

**Hometown
Community
Association**
NEWSLETTER

Hometown Community Park

The Callao Hometown Community Association (CHCA) contracted Hill Studios to design the future community park, which will be located on the approximately 2.5-acre parcel of land located in the heart of Callao, behind VA ABC and PRIMIS bank. We are thankful to PRIMIS bank for donating a portion of their property (below)



adjacent to the park land for parking.

With successful fundraising and potential grant efforts, we envision the community park to include a playground, picnic tables, walking trail, public restrooms, and a stage for entertainment and community events. We also plan to have an area for a pavilion, porch swings, memorial park benches, a farmer’s market and food trucks for events. As a tribute to the natural resources of our area, we plan several installations that will pay homage to agriculture, as well as, our abundant river life.

The CHCA Board of Directors has voted to name

the new future park in Callao the “Hometown Community Park,” because it will be available to residents and visitors of Northumberland County and surrounding areas, not just Callao. It will be enjoyed by young and old alike for years to come.

Anyone interested in donating to this cause may go online at: www.GoCallaoVA.org or make your check out to “CHCA” and drop it by United Bank in Callao to make a contribution and support this worthy community endeavor. See *CHCA Update* on page 10 for additional information.



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The Westmoreland Players

The Westmoreland Players community theater has called Callao, VA home since they moved here from Westmoreland County in the fall of 2000. Westmoreland Players recently performed one of its most physically challenging performances to date: “Noises Off” by Michael Frayn. Under the professional direction of Jake Beckhard from New York, the audiences were treated to a “hilarious farce” with over 200 entrances and exits, complicated dynamics, and comedy of a physical nature requiring intricate timing and extensive coordination between actors. On top of all of that, they also had a set that rotated 180 degrees between the three acts for the different scenes. It went off seemingly without a hitch. Most of the shows were sold out!

The Westmoreland Players theatre was fortunate to be able to engage the services of Jake Beckhard as Director for “Noises Off.” Jake Beckhard is a creative producer and freelance director and dramaturg based out of New York City for the last twelve years, originally hailing from the DC area. Jake has had the good fortune to work as a director and assistant director with some of the greats of the American stage, including Matthew Broderick and Wallace Shawn (“Evening at the Talk House”); Norbert Leo



Jake Beckhard, Director



Butz (“The Whirligig”); Ed Harris, Rhea Perlman, and David Rabe (“Good for Otto”); Cristin Milioti, Tavi Gevinson, Chris Perfetti, Ryan Spahn and Halley Feiffer (“Moscow Moscow Moscow Moscow Moscow”); Michael Urie (“Buyer and Cellar”); Robert Sean Leonard (“Camelot”). He counts among his mentors Molly Smith, artistic director of Arena Stage, Scott Elliott, artistic director of The New Group, and Trip Cullman, a frequent Broadway director of new plays and musicals. He’s the recipient of a number of awards including the Drama League Directing Fellowship and a residency in the Williamstown Directing Corps. He’s directed on Broadway with the 24 Hour Plays, and off-Broadway at The New Group,

Ars Nova, and MCC Theater. About his work, playwright Halley Feiffer once wrote “this play would be a sad shadow of itself without Jake’s input.”

Jake Beckhard grew up in Northern Virginia and got into theater while in high school. He was accepted into the competitive Tisch School of Arts in New York. While Jake lived in New York to follow his passion, the Beckhard family moved to the Northern Neck full time five years ago when Jake’s dad, Dan Beckhard, retired from the Justice Department. Dan is the president of the Board of Directors of The Westmoreland Players. He persuaded his talented son to relocate to the Northern Neck for a few months to direct the production of “Noises Off.” It was truly a labor of love. (cont. on page 9)



Callao Jubilee Opens Galleria

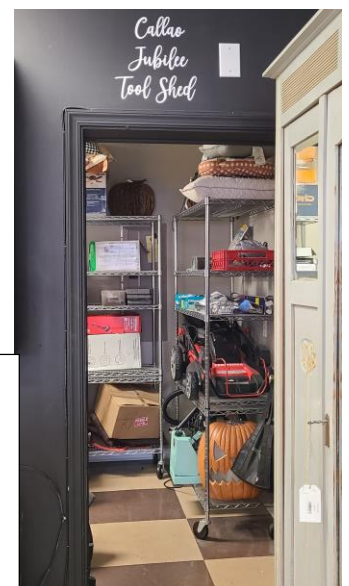
Callao Jubilee opens “Callao Jubilee Galleria,” its second location in Callao. The shop is located at the stop light in Callao, Virginia, on the eastbound side of 360. The CEO and owner of Callao Jubilee, Adriana Gonzales, opened this location at the end of September 2022 and it affords Callao Jubilee a place for larger pieces and has plenty of wall space to display art work of local artisans.

Callao Jubilee Galleria is a high end consignment shop and this one story retail space makes it is easier to get the larger pieces in and out. According to Alison Carlisle, Director of Customer Relations, Callao Jubilee Galleria is one of the exclusive carriers of art work by Christopher Mize. His prints feature images of delectable hard crabs, Northern Neck Ginger ale, and containers of Old Bay. Ms. Gonzales says they also feature spirits, coastal scenes and Virginia Colleges. The Galleria has even held events where Christopher Mize comes in to meet the customers.

A unique feature of the Galleria location is the “Tool Shed” which includes tools, plumber’s pieces, and household items (i.e. plenty of “guy stuff”.) The “Tool Shed” got started because Adriana’s brothers, who have done construction, had some tools to sell.

Other items sold in the shop include antiques, rugs, and home décor. Some of the pieces include a 19th Century Hibachi table grill (shown below) that can still make a fire in it, a nanny bench, armoires, and New Crestview Sideboard. The helpful staff say you are likely to “find stuff here you won’t find anywhere else” because they have pickers who are constantly on the lookout for unique items.

Trent Jones played music at the Callao Jubilee Galleria on March 24 between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.. Callao Jubilee Galleria is a welcome addition to the Callao Business Community.



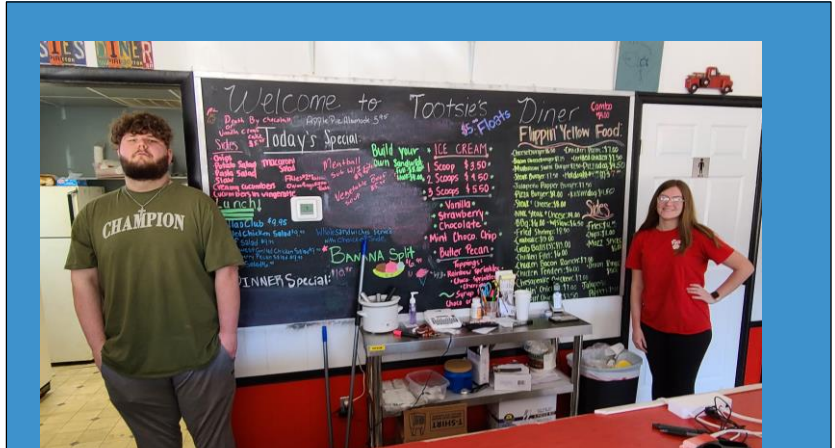
“Tool Shed”

TOOTSIE'S DINER

Tootsie's Diner is a family owned and operated restaurant that opened in Callao, VA on July 8, 2022 at the former Texaco location, adjacent to the car wash. Teresa Withers says she opened the diner with her sons and runs it with them and her daughter to "Bring Back the Good Ol' Days."

Ms. Withers has been in the food industry all of her life. She said she loves cooking and spending time with family and friends. She especially likes cooking breakfast and making deserts like CocaCola cake and bread pudding. Along with serving breakfast and delicious deserts, Tootsie's Diner is known for "Good Old Fashioned Cooking." They serve salads, burgers, subs, crabcakes, hand dipped ice cream and more. Their sides are homemade and include: potato salad; pasta salad; and coleslaw. They also have homemade chicken salad, tuna salad and egg salad. Their most popular garden salad is the strawberry pecan salad. Other menu items include the Callao Club, Northern Neck Steak and Cheese sub, a Chesapeake Chicken sandwich, and chicken tenders. They say, "People love chicken tenders."

When you visit Tootsie's diner, along with Teresa's daughter, Dawn Taylor running the register,



Jason Lewis and Dawn Taylor



NNK Steak & Cheese Sub

Flippin' Chicken: Chicken Filet topped with Pepperjack Cheese, Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato, Dill Pickles and Spicy Mayo

Kickin' Chicken: Chicken Filet topped with Grilled Onions, Grilled Jalapenos, Provolone Cheese and Spicy Mayo

Chesapeake Chicken: Chicken Filet topped with Provolone Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Mayo and Old Bay Hot Sauce

Kickin' Dog: Fried Provolone Cheese, with Grilled Jalapenos, and Grilled Onions wrapped around a 1/4 lb Beef Hot Dog topped with Spicy Mayo

Pizza Dog: Fried Provolone Cheese and Pepperoni wrapped around a 1/4 lb Beef Hot Dog topped with Marinara Sauce

Wake-N-Bacon: Crabcake topped with Provolone Cheese, Bacon and Old Bay Hot Sauce

Shrimp Bo-Boys: Fried Shrimp served on a Subroll topped with Lettuce, Tomato, Cocktail and Tartar Sauce

Eating or consuming raw or undercooked meats may cause foodborne illnesses



Hours of Operation:

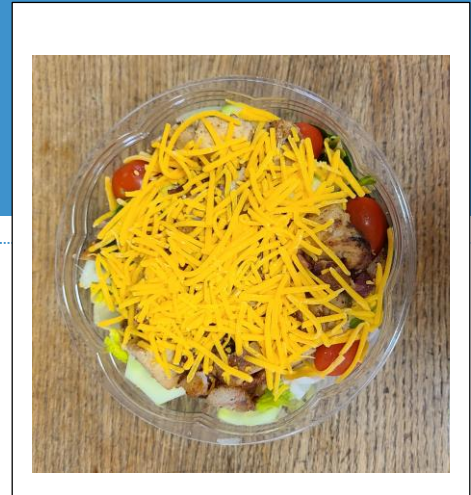
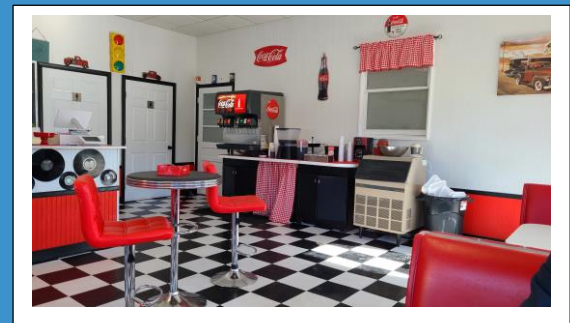
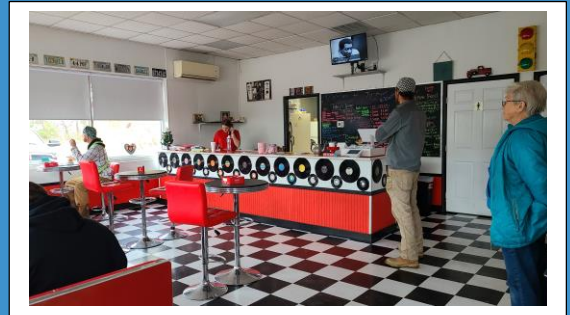
Monday -Thursday 11:00 -6:00 p. m,
 Friday - Saturday 11:00 a.m. -8:00 p.m.
 Breakfast Monday - Thursday 7 a.m. - 10 am
 (804) 529-1060

Tootsie's Diner (cont.)

you are greeted with black and white checkered tiled floors, vinyl albums on the walls, as well as, nostalgic Texaco and Coca Cola décor. You'll also see bright red booths and counter tops. It reminds you of the diners from the "good ol' days," with fun décor, friends, and good old fashioned food.

The food that Ms. Withers' sons, Jesse Gordon and Jasen Lewis, say they love cooking is burgers. According to the guys, their most popular burger is the pizza burger. They cook the hot food, including burgers, in the Flipping Yellow Truck, which Jesse Gordon opened July 4, 2020, and is now parked next to the diner.

Ms. Withers and her children plan to expand the diner's kitchen and dining area into the garage area adjacent to the diner, hopefully sometime this year, in keeping with the "Good Ol' Days" theme. This will give them more room to accommodate a growing customer base. They care about Callao, and other plans include Tootsie's Diner sponsoring a softball team this year at the Ruritan Lot. They even hope to bring home the championship. So, next time you are in Callao, be sure to stop by Tootsie's Diner at 255 Northumberland Highway.



AMISH COMMUNITY

Amish Community to bring Cheese House to the Northern Neck

The Northern Neck will soon have a cheese house among the business enterprises of the Amish community. They have been working through the permitting process to build their cheese house on Calvary Church Road for quite some time and anticipate the process to be complete within the next two to three months. They still have some equipment to set up, but the facility is looking pretty nice and should be ready in time for the grand opening this spring.

The Amish members plan to have a similar operation to the Clover Hill Dairy located in St. Mary's County Maryland. The operation in Maryland had expanded about all it could, and in order to handle the growing demand for their products, they thought



the Northern Neck would be a logical site for a new cheese house, considering its growing Amish population (approximately thirty families now) in Westmoreland, Richmond & Northumberland counties.

The new cheese house (Peacock Hill Dairy) will produce a variety of different cheeses, including Monterey Jack, pepper jack, Colby, cheddars, cuajada cheese, and possibly ricotta cheese.

Much like the dairy operation in Maryland, the Northern Neck cheese house will have cheese for wholesale. They also anticipate having a retail section for the public, where along with the cheeses, they will eventually carry other Amish made products. There will also be a window to view how the cheeses are made and possibly tours. Can't wait!



**Woodland Acres
Greenhouse
Roadside Stand
Reopens on
Rt. 202
April 1st -
Plants & Baked
Goods**

Callao Jubilee Coffee & Tea Bar



Callao now has a coffee and tea bar, located at 32 Hampton Hall Road, Callao Virginia, next to the original Callao Jubilee location. Remodeling the airstream and turning it into a coffee house has been a labor of love and longtime dream of the owner, Adriana Gonzales who also owns and operates Callao Jubilee and Callao Jubilee Galleria.

Ms. Gonzales enlisted the help of her brothers and nephew to do the renovations. Now, after many months of hard work and several challenges later, that dream has finally become a reality. The Callao Jubilee Coffee & Tea Bar opened in February 2023.

When Ms. Gonzales was searching for the right coffee to serve in the

airstream, her research led her to find Lone Oak Coffee. Lone Oak coffee is roasted in Winchester, Virginia. When Ms. Gonzales discovered it was voted “best coffee in Northern Virginia,” she thought it would be wonderful to have that for Callao too. Besides Lone Oak coffee, the Callao Jubilee Coffee & Tea Bar serves hot tea and an assortment of pastries. Their most popular items are: Vanilla Frappe; Mocha Latte; Ice Lattes and Red Velvet muffins.

Ms. Gonzales thinks highly of her staff and believes in creating a family environment. Hours of operation are: Tuesday - Saturday 7am - 4 pm. Come check out what is sure to be an asset for Callao and give Lone Oak coffee a try.



Nicole Cunningham & Anna Tippett



Northern Neck Village Farm

NNK Village Farms opened as a retail shop in Village in April 2021. They sell cannabidiol (CBD) products, various cuts of grass fed beef, and houseplants. Haydon and Andrea Garland got started by getting their license in 2018 to grow hemp. There were only two other growers in the Northern Neck at that time. They were the only license holders and the first to grow and produce their products in the NNK. Today they are the only licensed grower.

The Garlands began selling their local grown and made products at area farmer's markets, establishing a loyal client base. While they had considered the idea of opening a retail shop, Andrea said when COVID hit the area, it forced them to make a decision -- "Do or Don't", and they did (open the shop, that is...)

CBD products that they carry include tinctures, which are taken orally, and topicals, which are applied to the skin. Andrea said they focus on making high quality oils in small batches, so they are

able to offer fresher products that don't sit on the shelves for lengthy periods of time. She really enjoys educating people about the health benefits of NNK Village Farms' CBD products (see below for some interesting facts). Andrea loves meeting different people and answering their questions.

Haydon Garland's passion is raising livestock and working his family's farm with his dad, Wiatt, and his Uncle Vince. The family farm is over one hundred and fifty years old and goes back in the Garland family for five generations. They have a diverse herd of "grass fed, (cont. on page 8)



Haydon & Andrea Garland



What is CBD?

According to NNK Village Farm brochure: "Cannabidiol (CBD) is naturally occurring compound found in the resinous flower of cannabis plants. CBD is one of more than a hundred cannabinoids, which are unique to cannabis, such as the notorious THC. CBD is not psychoactive, meaning that using CBD does not create a 'high' sensation like THC."

What is Full Spectrum?

This term refers to cannabis oil extract containing "all of the organic compounds naturally found in the cannabis plant including cannabinoids and terpenes. Having all of the cannabinoids and terpenes in a product can contribute to the 'entourage effect' whereby various cannabinoids and terpenes can work synergistically to enhance the effects of each other." Important note: "since full spectrum products keep ALL cannabinoids in processing, there is a trace amount of Delta-9 THC. (below fed limit) and users may show +"

Northern Neck Village Farm (continued from page 7)

grain finished” cattle. Some of the types include Charolais, Hereford, Red and Black Angus and Belted Galloway. Haydon says raising livestock is a “24/7, 365 days/year” commitment and is what he finds most enjoyable. Referring to the cattle, Haydon says, “They will always surprise you.” Andrea says a healthy diet and being well kept makes for “happy cows and great meat.” They offer halves and quarters for wholesale, as well as, retail cuts packaged for individual or family size

servings in their shop’s freezer section.

In addition to a multitude of great cuts of beef, NNK Village Farm also carries their own line of beef jerky, snack sticks, and sausage. According to the Haydon’s, “You are not going to get jerky or snack sticks this flavorful unless you make it yourself.” There is value added in these products because they are locally made.

The shop also carries an abundance of houseplants including succulents, “String of

Pearls,” terrariums, and air plants, which are a hot ticket item. Other local products include handmade soaps by “Angie’s Hope, LLC,” seaglass art by a local artisan and jewelry made by Haydon’s mom, Doris Ann, who also helps in the store.

NNK Village Farm is another great “generational family business” in our area and is located at 14515 Richmond Road, Callao. Stop by or check them out on Facebook for more info.

The Westmoreland Players (cont. from pg 2)

“Noises Off” is a difficult play because of all of the intricate physical comedy. At first, they didn’t really think they could pull it off on a stage this size, when normally it is performed on a stage twice the size. However, with quite a bit of will power and ingenuity, set designer, Bill Armstrong came up with a plan and figured out a way to make it happen. The tricky part was, the set had to be complete before they could begin to rehearse.

After months of designing and hours upon hours of help with over three dozen skilled carpenters, the super cool “Noises Off” set was complete. They made it happen. It was quite a sight to see when after the first act, all of a sudden the cast and crew got into position and in a coordinated fashion, they spun the stage 180 degrees and suddenly the set became the “backstage” set for second act of the play and back again for the third act. The audiences were treated to a full cast of nine talented actors engaging in synchronized, challenging and physical performances.

One thing that Jake Beckhard said he really appreciated about directing for The Westmoreland Players was the camaraderie he experienced. He shared how welcoming he found the people here and said he really liked getting together with the cast and crew following rehearsals. He said he especially enjoyed the social aspect, particularly compared to New York where everyone seemed in such a rush to go home. Jake said the community has made him feel very welcome and he values the time he spent here.

For more information about Westmoreland Players, upcoming performances, or their student camp being held the first week of June, go on-line: www.Westmorelandplayers.org.

CHCA UPDATE

The president of the Callao Hometown Community Association Board of Directors, Lisa Deitz, presented the final plans for the proposed future community park to the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors on February 9, 2023. Mrs. Deitz shared plans for the proposed community park to be located behind PRIMIS Bank in Callao, VA. She announced that PRIMIS Bank has agreed to donate a parcel of land behind the bank to be used for parking and the new space was incorporated into the final design plans created by Hill Studios, which the group had received the prior day. Lisa also announced the name of the future park will be the "Hometown Community Park." The Board of Directors of CHCA will continue to work closely the Northumberland County officials towards the successful installation of a community park.

In addition to parking, the plans include a playground, green space, walking trail, and a stage made from a grain silo to pay homage to the agriculture heritage of our area. Additionally, there will be memorial benches, swings, picnic area, public restrooms, and an area for a farmer's market/food trucks for events. The Board of Directors of CHCA will now begin fundraising efforts in earnest.

A group of dedicated members of the community have already begun the cleanup process by removing hundreds of old tires left on the property by the previous owners. It took four

long days (one of which was in the rain) but Dan Corder and Jennifer Randazzo hauled off eight trailer loads of tires to help beautify the land for the future park. Thanks to Jimmy Brann, Philip Marston, and Luttrell Tadlock, the county arranged for the tires to be taken to Rightway Recycling in Heathsville. In addition to all the tires, Mr. Corder and Mrs. Randazzo hauled off trash and Mr. Corder hired someone to help haul off the scrap metal. The CHCA Board of Directors are very appreciative for the generous contributions of their valuable time and energy in this true labor of love for our community.

In addition to working on the development of the community park, the CHCA held its annual meeting last fall, "Christmas in Callao" in December, and is preparing for the annual "Eggstravaganza" at the end of March which promotes the businesses of Callao with an "egg hunt," whereby you have your "Easter egg" decorated by visiting participating Callao businesses who decorate the egg with a specific color. Those with completely decorated eggs will bring them to the event and be eligible for a drawing of items donated by local businesses. The hope is that participants will visit the businesses and shop to see what our wonderful businesses have to offer.

The annual "Eggstravaganza" includes vendors, a bake sale, crafts for kids, a 50/50 raffle to benefit the park, Easter Bunny, and a flea market. CHCA will also have a table to display plans for the **Hometown Community Park**, brochures to promoting *Callao Virginia-Birthplace of the Crab Pot*, as well as, brochures promoting activities in

Northumberland County. Members will also be available to collect donations from those wishing to support our efforts to build a park, and we will have our signature "Callao Crab pot" ornaments for sale. Check out our QR code with a direct link to our website with community events, a link for donations, and information about our businesses in our area. We ask that those wishing to hold fundraisers to build the Park to



contact Lisa Deitz to coordinate efforts and publicity.

We will continue to keep the public informed of activities in Callao through Facebook. CHCA continues to look for volunteers to assist with events and provide input on what events and activities the public would like for Callao. We greatly appreciate the input we have received so far from the Callao Advisory Committee. They have had some marvelous ideas and have enhanced activities to benefit Callao. We've also added two new members to CHCA Board of Directors, Betty Blick and Theresa Lambert. We are looking forward to working with them as board members.

Thank you for your support!

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette M. Cralle
Secretary, CHCA



Check out our website to see larger image:
<https://gocallaova.org/discover>