

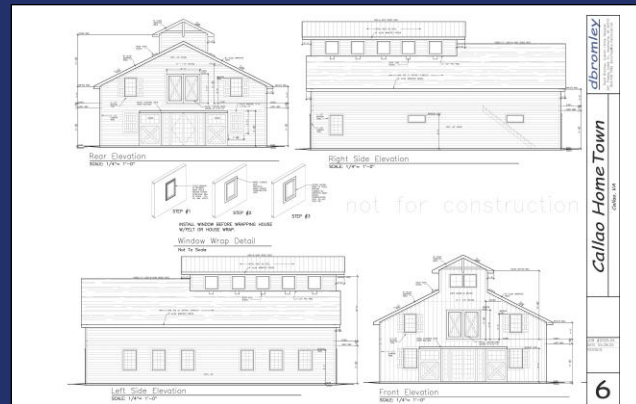


Callao Hometown Community Association

NEWSLETTER

Hometown Community Park

The Callao Hometown Community Association (CHCA) has finalized the entrance building & stage design, as well as, the preliminary park site plans for the Hometown Community Park. The entrance building will include a memorabilia display area and public restrooms. The stage will be a refurbished silo. The preliminary park site plans have been submitted to Northumberland County and will now require approval by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Once plans are approved, the CHCA can begin the process of seeking and competing for funding grants.



Design Plans of Hometown Community Park Entrance Building by David Bromley and House Engineering

QUARTER AUCTION

CHCA hosted a successful "Quarter Auction" fundraiser on May 31, 2025. It was a full house at the Callao Brewing Company as the event attendants got to bid their "quarters" on over 60 fantastic items donated by local businesses and residents.

This was the first time CHCA held a Quarter Auction and the Board of Directors are so thankful to all who participated:

from those who bought tickets to attend and bid on items; VIP ticket holders; those who donated so many wonderful items; the Callao Brewing Company for allowing us to utilize their location, and Garland's Market and Deli for donating delicious charcuterie trays for the VIP guests. With everyone's help, we were able to raise over \$3,500 for the park. Fun was had by all who attended. We hope to make it an annual event.



Garland's Market and Deli donated delicious charcuterie trays for the VIP guests.

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Carving Memory into Timber: The Life and Craft of Warren Thompson

In the quiet folds of Virginia's Northern Neck, where history lingers in the breeze and tradition is etched into the landscape, lived a man whose hands turned wood into time capsules. Warren Thompson, a self-taught wood crafter born in 1929, spent the better part of his retirement breathing life into timber—transforming raw planks into miniature churches, lighthouses, and vintage vehicles that echo the past.

Roots in Resourcefulness

Thompson's journey began on his father's farm in Callao, VA, surrounded by a family of artisans. His mother and aunt were seamstresses, and his brothers were builders, crafting homes with the same care Warren would later apply to his carvings. As a child, he and his siblings dismantled tomato baskets to build toy carts and airplanes, using the thin slats as wings—a playful foreshadowing of the ingenuity that would define his later years. According to his niece, Cheryl Thompson, "Uncle Warren was raised during a time where you did not waste. It taught him to be very resourceful and to find many uses for various materials." He definitely incorporated these qualities into his craft and his handiwork.



The family shared this photo of Warren Thompson from his days in the US Army.

After serving in the Korean War, Warren Thompson moved to Washington, D.C., where he trained as a shoe cobbler before settling into a 20-year career driving trucks for Safeway. It has been said that he even worked it out to rearrange his truck route with Safeway to be sure he connected with his Northern Neck family who were working in Maryland at the time, so he would just "happen" to encounter them at the Safeway. It wasn't until he retired and returned to the Northern Neck, though, that his artistic calling truly emerged.



Artisan Warren Thompson

Crafting the Past

In 1992, Thompson picked up his first carving tools. While his wife Marie watched her favorite television shows and worked her crossword puzzle books, he retreated to his workshop—a sanctuary of sawdust and solitude. There, he began crafting small-scale replicas of buildings and vintage vehicles, each one a tribute to the architecture and machinery of yesteryear.

His process was deeply intuitive. Thompson often sketched from memory, drawing what he recalled from auctions or old photographs. He once even drew a yellow and black car he saw at an estate sale. He focused, went home, drew it from memory, and next thing you know, he carved it into existence.

Using a mix of electric tools and pocket knives, Thompson shaped wood with precision and patience. His pieces are not just decorative—they're historical artifacts rendered in miniature. Churches, schoolhouses, old model vehicles, and lighthouses emerged from his workshop like echoes of a fading era.



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A Legacy of Learning by Doing

Thompson never studied art formally. While he attended the Holley Graded School in Lottsburg, Virginia, for his early childhood education, Thompson's education for his craft came from observation, experimentation, "tinkering," and a relentless curiosity. "Learning by doing" isn't just a motto—it's the philosophy that guided his hands. Each carving is a meditation on memory, a tactile way of preserving the places and objects that shaped his life.

While in his nineties, Thompson still carved when the mood struck. He was known by his family as a "tinkerer" at times, and then sometimes he would spend hours working on one detailed piece. He was organized and filled the hours of retirement not only creating meticulous replicas and miniatures, but also visiting with family and friends. He was humble and always counted his blessings for being around for so many years. Billy Crabbe, good friend for many of those years, fondly reflects on the hours of conversations he had with his surrogate "Uncle Warren," while sitting on the porch sharing stories. They struck up a lasting friendship. Crabbe said Thompson was "a very likeable person and I took to him the first time we met." Crabbe expresses the fascination he had watching "Uncle Warren" work on his miniatures over the years. Crabbe said they would visit for hours and he learned so much history listening to Warren Thompson. Billy Crabbe said one of his favorite stories Uncle Warren shared was from Thompson's childhood when after walking somewhere for hours, a neighbor with a car offered him a ride, "so long as he didn't mind standing on the

running boards and holding on." Crabbe said Thompson was "tickled to death not to have to keep on walking" and he jumped at the chance. Perhaps that is where Thompson developed his love for and attention to detail that enabled him to build such wonderful replicas of vintage vehicles.

More Than Wood

Warren Thompson's work is more than craftsmanship—it's storytelling. Through wood, he narrated the tale of a region, a family, and a life steeped in resilience and creativity. His carvings are not just objects; they're memories made tangible, reminders that even in retirement, one can still build a lasting heritage.

If you ever find yourself visiting Virginia's Northern Neck, or if you are lucky enough to live in Callao, Virginia, listen closely. You might hear the echo of a soft hum of a saw, the whisper of a blade against grain—and know that Warren Thompson left a tradition of wood carvings, still remembering, still stirring the imagination. Some of his carvings can be viewed at the historic Holley Graded School in nearby Lottsburg, Virginia and at the Lively Hope Baptist Church in Callao, Virginia. Who knows, one day, maybe the family will even loan some of the pieces to be displayed in our very own future museum to be located at the Hometown Community Park. "Uncle Warren," you will be missed by so many. Thank you for leaving such a beautiful legacy.

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Cheryl Thompson, Niece of Warren Thompson, proudly displays the replica of Lively Hope Baptist Church.

Carving Memory into Timber: The Life and Craft of Warren Thompson (continued from pg. 3)



Attention to detail is a hallmark of the quality of work by Warren Thompson.



Warren Thompson attended Holley Graded School in the 1930's



Model of Holley Graded School Built by Warren Thompson, Alumni & Trustee of Holley



Miniature Country House "Uncle Warren" worked on for a relative



A special thanks to Trustee Mr. Harold Blackwell for making time to open the museum so above pictures could be taken.

RIVER COUNTRY CABINS

A new business interest in Callao, VA features customizable quality log cabins made nearby by the Amish builder, River Country Cabins. They are fun and you can select from different models. Contact Callao Car Center 804-529-6969 for more information.



Rediscovered by Dawn

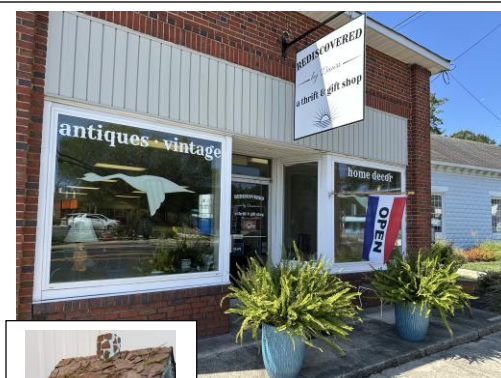
804-529-6555

Rediscovered by Dawn – a Thrift and Gift Shop opened in Callao earlier this year as a passion project of the owner and operator, Dawn Fisher. Dawn started her family oriented business to bring home décor, vintage, gifts, and antiques to visitors and residents of the area. Callao has become the hub for quality vintage shops where treasure hunters can seek out a variety of unique items to decorate their homes and beautify their offices and places of work.

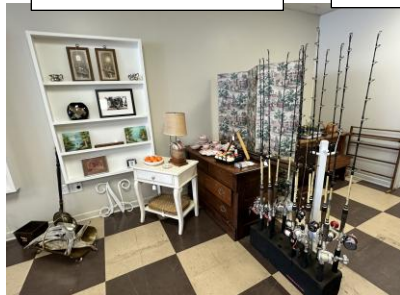
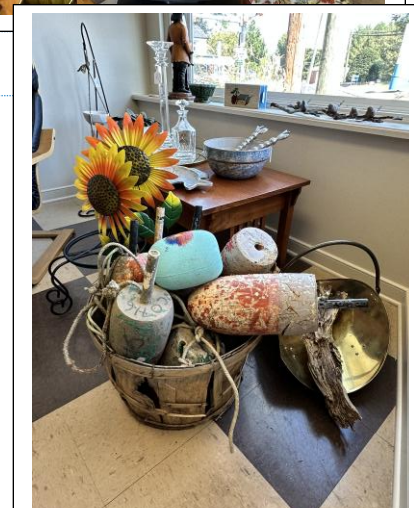
Dawn said she has created a “family shop” atmosphere with *Rediscovered by Dawn*. She loves working with her family (mother Marian, grandmother Gangar, sister April, Aunt Helen, and Aunt Shirley) in her business endeavor and hopes her family business will thrive in Callao. Dawn’s mother, Marian Lee Nash, beams with pride, describing the unique and imaginative electrofied miniature houses her creative and talented daughter creates with sea glass, a craft that she learned from her husband’s Aunt Helen. They really are one of a kind treasures and would make a lovely keepsake for visitors to the area, or would make a wonderful addition for collectors, particularly those living on the river who collect sea glass.

Some of the other popular items also include brass pieces and small tables. Additional objects of interest include Fall Décor, vinyl records, and even a corner with fishing rods. Soon, holiday decorations will be on display.

Conveniently located at the traffic light, *Rediscovered by Dawn* has plenty of parking. Currently, hours of operation are 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Come on in and check it out!



Marian Lee Nash & Dawn Fisher



Generations of Legacy in Every Pour— Beasley Concrete, Inc.

In the heart of Virginia's Northern Neck, where tradition runs deep and community ties are strong, one name has stood the test of time—**Beasley Concrete**. Founded in 1937, this family-owned business has become more than just a supplier of ready-mix concrete and precast products. It's a living testament to generational grit, innovation, and hometown pride.

From Lantern Light to Landmark

The story begins with **Robert R. "Bob" Beasley**, who started crafting well curbs under a tree in his yard by lantern light after his day job. That humble side hustle soon evolved into a full-fledged enterprise when Bob purchased his first concrete truck. Pop's wife, **Ilva Beasley**, helped with the business and handled the bookkeeping. Thus, **R.R. Beasley Concrete** was born in Callao, Virginia—a town that would become the cornerstone of the company's legacy.

Building a Dynasty, One Generation at a Time

What sets Beasley Concrete apart isn't just its product—it's the people behind it. In 1962, Bob's son **Ray Beasley** joined the business full-time, expanding operations and laying the groundwork for future growth. By the 1980s and '90s, Ray's sons **Rob and Bill** had entered the fold, each bringing new energy and ideas to the company.

But the Beasley legacy didn't stop there. The fourth generation made its mark not just in the plant, but on the airwaves. Rob's daughter **Katlyn** became the voice of the company's now-iconic slogan:

"The Best Concrete in the Whole Wide World!"

Her siblings, **Shelby and Kyle**, also contributed to commercials and operations, keeping the family spirit alive and well. Today, the **fifth generation** is already in training, poised to carry the torch into the



future, with **Katlyn** and **Kyle** working in their family's business for the past five years now. Katlyn's daughter, **Brindley**, is even following in her mom's footsteps as the next generation on the airways, helping out her family with radio ads for **Beasley Concrete**.

Expanding Roots, Deepening Impact

From its original Callao location, **Beasley Concrete** has grown to include plants in **Milford and Kilmarnock**, serving a wide swath of Virginia including Richmond and Fredericksburg. Despite this expansion, the company has never lost sight of its local roots. Many employees have been with Beasley for decades—some over 40 years to nearly 50 years—forming a tight-knit team that values quality, service, and loyalty.

More Than Concrete—It's Community

Beasley Concrete isn't just a business; it's a pillar of the community. Whether it's supporting local radio, mentoring young workers, or simply delivering top-tier concrete with a smile, the Beasley name carries weight far beyond its products. In an age of corporate consolidation and fleeting startups, Beasley Concrete stands as a rare gem: a generational business that honors its past while building the future—one slab, one slogan, one family member at a time.

Whenever you ever find yourself driving down Richmond Road in Callao, look for the trucks with the Beasley name. They're not just delivering concrete—they're delivering history.

"The Best Concrete in the Whole Wide World!"



The Beasleys: Rob; Billy; Kyle; Katlyn, and Ray

Beasley Concrete - A Generational Business (cont. pg. 8)



Beasley Concrete in Callao, Virginia



Rob Beasley and Bob "Pop" Beasley*



(*From Beasley Concrete FB)



BLEAK HOUSE FARM -The Downings



Bleak House Farm in Lewisetta, Virginia is owned by the Downing family and is recognized as a Virginia Century Farm, meaning it's been in the same family for 100+ years. One of the farm's fall features is the "Two Daughters Pumpkin Patch," The patch, located at 1032 Bleak House Farm Lane, is a smaller part of Bleak House Grain Farm, and offers pumpkins and gourds of different varieties, shapes, and sizes, for visitors to choose from. Be sure to bring the family to visit the patch this Fall to pick your own fabulous jack-o-lanterns, pumpkins & gourds to decorate and enjoy.

GARLANDS MARKET & DELI

PROUDLY SERVING:

DELI MEAT & CHEESE

Black Forest Ham	\$1.00 /lb.
Honey Ham	\$1.00 /lb.
Kites Country Ham	\$7.00 /lb.
Gourmet Turkey	\$13.00 /lb.
Cracked Pepper Turkey	\$13.00 /lb.
Hot or Sweet Soppressata	\$13.00 /lb.
Prosciutto Di Parma	\$28.00 /lb.
Capicola	\$20.00 /lb.
Salami	\$8.00 /lb.
Sandwich Pepperoni	\$8.00 /lb.
Roast Beef	\$16.00 /lb.
Pastrami	\$16.00 /lb.
Corned Beef	\$8.00 /lb.
Bologna	\$8.00 /lb.
Prowdone Cheese	\$8.00 /lb.
American Yellow Cheese	\$8.00 /lb.
Sharp Cheddar Cheese	\$8.00 /lb.
Pepper Jack Cheese	\$8.00 /lb.
Swiss Cheese	\$8.00 /lb.

DON'T FORGET YOUR
FRESH BAKED BREAD!

AMISH COMMUNITY UPDATE

As you may know from previous additions of this newsletter, not only is the Northern Neck, but Callao, Virginia, in particular, is home to a growing Amish Community, attracted by the beautiful and peaceful nature of the area. In addition to the industrious families residing on Fruit Plain Road (one of which runs the popular vegetable and baked goods stand on highway 202 near Henderson Church), there is an additional Amish family making a home in Callao on Deer Run Road.

They have a lovely farm, and this year they have expanded their vegetable stand in Callao, Virginia. It is located at the corner of Hampton Hall Road and Deer Run Road (patrons enter the stand from Deer Run Road). This hard working family sold a variety of vegetables all summer, including corn, onions, carrots, zucchini, cabbage, eggplant, and more. They also offered watermelon, peaches, and tomatoes. This fall they have butternut squash, pumpkins, gourds, and firewood for sale, to name a few items.

In addition to the vegetable stand on Deer Run Road in Callao, there is also a Mower Service and Repair business located on the same road at 356 Deer Run Road. Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.. As is true with most Amish businesses, both businesses are closed on Sundays.



356 Deer Run Rd
Callao, VA



The Amish community is known for its deep-rooted faith, commitment to simplicity, and strong sense of tradition. Guided by the Ordnung—a set of community-based principles—they strive to live humbly and in close fellowship with one another. Many Amish groups choose to limit the use of modern technologies such as electricity and automobiles, preferring horse-drawn buggies and manual tools to support a lifestyle centered on spiritual focus and separation from worldly distractions. Family and community are foundational, with large families and mutual aid reflecting their values of cooperation and care. Education typically concludes after the eighth grade, emphasizing practical skills that prepare youth for life within the community. Their distinctive dress and plain living reflect a shared commitment to modesty, unity, and faithfulness in a rapidly changing world. Please use caution, particularly on Sundays, while traveling around Callao and the Northern Neck.



CHCA UPDATE

In 2025, CHCA finalized the entrance way building and silo stage designs for the **Hometown Community Park**. This allowed AES to complete the preliminary construction site plans for submission to Northumberland County Building and Zoning for approval. Once reviewed and approved by the County, the plans were submitted to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for approval. Once approved by the DEQ, it will open doors for CHCA to seek and apply for more grants to help build the park. We have been awarded a matching grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation for gravel for the parking area.

While CHCA was unsuccessful in our bid for a Kubota grant for which we applied this year, we cranked up the fundraising efforts in earnest and are pleased with the outcome so far. As mentioned on the first page, CHCA sponsored a Quarter Auction this past Spring, held at the Callao Brewing Company. This event was well attended and we are so thankful for all who participated and all who supported our cause.

Additionally, CHCA was blessed in 2025 with numerous generous donations from community members and organizations. For example, Stew Master Tom Gianassi and his *Stew Crew* sponsored another of their delicious Brunswick Stew fundraisers with the proceeds benefiting the park. We look forward to the next Brunswick Stew Drive-thru fundraiser scheduled for November 1, 2025.

We have also received generous donations from the Callao Moose Lodge # 917 organization. We are so grateful to the Callao Moose Lodge for sponsoring two dances this summer to benefit the park. The Callao Moose

Lodge and Women of the Moose have made numerous generous donations to help build the Hometown Community Park. We are very thankful for their continued generosity, support and substantial contributions we have received.

The Burgess Family, who donated the park land, continues to be a generous advocate and supporter of our endeavors and we are ever so grateful. Additionally, a new event was held this year by Northern Neck Native Plants who sponsored a pop up native plant sale in Callao, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the park. Another fundraising activity for CHCA in 2025 included our annual "Callao Crab Crawl" 5k fundraiser on Owl Town Road, which we hope will grow.

The following are some of the accomplishments and activities of the Callao Hometown Community Association in 2025 to date. We continued to sell Callao Crab pot ornaments as a general fundraiser, and sold additional items including: hats; tote bags; cups; & wooden ornaments depicting historic sites /artist's rendition of Crab pot tree and note cards. While we did not have a Fund Drive letter campaign in 2024; we do plan to launch the fund drive letter campaign in 2025. Please be on the lookout for our mailers which should be going out in the coming weeks. Please consider supporting our efforts to build the Hometown Community Park.

Additional accomplishments include updating and maintaining our Website, GoCallaoVA.org, to promote the history, businesses of Callao and a calendar of upcoming events on the Callao Community Calendar; and we updated our Facebook page. The website includes interactive buttons for Park Fundraiser donations and

payment for other fundraising events and now has a new page dedicated to the plans for the Hometown Community Park. Besides CHCA informing the public of community events, we continued to pick up new page likes and followers each month. Our website had over 13,000 Visitors and our Facebook page rose to having 3,359 followers.

CHCA purchased additional flags to continue the flag project in 2025 to display American flags throughout Callao on Patriotic holidays. We also appreciate the volunteers that install the American flags throughout Callao on patriotic holidays. They enhance our community and add to the "hometown feel."

President Lisa Deitz and Treasurer Debbie Newsome continued to meet with community groups to educate them about our organization, displaying the park design and educating the public about the upcoming features of the park. CHCA also continued to collect items for a future Callao museum, some of which will be on display at the upcoming Hometown Community Park.

CHCA continues to look for volunteers to assist with upkeep of the landscaping beds, working events, and providing input on what events and activities the public would like for Callao. We greatly appreciate the input we have received so far from the CHCA Auxiliary. They have supported and enhanced activities to benefit Callao. Thank you for your support! Our Annual Meeting, which is open to the public, is scheduled for October 29, 2025.



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

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette M. Bralle
 Secretary, CHCA