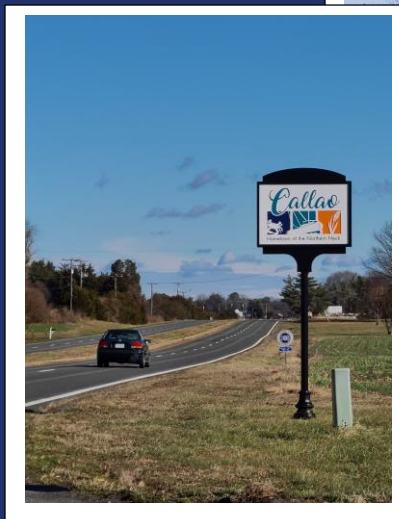




Callao
Hometown
Community
Association
 NEWSLETTER

**New Gateway Signage
 Installed in Callao**

As part of the Revitalization Project, Northumberland County was able to install new gateway signage at the entry points of Callao, Virginia. The signs include the “Callao, Hometown of the Northern Neck” logo to welcome guests and residents into the county. In the spring, the Callao Hometown Community Association plans to further enhance the entry points by adding landscaping around the gateway signs.



Callao to Get a Park!

The Burgess family has made it possible for Callao to finally be able to build a park! The Burgess family has purchased the land behind the VA ABC store and PRIMIS bank from the Williams Family and plan to donate a parcel to the Callao Hometown Community Association for the purpose of building a community park.

The Burgess family intends to donate the land for the future park, which used to be where the ballfield for Callao School was located. Bob Burgess played ball here as a young man. Mr. Burgess has fond

memories of playing ball at that location when it was a ballfield during his childhood. He wants future generations to build similar fond memories of [laying in the new park.

The Burgess Family was nominated to serve as Grand Marshall at the Callao Christmas Parade and are shown in the photo on the right leading the parade. The community is very thankful for this family and their generous donation. CHCA has begun raising funds to design and build the new park. Anyone interested in donating may go online at GoCallaoVA.org to make a contribution.



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CHRISTMAS IN CALLAO

Christmas in Callao, held December 5, 2021, was another successful event. The theme of the parade was once again a “Very Nauti Christmas” in tribute to the nautical nature of our river community,. Along with the parade (sponsored by CVFD), the day was full of festive holiday events including: a business decorations contest; antique car and truck show; holiday sales at various businesses; Arts and Crafts Bazaar at the Callao Volunteer Firehouse, crafts for children and visiting with Santa in front of the antique firetruck at the Callao firehouse. Representative Margaret Ransone collected gloves, hats and scarves for WRAR’s Christmas Wishes, and also canned goods to be donated to the local food bank.

The evening events included a Live Nativity, carol singing, and the lighting of the Crab Pot Tree. The Callao Hometown Community Association served hot chocolate and cookies at the Live Nativity. Callao boasts the first Crab Pot Tree in the Northern Neck, which pays homage to Callao being the birthplace of the crabpot.

Winners of the Business Decorations Contest include:

Best Decorated Business (Lighted)

- 1st RW’s Sport Shop
- 2nd Joe Self Realty & Perkins Diesel
- 3rd Shore Realty
- 4th Callao Firehouse

Best Decorated Business (Unlighted)

- 1st Shore Realty
- 2nd RW’s Sport Shop
- 3rd Joe Self Realty
- 4th Callao Firehouse & Waterfield Taxes

Best Nauti Decorated Business

- RW’s Sport Shop
- Joe Self Realty

Thanks to all who participated and made our wonderful town look festive.



LIVE NATIVITY



CALLAO SUPPLY COMPANY

Multi-Generational Businesses

One of the unique qualities of Callao, "Hometown of the Northern Neck," is that we boast many multi-generational businesses as a mainstay of the community. One such business is Callao Supply Company, which was established in 1938 by Edwin and Helen Deitz.

Callao Supply Company, located at 409 Northumberland Highway, was operated by Edwin and Helen Deitz between 1938 and 1968. The Deitz family moved to Callao from Wicomico Church in the 1940's. Helen was expecting twins when they opened Callao Supply Company as a hardware store. They already had two boys. This young couple with a growing family had a vision of success and ventured into the hardware business.

The section of the store where the cash register is presently located was the original section of the hardware store. The current office of Callao Supply was the original law office for T.A. Williams. There was even a beauty shop in that section behind Mr. Williams' office. They started with just the center section of the current location and built the adjacent areas in order to expand and keep up with the growing demand for their products. Besides

hardware, Callao Supply sold lumber, plywood, windows and doors. Mr. Deitz ran a Millwork shop behind the store producing custom millwork orders. Many of the windows and doors that were sold were custom built in this millwork shop. In the 1940's, Mr. Deitz also operated a sawmill. During the war they cut a great deal of lumber. There was so much demand during the war they even took lumber to Baltimore to be sold. Due to high demand, they would cut it green and plane it green the next day to keep up. They were so busy, at one time Mr. Deitz employed about 70 men working between the hardware store, the sawmill and the crews he had building houses. Some of the men helped out on the two farms that he also owned. The current Pritchard and Fallin building was originally built and operated by Mrs. Deitz. The Deitz family also built and operated the motel and Mr. Deitz and his father built the old Gardy's Mill, which was a five story building beside the current firehouse.

The next Deitz generation to operate Callao Supply Company was Phillip H. Deitz starting in 1968. He stopped building houses to take over Callao Supply. He was responsible for building several warehouses. The back section of the store used to be a warehouse. In the 1980's the wall to the back section was knocked out and turned into a

showroom. There was once a porch where the paint room is now.

Phillip H. Deitz's son, Phillip E. Deitz, took over the business in 2002. Phillip E. Deitz started working in the family business at the age of 13 and currently operates the business with his wife, Lisa. Their son, Jason, and daughter, Leslie, also work in the family business. Their grandchildren are often there to entertain the customers with their cute antics.

After suffering a devastating fire in 2006 which burned down the main warehouse (housing windows, doors, and millwork) Phillip and his family demonstrated resilience and a strong faith, while they spent many years rebuilding. Today, amidst the uptick in the housing business in recent years, the housing and construction market has greatly improved. This has kept the crew very busy. Callao Supply Company currently carries hardware, building materials, animal feed, lawn and garden supplies, Valspar paint, Cabot stain and more. One of the unique attractions in Callao Supply includes an antique scale (over 100 years old) which gets calibrated yearly by state inspectors. The accuracy is incredible. The crew will weigh your hardware and your seeds with precision. If you want to experience the old fashioned service of a small business, check out Callao Supply and all that a multi-generational business has to offer.



Hours of Operation
 7:30 a.m. - 5 pm Mon.-Fri.
 7:30 a.m. - 12 pm Sat.
 (804) 529-6265



Cralle Insurance Agency, Inc.



Cralle Insurance Agency, Inc. is another multi-generational business located in Callao, with an additional branch office in Montross, Virginia. The business was established in 1948 by Lewis Broaddus Cralle, Sr. The original location was on route 360, in the heart of Callao.

Lewis B. Cralle Sr. ran the business in Callao until his passing in 1965. His son, Lewis B. Cralle, Jr. was away attending Gordon Military College and all set for a career in the military when he learned of his father's passing. He was summoned home to run the family business and help to look out for his mother, since he was an only child. Lewis B. Cralle Jr. was only in his twenties when this happened, but with some help from his uncle (by marriage) James Suthard, he was able to keep the business going and eventually expanded.

Around 1987, Lewis B. Cralle Jr. purchased the Northern Neck Insurance book of business (NNINS Agency Code #3) from Mr. Herbert Bronner, who was retiring. He also later purchased June Parker's Agency which had NNINS Agency Code #2. His son, Chris Cralle, followed in his father and grandfather's footsteps when he joined the business after graduating college in 1989.

According to Chris Cralle: "During my youth, I watched how my family loved serving the locals and the community with their insurance needs. If someone suffered a loss due to bad weather or fire, my dad was on site to help them through the process of rebuilding." After joining the business in 1989, Chris said he continued the family tradition with the desire to do just as they had done for many years before him, which was to serve our community. Chris became president of the

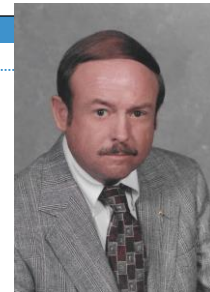
company when his dad passed in 1998. Today, Chris, his mom, Betty F. Cralle, and sister, Susan C. Saunders, co-own the family agency.

As president, Chris has continued to nurture and grow the family legacy. In 2020, Cralle Insurance Agency, Inc. purchased the book of business from People's Insurance in Montross and opened a second location at 17318 Kings Highway, Montross, Virginia. Chris says, "Now I am so pleased that my son, Christopher Lewis Cralle, has chosen the path that his great-grandfather, grandfather, and I chose and has joined our agency."

The first Cralle came to Northumberland County in 1680 and purchased the land where Chris lives today in 1711. Cralle Insurance Agency, Inc. continues to serve the community they love with their deep roots in the community, excellent agents on staff, and now the fourth generation carrying on in the family business.



Photo by Mike Antonio



Hours: 9 am - 5 pm, Monday - Friday
 9:00 a.m. -noon Saturday (Callao Office)
 51 Factory Lane, Callao VA22435
 (80) 529-6226, (804) 493-8872
www.cralleinsurance.com

AMISH COMMUNITY

Amish Community Update

The Amish Community continues to grow in the Northern Neck of VA. Since our last issue, about eight new families have moved to the area (currently about thirty families in the NNK Amish community).

Pine Woods Farm, a homestead near Callao, located at 1313 Fruit Plain Road, Callao Virginia, continues to offer fresh chickens, and whole pigs for your BBQ pit (100-200 pound pigs). Beginning the second week of March (on Saturdays) they will reopen with cheese, butter, honey, cottage cheese and sour cream.

The owner, Joseph Hosteller, has been hard at work this winter



Pinewood Farms new Poultry Habitat

with his homestead. In addition to the area where he manages the poultry operation, he has added a large chicken habitat nearby to make it convenient for the processing. Mr. Hosteller said since they did very well with turkeys last fall, he plans to offer them again this year. He hopes to get 200 this time. You can't get much fresher!

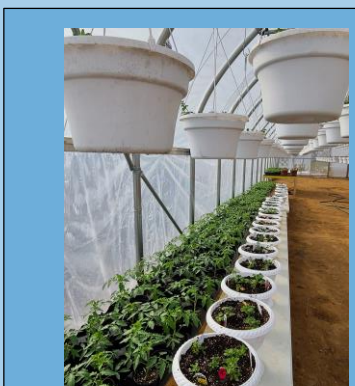
Mr. Hosteller said his community is still planning to open a cheese house on Calvary Church Road. He said they are working diligently to get the permits approved by the Department of Environmental Quality. Once the permits are



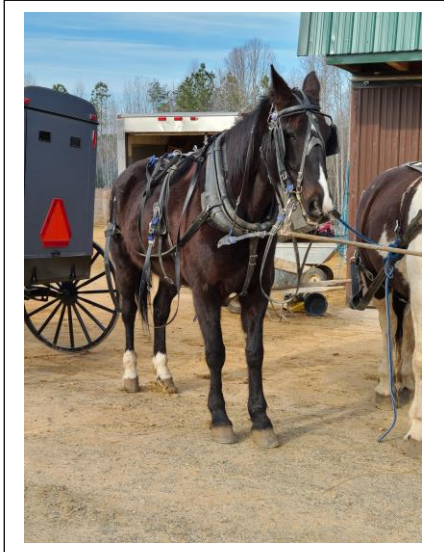
approved, they will begin working on the buildings.

Woodland Acres Greenhouse, owned and operated by Ben Esh and his family, is located at 1415 Fruit Plain Road, Callao Virginia. On Saturdays, they currently operate their bake stand at this location.

Mr. Esh and his family have also been extremely busy this

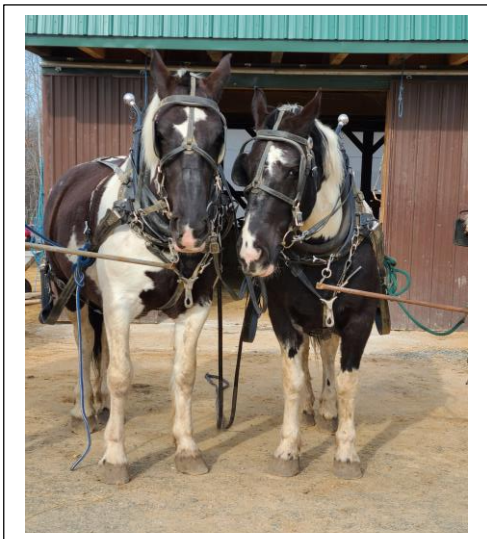


AMISH COMMUNITY (cont.)



winter expanding their homestead. Along with building their new home, they have added a second, new larger greenhouse and already have a multitude of hanging baskets and planters started. In addition to the hanging baskets and planters, they had tomato plants started which they planted in the newly erected hoop house, hoping to have early tomatoes. Mr. Esh had his team of horses out recently tilling the land and is about to plant onions. Fresh tomatoes and onions sound delicious!

This spring, they will have a variety of plants including herbs, annuals, possibly perennials, and hopefully vegetables this summer. Starting with the first Saturday in April, the Esh family will reopen their roadside stand nearby on route 202 near the old Hyacinth Post Office next to Henderson Church. They will operate at this location most Saturday mornings. Mr. Esh hopes to install a more durable covered structure for the stand to help in case there is inclement weather. Get ready for those fresh doughnuts, baked goods, and some colorful and beautiful plants.



W.C. Lowery, Inc.

In this issue we have been featuring some of the “multi-generational” businesses that comprise a foundational part of the Callao Business District. W.C. Lowery, Inc. is one such business, with its origin going back to 1956. The founder, Warren C. Lowery, Sr. (otherwise known as “Pop” to his family) started the business with a dump truck and a shovel. He operated out of his house, with his wife, Kathleen Lowery, doing the books. Mr. Lowery Sr. added two trucks (seven yard mixers) for the redi-mix business and progressed to septic installation in the 1960’s. The current crew recently came across one of the early invoices, and it was for installation of a new septic system for \$600! Oh, how times have changed!

After Gardy’s Mill burned in the 1970’s, the Lowery family purchased that property and built their original plant (up the hill behind where their current location is now). Warren’s younger son, Dennis Lowery, began working in the family business in 1974. He worked mostly with pumping, concrete, and added the portable toilet rental operation. Warren Lowery, Jr. started in the 1980’s and focused on septic installation.

Dennis’ children, (the third generation) also work in the family business. Dennis’ son, Carter,

joined the family business in 2007. His daughter, Meghan Lowery, has worked in the business since 2010. Even Meghan’s daughter, Callie (shown below) has been known to help the business by recording radio ads. They are grooming her early to come aboard...

Warren C. Lowery, Sr. built a solid reputation in the community and the generations that have followed work hard to carry on the family tradition. They want the community to know they offer quality septic systems, pumping services, and reliable portable toilets. It is not unusual for W.C. Lowery, Inc. to rent out 500 portable toilets per month, especially to construction sites and weekend rentals. They have added the specialty portable toilets on trailers, that are ADA compliant and are used mostly for special events. These are often reserved a year in advance,

so call or email them early if you have a special event or wedding in need of this service. (Note: Portable toilets are “self-contained units where human waste is stored temporarily in a holding tank and removed by some very dedicated people.”)

Today, W. C. Lowery, Inc. has 3 mixers, 4 portable toilet trailers, and 2 pumpers. They average pumping about 81,000 gallons of human waste per month. They have installed septic systems from Aylett to Middle Peninsula and, of course, most places in between. They say: “Leave the dirty work of sewage and portable restrooms to W.C. Lowery, Inc., a quality septic services company in Callao, Virginia.” They have been in business since the 1950’s and hope to carry on for generations to come.



Callie Lowery

Dennis, Carter and Warren Lowery
photo by Gina Lowery



Carter, Dennis and Meghan Lowery



Hours of Operation
Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(804) 529-6210 (877)529-0712

Brunswick Stew Fundraiser for Callao Park

Stew Master, Tom Giannasi, generously sponsored CHCA's first fundraiser to kick off efforts to build a Community Park in Callao, Virginia. The event was held Saturday, March 5, 2022 at the Callao Supermarket parking lot. By all accounts, it was a smashing success!

Tom Giannasi started cooking stew in 2002 using his Grand Mother Hester's recipe. She had passed it down to his mother, Marion Hester Giannasi. The first pot of stew that he cooked was to raise funds for the Boy Scouts, where he served as an Assistant Scout Master for Troop 715 Richmond, Virginia. Since then, he has also helped, Boy Scout Troops 250 (Callao) and 777 (Richmond), Knights of Columbus Council 395, Council 11172, Council 5476, James Madison University Catholic Campus Ministry, St Bridget's Catholic Church, and Boys to Men Club at St Michael's Catholic Church raise funds for their various charitable projects. In addition to stew, he is known for his spaghetti sauce and cooks a spaghetti dinner for the St. Bridget youth group mission trip each year. Tom is also the chef for Knights of Columbus 395 and has organized a number of events to raise funds for various charities. As of 2022 Tom has help these organizations raise over \$300,000 in funds to support various charities in Richmond and the Commonwealth of Virginia. His goal is to raise \$500,000 for charity before hanging up his chef coat.

Tom Giannasi brought a team of helpful volunteers to assist him with preparing the Brunswick stew: Tony Shearin; Chuck Dunnington;

Billy Putze; and Tom Martin (who also donated cases of bottled iced tea to help with the cause). These gentleman have local ties to the area and enjoy helping out worthy causes. They did an excellent job and the stew was delicious.

Along with Tom Gianasi, Mr. Shearin, Mr. Dunnington, Mr. Putze, Mr. Martin, and all of the Callao Hometown Community Association Board Members, other volunteers included Judy Taylor, Alice Burgess, Jim Michel, and Dusti Dunn. CHCA greatly appreciates everyone's efforts to make it a success. (Board members include: Lisa Deitz, Bobby Burgess, Reuben Thrift, Debbie Newsome, Dee David and Jeanette Cralle). We also wish to thank Dan Corder, one of our most ardent supporters, for allowing CHCA to hold the event at the Callao Supermarket parking lot. President of CHCA, Lisa Deitz, reports that the response from the community has been outstanding.

Everyone is so excited to get started raising funds necessary to build a park that the community will be able to enjoy for years to come. CHCA hopes to raise at least \$100,000 for this endeavor. Anyone interested in donating may contribute on-line at www.gocallaova.org or make checks payable to CHCA, care of Lisa Deitz, Callao Supply or any of the board members. Thanks again to everyone who has donated time, money or purchased Brunswick Stew at our Drive Thru Fund Drive to help to make this a successful event.

COMING SOON!

Big Mike's & Barb's Seafood & Eatery



CHCA UPDATE

Once again, as the Callao Hometown Community Association Board of Directors reflect over the previous year, we are very thankful for the support of the community, individuals and businesses who helped us throughout the year and those who contributed to our events. We are happy to have partnered with the Callao Volunteer Fire Department to hold the "Christmas in Callao" event once again. We are also excited to be getting closer to making the development of a community park a reality.

As you may recall, our website went live this past year and we look forward to continuing to enhance it to inform the public on what business and services are available in Callao. We want to educate the public on the history of the area, as well as, attract visitors to this beautiful river community. The website is intended to inform new and current residents on what is available locally, as well, and to entice folks to shop local. The website also has the ability to accept contributions to assist us with funding the worthwhile endeavors of the



organization and with the fundraising efforts to establish our community park.

The website features links to places to Discover, Explore, Shop and Eat, in and around Callao. The site lists Community Events and archives our organization's newsletter. If you have not already done so, please bookmark the site as one of your "favorites" and check us out: gocallaova.org.

At last publication, we were about to launch the marketing brochure "Disconnect to Reconnect" (in partnership with Reedville Fisherman's Museum and Rice's Inn/Hughlett's Tavern). This was a success and complements our website. It includes a QR code that links to an itinerary on the website that we can update seasonally or when businesses change. Along with placing these guides to Northumberland County in the Visitor Center and local area businesses, we placed these brochures in rest stops, hotels, and businesses. We still have some available if you have a hospitality business and would like to include with your literature on local offerings.

As we look forward to the upcoming year ahead, we hope the community will support us. We had a Brunswick Stew "Drive Thru" fundraiser on March 5, 2022 between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.. The public was able to place orders on line at our website (listed above) and come to the Callao Supermarket Parking Lot on Saturday to pick up their delicious Brunswick Stew. They could also contact Lisa Deitz at Callao Supply or Debbie Newsome at VanLand Realty to place your orders. Stew master Tom Giannasi generously agreed to help sponsor this event with the proceeds going towards helping with the new park. We also had cases and bottles of

ice tea for sale that he generously donated with the proceeds benefiting the park too. Please support this worthy cause and when the park is complete you will know that the community united to make it happen and you contributed!

General donations help to fund our mission to promote Callao, upcoming education and training sessions, community events. We continue to sell the Callao crab pot ornaments at Callao Supply and Olde Crab & Crow, so please stop by these locations for yours. As with many items, materials costs went up, so we did have to increase the price, but hopefully you will find the cause worth the small increase.

Along with a strong presence on Facebook, other social media mediums for CHCA are a YouTube channel and Instagram. The YouTube channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXD5J3RElu54ciBF8IU0w> The Instagram address is: <https://www.instagram.com/callaovirginia/>

CHCA continues to solicit for volunteers to assist with events and input for what events and activities the public would like for Callao. Please be sure to contact us with your ideas. We would like to encourage Callao businesses to spruce up for the upcoming Garden Club "Historic Garden Week" being held April 23-30, 2022. Gardens at homes in nearby Mundy Point, Callao are being featured and we hope to attract some of the visitors to stop and shop in Callao. Thank you for your support!

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette M. Cralle
Secretary, CHCA