



Callao: A hometown community on the rise

by Jackie Nunnery

Savannah, Georgia, may have its “Crown Jewel” parks, but the Northern Neck is developing its own gems. Strung along the Northern Neck “loop”—Routes 3, 360 and 200—these revitalized communities give visitors an opportunity to experience Southern charm at a slower pace and discover what makes the Northern Neck one-of-a-kind.

One of the evolving gems is Callao, which began a revitalization in 2015. Since then, the village has received a number of grants including a \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant announced by Gov. Ralph Northam in September 2018.

The most visible efforts so far have focused on improving façades, installing on-street parking and a pedestrian crossing to make the Callao Business District more pedestrian friendly. According to Northumberland County Economic Develop-

ment Commission chairman Theresa Lambert, future projects include planters and landscaping, streetlights, benches and gateway signage welcoming visitors.

“People will start to see all this coming when the weather breaks,” Lambert said.

The grant also provides for a 50% match up to \$15,000 for participating Callao business owners to enhance the façades of their buildings. Several colorful murals with a vintage feel by artist Melanie Stimmel Van Latum, have gone up, two welcoming visitors to the “Hometown of the Northern Neck” on each end of the business district. Stimmel Van Latum and her Montross Mural Studio are also responsible for the murals in Montross.

To promote Callao’s renaissance, the Callao Hometown

Community Association (CHCA), a group of community members and business owners, was formed and worked hard to join a growing list of Virginia Main Street (VMS) communities. As such, the CHCA will network and learn from VMS communities like Gloucester to further advance the commercial district. One effort is the development of the goCallaoVA.org site to promote Callao and its businesses to area residents and visitors

Eat, drink or just hang out

A visit to Callao will find a number of newer places to eat and drink at a leisurely pace. With their outdoor mural welcoming visitors, Cafe Callao, recently opened by Vadim Shmirkin, is sure to be a popular hangout.



A bright mural welcomes all to Callao, the “Hometown of the Northern Neck.” Photo by Jackie Nunnery



The Flippin Yellow Truck is a popular lunch spot in the center of Callao. Photo by Jackie Nunnery

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Thelma's manager Shawn Owens smiles out of their one-of-a-kind firetruck delivery window. Photo by Jackie Nunery



One of Callao's murals honors B.F. Lewis's 1938 patented design of the modern day crab pot. A Bay Transit bus shelter across the street tells Lewis's story. Photo by Jackie Nunery

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Shmirkin was attracted to opening his first restaurant in Callao because "it is a great location with great people. It seems like a tight-knit, family community," he said. Shmirkin's focus is on creating a "relaxed atmosphere" with "great, fresh food." Menu items he's really excited about are crepes, both savory and sweet, and the Mediterranean salad. On-site free WiFi is sure to keep people browsing while they sip coffee or tea over dessert. Just down the road, Callao Brewing Company, Thelma's Deli and Catering and Flippin Yellow Truck, are all centered around outdoor seating, but catering to different tastes. Callao Brewing Company opened a year ago by friends and fellow home-brewers Roger Hale and James Adams. Both grew up in the area and remember when their brewery site was a Southern States store. Today, the brewery features ales, stouts,

IPAs and porters, some with adventurous ingredients like cacao, coconut, strawberries and matcha green tea. There's even a Callao Kewl Aide, a blend of carbonated water, alcohol and an ever-changing choice of flavors. The menu, which features roughly 15 different brews, changes slightly every month. If you have a hard time choosing, you can purchase a flight of four, served in smaller glasses. Fall in love with a particular beer and you can take it home in cans and growlers to enjoy. Adams wanted the brewery to be a "place for people to hang out." And with Beer BINGO, karaoke and music, there are plenty of reasons to do just that on the weekends. The brewery is open Fridays-Sundays. Hale likes that it's also a "family-friendly place" and that includes pets. As the weather warms, the outdoor seating is sure

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Owner Vickie Alsop shows off the many decorative items made by local artists available at Olde Crow & Crab. Photo by Jackie Nunnerly



For those that love a treasure hunt, Callao Community Trading Post has a little bit of everything. Photo by Jackie Nunnerly



James Adams, co-owner of Callao Brewing Company, serves hospitality by the glass. Photo by Jackie Nunnerly

to be a popular place for friends and families. While the brewery does serve snacks, they encourage folks to order food from nearby restaurants and bring it back to their patio to enjoy with their beer.

Thelma's Deli and Catering is one of those nearby restaurants, next door behind the firetruck. Thelma's, named in memory of owner Michelle Carroll's mother, serves breakfast and lunch Mondays through Saturdays.

The carry-out eggs, sandwiches, pancakes and yogurt make up the breakfast selection, while lunch includes cold platters, soups, deli sandwiches and subs, paninis and salads, all delivered through the window of the firetruck door. Thelma's also offers free delivery within a 20-mile radius with a \$30 minimum order.

The Flippin Yellow Truck is a familiar sight at its spot by the brewery, but is now under new ownership. Jesse Gordon, wife DeeDra Gordon, and mother Teresa Withers purchased the business together last May.

Jesse, who worked in a kitchen "in earlier days," is excited about the opportunity in Callao, especially with people getting out more. "Our business is mostly lunch, but with the brewery, we're seeing more business" on Saturdays.

The cheeseburgers and steak-and-cheese are popular items, but since this is the Northern Neck, there are items like oyster sandwiches and crab cakes, which one can enjoy at the truck's own covered seating or the nearby brewery patio.

The new eateries join established and longtime local favorites. Across the street, Nino's Pizza and Ristorante Italiano has

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Welcome to CALLAO



Lisa Deitz stands by pieces of the family history and business, Callao Supply Company, a part of the community since 1938. Photo by Jackie Nunnery



Outdoor seating at Callao Brewing Company is a perfect place to enjoy a craft beer and watch traffic. Photo by Jackie Nunnery

been serving pizza and classic Italian dishes since 1988. Owner Nino Randazzo has been working hard to keep the restaurant open, overcoming a devastating fire two years ago, on top of the difficulties the pandemic brought to restaurants all over. While the restaurant is closed to indoor dining, Nino's is serving customers a full menu with curbside pick-up.

For decades, folks have been stopping by Callao Dairy Freeze down the street for burgers and fries along with milkshakes and soft serve ice cream.

Another place for a sweet treat is LeCakes by Design, where owners Cynthia and Jerome Johnson make fresh cinnamon rolls daily along with pies and made-to-order cakes.

Venture just down Northumberland Highway and diners find another local favorite, Los Portales, where owners Miguel Ayala and Mayra Hernandez serve a range of Mexican dishes that have been popular since the restaurant opened in 2015. The menu includes classic lunch specials for a quick bite, and dinner options that include steak, chicken, seafood or vegetarian choices.

Ayala was quick to pivot when COVID-19 closed many restaurants last year. They started a curbside pickup service, which remains popular. "It's 80% of our business," he said. They also offer regular indoor seating and outdoor patio seating.

Explore and discover treasures

Treasure hunters will find opportunities for one-of-a-kind items crafted by local artisans or discarded from long ago. Vickie Alsop fell in love with the older building which is now home to her shop, Olde Crow and Crab. Opened in September of last year, the shop features clothing, distinctive decorative items, Virginia wines and complementary gourmet chocolates and cheeses.

Alsop—an artist and crafter—sells her jewelry and hand-made soaps, along with the work of other local artisans and "Made in Virginia" items. Alsop hopes to share her talents by offering "make it and take it" classes in the future.

She is also supporting fellow artists with a "Spring Extravaganza" on Saturday, April 3. At least seven other vendors will set up outside in front of her store selling their handmade items, along with a bake sale and raffle. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Callao Volunteer Fire Department.

For treasures of another kind, Callao Community Trading Post has meandering aisles of furniture, small appliances and memorabilia to sift through. Manager Jean Pittman said that the people moving into the area have brought "an influx of new people to the store looking to add accent pieces. I've seen a lot of new faces since last fall."

Callao Supply Company is a community treasure. Owned and operated by the Deitz family, this building supply and hardware store has been serving the community since 1938. Lisa Deitz runs the office and bookkeeping for the family business in addition to serving as president of the CHCA.

For those on the water, Mid-Bay Marine may be the answer. Opened last summer by Cheryl and Paul Kaufman and Doug Lemke, the store features marine parts and accessories, repairs, and fabrications. If they don't have it, they can order directly from the Land & Sea catalog, a leading distributor of marine and RV parts.

The Northumberland County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center is in the back of the shop.

Enjoy recreational opportunities

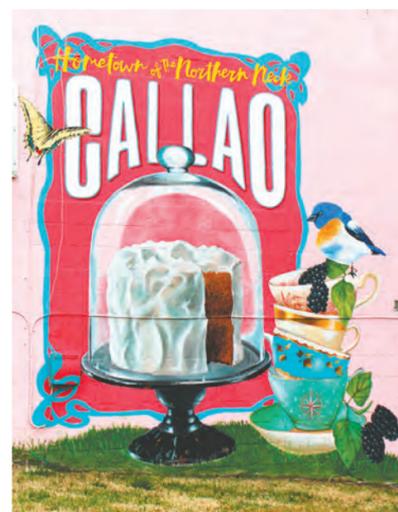
Callao's location makes it easy to spend some time on the water. Gardy's Millpond, a 75-acre reservoir at the county line between Northumberland and Westmoreland, offers anglers a quiet spot to catch redear sunfish and bluegill, surrounded by natural beauty.

Callao is also just minutes away from Olverson's Lodge Creek Marina on the Yeocomico River with a short run to the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. The family owned marina, in business since 1964, offers a complete line of amenities including a farmhouse vacation rental, laundry, community lounge, and swimming pool.

For those that want to stick to land, Callao is also a short drive away from Quinton Oaks, an 18-hole golf course which highlights the area's green, rolling hills of farmland and mature woods.

Down Northumberland Highway, RW's Sports, once a small bait and tackle shop, is now a large sporting goods store, catering to those to that love to hunt or fish.

Visit Callao to catch up on the changes taking place, support local businesses and keep the revitalization going.



A whimsical cake mural on the side of LeCakes by Design greets visitors at one end of the business district. Photo by Jackie Nunnery



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A warm Warsaw welcome

by Jackie Nunnery

The year 2020 brought many changes, including many new neighbors that came to the Northern Neck seeking the safety and comfort that comes with small-town living. While moving is always a stressful experience, settling in to a new community can have its own challenges as well. But no worries: the businesses and people who call Warsaw home are ready to welcome all.

Warsaw has the distinction of being nearly at the center of it all, situated between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers and central to the roughly 75-mile-long peninsula of the Northern Neck. Heading into town provides an opportunity to shop, dine and stroll along a picturesque Main Street, as well as a chance to see and experience the natural beauty of the surrounding area, with parks, trails, and the nearby Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

The return of small town charm

Warsaw's historic Main Street section is a charming mix of old and new. Here, older buildings are given a new life and stand beside newer structures with a nod to the town's past. It is also where local entrepreneurs are offering products and services that you won't find in any mall.

Shelley Pierson, owner of Willow Stitch, opened her Main Street shop in September 2019. The custom embroidery shop specializes in Little League uniforms and spirit wear. With sports and school business up in the air, Pierson has been focusing more on shirts, caps and anything else with company logos. With all of the embroidery business done in-house, she is able to offer smaller runs and quick turnarounds.

A short stroll down the flag-lined street, Angie's Strength + Style Boutique offers what owner Angie Sanders calls "a space for women to feel safe, worthy and heard." Sanders said she tries to find stylish clothing that is "trendy, but not too much" and at affordable price points. Sanders prides herself on her warm customer service, streaming live events on the store's Facebook page in addition to holding in-store events that celebrate her customers' birthdays. "I love getting to know my customers," she said.

Just next door, you'll find even more treasures at Burkes Fine Jewelers, a Northern Neck tradition. Fred and Karen Burke, whose family-owned jewelry store celebrated its 51st year in business in Kilmarnock this year, considered opening a store in Warsaw 10 years ago. "They approached us a few years ago and asked to take a second look. We loved the idea and plan they had for the town," said Karen. "When we walked into the building, I knew it was the space for us. We're so happy to be in Warsaw and think we have such an amazing future there. In five years, we think we'll be doing the business we are here [in Kilmarnock] after 51 years."

More than shopping

A cornerstone of the Main Street community, Relish Restaurant and Wine Bar is the place to go when you are in the mood for a contemporary take on Southern classics. Chef/owner Carol Mead Smith takes advantage of local ingredients, giving credit and thanks to the

continued on the following pages



Chesapeake Doughnut Co. recently opened on Main Street. A water fountain marks the entrance to the parking area at the Warsaw Town Park. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



Shelley Pierson of Willow Stitch works on one of her custom embroidery projects for a client. Photo by Jackie Nunnery



Elliot Crissey and Jameson McCrobie discover one of nearly 100 carvings scattered throughout the Enchanted Forest. Photo by Jackie Nunnery



Anna Vanlandingham assists a customer at Colonial Collectibles in Warsaw. The home décor and gift store will celebrate its 30th anniversary in May. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

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Dine under the twinkling lights indoors in cooler weather or under the twinkling stars outdoors during warmer months at Old Rapp Taphouse, which includes a taproom and dining area and outdoor beer garden. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



The Haven Thrift Store in Warsaw benefits The Haven Shelter & Services, which assists victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

continued from the previous page

area's producers on the menu.

Across the street is relative newcomer Old Rapp Taphouse. Andy Beale's Old Rappahannock Development Company transformed a block on a Main Street in 2019, creating at its center a 2,200-square foot taproom, dining area and outdoor beer garden. The family-friendly restaurant features something for everyone on their "elevated American style" menu, Beale said.

Even in the middle of a pandemic, Beale is pleased with the response they have gotten from the community. "We felt like the vision they had for the downtown area was right in line with what we wanted to do and we wanted to be a part of it," Beale said.

The next step for Old Rapp is the development of a brewery at the vacant space on the corner of St. Johns Street and Main Street. Beale said construction should begin "in the next 60-90 days."

At the other end of the building, Terri Crowder and her husband opened their third location of Northern Neck Popcorn Bag, a gourmet popcorn store, after seeing "a real opportunity to be part of a vibrant, up-and-coming main street," said Crowder. "The incentives they offered and the people that are making it happen are doing an outstanding job."



Julia and Mike Garay recently moved to the area from California to be closer to their daughter. In addition to discovering historic Main Street, they have discovered and enjoyed the small town friendliness...and Chesapeake Doughnut Co. Photo by Jackie Nunnery

Chesapeake Doughnut Co. is another spot that is new to Warsaw, but not new to those in the Northern Neck. Gabe del Rio and Jeff Ewing opened their first shop in White Stone in June and it has already become a popular morning stop. The Warsaw location opened in mid-January, featuring the same tasty varieties of cake and yeast doughnuts made fresh each day using organic ingredients.

Venture off Main Street and you'll find The Daily, a great place to stop for lunch. Farther down Richmond Road is a new Dairy Queen, alongside long-time favorites Anna's and China Inn.

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At left, Cindy Swift buys some savory and sweet treats from Bibian Silva at Northern Neck Popcorn Bag. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



The Bounds promises to be Warsaw's next popular space for hanging out and exploring when it opens this summer. Photo by Jackie Nunnery



A Dairy Queen Grill & Chill opened on Richmond Road in Warsaw in September. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Make your house a home

You can't miss Horn's Warsaw Ace Hardware, which owner Graylend Horn said is just days away from opening. The spacious store, complete with a silo at the front entrance, is located at the intersection of Main Street and Richmond Road. Like Horn's three other Ace stores, it will feature a full array of paint, hardware, tools, and just about everything else you need to keep your house in tip-top shape.

Other newer retail options include Tractor Supply Store and Dollar Tree in the Times Square Shopping Center near the end of town on Richmond Road.

If you need a little help transforming your house into a home, interior designer Cindy Lloyd of Feather Your Nest, on Richmond Road, offers design services to help with window treatments, area rugs, accessories, furniture and upholstery. In addition to her design skills, Lloyd said she has "good listening skills" that allow her to help clients create homes where "you are reflected, not me."

Julie Christopher and her mother-in-law opened Colonial Collectibles on Main Street in Warsaw in 1991. The home decor and gift shop moved to its current location on Richmond Road in 1999 and expanded to include a clothing boutique about 10 years ago.

"This doesn't look like Warsaw anymore," said Christopher, who is now the sole proprietor. "They've done a lot for Warsaw and it's so exciting to see all the businesses that have come to town."

Just across Main Street, Coggin Furniture has welcomed new families to the area for decades.

More ways to experience Warsaw

With the warm days not too far off in the future, Warsaw is planning for ways to experience all that the town has to offer. Town manager Joseph Quesenberry said his goal now is to "provide more experiential activities." Those include Rappahannock Outdoor Adventure, a kayak rental service adjacent to the Warsaw Town Park which transports visitors to the Rappahannock River for a day on the water.

Just off Main Street, is The Bounds, a new park under construction that will feature a pond, hiking trails and outdoor amphitheater. The name, Quesenberry said, "harkens back to history." According to the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society, it "refers to the boundaries of the courthouse green & the adjoining area along Richmond Road where it intersects with Main Street."

The Bounds' planned hiking trails will connect to the hidden gem that is known as the Enchanted Forest. Local Carver Tom Rhodes singlehandedly created the 11-acre wooded space that features a whimsical collection of children's characters from books and movies.

Stop by Warsaw and support the local businesses that make this slice of small-town America what it has always been: a place to call home with people to call friends and neighbors.



Jameson Crandall helps a customer with sizing of her ring at Burkes Fine Jewelers in Warsaw. The Burke family opened a store in Richmond County in 2019 but has celebrated more than half a century in business at its Kilmarnock location. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



Horn's Warsaw Ace Hardware will soon offer everything homeowners need for inside and outside the home. Photo by Jackie Nunnery



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Welcome to WHITE STONE

Southern Gateway to the Northern Neck



Small town packs a big punch

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi and Ann Gardner Eubank

As the southern gateway to the Northern Neck—by way of the historic Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge spanning the Rappahannock River and connecting Middlesex and Lancaster counties—the town of White Stone welcomes thousands of visitors daily.

Inside its one-square mile of corporate limits, there are more than 50 businesses which tempt those passing through to stop and browse and serve as a shopper's destination to those in the know. Antique, home decor, gift and home improvement stores are scattered throughout town. Its eateries call to visitors with the intoxicating smell of fresh-baked sweet treats and the savory scent of farm- and sea-to-table fare.

White Stone is a happening place, according to entrepreneurs who have chosen to launch their businesses there.

"Every business has a niche and they're very complementary to each other," said Jean Price, owner of Old Farm Truck Market. "It's a



The Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge spans the Rappahannock River, connecting Middlesex to Lancaster, and welcomes guests to White Stone. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

nice community with wonderful customers."

The town has seen expanded business growth over the last decade, and specifically in the last five years during White Stone's launch of a total town overhaul of sorts. The town has been the recipient of multiple development grants, which have already helped with the rehabilitation of 15 homes and continued construction of a long-overdue public sewer project. In all, the town has received grant and loan funding in excess

of \$6.6 million for the housing and phase one sewage project.

Even more changes are on the horizon as the White Stone Town Council begins a much anticipated business district revitalization. The town was awarded a \$1 million Community Development Block Grant last summer to assist with its commercial area re-do, which will include walkways, business facade improvements, additional public parking areas, landscaping, signage and the creation of second-story apartments within the business district.



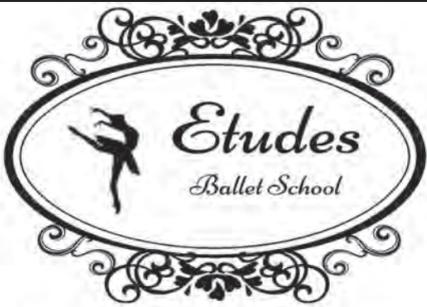
Fishmongers, from left, Manny Paiz and Jamie Duke filet fresh fish daily at Miss Mary Seafood. Photo by Ann Gardner Eubank



Annie Hudnall opened Pink Lemon, a home decor and gift shop, in October 2020. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

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Welcome to WHITE STONE

“It’s been a long process,” said town manager Patrick Frere. “But we’re extremely grateful for all the state and federal assistance that’s allowed us to help our residents and businesses.”

According to White Stone Business Association president Drew Hubbard Gaskins, the association reorganized five years ago and now has monthly meetings with as many as 20 business owners attending.

“I feel like we’re heading in the right direction,” said Gaskins of the town’s business resurgence.

The business association has worked with town council recently to join River Realm and initiated the recent construction of a trolley stop booth at the town office. White Stone is a stop on the Triangle Trolley and the new booth, funded through a matching grant program, allows riders to wait in a covered structure, which will include maps of nearby towns along with informational pamphlets.

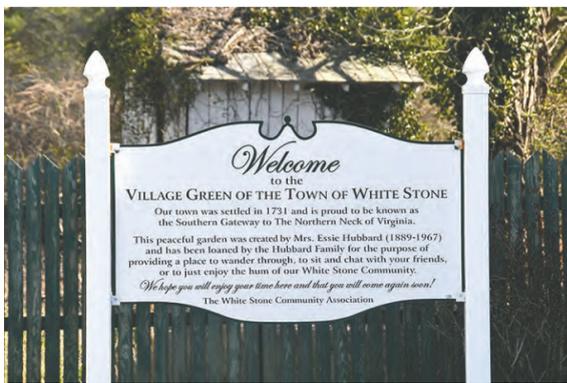
The association plans to hold an Oktoberfest celebration this year and is looking into additional activities for spring.

“We have a group of people that are so excited to do something and have so many good ideas,” said Gaskins.

Eventually, following the downtown revitalization, she’d like to see the town pipe music through the streets. White Stone has its own radio station, WWND Windy 103.9 FM, an oldies and beach music station.

Unusual finds

The two primary roads in town, Rappahannock and Chesapeake drives, connect at a “downtown” intersection. Visitors can find such fixtures as White Stone



The Village Green in White Stone includes a stone walkway with bricks in memory or honor of individuals and businesses and is home to the town’s Christmas tree. White Stone’s Winter Wonderland celebration is held at the Village Green. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Pharmacy, Mac’s Auto World and Rappahannock Rentals on Chesapeake Drive and another staple, Lamberth Building Materials, just up Rappahannock Drive.

Scattered among the businesses which have called White Stone home for decades are newcomers like Gaskins’ River Party Company & Boutique, which opened in August 2019. The store’s parent company and Gaskins’ family’s business, Rappahannock Rentals, has been in White Stone for over 35 years.

“When I started helping Pop [Lloyd B. Hubbard] on the event side, it needed an update,” said Gaskins. “The two businesses complement each other. People used to come in and say ‘do you sell party stuff,’ and I said, ‘why don’t we sell party stuff?’”

However, the new store is more than just a “party stuff” store. River Party sells cards, cups, serving dishes, home decor and seasonal decorations, along with party supplies and balloons.

Across the intersection from River Party is Pointe Provisions, which made its appearance in 2019 when Liza Carter made her return to White Stone after spending several decades in New York. The shop features art work, jewelry, children’s decor and toys and other home goods. Carter’s selection encompasses traditional and worn styles with a modern flare.

Just down the street on Chesapeake Drive is Lighter & Lemon, LLC, which opened in December 2020 and provides consulting and educational resources to help classic car enthusiasts better understand the value of the vehicles they own or have inherited. According to owner Jeremy Eley, the business assists with client-vehicle acquisition, value



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A customer purchases an Over the River candy collection from Peggy Kleber at Country Cottage. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



Jeff Cherry's Allure Art Center is Celebrating Waterfowl Art through April 18. The exhibit will showcase the mediums of sculpture, carving, painting and photography. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

monthly events and rotating exhibits.

Coming to town across the street from Allure is August Table. Owners Carrie and Krister Allen founded the web-based linen company in 2018 and plan to locate its headquarters on Rappahannock Drive with a retail store and office. They hope to open this summer. Their linens are available now at the Old Farm Truck Market and in retail stores and boutiques in 20 states.

The Allens also purchased a neighboring property on Rappahannock Drive where they plan to open August Table Cafe, offering breakfast, lunch, smoothies and homemade jams, jellies and muffin mixes. The couple live on a 9-plus acre farm in town and are now planting trees for August Table Orchards. The orchard will supply the fruits for the jams and jellies and may eventually open as a picking orchard for the public.

"Our mission is to bring more love, more joy, more laughter to the table," said Carrie Allen.

White Stone got its first

assessment and sales preparation and marketing.

Although Docks of the Bay has been helping waterfront home owners achieve their goals for nearly two decades, the company moved its headquarters to White Stone in 2014. The visibility and

amount of traffic that passes by the Chesapeake Drive location offer major benefits, said project manager Anthony Marchetti.

New business owner Annie Hudnall also has been pleased with the amount of traffic in her home decor and

gift store, The Pink Lemon.

"We're so happy. We love this location," said Hudnall, who held the store's grand opening in October 2020.

Opening in White Stone

also was the right decision for Jeff Cherry and his wife, whose business, Allure Art Center, has been on Rappahannock Drive since July 2013.

"This location has high-volume traffic," he said. "There's a lot of thru-traffic and high visibility with people from a lot of different places traveling through."

The professional fine arts gallery features Virginia-based artists and hosts

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box store in the fall of 2019 when Dollar General opened on Rappahannock Drive. Mac Davis of Mac's Auto World sold the property to the chain. Davis sought out the corporation because he thought it would be a much-needed addition to the community, as they offer affordable groceries, home goods and clothing. Davis said the addition of the store would help the community without competing with other locally-owned businesses in town.

Culinary delights

There are 12 places within town limits serving prepared food. Gourmands can enjoy everything from a cheeseburger on the run to a three-course meal and get their sweet tooth fix at a variety of places.

The newest additions in town include a couple of sweet treat establishments, an Irish pub/Aussie bar combo and a fine dining restaurant.

Gabe del Rio and Jeff Ewing opened the doors to Chesapeake Doughnut Company in the midst of the pandemic, celebrating its grand opening in June 2020. Ewing said the two started dreaming of the business after seeing the former gas station vacant



Customers line up for fresh produce and baked goods at the Old Farm Truck market. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

in the prime commercial spot. Just a couple of months after the shop's opening, Rio and Ewing opened a second store in Warsaw. Initially opened strictly as a doughnut shop, the eatery now carries breakfast and lunch sandwiches, including fresh tuna and chicken salad.

The smell of homemade cakes and cookies also call sweet lovers across the street to Out of the Oven Bakery. Owners Marie and Cedrick Sanders opened the bakery in September 2017. Among the

dozens of items they carry, from sourdough bread to cannoli to eclairs and strudel, two of the most popular are sweet potato pies and cheesecakes.

"Coming to White Stone was a very good choice for us," said Cedrick Sanders. "We were offered locations in Kilmarnock and Irvington, but this is where Marie wanted to be."

A few blocks down on Rappahannock Drive, Country Cottage offers treats of a different kind: homemade



Diners enjoy a farm-to-table dinner at Adrift. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



Lighter & Lemon, an automotive consulting and design business opened in White Stone in December 2020.

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Marie Sanders puts the finishing touches on a crème brûlée at Out of the Oven Bakery. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

karaoke nights, the restaurant has built a strong regional following.

“Especially during COVID-19, the support from the community has been incredible,” said Davies. The 606 also has a Beach Road Backyard Bar and Beer Garden, which is open seasonally.

White Stone native and fifth-generation waterman Lisa Carol Rose opened Miss Mary Seafood with Tony Ferguson, captain of the Miss Mary, in April of 2018. Rose and her team offer a wide selection of fresh fish cut to order, a variety of shellfish, and prepared foods like seafood dips, salads, soups and chowders.

“As someone who’s grown up in White Stone, I’ve enjoyed seeing it evolve,” Rose said. “It’s been rewarding being a part of its growth.” Miss Mary will soon be offering sushi made to-go in White Stone, and has begun serving hot seafood lunches and dinners at their Saluda division, “Throw the Buoy.”

The River Market has been a staple in White Stone for nearly 30 years for fresh meats, cheeses, breads and salads. Jim McDaniels and his team offer a hearty to-go

fudge, candies and hand-dipped ice cream. Pam Sawyer and her husband have owned and operated the combination gift store, florist and ice cream shop for 22 years and, last year, added the Over the River candy collection to its offerings. The collection includes chocolates in the shape of oysters, fish, crabs and even the Norris Bridge.

The 606 featuring Walkabout Creek and The Quays is known for its Irish and Australian cuisine as well as becoming a nightlife destination. Australian native Graham Davies opened the restaurant and bar in the summer of 2018 after he had been vacationing in White Stone for over a decade. Regularly hosting a variety of musical acts, DJs and



Rachel Benson serves up a burger and fries to a customer at Rocket Billy's 2.0, which opened in August 2020. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



Members can work out at BodyFit 24 hours a day. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

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Bartender Nicky Purcell serves owner and operator Graham Davies a beer. The 606, featuring The Quays and Walkabout Creek, offers a full bar including over 15 beers on tap. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank

lunch menu featuring crab cakes, barbecue, soups, burgers and sandwiches, and carryout dinners, which include homemade pizzas, steaks and fried chicken.

And just two doors down is the town's newest fine dining restaurant.

Devin and Katie Rose anchored their business in the heart of White Stone in the fall of 2017 when the couple opened ADRIFT, which features fine wines, cheeses and a selection of dinner options from both land and sea. The Roses pride themselves on using fresh local products.

And speaking of fresh produce: it's abundant at Old Farm Truck, which made its trek from Lively along Route 3 to call White Stone its permanent home five years ago. Price opened the produce market in a former gas station in Lively 12 years ago and had a second location in Irvington for a while before landing in White Stone. The market, which carries local produce and meats—along with prepared salads, soups, vegetable and meat pies—has been open three years on Rappahannock Drive. "We're thrilled to be in White Stone," said Price.



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The first box store to make its appearance in White Stone is Dollar General, which opened in the fall of 2019. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

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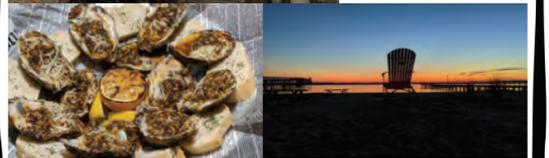
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Welcome to WHITE STONE



Yummy doughnuts on display at Chesapeake Doughnut Company, which held its grand opening in May 2020. The sweet treat shop has also added breakfast sandwiches and lunch items to its menu. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank



Lights cast a warm glow on the new White Stone Volunteer Fire Department firehouse on a spring evening. The new firehouse opened in 2018. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

“We partner with local businesses, Miss Mary and Adrift. Everybody here works to support each other.”

Another White Stone staple is Sandpiper Restaurant, which has been in operation since 1982. New owner Gina Stump continues to provide an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood and steaks, as well as other specialty cuisines at the dinner-only restaurant.

Offering breakfast and lunch only is Rocket Billy’s 2.0. The food trailer has long been in front of Lamberth Building Materials, but reopened under new management in August 2020 and serves up breakfast sandwiches, burgers, subs and hand-cut fries.

Get in shape

BodyFit has been keeping residents of White Stone and beyond healthy and active since 2014. The 24-hour gym relocated from the corner of Rappahannock Drive to the former firehouse on Chesapeake Drive in 2019 when the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department opened its new 12,600-square foot building across the street.

BodyFit owner and trainer, Ramona Darden, says being in White Stone allows her to help clients from Lancaster, Middlesex and Northumberland counties.

“White Stone is such a close-knit community where neighbors really support one another. I truly feel like

we’ve been embraced here,” she said.

Meanwhile, director Kara Royall recently announced Etudes Ballet School’s upcoming move to 56 First Street in the Ice House Field complex. The studio will continue current classes in the new location, beginning April 10.

Even the fringes of town are growing with businesses such as Still Kickin’ Seafood and the new Oyster Creek Boat Works, both evolving off Windmill Point Road.

White Stone may be a small town but it packs a big punch. So don’t just pass through—stop, enjoy and experience all the new and exciting things that are happening.



River Party Company & Boutique offers party supplies and a whole lot more, including fun napkins, gift items, cards, cups, glasses and home decor items. Drew Hubbard Gaskins opened the store as a complement to her family’s Rappahannock Rentals business. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

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JIM & PAT CARTER REAL ESTATE
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It all began over six decades ago. In 1957, when my parents Jim and Pat Carter opened a real estate firm in White Stone, the Northern Neck was only two dozen years removed from when steamboats came calling, moving people and cargo in the time-honored, centuries-old way – by water.

The Carters opened their office in the center of the village of White Stone. Just a mile away, the Robert O. Norris Bridge on the Rappahannock River, also opened, replacing the old ferry service. The bridge made the lower Northern Neck more accessible, but still the deeply historic peninsula remained a land apart. It developed slowly as a destination locale. Few people detoured from major highways simply to pass through, but those who did were likely to return.

Jim and Pat fell in love with the charm and beauty of this region – its beaches and deep-water harbors, its broad rivers and meandering creeks, its forests, fields and fine homes. Together they explored every country road of this peninsula, which is dotted with homes and estates from all eras. They restored one of the earliest homes for our ever-growing family.

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