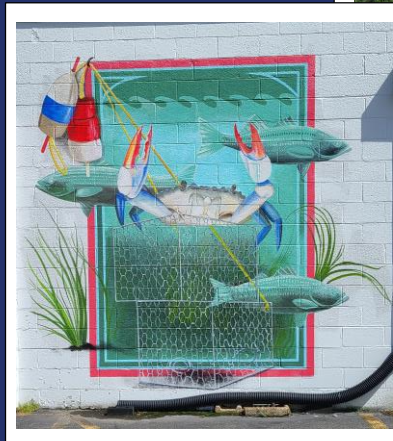




**Hometown
Community
Association**
NEWSLETTER

Revitalization Grant Project has Come to an End

The Revitalization Project for Northumberland County in the Callao business district has come to a conclusion. Upgrades to the Borst property on the corner of Routes 360 and 202 were completed at the end of June, and hopefully the Pride of Virginia property will soon follow. Callao has been enhanced with murals, façade improvements, sidewalks, lighting, landscaping, crosswalks, benches, planters and gateway signage. Enjoy!



Land for Park Finalized!

The Burgess family officially signed over land to the Callao Hometown Community Association (CHCA) so Callao can build a park! The 2.3-acre parcel of land is located in the heart of Callao, behind the VA ABC store and PRIMIS bank.

In a presentation to the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors at their May meeting, Mr. Bob Burgess told the board members that his family wanted to give back to the community that the Burgess family has served for many decades. Mr. Burgess said, "The community has been so good to us over the years,

when we learned of the group's desire to build a community park, we thought 'What better way to give back than to make it possible to have a park that can be enjoyed by young and old alike for years to come.'" The Burgess family was recognized by the Board of Supervisors for their contributions to the community.

The community is very thankful for this family and their generous land donation. CHCA has begun efforts to raise at least \$200,000 to design and build the new park. Anyone interested in donating to this cause may go online at: www.GoCallaoVA.org to make a contribution.



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COUNTY LINE MARKET

The McKenney family operates a local produce market called the “County Line Market,” located at **14590 Richmond Road, Callao, Virginia**. The McKenney’s (Jack, Val, Justin and Jamie) opened County Line Market in 2019. It grew out of their desire to incorporate their farming business, Sion House Farms (started in 2015 with wholesale produce only) with a family friendly business that would accommodate Jamie McKenney’s schedule as a working mom.

The McKenney’s contemplated doing mostly weekend farmer’s markets. However, that would not have really worked with the family’s lifestyle. They looked around for a location for a possible produce stand and found the current spot, which formerly housed an older produce stand. They spoke to the previous owner to see if they were willing to sell, and as luck would have it, they were. The McKenney’s purchased the property, removed the older structure, and constructed the present building. They opened the County Line Market in April 2019.

At first, the County Line sold mostly produce. But, when COVID19 hit, though, they recognized there was a growing need to expand into the retail market. Customers were searching for locally sourced and healthier food selections. The County Line Market carries: its own house line of canned products; local Amish baked goods, Virginia plantation peanuts, local honey; local bloody Mary mix; MobJack Bay coffee, eggs

Virginia Maple Syrup, specialty items, and several varieties of mushrooms they grow themselves.

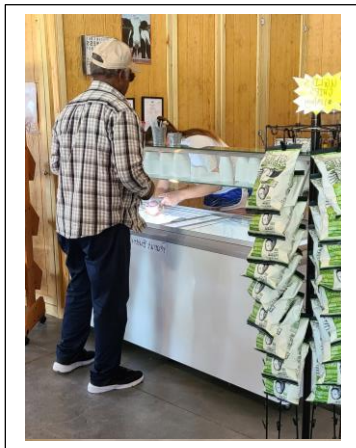
The mushroom operation is fascinating. They converted half a building at Sion Farms as a cooler and the other half to grow mushrooms. They grow them on blocks and use a humidifier to create the perfect climate. The mushrooms grow quickly so they take down everything every few months to sanitize and start again. They offer many varieties including: oyster mushrooms, chestnut, lion’s mane, shitake and soon maitake. The mushrooms have gotten extremely popular with locals and visitors alike.

One of the most popular lines of retail products at County Line Market are the products from the Homestead Creamery of Franklin which include milk, lemonade, and their most popular item – hand-scooped ice cream. Customer favorite flavors include espresso and chocolate chip!

Other customer favorite items include delicious cantaloupe and Salanova lettuce mix grown nearby at Sion Farms. They also have a hydroponic operation in (cont. pg. 3)



COUNTY LINE MARKET



Josslyn (9), Joely (6) and Jude (1)



COUNTY LINE MARKET (CONT.)

(cont. from pg. 2) their greenhouses and produce about 150 pounds of tomatoes per week. They raise tomatoes between March and December. Jamie also plans to sell cut flowers this summer. She is growing celosia, daucus, sunflowers, marigolds, cosmos, and zinnias to name a few. They should be ready in July.

Jamie McKenney says she really enjoys working with her customers. She always tries hard to accommodate her customer's special orders. She even found pickled green tomatoes for one particular customer. Their employees, Sarah and Lexy, say they like the family oriented atmosphere at the County Line Market. Come check out what County Line Market has to offer.

County Line Market is open year round. Current hours of operation are Tuesday - Friday, 11:00 - 5:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Jamie McKenney



Summer Hours of Operation
 Tuesday - Friday, 11:00 - 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 (804) 529-1060

CALLAO JUBILEE



The newest shop to open in Callao, Virginia is the *Callao Jubilee*, LLC., located at 32 Hampton Hall Road, Callao, Virginia in the former Joe Self Realty building. The CEO and Owner, Adriana Gonzales, purchased the business as a tribute to her beloved mother, Rosie Rubio, who owned a consignment business in California.

Ms. Gonzales, a Federal employee based out of Washington DC, was looking for a place to live after retirement, when she found the Lottsburg/Callao area. She loved the small town country vibe that Callao offers and decided to purchase a home in the area and open up a small business. When her mother became ill, Ms. Gonzales moved her here fulltime so she could be close to her mother while she was going through treatments. They found a lovely waterfront place in Lottsburg that they both fell in love with that Mrs. Rubio told all of her friends was "paradise." Both Mrs. Rubio and Ms. Gonzales fell in love with the area. Thankfully, Mrs. Rubio, lived long enough to see the dream of *Callao Jubilee* come to fruition. Adriana feels her mother's presence and spirit in everything she and her brothers accomplish. In fact, the name, "Callao Jubilee" is a reference to both her mother and the area they both loved.

Ms. Gonzales says "Jubilee" comes from Leviticus 25 and refers to "celebration." With the *Callao Jubilee*, she is "celebrating"

both her mom and a new beginning in a town she loves. Adriana also loves the idea of helping residents and artists to augment their retirement or to improve their lives.

Callao Jubilee offers an upscale line of consignment items, handmade jewelry by Sandie Doptis, and other Virginia made products. They carry gently used hand bags, including Coach and Michael Kors, fine furniture, and household items. Featured artisans include David Butt and his unique wood and driftwood creations, Garden Blossoms by Mary Hayes,



Pieces by local artisan, David Butt



as well as, Ronda's Seashell Angel Crafts. It's so exciting because you never know what you will find, since the inventory is always changing. For those wishing to place items on consignment, *Callao Jubilee* uses a 50% consignment arrangement for furnishings, household items, handbags, etc. and 25% for art work from local artisans. (cont. pg. 7)



Hours: 10 am - 3 pm, Tuesday - Saturday

52 Hampton Hall Road
Callao VA 22435
(540) 623-8832

AMISH COMMUNITY

Woodland Acres Greenhouse Expands

The Amish Community continues to grow in the Northern Neck of VA. Woodland Acre Greenhouse has expanded its operation to include the addition of a covered structure at its farm stand on 2247 Hampton Hall Road, Callao, Virginia. This new structure offers more room to display products and added protection from inclement weather.

At their newly expanded roadside stand, the Esh family offers fresh produce grown at their nearby farm, homemade baked goods, doughnuts, and cut flowers. They also have seasonal plants and herbs available that they grow in their greenhouses.

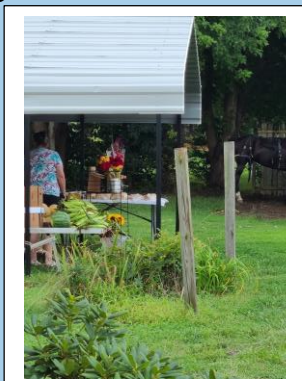


The Amish Community is still working through the permitting process to build their cheese house on Calvary Church Road. They plan to have a similar operation to what they have in Southern Maryland offering a variety of different cheeses.

Additionally, in other news, the Amish Community is hoping to build a new school in Northumberland County near the Esh Farm to accommodate the growing population of children. This would provide them with a new place to learn and help reduce their class sizes. They are hoping to go before the Board of Supervisors of



the County to get approval for their private school. If approved, they will begin fundraising efforts to purchase supplies and materials. The Amish Community is well known as having excellent carpenters and crafts-men, so we are looking forward to seeing what the future holds for the Amish Community in the Northern Neck.



Tootsie's Diner



The latest restaurant to open in Callao is Tootsie's Diner which opened in July 2022. Tootsie's Diner is located at 255 Northumberland Highway, Callao Virginia. The restaurant has a 50's-60's vibe and serves a variety of "diner" style foods. They are collaborating with the "Flipping Yellow Truck" to bring good food and a fun atmosphere for the dining public. Inside you'll find checkered tiled floors, vinyl records, license plates, "Coca-Cola," and "Texaco" memorabilia decorating the walls (the location was a former Texaco) contributing to the "diner" feel.

The sign for Tootsie's Diner says: "Bringing Back the Good Ol' Days" and that's what they are hoping to do. They are serving breakfast all day. They offer a nightly dinner special, salads, homemade soups, homemade desserts, and hand scooped ice cream and milkshakes. They also have a "build your own sandwich" option. Tootsie's Diner also plans to cater to children by having a "wishing well" similar to what Lowery's in Tappahannock used to have, which was always such a huge hit with the children.

Hours of operation:

Sunday 7am - 6 pm

Monday - Thursday 7 am - 7 pm

Friday - Saturday 7 am - 9 pm



CALLAO JUBLIEE (cont. from page 4)

Ms. Gonzales tries to create an inviting atmosphere in her shop. The lovely wood floors, arched windows, and embracing old character of the building are charming. It is said that the materials used to build the house were shipped by steamboat from Baltimore and delivered to the Port of Kinsale in the 1950's. It definitely adds to the friendly and upscale feel of the shop.

Ms. Gonzales also cares about people and loves being a part of the community. After spending so much of her life in public service, first when she served in the U.S. Marine Corps and then while working for the Federal Government in Homeland Security, Ms. Gonzales has spent years helping others.

That's why she appreciates having others to help her. She says she has excellent staff to assist her. Jane Woodle (formerly of "Mosaics" in Callao) and Allison Carlisle work in the shop while she still

works in Washington D.C. during the week. Adriana has moved around so much, while growing up with a father whose career kept their family relocating, and then while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps and then DHS, Arianna says she loves that she and her Golden Doodle have now found a home in the Northern Neck. She loves relaxing on the water, her little piece of "paradise." She especially loves the tranquility of connecting with nature and all it has to offer.

Next up on the horizon, include plans to open a Coffee and Tea Airstream on the property to serve delicious

coffee and teas. Ms. Gonzales' brothers and nephew are helping her to fix it up. They have faced a few unexpected challenges getting it up and running, but they are hoping to get it operational by this Fall. They plan to hire two or three employees and will be seeking early risers to cater to the early crowd who want a great cup of coffee to start their day. Come check it out when they open.

In the meantime, visit *Callao Jubilee* to see what treasures you can find.

Adriana Gonzales



Jane Woodle



VAN LAND REALTY

In previous issues we featured multi-generational businesses that are a mainstay in the Callao business district. Another such business is Van Land Realty, founded by Robert G. VanLandingham in 1975. Mr. VanLandingham started in 1963 as an insurance agent. He got his real estate license in 1970 and worked full time for Strout, a national concern, specializing in farm and rural properties. He worked from home for three years. Mr. VanLandingham really enjoyed working with the land and country living.

Van Land Realty is located at 319 Northumberland Highway in Callao, Virginia. Mr. VanLandingham bought the property where the Van Land Realty office is located from the Beauchamp estate in 1975. He sold a parcel of the property behind his office to Lewis B. Cralle of Cralle Insurance. Mr. VanLandingham said he “worked out a deal in exchange for insurance premiums.”

Mr. VanLandingham truly enjoys working with rural properties and farming. He particularly likes selling farm land and developing waterfront properties. His civic interests include attending Bethany Baptist Church and supporting the Gideons and Young Farmers. Mr. VanLandingham is also a member of the Northumberland Wetlands Board and the Soil & Conservation Board.

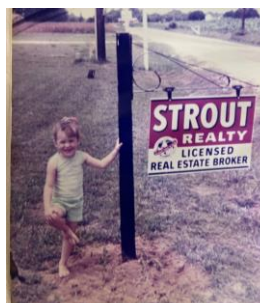
When asked about the history of Callao, Mr. Valandingham fondly recollects Callao having an “excellent baseball team” years ago. They used to play on Saturdays and Sundays at the old Callao School ballfield (where the new community park will be built) in the Chesapeake League. Mr.

VanLandingham recalls teams coming from: Wicomico Church; Reedville; Heathsville; White Stone; Irvington; Warsaw; Luttrellville; and Kinsale. Some team members included: Weymouth Hughes; Leon Douglas; Robert Boyle; Calvin Keyser; and Jimmy Jewell. Mr. VanLandingham said his best friend, Leon Douglas, was the best ball player he knew and he went on to be a “bonus boy” for the Milwaukee Braves. Other fond memories of Callao include attending movies in the Callao movie hall as a boy. He said his mom “loved all the movies when I was a kid” so they went often. Family is important to Mr. VanLandingham. He said he has been married to the “love of his life,” Katherine VanLandingham, for 59 years. He also says he enjoys working with his daughter.

Mr. VanLandingham’s daughter, Debbie VanLandingham Newsome, has been working in the Van Land Realty office since she was 13 years old. She says she started as the “grass cutter” and doing clerical work writing the contracts. As a child, she entertained the clients while her dad was with other customers. After graduating from Rappahannock Community College, Debbie joined the real estate office full time. She became a real estate agent in 1988 and in 1989, became an appraiser. Mrs. Newsome serves as the treasurer of the Northern Neck Association of Realtors. She is also the nursery attendant at Bethany Church and a Board member of CHCA. Mrs. Newsome is carrying on the family tradition as an integral part of the operation of Van Land Realty, as well as, a valuable member of the Callao Community.



Robert G. Vanlandingham, Broker



Debbie, Future Real Estate Agent



CHCA UPDATE

The Callao Hometown Community Association Board of Directors is one step closer to achieving the dream of a community park in Callao. With the generous donation of the parcel of land from the Burgess family finalized, the CHCA has begun its phased fundraising efforts in earnest. We anticipate needing to raise at least \$200,000 for this first phase and have a link on our website to assist with this purpose. We will also be holding a fund drive letter campaign and will be conducting various fund raisers for residents, businesses and civic minded individuals to contribute towards this worthy goal.

The Board of Directors of CHCA is in the process of selecting an engineer to create a site plan to design the park. Once a design is determined, the next steps will include plans for clearing the land and designing the layout and what equipment will be used. Along with playground equipment for children, the Board members envision a walking trail around the park and memorial benches throughout the park. The CHCA will continue to work closely the



Northumberland County officials towards the successful installation of a community park.

In addition to working on the development of the community park, the CHCA has also been busy promoting the businesses and history of Callao and surrounding areas. This includes the publication of a brochure entitled, *Callao Virginia- Birthplace of the Crab Pot*. This brochure tells the history of Harryhogan/Callao native, Benjamin Franklin Lewis, who received patents for his crab pot that is still in use today. These brochures will be placed at various locations throughout the area to share a bit of Callao history with the public.

Another item we recently published to promote Callao is a table tent with a QR code that is a direct link to our website. As described in previous issues, the web site is designed to provide community calendar events, promote local businesses, and educate the public:

<https://gocallaova.org/discover>



These table tents and brochures are available to be placed at businesses and Air B&B's. Please contact our president, Lisa Deitz, at Callao Supply if you are interested in placing any of these items in your place of business or organization.

We have also been keeping the public informed of activities in Callao with our Social Media updates. Along with a strong presence on Facebook, other social media mediums for CHCA are a YouTube channel and Instagram. The Instagram address is:

<https://www.instagram.com/callaovirginia/>

In addition to promoting businesses, activities and the history of Callao, you may have noticed the "crab pot wire chairs" and crab tables that have recently been installed throughout the business district. As part of the Revitalization Grant, CHCA received funding to purchase these unique items to install throughout Callao. Please check them out. Also stayed tuned for some other interesting installations coming later this year. We think you will just love them too.

CHCA continues to solicit for volunteers to assist with events and input for 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, including the "Egg-Stravaganza" held last Spring. We can't wait to see what they come up with next.

Additionally, we also really need volunteers to "adopt a flower bed" to help with weeding and watering to ensure the flower beds that were installed under the Revitalization Project are maintained. We continue to be thankful for the wonderful volunteers of the Callao Moose Lodge Legion of Honor that help install our flags for the patriotic holidays and we are hopeful that the same civic minded dedication they've shown will be contagious with other groups and individuals.

Thank you for your support!

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette M. Cralle
Secretary, CHCA