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Page **B2**

# Sports

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**Hodges named to head CSB team**  
Page **B3**

Serving Middlesex County and adjacent areas of the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck since 1896

VOL. 125, No. 39

URBANNA, VIRGINIA 23175 • JANUARY 7, 2021

B SECTION

## RT. 629 CLOSE: A DAM MESS

Golf club rep asks officials for routing fix

by Larry Chowning

The dead ends on both sides of Route 629 (Stormont Road) over Healy's Mill Pond near Hartfield have been dead ends since February 2006 when Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) closed the road to through traffic.

Healy's Mill Pond dam failed a six-month VDOT safety inspection in 2006. The report stated there were "severe cracks" in the dam's concrete box culvert, which runs underneath the road. Route 629 has been closed to through traffic for 15 years and as it sits in disrepair debate as to who should pay to fix it continues to this day and the price tag has continued to go up.

At the Dec. 1 Middlesex County Board of Supervisors (MCBS) meeting the ongoing dead end issue involving Middlesex County and VDOT resurfaced when John Fleet Jr. of Piankatank River Golf Club wrote the board a letter.

"I write you about a longtime situation that surely someone can solve," wrote Fleet. "Since the closure of Rt. 629/Healy's Mill Pond, we (Piankatank River Golf Club) have been victims of GPS and other directional routing models that the general public use to locate places they are not familiar."

Since the road closed, golf course officials have been trying to get VDOT and others to change the GPS directional information so that visitors traveling to the eastern end of the county and to the golf course do not continually end up at the dead end at Healy's Mill Pond.

Prior to 2006, Route 33 (General Puller Highway) and Route 629 were two roads that carried motorists to the golf course and to the eastern end



Route 629 over Healy's Mill Pond near Hartfield has been closed since 2006 as VDOT and the Middlesex County Board of Supervisors were then unable to come to an agreement as to who was responsible for funding repairs to the dam and road over the mill pond. GPS directional information has continued for 15 years to send visitors down the dead-end road, causing a hardship to the Piankatank River Golf Club and others located on the road.

(Photo by Larry Chowning)



Even on a gray winter's day, the imposing stone and wood entrance sign to Hartfield's Piankatank River Golf Club is a welcoming, handsome sight. Club's reps say though a damaged dam cuts off a main access road to the club, making it harder for some golfers to find it.

(Photo by Don Richeson)

of the county. Although Route 629 was closed in 2006 it has continued to be on the GPS as a directional road to the course.

"We have tried VDOT and they offer no assistance in correcting the problem," wrote Fleet. "Previous boards (of supervisors) suggested they would look into it but with no response. We solicited a retired logistics person and they came up empty."

"This is a county business and (it) struggles to remain viable as most public golf

courses do unless they are a destination or in a high population area," he wrote. "We provide the venue for many county and regional fundraisers — for civic clubs, churches, and charitable causes for 25 years — and brought literally millions of dollars to the county over those years. We ask for help!!!"

Fleet also said VDOT will not allow the golf course to put up its own directional signs on Route 33 and have to pay a "Virginia agency . . . for the little blue signs you do

see" for an annual fee of \$450 per sign.

"Many areas allow and in some cases provide golf courses (as tourist attraction) signage," he wrote. "We are the only golf course in the county."

The letter was presented at the Dec. 1 meeting to the board in the presence of VDOT officials. Hartfield Supervisor John Koontz said "this is damaging one of our key businesses in the county. GPS is sending folks to a bridge that's out and they need

signage."

VDOT Residency Administrator Joyce McGowan said she would reach out to Fleet and discuss the situation and options that might be available.

Koontz asked McGowan, "I'd like to know why that road (Route 629) has been left abandoned and why it was not on the county's six year secondary road plan?"

McGowan said the cost of repairing the road over the dam on Healy's Mill Pond would cost more than the county can accumulate in its annual six year plan.

### Timeline History of closure of Route 629:

- 1932 — VDOT took over maintenance of Middlesex County roads under the Byrd Act that turned over all secondary roads in the county to the state, including roads previously built over dams. Stormont Road was taken over with the road over the dam by the state of Virginia.
- 1999 — Hurricane Floyd damaged the Healy's Mill dam and road and VDOT rebuilt both.
- 2003 — Hurricane Isabel damaged the dam and road and VDOT again rebuilt it.
- Feb. 28, 2006 — Healy's Mill Pond dam failed a VDOT six-month safety inspection. VDOT officials informed

supervisors that Gene Ruark (now deceased) of Deltaville owned the damaged dam and spillway and the State Code of Virginia does not allow the use of state funds to fix roads over private owned ponds. VDOT also informed several other counties they would no longer be replacing roads going over privately owned dams.

- June 2006 — The Virginia Attorney General's Office made a preliminary decision that the dam over Healy's Mill Pond and other privately owned pond roads in other counties do not belong to the state of Virginia and VDOT is not responsible for providing funds to fix.
- July 2006 — Supervisors met in closed session with Ruark and later in open session turned down a VDOT proposal to fix the dam by using all of the county's six year plan funds by switching all road funds to Stormont Road.
- August 2006 — Tropical storm Ernesto washed away chunks of the Route 629 roadway over Healy's Mill Pond further damaging the road and dam and raising the cost of fixing it.
- October 2006 — VDOT agreed to work with landowners in Healy's Mill Homeowners Association to


(See Dam, Page B4)



## Locust Hill retiree is a die-hard Gator fan

Retired Colonel Keith A. Beverley of Locust Hill proudly displays his affection for the University of Florida with the "GATOR FL" personalized license plate on his Toyota Tacoma pickup truck. There is also a depiction of the Gainesville, Fla., school's "Albert the Alligator" mascot on his trailer hitch. ("I wanted to share my personalized tag with the community," the Gator Nation supporter told the Sentinel via email.) Florida quarterback Kyle Trask was among the five most likely candidates in the running to receive the Heisman trophy. The final winner was expected to be named this week, but after the Sentinel's press time.

(Photo by Keith A. Beverley)





## Weekly Tides

Windmill Point, Virginia

<b>Fri. 1/8</b> 34% Moon	Low 12:06 -0.2' High 6:18 1.3' Low 1:04 0.0' High 6:39 1.0'	Sunrise 7:20 Sunset 5:04 Moonrise 2:21 Moonset 1:14	<b>Tue. 1/12</b> 2% Moon	Low 3:59 -0.3' High 10:12 1.5' Low 4:54 -0.2' High 10:30 1.1'	Sunrise 7:20 Sunset 5:08 Moonrise 7:00 Moonset 4:35
<b>Sat. 1/9</b> 24% Moon	Low 1:06 -0.2' High 7:21 1.3' Low 2:08 -0.1' High 7:42 1.0'	Sunrise 7:20 Sunset 5:05 Moonrise 3:34 Moonset 1:53	<b>Wed. 1/13</b> 0% Moon	Low 4:52 -0.4' High 11:03 1.5' Low 5:43 -0.2' High 11:19 1.1'	Sunrise 7:19 Sunset 5:09 Moonrise 7:55 Moonset 5:40
<b>Sun. 1/10</b> 14% Moon	Low 2:06 -0.2' High 8:22 1.4' Low 3:08 -0.2' High 8:42 1.0'	Sunrise 7:20 Sunset 5:06 Moonrise 4:46 Moonset 2:40	<b>Thu. 1/14</b> 0% Moon	Low 5:42 -0.3' High 11:50 1.4' Low 6:28 -0.2'	Sunrise 7:19 Sunset 5:10 Moonrise 8:41 Moonset 6:48
<b>Mon. 1/11</b> 7% Moon	Low 3:04 -0.3' High 9:19 1.4' Low 4:03 -0.2' High 9:37 1.1'	Sunrise 7:20 Sunset 5:07 Moonrise 5:56 Moonset 3:33	<b>Fri. 1/15</b> 3% Moon	High 12:06 1.1' Low 6:31 -0.2' High 12:36 1.4' Low 7:12 -0.2'	Sunrise 7:19 Sunset 5:11 Moonrise 9:19 Moonset 7:53

PM times are in boldface type






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# Southside Sentinel

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Vol. 125, No. 43

URBANNA, VIRGINIA 23175 • FEBRUARY 4, 2021

TWO SECTIONS • 75¢

## Town votes to accept marina plan

by Tom Chillemi

At the foot of Virginia Street in Urbanna is an aging marina. Owner Latane Montague of Urbanna and Alexandria said the metal boathouse there was built in 1956 by his grandfather.

Montague plans to rebuild the marina, including a new boathouse and 14 slips, most of them floating piers.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), the main permitting agency, conducted a public comment period on Montague's application that closed Dec. 4, 2020. However, objections by two Urbanna

residents stirred debate at the Jan. 28 Urbanna Town Council meeting.

After more than 40 minutes of talk, council voted to support the marina plan.

However, council's vote was not necessary. VMRC is the permitting agency and comments should have been directed to the state agency, pointed out Montague at council's meeting conducted "virtually" via Zoom.

Urbanna residents Bruce Wiley and his brother Boyd Wiley each told council the proposed marina could encroach on the Urbanna Town Marina, specifically the boat ramp, or town property at the southern end.

Plans

Montague's plan drawings were projected on computer screens. His proposed marina would be 75 feet from the town docks and 45 feet from the dinghy dock that is used by small boats, kayaks and canoes, he said.

Montague's proposed dock is bordered to the south by a 30-foot-wide strip of land owned by the town, which was leased to a crab shedding business that has closed. Several years ago, a town resident obtained a permit to build a dock at this strip, and then abandoned the idea and gave the permit to the town. It expires in 2022.

(See Marinas, Page A6)



Latane Montague plans floating slips and a new boathouse to replace this marina on Urbanna Creek. In background is the Urbanna Town Marina and office.

(Photo by Tom Chillemi)



IT'S "SNOW-TIME" IN URBANNA



The Laney family (above), visitors from Alexandria, saw Urbanna for the first time Sunday — right at the time the season's biggest snowfall thus far was arriving in the area. As the snowflakes fall, the Laney boys, Luke, 4, and David, 6, show off a snowman they just built at the Town of Urbanna's Waterman's Park on the Rappahannock River, while joined by parents, Harold and Carly. The family asked if snow was an Urbanna winter norm. When told it was not as frequent as it once was, they responded that they thought it was a "special time" to be in town. About two inches fell on Urbanna in the morning on Jan. 31 before changing to rain in the afternoon. Middlesex County Public Schools delayed opening two hours the following day. Sunday's snowfall was preceded by a separate Thursday, Jan. 28 snowfall, one in which Hartfield's Mike Grose captured a red-shouldered hawk (left) checking out the wintry view while perched in a snow-coated Hartfield tree. Off and on snow showers are forecast to return to the Urbanna area on Tuesday, Feb. 9, according to weather.com. See related photo, page A3.

(Photos by Larry Chowning and Mike Grose)

## No voting on town matters, mayor is told

Decades-old practice of Urbanna's mayor joining council in votes reportedly violates what is allowed by existing town charter

by Tom Chillemi

Under Urbanna's Charter and the town's election structure, the mayor is not to be permitted to vote on matters considered by the town council. This is the bombshell that Urbanna Town Council's attorney Andy Bury delivered to the town council at its Thursday, Jan. 28, meeting.

According to the town's charter, the town council is Urbanna's governing body and the mayor is not a member of town council, Bury told council. This is due to the town's election structure, Bury explained, and the town's charter provides that the mayor is elected by town voters. Town voters choose six council members and vote separately for a mayor.

The alternative method for choosing a mayor is for town council to vote to choose a mayor from the members of council, said Bury. "Then the mayor has the right to vote because he/she is a member of town council," wrote Bury in a memo to council. "In Urbanna, the charter provides that the mayor will be elected by popular vote [of citizens]

and whether or not the mayor in Urbanna can vote requires a review of the powers conferred in the charter and applicable state law."

Bury told council that there are attorney general opinions that have found that a mayor elected by voters is not part of the governing body and is thus not permitted to vote.

Timing

Bury explained that the question of the mayor voting came to light recently in conversations with an attorney for Latane Montague, who plans to rebuild a marina on Urbanna Creek. (See related story in this issue.)



Barbara Hartley

In speaking with attorney Nancyellen Keane, said Bury, he learned of the restriction that prohibits a mayor who is elected by citizens from voting on town council matters.

Authority

Under the "Dillon Rule," local governments are limited to the powers expressly granted to them by the state. "Under the Dillon Rule and relevant

(See Mayor, Page A6)

## Battery facility reps work to energize officials on proposal

by Larry Chowning

A battery electrical storage facility on a 12-acre site at Harmony Village is being proposed on land at the intersection of General Puller Highway (Route 33) and Grey's Point Road (Route 3), across from the Dominion Power electric station and from Harmony Grove Baptist Church.

The proposal is from Open Road Renewables of Austin, Texas, and

is called the Drake Power Facility Project. If approved, batteries will be stored in one-story warehouse type buildings on five acres of the 12 total acres.

The large batteries will store excess electricity from the Dominion Power electric substation and when the stored electricity is needed it will be reconnected to the grid and reenergize into the grid.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam

recently signed the Virginia Clean Economy Act encouraging advancement of this type of clean energy technology, along with solar and wind power.

Chip Dicks of Gentry Lock Attorneys from Roanoke stated that he had applied for a by right use of the Harmony Village land to install the battery buildings because it met with the utility provisions of the Middlesex County Zoning Ordinance.

However, the Middlesex County Planning Commission (MCPC) staff did not agree that it was a by right situation, but instead ruled it should go through a special exception process.

Dicks who originally appealed the staff's decision later asked that an appeal hearing not be conducted by the Board of Zoning Appeals. Instead, he said he would rather pursue a collaborative approach

with the Middlesex County Board of Supervisors, MCPC, county residents and staff.

Dicks said that unlike a solar facility that could require the use of 1,000 acres of land — a battery facility requires much less acreage. He also said there would be 100-foot setbacks from all adjacent property lines and rights-of-ways and there would be 25-foot wide vegetative buffers.

## Details getting ironed out on Urbanna interim administrators

by Tom Chillemi

Urbanna has been without a town administrator or a zoning administrator since Jan. 1. The town administrator resigned and the zoning administrator retired.

The Urbanna Town Council met in closed session on Feb. 1 to interview two applicants for the town positions.

Following the closed meetings, both individuals were offered a job, said Urbanna Mayor Barbara Hartley. One individual was offered the position as "interim" town manager and the other was offered the job of "interim" zoning administrator, said Hartley.

Both individuals accepted, she said, and the contract and details will

be worked out later.

Hartley said the individuals will be identified once contract details have been worked out.

Mayor Hartley said in January she had assumed some of the administrative duties. Town Council Attorney Andy Bury informed council at its Jan. 28 meeting that elected officials cannot hold

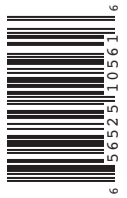
administrative positions, unless permitted by state code. However, the mayor can be the chief administrative officer, whose duties are spelled out in the state code.

The council will conduct a special called meeting on Friday, Feb. 5, at 9:45 a.m. via Zoom. The agenda calls for council to immediately enter closed session to discuss personnel

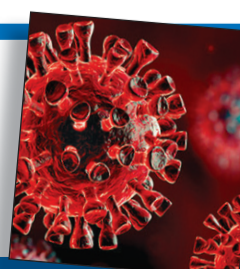
and consult with its attorney. Log on to the electronic meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89326745642?pwd=Sjc3ZHAzaGk4VG91UWpHVjJkZzgzdz09>. The meeting ID is 893 2674 5642; the passcode is 413913.

The meeting is related to the search for a town administrator and a zoning administrator.

Inside



Business directory ... B2 Letters.....A4  
Church.....B6 Library.....A2  
Classifieds.....B2 Obituaries.....B5  
COVID-19 update....A6 Sports.....B1



Three more MCPS cases detected

PAGE A2



Protect your pup from heartworms

PAGE A5



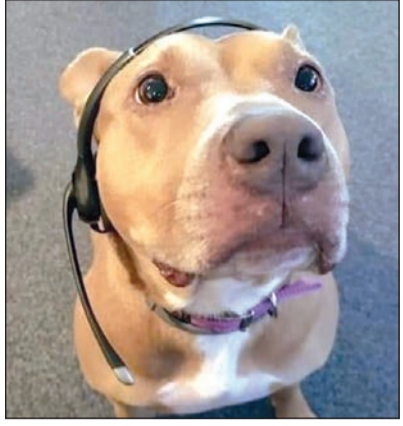
First Black enrolled at CCS in '71

PAGE B1



## MIDDLESEX PET FRIENDS FOR LIFE

## Keep pets inside, away from booms of July 4 fireworks



Athena shows off a set of Middlesex County Sheriff's Office dispatchers' headsets. Athena works with MCSO dispatch on Animal Control calls. "What's that? One of my pals on the loose, Roger, over?" she seems to be saying. There are more sweet babies like Athena at the Cooks Corner shelter waiting for you! (Contributed)

by Cate Ogden

As we leave the month of June and head towards July we've had much to celebrate; Juneteenth, Father's Day and now the upcoming Fourth of July celebration. We can also celebrate the easing of COVID-19 restrictions with our vaccinations and return to some sense of normalcy for those who are fully vaccinated.

Middlesex Pet Friends for Life (MPFL) will be returning to the Holly Point Farmers Markets at the Deltaville Maritime Museum and the Urbanna Farmers Markets. We are also planning another yard sale in September, so please clean out those closets and donate for the animals. We may also have an awesome surprise in October, so stay tuned for more info on that.

While we are preparing to celebrate Independence Day, please remember that although we enjoy fireworks, they can be very frightening to our furry friends. Pet Friends recommends

keeping our pets inside away from the noise. Animals have been lost when spooked by the sound and running away. Be sure your animals are properly tagged with identification so, if that were to happen, they can be returned home. Local vets can easily microchip pets for a more permanent way to identify and protect from loss.

As you may already know, the Middlesex County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is now in charge of Animal Control, as far as picking up strays and either finding owners or bringing the animals to the shelter in Cooks Corner. All of the MCSO deputies are now in the process of (or have completed) training in animal control. If you need to report an Animal Control issue (a stray or injured animal), please call 804-758-2779. A dispatcher will take the call and a deputy will be notified for response. All calls are recorded so be sure to be clear in explaining the reason for your call and ask for the dispatcher's name and note the date and time.

Lt. Casey Mewborn manages all Animal Control calls and does follow up. Since we now have several (14), instead of one Animal Control officer responding to calls, the animals are being more readily identified and returned to their owners. The deputies share a network of knowledge of local dog owners and many times when a dog is picked up without tags they can, through this network, find the owner and return the dog. The MCSO deputies are striving to help owners become more responsible for the proper care of their animals. If a problem is noted the deputy will give the owner one week to comply with corrective action and proper care (rabies vaccines, license and required care). If the owner does not comply within the week, there will be a fine imposed and the dog will have to be surrendered to the county. This system seems to be a benefit to both citizens and their animals.

Middlesex County makes a \$6,000 donation each year to Gloucester-

Mathews Humane Society (GMHS) to accept any of our cats who need rehoming because our animal shelter in Middlesex does not have the proper accommodations for our kitties. MPFL does have a very small network of kitten foster families that help, but not enough to handle all the kitties that come our way. If you'd like to help, please email [roc@va.metrocast.net](mailto:roc@va.metrocast.net) or call 804-776-8098. GMHS can be reached at 804-693-5520.

Have a safe and happy July Fourth! MPFL is an all volunteer 501c3 nonprofit organization depending on donors to carry on our work with the animals. Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 145, Saluda, VA 23149 or made online with PayPal at <http://middlesexpetfriends.wordpress.com>, click on donate.

To visit the shelter or for information, call 804-695-7772.

(Cate Ogden is president of the Middlesex Pet Friends for Life Board of Directors. Her email address is [roc@va.metrocast.net](mailto:roc@va.metrocast.net).)

## Visit over coffee with town admin.

Urbanna residents are invited to discuss town topics at an informal "coffee" with Town Administrator Garth Wheeler and town staff from 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, June 29, at Virginia Street Cafe.

Wheeler said this will be an informal gathering to hear from residents about various topics and ask questions. "We hope this will be something held regularly," said Wheeler.

Reservations are not required and coffee will be provided.

For information, call 804-758-2613.

## SHOW UP, SPEAK UP

The Urbanna Town Council's next regular monthly meeting is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, June 24. The meetings are temporarily being conducted via Zoom, rather than in-person. For Zoom access information, visit <https://urbannava.gov/>. It generally meets at the same time every fourth Thursday of the month. For information, call 804-758-2613.

The Middlesex County Board of Supervisors' next regular monthly meeting is set for 3 p.m. Tuesday, July 6, in the Middlesex Historic Courthouse at 865 General Puller Highway in Saluda. It generally meets at the same time and location every first Tuesday of the month. For information, call 804-758-4330.

The Middlesex County School Board's next regular monthly meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 12, in the auditorium of St. Clare Walker Middle School at 6814 General Puller Highway in Locust Hill. It generally meets at the same time and location every second Monday of the month. For information, call 804-758-2277.

## "Ultimate Beatles Party Band" Abbey Road: You'll likely love them — yeah, yeah, yeah!

Feb. 9, 1964: Where were you?

Well, if you were like me and most of my baby-boomer friends from high school, you were watching The Ed Sullivan Show that Sunday night and the first-ever American performance of the Beatles, four Liverpool mop-topped musicians who had stormed over Europe and were now knocking on the door of the good ole USA. They played three songs, ending with, "She Loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah!" and the world has never been the same.

Check it out at [www.facebook.com/watch/?v=552683958891071](http://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=552683958891071).

Well, I don't know about you, but I had never seen anything like it! For at least the next 10 years the "Fab Four" were turning out more hits in more different genres than anyone. You could not turn on a TV or read a newspaper without a "Beatles" mention, musical or personal. Their "Yesterday," according to the American Society of Composers and Producers (ASCAP), is the most played song in the world, even today. The copyright owners release at least one new album a year. Yes, sadly, John, Paul, Ringo, and George no longer own their own creations.

If you remember those days fondly and it gets your toes tapping, then this Saturday, June 26 at the Deltaville Maritime Museum's outdoor concert series Groovin' in the Park is a must for you. "Abbey Road" has been perfecting their



Bill POWELL

MARITIME MUSEUM

stage magic for more than 20 years to bring the music of histories' greatest rock and roll band to our stage from 6-8 p.m. Paige Melton, Middlesex's own and favorite folk artist, will open at 5 p.m. with her "nailed it" renditions of all the greats. Gates and concessions open at 4 p.m.

From Abbey Road's bio: "From 'I Wanna Hold Your Hand' to 'Let It Be' you will hear all of the great hits from the beginning of the Beatles career to its finale and you'll also discover a wide variety of crowd-pleasing classic rock and roll favorites that the Lads from Liverpool covered like, 'Please Mister Postman,' 'Twist and Shout,' 'Roll Over Beethoven,' 'You've Really Got A Hold On Me' and other early covers performed by the Beatles."

This is a "bring your own lawn chair, cooler and picnic" event. Gates open at 4 p.m. Food and beverages are served at the Tea House by museum volunteers.

The 2021 Groovin' Season

is sponsored by Primis Bank of Middlesex.

Tickets for this Groovin' are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Get yours at the museum office, on the museum's website or at Nauti Nell's store in Deltaville.

Coming up: July 24 at 5 p.m., the dynamic duo of "Stonesthrow" opens for the big band of "Good Shot Judy" doing their Vegas-style show from 6-8 p.m.

Deltaville Maritime Museum and Holly Point Nature Park, a volunteer, all-donation, nonprofit organization, is located in Deltaville at 287 Jackson Creek Road, and by water on Mill Creek. To get to the museum and park, follow General Puller Highway (Route 33) through Deltaville and turn right across from the Chris Mart Citgo convenience store, or follow the festival signs. We accept boat, marine equipment and other donations.

To find out more about the museum, its offerings, open hours, events schedule, event tickets, donate, become a member, donate or volunteer, visit our new website at [www.deltavillemuseum.com](http://www.deltavillemuseum.com), or Google "Deltaville Maritime Museum." You may also email the museum office at [office@deltavillemuseum.com](mailto:office@deltavillemuseum.com) write to Box 466, Deltaville, VA or call at 804-776-7200.

...

The Deltaville Maritime Museum and Holly Point Nature Park is swinging into the heart of its events season this Saturday,

June 26 as produce has rejoined the Holly Point Market vendor mix.

The day is more than just produce as art, crafts, peanuts, photographs and a wealth of unusual items fill the market. Enjoy the opening of the museum itself at 9 a.m. and the return of Captain Pete Cardozo and his free Jackson Creek "Discovery" cruises beginning at 10 a.m. on the "Pierwalk" on Mill Creek. Local musicians David Moran and Dave Theuerkauf will entertain from 10 a.m.-noon in the waterfront park. All cruises in 2021 will be on the museum's newly acquired deadrise, "Jennie May." The National Landmark "F.D. Crockett" will open for tours on the "Pierwalk" at 10 a.m.

The Willard Norris "Legacy" Skiff project is a'working in the boat shop and is a joy to see.

Yes, Saturday, June 26, the market vendors crank up at 9 a.m. and the museum opens an hour early with "donation only" admission 9 a.m.-1 p.m. just for the market. Don't miss our neat gift shop in the museum.

Vendors in arts, crafts, photographs, peanuts, one-of-a-kinds and much more line the shady arbors of the park. You can even buy windows for your house.

Not only is there plenty of shopping from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. with arts, crafts, cheeses, honey, peanuts, sweets, but you can take a break and walk the park and nature trails, or sit on one of our many benches just lounging around, enjoying the waterfront.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Support Deltaville 5K

To the Editor:

Supporters of the Deltaville community are always quick to come forward to help the Deltaville Community Association (DCA) with projects. We have more than 40 sponsors who have pledged financial support for the 2021 Deltaville 5K race and Kids Fun Run on Saturday, July 3. Now we need participants and volunteers to make the event successful.

Eleven years ago, I supported the first race as a fundraiser and I realized that I really needed to extend my involvement and participate in the race. I encouraged friends to come out and I promised to walk the entire race with them. I wasn't a runner in any way, but I loved the experience of walking through Deltaville and seeing all my friends and neighbors cheering the runners and walkers on.

In the ensuing years I made it a goal to get out and walk, to "train" for the Deltaville 5K and to share my experience with my friends. Over the last few years, I have been thrilled to see a number of my friends come out to both run and walk in the race. I feel that, personally, it has made me a healthier person and I hope it has done the same for the other participants.

I am urging all to go to [dvl5k.com](http://dvl5k.com) and sign up for the race. Get your kids involved too. They will be the people who keep this tradition going.

I know there are some of you who physically can't go the distance but consider signing up to volunteer. An event this size takes many hands to carry out. I guarantee that you

will have a great time with the gang who has gotten together since the beginning to help. You can volunteer at the same site or call Lud Kimbrough directly at 804-514-5858 to offer your services. The entry fee for the race goes directly to the DCA and helps maintain the facilities — the pool, the tennis courts, the basketball courts, the ballpark, and to fund activities such as swimming lessons for kids, tennis clinics, and games at the ball park.

Raynell Smith  
Deltaville

## Juneteenth "marvelous" day

To the Editor:

When President Biden spoke of slavery as America's "original sin," he associated American history with a Bible story, as many have done in the past. The original sin in the Bible, of course, was when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. (Now we are supposed to know the difference.) The couple was expelled from the garden with a hard life before them, and they passed their guilt on to their children, Cain and Abel.

Many people have found their own stories — as well as our national story — reflected in stories from the Bible.

Early pilgrims compared themselves to the Children of Israel led by Moses. They saw themselves as crossing the Atlantic like the children crossed the Jordan. The new world the pilgrims entered was potentially a "land of

milk and honey." The Promised Land.

Maybe when other Americans bought that first African they should have remembered the story of the Garden of Eden.

So what does America's original sin look like from here? White America perpetuated the second most fundamental of sins, betraying "Love thy neighbor" by putting price tags on human beings who are our equal before God. A sin like that has long-term consequences, especially when it goes unconfessed. Passed down from all those — world wide — who profited from slavery, you might say we bear the mark of Cain. In the 19th Century our original sin resulted in a war that took more than half a million lives — mostly white. The mark of Cain has never been fully erased, and our punishment goes on.

Here's another look at the story of the Promised Land. Our ancestors escaped from Europe as the Children of Israel escaped from Egypt. But after escaping, and before they could enter the Promised Land, they had to wander forty years in the wilderness. America has wandered in the wilderness for centuries, but it is not out of the woods when it comes to race.

I do believe in the Promised Land, and the sooner we get there the better. My (white) grandmother in Texas told me about Juneteenth, and I think it is marvelous and appropriate that it has become a national holiday. Let us pray that America will recognize it as a stepping stone that leads in the right direction.

Earl Simpson  
Wake

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