



Ring out the news

The holidays are here. The Gazette-Journal presents this week your annual guide to local and neighboring special events from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

THURSDAY, NOV. 25

TURKEY TROT: Mobjack Rowing Association will hold its Annual Turkey Trot today. Come to Williams Wharf at 8:30 a.m. to walk, run or bike from Williams Wharf Landing down to Town Point Landing and back, which is a little less than four miles. There is no entry fee. The MRA requests that participants bring non-perishables to donate to Hands Across Mathews.

THANKSGIVING MEAL: The Courthouse Restaurant, Gloucester Main Street, will serve its 11th annual free Thanksgiving meal for the community today from noon until 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 26

OPEN STUDIO: The 2021 Made in Mathews Open Studio Tour will be held Nov. 26 and 27 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., Nov. 28 from noon until 5 p.m., Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Dec. 5 from noon until 5 p.m. Celebrate the tour's 20th year with 14 local artists and artisans.

SATURDAY, NOV. 27

SANTA RUN: Abingdon Volunteer Fire and Rescue has announced the return of its annual Santa Run. The tentative 2021 Santa Run schedule is as follows: Nov. 27 (Guinea Neck from Lillaston

SEE COMMUNITY EVENTS, PAGE 2C



Christmas parade

The Mathews Christmas Parade is back this year after it was canceled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The parade will step off from Thomas Hunter Middle School at 1 p.m. and will end at the former Bank of America building. This year's parade theme is "A Community Christmas." Be sure to visit Santa Claus on Sibley's General Store front porch directly after the parade from 2-5 p.m.



Christmas in Guinea

Santa Claus visited Guinea last year, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is pictured above ready to take socially distanced photos with families. He's coming back to Buck's Store Museum on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Christmas light displays being held throughout the area

'Tis the season for Christmas lights, and there are displays aplenty this season being planned throughout the area, with some starting as soon as Thanksgiving night.

Franktronics

In Gloucester, Franktronics (3618 George Washington Memorial Highway, Hayes) begins its yearly show on Saturday, Nov. 27, running nightly from 6:30 to midnight through Sunday, Jan 2, 2022.

The lightshow will be synchronized to a medley of Christmas classics and current favorites. To enjoy the show, tune your car radio to the Franktronics FM radio station posted on digital signs (102.7 FM), enjoy the music and watch the lights go. There is no cost; donations will be accepted for a local charity. For updates and show times, visit www.franktronics.net or visit the Franktronics page on Facebook.

Singleton

In Ware Neck, Singleton United Methodist Church in Schley puts on a different kind of light show. A choir of 96 illuminated wooden angels stands near the church, erected in memory or in honor of loved one. The display begins November 28 and lasts until the first of the New Year.

Tillage Family Lights

In Mathews, the Tillage family once again will share its display with the public. Located at 1255 Glebe Road, they will turn on the lights Thanksgiving night and continue throughout the holiday season. Hours are 5 p.m. to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays.

All are welcome, and are invited to drive through the driveway. They do ask that visitors remain in their vehicles due to the large amount of wires and other tripping hazards in the yard. For updates on the show, be sure to visit the Tillage Family Christmas Lights page on Facebook where people are invited to post pictures of their favorite displays or what they would like to see next year.

Deltaville Lights

Up in Middlesex County, Stephen Blue is planning to begin his "Deltaville Lights" on Wednesday, Dec. 1. Each December, Blue hangs over 100,000 lights between Mason Realty and J&W Seafood at 16598 General Puller Highway.

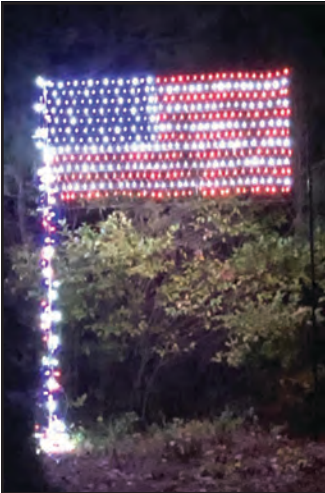
What started as a few strands of lights on the back of a house in 1996 has exploded into a 140,000+ light spectacle. Since moving into "public view" in 2002, the display has expanded almost every year, getting brighter and brighter with each season.

There is no admission charge; occasionally, local nonprofit organizations set up at the display for fundraisers such as hot chocolate and cookie sales, canned food drives, etc. "While we would love for you to support these fantastic local organizations, there is absolutely no obligation to do so," Blue wrote on

SEE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, PAGE 2C



Franktronics in Hayes will begin its yearly holiday light show on Saturday. It will continue nightly through Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022. Above is part of the display from the 2017 Franktronics show.



The Tillage family of Mathews will turn on the Christmas lights on Thanksgiving night this year. The show will be held nightly through the holiday season. Above and at left are some of the light displays. At right, Tim Tillage gets up pretty high to string a set of lights for this year's display.



Stephen Blue's Deltaville Lights will begin, weather permitting, on Wednesday, Dec. 1. What started out as a few strands of lights on the back of a house in 1996 has exploded into a 140,000+ light spectacle.



FILE PHOTO

Singleton United Methodist Church in Schley displays a field of angels each Christmas, sponsored in memory or in honor of individuals. They make a beautiful display by day and at night, they are illuminated, making a drive down Ware Neck a wonderful treat. The Rev. Calvin Griffin, pastor, said 96 angels will be placed near the church this year, be lighted on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 28, and remain in place until the New Year. This photograph shows the angels in place in 2020.



Newport News Park's 29th annual Celebration in Lights opens on Thanksgiving night and continues through New Year's Day.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C)
his website, www.deltaville-lights.com.
The display runs through Jan. 1 (from 5-11 o'clock nightly). The display does shut down for inclement weather. For closing and other information, visit Stephen Blue's "Deltaville Lights" on Facebook.
Celebration in Lights
For those looking to go a little farther afield, the Celebration of Lights at Newport News Park opens on Thanksgiving night. For its 29th year, the celebration will add new

magical trees and upgrade the entrance arch in the Santa's Enchanted Kingdom area, add candy theme display pieces and upgrade the brightness of the bulbs in the Candyland area, add additional deer display pieces and 3D trees to the deer arch area, and upgrade the rope lighting at the event entrance.
Virginia's first drive-thru holiday light show will be open every evening from 5:30-10 o'clock, through Jan. 1, 2022. This year, admission

on weeknights (Monday-Thursday) will be \$12 per car; \$15 per car on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Additionally, advance purchase tickets (good any night) can be purchased for \$10 at the Newport News Visitor Center at Newport News Park. The Park is located at the intersection of Fort Eustis Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue.
Details about the Newport News show can be found at www.nnva.gov/2414/Celebration-in-Lights.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C)
east), Dec. 4 (Gloucester Point starting at Tidemill Road, south to the Point and back up the west side of Route 17 to Hayes, likely to the southern part of the Hayes Road/Route 17 intersection depending on time), Dec. 11 (Hayes Road area to Crewe Road) and Dec. 18 (Seawell's Trace/Ordinary/Glass). "If you hear our sirens and Christmas music, Santa Claus and his elves aren't too far away," an AVFR notice stated. Updates will be posted on the group's Facebook page as they make its way through the district. The route may be altered in the case of inclement weather.

FULL HIKE: Complete the full 9.5-mile hike at Beaverdam Park on Nov. 27. Arrive at Beaverdam Park's Main Entrance at 8687 Roaring Spring Road by 8 a.m. You will be shuttled to Beaverdam Park's Fary's Mill Road entrance. There you will hike the multi-use trail back to the main entrance. This is a self-guided hike. Pre-registration is required. Check-in is also required at the ranger station when you arrive back at the main entrance. The cost to participate is \$5.

TUESDAY, NOV. 30

GIVING TUESDAY: The Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society is seeking to raise \$10,000 for its Angel Fund on Giving Tuesday which is Nov. 30. Those who wish to support the shelter on Giving Tuesday can donate to the fundraiser on the GMHS Facebook page. Online giving is also available at gmhumane.org/donate.html or by mail at P.O. Box 385, Gloucester, Va. 23061.

FRIDAY, DEC. 3

FIRST FRIDAY: Arts on Main, Gloucester, will have its First Friday holiday event on Dec. 3 from 6-8 p.m. The program will feature one-of-a-kind handcrafted gifts available for purchase. Live mu-



MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Merry Halloween

Santa came early to Gloucester Main Street this year, looming over trick-or-treaters on Halloween night as Toys for Tots volunteers raised awareness for the organization.

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SEE COMMUNITY EVENTS, PAGE 3C

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Franktronics Christmas Lightshow
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This year's lightshow will be synchronized to a medley of Christmas classics and current favorites!
Just tune your car radio to the Franktronics FM radio station posted on digital signs, enjoy the music and watch the Lights go!
Show is Free.
Donations will be accepted for a local charity.
For updates and show times visit: www.franktronics.net

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
Friday, Dec. 3 • 11 a.m. ~ 5 p.m.
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2C)

sic will be performed by Rob Oliver. The event is free and open to the public. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

WREATH MAKING: The Virginia Cooperative Extension of Mathews will have its annual Holiday Wreath Workshop on Dec. 4 at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$12; bring your own clippers and gloves. Participants must register and pay prior to the workshop. Seating is limited. The workshop will be held at the Virginia Cooperative Extension office of Mathews at 10494 Buckley Hall Road, Suite B.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: Under the Stars Lavender Farm, Harcum, will host its annual Breakfast with Santa and Enchanted Forest event from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Dec. 4. Tickets are \$38 for adults, \$28 for children and free for children two years and under. Make reservations by Nov. 28.

POSTER SALE: The Mathews Market Days Committee will have this year's Mathews Market Days Poster Sale on Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Bay School Community Arts Center on Mathews Main Street.

GLOUCESTER PARADE: The Gloucester Christmas and Holiday Parade will step off from Main Street Center at 3 p.m. on Dec. 4 and will continue along Main Street to Botetourt Elementary School.

TREE LIGHTING: There will be a community Christmas tree lighting ceremony on the lawn of the Gloucester Museum of History at 5 p.m. on Dec. 4, after the end of the Gloucester Christmas and Holiday Parade.

ORCHESTRA: The Gloucester Courthouse Orchestra will present a concert open to the community at 6 p.m. Dec. 4 at Newington Baptist Church, Gloucester.

CHRISTMAS SHOW: The Donk's Theater Smith Family and Friends Christmas Show will be held at 8 p.m. on Dec. 4 at Mathews High School's Harry M. Ward auditorium. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

EMPTY BOWLS: The Bay School Community Arts Center, Mathews, will

hold its seventh annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser to benefit Hands Across Mathews on Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Each bowl, full of soup-to-go, costs \$15.

DECK THE HALLS: Join Mathews Memorial Library on Dec. 5 from 1-3 p.m. for its Deck the Halls event. Decorate the library's tree while enjoying holiday music and refreshments.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: The Gloucester Main Street Association will have its annual Holiday Open House from 1-5 p.m. on Dec. 5.

TUESDAY, DEC. 7

BLOOD DRIVE: There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive on Dec. 7 from 2-7 p.m. at the Piankatank Ruritan Club on Route 198 in Hudgins. Appointments are required and can be made at redcrossblood.org.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

CRAFT RETREAT: Bring your craft, bring a friend, and bring your lunch to enjoy a day on the lake at Whitcomb Lodge at Beavertown Park on Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$15.

THURSDAY, DEC. 9

HOLIDAY CONCERT: The Mathews High School Chorus, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Concert Band will present its annual Holiday Concert at the MHS auditorium at 6 p.m. Tickets will be on a donation basis with raffle baskets as incentives. Masks are required inside the school building.

CHRISTMAS STORE: The Mathews County Department of Social Services will have its Christmas Store Dec. 9-11 for community members in need. Volunteers are needed to help set-up, operated and cleanup for the store. Contact Christmas Store Coordinator Bernadette La Casse at bclacasse@gmail.com or 804-384-7740 for more information or to volunteer.

FRIDAY, DEC. 10

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE: Flat Iron Crossroads, Gloucester, will hold a free concert featuring the Letters from Coda from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 10.



Turkey Trot

Mobjack Rowing Association will hold its Annual Turkey Trot today on Thanksgiving Day. Come to Williams Wharf at 8:30 a.m. to walk, run or bike from Williams Wharf Landing down to Town Point landing and back, which is a little less than four miles. There is no entry fee. The MRA requests that participants bring non-perishables to donate to Hands Across Mathews. Shown here are Turkey Trot participants in 2018.

BAZAAR: The Mathews Historical Museum will have its second annual Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 10 and 11 at the museum, located at 200 Main Street. Vendors will sell a variety of arts, crafts and food items each day.

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: Women of the Moose Gloucester Chapter 1312 is hosting a Breakfast with Santa event at the Gloucester Moose Lodge on Dec. 11 from 8-10 a.m. Children under 12 are free. All others are \$5. Reservations are required for each person attending, including parents.

HOLIDAY MARKET: The Mathews Farmers' Market will host a special holiday market featuring a wide variety of unique Christmas gifts, decorations and food on the Historic Courthouse Green on Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

MATHEWS PARADE: The Mathews Christmas Parade will step off from Thomas Hunter Middle School to the former Bank of America building on Dec. 11, beginning at 1 p.m. This year's parade theme is "A Community Christmas." Santa will be available for visits after the parade at 2 p.m. on the Sibley's General Store front porch until 5 p.m.

PET PARADE: The Mathews Pet Parade will step off from Thomas Hunter Middle School as part of the Mathews Christmas Parade will end at the former Bank of America Building.

ROCKFISH TOURNAMENT: The Mathews Rotary Rockfish Tournament is scheduled for Dec. 11 and Dec. 12 at Morningstar Marinas at Hudgins. A variety of prizes will

be awarded.

OPEN HOUSE: Tompkins Cottage Museum, Mathews County Historic Court Green, will have its Christmas Open House from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Dec. 11. The highlight will be celebrating the exterior repairs and repainting that have recently taken place to this ca. 1820 building. The New Point Comfort Lighthouse ornament and note cards will be on sale for Christmas gifting.

TOUR: Thomas James Store, circa 1820, will be open from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Dec. 11 for self-guided tours. The store is located at 44 Maple Avenue behind Mathews County Visitor and Information Center.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION: CA & J Farm, Foster, will have its Family Christmas Celebration on Dec. 11 from 4-6 p.m. The farm will be festively decorated. Enjoy refreshments and sing/drum all the Christmas favorites at the fire.

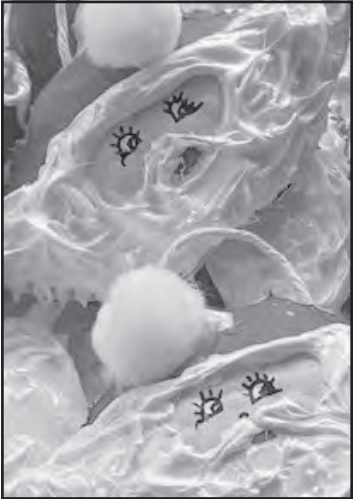
SANTA VISIT: Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit Gloucester County Public Library, Main Street Center, on Dec. 11. There will be a selfie station and take-and-make crafts. Be sure to bring your letter for Santa. Visits with Santa are by appointment. Registration opens Dec. 1. Space is limited. Call 804-693-2998 for more information. The library open house will be held the same day from 1:30-3 p.m. Enjoy holiday music and light refreshments. No registration required.

CHRISTMAS AT BUCK'S: The Guinea Heritage Association will have its Christmas at Buck's event from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Dec. 11. Visits with Santa Claus are part of the program. Purchase



Craft sale

The Walter Reed Garden Club will hold a craft sale before and after the Gloucester Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 4. The booth will be set up in front of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church from 2 to 5 p.m. Items will include both live and artificial centerpieces, tree ornaments and unique gifts. Shown here are a couple handmade holiday items: a flower pot toy soldier and crab shell Santa ornaments.



SEE COMMUNITY EVENTS, PAGE 4C

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COMMUNITY EVENTS



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Holiday Open House

The Gloucester Main Street Association will have its annual Holiday Open House this year on Dec. 5 from 1-5 p.m. Shown here is GMSA Executive Director Jennifer Haggerty at last year's gathering.

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special guest appearance from Santa. Table reservations are \$10, Christmas Supper is \$45; free for children two years and under. Make your reservation by Nov. 28.

WINTER WONDERLAND: Hyco House Manor, Mathews, will have a "Winter Wonderland" event from 3-6:30 p.m. on Dec. 11. Anna, Elsa and Olaf from Disney's "Frozen" will be in attendance. The princesses will be present from 4-6:30 p.m. Enjoy the lights, scenery and outdoor activities at no charge. Purchase a ticket for the meet-and-greet portion of the event and come inside to meet the princesses. Tickets are \$10 and free for children ages three and under with the admission of an adult. Craft vendors will be in the Hyco House garden from 3-6 p.m.

UGLY SWEATER PARTY: Hyco House Manor, Mathews, will have an Ugly Sweater Christmas Party on Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. There will be food, drinks, shenanigans and a gift exchange. The cost to attend is \$20.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15

STORY TIME: Gloucester County Public Library will have Christmas Story Time at the Main Street location on Dec. 15 at 10:15 a.m. Registration is required and begins Dec. 1. Stories, rhymes, songs and a craft. This event is for ages birth to five years.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17

HOLIDAY LOCK-IN: Gloucester County Public Library will have a Holiday Lock-In "Snow Day" on Dec. 17 from 5-1 p.m. for sixth through 12th graders at the Main Street Center location. There will be a movie, snow games, food and fun. Registration begins Dec. 3.

SATURDAY, DEC. 18

CAROLING ON THE CREEK: Caroling on Put-In Creek, led by Jan Towne of Onemo, will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 at Put-In Creek Park, Mathews Court House. Participants will paddle their kayaks down Put-In Creek, stopping at docks along the way to sing Christmas carols, visiting with old friends along the route. Towne said those taking part should BYOB (Bring Your Own Boat) and dress appropriately for the weather. PFD and light are required and decorated kayaks are encouraged. Towne, owner of Bay Trails Outfitters from 1998-2010, led Caroling on the Creek annually until the business closed. "I want to resurrect it because it is such a lovely event," she said. Call 804-815-5584 for more information and inclement weather updates.

TUESDAY, DEC. 21

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION: CA & J Farm, Foster, will have a Winter Solstice Celebration on Dec. 21 from 5-7 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 24

CHRISTMAS EVE ROW: Mobjack Rowing will hold its traditional Christmas Eve row at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 24, at Williams Wharf Landing.

SATURDAY, DEC. 25

LEGION SPECIAL: Members and friends of American Legion Post 83 in Hudgins will gather early to pack and deliver a catered Christmas dinner with all the trimmings to Meals on Wheels recipients and others in Mathews County.

COMMUNITY DINNER: The Gloucester Moose Lodge will have its Community Christmas Dinner on Dec. 25 from noon until 4 p.m. Guests can eat free of charge.

TUESDAY, DEC. 28

WINTER BREAK AT BEAVERDAM: Join the park rangers at Beaverdam Park during winter break for crafts, games, hikes (weather permitting), stories and more Dec. 28-30. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes and be ready to get dirty. This program is available for children ages 5-8 from 9 a.m. until noon each day and for children ages 9-12 from 1-4 p.m. each day. The cost is \$43.

WINTER CAMP: The Gloucester Museum of History will have its winter camp for third through fifth graders on "Discover Virginia History: Jamestown to the American Revolution." The camp will be held Dec. 28-30 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The cost is \$75 and the

deadline to register is Dec. 21.

FRIDAY, DEC. 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY: The Mathews Outdoor Club is ringing in the New Year with a fundraiser party at the Piankatank Ruritan Club on Route 198 in Hudgins. Tickets are on sale for \$25 for individuals and for a limited number of 10-person groups. Music provided by DJ Tommy Eriksen. The ticket cost covers admission, champagne toast at midnight, followed by breakfast. This event is bring-your-own beverages for adults age 21 or over and IDs are required at the door. Only 200 tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at Mathews County Visitor and Information Center. Tickets can also be purchased online via Facebook by searching for "Mathews at Midnight." Proceeds for this event help the MOC continue to facilitate outdoor fitness to area residents and visitors.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY: The Gloucester Moose Lodge will have a New Year's Eve party on Dec. 31, beginning at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person. Open to the public. Rip Tide Band will be performing.

ONGOING

ANGEL TREE: Help a homeless pet this holiday season and pick an ornament off the Gloucester-

Mathews Humane Society's Angel Tree beginning Dec. 4. The GMHS Angel Tree is located in the shelter's lobby and will be accessible during normal operating hours. Each ornament features a pet and a wish list item that will make their holidays merry and bright while they await adoption to their forever home. Donations may be delivered in person or by mail until Dec. 30. If you are unable to get to the store or to the shelter in person, order from the GMHS wish list and have the gift sent right to the shelter's door by visiting gmhumanesociety.org/wish-list.

BOOK SPECIAL: The Gloucester Friends of the Library will have a December book special for the month of December. Buy one get/one free (of equal or lesser value).

ARTIST OF THE MONTH: December's artist of the month at Bay School Community Arts Center, Mathews, is Gudrun Kiel-Bullock.

ART SPEAKS GALLERY: The Bay School Community Arts Center, Mathews, will have its 100 x 100 show in the Art Speaks Gallery from Oct. 29 until Dec. 30. All artwork is \$100 or less. New artwork will be regularly added to the show throughout the holiday season. Artwork makes the perfect Christmas gift.

FRIDAYS

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Christmas concert

Christmas concert Cantori Choral Ensemble of Williamsburg will be presenting one of its Christmas concerts, "Light of the World," on Sunday, Dec. 12, at Abingdon Episcopal Church, White Marsh, beginning at 5 p.m. The voices will be accompanied by organ, piano and a string quartet. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. Student tickets are \$10 at the door. Will-call tickets may be reserved by sending a check made out to Cantori Choral Ensemble, 3341 Derby Lane, Williamsburg, Va. 23185. Learn more at www.cantoriwilliamsburg.org. Pictured above, front row from left, are ensemble members Agnes French (conductor), Ginger Barr, Keara Parciak, Dorothy Nelson; second row, Steven Martinez, Andrew Nelson, Jimmy Mackey, Marty Barstow, Bruce Burch, Mary Stutz; back row, Rebecca Hartt, Joe Dellinger, Jim Noran, Ellen Peters and Judy Alexander.



Special music

The Courthouse Community Orchestra will give three free Christmas Concerts: at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 1, in the Gwynn's Island Baptist Church sanctuary; 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 in Newington Baptist Church, Gloucester; and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, at Ware Episcopal Church, Gloucester. Pictured above is the orchestra at the church two years ago. The orchestra is under the direction of U.S. Army Lt. Col. Greg Ancelet and Dr. Elisse Ancelet.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY, NOV. 25

THANKSGIVING MEAL: Abingdon Episcopal Church, White Marsh, is

continuing its tradition of offering a free Thanksgiving Community Dinner. Guests can pick up a traditional Thanksgiving meal

from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day on church grounds.

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION: St. James On-the-Glebe Anglican Church, Gloucester, will celebrate Thanksgiving Day with the Eucharist at 10 a.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 27

CHRISTMAS DECORATING: Bethany United Methodist Church, Gloucester Point, is having a Christmas Tree and Educational Wing Decorating event on Nov. 27 9:30-11 a.m. Enjoy a light breakfast in the fellowship hall and then dress the church's tree and sing some Christmas carols. All are welcome to join the church in preparing for the Advent season.

GREENS: Bethel Baptist Church, Gloucester, will celebrate a Hanging of the Greens at 10 a.m. Saturday.

SUNDAY, NOV. 28

GREENS: Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Gloucester, will host a Hanging of the Greens service on Nov. 28 at 10:30 a.m. In this service the church decorates the sanctuary while explaining why it uses the symbols that it does at Christmastime.

GREENS: Bethel United Methodist Church, Onemo, will celebrate the first Sunday in Advent and decorate the church with Hanging of the Greens at 10:50 a.m. Nov. 28.

ADVENT SERVICES: Apostles Lutheran Church, Gloucester, will have its Advent Worship Services with Lighting the Advent Wreath on Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at 9:30 a.m. in-person at the church. The services will also be available online via Zoom.

ADVENT SERVICES: Bethany United Methodist Church, Gloucester Point, will hold Advent services at 10 a.m. Nov. 28.

ADVENT SERVICES: Groves Memorial Presbyterian Church, Hayes, will hold Advent services at 10 a.m. on Nov. 28 and Dec. 5, 12, and 19.

ADVENT SERVICES: Kingston Episcopal Parish in Mathews will hold Advent services on Sundays Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, 8 a.m. at Christ Church and 10:30 a.m. at Kingston Chapel.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING: Gloucester Point Baptist Church will have its Advent Wreath Lighting on Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at the 11 a.m. service. This culminates on Dec. 24 at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

ADVENT SERVICES: Abingdon Episcopal Church, White Marsh, is going to have its Advent Gathering and Worship service on Nov. 28,

Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at 4 p.m. on the church lawn and parking lot.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 1

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: There will be a free Courthouse Community Orchestra Christmas Concert on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. in the Gwynn's Island Baptist Church Sanctuary. Donations to the orchestra will be accepted.

ADVENT STUDY: Advent Bible study, "All the Good," begins at 10 a.m. Wednesday in St. Matthew United Methodist Church, Peary, and will continue for four weeks on Wednesday.

ADVENT BIBLE SCHOOL: Gloucester Point Baptist Church will have its Advent Bible School on Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 6-7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 2

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Gloucester Point, begins a series of Children's Advent Bible School for four-year-olds through fourth grade, to be held 6-7:30 p.m. Dec. 2, 9, and 15.

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

ADVENT QUIET DAY: Kingston Episcopal Parish, Mathews, will hold Advent Quiet Day from 9:30 a.m. until noon at Kingston Chapel.

ORCHESTRA: The Courthouse Community Orchestra will present a concert open to the community at 6 p.m. Dec. 4 at Newington Baptist Church, Gloucester.

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

CAROLS: The congregation at Gwynn's Island Baptist Church will sing Christmas carols on Dec. 5 in the sanctuary from 5-6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

BREAKFAST: Mathews Baptist Church, Hudgins, will have its Breakfast in Bethlehem event on Dec. 11 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. All ages welcome. No charge.

CHRISTMAS MANSIONS: LightHouse Church at Ordinary will hold a Christmas Mansions event from 2-4 p.m. on Dec. 11. Families are invited to build gingerbread houses together, watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and to enjoy storytime. Register at light-house.va.churchcenter.com or on the church center app.

SUNDAY, DEC. 12

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Bethany United Methodist Church, Gloucester Point, holds a Family Christmas Program at 10 a.m.

Dec. 12, followed by a Happy Birthday, Jesus! Party at 11 a.m. **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** Bethel United Methodist Church, Onemo, will

SEE CHURCH ACTIVITIES, PAGE 6C

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CHURCH ACTIVITIES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5C)

present the Christmas program "The Birth of Jesus," at 10:50 a.m. Dec. 12.

CANTATA: Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Gloucester, will have its Christmas Cantata, "The Road to Bethlehem," on Dec. 12 at 4 p.m. This year's cantata will feature the church's choirs with orchestra pieces added.

ILLUMINATION: Union Baptist Church, Achilles, plans a Singspiration of Christmas music with local Christian artists at 5 p.m. Dec. 12, with a grand illumination of the church taking place during the event. In the illumination,

glass containers with candles are placed around the church and its walkways, with candles lighted in memory or in honor of individuals.

SPECIAL CONCERT: Cantori Choral Ensemble of Williamsburg will present a Christmas concert, "Light of the World," at Abingdon Episcopal Church, White Marsh, on Dec. 12 at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Tickets are \$10 for students at the door. Will-call tickets may be reserved by sending a check made out to Cantori Choral Ensemble, 3341 Derby Lane, Williamsburg, Va. 23185. Visit www.cantoriwilliamsburg.org to learn more.



The Rev. Gary Barker, rector of Kingston Episcopal Parish, helps to decorate Christ Church on Williams Wharf Road. The church and Kingston Chapel in the parish house will be dressed for Christmas this year on Sunday, Dec. 19.

CANTATA: Gloucester Point Baptist Church will have its Christmas Cantata on Dec. 12 at its 11 a.m. service.

SPECIAL SERVICE: Redeeming Grace Baptist Church, Gloucester, will have its Christmas program on Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. Come worship and hear the true story of Christmas presented through scripture reading and song, a release stated.

MISSIONS BANQUET: LightHouse Church, Ordinary, will hold a missions banquet at 6 p.m. Dec. 12, with missionaries sharing their experiences and insights.

SATURDAY, DEC. 18

OPEN HOUSE: Bethel and St. Matthew United Methodist Churches in Mathews will hold open house at the parsonage from 2-5 p.m. on December 18.

SUNDAY, DEC. 19

BREAKFAST: Bethany United Methodist Church, Gloucester Point, holds Potluck Family Christmas Breakfast at 8:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19. The Chancel Choir presents a Christmas cantata at 10 a.m.

PAGEANT: Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Gloucester, will have a Children's Pageant on Dec. 19 at the 10:30 a.m. service. All children who show up to the service can participate if they want.

CANTATA: Newington Baptist Church, Gloucester, will present the cantata, "Song of Joy" at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 19.

PAGEANT: The children and youth of Salem United Methodist Church, Diggs, will present "My Favorite Christmas Story" written by Melanie South at 10:50 a.m. Dec. 19.

SPECIAL CONCERT: Gwynn's Island Baptist Church will have its free second annual "Christmas Under the Stars," drive-in concert at the Gwynn's Island Civic League Grounds around the gazebo. There will be an hour of diverse Christmas music and readings, beginning at 5 p.m.

SPECIAL PROGRAM: Mathews Baptist Church, Hudgins, will have

its Children's Christmas program on Dec. 19 at 5 p.m.

CANTATA: Gwynn's Island Church of the Nazarene, 1009 Cricket Hill Road, Hudgins, will present the cantata "Wonderful Name" at 7 p.m. Dec. 19.

CHRISTMAS PLAY: St. Paul and Beulah United Methodist churches will hold a joint Children's Christmas Play on Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. at St. Paul, Susan. All are welcome.

LIVING NATIVITY: Abingdon Episcopal Church, White Marsh, will have its drive-thru live nativity on Dec. 19. A photo opportunity with the nativity will begin at 4 p.m. The drive-thru event will be from 5-6 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 21

SPECIAL SERVICE: Apostles Lutheran Church, Gloucester, will have a Blue Christmas Service on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. in-person at the church and online via Zoom. This will be a service of comfort, remembrance and hope.

LIVE NATIVITY: Gwynn's Island Church of the Nazarene, 1009 Cricket Hill Road, Hudgins, will present for the 27th consecutive year its Live Nativity scene, 7-9 p.m. Dec. 21 and again on Dec. 23.

FRIDAY, DEC. 24

SPECIAL SERVICE: Abingdon Episcopal Church, White Marsh, is going to have a Holy Eucharist family service with a Christmas Pageant on Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. All children are invited to participate in the pageant.

CANDLELIGHT: Gwynn's Island Baptist Church will have its Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m.

HOLY EUCHARIST: Kingston Episcopal Parish, Mathews, will hold Holy Eucharist services on Christmas Eve, 5 p.m. at Kingston Chapel and 8 p.m. at Christ Church.

SPECIAL SERVICE: Gloucester Point Baptist Church will have its Christmas Eve Service, "Living Stills Christmas Scenes" with the Lord's Supper on Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.

CANDLELIGHT: LightHouse Church, Ordinary, will hold a Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 6 p.m. Dec. 24.

CANDLELIGHT: Union Baptist Church, Achilles, will have Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 6 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Bethany United Methodist Church, Gloucester Point, holds family worship at 7 p.m. and Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion at 11 p.m. Dec. 24.

CANDLELIGHT: Newington Baptist Church, Gloucester, will hold a Candlelight Family Service at 7 p.m. Dec. 24.

SPECIAL SERVICE: Apostles Lutheran Church, Gloucester, will have its Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service with Holy Communion on Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. in-person at the church and online via Zoom.

CANDLELIGHT: Mathews Baptist Church, Hudgins, will have its Candlelight Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

SPECIAL SERVICE: Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Gloucester, will have its Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion service on Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

CANDLELIGHT: Groves Memorial Presbyterian Church, Hayes, holds a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion at 7 p.m. Dec. 24.



AVFR PHOTO

Santa Run

Abingdon Volunteer Fire and Rescue has announced the return of its annual Santa Run. The tentative 2021 Santa Run schedule is as follows: Nov. 27 (Guinea Neck from Lillaston east), Dec. 4 (Gloucester Point starting at Tidemill Road, south to the Point and back up the west side of Route 17 to Hayes, likely to the southern part of the Hayes Road/Route 17 intersection depending on time), Dec. 11 (Hayes Road area to Crewe Road) and Dec. 18 (Seawell's Trace/Ordinary/Glass). "If you hear our sirens and Christmas music, Santa Claus and his elves aren't too far away," an AVFR notice stated. Updates will be posted on the group's Facebook page as they make our way through the district. The route may be altered in the case of inclement weather. Above, even four-leggeds come to greet Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

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CHURCH ACTIVITIES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6C)

CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Singleton United Methodist Church, Schley, will hold a service at 7 p.m. Dec. 24.

CANDLELIGHT: Beulah United Methodist Church, Port Haywood, will have its Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 at 9 p.m. All are welcome.

SPECIAL SERVICES: St. James On-the-Glebe Anglican Church, Gloucester, will begin its Christmas Vigil at 4 p.m. and the candlelit "Midnight Mass" at 10 p.m. on Dec. 24. Both services will feature traditional hymns.

CANDLELIGHT: Abingdon Episcopal Church, White Marsh, is going to have a Christmas Eve Candlelight service on Dec. 24 at 10:30 p.m.



The Gwynn's Island Church of the Nazarene, located on Cricket Hill Road in Hudgins, will stage its Live Nativity for the 27th year on December 21 and 23, from 7-9 p.m. Pictured above is the nativity staged in 2020.

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SATURDAY, DEC. 25

CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Abingdon Episcopal Church, White Marsh, will have a Holy Eucharist service on Dec. 25 at 9 a.m.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday at Christ Episcopal Church, Mathews.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE: St. James On-the-Glebe Anglican Church, Gloucester, will celebrate Christ's birth at 10 a.m. with traditional hymns.

SUNDAY, DEC. 26

SPECIAL SERVICE: Abingdon Episcopal Church, White Marsh, is going to have a special service of Christmas lessons and carols on Dec. 26 at 9 a.m.

CASUAL WORSHIP: Bethany United Methodist Church, Gloucester Point, holds casual Christmas worship at 10 a.m. Dec. 26.

SPECIAL SERVICE: St. James On-the-Glebe Anglican Church, Gloucester, will honor St. Stephen's Day on Dec. 26 at 10 a.m. The service will have Holy Communion and fellowship.

SPECIAL CONCERT: Gwynn's Island Baptist Church will have an early New Year's Eve Andre Rieu DVD concert at 5 p.m. on Dec. 26.

MONDAY, DEC. 27

SPECIAL SERVICE: St. James On-the-Glebe Anglican Church, Gloucester, will honor St. John's Day with Holy Communion and

fellowship on Dec. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 28

SPECIAL SERVICE: St. James On-the-Glebe Anglican Church, Gloucester, will honor Holy Innocents' Day with Holy Communion and fellowship on Dec. 28 at 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 31

GURA: The Gloucester Union Relief of Missionary Baptist will hold a year's closing out service at 6 p.m. Dec. 31 via Zoom or conference call. The Rev. Edgar R. Graham will deliver the message. The call number is 1-301-715-8592; meeting ID No.

2282677521; virtual, www.the-gura.org; click on Zoom.

SUNDAY, JAN. 2

LESSONS AND CAROLS: Kingston Episcopal Parish, Mathews, will have a service of Lessons and Carols at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 2 at Christ Church, Williams Wharf Road.

ONGOING

ADVENT CANDLES: Gwynn's Island Baptist Church will have life-size advent candles on the front lawn of the church beginning Nov. 28 until Christmas Day.

LIGHTS AND MUSIC: Enjoy outdoor lights and music each evening from 5-8 at Gwynn's Island Baptist Church, Dec. 2-Dec. 25.

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Choose a fresh tree. The NFPA recommends celebrants who prefer natural Christmas trees choose ones with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. Dry trees are more likely to catch fire than freshly cut trees. Adding water to the tree stand each day will keep trees fresher longer. When placing the tree, avoid placing it too close to heat sources, making sure it is at least three feet away from fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, or lights.

Check all lights before stringing them. Look for any worn or broken cords and replace any defective lights.

Employ the buddy system. When stringing lights, always work with at least one other person. This makes it safe for homeowners who must climb ladders to string lights on especially tall trees and/or on their home exteriors.

Avoid working in inclement weather. The weather during the holiday season can sometimes be unpleasant or unpredictable. Avoid hanging lights if the forecast predicts wet, icy or windy conditions that can make ladders unstable.

Turn lights off when going to bed and/or leaving the house. Interior and exterior holiday lights should not be

left on when no one is home or everyone inside is sleeping. If left on overnight or when no one is home, lights may contribute to fires that damage homes and may even prove fatal.

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THURSDAY, NOV. 25

FAST BEFORE FEAST: Fast Before the Feast 5K will be held today from 8:30-10 a.m. at Mariners' Museum Park in Newport News. Registration is \$45. Race proceeds will benefit the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank. There is no race day registration available.

FRIDAY, NOV. 26

FOOD & FEASTS: Explore centuries-old culinary practices and cooking techniques of 17th- and 18th-century Virginia during a two-day event on Nov. 26 and 27 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Call 757-253-4838 for more information.

SATURDAY, NOV. 27

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS: The Town of Kilmarnock will host Countdown to Christmas on Nov. 27 at 5 p.m. at the Kilmarnock Town Centre Park. Join the annual community tree lighting ceremony. Caroling will be provided by Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church of Weems followed by a special guest.

FRIDAY, DEC. 3

PARADE: The Urbanna Christmas Parade will begin at 7 p.m. at the Fire House. After the parade, children are invited to the free Santa Claus party.

TREE LIGHTING: Yorktown's annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Dec. 3 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Victory Monument. Enjoy live music and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

SANTA'S VILLAGE: Santa's Village will be held at Kilmarnock Town Centre Park on Dec. 3 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tour the North Pole, learn how toys are made, and visit with Santa Claus. Tickets can be purchased online.

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

CHRISTMAS MARKET: The Yorktown Christmas Market on Main Street will be held on Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. and Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Shopping, live music, and a visit from Santa Claus.

CHRISTMAS IN URBANNA: Christmas In Urbanna will be held all day on Dec. 4. Explore the many shops and restaurants and enjoy the holiday festivities.

YULETIDE CELEBRATION: The Yorktown Yuletide Celebration will be held on Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Watermen's Museum. This annual event features a Viking encampment, Santa Claus, and a Comparative Christmas display. Vendors include Nordic Craft, Sons of Vikings, and Red Dragon's Nest.

LIGHTED BOAT PARADE: The 25th Annual Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade will take place at the Yorktown Waterfront from 6-8 p.m. on Dec. 4. The show of lights starts at 7 o'clock.

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

COOKIES WITH SANTA: The Gallery at York Hall will host its Cookies with Santa event from 1-4 p.m. This gathering is free for families and Santa will stay socially distanced.



Tree lighting at the Kilmarnock Town Centre Park is at 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27.

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

MISTLETOE MARKET: The Yorktown Market Days Mistletoe Market will be held on Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Riverwalk Landing. Enjoy holiday shopping. **WALKING TOUR:** The Christmas Walking Tour of Historic Yorktown will take place on Dec. 11 and Dec. 19 from 11 a.m. until noon. Tour guides will lead guests through the village of Yorktown, telling tales of the Christmas season from pre-Colonial time through today. Topics will include Roman and Norse winter traditions, Christian traditions, Virginia Christmases during Colonial times and Christmas today in America. Tour begins at Mobjack Bay Coffee Roasters. The cost is \$10. Children under 12 are free.

SUNDAY, DEC. 12

ACOUSTIC TUNES: Shop the work of local artists at the Gallery at York Hall, Yorktown, on Dec. 12 from noon until 2:30 p.m. while enjoying the versatile sounds of acoustic guitarist/instrumentalist Lou Vangieri.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17

SANTA RUN: Santa Claus will make his way from Kilmarnock, through Irvington, White Stone and back to Kilmarnock on Dec. 17, beginning at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 18

CHRISTMASTIDE: The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown will host "Christmastide in Virginia" on Dec. 18-31 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Experience Virginia colonial holiday traditions with a variety of interpretive programs, cooking demonstrations and musical entertainment. Museum closed Dec. 25.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: The Wreaths Across America ceremony will be

on Dec. 18 from noon until 2 p.m. at Yorktown National Cemetery. Fresh Christmas wreaths will be placed on grave markers at the cemetery in this remembrance ceremony conducted by the Yorktown Coast Guard Station and members of local organizations to pay tribute to fallen war veterans.

POLAR EXPRESS: The Urbanna Polar Express will be held on Dec. 18 and 19. The Christmas classic "The Polar Express" comes to life as parents and children embark on an adventure aboard "The Pearl" through the streets of Urbanna on route to the North Pole. Share the experience brought to life by shop owners and create a new family holiday tradition. Children can experience the magic in real life aboard the Urbanna Polar Express Trolley. Dress in your pajamas and tour around town listening to the storybook tale, "The Polar Express." Stop at local stores for Christmas treats. Children who are lap riders (two years and under) are free with a paying adult. More details to be announced.

ONGOING

EXHIBIT: Visit the Gallery at York Hall through November and December to admire holiday creations by local artists. The gallery features paintings, pottery, jewelry, stained glass, quilts, and other pieces from more than 300 local artists. A portion of the proceeds from your purchase supports performing and visual arts in Historic Yorktown. The gallery is open every day from 1-4 p.m. and entry is free.

WALK IN THE PARK: Stroll through the Kilmarnock Town Centre Park and enjoy the sights and sounds of the season. Enjoy special activities and holiday goodies. The event will begin on Nov. 27 and will run until Jan. 1 from 5-8 o'clock each night. The park will be close on Dec. 3 for a tick-

eted event. **PHOTOS WITH SANTA:** Snag photos with Santa Claus in a gingerbread house setting. Look for Santa on the second floor at 345 Duke of Gloucester Street in Merchants Square. Visits with Santa are free; photos are avail-

able for purchase. Every Saturday and Sunday of December, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. **SPECIAL MUSIC:** Enjoy holiday performances from Fife & Drum every Friday and Saturday in December from 5-6 p.m. in Merchants Square, Williamsburg.

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Holiday Services at Bethany United Methodist Church
1860 Hayes Rd., Gloucester Point
For more information visit our website, www.bethanyumc-gp.org or call the church office at 804-642-2110, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, November 28
Advent Morning Worship 10 a.m.; Sunday School 9 & 11 a.m.

Thursday, December 2, 9, & 16
Children's Advent Bible School (4-yr-olds through 4th grade), 6-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 5
Celebration of Holy Communion 10 a.m.
Sunday School 9 & 11 a.m.

Sunday, December 12
Family Christmas Program 10 a.m.
Happy Birthday, Jesus! Party 11 a.m.

Sunday, December 19
Potluck Family Christmas Breakfast 8:45-9:45 a.m.
Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata & Worship 10 a.m.

Friday, December 24
Christmas Eve Family Worship 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion 11 p.m.

Sunday, December 26
Casual Christmas Worship 10 a.m.

Holiday Office Closings
Thanksgiving (11/25-26); Christmas Eve; New Year's Eve

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Happy Thanksgiving!
Thanks for all your support thru the year.

804-725-1001

GMHS Angel Fund seeks donations on Giving Tuesday

The Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society is seeking to raise \$10,000 for its Angel Fund on Giving Tuesday, which is Nov. 30 this year. Donations will be used to save and transform the lives of homeless pets in need of veterinary care and position them to thrive while awaiting adoption.

The GMHS Angel Fund provides non-routine, life-saving veterinary care for homeless pets, include those needing surgery, suffering from rare and treatable muscular or neurological diseases, or requiring expensive treatments for ailments above and beyond basic preventative care.

“Roland” the hound is one of the many pets at GMHS whose life was saved by the Angel Fund in the past year. He arrived at GMHS underweight and in need of treatment for heartworm disease and skin

issues. Now fully recovered, Roland has been transferred to one of the shelter’s adoption-guaranteed partners through its Highway to Home program and is ready to be adopted. Roland is now able to begin his new life with a clean bill of health.

“A Giving Tuesday donation to GMHS gives the gifts of care and hope for pets in need of life-saving surgeries and treatments just like Roland,” said April Martinez, CEO of GMHS. “The GMHS team and I are grateful to our friends and supporters for making possible such care and the second chance for pets in need to lead lives filled with good health and the love and comfort of a forever family.”

Those who wish to donate to GMHS on Giving Tuesday can do so via a fundraiser on the shelter’s Facebook page (@gmhumaneociety). Online

giving is also available at gmhumaneociety.org/donate.html. Donors can also give by mailing a check to GMHS at

P.O. Box 385, Gloucester, Va. 23061. Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement, un-

leashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and their world. It kicks off the

generosity season this year by inspiring people to give back on Nov. 30 and throughout the year.



The Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society is seeking to raise \$10,000 for its Angel Fund on Giving Tuesday, which is Nov. 30. Pictured above is “Roland” the hound whose life was saved by care he was able to receive through the shelter’s Angel Fund.



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Holiday Markets Nov 26-28, Dec 4-5
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Donation BOX

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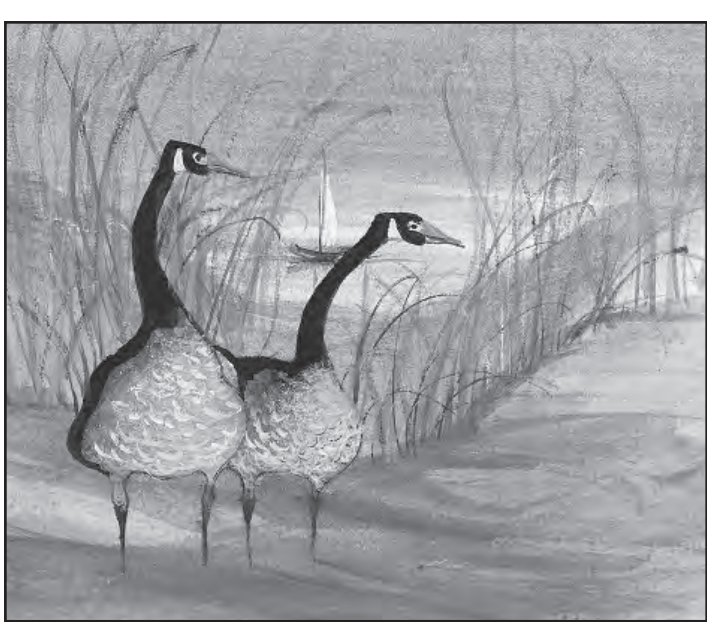
Pet Donations

Treats & Food
Toys
Pet blankets
Pet bedding





The Animal Care Society of Mathews is raffling two baskets to benefit the Mathews County nonprofit Noah's Ark Animal Rescue. Pet food is also being collected for distribution to Hands Across Mathews.



Art tour

The 2021 Made in Mathews Open Studio Tour will be held Nov. 26 and 27 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., Nov. 28 from noon until 5 p.m., Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Dec. 5 from noon until 5 p.m. Celebrate the tour's 20th year with 14 local artists and artisans. Pictured above is artwork by P. Buckley Moss.

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Sun., Dec. 5th | 1-3 p.m.

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www.mathewslibrary.org | 804.725.5747

ACS donating food to needy area animals

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

This holiday season, the Animal Care Society of Mathews is pivoting its focus to helping supplement the diets of local needy animals.

Most of the Animal Care Society's yearly earnings it raises primarily through selling items in its Potpourri Shoppe, located on Mathews Main Street across from Mathews Memorial Library, are usually donated to the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society. Community members recently alerted ACS to the problems that Mathews animals face on a daily basis.

"We really need to bring it back to our backyard," said Mary Stephens, president of ACS.

Stephens contacted organizations similar to ACS in Kilmarnock and West Point, and learned that both provided food supplement programs for needy animals. She decided that ACS could come up with a similar program by partnering with Hands Across Mathews.

ACS has allocated some of

its funds to provide dog food, cat food and treats to HAM clients who need help feeding their pets, as well as feral cats, from now until the end of the holiday season.

"It's a wonderful place to start," said Stephens about the program.

Earlier this month, the two organizations were able to distribute over 400 pounds of pet food, providing meals to about 50 dogs and 100 cats. ACS purchases pet food with the highest quality nutrition that it can afford. Volunteers then put the food in one-gallon bags for easy distribution.

"We're going to do it every week throughout the holiday season," said Stephens.

Due to rising costs, many pets have been surrendered by their owners who simply cannot afford the extra mouth to feed. This program will help keep pets in their homes this holiday season.

Holiday fundraiser


ACS's St. Francis 2021 Fund-raiser will benefit "Noah's Ark," a 501(c)(3) nonprofit animal rescue which is operated by Liz Hogge and her family in Mathews. The rescue's goal is to help animals stay out of overly crowded shelters whenever possible.

Noah's Ark takes in chickens, ducks, turkeys, kittens, guinea pigs, rats, hamsters, birds and pigs and will rehome these animals once they are healthy. This year, Noah's Ark has adopted out 106 animals to date, more than double the number they re-homed last year.

ACS is raffling two gift baskets, each valued at \$150, to raise money for animal rescue. Raffle tickets are \$3 each. Entrants have the chance to win either the dog/cat basket or the wine basket. ACS will sell tickets until the end of the year and will draw winning tickets at its January meeting.

ACS will also be selling raffle tickets at the Mathews Holiday Farmers' Market (on the Court Green) on Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The organization will also have a custom photo cutout board of a dog and cat riding on a motorcycle for those who would like to pose for photos.

Stephens said that this is a tough time for both people and animals and though ACS cannot do everything, "we can do something."



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Kingston Episcopal Parish

Holiday Services

The Advent Season

November 28: Advent I
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I at Christ Church
10:50 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II at Kingston Chapel

December 4: Advent Quiet Day
9:50 AM to Noon: Advent Quiet Day at Kingston Chapel

December 5: Advent 2
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I at Christ Church
10:50 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II at Kingston Chapel

December 12: Advent 3
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I at Christ Church
10:50 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II at Kingston Chapel

December 19: Advent 4
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I and Hanging of the Greens at Christ Church
10:50 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II and Hanging of the Greens at Kingston Chapel

Christmas Schedule

Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve
5:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II at Kingston Chapel
8:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite I at Christ Church

Saturday, December 25: Christmas Day
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I at Christ Church

December 26: First Sunday after Christmas Day
10:50 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II at Kingston Chapel

Sunday, January 2: Second Sunday after Christmas Day
10:50 AM Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist Rite II at Christ Church

804-725-2175
Kingston Chapel - 370 Main Street, Mathews
Christ Church - 320 Williams Wharf Road, Mathews



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Please send us your letters to Santa Claus

The Gloucester-Journal's Christmas Greetings section will be included in the Dec. 23 newspaper and once again we hope to print as many letters to Santa as we receive from local children.

We ask that you send along your letters to Santa to us no later than the previous Thursday, Dec. 16 so that we can include them in the section. Letters can be mailed to Gloucester-Matthews Gazette-Journal, P.O. Box 2060, Gloucester, Va. 23061; dropped off at our Gloucester or Mathews offices, or sent via email to editor@gazette-journal.net. Please make sure your child includes his or her age, and the community in which you live.

Normally our Christmas Greetings section also includes photos of youngsters with Santa Claus at his various stops in Gloucester and Mathews counties.



Lighthouse ornament

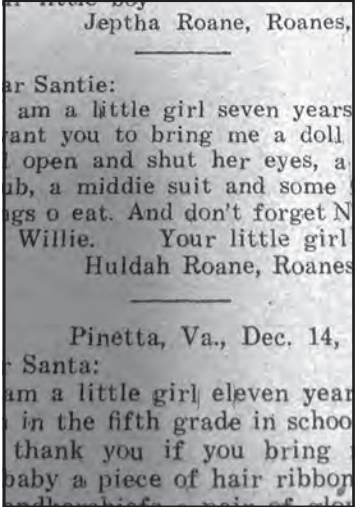
New this year is an ornament featuring the New Point Comfort Lighthouse, available for \$25 from the Mathews County Historical Society, Inc., at the Tompkins Cottage Museum.

100 years of Christmas yearning: letters and messages to Santa Claus

BY ELSA VERBYLA

Christmas gifts are for the young and young at heart. And for children, they are the ultimate source of excitement, flying straight into their homes from the North Pole.

As early as the Gloucester Gazette in 1921, children were sending letters to Santa Claus in care of the newspaper. Here we reprint some delightful wants and thoughts from the past, 1921 through 2011, from the Gazette, the Mathews Journal, and the Gazette-Journal.



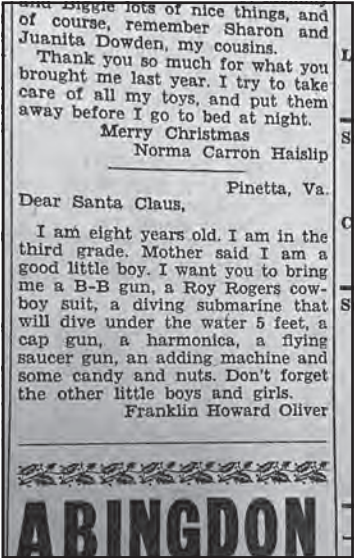
December 1921: Dear Santie, I am a little girl seven years old. I want you to bring me a doll that will open and shut her eyes, a bed, a tub, a middle suit and some Good things to eat. And don't forget Naomi and Willie. Your little girl, Huldah Roane, Roanes, Va.

December 1931: Hallieford, Va. Dear Santa Claus, I am a little boy five years old and I am trying to be real good. So will you please bring me a big tricycle, a gum pair of boots and a big ball and lots of goodies. I shall go to bed real early Xmas Eve. Please remember all the little boys and girls. Your little friend, Ervis C. Morris.

December 1941: Ark, Va. Dear Santa: I am a little boy 3 years old. Mother says that I have been real good this year. I would like for you to bring me a wagon, a pistol, an airplane and a car, also fruits, candies and nuts. Please don't forget my little sister, Barbara Ann, who is 5 years old. She would like to have a big ball, a pair of scissors, wrist watch, dresses and a toy telephone, and also some goodies.

Don't forget mother and dad and all the other little girls and boys. Your little boy, Charles Beverly Sears.

December 1951: Pinetta, Va. Dear Santa Claus, I am eight years old. I am in the third grade. Mother said I am a good little boy. I want you to bring me a B-B gun, a Roy Rogers cowboy suit, a diving submarine that will dive under the water 5 feet, a cap gun, a harmonica, a flying saucer gun, an adding machine and

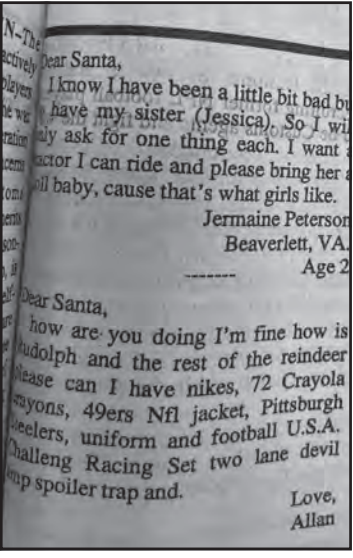


some candy and nuts. Don't forget the other little boys and girls. Franklin Howard Oliver.

December 1961: Dear Santa: I am a little girl four years old. I've been good this year so I'll be looking for you. Please bring me a big doll that walks, a stove, ice box, some puzzles and clothes. Don't forget my brother. Melody Hudgins.

December 1971: Dear Santa, I would like for you to bring me a remote control truck, a record player, a football suit and please leave me something in my stocking. Your friend, Michael Callis, Gwynn, Va.

December 1981: To all you happy Christmas people, Go Santa! Mom says, "Son, you've got to have some new clothes." Chris Dickinson, 6th grade, Mathews Intermediate



School.

December 1991: Dear Santa, I know I have been a little bit bad but so has my sister (Jessica). So I will only ask for one thing each. I want a tractor I can ride and please bring her a doll baby, cause that's what girls like. Jermaine Peterson, Beaverlett, Va., age 2.

December 2001: Dear Santa, I want movies. I want to get Mama stuff. And a Scooby Doo movie. Merry Christmas! Love, Melany Slaughter.

December 2011: Dear Santa, My name is Emma. I hope you are doing well. Can you bring me a puppy? Also my baby brother, Eastin was born this year and he likes to play with all my toys. I am still learning how to share, so I would like for you to bring him some toys of his own. Thank you Santa! Emma Avanelle Hogge, 2½ years old.

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Holiday-themed art classes offered in Gloucester and Mathews

Several holiday classes are being offered in the coming days at Arts on Main in Gloucester and The Bay School in Mathews.

Arts on Main
At Arts on Main, there will be two classes on Thursday, Dec. 2, focused on holiday pieces. Jan Finn-Duffy will be

at the gallery from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for an all-day class on creating small Christmas paintings. The cost is \$110; students should bring their

own supplies, including a couple of small frames that suit their personality and a couple of small-sized watercolor brushes. From 6-7:30 p.m., Kelly Richards will lead adult students in painting a winter theme on wine glasses. The cost is \$40, with all materials provided.

Richards will lead a second holiday painting class on Wednesday, Dec. 15, with adult students painting a winter theme on a wooden buoy from 6-7:30 p.m. They will choose between a snowman and a gnome. The cost is \$40, with all materials provided.

For more information, visit gloucesterarts.org or call 804-824-9464.

The Bay School
At the Bay School, instructor Davida Hall will show students age 13 and up how to weave a small, handled Santa basket in time for the holidays, using mostly red-dyed reed. The class will be from noon to 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3. The cost is \$50.

On Tuesday, Dec. 7, instructor Virginia Coyle will teach students how to make a quilled Christmas tree for a picture for the holidays. Quilling starts with rolling strips

of paper into coils and then pinching the coils into shapes that can be glued together. The cost is \$35.

The Bay School also has take-home Winter Fun Art Camp To-Go kits available for home projects. Each one includes a snowman mixed media project, winter and Christmas-themed oil pastel and watercolor projects, a pinecone Christmas craft, and a painted snowman on a slice of wood craft. The multi-project kits are \$25 each.

Fos more information, visit bay-school-arts.com or call 804-725-1278.



Santa visit

Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit Gloucester County Public Library, Main Street Center, on Dec. 11. There will be a selfie station and take-and-make crafts. Be sure to bring your letter for Santa. Visits with Santa are by appointment. Registration opens Dec. 1. Space is limited. Call 804-693-2998 for more information.

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2021

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Riverwalk Landing

Christmas Market on Main
Saturday, December 4 • 10 AM to 3 PM &
Sunday, December 5 • 11 AM to 3 PM
Historic Main Street

Lighted Boat Parade
Saturday, December 4 • 7 PM
Yorktown Waterfront

Cookies with Santa
Sunday, December 5 • 1 to 4 PM
York Hall

Mistletoe Market
Saturday, December 11 • 9 AM to 3 PM
Riverwalk Landing

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