

Welcome to Kilmarnock: Steptoe's District

Rediscover the forgotten art of strolling, browsing and people watching in Kilmarnock's historic district

by Jackie Nunnery

he intersection of Route 3 and 200 has long been a prime location for business and trade, even before there was a Kilmarnock. In the 1700s, William Steptoe operated both a store and ordinary at what was then called "The Crossroads," developing the area's reputation as a place to find supplies, food and drink, as well as a room to stay overnight. As a sign of its importance, the community would be referred to as Steptoe's Ordinary before being called Kilmarnock around 1775.

Despite two centuries and three devastating fires, the historical Steptoe's District of Kilmarnock has remained not only a vibrant commercial hub but a vital part of the social fabric of the town. The names on some of the storefronts may have changed over the years, but the walkable streets and pedestrian-paced charm are what keep residents and tourists alike returning.

In keeping with the "ordinary" tradition, the Kilmarnock Inn on East Church Street is a short walk from the shopping and dining experiences of the district. The charming guest cottages, all named after U.S. presidents, overlook an oasis of a courtyard. Guests can enjoy meals on-site at Filibuster's,



"The Crossroads" remains a retail hub for the lower Northern Neck. Many storefronts in town have recently gone through make-overs as property owners took advantage of facade improvement grants offered through the Town of Kilmarnock. Photo by Robert Mason Jr.

a restaurant popular with residents, too.

Small-town charm and small-business commitment to the community

The network of business owners supporting each other is another reason why so many businesses have hung an open sign in the Steptoe's District. For Donna Grimes, returning to the Northern Neck to open Donna's on Main with her partner, Duane Russell, was an opportunity

www.donnasonmain.com

to create a welcoming space for community. "We love food and cooking and want to share that with everyone," Grimes said.

"We wanted this to be a place to relax," she said about the new restaurant which opened on Main Street in November 2021. The lunch and dinner menu includes a variety of "comfort food" options like Grimes's favorite, Loco Moco, hamburger topped with gravy over rice with a fried egg on top.

Though Russell found it hard to choose just one, he is partial to the French dip and the pulled pork. "Our sauce is in between Carolina and Kansas City style," Russell said. "There's a little vinegar and a little sweet."

They are also committed to supporting other local businesses. Russell said they like to "use local products as much as we can," using meats from Tri-Star Supermarket and locally sourced oysters.



Everyone has their favorites and music lover Stephanie Surber is no different. Her music store, C&D Music, features a Pearl Jam display of memorabilia, including a drumhead signed by the band. Photo by Jackie Nunnery



WOWD co-owner Diana Jamison is proud of the store's focus on supporting other small, women-owned businesses. Photo by Jackie Nunnery





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KILMARNOCK Steptoe's District

Just across the street, chef and owner Andy Pham offers up a mixture of Thai and Vietnamese flavors at Thai Pot Pho, which reopened in July 2021. You'll find traditional Thai curries, spring rolls and satay alongside traditional Vietnamese pho-broth served with rice noodles and meat. Vegetarian options are also available.

These new restaurants join established eateries like nearby Carried Away Cuisine where you can shop, eat-in or "carry away" an ever-changing menu; and Lee's, serving up homestyle cooking for more than 80 years.

You will want to save room for dessert when Chitterchats Ice Cream Parlor arrives later this year. Although new to Steptoe's, it is already a familiar name to many in the Northern Neck. Owners Jeff and Jennifer Bramblet opened the first location in Reedville in 2004, with yummy flavors like chocolate decadence and birthday cake.

Stop by Northern Neck Popcorn Bag at its new Main Street location for an on-thego treat. While you are there, grab a tin of salted caramel or Buffalo ranch to take



Papeterie owner Alana Courtney offers distinctive pop-up cards, perfect for Valentine's Day. Photo by Jackie Nunnery

Towards the southern end of Steptoe's, practice the fine art of leisurely sipping coffee and eating pastries at Front Porch Coffeehouse & Gathering Place. If you catch it later in the day, try their lunch menu of paninis

and sandwiches or Graeter's handcrafted ice cream.

Finding the "out of the ordinary" without going out of your way

Steptoe's packs a lot of uniqueness in its roughly one-mile stretch. Comer & Co. offers design services in addition to a storefront filled with one-of-a-kind fine antiques and accent items. For those with more modern tastes, Lewis Trimble specializes in 20th century decorative arts that cannot be found just anywhere.

The Northern Neck has its fair share of artisans, too. Step inside the RAL Art Center gallery and you'll find an ever-changing exhibit of art reflecting the natural beauty and people of the region. You may even run into one of the artists as you browse among the fiber, oil paintings, watercolors and

When Melissa Burke opened Grow NNK, she wanted to offer "holistic, natural items. Anything that makes you feel good." The result is a shop that features CBD infused tinctures, balms and edibles grown on her family farm, Hanover Hemp. Burke also has started carrying healing crystals in addition to make-your-own terrarium classes which are "perfect for a girls' night out," Burke said.

Walking into The Wild Bunch is a treat for the senses, with cut flowers and plants on display that are both beautiful to look at and enjoyable to smell. Shop owner Cynthia Naylor received her training with Royal Court florists in her native England and the resulting arrangements are "natural, open and airy, though we can do anything we're asked for." While weddings are picking up and



Partners in life and in business, Donna Grimes and Duane Russell, are eager to welcome the community into their recently opened restaurant, Donna's on Main Photo by Jackie



Steptoe's District welcomes daybreak and prospects for a productive day. Photo by Robert Mason Jr.



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provide a sizable portion of her business, her regular repeat customers rave about her arrangements because they last so long. In addition to following a "strict hydration process, we're dedicated to making arrangements with the freshest flowers we can find," Naylor said, sometimes even using some items from her own garden. Preserved and dried flowers and plants are available in addition to vases, pots and European soaps and lotions.

Next door at Papeterie, the idea of a stationery store started when owner Alana Courtney wanted to teach her daughters the importance of writing thank you notes. After having personalized note cards printed, a practice was born as well as a business. Courtney offers printing services for customized invitations and stationery which are on display in her store along with a collection of uncommon cards and gifts for nearly every occasion.

Although electronic media is such a force and habit in life, Courtney said that things "have come full circle" when



The Wild Bunch owner Cynthia Naylor displays some of the distinctive plants and accessories available in her shop. Photo by Jackie Nunnery

it comes to cards, stationery and the like. Last year was her biggest out of the past 30, despite all the challenges and changes faced by retailers. "People want the experience of shopping," she said, and Janet MacMillan of Callao agrees. She came

into the store to purchase a guest book. "We have all of our guests who stay at our home sign it and sometimes they write a little something." Over the years, they have filled four—which they love to go back and reminisce with.

Ross's Fine Jewelry is another shop new to Main Street but not new to the area. Jeff Bramblet had a goal of starting a jewelry business and as luck would have it, the store's original owner and namesake, Ross Christiansen, was ready to retire. Since purchasing the business in 2016, they have opened up the new location at Waverly and Main and expanded their jewelry lines. In addition to jewelry sales, they also offer

Since 1969, Burkes Fine Jewelers has been a presence in the Main Street community and has become an enduring tradition. A second generation family business, Fred Jr. and his wife, Karen, have built on the tradition of the Burkes experience, offering distinctive jewelry and a shopping experience that cannot be duplicated online.

custom fabrication and repair.

Venture off Main Street and you'll find Kilmarnock Brewhaus, where owner Don Lee says "the neighborhood comes together." Lee has



Ross's co-owner Jeff Bramblet shows some of the tools of the jewelry repair trade. Photo by Jackie Nunnery

been brewing beer and playing music for decades and the two come together at his place, located on West Church Street, where you can enjoy craft beer and

Cross the street and take the opportunity to leisurely peruse the stacks at The Book Nook. Owner Jim Lane said that while "slowly inching toward normalcy," the business changed during COVID, and now offers a mix of new and used books. A cozy reading nook is

nestled among books on local subject matter and there is also a broad selection of children's books and fiction among others. Lane, the owner for the past 20 years, has an almost encyclopedic knowledge of books and can help select the perfect title.

You can find treasures of the musical variety at C&D Music, on Irvington Road. Owner Stephanie Surber has a near lifelong connection to the shop and music. "I shopped here when I was 12," she said. She also spent



Owner Emily Hoar stands amidst her brightly merchandised "mini department store," The Rivah. Photo by Jackie Nunnery

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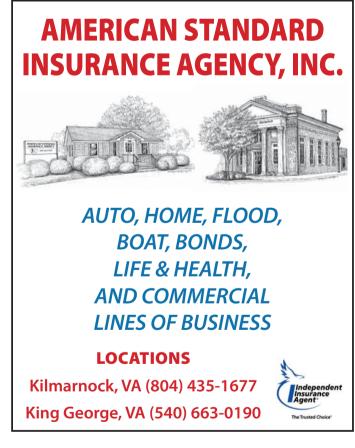
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another 25 years working there when it was called Doc's and has owned it for the past 11. In addition to vinyl albums and CDs, Surber carries rock 'n' roll nostalgia items like lava lamps, black light posters and artwork devoted to popular artists of the of the 60s through the 90s.

Neighbors NN Burger have quickly become an attraction. Co-founders Jay Wolfson and Steven Sponder wanted to open a casual craft burger and beer experience with a family friendly feel that would be welcoming to all. In addition to burgers, try a Freakshake, a decadent, sugar rush of a shake topped with donuts, cookies, chocolate cake or cotton candy. Wolfson and Sponder have shared their appreciation to the community with the 365 Days of Giving program. In addition to hosting fundraisers at their restaurants, each month they choose a non-profit to donate a portion of their proceeds toward.

Nearby Barkley's Boutique caters to dogs and the humans that love them. Dog lover and owner Caroline Sullivan has created a space with fun, quirky dog items like dog-friendly beer, "chardognay," and clothing, to more practical items like orthopedic dog beds, books, and, of course, treats.

And speaking of man's best friend, you can hunt for treasures and support shelter animals when you shop the



Artist Doug Mock, executive director of the RAL Art Center, talks about some of his watercolors available for purchase. Photo by Jackie Nunnery



This stretch of North Main Street offers a prime example of new and long-established businesses coexisting. Photo by Robert Mason

Animal Welfare League's Thrift Store just a short walk away.

Making a house a home

Why buy from a chain store when nearly everything for the home—appliances, furniture, finishes and decorative items—can be found in Steptoe's, and with a personal touch that you won't find anywhere else?

Since the 1920s W.F. Booth & Son Furniture has been making lives more comfortable for Northern Neck families. Down the street,

Joe Hudnall and the team at Noblett Appliances have been helping homeowners outfit their kitchens and laundry rooms since the 1930s. Joining these mainstays of Main Street are Bay and River Home Decor, Ultimate Interiors and Rivah Antiques and Accessories.

Kilmarnock Antique Gallery is off Main Street but well worth a visit to School Street, just a block away. Spend a few hours hunting through the numerous vendors offering furniture, art and decorative items to add that special touch to your home.

A little something for yourself

Treat yourself next time you visit Kilmarnock by stopping in WOWD (When Ordinary Won't Do). Owners Diana Jamison and Vicki Kinsel have curated a shop that is "kind of boho but



Town Centre Park at 150 North Main Street offers recreational opportunities and periodic entertainment. Photo by Robert Mason Jr.

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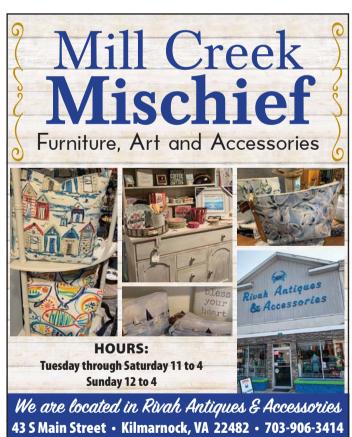
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we're always trying to go green and support women's cottage industries whenever we can," Jamison said. You will find comfortable, size inclusive clothing made of sustainable fabrics and a jewelry line devoted to fundraising for the Northern Neck Partners for Pets.

At Pearl, it's about "finding that special thing," said former owner Sally Dashiell, who still helps out current owner Tammy Brock from time to time. Dashiell said it's the comfortable clothing with local artisan pieces that sets them apart.

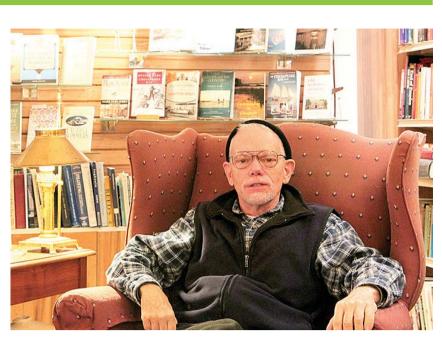
The Rivah is like "a mini department store," according to owner Emily Hoar. Inside you will find apparel for women and men from brands like Lily Pulitzer and Fish Hippie. But true to her description, there are also clothing lines and gifts for babies, jewelry, even food items like Stonewall Kitchen Jams and the ever-popular Northern Neck Bloody Mary Mix.

Other ways to experience Kilmarnock

The Steptoe's District offers other options if you ever tire of shopping. Rivah Golf offers the ability to play hundreds of courses around the world using virtual golf technology. Owners George and Victoria "Nicky" Tuthill opened their doors to golfers in mid-November 2021. Head north on Main Street and you will find the Kilmarnock Museum, located in one of the oldest homes in the area and dedicated to preserving and telling the



Melissa Burke makes some adjustments to the plant displays in her shop, Grow NNK. Photo by Jackie Nunnery



The Book Nook owner Jim Lane encourages leisurely browsing through book shelves to find just the right one. Photo by Jackie Nunnery

story of the town. Just past the museum is one of the newest features of the town and district, Town Centre Park. In addition to an outdoor amphitheater, home to the Music on the Half Shell Stage concert series, a splash pad and dog park provide recreation and entertainment for the whole family. Grab lunch at the nearby Dixie Deli and enjoy it at the park's picnic pavilion. The neighboring Lancaster Community Library is also an option for a rainy day activity.

This tour is by no means complete. There are so many more businesses and services, with welcoming business owners, that make this historic district such a gem: a place to call home filled with people to call friends and neighbors.



South Main Street offers an eclectic mix of shops and services. Photo by Robert Mason Jr.

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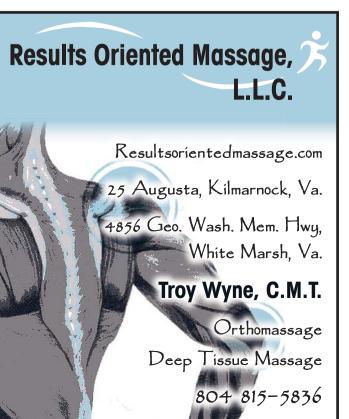


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KILMARNOCK: Beyond Steptoe's







Just around the corner, Kilmarnock's "outer limits" offers everything

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Tith its combination of family-owned businesses and big box store offerings, the area beyond the Steptoe's District in Kilmarnock is a shopper's smorgasbord. From cars to clothing and food to farm equipment, Kilmarnock's "outer limits" has it all.

While the historic Steptoe's District allows visitors to casually stroll Main Street and enjoy a boutique shopping experience, many of the businesses and companies beyond the district are destination stores for customers wanting a specific item or service. Some, like a few in the industrial park, are even strictly manufacturing businesses.

"We have a good mix," said Kilmarnock economic development coordinator Sharon Phillips.

The outer limits of town have seen substantial growth in the last decade with both the addition of national chain stores and mom-and-pop business options that help to make Kilmarnock a shopping mecca for folks from across the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.

If you want it, you can most likely find it in Kilmarnock.

Many communities have found ways to retain their small-town charm, values and historic character, while still sustaining growth. Kilmarnock is one such town.

Home-grown businesses

and box stores have combined to spark development beyond Steptoe's. Walmart anchors the north

Walmart anchors the north end of town on Old Fairgrounds Way and is fronted by a small strip mall that offers everything from furniture rental and pedicures to smart phones and tax services. The newest of the seven stores there is Kilmarnock Tobacco and Vape, which opened in 2020.

According to town zoning/ planning administrator Marshall Sebra, the empty lot in front of Walmart will soon be home to an Auto Spa touchless car wash. It will be the third car wash within town limits.

There are two other strip malls on the north end of town including the Lancaster Square Shopping Center, anchored by Food Lion, and Chesapeake Commons, which includes a variety of stores and educational offerings. There you can find everything from women's fashions to photography supplies, but at the forefront is the Kilmarnock branch of Rappahannock Community College.

The newbies in Chesapeake Commons are an Amazon distribution center, and a second center of learning, Northern Neck Sail & Power Squadron/ America's Boating Club.

"We established in 2004 and we've never had a place to call home. We kind of bounced around," said executive officer Jim Ray.

The squadron officially opened its classroom in a storefront at the Commons in February, held its first general meeting with members last week and will hold a grand opening



Dream Fields, home to the Lancaster County Little League and Lancaster County public schools baseball and softball teams, draws thousands of visitors to Kilmarnock annually. Photo courtesy of Yours Truly Photography



Doug and Lindsay Bishoff opened Turn Dynamics LLC in Kilmarnock's industrial park in 2015. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



From left, Daryl Veney and his mom Caroline Veney are two of the four owners of Veney's Heating & Air Conditioning. The family-owned business was founded by Melvin and Caroline Veney and includes their sons Darryl and Dwayne. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi





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boat show on May 28. The non-profit organization offers safe boating classes and vessel safety checks.

"The support we've gotten from marinas, boat dealers and the whole community has allowed us to do this," said Ray.

Foodie faves

Along with several fast food offerings—and one more coming soon in Little Caesar's pizza—are several familyowned restaurants.

Owner Lisa Hendershot was making pizzas at Sal's Italian Pizza on a recent busy Friday night after a local high school basketball game. A few teens were waiting on their orders, a few kids were playing vintage arcade games. Despite some renovations here and there, the eatery has changed little in its 47 years of serving the lower Northern Neck. The menu has remained much the same. And that's a good thing.

Hendershot has been a staple at the business for 35 years, since she was a mere 19 years old.

A block up the street is another longtime eatery on North Main Street, Car Wash Cafe, a breakfast and lunch



Mike Nonnemacker works on a vehicle in his shop AMC, Auto and Marine Care, just beyond Kilmarnock on Irvington Road. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

restaurant located in a former convenience store. Another hands on owner, Susan Hill, serves customer favorites like huevos rancheros for breakfast and crab cakes, Reubens and signature salads from her open concept kitchen.

find a Mexican restaurant and two different Chinese restaurants, including Great Fortune with an outdoor dining deck and full-service bar.

Anna's Pizza is an Italianlovers favorite and Ms. Phyllis Kitchen is a go-to for soul food. Phyllis Cuffee opened the chicken, chops and pork restaurant in 2019.

Sub lovers have been missing Subway on the north end International food cravers can of town since the building was damaged a few months ago. However, Sebra said it will be reopening and the town has just issued a drive-thru permit for the sub shop.



Education officer Mack McKinney discusses the class schedule for the upcoming year during a meeting of the Northern Neck Sail & Power Squadron.



The Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck opened its new clubhouse in June 2021. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

A Starbucks is still expected to come to Kilmarnock at the north end of town, said Sebra.

Visit Terrie's Place for a tasty cheeseburger and walk next door for a refreshing summer treat—a soft serve cone or banana split—at Stevie's Ice Cream. Both open for the season in March. Want fresh seafood, stop at Jim Dan Dee Seafood, Crab King, for steamed crabs, oysters, shrimp and fish. The fresh seafood market also offers lunch to go. A favorite is the shrimp taco.

Wine lovers can spend the afternoon sipping and enjoying the vineyard view at Good Luck Cellars on Goodluck Road. The winery reopened in 2021 with an expanded porch after the main building at the winery suffered significant structural damage to its roof, porches and chimney during a tornado in the summer 2020. A week after the tornado, however, the winery was up and running with a portable office and serving out of a tent. It's back to business as normal with Wine Down on Fridays.

Service strong

From boat and auto repairs to heating and air conditioning needs, there are dozens of service-related businesses in Kilmarnock's outer limits.

The industrial park off of

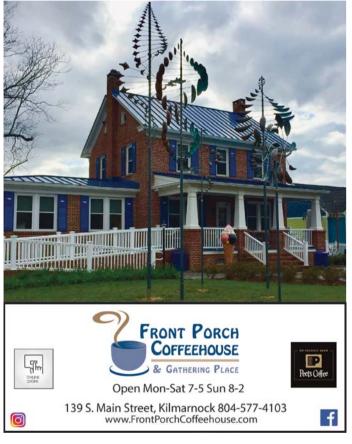
Harris Road is home to an ophthalmologist, a financial advisor, a golf cart business and a shellfish sanitation office to name a few.

The technology park includes several longtime residents like Sevarg Pools and Franklin Mechanical Inc. as well as Geoproducts, which was started by Jackie and Robin Barrack 17 years ago. The landscape and construction supply business is located on eight acres with nine employees. J. Barrack says they ship to Northern Virginia and North Carolina, but about 60% of Geoproducts' business

Adjacent to Franklin Mechanical Inc. is Turn

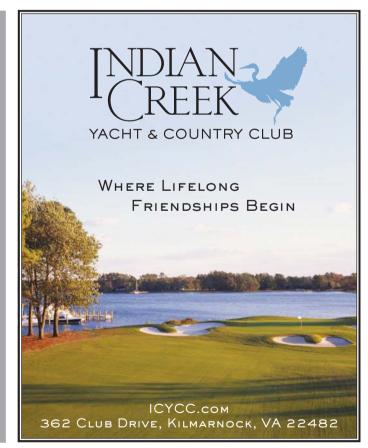


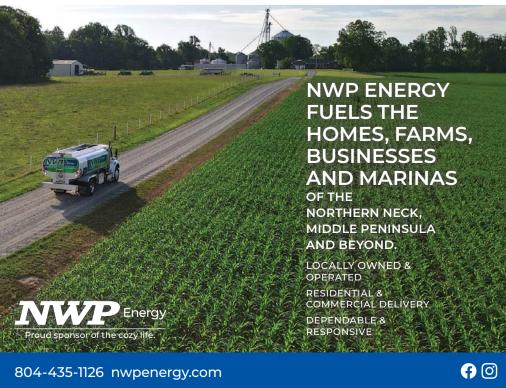
Jackie and Robin Barrack, owners of Geoproducts LLC, are among several couples who own and operate businesses in Kilmarnock. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi





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KILMARNOCK: Beyond Steptoe's

Dynamics, owned by husband and wife Doug and Lindsay Bishoff. The modern-day machine shop opened in 2015 and offers a range of machining capabilities. The company services industries that include aerospace, firearm, medical, dental, automotive, oil and liquid gas. Turn Dynamics recently secured a contract with the U.S. Department of Defense to make smoke grenade components, according to D. Bishoff.

"It's time we focus on bringing manufacturing back to the U.S. and take pride in American-made products," he said.

Gilman Heating, Cooling and Plumbing is the newest addition to Kilmarnock's heating and cooling suppliers. The Ashlandbased company opened a second location in the technology park in March 2019 and employs "20 from both sides of the river," said Gilman's sales and marketing manager Brian Dooley. "Everybody's local."

Gilman's owner has roots in the Hartfield area and remodeled his home there. "When people saw his trucks in the neighborhood they started calling," said Dooley.

After a while of servicing the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula out of the Ashland location, Gilman decided to open a shop in Kilmarnock.

And the decision was "a really, really good one," said Dooley.

Mainstays in the HVAC industry, Veney's Heating & Air Conditioning and Crowther Heating & Air Conditioning Inc., have served customers in the Northern Neck and surrounding counties for decades. Crowther, on North



Dunn-Rite Auto Group is one of three auto dealers in Kilmarnock. Photo by Lisa Hinton-



Donna and Ernie Webb are surrounded by new personal watercraft in the showroom at Xtreme Power Sports. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Main Street, is 67 years strong. Established in 1954 by Wayland "Chuck" Crowther, the company was purchased in 1978 by Mike and Jenny Crowther.

Melvin and Caroline Veney founded their home-based company in 1981 and moved into their current location on South

Main Street in 2006. Now with over 20 employees, Veney's serves customers across the state. Sons Dwayne and Daryl are now part of the ownership and management team.

Auto sales plus

Kilmarnock's Davis family has been in business on Main Street since 1970 when Edward J. and Peggy opened Davis Dodge. They later added Chrysler and Jeep sales but today the business, owned by Ed Davis, is Davis Auto Sales Inc.

"We're about one of the only old-timers left," said Ed.

His business now offers auto sales and 24-hour towing and recovery but no longer offers service and repairs.

Up the street, Dunn-Rite Auto Group offers sales and service and Bareford Buick GMC has its satellite location. Both specialize in pre-owned

auto sales. The do-it-yourselfer mechanics have several auto parts stores to choose from including NAPA, Advance Auto and the newcomer O'Reilly Auto Parts.

Big L Tire Pros has been serving customers in Kilmarnock as either Big L or previously as Northern Neck Tire and Recapping for 47 years, according to William Hutt.

"We're swamped all the time," said Hutt. "To be here for 47 years, we've done something right. We try to offer good customer service and the community has always supported us."

Mike Nonnemacker is the new kid on the block. His business, AMC, Auto and Marine Care, opened on Irvington Road in February 2019. He joins Irvington Road repair staple Lewis General Repair and Savoy Marine Service. Jesse Savoy opened the business eight years ago on Irvington Road and specializes in "pleasure boats with outboard motors," he said.

For marine customization



Debbie Scripture has everything to stock vegetable or flower gardens at Farm and Home Supply in Kilmarnock.

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The Northern Neck Family YMCA opened its aquatic center in 2019. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

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WELCOMETO

KILMARNOCK: Beyond Steptoe's

needs, including marine welding and metal needs, there's Moubray & Company on South Main Street.

Gardening and more

During the midst of the pandemic, Tractor Supply Company was preparing to open its new Kilmarnock store on North Main Street. The store which sells everything from pet and animal feed and supplies to propane and farmrelated home decor, opened in October 2020.

Just down the street, Farm and Home Supply has been serving its customers since 1970. The store also carries animal supplies along with gardening tools and equipment but is a popular spot for both vegetable and flower gardeners. Its greenhouse, added in 1980, is lush and full from spring to late fall. It even offers greenery and wreaths for Christmas.

Debbie Scripture is the greenhouse manager.

"We were here long before Walmart," she said. "We do a lot of custom and special orders. And most of our plants are locally sourced and are used to the environment here."



The strip mall in the Walmart Shopping Center includes a restaurant, tobacco store, discount shopping, nail salon, furniture rental and a cellphone store. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Get active

Kilmarnock is definitely kidfriendly, with Dream Fields, the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck and the Northern Neck Family YMCA often joining forces to offer activities and support for the youth of Lancaster County. Major changes have taken place at all

Dream Fields is home to Lancaster County Little League and the Lancaster public schools middle and high school baseball and softball teams. A multi-year project was completed at the pristine complex on Irvington Road in 2020 after two fields were removed, a new one constructed and the parking lot relocated. Over 200 Little League players use the facility each year and about 5,000 players utilize the park annually.

After being destroyed by a fire in 2018, the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck was rebuilt and officially opened its new 15,000-square-foot clubhouse in June 2021.

The Northern Neck Family YMCA opened its \$3.1 million Monroe Family Aquatic Center in November 2019. Along with its six-lane indoor pool, which now serves as the home pool for Lancaster, Middlesex and Christchurch schools' swim teams, the center offers members and visitors access to the Pauline "Pim" Montgomery Family Pool, an outdoor pool with a two-story, double-turn slide.

The YMCA has always been an advocate for water safety and has partnered with Lancaster County schools to offer lessons to elementary age chil-

dren. Along with that, the new facility allows for more water aerobic courses and more adult swim classes.

Boat owners and water sport lovers have several choices in Kilmarnock.

On North Main Street, Ernie and Donna Webb own and operate Xtreme Power Sports, which sells personal watercraft, ATVs, UTVs and hope to add boats to their inventory soon. They started the company in 2003 and moved in 2005 to their existing location, where the store includes three separate buildings with over 30,000 square feet.

Be healthy

Next door to the YMCA is the Northern Neck-Middlesex Free Health Clinic, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in

2018. The clinic opened in 1993 and in 1996 served patients out of a modular home on DMV drive. The facility moved to its current building as part of the Virginia Quality Life campus in 2003 and included the opening of a dental clinic.

Just down the road, Bon Secours Rappahannock General Hospital is undergoing a major renovation with construction slated for completion later this year. The renovation will make the emergency department the hospital's main entrance and expand the ER from an 8-bed semi-private unit to a 10-bed unit with private rooms, according to the Bon Secours website.

The new construction will include a dining area as well as a main entrance and emergency entrance canopies. The renovation of existing space will include a new kitchen, main entrance and lobby and an expanded registration check-in area.

Movin' and shakin'

Kilmarnock, beyond Steptoe's District, is an expanding and growing landscape. With the anticipated addition of a car wash, remodeled sub shop, new pizzeria and a speciality coffee shop, there are even more reasons to visit.

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by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



Sal's Italian Pizza in Kilmarnock has been a local favorite for 47 years. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

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Welcome to Irvington: A small town paradise with a water view

by AnnGardner Eubank

rvington: It's been coined as where Mayberry meets Manhattan, the East Hamptons of the South, and was even named one of Coastal Living's top places to live on the coast in 2020. It's the quintessential small town American paradise.

With a rich history rooted in the water to its growing developments in the market place for foodies and boutique shoppers, Irvington offers a dynamic experience for visitors to enjoy and residents to relish.



Yacht Club River amenities and events for its members including several regattas throughout the year. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank



Irvington's walkability is one of the town's best and favorite attributes. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank

It's safe to say Irvington began to receive widespread attention and growth after the four star resort Tides Inn was established in 1947. Over the past 75 years of being in operation, the Tides has put the

1.82-square-mile town on the map with its spa, fine dining, golfing and captivating views of Carter Creek.

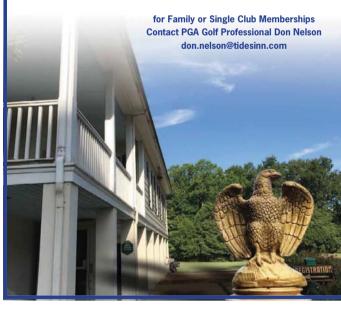
As more people became familiar with the town after visiting the resort, many visitors

became regulars, which turned into summer-home buyers, with many even becoming permanent residents.

As the years continued and growth became steady, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 ushered a real-estate boom in rural Lancaster County and developments and further growth have seemingly exploded throughout the village. Houses were bought the same day they were put on the

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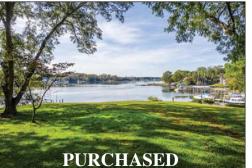
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Welcome to IRVINGTON Come see what the good life looks like



From fresh ground coffee to tasty paninis, The Local has something to fill everyone's belly. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank



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by AnnGardner Eubank

market, many homes sold well above asking prices, properties were purchased after sitting empty on the market for years and vacant lots were grabbed by new families planning to build their Carter Creek dream homes.

Not only have more residents come to the area in recent years, but many of them have brought their businesses or business plans with them. Irvington is booming with new businesses as well as thriving

with long-time established businesses.

Zoning Administrator Justin Nelson confirms Irvington is growing by more residents and more businesses. A new women's clothing store is set to open on Steamboat Road in the next couple of months, he said.

Additionally, Nelson said he's been busy with site visits and permit approvals for new homes. Within the next several months, visitors will have another option for lodging with

Albert Pollard Jr.'s most recent Seafood Lane project.

Pollard is in the building stage of multiple small condos and a gathering pavilion for short-term rentals.

The Hope and Glory Inn is another lodging option for guests. A boutique hotel owned by Dudley and Peggy Patteson, the Hope and Glory Inn features The Dog and Oyster Micro-Vineyard and Oyster Bar. Additionally, guests can enjoy the Inn's farm-to-table

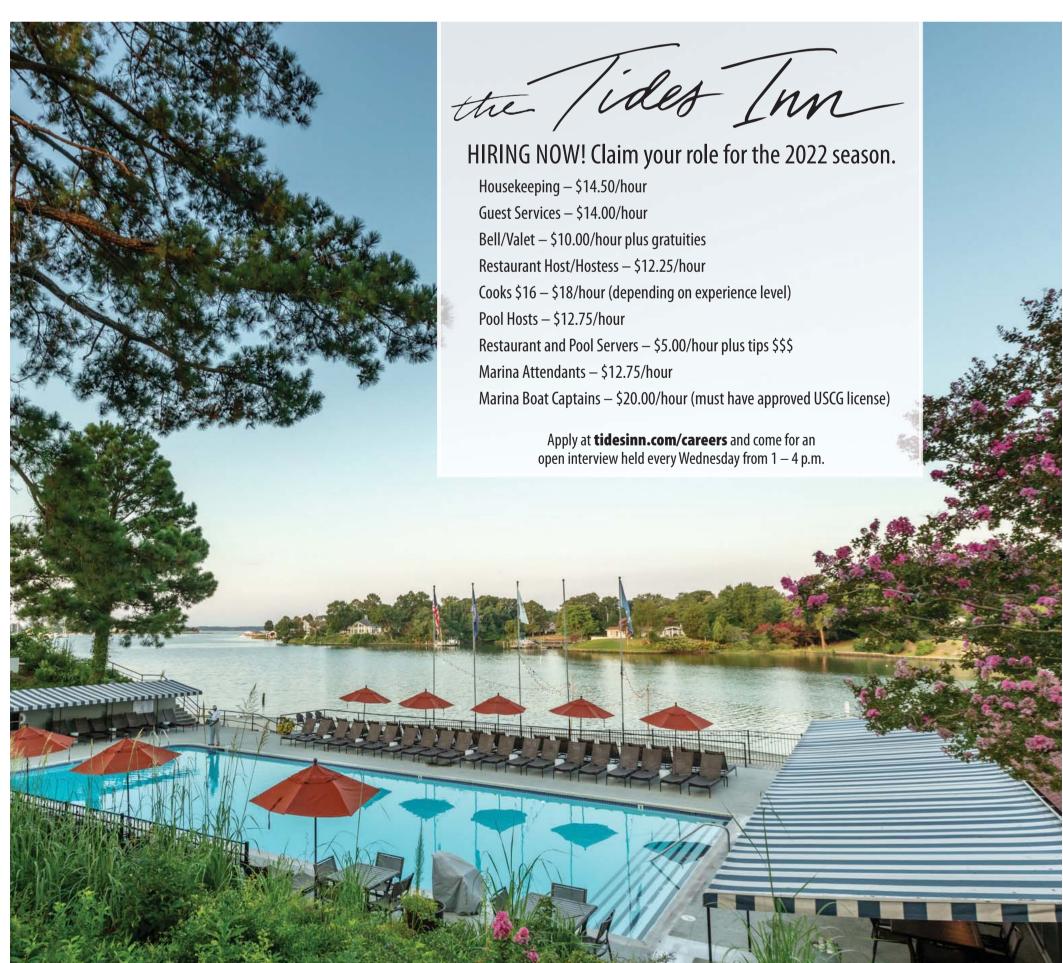


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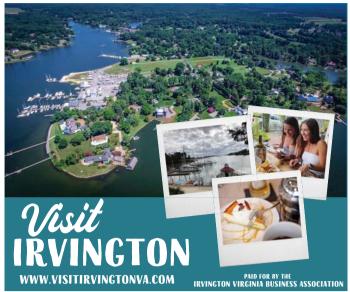
Come see what the good life looks like



Randall Kipp of Randall Kipp Architecture designs modern homes for families in the Northern Neck as well as Florida, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank



The Fish Hawk is the Tides Inn's newest eatery addition and offers a more laid back vibe while still providing fresh and delicious choices. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank



The Hope and Glory Inn offers multiple rooms and cottages. With an oyster bar and micro-vineyard, the Inn has something for everyone looking for an authentic Irvington experience. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank

> dining experience in the lobby, The Colonnade, with fresh and exciting meals prepared by widely acclaimed chef Meseret Crockett.

Across the street is the neighborhood wine bar, Vine, owned by Terri Riggs. She calls the spot "the neighborhood hangout" and said residents and guests have been very supportive of the business. Vine offers an array of local and European wines as well as a retail section. Vine's small plates allow customers to try a variety of menu items.

Moving along to Irvington Road, folks can grab a bite to eat at The Local, a staple to the town's business district. With tasty coffee, warm paninis, fresh salads and yummy baked goods, The Local offers hearty and healthy breakfast and lunch options seven days a week.

Another lunch option is right across the street at The Office Bistro which also serves dinner. From sandwiches to pastas

While many often wait for the weekend to go out for a night on the town, residents will tell you there's no better way to spice up your week than hitting up Dredge for Bryan Byrd's famous tacos on Taco Tuesdays. From his shrimp and fish tacos to his famous oyster tacos, any seafood lover will be in heaven with his fresh selection.

and well-crafted specials, it's impossible to leave hungry.

Beyond the town's multiple fresh and acclaimed dining options, a day in Irvington isn't complete without some shopping.

Owners of The Dandelion, Sheila Brown and Jean Ward-Smith, have offered a one-ofa-kind shopping experience in the iconic yellow house in the heart of town for decades. Specializing in ladies' clothing, accessories and gifts, the team at The Dandelion can make any woman feel beautiful in their wide and tasteful selection.

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White (right) serves up some provisions to a visiting couple at Vine on a sunny afternoon. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank

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ager Terri Thaxton said Objects

operation in May. Thaxton said every piece is original so when it's gone, it's gone. Objects rep-

spring.



At one end of town and down Steamboat Road several generationally owned law offices and insurance agencies line the streets as they have for decades. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank





The Tides Inn's most recent development is the creation of its living shoreline and boardwalk which stretches along the Carter Creek shoreline. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank





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Come see what the good life looks like



Cathi Carr has been brightening up Irvington Road for nearly five years with her vibrant flower arrangements and plant selections. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank



Compass Entertainment Complex near gearing up for warmer weather with its mini golf course, batting cages, and go-kart track up and ready to go for a fun outing with family. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank



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The Steamboat Era Museum on King Carter Drive offers information on the town's long history and connections to the steamboat era, as well as a gift shop. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank



Several short-term rentals are under construction down Seafood Lane off of Steamboat Road with hopes of reaching completion within the next several months. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank



The Irvington Town Commons offers a tennis court, gazebo and playground for residents and visitors to enjoy, as well as a gathering place for farmers markets, concerts and special events. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank

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Next door to Objects is WindSwept owned by Craig Dodson. WindSwept offers a range of apparel, bicycles, boards and vintage accessories.

Those looking to build a home of their own may consult with modern architect Randall Kipp of Randall Kipp Architecture whose office is on King Carter Drive. Kipp has been in Irvington for 25 years and refers to the town as hosting a "cultural node."

From The Steamboat Era Museum to multiple places to stay, eat, and drink to the longstanding Chesapeake Bank and events in the Irvington Town Commons like farmers markets and concerts, Kipp says the make-up of the town creates an interesting fabric which allows for a dynamic experience.

Nearby, there is a lot of family fun to be had at Compass Entertainment Complex. From go-karts, to movies, to an arcade, batting cages, mini-golf and seasonal ice-skating, the complex offers fun for everyone. Chad Ogder, an operations manager at Compass, said one of the biggest draws is Fathom Events, alternative content that hits the screens throughout the week. From live opera shows in New York City being streamed to the big screen in Compass to showings of classic movies and documentaries, the complex offers an array of cinematic pieces for a lot of different interests.

If after hitting all of the Irvington restaurants you





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The White Stone Bridge connects Irvington and White Stone over Carter Creek. Photo by AnnGardner



manager Terri Thaxton shows array of pieces in the gallery from pottery, to paintings, to whimsical night lights as well as artisan jewelry. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank



Coming soon: A Christmas tree farm is slated to take over a former vineyard. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank





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herbs, cheeses and seasonings are offered at Kellum's along with artisan soaps, Amish goods, marine supplies and

Owner Lynn Kellum said shoppers can look forward to more flowers and herbs coming as the weather warms up.

Planning, sales and construction has begun on 93 new single-family homes to be constructed by Stateson Homes at nearby Hills Quarter.

Sales manager Alex Digenova said lower Lancaster County is an area that is underserved for houses, particularly in terms of rental and short term properties.

Digenova said it's a "high growth" region surrounded by larger areas like Richmond, D.C, and Hampton Roads which have a higher cost of living.

"The market has realized there are different places to live," he said.

Construction has started on new homes within the development and will begin selling in the \$350,000 range. According to Digenova, some homes will

be move-in-ready by May. For those looking for a retirement community with assisted living options Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury offers comfort and peace of mind.

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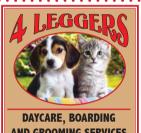
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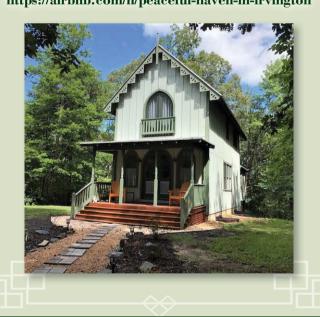
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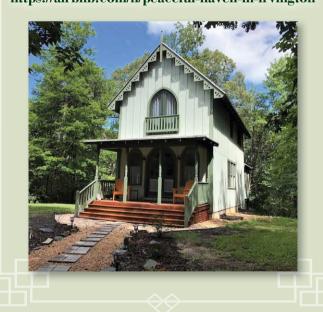








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Ages 4 to 12 years old | \$5.00 per child One adult (free admission) must accompany children

SPECIAL EVENTS

Irvington Crab Festival September 17 | 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Holiday Marketplace

November 25, 26 & 27 December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 & 18 Friday & Saturdays 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Sundays 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm





One coupon per party Valid 2022 season

Visit SteamboatEraMuseum.org for

up-to-date information about the museum

156 King Carter Drive Irvington, Virginia 22480 804.438.6888 shop@SteamboatEraMuseum.org