

Holiday Calendar and Gift Guide

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

THURSDAY, NOV. 26

TURKEY TROT: The Mobjack Rowing Association will hold its annual Turkey Trot on Nov. 26, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Walk, run or bike from Williams Wharf Landing to Town Point Landing and back, a little less than four miles. In lieu of an entry fee, participants are asked to bring non-perishable items for Hands Across Mathews.

THANKSGIVING MEAL: Living Waters Church, Dutton, will have free Thanksgiving meals available on Nov. 26 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Free delivery will be provided to Gloucester, Mathews and Middlesex counties. Sign up for a meal by visiting the church online or calling 804-725-1119.

THANKSGIVING DINNER: Abingdon Episcopal Church, Gloucester, will have its annual community Thanksgiving dinner from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Nov. 26. All are welcome. There is no charge and no reservations are required.

THANKSGIVING: Kingston Episcopal Parish, Mathews, will serve its annual Thanksgiving Day meal, starting at 11:30 a.m. at Kingston Parish House, 370 Main Street. Free and open to the public.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27

MADE IN MATHEWS: In its 25th year, the Made in Mathews Open Studio Tour will be held on Nov. 27 and 28 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., Nov. 29 from noon until 5 p.m., Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Dec. 6 from noon until 5 p.m. The tour will feature 12 local artists and artisans.

SEE **COMMUNITY EVENTS,** PAGE **4C**



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3C)

SATURDAY, NOV. 28

HOLIDAY MARKET: Zoll Vineyards, Dutton, will have a holiday market on Nov. 28 from noon until 5 p.m. Shop for gifts and take a photo with Santa.





SANTA RUNS: Abingdon Volunteer Fire and Rescue will hold several Santa Runs throughout the Christmas season. Santa Claus will tour throughout the community with the AVFR crew on Nov. 28 in the Guinea area and roads off the left side of Lillaston Lane through Tidemill to Gloucester Point and back to Bellehaven Drive; Dec. 5 on the right side of Lillaston Lane through Tidemill to Gloucester Point and back to Bellehaven Road; Dec. 12 on Bellehaven Drive north to Linda Circle (Hayes Road area); and Dec. 19 to Coke and Glass area. Route times are weather-dependent. Visit the AVFR Facebook page for updates.

SHOP SMALL: Gloucester Main Street celebrates Small Business Saturday with a "Shop Small" scavenger hunt to find gnomes in local businesses.

MONDAY, NOV. 30

DONATIONS NEEDED: The Mathews Department of Social Services needs monetary and item donations for its Mathews County Christmas Store, which will be held on Dec. 11 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Dec. 12 from 8 a.m. until noon and again from 2-4 p.m. New items needed include toys, bikes, wagons and ride-on trikes; blankets and throws; kitchen and houseware items,

SEE **COMMUNITY EVENTS,** PAGE **5C**





COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4C)

such as coffee makers, toasters and toaster ovens and small space heaters; personal care products, such as soap/shampoo gift sets, blow dryers and shavers; small technology products, such as speakers and headphones; and sweatshirts, sweatpants and fleece for men, women and children. Donations may be taken to the Mathews Social Services office during normal business hours by Nov. 30.

SCIENCE SNOWFLAKE: Gloucester County Public Library will have take-and-make science kits, "Science Snowflake," for children in sixth through 12th grades at both branches. Grow your own crystal snowflake at home with these ready-to-go experiment kits. Pickup is from Nov. 30 through Dec. 6.

TUESDAY, DEC. 1

BEST YEARS TRIP: A Best Years Trip to see the Celebration in Lights at Newport News Park (driving tour) will be held on Dec. 1 from 3:30-8 p.m. The group will eat at Craft 60 Taphouse for dinner. Participants are responsible for covering the cost of their own dinner. After the lights, those on the trip will decide if they will stop at City Center or check out the Franktronics light show at Gloucester Point. The cost is $30. Registration is required through the Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism website.

ORNAMENT CRAFT: Gloucester County Public Library, Main Street Center, will hold a Christmas ornament craft program for children in first through fifth grades on Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. Registration is now open.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2

CONCERT: Courthouse Community Orchestra will hold a free holiday concert at Cobbs Creek Arts Center on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 3

WREATH MAKING: Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism will hold a winter wreath-making workshop at the Stewart Building, Main Street, on Dec. 3 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is $20. Online registration is required. For ages 16 and older.

GRANNY SQUARE WORKSHOP: Glouces-

SEE COMMUNITY EVENTS, PAGE 6C









Holiday crafts

The Bay School Community Arts Center, Mathews, will have a variety of holiday craft classes for all ages this year, including from left, creating ceramic ornaments, painting festive Christmas trees, and weaving Dorset button poinsettia ornaments.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5C)

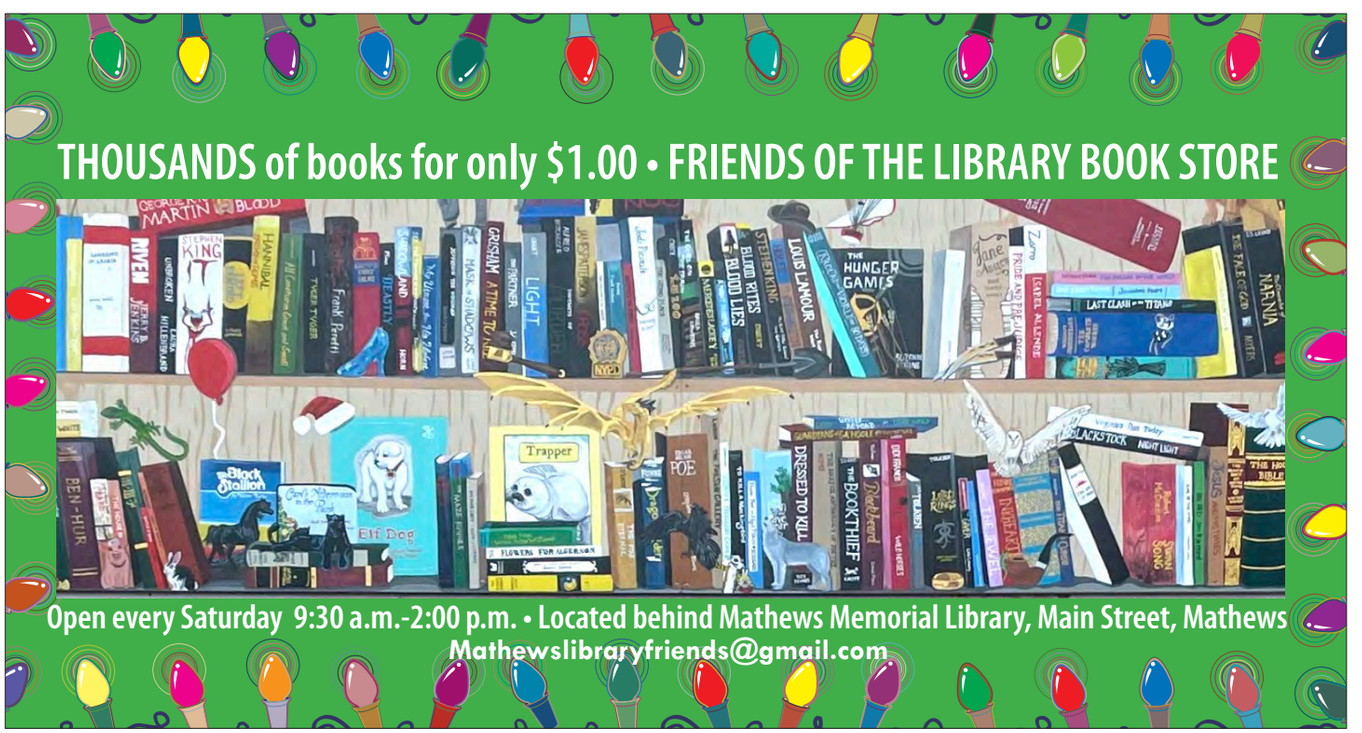
ter County Public Library, Main Street Center, will hold a granny square workshop on Dec. 3 from 5:30-7 p.m. Bring yarn and a crochet hook. Learn the step-by-step process to create the retro stitch. Enter the raffle for a chance to win a crochet supply kit. For adults 18 and older. Registration is now open.

HOLIDAY STORY TIME: Mathews Memorial Library will have a holiday story time with local children's author Ted Costin from 6-7 p.m. Enjoy story time, a book signing, a Christmas craft, cookie decorating and refreshments.

TREE PAINTING: Bay School Community Arts Center, Mathews, will have a Christmas tree-painting class on Dec. 3 from 6-8:30 p.m. Students will paint a festive Christmas tree using acrylic paint on an 8"x10" canvas. They will be guided by instructor Jennifer Schroeder as they learn fundamental painting techniques, mixing colors, layering and adding important

SEE **COMMUNITY EVENTS,** PAGE **7C**





COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6C)

details like ornaments and lights. For adults 18 and older. The cost is $55.

FRIDAY, DEC. 4

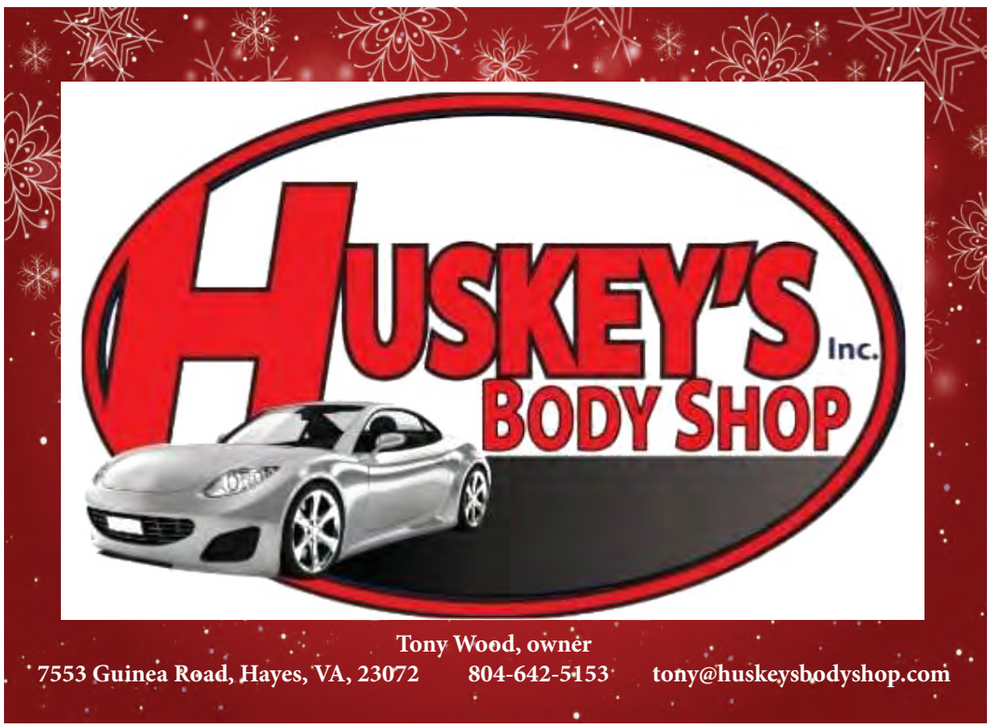
BINGO: The Mathews High School Key Club will hold its annual Winter Bingo Night on Dec. 4 from 5:30-7 in the MHS cafeteria. The cost is $10 per person, $5 for children 12 and under and free for kids under 5. Tickets include hot chocolate and prizes for bingo winners. Baked goods will be available for purchase.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: Gloucester County Public Library, Main Street Center, will have its Holiday Open House on Dec. 4, beginning at 6 p.m. Welcome the holiday season with light refreshments, crafts and performances from the Courthouse Community Orchestra and the Williamsburg A Cappella Singers. No registration is required. All ages.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: Gloucester Main Street Association will hold its Holiday Open House on Dec. 5 and 6. Enjoy activities and shopping from local

SEE COMMUNITY EVENTS, PAGE 8C









COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7C)

businesses. Santa will be available for photos on the House of Ren lawn before the parade.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING: Children of all ages are invited to deco-

SEE **COMMUNITY EVENTS,** PAGE **9C**

ARTWORK
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Carving by Bill Blair

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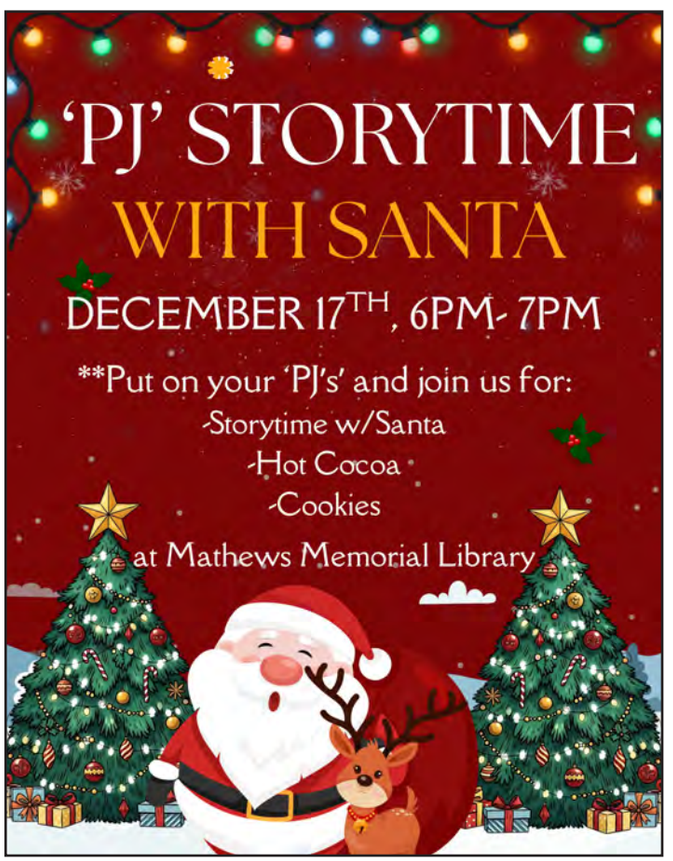

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8C)

rate gingerbread houses at Buck's Store Museum, Bena, on Dec. 5 at 9:30 or 11 a.m. All supplies are provided. This program is free but requires registration as there is a limit of 15 children per time slot. Register online through guineaheritage.org.

HOLIDAY ORNAMENT: Bay School Community Arts Center, Mathews, will have a ceramic holiday ornament craft program for children ages four to 17 on Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. In this two-part beginner-level class, kids will learn the skills needed to create several different ceramic Christmas ornaments. The first day students will design and make the ornaments. The second class, which will be on Dec. 12 at noon, students will glaze the ornaments. The cost is $50.

SANTA VISIT: Mathews Volunteer Fire Department Station 2 Bohannon will host Santa on Dec. 5 from noon until 3 p.m.

DECK THE HALLS: Mathews Memorial Library will hold its Deck the Halls program on Dec. 5 from 1-3 p.m. Join the library for an afternoon of holiday/winter decorating and treats. Flute Frenzy will perform.

CHRISTMAS FUN AT MATHEWS MUSEUM: Starting at 2 p.m. and continuing until 8, events for children including snacks and a movie, "The Polar Express"; more information and registration at themathewsmuseum.org/dec5-sign-up.

CHRISTMAS PARADE: Gloucester County's Christmas & Holiday Parade will step off from Main Street Center and travel to Bo-

SEE **COMMUNITY EVENTS,** PAGE **10C**

MARY KAY
OPEN HOUSE
December 5, 2026
1-4 p.m.
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Linda Gregory, Consultant

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• Candies & Custom Made Gift Boxes

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Main Street, Gloucester Court House
Monday thru Saturday 8 to 6 ~ Sunday 11 to 4
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9C)

tetourt Elementary School on Dec. 5 at 3 p.m. Stick around after the parade for the annual tree-lighting ceremony in the court circle.

HOLIDAY HAYRIDES: Belmont Pumpkin Farm, North, will host its first-ever Holiday Hayrides & Winter Maze on Dec. 5-6 and 12-13. In addition to hayrides and a maze, enjoy cider doughnuts, pulled pork, hot cider, hot chocolate and more. An ornament craft for children will be available both weekends. More information is forthcoming.

CONCERT: Courthouse Community Orchestra will hold a free holiday concert at Newington Baptist Church, Gloucester, on Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.

LIVE MUSIC: Flat Iron Crossroads, Gloucester, will host Jeff Little Trio on Dec. 5 from 6:30-9 p.m. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door.

SUNDAY, DEC. 6

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY: The Abingdon Ruritan Club's annual Children's Christmas Party will be held on Dec. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. at its facility, located at 8784 Guinea Road, Bena. Gloucester County children, 8 years and younger, are invited. There will be door prizes, games, crafts, cake walks and refreshments. Santa and Mrs. Claus are scheduled to make a special appearance. Because of the popularity of this event and the limited space, it is respectfully requested that no more than two adults accompany the children.

SING-ALONG: Central Village Homemakers will hold its annual Christmas Sing-Along on Dec. 6 at Central United Methodist Church, Mathews, from 3-4

SEE **COMMUNITY EVENTS,** PAGE **12C**

Celebrate the Season
with a free concert
COURTHOUSE COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA
Wednesday, December 2, 7pm
Cobbs Creek Arts Center, Cobbs Creek
Saturday, December 5, 6pm
Newington Baptist Church, Gloucester
Sunday, December 13, 2pm
Colonial Harbor, Yorktown
CourthouseCommunityOrchestra.org

Watercolors by Gib Pulley



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Santa's coming to town

Santa Claus, shown here last year at Gloucester Library with Cooper Johnson giving a thumbs up, has a very busy schedule in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Nov. 28, Santa will be at Zoll Vineyards in Dutton; the following day, Nov. 29, he will take part in the Abingdon Volunteer Fire and Rescue Santa runs; on Dec. 5, he will be at the House of Ren lawn in Gloucester before the Christmas Parade; the same day, he will be at Mathews Volunteer Fire Department Station 2 in Bohannon; also on Dec. 5, he will be at breakfast at Central United Methodist Church, Mathews; the following day, Sunday, Dec. 6, he will be at the Children's Christmas Party at the Abingdon Ruritan Club in Bena; on Dec. 12, he will be in the Mathews Christmas Parade and visiting with children after; also on Dec. 12, he will be at Gloucester Library (Main Street); on Dec. 17, he will be at Mathews Memorial Library. For a complete list of the hours and other information about the Jolly Old Elf, be sure to look through the calendar items in this section.





COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10C)

p.m. The program will be followed by a social with cookies and punch from 4-5 p.m.

CONCERT: Concerts by the Bay will feature Andrew McKnight & Beyond Borders on Dec. 6 at 3 p.m. in the Harry M. Ward Auditorium at Mathews High School. Enjoy a mix of electric guitars, banjo, mandolin, upright bass, drums and percussion with 3- and 4-part harmonies, from old-time Appalachia to contemporary folk and blues. The cost is $30 to attend.

MONDAY, DEC. 7

CHRISTMAS CRAFT: The Bay School Community Arts Center, Mathews, will have a Christmas craft program on Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Make a Dorset button poinsettia Christmas ornament. Students will learn basic weaving techniques to create a yellow Dorset button, which will become the center of the ornament. After weaving the button, students will use precut fabric to assemble the ornament. There will be a choice of flower color. For adults 18 and older. The cost is $60.

TUESDAY, DEC. 8

OPEN HOUSE: Ware River Circle of The King's Daughters and Sons will hold its 37th annual Christmas Open House, "Sleigh Bells Ring at Historic Auburn!" on Dec. 8. Tickets are $35 apiece and can be

SEE **COMMUNITY EVENTS,** PAGE **13C**





