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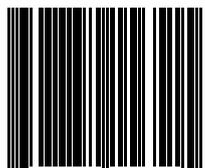
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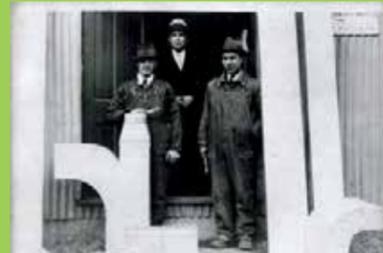
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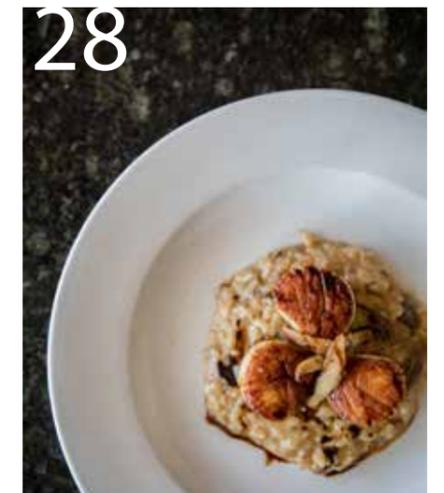
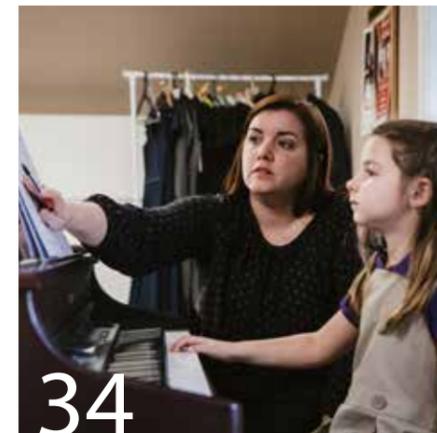
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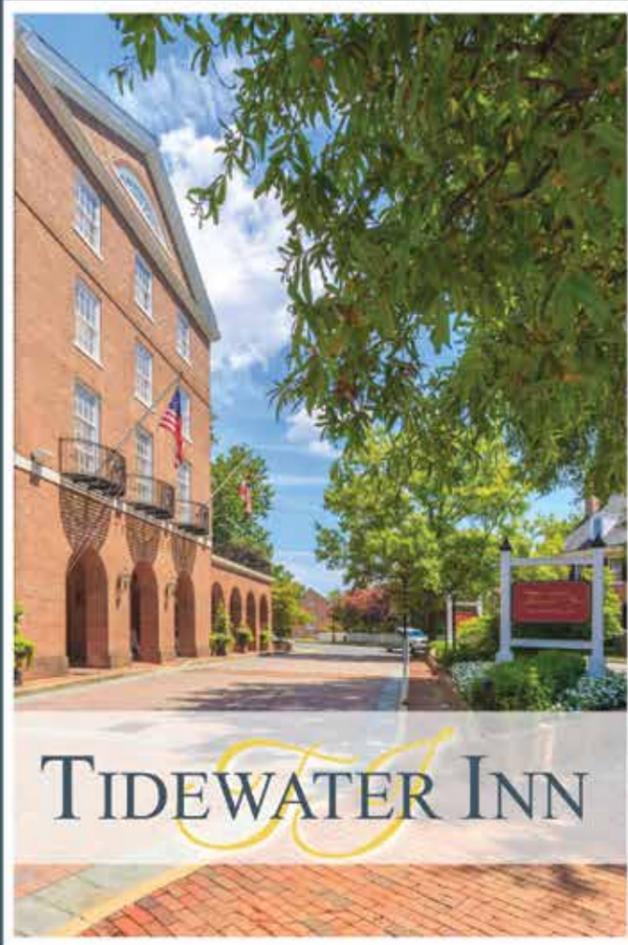


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CARE FOR THE CLASSICS

Last month, fire overtook the Notre-Dame de Paris, and although the collapse of the iconic spire brought cries from those watching, news reports delivered bits of hope — invaluable artifacts, such as the Crown of Thorns believed by many Roman Catholics to be a relic of Christ, had been saved.



The cathedral has been rehabilitated many times in its 850-year history. Victor Hugo wrote with great concern about the cathedral in his 1831 novel, “The Hunchback of Notre-Dame.” The popularity of the book inspired a renewed commitment to the cathedral’s care and preservation.

Of course, Hugo’s novel (and some of his others) is now considered a classic, as well, and has inspired artists to create film, comics, theater, musical theater, ballet and radio based on the story.

What remains valuable over time is considered “classic.” In the world, it could be a great work of gothic architecture; to a religion, it could be a relic. In the United States, we could say apple pie is classic, both as a dessert and as a metaphor for something quintessentially American.

In this issue of Shore Monthly, we consider the classics in our region – a Shakespeare troupe performing the bard’s works in community spaces, a renewed appreciation for the old fashioned (and other cocktails), and a loving restoration of a Victorian-era Easton home. Let us take time during May to appreciate the timeless value of the classics.

Sarah Ensor
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EASY-LIVING, CASUAL ELEGANCE

SHORE MONTHLY

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SHAKESPEARE



ALL THE SHORE'S A STAGE

Story by Michael Valliant
Photos by Caroline J. Phillips



For Avra Sullivan and Chris Rogers, Shakespeare is a lifelong love. They each encountered and were changed by “the Bard” (as Shakespeare is affectionately referred to) when they were in elementary school, and for the past seven years, they have made it their mission to bring Shakespeare to the Eastern Shore.

“The first Shakespeare I ever memorized was Macbeth’s tomorrow speech, when I was in fifth grade,” Rogers said. “I didn’t understand what it meant, but it was really cool. And all the way through school, all the way through college, Shakespeare was one of my lodestones.”

Sullivan found her connection to Shakespeare while living with her grandparents as a child in Earleville.

“I felt like I was in the middle of nowhere and I didn’t have anything to do, as an eight year old, so I grabbed an old Shakespeare book and I climbed a tree and I read Hamlet,” she said. “And there was something even at eight that I connected with — his questioning, his wonderings, because I was at an extremely questioning time of my life. Even though the language was difficult, there was something that I could connect to.”

Rogers and Sullivan met when they were both cast in a Church Hill Theatre production of “Ravenscroft.” They found they both had the same question: where were the Shakespeare plays on the Shore? The answer: there weren’t any. Various theater companies had

Shore Shakespeare performs in parks and community centers on the Mid-Shore. For upcoming performances and auditions, visit shoreshakespeare.com or [facebook.com/ShoreShakespeare](https://www.facebook.com/ShoreShakespeare).





similar answers—there is no audience, there aren't enough actors who would want to do Shakespeare, there wasn't enough talent from which to cast a production. Rogers and Sullivan disagreed with the assessment.

"At any given moment, somewhere in the world, Shakespeare is being performed," Rogers said. "What do you mean it's too hard? What do you mean no one understands it? He has been translated into every language including Hamlet being translated into Klingon from "Star Trek." It is because Shakespeare's plays speak to all of us across the world and the centuries. He is timeless and universal. His plays present us to us. We need him now more than ever."

So they decided to do it themselves.

"We realized it would never happen if we didn't do it," Sullivan said. "We thought at first we'd need a building, but then said no, how about a park? And the Eastern Shore has all kinds of great parks, and being outside gives audiences an experience they can't get in a theater — birds singing are a part of the pre-show music. The park becomes part of the play."

They picked the play "Twelfth Night" and found Adkins Arboretum in Ridgely willing to be their first venue. The first performance drew 250 people who had never been to the arboretum.

Rogers and Sullivan hadn't thought about doing more shows,

but later decided to stage the play again at Wilmer Park in Chestertown. Again, they met with a great and enthusiastic audience.

"Twelfth Night" isn't one of Shakespeare's better known plays. So for the next show, Sullivan wanted to go for a big name, and they went all in for "Romeo and Juliet." And the crowds were bigger and the show even more successful.

They realized they wanted to keep doing Shakespeare and that there was an audience, so in 2014, they incorporated Shore Shakespeare under the Midshore Community Foundation's nonprofit umbrella, and it has been a perfect organizational fit for both groups.

Shore Shakespeare has gone

on to produce "A Comedy of Errors," "Macbeth," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and "As You Like It," doing roughly one show each spring and summer. They have staged the show in venues in Cambridge, Oxford, and Queen Anne's County, in addition to returning to Adkins Arboretum and Wilmer Park.

While one production is being staged, the next one is in its formative stages — choosing a play, working with a director, auditioning and casting — it can take a full year to get everything ready for a show.

Sometimes a director proposes a play with a plan for his or her vision, and sometimes Shore Shakespeare's creative committee chooses a play and looks for

a director. They consider the size of the cast, the type of play — comedy or tragedy — based on recent shows they've done, how they would have to adapt the script, what kind of set they'd need to build, and other factors, such as fighting, singing, dancing, or choreography.

"This is a community undertaking. We are all amateurs insofar as we don't get paid," Rogers said. "At the same time, we want to bring a sense of professionalism into what we do. Both Avra and I have some professional acting experience. Some of the other folks do too. And what we have found is that having that professional discipline makes all of us better actors, we do better shows."

Educational outreach is a big part of why the company exists. They take programs into middle and high schools from South Dorchester to Gaithersburg and into adult learning programs at both Washington College and Chesapeake College. The idea is that students of all ages will come to appreciate and understand Shakespeare better if they get to see and hear him, rather than just read him.

So what happens when it all comes together on stage? What's in it for the director and the actors? And why Shakespeare?

"Well, it cut my therapy bill big time!" Sullivan said. "Theater quickly became a kind of therapy for me when I was young because I wasn't sure how to express the emotions

"This is a community undertaking. We are all amateurs insofar as we don't get paid," Rogers said. "At the same time, we want to bring a

sense of professionalism into what we do."



that I was feeling, but theater let me express them through the characters. And in doing that, I was able to find my own voice. It is very therapeutic, very powerful; it really is human nature. And Shakespeare brings it out more so than maybe any other writer in the way that he holds a mirror up to humanity and says, 'look.'"

Shore Shakespeare is currently working on the show "The Merchant of Venice." They are considering how to bring out some of the play's difficulties and controversies in a modern context and possibly spark conversation.

"Our goal is to do these shows as well as they can possibly be done," Rogers said. "And 'The

Merchant of Venice' is a difficult show, and it's a controversial show. So we decided to pull back and explore the idea of a little bit deeper dive into it, which might include a series of lectures, readings and talk-back kinds of programs, to address some of the controversies prior to actually presenting it."

They were told there wasn't an audience and that Shakespeare was too difficult. But Rogers, Sullivan, and Shore Shakespeare have brought the Bard to thousands of people on the Eastern Shore over the course of seven years. The play goes on, to the delight of the actors and the audience. 

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COCKTAIL CLASSICS

These classic mixed drinks are sure to put the merry in Maryland



Story by Jennie Burke | Photos by Caroline J. Phillips



Although Colonial author Washington Irving's "A Knickerbocker's History of New York" (1809) is a satirical farce, current residents of The Free State may take pride in his acknowledgement that the cocktail, a concoction of alcohol, bitters, water, sugar and botanicals, came to prominence right here in Maryland. Irving labeled us Merry-landers, as we "were prone to make merry and get fuddled with mint-julep and apple-toddy." Our geographic ancestors "were, moreover, great horse-racers and cock-fighters, mighty wrestlers and jumpers, and enormous consumers of hoe-cake and bacon. They lay claim to

be the first inventors of those recondite beverages, cock-tail..."

I get it. Yes to horseracing, yes to the hoe-cake and bacon (although we prefer corn pudding in my house), and yeah, we dig cocktails. This spring, I offered my elder teenage daughters sips from my drinks on an out-of-the-country vacation, where the legal drinking age was 18. One daughter picked up my mojito.

"Mom, it looks like someone dumped the grass clippings in here," she sneered.

"It's mint. Taste it! It's good!"

She took a sip, pursed her lips, and squinted her eyes shut.

I waited for a response.

"It's alright," she mumbled, dropping the clear plastic Dixie-cup on a small, sand-covered table next to my chaise lounge. Then she offered a more definitive opinion: "I don't like it."

My feelings were hurt, which is ridiculous, since I was exemplifying bad parenting by offering my child alcohol. I should have been proud of her for not wanting it, and for expressing a strong opinion, different from mine.

"You've got something green between your front teeth there, missy," I scolded.

"Oh great," she fumed, and stormed off to find a mirror.

Another daughter opted to taste a poolside margarita later in the trip.

"Why is it that weird color?" she asked apprehensively.

"It's sour mix," I volunteered. "It's harmless."

"It doesn't look harmless. What's in it?"

"What's in sour mix?" I mimicked. In an effort to gain authoritative superiority, I bought myself a few seconds by repeating her question aloud.

"I'm not sure," I fibbed with confidence. "Probably lemons or limes? Some sweetener?" A lemon has lemon in it. Sour mix does not.

Sour mix has corn syrup and preservatives. And Yellow #5.

The daughter ventured a tiny taste. She broke the icy surface of the glowing concoction with the tip of her tongue. She pulled back from the cup as if she had been stung by a bee, then sucked bleached rock salt from her bottom lip. "This is disgusting," she proclaimed.

I'm not proud that my generation rocketed grain alcohol products like Zima to fame, or that we fell for the hoax that two wheat-chewing, overalled country boys named Bartles and Jaymes mixed fine vintages into glass beer bottles for our enjoyment. A familiar sear of humiliation returned to me as I offered my daughters their first sips of our Maryland inheritance, the cocktail.

My generation, Generation X, could now lay claim to punching holes in the ozone layer with sport utility vehicles, the college admissions scandal, Frankie Goes to Hollywood and Bacardi Breezers.



But all is not lost, according to professional bartender Buck Wiley. The classic cocktail is undergoing a transformative return to dignity thanks to everyone's favorite scapegoat generation: The Millennials. Everything old fashioned, (like the old fashioned and the Manhattan, the negroni and the aperol spritz) is new again.

"Millennials like ryes and whiskey. It used to be the older generations that enjoyed these drinks," Wiley says, garnishing a Manhattan with a curlicue of orange rind and a ruby-fleshed Luxardo cherry. "But now young people gravitate towards them too."

Wiley tends bar at Scossa in Easton, where the printed martini menu is rarely used. People these days are forgoing the apple and mocha-tinis for the classic. Wiley appreciates the personal exchange that takes place between a bartender and a patron when ordering a martini. The cocktail is built around a customer's favorite brand of vodka or gin. This decision is based on taste, marketing traditions, or even dietary restrictions. (Most vodkas sold in the United States are made from grain, but Scossa offers grape and corn-based vodkas as well.)

Wiley has some customers that like their Martini ultra-dry, some

like it "as dirty as swamp water." It's a matter of personality and personal taste. Whether shaken or stirred, Wiley serves martinis old-school: in a stemmed, chilled glass, garnished with a sophisticated twist or a spear of stuffed olives.

So there may be some truth in Irving's fictitious reportage: we do love our cocktails here in Maryland, enough to bring them back to the essentials. However, Wiley believes there are still plenty of tipplers that prefer the excitement of modern trends. "Sometimes you want the lavender foam, or a cocktail on fire," he muses, "and that's okay. But sometimes you just want the classic." ●


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Helping Families Heal

Ask the Undertaker
 ~ by Ryan Helfenbein ~

Many of us have been raised with a dog or cat as the family pet. And most of us can clearly remember the day that our family pet passed away. Grief over a pet's loss is in some cases no different from the loss of an immediate family member. Therefore, you'd want the same respect shown to your pet as any other family member. When it comes to cremation of our pets, most veterinary clinics offer a method of disposition through third parties, who offer a means of group cremation or private cremation. To most of us, this would be defined as mass cremation with other pets at one time or individual cremation – one pet at a time. Many of us, therefore, would ask the clinic to do private cremation, thinking that we would in fact get only the cremated remains of our pet. Unfortunately, as Stephen J. Dubner and WNYC reported in their podcast of 2012 entitled "The Troubled Cremation of Stevie the Cat," something very different from what we might expect often times occurs when we ask for a "private cremation."

With pet cremation, there is minimal regulation and therefore almost anyone can provide the service. So how does one truly know what kind of oversight they're really going to get? In the podcast, reporters approached a series of pet crematories and requested private cremation in an effort to test what would truly happen. The individuals supplied each crematory with a stuffed animal, not a real body, disguised in a bag. Note: after cremation, the only remains are bones, and when there are no bones in the body being cremated, such as a stuffed animal, there should be no cremated remains. Unfortunately, in this experiment, each crematory failed the test. Even though "private cremation" was requested, ALL the crematories returned cremated remains of "the pet."

Where did they come from? How could they do this? If these questions immediately fly through your mind, don't feel alone. They had me wondering as well, and I'm in the pet cremation business!! What was discovered is that allegedly some pet crematories have a system in place after doing mass cremation, regardless of what the consumer requested, in which they would take several scoops of remains for a larger pet, such as a lab, and a fewer scoops of remains for a smaller pet, such as a Chihuahua. Slap a label on the box, and send it to the family or the vet. Everyone got a little something, no matter what. And therefore, when they cremated a stuffed animal, they just simply followed their internal protocol and returned cremated remains.

The biggest question that comes out of this report is how can we be sure those cremated remains received are in fact those of our pets? We need to be sure to speak with the cremation business directly and ask what steps are taken to ensure those cremated remains are that of my beloved pet. Each crematory should have instituted an identification and certification process at their facility. If not, perhaps you may want to look elsewhere. If pet cremation through a veterinary clinic is what you opt for, insist in speaking directly with the cremation company the vet is working with. Not only should you ask this third party company what measures they have in place to ensure cremation is done individually, but how soon will it be done and how/where will your vet keep your pet prior to their arrival. To minimize any concern at all, find a family run funeral firm that is regulated by industry state law and that owns a pet crematory (which is designed differently from that of a human crematory), as those firms are forced to do it properly or risk being closed if state inspectors find violations.

So what is the future of pet cremation? Will there be new regulations enacted or are we going to have to wait for a major scandal such as the one in Georgia? Regardless, after this concerning report from WYNC, we are aware of the mismanagement of pet cremation through third parties and are equipped to now raise the necessary questions when the time comes to bid our pets goodbye. Contact a funeral home who owns a pet crematory and eliminate the concern of who, or what, is really in that urn.

For more information, including pre-planning and other options, please call your nearest FH&N Funeral Home.

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Scallops

SUCCULENT
OVER TRUFFLED
MUSHROOM RISOTTO

YOU'LL NEED:

6 quarts homemade or low-sodium vegetable stock	shiitake/whatever you have)
¼ cup olive oil	1 quart mushroom stock (recipe follows)
2 tablespoons finely diced shallots	8 tablespoons butter
2 minced garlic cloves	½ cup grated parmesan cheese
1 pound arborio rice	kosher salt
1 bottle of dry white wine (one you would drink yourself)	shaved parmesan to finish
1 cup sliced wild mushrooms (cremini/	dry scallops if available, placed on a kitchen towel or paper towel

DIRECTIONS:

Bring vegetable stock to a simmer in a large stock pot. In a separate pot, bring the mushroom stock to simmer. Remove both stocks from heat. Sauté the shallots in ¼-cup olive oil on medium low heat in a large stock pot until the shallot are soft, 3 to 4 minutes.

Add minced garlic and stir for 30 seconds. You don't want the garlic to brown or it will give off a bitter flavor. Add the rice and stir to coat. Add half the bottle of wine to the rice mixture and stir. Pour yourself a glass of wine from the remainder of the bottle.

This dish highlights the buttery, briny characteristics of scallops fresh from the ocean. At The Kitchen, Chef Steve Quigg uses large shrimp (opt for less than 10 shrimp per pound, commonly labeled "U10") and dry scallops that are caught and delivered within 36 hours. Quigg recommends spending the extra money for dry scallops if they are available.



CHEF STEVE QUIGG

Chef/owner Steve Quigg opened The Kitchen at the Imperial in December 2014, bringing to Chestertown the award-winning cuisine he had been serving at the much smaller Kitchen at Rock Hall. A retired information technology consultant, Quigg now focuses on providing fine-dining fare in an elegant yet comfortably casual environment. The emphasis at The Kitchen is to procure the best product available and let it be the star of the experience.

When the rice has absorbed almost all of the wine, start ladling in the vegetable stock (add enough to just cover the rice). Continue to stir, adding more stock as the rice absorbs it. While the rice is cooking, sauté the mushrooms in 2 tablespoons of butter on low heat until soft. Set mushrooms aside.

After about 25/30 minutes, taste a piece of rice. You want it to still have just a little firmness. Add the mushroom stock and continue to stir. While the mushroom stock is being absorbed heat a nonstick skillet on medium high, add the 2 tablespoons of butter. When butter has melted, add the scallops to the pan with the

side that was on the kitchen towel facing down (dry side will brown faster).

Do not move scallops or shake pan. When you start to see a little brown on edge of scallops, pick one up and check for a good sear (3 minutes or so). When satisfied, flip scallops in pan and remove pan from heat.

Add 4 tablespoons of butter to risotto, then the parmesan and a tablespoon of salt. Stir. Taste for salt and add more if needed. If risotto is too thick, add a little stock to reach desired consistency. Plate in warm serving bowls, top with scallops, and serve with shaved parmesan.

MUSHROOM STOCK

Place dried mushrooms and 8 cups of water in a large pot. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat and let steep for an hour. Drain thru a coffee filter and discard solids.





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Keys to Success

Amy Morgan of Allegro Academy gives Mid-Shore youth an outlet through music

Story By Amelia Blades Steward | Photos by Caroline J. Pjillips



Giving students on the Mid-Shore access to music, particularly performing opportunities and experiences, is the goal of Allegro Academy, a new non-profit music conservancy located in Easton.

Amy Morgan, artistic director, founded Allegro Academy in 2017, to connect musicians of all ages, incomes, and skill levels to the best local and international artists through workshops, lessons, ensembles and public instrumental and choral performances.

"I have been a musician as long as I can remember," Morgan said. "As a youth, I would do almost anything that was available to me with music. We had music in our house and in the church I attended. I realized as an adult how fortunate I was to have those opportunities as a youth. I had a wonderful high school band teacher who modeled inclusion. I wanted to seek out the kids who don't have those opportunities today and make them happen."

Morgan, who is an active musician in the community and a member of the American Choral Directors Association, previously served as musical director of Wye Operetta and was the assistant musical director and organist at Wye Parish. In 2014, she

became the music director at Trinity Cathedral in Easton. Although the Academy's home is at Trinity Cathedral, it is funded independently of the church's music program. Trinity Cathedral provides support by offering space for classes, rehearsals, and performances. Programs of the Allegro Academy are supported in part by the Talbot County and Maryland State arts councils and by contributions by individuals. The organization operates as a fund under the Mid-Shore Community Foundation.

Allegro Academy teaches voice, piano, and strings lessons to children and adults. Private piano

and voice lessons are offered by Morgan, who completed her bachelor's degree in piano performance from Salisbury University and master's degree in choral conducting from Messiah College. String instrument lessons are offered by Merideth Buxton, who is director of Chesapeake Music's First Strings program and holds degrees from the State University of New York at Potsdam and Ithaca College.

"We are just getting started, so we may add instruction in other instruments in the future," Morgan said.

In addition to lessons, two other components of



the Allegro Academy are its Children's Chorus and Summer Sing Choir Festival. Allegro Academy's Children's Chorus grew from students who were receiving lessons through the organization. The chorus, made up of kids ages six to 18, has performed at the State House in Annapolis, at the Festival of Trees, at St. Paul's Church in Oxford, and at Easton Club East. Singers learn healthy vocal technique, study music theory, and develop their skills as performers and artists.

"It's important to make what is old music relevant by providing the background to the pieces we are singing and to learn about the

composers of the music. An example of this is that the Children's Chorus is singing a song from a Disney movie that has 'Ode to Joy,' a classical piece, in it," Morgan said.

Allegro Summer Sing Choir Festival started in the summer of 2018. Sixty singers from the Mid-Shore, Annapolis, and Lewes, Del., play traditional music with professional soloists and instrumentalists. The festival offers an opportunity for choir people and people from other area voice groups to have a place to sing in the summer. Last year's concert was sold out. This year's concert is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, July 26, at Trinity Cathedral and will feature Franz Schubert's "Mass No. 2 and Magnificat." Allegro Women's Chorus, which grew out of the Summer Sing Choir Festival, includes 16 women who sing a cappella.

Morgan appreciates the rich culture in Talbot County and the community's support for the arts.

"The community recognizes the value of what we do. We are trying to do things a little broader to include everyone by offering free concerts and in most cases, allowing people to participate for free. There is a small fee to participate in the Children's Chorus, but we also offer scholarships for students who can't afford it," Morgan said.

She said she believes classical music can be appealing to children and that introducing good quality music of any kind to children of a young age is important.

"There is the music making, but what it does for us as people is just as important. Music makes us whole and happy people," she said.

"The most rewarding words I have heard were from a shy student who said, 'thank you for bringing me out of my shell,'" she added. **S**

“
The most rewarding words I have heard were from a shy student who said, 'thank you for bringing me out of my shell!'

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TASTE BUDS

If you've dreamed of visiting southern Italy's Amalfi Coast but are limited by time and money, stop by Limoncello Italian Restaurant and Wine Bar in St. Michaels to curb your classic Italian cravings.

LIMONCELLO

Story by Katie Willis
Photos by Caroline J. Phillips

Located on the northern coast of the Salerno Gulf on the Tyrrhenian Sea in southern Italy, the Amalfi Coast is rich in abundance of offerings from the sea — much like Limoncello.

Billy Gordon, district manager of Five Star Restaurant Development and Consulting, which owns Limoncello and about 20 other restaurant concepts, said the restaurant pays

homage to classic offerings from southern Italy. Co-owner and Executive Chef Gennaro DiBenedetto said the restaurant features a “bona fide wish list of Italian coastal specialties, featuring an array of mouth-watering pasta, fresh seafood, chargrilled flatbread and more, all crafted by experienced chefs.”

DiBenedetto said he and business partner Ivano Scotto learned about the art of the Italian meal firsthand.

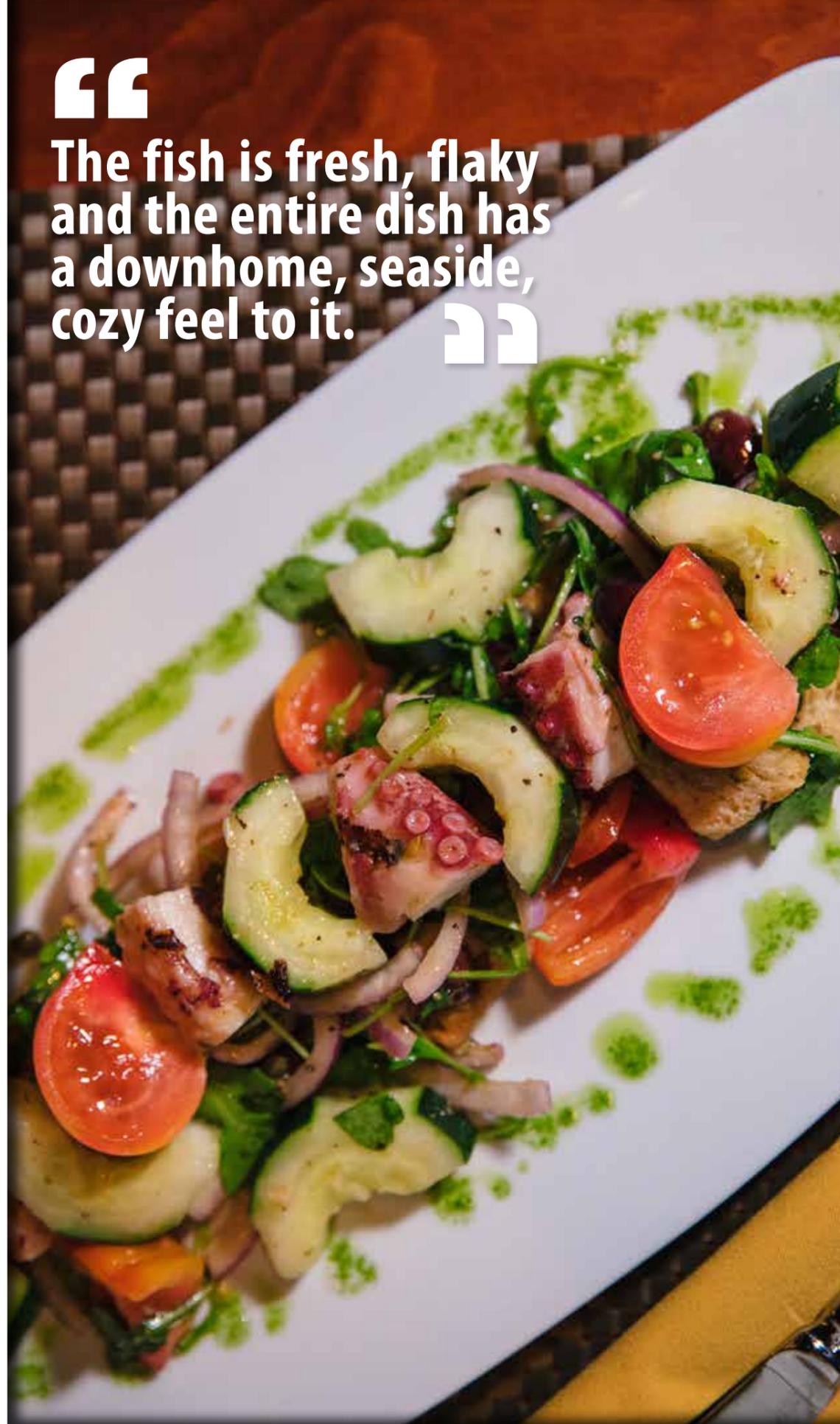




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The fish is fresh, flaky and the entire dish has a downhome, seaside, cozy feel to it.

”



For more information about Limoncello Italian Restaurant and Wine Bar or to make a reservation, visit limoncellostmichaels.com, call 410-745-3111 or find them on Facebook or Instagram. 200 S Talbot St, St. Michaels, MD 21663

“The story goes way back to the ‘80s, on the streets just outside of Naples, Italy. It is there that we were infused with the skills for creative, yet classic, preparation and craftsmanship of a great Italian meal — and an overall experience that leaves you happy and content,” DiBenedetto said.

Gordon said a staple of the Amalfi Coast and its cuisine is polipo panzanella, a blend of grilled octopus, heirloom tomatoes, cucumbers, arugula, red onion, olives, capers and croutons. The octopus was fresh and tender, with an almost smoky flavor that nicely complimented the salad, which was full of a wide variety of flavors.

Typical panzanella is a popular summer dish in central Italy — a chopped salad with a light dressing of olive oil and vinegar. The octopus packs a subtle, flavorful

punch, which sounds like an oxymoron, but you’ll have to taste it for yourself to understand. The salad was perfect as an appetizer, not too heavy as to defeat your dreams of digging deeper into the Limoncello menu.

Speaking of digging deeper, try another southern Italian classic, which you can find on the Limoncello menu as a second plate option: the branzino con escarole a dish which, if based solely on visual presentation, is definitely understated. One taste, and you’ll know why. Caught along the Amalfi Coast, the Mediterranean striped sea bass is a subtle white fish that really takes on the flavor of the items it’s cooked with. It is pan-seared, with crispy skin, extra-virgin olive oil and a white wine flambé. It’s served with escarole, cannellini beans and rosemary potatoes.

The fish is fresh, flaky and



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the entire dish has a downhome, seaside, cozy feel to it. It fills you up, but not in a heavy way. This southern Italian staple tastes almost buttery and the potatoes are perfectly crispy— a nice addition to the flaky fish.

Gordon said these two items aren't the only traditional southern Italian offerings on the menu, and Limoncello offers a number of classic dishes, including anti-pasti such as a prosciutto-and-melon salad, fried calamari and bruschetta; fresh salad options, one with a unique blend of arugula, blood orange, toasted pistachios, olives, fennel, pomegranate seeds and lemon vinaigrette. There also are several pizza options; gnocchi, risotto and pasta options, like a seafood risotto blend of

clams, octopus, mussels, calamari, shrimp, crab meat and cherry tomatoes; and entrees like the branzino con escarole, a Tuscan seafood stew and veal, chicken and steak options, as well.

In addition to the inside table and bar seating, the restaurant also offers covered outside seating during nice weather at the back of the restaurant and sidewalk seating in front of the main entrance to the restaurant. The restaurant is open for lunch or dinner, dine-in or take-out, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The restaurant also houses a curated wine list and according to DiBenedetto, "enough housemade limoncello to make all of southern Italy content." 🍷

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Cruisin' appeal

A great way to rev up for summer is to cruise to the quintessential Maryland summer hot spot while the weather is mild. Thousands of classic cars and hot rods each year are on display in Ocean City, Maryland, for one of the largest car shows on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Although the aged beauties spend much of the weekend in the parking lots of the Roland E. Powell Convention Center and the Inlet (at the end of the boardwalk), many are taken for a slow cruise in Boardwalk Parades (free for spectators) held the first three mornings of the event. All cars involved in the event are street-legal and made before 1976. For those inspired to take the wheel, the event is followed by a classic car auction in October.

The 29th Annual Cruisin' Ocean City will be held Thursday, May 16, to Sunday, May 19, 2019.

Rules, spectator tickets, and a full schedule are available at <https://specialeventpro.com/cruisin-ocean-city>

PHOTOS BY ARDEN HALEY



HEARTHBEAT



THE INN AT

202 Dover

Story by Sarah Ensor
Photos by Caroline J. Phillips

*B*eneath 32 coats of paint on a once-grand 1874 home on Dover Street in Easton, contractors found original siding made from Maryland swamp Cyprus. It was 2005, and Ron and Shelby Mitchell had purchased the building intent on restoring what was then known as the Wrightson House to its former glory — this time as a bed-and-breakfast.

The neglected house had seen many changes over the years. The most famous





owners were the Wrightsons, a prominent Easton family best known for the Shannahan and Wrightson Hardware Store on Washington Street, as well as other business ventures.

Through the years, the building's use shifted from a single-family residence to medical offices to mixed use to a nine-unit apartment building by the time the Mitchells found it. Completing historic renovation on the home was a labor of love. The Mitchells keep photo albums documenting the work.

The exterior alone was a feat. Most, if not all, of the paint was lead-based. The building was wrapped in plastic, and for six days a week, 15 people scraped the paint by hand. Once the paint was completely stripped, contractors applied two coats of linseed oil, two coats of primer, and two coats of paint and hand-sanded the siding between each coat.

They removed the windows, deglazed them, stripped paint from them, and re-glazed them with the original glass where it existed. If a piece of glass was broken, they replaced it with new glass.

Such a replacement is proper in restoration work; replace old with new so the renovation tells the story of the original house.

The Mitchells were general contractors for the project, hiring local electricians and plumbers. They were committed to the proper historic restoration of the building and only had trouble with one portion of the renovation: the conservatory. Few if any historic houses in the region had similar structures. It passed Historic Easton and the Maryland Historic Trust but it took a few drawings before the U.S. Department of the Interior signed off on the design.

The Mitchells researched the Victorian era and learned Victorians were in love with France, silks and spices from Asia, and safari. They used the knowledge to design the suites for the bed-and-breakfast now known as the Inn at 202 Dover: the Victorian Guest Room, the English Suite, the French Suite, the Asian Suite and the Safari Suite. 📍

You're going to **LOVE** Kent County^{MD}



48th Antique Fly-In: June 8th
Photo Courtesy of Massey Air Museum

Have you ever visited a place where you immediately felt welcome and just knew that you would come back – again and again? The County of Kent, on Maryland's Upper Eastern Shore, is that place. In less than a two-hour drive from Philadelphia, Washington D.C., and Annapolis you could be on the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway. The peaceful vistas and beautiful landscape of rolling hills, farms, vineyards, and open space reminds us of a time past, when life was simpler. With more than 300 years of mindful stewardship, you'll feel like you've stepped back in time, where hustle and bustle are nowhere to be found. Enjoy the serenity and beauty, but be ready to have fun, for this quaint countryside is host to hundreds of events. Combine an event with attractions, recreational activities, local fresh foods, natural history, shopping, musical and theatrical performances, and you have the beginning of a perfect escape—in a place like no other.

Its historic towns and villages, such as Chestertown, Rock Hall, Galena, Millington, Betterton, Kennedyville, and Georgetown, are packed with history. And, those who reside in the County of Kent know what it is like to live where visitors come for fun and relaxation. Pride of sharing their heritage, waterfront, music, local wine and

spirits, maritime activities, festivals, events, tours, and more is the cornerstone of this special place.

Water Lovers will find many ways to get out on the water from this scenic peninsula, which is touched by the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, the Chester River and the Sassafras River. Some say that these two rivers are rivaled by none because of their preserved and mostly undeveloped riverside landscape. Boaters will be delighted to know that the Chester and the Sassafras rivers are components of the Captain John Smith Water Trail. Being home to more than 209 miles of shoreline, it's no wonder that Kent County boasts dozens of full-service and resort marinas, with seasonal and transient docking. Located directly on the Chesapeake Bay, Rock Hall has more than a dozen marinas and is said to have more boat slips than its population. Rock Hall trams make it easy for boaters to get around town. New for the 2019 season is the renovated Chestertown Marina and waterfront. You'll find a visitor center among a ship's store, complete with showers for slip holders and transient boaters. There is also a public boat ramp and dock-side dining available. Another port that you won't want to miss is the Sassafras Harbor. You'll be in awe of the river's beauty and delighted to find restaurants, an inn, marinas, and some of the most stunning sunsets ever at the Sassafras River bridge area. For a complete listing of marinas, please visit kentcounty.com/recreation/boating/marinas. *continued*



Photo by Bernadette Bowman

OPPOSITE PAGE: Massey Air Museum is conveniently located off of Route 301, only six miles from Galena, and is one of eleven Museums of Kent County. ABOVE: Chestertown Tea Party is held Memorial Day Weekend.

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The legend continues



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Aug. 5 - Aug. 9 ~ Dinosaurs

Clay Camp | Ages 8-13

June 24 - June 28 ~ Form and Function

August 5 - August 9 ~ Natural Forms

Film Camp | Ages 11-13

All Day Session: 9:00 - 3:30

June 24 - June 28

Big Kids | Ages 7-12

July 8 - July 12 - Stained Glass Mosaics ~ July 15- July 19 - Fiber Arts

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Costs: Little and Big Kids

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click on KidSPOT for more camp info and to register or call **410-778-6300**

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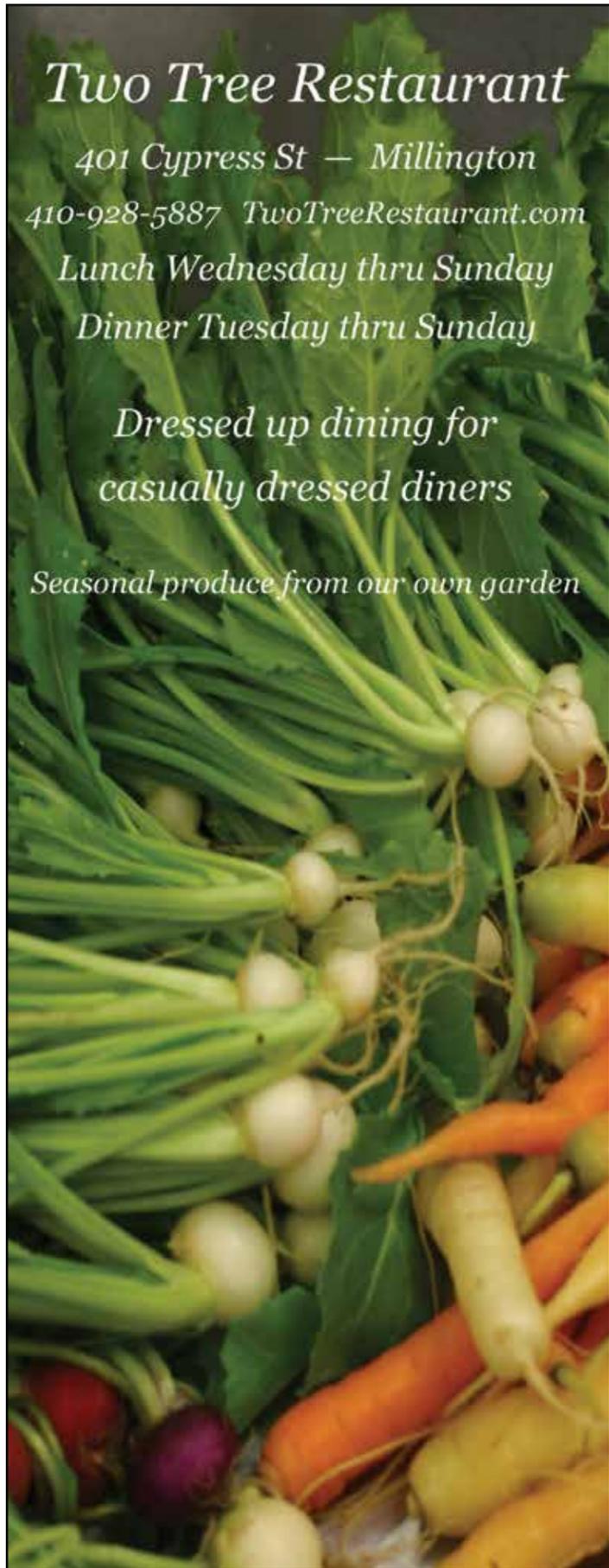
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Have you been thinking about boating courses? Kent County has several schooling options for visitors to choose from, including the Maryland School of Sailing, Chester River Yacht & Country Club, Georgetown Yacht Basin, and Rock Hall Yacht Club Sailing School. If you prefer a licensed captain to navigate the waters for you, there are many for you to choose from to set sail on the Chesapeake Bay or cruise its tributaries. Anglers, look no further, for almost two dozen fishing captains are geared up and ready to set you on course to their favorite fishing holes. Ideal habitats offer perfect spawning and nursery conditions for many fish species including Rockfish, Bluefish, Spot, Croaker, Yellow Perch, and White Perch. You will find a list of fishing captains at kentcounty.com/recreation/fishing.

If you have a **Passion for Paddling**, you will love the convenience of Kent County's thirty public landings and the abundance of calm rivers and creeks, with conditions that are ideal for kayaking, canoeing or paddle boarding, on your own or with a licensed guide. Information for all public landing facilities and permitting is found at kentcounty.com/recreation/boating/landings. Kayak tours and rentals can be arranged in Chestertown or Rock Hall. Or, join one of Sultana's themed guided tours. They offer fourteen tours this year, beginning on May 4th, but don't wait to register, for five trips are already sold out. Be sure that your adventure includes exploring the three most beautiful water trails you will ever experience: Chester River Water Trail, Sassafras River Water Trail and Eastern Neck Island Water Trail. Keep your eyes peeled for nesting bald eagles that are known to inhabit the area.

For the Love of Nature, you'll be amazed at all there is to see and do. Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, only seven miles from Rock Hall, is nestled



Photo by Bernadette Bowman

along the Chesapeake Bay and Chester River. This protected habitat is home to a wealth of wildlife and plants and to a one-of-a-kind butterfly garden, where hundreds of the brilliant winged creatures flock. Drawn to the refuge, the Monarch is one of the few butterflies that migrate in the central and eastern U.S., making their way south from September to the third week of October. Walk along the trail to see the groves of brightly colored flowers before continuing your hike to the shoreline, where you will find a panoramic view of the Chesapeake Bay. This island has seven unique hiking trails to choose from to explore marshlands, forests and beaches. Plan a picnic at the Ingleside Recreation Area, complete with tables and a magnificent view of the Chesapeake Bay. Be sure to stop in at the Refuge's Welcome Center. Another beautiful nature spot to explore is the Turners Creek and Sassafras River Natural Resources Management Area in Kennedyville. The three miles of shoreline and 143-acre area covers woodlands, wetlands and agriculture fields. Hikers along the way can enjoy the spectacular views of the Sassafras River and Chesapeake Bay from the high banks that face south. Biking and equestrian trail riding are also popular activities to complete your outdoor adventure. If cycling is your preferred way of exploring Kent County, the area has many bike trails to choose. Enjoy the flat winding roads that make up the Chesapeake County National Scenic Byway. While in Chestertown be sure to hop on the Wayne Gilchrest Trail, which connects Washington College to historic downtown Chestertown.

Relish the Views from the Beaches. While Kent County is known for its picturesque harbors, it is also home to two designated beach areas, where you will be challenged to find a more spectacular view. In Rock Hall at Ferry Park, beachgoers can enjoy the charming strip of beach, complete with a quaint boardwalk, picnic tables and barbecue grills. You will find that there are not many things more relaxing than sitting back on a boardwalk bench or under umbrella-cover on the beach and taking in the panoramic view of the Chesapeake Bay. On clear days, this Bayside oasis provides outstanding views to Maryland's western shore and promises some of the most beautiful sunsets available. Rock Hall's beach was voted one of the top eleven beaches in the state of Maryland to visit for the summer by onlyinyourstate.com. For another option, swing by Historic Betterton Beach, just 15 miles from Chestertown. This 5-acre, landscaped park and exceptionally sandy beach is handicap accessible and has 300 feet of frontage for swimming and 700 feet of shoreline access. It is home to 500 feet of boardwalk, a relaxing picnic pavilion located on a bay view bluff, public bath houses with showers, shaded picnic tables and a beach volleyball court. Located near the mouth of *continued*

Opposite Page: Spring is a prime time to view migratory song birds at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. Majestic Eagles are seen year-round. With 2,285 acres, six walking trails, observation decks, and a boat ramp, this Island is the perfect spot to explore during your visit.

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For a schedule of events visit: chestertownteaparty.org



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The Sassafra River at the northwest part of Kent County, fresh water currents lower the salinity of the Upper Chesapeake Bay and free Betterton's waters of sea nettles, which in late June or July often interrupt swimming lower down in the Bay. There is also a fishing jetty with a surface walk and a public pier, where transient boating is available.

Foodies will Love the combination of fresh food and drink with this bucolic countryside. Farming and agriculture constitute a large portion of the economy, and during most months, local markets and restaurants brim with fresh produce and meats. Amazing chefs are found in restaurants throughout the County in Millington, Rock Hall, Betterton, Chestertown, Georgetown, Tolchester, Great Oak, and Kennedyville. Many make their own ice cream. You must try them all. With a desired location along the Upper Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay, it might not be surprising to learn that Kent County is a site known for delicious, straight-from-the-water seafood. Here, you can soak in summer while you feast on fresh fish and famous Chesapeake Bay Blue Crabs. In fact, if your timing is right, you may be able to watch a Rock Hall Waterman unloading their catch for the day. Restaurants offer powerful views, amazing drinks, and incredible food. Don't forget to take home a scrumptious souvenir, like a bushel of crabs or other seafood delight to go. Teeming with "Made in Kent County" vendors, don't miss the award-winning Chestertown Farmers' and Artisans' market, which begins every Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. in Downtown's Fountain Park.

No matter what you choose to see and do, it's good to know that when you work up your appetite, there is a restaurant here for every taste. From mouth-watering burgers to gourmet seafood entrees, the flavor is yours to choose. From waterfront vistas to historic red-brick sidewalks, the view is yours to pick. So, for you "foodies" it doesn't get any better than Savoring locally made wine and spirits with a tasting at one of the county's producers. Nestled just outside of the town of Kennedyville is Crow Winery. In addition to wine tastings, this award-winning winery is also a vineyard, working farm, Farm Stay B&B, and is becoming well known for their many events. Another must stop is Bad Alfred's Distilling located in Downtown Chestertown, where visitors watch as vodka, gin and brandy are made, and then the tastings begin—directly from the stills. Continue your wine and spirits tour and stop in to say hello at Casa Carmen Wine Bar, also in Downtown Chestertown. For a complete list of dining options waiting to wow your taste buds in Kent County, visit kentcounty.com/dining.

History buffs will be delighted. Did you know that Chestertown, the county seat, has the second largest collection of 18th and 19th century structures in the state of Maryland? Located on the banks of the Chester River, this historic town dates to 1706, when it served as a thriving Mid-Atlantic port of entry for the colonial movement into Maryland. Along with being a prosperous shipbuilding and trading center, it became a locus for government

and court. In fact, the County's court records are the oldest in the State, dating back to the 1640s. Washington College, located in Chestertown and founded in 1782, is the tenth oldest college in the Nation. George Washington personally gave use of his name and a founding gift of 50 guineas. General Washington also served on the College's Board of Visitors and Governors prior to becoming the first president of the United States of America. Stop in to the Kent County Visitor Center at the corner of Maple Ave. and Cross St. to pick up the self-guided Walking Tour of Historic Chestertown. While there, ask about the Museums of Kent County brochure and other historic sites throughout the County.

Affection for the Arts runs deep in Kent County. With literally hundreds of resident artists in Kent County, local artwork may be found around every corner. It is no wonder why Historic Chestertown was designated an Arts & Entertainment District. Find a complete list of artists, studios and galleries at kentcounty.com/arts. For the music *continued*



Left: A small fishing village, Rock Hall has a fleet of charter fishing captains, its harbor touches the Chesapeake Bay, and it has an abundance of fresh seafood. **Above:** The National Music Festival transforms Kent County into a hub of music for two weeks every June (the 2nd-15th this year.) The nationally recognized event pairs gifted apprentice musicians with world-class mentors. Photo courtesy of the National Music Festival.

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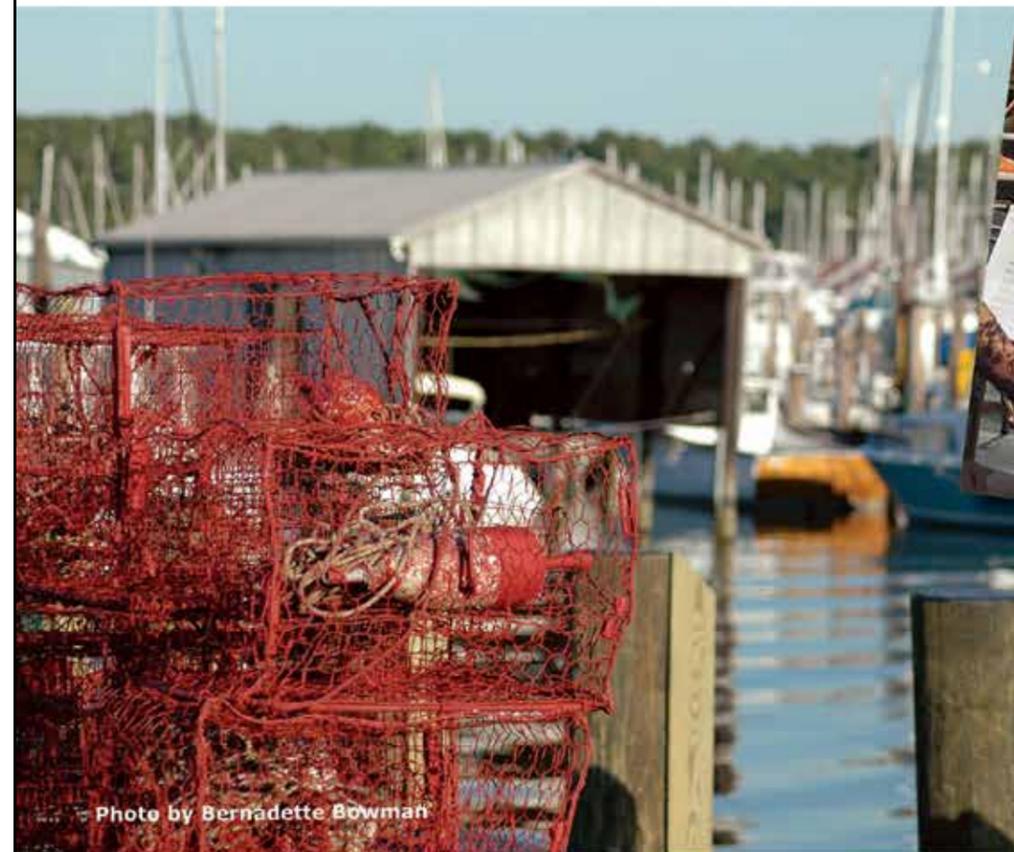


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Photo by Bernadette Bowman

lover, be sure to catch a live performance at The Garfield Center for the Arts at Prince Theatre on High Street in Chestertown (garfieldcenter.org) and The Mainstay on Main Street in Rock Hall (mainstayrockhall.org). From local talent to nationally renowned, both of these music venues attract performers that pack the house. Check their websites for a full schedule of performances. You will also find other opportunities to enjoy live music at many restaurants, bars and events.

A Traditionally Friendly Shopping Experience awaits you in the quaint towns of Kent County. From the whimsical shops and antique stores of Rock Hall and Galena to boutique stores and art galleries in Chestertown, you will find one-of-a-kind gifts, sprinkled with old fashion, friendly service. With more than 20 shops and over a dozen art galleries and studios in Downtown Chestertown, you'll find a variety of stores that include women's clothing, home goods, wine and cheese, natural foods, eclectic gift selections, children's clothing, an abundance of fine and crafted artwork, and much more. Galena is where you want to look for that special antique piece. Head for Rock Hall for more eclectic gift options, nautical selections, island-wear, and again – so much more.

Love your Body and your Mind. With its rivers, Chesapeake Bay, wide-open roads, and walkable communities, Kent County offers no end of outdoor activities. Here visitors seeking

relaxation and physical and spiritual renewal will find a wide variety of practitioners (more than 30) who together create a dynamic focal point for a holistic, healthy experience. For an in-depth overview of options, visit the Chester River Wellness Alliance website at crwell.org.

I haven't slept this well in ages! There is something about the quiet of country that lends itself to a great night's sleep. Featuring a variety of accommodations ranging from luxury inns and bed and breakfasts to an award-winning campground, and everything in between, this destination is poised to provide you with the vacation experience you are seeking. Many Inns provide guests with marina access and feature amenities like swimming pools, stand up paddle boards or kayaks, bicycles, and more. Many welcome your 4-legged family as well. For more information on accommodations, please visit kentcounty.com/lodging. *continued*

Left: Chestertown's Fountain Park is host to events all-year, but is most notable for its Chestertown Farmers and Artisans market, held each Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until noon. This award winning market is the only outdoor market open year-round in the state of Maryland. Also mark your calendars for Music in the Park Summer Concert Series, which runs every other Saturday evening from June 8th through August 31st.

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 \$349,900 MDKE113930



Pretty In Pink!
 Beautiful home that mixes modern essentials w/old time charm. This grand lady host a wrap around porch, stained glass, gourmet kitch-en & off street parking. \$420,000 MDKE107910



Betterton Beauty
 Crew's Landing, townhome with bay views all three levels. Mas-ter suite with balcony to enjoy views. Walk to the beach or din-ner at Barbara's On The Bay. Cozy fireplace. Screened porch.
 \$405,000 MDKE101208



Beautiful Custom Home
 Large living areas, actually over 3600 square feet with custom finishes, a deck, a patio and five bedrooms, a rec room, large dining room, office space too!
 \$299,000 1001956220



You Won't Believe This Home!
 Beautiful first floor master suite, large kitchen with an open floor plan leading to the dining area and family room. The porch is perfect, and you will love the breezes! Close to the CRY&CC.
 \$459,900 1001891852



Chester River Retreat
 Four bedrooms home with first Located on the upper Chester River, pride of ownership shows through-out this Dutch Colonial. Includes all the bells and whistles but nothing beats the awesome privacy. Large shop for the do it yourselfer!
 \$599,900 MDQA112650



Updated Home @ 23302 Sandpiper Rd
 Hardwood floors, a terrific 3 car attached garage with epoxy style flooring, ceramic tile in bathrooms, open kitchen, living room and dining room. All hardwood flooring throughout. All appliances are included and some are stainless steel. Upgraded BAT septic system four years ago. Corner lot with a patio & more.
 \$235,000 MDKE114042



Included With This Home!
 Four bedrooms home with first fThere is a sneak peek of the Chester River, a fireplace, a convenient elevator from garage to main level, living room, dining room, family room, workshop, porch, deck.
 \$334,900 1001408767



Over 2 Acres in the Country
 Backs to woods, but mostly cleared lot. Three bedroom brick home with a dry bsmt, wood floors, porch, wood stove, 2 baths. There is also a detached building with a 1 bedroom apt.
 \$239,000 MDKE114044



Historic District but New
 So much to love about this home! Wood floors, gas fire-place open floor plan, first floor master suite and all within walking distance to downtown Chestertown!
 \$487,500 MDKE107934



Just WOW!
 Breathtaking sunsets and a panoramic view of the Chesapeake Bay, could you ask for a more beautiful setting. Build your home on the .74 acre lot just a short drive to marinas.
 \$275,000 MDKE108462



Great Location on the Water
 Private, secluded and ready for your new home. If you are a nature lover, enjoy kayaking and scenic views, this is your spot. Close to 301 for easy commuting.
 \$159,900 MDQA116328

AGENTS

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Amy Larrauri
 443-480-2936

Vince Raimond
 410-708-9673

Doug Ashley, Broker
 410-708-0480

We are the Key to Your Home Buying and Selling Success

continued

Want to plan your trip around an event? Kent County has hundreds of events—year-round. Here is a sample of upcoming events. For more information and a complete list, visit kentcounty.com/events.

- ▶ First Fridays in Downtown Chestertown
- ▶ 2nd Saturdays Chestertown
- ▶ “Where The Wild Things Are” through May 12; The Garfield Center for the Arts
- ▶ Spring Walking Tour May 1st; Bordley History Center, Chestertown
- ▶ Museums of Kent Driving Tour May 4th; Throughout Kent County
- ▶ Jazz, Blues & Gospel Concert at Sumner Hall May 11; Karen Somerville, Chestertown
- ▶ Chili Fiesta Fly-In at Massey Aerodrome May 11th; Massey Air Museum, Massey
- ▶ Spring BikeFest May 18; Rock Hall Vol. Fire Company
- ▶ Galena Dogwood Festival May 18; Main Street, Galena
- ▶ Chestertown Tea Party May 24 through 26; throughout Downtown
- ▶ Jazz, Blues & Gospel Concert at Sumner Hall June 1; Reggie Harris, Chestertown

- ▶ Rock Hall Spring Triathlon June 1 & 2; Rock Hall Landing Marina
- ▶ Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre June 1; Crow Vineyard and Winery, Kennedyville
- ▶ National Music Festival June 2-15; Throughout Kent County
- ▶ Rock Hall Rockfish Tournament June 7th, 8th & 9th; Rock Hall Bulkhead
- ▶ 48th Antique Fly-In June 8; Massey Aerodrome & Air Museum
- ▶ Music in The Park: Chestertown June 8-Aug. 31 - Every other Saturday
- ▶ Art In Bloom June 23; RiverArts, Chestertown
- ▶ 34th Bay to Bay Bicycle Ride June 23; Begins at Betterton Fire Company
- ▶ Waterman's Day June 30; Rock Hall Harbor

Whether cycling, bird watching, getting out on the water, taking a nature walk, exploring history, touring or having fun at one of the many events, you will fall in love with this very special Chesapeake Bay region called Kent County. For more information, please visit kentcounty.com, and be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @visitkentcounty.

Designed and Written by the Kent County Office of Tourism



Before You Go
 Free Visitor Information packet:
 Kent County Tourism Office
www.kentcounty.com
 410-778-0416
 e-mail: tourism@kentgov.org

When You Get Here
 Kent County Visitor Center
 122 N. Cross Street, Chestertown,
 Rock Hall Visitor Information
 Main Street, Rock Hall



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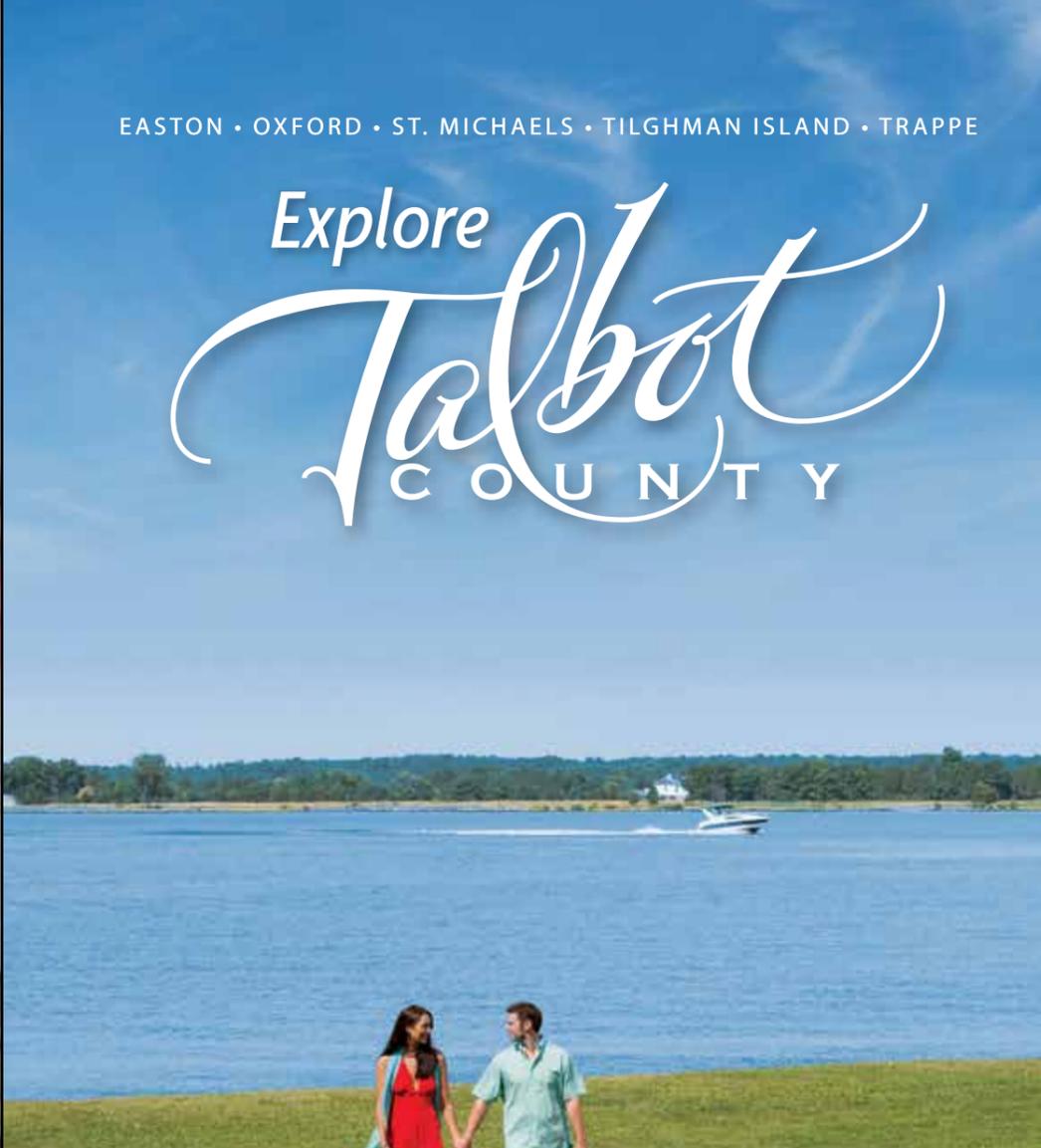
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Explore Talbot COUNTY

MAY 2019

20th Annual Multicultural Festival, Easton
May 4

**5th Annual Building African American
Minds Festival, Easton**
May 11

Fine Arts at Oxford
May 17–19

St. Michaels Running Festival
May 18

Chesapeake Sea Glass Festival, Wye Mills
May 18

Maritime Model Expo, St. Michaels
May 18, 19

**Bayside Quilters of the Eastern Shore
Quilt Show, Oxford**
May 31–June 2

JUNE 2019

St. Michaels Brewfest
June 1

**Annual Chesapeake Children's Book
Festival, Easton**
June 8

**Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival,
Talbot County**
June 4–15

**32nd Annual Antique and Classic Boat
Festival and the Arts at Navy Point
St. Michaels**
June 14–15

Annual Juneteenth Celebration, Easton
June 22

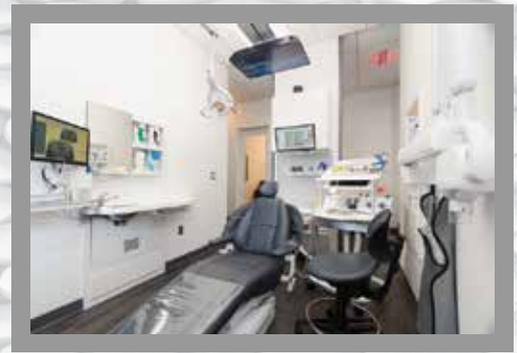
To find out what's
happening today!

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ABOUT THE COVER

Madeline Webb played Celia in Shore Shakespeare's 2018 presentation of "As You Like It." Shore Shakespeare will present William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from May 31 to June 23 in parks and community spaces on the Mid-Shore. For upcoming performances and auditions, visit shoreshakespeare.com or find Shore Shakespeare on Facebook at facebook.com/ShoreShakespeare.



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