

Higher interest rates, low inventory a 'double whammy'

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

Frank Wingfield, associate broker and vice president with NextHome Coast to Country Real Estate and the 2023 Realtor of the Year by Chesapeake Bay and Rivers Association of Realtors, recently weighed in on the current state of the real estate market in Gloucester and Mathews.

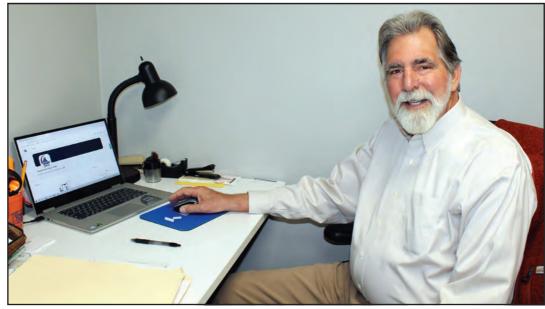
"Market dynamics are incredible right now," said Wingfield.

He said the current 7 percent interest rates are high compared to the 3 percent rates typically seen during the past few years and prices have jumped up because of a lack of inventory. "It's a double whammy for everybody trying to buy," he said, "whether it's a young couple or a retiree wanting to sell and buy."

Retirees are paying almost as much for their retirement homes as the homes they've lived in for years, he said.

But, although interest rates have risen, said Wingfield, they're still "incredibly low historically," and, after a wintertime slowdown, homes are now starting to sell fast. If priced properly, he said, a home is only on the market for five or 10 days, and even homes that need work are selling within 35 to 50 days.

SEE INTEREST RATES, PAGE 3C



SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Frank Wingfield, who was named 2023 Realtor of the Year for the Chesapeake Bay and Rivers Association of Realtors in March, recently weighed in on the current state of the real estate market in Gloucester and Mathews.





INTEREST RATES: Realtor of the Year discusses current trends

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2C)

"You can list your home on Sunday and by Monday sit down with several offers," he said. "There's a lot of young people sitting on the sidelines, trying to buy ...We seem to have an imbalance of people leaving versus coming."

One of the things that's holding people back from selling, said Wingfield, is the low interest rate they have on their current home.

"People don't want to give up a 3 percent interest rate and turn around and buy at a 7 percent interest rate," he said.

But certain things force people to sell and put homes on the market, he said, including death, divorce, relocation, and illness. Then there are other circumstances, such as foreclosure.

With the pandemic, there was some deferment of mortgage payments and banks couldn't foreclose on delinquent mortgages, said Wingfield, and now those homes are being foreclosed on and coming to market.

Then there are the people who seek a change in life as part of a dream of something better.

"That dream kicks in and they say, 'I'm going to sell my home and move,'" said Wingfield.

But, for the most part, he said, "If you don't have to sell your home right now, a lot of people are sitting still."

Another thing that's holding down sales locally is that there are no new housing developments, said Wingfield. Patriot's Walk in Gloucester is the last subdivision in Gloucester with buildable space, he said, and "that's where the inventory is coming from."

In the next two to three years, three new subdivisions currently in the development process on Route 17 in Gloucester will start bringing new houses to the market and provide plenty of inventory, said Wingfield, but price points will be higher.

"To build a home will probably be in the \$500,000 range and up," he said. "The starter market today is \$300,000 to \$350,000."

Wingfield said the interest rates will hopefully moderate by the time the new subdivisions come online. "Five percent would help," he said.

When homes get too expensive, he said, people start looking at multi-generational housing, with young people staying at home longer, living with friends, and making all kinds of different arrangements.

"People get creative in how they live until they can save their money or find that home," he said.

The market is particularly tough on young couples, who might be one of six couples writing an offer on "a great new home," said Wingfield.

"One person gets it, and the other five are back on the market again," he said.

One young couple Wingfield is working with lost the first three homes they tried to buy, he said, "but the one they got is perfect for them, and it's on its way to closing."

One thing that makes people want to move to Gloucester and Mathews in particular is the environment, said Wingfield. "We're blessed with the environment here," he said. "The beauty of the Chesapeake Bay, the history, and

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the beautiful weather—four seasons."

A lot of people want to relocate here because of the waterfront, said Wingfield, which is "a whole different

SEE INTEREST RATES, PAGE 4C



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A chance to turn family heirlooms into cash

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

Nicole Michael, owner of the long-standing firm Vashti's Jewelers on Main Street in Gloucester, has a wide array of fine and designer gold and silver jewelry and gift items to sell, and she often gets inquiries from people who are interested in selling her some of their own family heirlooms made of precious

metals.

Because she rarely ventures into the realm of buying such items from individuals, Michael decided to offer her customers a chance to do just that through National Rarity, an estate-buying firm affiliated with the highly selective jewelers Michael buys from—Independent Jewelers Organization and Retail Jewelers Organi

zation.

After a successful initial visit in February, National Rarity will be at Vashti's again for three days in May, Tuesday through Thursday, May 21–23. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday. Michael will be offering a special 20 percent bonus to anyone who trades their items for store credit.

National Rarity purchases everything from gold, silver and platinum jewelry and watches to luxury purses and old paper money. Sterling silver flatware, tea sets, vanity sets and candlesticks are among the items the company is interested in, along with diamonds; gold and silver coins, bullion and bars; and smaller original art pieces by known artists. Other items that will be considered include military memorabilia, pre-1950 advertising and toys, old photos and autographs such as tintypes, and high-end pens such as Montblanc and Montegrappa.

Potential customers may bring items of any size in any

SEE NATIONAL RARITY, PAGE 5C

INTEREST RATES: A local perspective

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3C)

environment" for them.

The government is trying to get inflation down, said Wingfield, and when it's finally under control, that will help the market bring the rates down. While everything that's going on in the world is affecting the U.S., including the price of gas and the cost of food, "Americans are going more, enjoying things, buying homes if

we can find one."

Incomes have increased, and people are feeling pretty good about themselves," he said. "We have an affordability gap, so people can't afford what they used to, but they're making adjustments and buying what they can afford."

"The market's not predictable, but it's going to be fine," said Wingfield. "We're not going to go into some recession and implode. People are going to continue to want to live here, so we're going to be able to continue to sell homes. And, hopefully, create a few more."



NATIONAL RARITY: Learn how to potentially turn heirlooms to cash

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4C)

color and style, as well as broken and damaged pieces, dental gold, and scrap gold, silver and platinum. There is no need to polish silver items, said Michael, but the company doesn't accept silver plate.

The first visit by National Rarity was in January, and it was highly successful. Michael said lines of customers selling their family heirlooms outside the shop grew larger each of the three days National Rarity was there, and the company had to fly in a fourth buyer to handle the crowd.

National Rarity takes sellers on a first-come, firstserved basis, said Michael, so anyone interested in selling their items should arrive as early as possible in the morning. "Last time, they had to turn people away," she said.

After an initial evaluation of the items to determine which ones National Rarity is likely to purchase, the person's name is put on a list, they're given a number, and they wait their turn, she said.

When a seller's time comes, the buyers take their

SEE NATIONAL RARITY, PAGE 7C



Nicole Michael, owner of Vashti's Jewelers on Main Street in Gloucester, is offering the public the opportunity to sell their family heirlooms to National Rarity, an estate buying firm with a national presence.







When National Rarity visited Vashti's in January, some customers had to be turned away because so many people had treasures they wanted to sell. Here, the line of people waiting ran down the sidewalk outside the store. Ati right, seated inside, representatives from National Rarity talk with a potential seller.



NATIONAL RARITY: Upcoming event at Vashti's

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5C)

time to evaluate the items, said Michael, and then they offer the price they're willing to pay.

Eighty-five percent of the people who brought pieces to be evaluated in January ended up selling, said Michael, and some came back a second time. Michael said teams from National Rarity travel all around the country conducting such buying expeditions, attending numerous events annually.

"Buying is something I don't do on a regular basis," she said, "so I wanted my customers to have an outlet for the things they no longer need or want."





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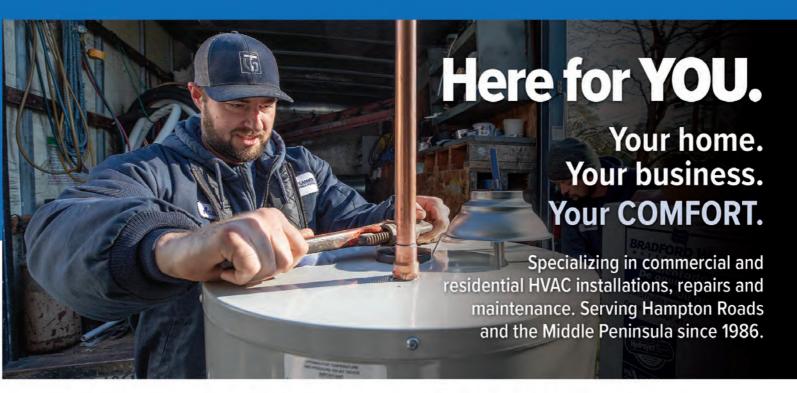
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Helping people find their second homes

BY RUBY WILLIAMS

Buying a second home is perfect for anyone who wants to be in control of their serenity, their own inner peace or their own vacations, as well as someone who wants to enjoy their investment.

Chervl Chaney-Adams works to make those dreams a reality for her clients. A Mathews resident. Chaney-Adams is a realtor with Shaheen, Ruth, Martin & Fonville Real Estate, who specializes in selling second homes in the Hampton Roads area, Gloucester and Mathews counties, up to the Richmond area. Her sidekick Charlie, a West Highland terrier, always tags along with her to help.

Adams got her real estate license in 2018. She started

out selling new homes for Rose & Womble. She now sells second homes, which she has been doing for the last five years.

Adams does most of the research for her clients and previews houses for them. She will also FaceTime with them, do virtual tours and connect them with any resources that they will need in the home-buying process.

"I go by myself to look at homes," she said. "I canvas and area and feel out (the properties), because pictures can only tell you so much. So by going to these properties, I can tell them (the potential buyer) whether or not this is what really checks off their bucket list."

Adams has always been

SEE SECOND HOMES, PAGE 13C



Cheryl Chaney-Adams, a realtor with Shaheen, Ruth, Martin & Fonville Real Estate (shown with her sidekick Charlie), specializes in helping people find their second homes.

RUBY WILLIAMS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL



As a native of the Middle Peninsula area, I am well-versed in all that our area has to offer. Whether land to build your dream home, resale, or new construction - I am here to get you home. I have surrounded myself with a team of agents who, like me, believe that it's more than a house - it's a home. We have partnered with the best in the business to make your transaction as pain-free as possible from showings to closing.

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SECOND HOMES: *Finding the right fit for you*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11C)

exposed to the real estate industry since she was very young. She said that both of her parents were realtors, so she had been around it her entire life.

"This is exactly what I had seen myself doing," said Adams.

Growing up, Adams would be in the back seat of her parents' car riding around helping them look for property. She would hold one big blue book with all of the new listings and tell her parents which houses were for sale. She also would help deliver gifts to their clients.

"I even dressed up as Santa Claus for a couple of years. That was a hoot," she said.

Adams said that she would help her parents with the

marketing side of the business. She even would cut the yards of listed properties and that was her first paying job in the real estate industry. When she was a senior in high school, she started working for a real estate attorney and then went on to work for First Union Bank in their home equity department.

She also worked for Virginia Farm Bureau and as an apartment manager. She eventually became a leasing manager and then became property manager for multi-family homes for 16 years. She said that all of her jobs led her back into the real estate.

"I took this real estate class in the fall of 1988 through Moseley Flint and sat for the exam on a very cold December day," she said. "That was back when they had this huge computer monitor and you press this button and it told you 'pass or fail'. I failed it by one point. It scared the bejesus out of me. It took me 35 years to do it again."

She said that she was too scared because she always had something on her shoulder telling her she could not do it.

"I did all of these jobs, trying to fulfill something that I did not even know was missing until I started doing this. I came alive," said Adams. "It has been a blessing ever since and I have continued to be blessed with awards."

Adams' accomplishments and awards include the Zig Ziglar Servant Leadership Award, multiple Gold, Silver and Bronze awards through the Virginia Peninsula Association of Real-

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tors, is secretary/treasurer for the Chesapeake Bay and Rivers Association of Realtors, a member of the Central Virginia Homemakers and a member of the Exchange Club of Gloucester-Mathews. Adams sold 18 homes in the first eight months of receiving her real estate license.

Adams can be contacted through her website www. srmfre.com/agents/cheryl-adams or by email at cheryladams@srmfre.com.



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Building a museum 'country store' to preserve a collection

Ray Hunley of Mathews has built something close to his heart and history: a room in the Mathews Historical Museum to house his father's country store collection.

A grand opening is expected in early summer, said museum president Tom Robinson.

Tommy Hunley, longtime meter reader for the Virginia Electric and Power Company, now Dominion, visited every corner of Mathews County during his 36 years on the road. When he retired in 1987, he estimated he had driven 800,000 miles in Mathews, Gloucester, King and Queen, and King William counties. Most of his time was spent in Mathews.

In several interviews with the Gazette-Journal, Hunley told how his work took him to community stores, and how much he enjoyed them. "I would just sit down and drink a Pepsi-Cola and talk with the old storekeeper," Hunley said. "It was almost a demand for every community to have one."

Early in the 20th century, country stores were truly gathering places and news central for communities. Few people had telephones, few had automobiles, but one could walk just about a mile, sit for a spell, and learn everything that was going on.

In fact, candidates for public office in that time often advertised when they would be visiting community stores, as the best opportunity for voters (all men ... this was before women had the right to vote) could get to know them.

As the years went by, community post offices closed, and after those, most of the old stores closed too. Hunley purchased many of his store artifacts as they shut down.

And then, he rebuilt a country store on his home property adjacent to Thomas Hunter Middle School. A newspaper article from 1983 said, "Tommy's General Store has been operating in Mathews Court House for more than three years and has not sold one item ..." Tommy's General Store is not really a store, but more of a museum. Hunley said he set it up to remind people "of days when you bought a Coke for a nickel and men sat on the porch or around a potbelly stove, ate peanuts, chewed tobacco and told lies to one another until nine or ten and then went home."

The collection includes many items straight from and typical of a country store: tobacco cutter, coffee grinder, oyster cans, candy case, and scales.

Tommy Hunley died in 2005 and his wife Doris in 2016. Their sons Ray and Sam placed their father's

SEE **PRESERVING HISTORY,** PAGE **15C**

Ray Hunley works on building a space in the Mathews Historical Museum for his father Tommy's collection of country store items.





PHOTO BY NANCY TWIGG

PRESERVING HISTORY: Building a replica

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14C)

collection on permanent loan with the museum, and now Ray, a former longtime commissioner of the revenue in Mathews, has fitted out one room in the museum to display large portions of his father's collection.

Hunley, assisted by his wife Kathy and daughter Lesley, has built shelving, installed a countertop from Pinero Post Office, the old post office enclosure from Diggs, a new floor, a wall to close off the area from another room, and painted everything. Now he is stocking the shelves. Ray estimated he is using about 70 percent of his father's collection. minus duplicates, and keeping more items in reserve for rotation.

"Everything I pick up has a memory of him," Hunley

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said.

There is another real connection of the family to the museum building, which was constructed in 1936 as an automobile dealership.

Tommy Hunley left his job as a mechanic at Twigg Motor Company and got a job

Shortly after Ray was born,

SEE PRESERVING HISTORY, PAGE 16C

as the State can afford, advocated by me. aumber of soldiers and wi- is smaller annually, but is smaller annually, d and pensions should be The present law should nded so as to take in the old contrade, now exclud- can not do too much for trans. I BOARD OF FISHER- IES. I do all in my power to a- he "State Board of Fish- The term of the present xpires next Spring, and in he "Board" have a "Fish ssioner," with duties and which will prove more ef- and give better satisfact- en people, and accomplish er results. I will do all I	PUBLIC SPEAKING. I will address the Democrats of Mathews county at the following places on on the dates named be- low- L. S. White's store, Satorday, July 1, at 7.30 P. M. Hugh Hudgins' store, Wet'nes- day, July 5, at 7.30 P. M. Labans, Saturday, July 8, at 7.30 P. M. Cobbs Creek, Thursday, July 13, at 7.30 P. M. Grinnell & Hutson's store, Sat- urday, July 15, at 7.30 P. M. It is my intention to reply to an article published in the Mathews Tribune over the signature of James N. Stubbs, criticising my official record in the Senate of Virginia, and I invite him to be present.	TEN TO THIS Foley's Honey and T ed many cases of ast were considered hopely Adolph Buesing, 701 St., Davenport Iowa,
ave this change. STER INDUSTRY.	J. Boyd Sears.	severe cold contracte years ago was neglecte

This clipping from the Mathews Journal of June 29, 1905 shows the country store circuit announced by J. Boyd Sears, candidate for the Virginia Senate.



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PRESERVING HISTORY: New

exhibit coming to Mathews Museum

as a lineman with East Coast Electric, which had an office in the building that now houses the museum. In the first years after World War II, many areas of Mathews County were just getting electricity and linemen were needed for the construction work. East Coast was succeeded by Virginia Power, and Tommy Hunley made the move from lineman to meter reader as the years went by.

His dad started collecting in the mid-1960s, Ray said, and by 1980 had moved a one-room building from Cardinal, where two men had lived, to his yard, restored it, and built his store museum there.

Ray is very pleased his father's memorabilia will be going on display, and said the new exhibit honors "Daddy's dying wish. He said try to keep the collection together. He wanted to save it from a yard sale."

Hunley said the new exhibit is complete. Robinson, the museum president, noted that while a grand opening is being planned, anyone visiting the facility, located at 200 Main Street, is welcome to look at the store exhibit. "I want the museum to be a real place to visit in Mathews."



Tommy Hunley displayed a tobacco cutter in Tom's Country Store for a newspaper article in 1994.



This photo from Gazette-Journal files illustrates how country stores were gathering spots. At Moon Post Office in Mathews in 1956, John R. Diggs, Howard A. Sadler and his cat Ichabod, and Ivey H. Morgan, from left, pass a rainy day around the pot-bellied stove at Mr. Sadler's general store at Moon. Marguerite R. Sadler, postmaster, is behind the counter.

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Remembering the genial storekeeper

The death of George L. Sadler of Diggs in 1958 at the age of 85 prompted memories in the Gazette-Journal from "a friend" who told about the storekeeper and the intriguing contents of the business.

After a brief career at sea, Mr. Sadler came home to be with his family, the writer said. "About 1909, he erected a small store at Diggs and dispensed general merchandise and groceries for a number of years. The writer, being a small boy at the time, said his memory is a bit hazy as to the exact date, but his memory is not hazy nor dim in his recollection of Mr. George Sadler. By this full and formal title he was known by all of my generation of boys and girls in that community.

"His store was ever a stopping place on the way home from school. We recall his good-natured banter and

teasing, he never seemed to be out of patience, always smiling and pleasant. We would examine the candy 'showcase' each day for any new stock. He carried the usual assortment of candies familiar in those days as well as cookies of all sorts. We would look longingly at the bunch of bananas hung on the porch ... Often as these items claimed our attention. Mr. Sadler, knowing we had no money, would offer us a treat on the house ...

"George L. Sadler was a Christian gentleman, a good citizen, a good neighbor and a friend to all, especially those of us who were boys during his storekeeping days and for whom he always retained a special liking, as evidence by his kindly interest in our welfare."

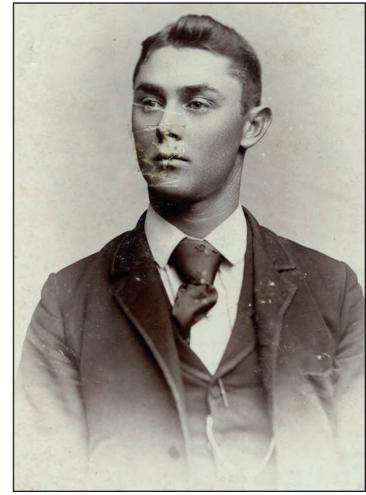


PHOTO COURTESY OF CINDY HUDGINS BRIZZOLARA George Larkin Sadler, popular storekeeper at Diggs.





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Above, 1914 ad for an oil-burning stove. Below, an advertisement from the Mathews Journal in 1932 urging readers to buy an electric refrigerator.

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fection; no ashes to clean up. It is ready for use as soon as lit; out at a touch of the fingers—economical as well as quick and convenient,

The 'modern' kitchen, both today and in the past

BY ELSA VERBYLA

What features do today's homeowner want in their kitchen appliances?

Stainless steel is the popular way to go, said Jacob Mc-Cloud at Hodges & Bryant, Gloucester. "The majority of customers who want units people want and buy stainless steel appliances," he said. "As for refrigerators, French doors are by far the most popular."

Stepping up to a level where cost doesn't matter,

that allow for wood paneling will find them to be "incredibly expensive," he said.

Countertop appliances come and go. This newspa-

SEE **KITCHENS**, PAGE **24C**





Among prize winners at the Rulane Gas Company's cooking school in 1954, from left, were Miss Jane Feder, Mrs. A.H. Farris, Mrs. V.W. Dawson, Mrs. Charlie Dunn, Mrs. Martin Kerns, Miss Sara Barker, director of the school, Mrs. Lillian Fary, and Mrs. Nathan Belvin.

KITCHENS: A look at old and current models

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23C)

per has had articles over the years on how to use a pressure cooker, an electric percolator, a microwave whatever is new and unfamiliar.

Today, McCloud said, nothing so far has caused the quick-cooking air fryer to be unseated. "The air fryer is a bit of an anomaly to me because it's just a miniaturized convection oven, but I'm assuming the turnaround to cook something and cooking in smaller batches is the real appeal."

If a person is tempted between an interior upgrade

SEE KITCHENS, PAGE 25C

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KITCHENS: Old and new practices

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24C)

or going to the expense of building an outdoor kitchen, McCloud thinks that again, unless cost is not a factor, "Most people would prefer to upgrade their indoor kitchens rather than divide their budget between an indoor and outdoor kitchen. As for indoor upgrades, most improvements tend to be either aesthetic or of convenience."

Yesterday

Because homemakers of old spent a large part of each day in the kitchen—and in those days, the job of cooking fell mostly to women they were always interested in anything that would ease As far back as May 1932, ads for electric stoves and electric refrigerators appeared in the Mathews Journal. At that time electricity was still new and not widely available in our counties, but there was an apparent

market for these new appli-

the workload.

ances.

By the 1950s, kitchen tours and cooking shows became common ways to demonstrate the latest. In 1953, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rowe of Gloucester won an entirely new kitchen of appliances and cabinets in a plan-yourkitchen contest sponsored by the Crosley appliance company.

Six months later, 125 people toured the Rowes' new kitchen, which contained a Crosley Shelvador refrigerator, a range, freezer and 40-gallon water heater, reported the Gazette-Journal, along with "wall and base cabinets, silent server, sink, garbage disposer, dishwasher and ventilating fan."

The new kitchen cost the Crosley company \$4,000 and got it a lot of publicity.

About the same time, the Suburban Rulane Gas Company of Newport News held a cooking school at Gloucester High School "attended by approximately 155 women



representing various organizations of the county." They watched meals cooked on Westinghouse and Tappan gas stoves and entered their names for prizes. Six went home with new aluminum pans or blankets, and others won the food dishes that were made in the demonstrations. For a time in the 1950s and 1960s, and into the 1970s, kitchen tours were held in Gloucester and Mathews, usually sponsored as fundraisers by homemaker's clubs and home economics clubs in the high schools. These have disappeared from the landscape in recent years.

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Tips on creating a cozy, welcoming and long-lasting kitchen

BY ELSA VERBYLA

You go to your stainless-steel fridge, open one of the French doors, pour a glass of milk and then ...

If your kitchen is comfortable and welcoming, you pull the pack of Oreos from the cabinet and settle down right there for a snack.

Appliances are the working side of the kitchen. The interior puts warm arms around the people using it and relaxing there, and makes it the heart of the home.

Faye Respress of Stewart's Tile and Carpet Center in Mathews knows the trends and can design a kitchen in keeping with the latest design ideas. The company's crews will bring it to life.

She starts with the cabinets: "People are doing a lot more painted cabinets in lighter colors now, whites and grays." If they want contrasting accents, dark blues



Faye Respress of Stewart's Tile and Carpet Center, Mathews, shows popular selections. She has been with the company for 38 years.

are popular. Also popular on the palette of choice are dif-

ferent shades of greens. Flat panel Shaker-style doors are very popular now, she added.

With the big decision made, the customer moves on to countertops. Faye said "Quartz is the most popular, and granite is the next, usually in the lighter tones." People like quartz with veining, she said.

Decisions on tiles come next, for the backsplash and the countertop.

Finally, Faye works with the customer on kitchen flooring. The most popular selection now is LVP, which stands for luxury vinyl planking. "We use that more than anything else," she said. "They are 100 percent waterproof, they are petproof, and a lot have lifetime warranties." Sometimes wooden floors are chosen. Most are in oak.

Faye has a deep knowledge and experience of her work. She is the manager, designer, and interior decorator at Stewart's Tile, which has been in business for 53 years, once at Mathews Court House on Main Street, now located at 10571 Buckley Hall Road.

Her decorating experience started 38 years ago when she joined the company. Back then, all the trends pointed toward harvest gold and avocado green decorations, and pink bathrooms. She noted that carpets "have changed so much. A lot of them have 25-year warranties" and fewer chemicals are used in the manufacturing.

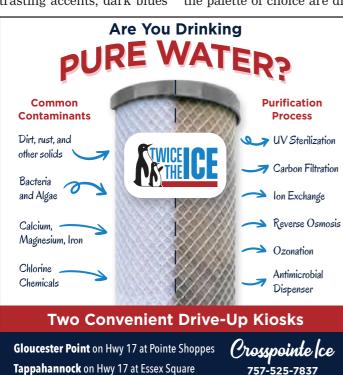
Faye's practical experience goes back a little longer. She and her husband Roy built their own home at Moon, constructed from the ground up, working on weekends and after their day jobs, using help only when experts were required. They started in 1978 and moved there two years later. "We built what we could afford and put good quality products in it," Faye said, "so that they would last."





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GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS GAZETTE-JOURNAL 27C

Bethany Bazaar sells upcycled items to support nonprofits

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

"We try to repurpose as much as we can."

Fueled by coffee and cookies, a dedicated group of volunteers at Bethany United Methodist Church, Hayes, meets every Thursday morning to make old items new again, through a process called upcycling, to sell at the annual church bazaar held the second Saturday in November.

The church then donates the earnings from the bazaar to local nonprofit groups. A total of \$14,000 was donated from last year's bazaar earn-ings.

"It's pretty impressive," said church member Judy Burner. Several years ago, the church raised and donated \$22,000.

By taking a peek inside the church bazaar workshop, outsiders can see volunteers making domino necklaces, restoring doll furniture, fluffing artificial Christmas tree branches for wreaths, and even ironing decorative





MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Volunteers at Bethany United Methodist Church meet every Thursday morning to make old items new again, a process called "upcycling," to sell at the annual church bazaar held the second Saturday in November. Judy Burner is shown here ironing a napkin on a candle to make the piece more decorative.



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Gwen Wesson is upcycling an old Christmas stocking.

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UPCYCLING: Church volunteers make old things new

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27C) napkins onto bare candles.

"A lot of our church members donate stuff," said Burner, about not only finished projects, but also supplies to make new items.

Making pieces for each year's bazaar begins the first Thursday of January and lasts through October. "We just work together and have fun," said Burner.

The church relies on donations and craft sales to make their new items. "Supplies are so expensive now," said Burner.

At the end of each holiday season, Burner likes to

SEE UPCYCLING, PAGE 29C



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