WELCOME TO

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

HOME OF THE

URBANNA OYSTER FESTIVAL
TOP 11 THINGS TO-DO IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY

1. Ride in a Warbird plane with Bay Aviation at Hummel Airfield, aerobatic maneuvers are optional.


3. Kayak the Dragon Run’s pristine swamp along the Piankatank River available during Spring and Fall only.

4. Learn flower arranging or meditate at the Wind Haven Flower Farm.

5. Catch a Deltaville Deltas baseball game at the vintage 1948 Deltaville Ballpark May through August.

6. Get dirty, mud bogging in “The Pit” at the Virginia Motor Speedway in May or October.

7. Glamp at Bethpage Camp Resort, Grey’s Point Camp, Bush Park Resort or Cross Rip Camp. RV’s and cottages.

8. Play miniature golf at farm-themed “Cowtopia” and eat a sweet treat at Bethpage Ice Creamery.

9. Take a Virginia Watermen’s Heritage Tour with Rivers Run Boat Tours, aboard an authentic “Deadrise” boat learning Chesapeake Bay ecology.

10. Sleep on a boat! Norton’s Yachts charters offer 3-7 day sailboat excursions with 2-4 sleeping cabin options and a Captain.

11. Try the “VIP Oyster Lovers” Experience at the biggest oyster festival – URBANA OYSTER FESTIVAL in November!
Welcome to the 62nd Urbanna Oyster Festival!

For our many returning guests, Welcome back! If this is your first year, you’re in for a treat!

The Town of Urbanna is a true Oyster town and the best place to taste, buy and try all things oyster related.

Start your day at the Scottish Factor Store and check out the history of the oyster industry in Urbanna.

After your get a peek at how we’ve done it for decades, take a right out of the driveway to the museum and head down “Community Row” to the Waterfront exhibits where you can see historic boats and learn about the Chesapeake bay and its ecology.

Once you get a little hands-on experience head back up to the Festival Village and try all of the different ways to eat these bivalve delicacies! Don’t forget to try the beer, wine, and oyster pairings!

Virginia is for Oyster Lovers after all!
Twenty-six year Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation volunteer Karen Ambrose has been named grand marshal of the 62nd annual Urbanna Oyster Festival to be held on Friday and Saturday, November 1-2.

Ambrose started her volunteer stint with the festival in 1993 when then chairman of the festival Glenn Pond asked her to chair the festival portable toilets services committee — a vital part of the event when 60,000 people converge on Urbanna, Virginia.

She was chairman of the festival in 2001-02 and 2004-05. She has also chaired the entertainment committee, oyster shucking contest committee, community row committee and trash hauling and cleanup committee.

“Karen has worked diligently behind the scenes for years to make our festival successful,” said foundation chairman Joe Heyman. “She is in charge of entertainment for the entire festival. She books the bands, sees that they can get in and out of town, coordinates the location of stages and makes sure electricity is provided at each entertainment site. She is amazingly organized, stays within our budget and does what she does without much fanfare,” he said. “Community Row on Virginia Street has been her passion and on Friday of Oyster Festival, Karen is on Community Row at 5 a.m. helping vendors get set up.”

“She takes care of two very important aspects of our festival — portable toilets and cleanup on Saturday night,” said Heyman. “I constantly hear people praising the cleanup job in town. When people go to church Sunday morning after the festival the streets are clean, and Karen coordinates that.”

Ambrose lives in Laneview with her husband, Lloyd. Growing up, the couple’s parents owned summer cottages side-by-side on the Rappahannock River. She and her husband have been coming to Middlesex since they were teenagers. “I married the boy next door,” said Ambrose.

She graduated from Lee Davis High School in Mechanicsville in 1984 and later from Braxton Business School in Richmond. She started working at The Allen Group in Urbanna in July of 1993, the same year she started volunteering for the festival. She also is treasurer of the Urbanna Cat Project which she and others founded eight years ago.

“It has been a great pleasure volunteering for the Oyster Festival over the years,” she said. “I would like to thank the foundation for the grand marshal nomination. I am very honored.”

Ambrose will be honored at the annual festival banquet and will ride in the Fireman’s Parade on Friday night and the Oyster Festival Parade on Saturday.

Susan Wade, owner of J&W Seafood in Deltaville, has been named captain of the 62nd Annual Urbanna Oyster Festival to be held Friday and Saturday, November 1-2.

In 1982 Kevin and his friend Joe Jenkins established a startup seafood wholesale business. The business was started in the upstairs of Taylor’s Restaurant. After a year in college, Susan came home, and in 1984 Susan and Kevin were married.

They along with Joe and Phyllis Jenkins ran J&W Seafood (J for Jenkins and W for Wade) until the Jenkins’s decided to sell their portion of the business to Susan and Kevin in 1987.

After the business was sold people would ask what the J&W stood for and Kevin would humorously reply “Jerk and Wife Seafood.”

Through Kevin and Susan’s efforts, J&W Seafood grew into one of the largest wholesale and retail seafood distributors in the state of Virginia.

Unfortunately, Susan lost Kevin, the love of her life, 10 months ago when he died unexpectedly, leaving her alone at the helm of J&W Seafood. “I want to thank the Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation for this honor,” said Susan. “I realize this is as much for Kevin and his life as it is about me. It is a great honor for him and the life he led and I am very appreciative of this.”

Kevin served as vice president of Virginia Seafood Council and was a member of the legislative and nominating committees. He was a board member of the Virginia Seafood Association, and on the blue crab and shellfish committees of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). Shortly after his death, the Virginia General Assembly honored him for his contribution to Virginia seafood by a unanimous resolution vote on the floor of the Capitol building in Richmond.

Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation Chair Joe Heyman said, “Kevin and Susan have given so much back to our community and have played such a significant role in making our community a better place. We felt this was a good time to honor them and J&W Seafood for all they have done to support our community. We are extremely honored that Susan is our 2019 Oyster Festival Captain.”

Susan will be honored at the annual festival banquet and will ride in the Fireman’s Parade on Friday night of the festival and in the festival parade on Saturday.

by Larry Chowning
FESTIVAL VILLAGE

Visitors will enjoy the infinite variety of arts and crafts available throughout Festival Village. Among the many offerings are tapestries, scrubs & rubs, woodcarvings, dog treats, hats, pottery, spoon & fork art, nautical furniture and jewelry. In addition, one can enjoy specialty foods, hamburgers, hotdogs, Philly Steak, and other delectable delights. The Festival Village music stage features area bands playing throughout the day Friday and Saturday. Grab a bite to eat and check the schedule of events for times.

Sponsored By

OYSTER FESTIVAL QUEEN & LITTLE MISS SPAT CROWNING

2019 Oyster Festival Queen & Little Miss Spat Contestants

Katherine Campbell and Riley Prete
Amber Daughtry and Adalyn Parsley
Marissa Halbig and Skylar Beverley
Danielle Jones and Jillian Major
Caroline Painter and Sophia Watson
Abby Purcell and Ella Norris
Samantha Wright and Madisyn Wade
Spat- Evelyn Vergara.

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY AREA

Check out Jonathan Austin – Magician/Juggler wowing the kids! Bring the kids to this crafty area where they can express themselves. Pony rides, carnival games and rides provided by Pony Rides & Adventure Family Amusements. Nursing & Changing Stations will be available. (Sponsored By Urbanna Baptist Daycare)

SCOTTISH FACTOR STORE

The 1766, James Mills Scottish Factor Store, is one of only two structures remaining in the United States exemplifying the colonial trade pattern of exchanging tobacco for various items imported from Europe. During the 18th century, in an era when paper money and coins were almost non-existent, tobacco growers brought their crop to the factor store where they could trade it for finished goods from Europe. The tobacco was stored in hogsheads (large barrels) weighing over 1,000 pounds when filled and was housed in warehouses where they sat until ships from England picked them up.

The 1755 John Mitchell Map is the focus of one of the exhibits here. As one of the earliest maps drawn of the 13 Colonies of America, it was used to negotiate the treaties between Britain and the United States that ended the Revolutionary War. This beautifully drawn map takes up an entire wall and is quite spectacular to see. Early colonial towns, Indian territories and detailed topography, bring to life the earliest descriptions of what would become these United States. Other exhibits include the “Oyster is King” display featuring a broad look at the role oysters have played in Urbanna’s past and present.

Be sure the Scottish Factor Store is a part of your visit!
THE OYSTER FESTIVAL PARADE
Saturday, November 2, 2019 • 2:00 PM

The parade is led by the Grand Marshal and Captain and features the 2019 Oyster Festival Queen and Little Miss Spat and their Courts. The Shriners bring Samira and hillbillies, 3-wheelers, go carts and mini trucks racing around the parade delighting the crowds. A special recognition to the Shriners Norfolk Khedive Temple for over 30 years at Oyster Festival! All units pass by the judges’ reviewing stand and awards are presented at the parade’s conclusion. A true slice of Americana, this parade is an Oyster Festival highlight not to be missed!

SPONSORED BY
Best Viewing is on Marston Ave or Prince George St

ANTIQUE AUTO SHOW
Saturday, November 2, 2019
@ the corner of Waverly and Virginia Streets

This 62nd Oyster Festival year brings back an old tradition that was first in the Oyster Festival in 1958 – the Antique Auto Show. The auto show will be on Saturday, November 2 starting at 9:00 a.m. This will be a People’s Choice voting event. The winners in each class category will be featured in the Saturday Oyster Festival Parade at 2:00 pm. 1969 is the Featured Car of the year.

SPONSORED BY
Rappahannock Oyster Company and R & R Seafood

URBANNA OYSTER FESTIVAL FIREMAN’S PARADE
Friday, November 1, 2019 • 7:00 PM

This exciting parade will feature over 80 units from all over the state including everything from giant ladder trucks to small brush trucks, ambulances and historic fire vehicles from the past. The men and women participating in this parade, unselfishly serve to protect property and save lives. This exciting parade event begins at 7:00 PM on Friday—it’s a parade you won’t soon forget!

After the parade, “Crazy X” will provide live music on the stage behind the firehouse. A $5 cover charge will be collected at the gate (age 21 and over – ID required & checked). Regular beer is $4.00 and craft beer is $5.00. The Beer Garden Gates open at 6:00 pm.

Beer provided by Al Pugh Distributing: Bud, Bud Light, Michelob Ultra, Devil’s Backbone.

OSTER SHUCKING CONTEST
Saturday, November 2, 2019 • 11:00 AM
Behind the Firehouse

Since Urbanna is the home of The Virginia “official” Oyster Festival, it is only appropriate that some of the best oyster shuckers in the world practice their trade here. Local sisters Deborah Pratt and Clementine Macon Boyd are two of the top shuckers in the world, capable of taking down two dozen oysters in less than three minutes! More excitement comes this year, with Davila Redmond defending his title against his mother and his aunt! Come grab a seat on the hillside and watch as professional oyster shuckers from throughout the state compete for the title of Virginia State Oyster Shucking Champion! The winner advances to compete in the National Oyster Shucking Contest in St. Mary’s, Maryland. The National Champion then travels to Galway, Ireland for the World Championship.

Prior to the state championship come test your skills at the amateur competition! Brave souls take to the stage to test their speed at shucking a dozen oysters for fun and prizes! Sign-ups are at 10 AM behind the firehouse. Don’t miss out on this popular and exciting event!

SPONSORED BY
Rappahannock Oyster Company and R & R Seafood
**CRAFT BEER TASTING EVENT**

Tasting hours are: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm Friday & Saturday. $10.00 Admission with Souvenir Glass. Includes 4 Tastings.

Must be Over 21 years of age. ID’s will be checked.

**CRAFT BREWERY’S ON TAP:**
- Aleworks
- Bold Rock
- Devils Backbone
- Hardywood
- New Realm
- Starrhill
- That Damn Mary
- Tradition

**HISTORIC COURTHOUSE /WOMAN’S CLUB**

The Middlesex County Woman’s Club building was established in 1748 and is on both the State and National Historic Registries. During the American Revolution, the local Committee of Safety met in the building. The building served as the Middlesex County courthouse from 1748 to 1852 and is one of 11 Virginia courthouses existing from that period. In 1852, Christ Church Parish purchased the old Urbanna building, which was remodeled and refurbished as a church. In 1948, Christ Church deeded the building to the Middlesex County Woman’s Club. The Woman’s Club maintains the Colonial treasure through donations and fundraising events.

**JURIED ART SHOW - ARTISTS INCLUDE:**
- Susan Bock - Hand Tinted Photography
- Cathy Buckley - Silver Jewelry
- Ken Conger - Wild Life Photography
- Walter Creech - Watercolor & Oil
- Rita Culter - Glass Mosaics
- John Watters - Pottery
- Wanda Hollberg – Fused Glass Jewelry
- John Obolewicz – Watercolors
- Jane Partin – Watercolors and Oils
- Joy Williams (Giggle in Pink) – Handmade Children’s Items

**OYSTER TRIVIA**

**TRUE or FALSE**
- Oysters Can Change Their Gender
- All Oysters Taste The Same
- Most American Oysters are all of the same species
- Only Oysters Can Produce Pearls

**TRIVIA ANSWERS**
- **True** - Oysters can change their gender at will. Most oysters start off as males. By age four, most change to females, but there are exceptions.
- **False** - Oysters develop their flavor from their surroundings - different environments produce different tastes.
- **True** - Oysters in the Gulf of Mexico, Chesapeake Bay, and off the coast of Virginia are all the same oyster - Crassotrea Virginica.
- **False** - Freshwater Mussels can also produce pearls.
Since its days as a crucial colonial port, Urbanna’s waterfront has always been an essential part of the town’s life. In the recent past, her docks were filled with Chesapeake buy boats and deadrises as watermen bought and sold oysters and crabs that they had harvested.

At the Urbanna Town Marina at Upton’s Point, the Oyster Festival Waterfront will showcase the area’s varied history and emphasize the heritage and conservation of the bay with boats and exhibits. Visitors can enjoy music at the concert stage throughout the weekend, board traditional vessels, and learn about our Native American and colonial heritage, the traditions of the watermen and the oyster industry, and the preservation of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Thursday before the Festival, October 31st, the Marine Science Legacy Program presents Oyster Festival Education Day. On Education Day, the waterfront is closed to the general public so that area schools have the opportunity to visit the exhibits. The waterfront will be open to the public during the festival on Friday and Saturday, November 1 & 2.

**AT THE TOWN DOCKS**

**Featured Exhibit:** Climb aboard the Colonial Seaport Foundation’s *Luna*, and watch as costumed historical interpreters bring the history of the tobacco port town of Urbanna to life.

Visit the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum’s *Edna E. Lockwood*. A National Historic Landmark, Edna is the last of the historic sailing log bugeyes. Built in 1889 when the oyster industry was booming, the *Edna E. Lockwood* worked as an oyster dredge from 1889 to 1967.

Marine Science Legacy Programming is made possible by a 2019 Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund “License Plate” grant. Applications for the plates can be obtained at [www.dmv.virginia.gov](http://www.dmv.virginia.gov).

**2019 Waterfront Sponsorships provided by:**
- Dominion Energy
- Something Different Restaurant
- Christchurch School
- Middlesex County Women’s Club

**OYSTER FUN FACTS**

- It is believed that Chesapeake Bay oysters have been gathered by humans for over 6,000 years.
- The average 3 inch oyster filters about 50 gallons of water per day
- The Oyster Shell was designated as the Official Shell of Virginia in 1974.
- Americans eat more oysters than anyone else in the world.
Events All Year Long in Middlesex County!

Urbanna is the proud host of the “Official Oyster Festival of the Commonwealth” bringing over 60,000 attendees each year to a town with a population of 500 to celebrate the succulent oyster and its rich maritime history. Don’t stop there, we invite you to return and experience the authentic river lifestyle all year long.

December 1-31, 2019
Deltaville Christmas Lights

December 7, 2019
Christmas Harbour House Tour
In Urbanna

December 13, 2019
Jackson Creek Christmas Cruise
Magical coastal cruise to view the festive lights of the waterfront properties. Christmas cookies & hot cider.

December 6, 2019
Fashion Show & Luncheon
At Chesapeake Inn

December 6, 2019
Urbanna Christmas Parade

December 20-21, 2019
Urbanna Trolley Polar Express
A classic Christmas Story

March 2020
Chili Cook-Off
At Something Different In Urbanna

May 8-9, 2020
Deltaville Seafood Festival
Crab races, shucking demos, live music, boat show, lip sync contest and more!

May - September
Farmers Markets
Urbanna Farmers Market (2nd Saturday)
Holly Point Farmers Market (4th Saturday)

May 30-31, 2020
Arts In The Middle Festival
A fine arts show at Hewick Plantation.

May 15-16, 2020
Urbanna Cup - Cocktail Class Boat Races

May - September
Outdoor Concerts
Groovin’ In The Park at Deltaville Maritime Museum (4th Saturday)
Music Under The Stars in Taber Park (3rd Saturday)

July 4, 2020
Deltaville 5k & Fun Run
Fit and Fun!
JULY 18-25, 2020
Family Boatbuilding Week
At Deltaville Maritime Museum

AUGUST 1, 2020
Urbanna Founder’s Day

SEPTEMBER 26, 2020
Wings, Wheels, And Keels
At Hummel Airfield In Topping

OCTOBER 10, 2020
Urbanna Wine & Oyster Stroll
Wine and oyster tastings at boutique shops

OCTOBER 17, 2020
Holly Point Art & Seafood Festival
At Deltaville Maritime Museum

OCTOBER 24, 2020
Crawl-O-Ween In Urbanna
Adult costumed fun! Spooktacular eat & drinks.

OCTOBER 31, 2020
Scary Halloween
At Deltaville Maritime Museum

SAVE THE DATE!
NOVEMBER 6-7, 2020
The 63rd Annual
Urbanna Oyster Festival

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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