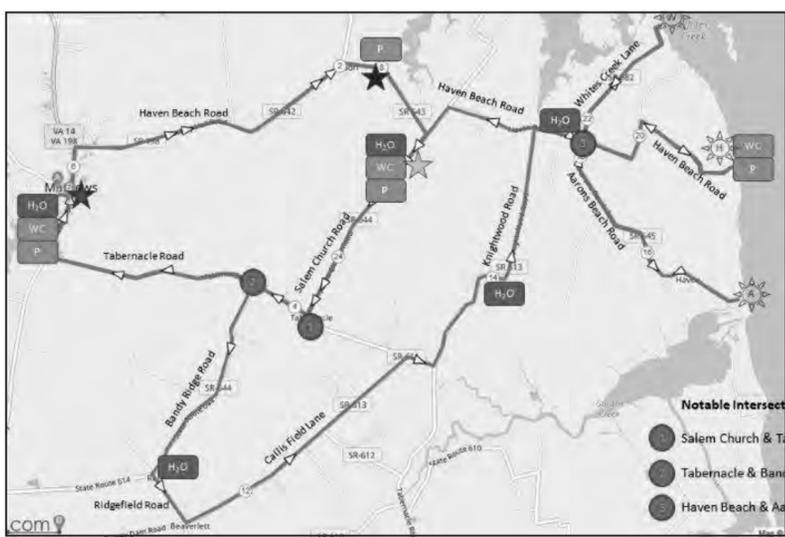
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Mathews Outdoor Club is hosting the first ever Mathews Marathon & Half Marathon this Saturday. Pictured above is the half marathon route and below is the marathon route.



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## MARATHON: Mathews to have biggest race in its history

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5C)  
all finishers and to winners in several categories. Post event activities will be held at the Put-In Creek Park. Race participants and spectators are encouraged to enjoy

the Mathews Farmers' Market which will simultaneously go on at the adjoining courthouse area. Awards will be presented at noon and all activities will wrap up at 1 p.m. Race support will end at that time as well. Any racers who

are still on the course after six hours will be offered transportation to the finish area by the event crew. No race day sign up will be available. Registration is now closed for this event.

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**Apple pies**

During Gloucester Library's monthly Yum Yum Cookbook Club meeting, participants learned about the varieties of apples grown in Virginia. Danielle Johnson, Executive Chef of Kelsick Specialty Market on Gloucester's Main Street, demonstrated the art of baking the perfect apple pie.

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MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL  
**Halloween decor**

Gloucester Library is all decorated for Halloween—ahead of its Halloween party for children, the “Boo Bash,” this Saturday from 10 a.m. until noon at the Main Street Center location. Families with elementary-aged children are encouraged to attend. Children are invited to wear costumes.

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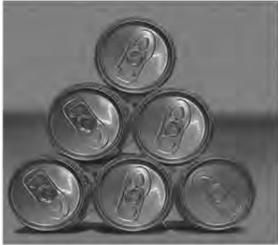
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SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

### Rain garden

A year after volunteers installed rain gardens on the historic Mathews court green, the plants are thriving. Paid for entirely with private funds, the project involved planting a variety of moisture-loving species to soak up the rainwater that in the past left the grounds in a muddy mess. The plants have such proper names as Carex bunny blue, Camellia sasanqua "Golden Phoenix," and Illicium parviflorum "Gray Ghost," and such common names as black chokeberry, winterberry holly, juncus, and switchgrass. Dr. Anne Leddy Wilson, shown here at left, and her husband, Dr. H. Alexander "Sandy" Wilson, led the efforts, spending extensive time researching which plants would flourish in the environment on the court green, then planting and caring for them. They are shown here talking with Roland Foster of Season's Best Lawn Care, at right, about ongoing maintenance of the gardens.



### Beautification project

Girl Scout Troop #1018 members have been busy this fall, working to make Gloucester beautiful by planting trees and flowers in various areas of the county. The scouts will have the chance to take care of these plants and watch them grow to earn badges and work on service projects throughout their community. They have planted marigolds and petunias at Salem United Methodist Church in Gloucester, which is the location of their troop meetings. They also planted crape myrtles and liriop in the Holly Beach neighborhood. Pictured above, from left, are scouts Everlee Dawkins, Elizabeth Dawkins, Savannah Altland, Savannah Anby, Willa Glaspell and Josie Moss at Holly Beach.

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