COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12C)

purchased at The Silver Box on Gloucester's Main Street and Goodman's Antiques & Estate Jewelry in Gloucester Point. Four sessions are available (noon-1 p.m., 1:30-2:30 p.m., 3-4 p.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m.). Proceeds will support Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters and other WRCKDS local charities.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA: The Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society will hold its Holiday Extravaganza on Dec. 9 from 5-8 p.m. in the Williams Center. Shop local crafts, handmade gifts and artwork. There will be a volunteer bake sale. Enjoy live holiday music from the Courthouse Community Orchestra.

LET'S DRAW CHRISTMAS: Gloucester County Public Library, Main Street Center, will be holding its "Let's Draw Christmas!"

SEE COMMUNITY EVENTS, PAGE 16C

MATHEWS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED 1970

Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 12th ~ 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Tompkins Cottage Museum

43 Brickbat Rd., Mathews

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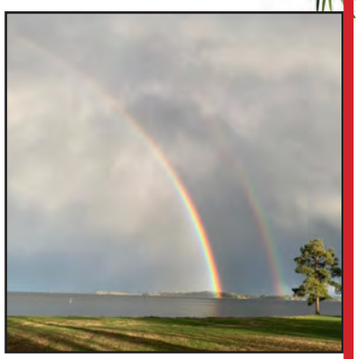

Nestled within the prestigious Kinsale community, this exquisite 4-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom residence offers a harmonious blend of coastal charm and luxurious living! The architectural elegance of this ranch-style home offers gorgeous water views from almost every room in the house.

Step inside to discover an open floor plan that seamlessly connects the gourmet kitchen—equipped with stainless steel appliances, a spacious island, and custom cabinetry—to the inviting family room with a wood-burning fireplace. The primary suite boasts a spa-like bath, complete with modern fixtures and a cedar closet, while additional bedrooms provide ample space for relaxation.

The exterior is equally captivating, featuring a private beach shoreline and a meticulously landscaped 4.91-acre lot that offers panoramic views of the Yeocomico River! Guests will love the sandy beach area, which is the perfect entrance area for swimming. A pier permit has been obtained that allows for a 310' pier up to 6' wide with an L-shaped platform (buyer is welcome to have that renewed). There is also an existing pier on the property.

The deck and patio areas are ideal for entertaining, while the pole barn/detached garage provides convenience and storage. With 875 feet of waterfrontage and a circular asphalt driveway, this property is a rare gem, offering both seclusion and accessibility.

Experience the ultimate in luxury living, where every detail has been thoughtfully curated to enhance your lifestyle. Embrace the tranquility of riverfront living, just steps away from nature's beauty! From the mesmerizing views, abundant fruit trees, and garden produce (apples, pears, rosemary, artichokes, asparagus, basil, and blackberries) to the incredible waterfowl and top-tier fishing, waking up to this setting every day is truly extraordinary.

The owners have extensively renovated this home, incorporating energy-efficient materials throughout. Sophisticated solar panels (12 x 450 Watt) have been fully paid off—with no remaining balance—keeping the monthly electric bill remarkably low (barely reaching $170).



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FILE PHOTOS

Parades past

Gloucester County's Christmas & Holiday Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, beginning at 3 p.m., and the Mathews Christmas Parade, "Pearl of the Chesapeake," is scheduled for the following Saturday, Dec. 12 at 1 p.m. Shown, from top down, are parade snapshots from last year, Bayside Youth Ballet dancers Madelyn Micket, Madeline Craven and Kate Hunter, from left, are dressed as nutcrackers for Gloucester's parade; The Gloucester High School Marching Dukes win a prize for best choreography; Court House Players' actors, standing from left, Ada Barnes, Lily Jaeger, Dylan Parrish and Rylee Amaral wave to the crowd in their "Frozen Jr." costumes in Mathews; The Mathews High School Marching Band is all decked out for Christmas.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13C)

program on Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. Learn how to draw Santa, a Christmas tree, a sleigh and more. For children in kindergarten through fifth grades. Registration opens Nov. 28.

ART DROP: Bay School Community Arts Center, Mathews, will have its December Art Drop program on Dec. 9 from 6-8 p.m. In this workshop, learn how to paint a snowman using simple watercolor techniques. A clothespin snowflake project will also be offered. Transform ordinary wooden clothespins into rustic holiday ornaments. For those 16 and older. Those 12 and older may participate with an adult. The instructor is Virginia Coyle and the cost is $20.

THURSDAY, DEC. 10

COOKIE DRIVE: Mathews Memorial Library will hold a cookie drive with Mathews High School Family and Consumer Sciences and Mathews Meals on Wheels on Dec. 10 from 1-2 p.m.

PILLOW COVER: Gloucester County Public

SEE COMMUNITY EVENTS, PAGE 19C





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COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16C)

Library, Main Street Center, will have a latch hook pillow cover program on Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. Get ready for the holidays with this do-it-yourself plush project. For adults 18 and older. Registration is now open.

FRIDAY, DEC. 11

BEST YEARS SOCIAL: Gloucester County Parks, Recreation & Tourism is holding a Best Years Holiday Social for those age 50 and over on Dec. 11 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Beaverdam Park. Enjoy light refreshments, socialize and learn about upcoming trips.

POP-UP MARKET: The Farmers & Fishermens Cooperative will hold its Christmas Pop-up Market on Dec. 11 from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. at 252 Main Street in Mathews. The market will include fresh and preserved local food products and fresh evergreen wreaths for sale. There will be free apple cider.

HOLIDAY MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM: Christmas singing and organ music at the Mathews Museum, 200 Main Street, from 5:30-7 p.m. Charlene Moore at the reed organ. Hot apple cider and refreshments will be served.

NIGHT MARKET & TREE LIGHTING: Mathews Main Street and Mathews County Visitor and Information Center will hold a Main Street Night Market & Tree Lighting on Dec. 11. Shops will be open until 7 p.m. Then enjoy caroling, hot chocolate and the Christmas Tree Lighting on the Court Green.

WINTER GALA: The Gloucester High School Choir will hold its 2026 Winter Gala at Flat Iron Crossroads, Gloucester, on Dec. 11 from 7-9 p.m. Tickets are $10 each. Desserts and snacks are provided.

SEE **COMMUNITY EVENTS,** PAGE **21C**

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Christmas in Guinea

Buck's Store Museum, Bena, will return with its annual Christmas in Guinea open house on Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tour the museum, purchase locally-themed items, meet with friends and enjoy lunch treats. Santa will also be stopping in for a visit. Shown are last year's bakers and cooks for the open house, front row from left, Betty Williams, Bill Henry Jenkins, Ginny Snowden, Rose Marie Smith, Jeannie Hudgins; back row, Ed Ewell, Rupert Thomas, Wayne Hall, L.T. Wells, Brytan Marble, Sarah Smith and Rachel Wells.



FILE PHOTO

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York River Concert Band Christmas Concert
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Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 20, 10:00 am
Breakfast, 9:00 am

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion with Candlelight Service
Thursday, December 24, 7:00 pm

Church Office will be Closed
Thursday & Friday, November 26-27
Friday, December 25
Friday, January 1

COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19C)

SATURDAY, DEC. 12

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: The Gloucester Moose Lodge will hold Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 12 from 8:30-11 a.m. Call 804-693-3899 to sign up.

HOLIDAY MARKET: Mathews Main Street and Mathews County Visitor and Information Center will hold its Mathews Holiday Farmers' Market on Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the Court Green. A variety of vendors will be in attendance.

CHRISTMAS IN GUINEA: Christmas in Guinea will be held at Buck's Store Museum, Bena, on Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tour the museum, purchase locally-themed items, meet friends and enjoy lunch treats. Santa will be stopping in for a visit.

WARE MARKET: Ware Episcopal Church, Gloucester, will hold its Christmas market, "A Colonial Christmas," on Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

SANTA VISIT: Visit with Santa at Gloucester County Public Library, Main Street Center, on Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Registration begins Nov. 28. Visits are by appointment. All ages.

CHRISTMAS MARKET: Burn Boot Camp, Hayes, will have its Christmas Market on Dec. 12 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

PARADE: The Mathews Christmas Parade, "Pearl of the Chesapeake Christmas," will be held on Dec. 12, beginning at 1 p.m. The parade will step off from Thomas Hunter Education Center and travel to Chesapeake Bank. After the parade, Santa Claus and The Grinch will greet children at the Mathews County Visitor & Information Center and Roane's Antiques at The Cottage.

HOLIDAY BALLET: Gloucester County Public Library, Gloucester, will host the Bayside Youth Ballet for a holiday performance on Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. Free and open to the public.

CHRISTMAS AT TIMBERNECK: The Fairfield Foundation will hold its Christmas Party at Timberneck on Dec. 12 from 2-4 p.m. Decorate the tree and enjoy hot drinks at the Timberneck House, located in Machicomoco State Park in Hayes.

OUTDOOR MOVIE: Mathews Main Street and Mathews County Visitor and Information Center will be showing a Christmas movie outside on the Court Green at 6:30 p.m. Food truck opens at 5:30. Bring a chair, snacks and a warm blanket. Free and open to the public.

MISTLETOE MURDER: Zoll Vineyards, Dutton, will hold an interactive murder mystery event, "A Mistletoe Murder," on Dec. 12 from 6-8 p.m. The cost is $25 per person.

BOAT PARADE: Mathews Volunteer Fire Department Station 2 Bohannon will host the East River Boat Parade on Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. The best viewing spots are Williams Wharf, Town

SEE COMMUNITY EVENTS, PAGE 25C

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Christmas events planned at Mathews Museum

Three weekends in December will bring special Christmas events to the Mathews Museum at 200 Main Street.

Christmas Fun will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, starting with photos of children with Santa Claus from 2-5 p.m. A separate fee will be charged, a notice said. Part of the proceeds from this day will benefit the Family and Consumer Science classroom of MHS teacher Michelle Williams.

Other activities will include pizza and snacks with the elves, holiday craft with Mrs. Claus, and viewing of "The Polar Express" for a parents' night out, 5-8:30 p.m., for children ages kindergarten and up. No charge for parents at the movie.

The fee is $20 for the first child, $5 discount for each additional child, with pre-registration required. Sign up at themathewsmuseum.org/dec5-sign-up.

Holiday Music at the Museum is set for 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11. Music and singing are planned from 5:30-7 p.m. Ada Barnes, Tristan Barnes, Colton Sadler and Gabbie Cortes will sing, accompanied by Charlene Moore on the reed organ. Hot apple cider and refreshments will be served.

On Friday, Dec. 18, Donna Deekens, who was Snow Queen at Miller & Rhoads department store in Richmond from 1971-89, will be at the museum for a talk and book signing. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.



Snow Queen Donna Deekens of Miller & Rhoads with Santa Claus, back in the day.

After Miller & Rhoads closed in 1990, Deekens carried on as Snow Queen at adjacent Thalhimers Department Store in 1990 and 1991.

She is a graduate of Westhampton College of the University of Richmond, with studies in Theatre, Music and Journalism, and has performed professionally as an actress, soloist, entertainer and public speaker. She owned and operated her traveling tea party business, "Teapots, Treats & Traditions," from 2002 to 2012, and has held positions in public relations, marketing and fundraising for governmental, corporate and nonprofit organizations.

SEE **MUSEUM CHRISTMAS,** PAGE **23C**

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MUSEUM CHRISTMAS:

Mathews celebrates the season

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22C)

Deekens is the author of four books: "Christmas at Miller & Rhoads: Memoirs of a Snow Queen"; "Santaland: A Miller & Rhoads Christmas," a children's book; "Virginia's Legendary Santa Trains," co-authored with Doug Riddell; and "The Real Santa of Miller & Rhoads: The Extraordinary Life of Bill Strother." She was recently inducted into the International Santa Claus Hall of Fame in Santa Claus, Indiana, and she is the only "Snow Queen" to be the recipient of this honor.

At the museum, Deekens will give a brief talk and meet with folks who fondly remember the "magic" of "The Real Santa" and Miller & Rhoads "back in the day." She encourages anyone who has vintage photos of their children or grandchildren at Miller & Rhoads to bring them to share with her, and also share any stories that they recall.

Her books will be available for purchase and signing that evening. Deekens will donate 10 percent of the proceeds of book sales during the event to the Mathews Museum. For more information, call the museum at 804-505-1277.









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COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21C)

Point Landing and Mill Lane in Bohannon. The rain date is scheduled for Dec. 13.

LIVE MUSIC: Flat Iron Crossroads, Gloucester, will host, "Blues on a Holiday," on Dec. 13 from 6:30-9 p.m. The event will feature Carly Harvey, Jonathan Sloane and Deanna Bogart. Tickets are $50 for VIP and $35 for general admission.

SUNDAY, DEC. 13

EMPTY BOWLS: The Bay School Community Arts Center, Mathews, will hold its Empty Bowls fundraiser on Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. An assortment of handmade soups, breads and cookies will be served. For a $20 donation, individuals will receive a hand-crafted bowl and a lunch of soup, bread and cookies. Community potters and members of the Clay by the Bay Ceramics Guild have created the bowls. All proceeds will benefit Hands Across Mathews.

HOLIDAY MAGIC: Bayside Youth Ballet will perform, "Holiday Magic," at Peasley Middle School, Gloucester, on Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children 10 and under. They can be purchased at the door or by visiting baysideyouthballet.com/performances.

MONDAY, DEC. 14

CHRISTMAS SCAVENGER HUNT: Gloucester County Public Library will have a Christmas scavenger hunt from Dec. 14-23 at both branches. Search the library to find holiday items and earn a prize. All ages welcome.

TUESDAY, DEC. 15

COOKIE CUTTER ORNAMENTS: Gloucester County Public Library, Point Branch, will have a Christmas cookie cutter ornament workshop on Dec. 15 at 11 a.m. For adults 18 and older. Registration opens Dec. 1.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16

WINTER CONCERT: The Gloucester High School winter chorus concert will be held on Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 17

P.J. STORYTIME: Mathews Memorial Library will have its P.J. Storytime with Santa program on Dec. 17 from 6-7 p.m. There will be hot cocoa and cookies.

FRIDAY, DEC. 18

BEST YEARS TRIP: A Best Years Trip to see "It's a Wonderful Life" for the 80th anniversary of the film at Compass Entertainment Complex, Irvington, will take place on Dec. 18 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The cost is $50. Movie ticket and concession tray (drink, popcorn and candy) are included. Register online through Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism.

LITTLE CRAFTERS: Gloucester County Public Library, Main Street Center, will hold a holiday craft activity for ages two through

SEE **COMMUNITY EVENTS,** PAGE **26C**



