



Callao
Hometown
Community
Association
 NEWSLETTER

New Crosswalks in Callao

As part of the Revitalization Project in Callao, Virginia, three new crosswalks have been installed. One is located near the Post Office. Another is near Shore Realty and Waterfield Taxes, and the third is located by the Callao Volunteer Fire house. The new solar powered crosswalks are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.



CHCA Unveils New Logo

Callao Hometown Community Association recently unveiled its new logo (shown above) on our Facebook page. We listened to community input expressing that they wanted a more modern logo that better represents the wonderful resources of our area. CHCA contracted with a talented local artist to design a new logo for our organization. The feedback on Facebook has been overwhelmingly favorable.

The logo includes the blue crab as an homage to our history as the birthplace of the crab pot. The logo also depicts a

Chesapeake “Dead rise” as a tribute to the fishing and recreational opportunities of the nearby rivers. Finally, it includes sheaths of wheat to represent the agricultural resources in the area.

We are excited our logo got a facelift. The new logo better represents Callao, “The Hometown of the Northern Neck” and incorporates the qualities that makes our area so special.

Thank you to those who provided constructive feedback. As we promote local businesses and educate the community and surrounding areas on what Callao, has to offer, we hope our new logo better conveys those qualities in a positive way. A

special “thank you” to Bernie Barclay of “www.lovecreate art” for incorporating key features from our area into our new logo. We look forward to a bright future for Callao.

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LOS PORTALES, MEXICAN RESTAURANT

If you are looking for excellent Mexican food at reasonable prices with friendly service, you really need to check out *Los Portales* in Callao, Virginia. Located at 803 Northumberland Highway, it is home to the best Mexican Restaurant in the Northern Neck and surrounding areas.

When COVID-19 first became a factor early last year, the proprietor of Los Portales, Miguel Ayala, said he had paid close attention and knew he needed to do something right away to sustain his business, since it looked like the pandemic was going to last for some time. Miguel was an early adaptor of COVID-19 protocols. Since restaurants were not permitted to have indoor dining, he converted his outdoor patio into a drive-thru window. He and his staff developed an efficient system in which they assigned each customer a number when they called in their take-out order and delivered the food to the customers through their “drive-thru”

window. Additionally, they added a deck with outdoor seating, umbrellas and heaters, to make up for the reduced indoor seating. Now, even though restaurants are still not permitted to seat at full capacity indoors, between the added capacity of the drive-through and the outdoor seating, Los Portales is near their original full capacity. Miguel said he has even helped other local businesses adopt COVID-19 protocols. He says he really likes being part of the community and enjoys helping others succeed.

It seems natural for Miguel to share a “family” atmosphere with his customers, since he owns the business with his family. He and his brothers Raul; Gerardo; and Elfazar Ayala L) own three locations of Los Portales and run them along with their spouses. (The other locations are in Tappahannock and Gloucester.) Miguel says his family chose Callao as a location of Los (continued pg. 3)



Pollo loco



Quesadilla Texana

(Cont. from pg. 2)

Portales because Miguel is a resident of Northumberland County. They also wanted to bring something different to Callao and share their sense of family and community with others. Miguel loves that the people of Callao are down to earth and made his family feel welcome.

Los Portales has been established in Callao for eight years. The proprietors did most of the renovations to the restaurant themselves (including the custom-made booths shown below built and upholstered by Miguel.) The name, "Los Portales" refers to a "swinging door" or "welcoming entrance." It is a traditional name that

resembles a name from their home village in Degollado Jalisco, Mexico. It coincides perfectly with the welcoming atmosphere and authentic Mexican ambience of the restaurant.

The Ayala Family has grown the business and contributes to the local economy. They said burritos are the most popular dish they sell (the Crazy Burrito, Burrito Bandito and the California Burrito.) They buy about 4,000 pounds of shrimp per year; 7,200 pounds each of rice and beans, and over 10,000 pounds of tortilla chips per year. They run a taco special on Tuesdays, and their highest month for tacos sales was selling over 10,000 tacos in one month!

Miguel Ayala L. thanks all of their customers that have contributed to their success over the years. He also would like to share a special message for their Spanish-speaking customers: "Agrade emos mucho a nuestros clients hispanos per el gran apoyo atravez de estos anos y lestos tiempos."



www.losportalestapp.com



CALL
(804) 529-9500
(804) 529-9900

NINA'S NEW & NEARLY NEW (AKA "THE BIKE MAN'S SHOP")



Al Scerbo owns and operates the wholesale/retail/repair shop that carries new and used bicycles, located at 410 Northumberland Highway in Callao, Virginia. Mr. Scerbo has operated his business in Callao for sixteen years, of which, the past three years have been at this location. He says he really likes his current location near the stoplight, because the traffic (and therefore the customers) comes in from all directions.

The Bike Man's Shop carries every kind of bike for kids and adults-- from mountain bikes to beach bikes. Mr. Scerbo says his favorite bicycle to work on (and his most popular seller) is the beach bike. It's the easiest of the bicycles to ride and doesn't have any gears or intricate parts. According to Mr. Scerbo, "It is a basic bike, you just hop on and hop off."

Mr. Scerbo says he got started as a consignment business. So many of his customers would come in and ask if he had any bicycles, and it "just grew from there." Since so many people come to Callao for

vacations and to spend the summers on the river and to go camping, etc., his busiest time is May through September. Many people ride on Lewisetta Road and other backroads, but Mr. Scerbo said he would love to also see a local bike trail in Callao. He said it would be a safe place to ride and would attract other businesses to the area. In the meantime, The Bike Man's Shop is available for whatever kinds of repairs bike owners need. "If you have problems with your bike (or are looking for a bike), give us a call" (804-529-5155). Have fun!



Amish Settlement

There is an Amish Settlement developing in the Callao/Sharps/Oldhams area. They currently have twenty-one (21) families in their community.

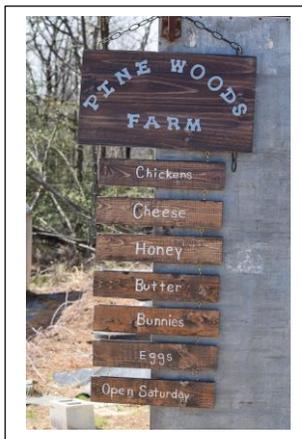
One homestead near Callao, named Pine Woods Farm, is located at 1313 Fruit Plain Road, Callao Virginia. They carry honey, fresh eggs, cheese, butter, and bunnies. In the autumn, they also sell sweet potatoes.

Pine Woods Farm raises horses, chickens and hogs (seasonally). They offer cow shares and plan on raising 100 turkeys this fall. The family is working on moving the sales area to a larger shop on the



property once it is complete. The owner, Joseph Hosteller, says his goal is to make a living off of the farm selling barbeque hogs, chickens, and more. They are open on Fridays and Saturdays. Be prepared for a long dirt driveway, but it is really going to be worth the effort, because the owner says he is working on clearing the property to establish “beautiful green farmland.”

The Northern Neck Amish community currently includes farmers, loggers, carpenters, and some wonderful bakers. Joseph says more dairy farmers are to come. His community plans on building a cheese house nearby on Calvary Church Road (Farnham) similar to the one they have in Maryland. They will sell American cheeses such as Marble Jack, Pepper Jack, Cheddar and White Cheddar. They will also make the popular, Cuajada cheese, which uses a South American recipe and is made in a salty brine. It will be interesting to watch this community grow.



FOUR SEASON'S FLOWERS



Four Season's Flowers & Gifts is our local florist and wedding consultant in Callao, Virginia. The owner, Robert D. Davis, Jr., has worked in a flower shop since he was twenty-two years old. The first time was with Jane Bryant in Scott's Florist across from Rappahannock High School. Robert Cralle did the deliveries back then. Jane Bryant moved the shop to Callao. Then Joe and Patsy Self operated it as "Callao Florist."

Mr. Davis bought the shop from Joe and Patsy Self and moved it across from the Dairy Freeze, renting from Pritchard and Fallin. Eventually, he outgrew that location and moved it to the old laundry mat. Later, upon facing some financial difficulty, Mr. Davis decided to close the shop in Callao and took a job with the Thalheimer Department Store. Mr. Davis worked as a designer for Thalheimer Department Stores for five

years, where he designed window and store displays. This opportunity allowed him to regain his financial footing, and soon after, allowed him to open a shop in Village which he operated for two years. Robert then purchased his current location near Callao in 1985 and has been at that location (16279 Richmond Road, Callao, Virginia) ever since. In 2019, Four Seasons Flowers & Gifts expanded their showroom with a wonderful addition. This gives them extra space to showcase their beautiful table displays that look like something you might see in the fancy window displays of New York City.

Four Season's Flowers & Gifts sells fresh cut and artificial floral arrangements, as well as, potted plants, dish gardens, and gift items for all occasions. The silk wreaths are hand wrapped and put together manually in the shop. This process is labor intensive, but each are created with love and care. (Cont. on pg. 7)

(Cont. from pg. 6) The florist also provides flowers for three local funeral homes, one of which it has been serving for over thirty years!

Four Seasons has a loyal customer base. A flower truck delivers fresh flowers to Four Season's five days a week. Roses are the most popular flower sold, with over 1500 being sold during this past Valentine's Day holiday. He said most people don't know roses come in three sizes by the size of the rose bud: 40 cm; 50 cm; and 60 cm. While he does love the rose, of course, this writer learned Robert's favorite flower is the purple violet, because it is dainty and elegant. He said he learned quite some time ago from someone dear to him, Michael Mahanes,

that "you have to take time to appreciate the small things that life offers."

Along with designing lovely flower arrangements and displays, Four Season's Flowers & Gifts offers wedding and event planning and catering. Robert got his start in the catering business over thirty years ago, when he catered the O'bier-Deihl wedding for the daughter of Mrs. Peggy O'bier. The event was held at Festival Hall in Reedville, with 250-300 guests. His catering business grew from there, catering weddings and events locally, and also as far away as Newport News, Charlottesville, VA and even Maryland. He even had three events in one day, but pulled it off with grace and aplomb, despite some very challenging circumstances. Robert also

shared that Anne Crowther once told him that of all of the High School class reunions for Callao School she had attended (and there were many), she was "never disappointed when Robert Davis did the catering." He has catered events as large as 600 people and also small, intimate events. His food is delicious and he takes pride in everything he does.

Robert believes God has given him a talent and he must "use it or lose it." He loves his church and our community. As a past youth minister of many years, Robert helps many churches in the area. He says, "If you put God first, you can do anything."

LOVE sign...



CHCA is still looking for designs for Callao's LOVE sign. We want to incorporate the themes of the area: crab pots; agriculture/farming; nautical items; fishing; boating, etc.

WATERFIELD TAXES



Callao has been home to Waterfield Tax & Bookkeeping, LLC.. since January 1999. The founder, Debbie Waterfield, originally rented from James Sullivan at the building that now houses Affordable Tree Service. After that building changed hands, she began renting from John Hill in the current location. She later purchased the building and runs the business in that same location with her daughter, Ashley Gordon.

As a former Levis employee, Ms. Waterfield took advantage of all of the education benefits offered when Levis closed. She was already working part-time at a tax service, so it was a natural fit for her to take accounting and bookkeeping classes. Now, twenty-one years later, Waterfield Tax

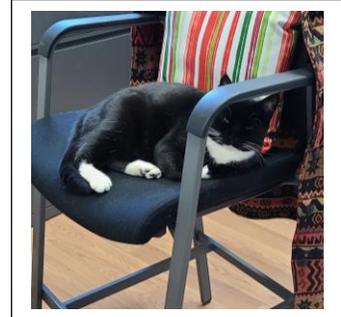
& Bookkeeping, LLC. enjoys a great customer base, a “loyal and amazing” customer base, according to Ms. Waterfield. Waterfield Tax & Bookkeeping started out with 150 clients their first year and now has over 1300, at least one of which has been a client since she opened! After the first five years, business was going so well, they expanded into the second half of the building.

Debbie Waterfield and her daughter have been partners for the past fourteen years. Waterfield Tax & Bookkeeping specializes in tax preparation and bookkeeping. They are fortunate to have friendly staff and are even interviewing to add an additional tax preparer to the team. Naturally, this being tax season, it is a busy time, so they will be happy to have the extra help. The biggest changes she has seen over the past twenty-one years was when they went from dial up

internet to DSL. She used to have to stay up to eleven o'clock at night waiting for documents to upload when all they had was dial up.

Ms. Waterfield says she located her business in Callao because she grew up nearby in Farnham and they “came to Callao for everything.” She says she likes the “hometown feel” Callao still offers. Her customers come from all over. She says she especially misses the Callao Supermarket, because when she was younger, her family would always do their shopping at the supermarket.

Waterfield Tax & Bookkeeping, LLC is participating in the façade improvement plan with the Revitalization Grant. They have a new sign and will be sprucing up the façade with a fresh coat of paint and some other improvements. To learn more about Waterfield Taxes & Bookkeeping, LLC contact them at (804) 529-5698.



Mascot “Cookie”



THELMA's Another food place has opened in Callao: Thelma's Deli and Catering Next to the Brewery. Open daily 6a to 6p # 804-580-1718. Her hours are Mon-Wed 6am-6pm Thursday -Sat 6am-8pm, AND they deliver within a 20-mile radius.



COMING SOON.....

From the Social Media site for Café Callao opening soon: “Great family-like atmosphere, has the best coffee and tea selections in town with great food and mouth- watering desserts, top quality ingredients.”

CHCA UPDATE

It has been a year since the COVID-19 pandemic hit our area as well as the rest of the world. Callao has endured its share of challenges with reduction of capacity at various establishments and requirements for extra safety protocols. Some businesses were not able to survive, and others have thrived. We have also seen quite an influx of new residents because of people wanting to flee the cities, to enjoy the fresh air and wide open spaces the country has to offer. This has created a bit of a boon for the real estate, construction, and supply businesses in the area, as folks purchase new homes and renovate existing ones.

As explained on the first page, CHCA recently unveiled our new logo. This new logo incorporates the resources of the area and gives us a more modern logo to use for future communications and items for sale for fundraisers. We greatly appreciate the input from the community and desire to continue to be responsive to the needs of the community. The new logo was created by our part-time new marketing representative, who will be helping us with social media, assist with designing a tourism brochure and helping us to promote activities and businesses in Callao, VA. The design has also been adopted

by the Revitalization Grant Committee to be used for three new gateway signs for Callao.

CHCA sponsored a photo contest on social media to spotlight snow and ice pictures in our area. CHCA should also be able to soon launch our website with the help of our new marketing representative. The website should go live around mid-April. Along with the social media outlets, our website will assist with educating viewers about the area, promoting activities and businesses in Callao, and supporting our fundraising activities.

Among those endeavors, we are still selling “Callao Crab pot” ornaments which are on sale at Callao Supply and the Olde Crab & Crow as a fundraiser for CHCA. We will also have a “PayPal” button on the website for donations, as well. CHCA also plans to hold our 10k in the fall, as long as COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted by then. Additionally, if COVID-19 restrictions lift earlier in the summer, we are hoping to have a wonderful fundraiser at Rivah Celebrations with musical entertainment and possibly food trucks. More information to follow....

Leadership of our committee was given an update on the Revitalization Grant efforts to date. As with many activities, COVID-19 caused a delay in project completions and the

county was successful in getting an extension to complete the commitments of the grant. Agreed to façade improvements must be complete by June 30, 2021 to qualify for matching funds. Dominion Power was not successful in getting the easements necessary for the lamp post placements, so they are going to install LED lighting on the existing poles instead. Benches and flower planters will soon be installed. We also learned that there is a possibility that new sidewalks may be installed. We are looking forward to seeing the project complete.

CHCA greatly appreciates all who assists in any way to support our efforts to make Callao a better place to live and do business. We would love to hear your feedback. Check us out on Facebook. Anyone wishing to make a contribution, please send to CHCA, PO Box 17, Callao, VA 22435 (and soon our website.)



CVFD to have Shrimp Drive Thru Dinner

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette M. Cralle
Secretary, CHCA