

Gloucester County, Virginia

The Beehive

Water Meter Update Page 4

Gloucester Public Utilities is rolling out new water meters from the end of this year into 2025! The update will save staff time and help detect leaky pipes.

Holiday Happenings Page 14

Gloucester will have its first Festival of Trees this December! We've also got visits from Santa Claus, local Christmas concerts, and Small Business Saturday.



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Published by Gloucester
County's Community
Engagement & Public
Information Department



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Use a smartphone camera to scan this QR code or visit gloucesterva.gov/board-of-supervisors to access the Board's meeting schedule. Look for the button marked "Meeting Calendar (PDF)."

Calling all animal lovers!

As we embrace the changing seasons, it's the perfect time to get involved with our furry friends at the Gloucester Animal Control Shelter. This season we want to spotlight the vital role that volunteering, fostering, and adopting shelter dogs play in transforming lives.

Fostering a shelter dog provides them with a safe and nurturing environment while they await their forever home. This helps shelter staff learn more about each dog's personality and specific needs to help match them with the perfect family. Shelters across the country are FULL and this includes our shelter here in Gloucester County. When you adopt a shelter dog, you're not just

gaining a best friend; you're saving a life.

If you're not ready to foster or adopt, you can still get involved! Friends of Gloucester County Animal Control is looking for volunteers to join their K-9 walker team. Volunteers are vital in ensuring that each dog gets daily exercise and socialization. If you are interested in getting involved, contact our office today!

Pictured are some of the amazing dogs available for adoption through Friends of Gloucester County Animal Control! From left to right, Braxton, Marshall, Duck and Pongo are all looking for their forever homes.



Tax bills due soon:

The Gloucester County Treasurer's Office would like to remind all county citizens that the second installment of personal property and real estate tax bills will be mailed in November, with a due date of December 5.

Payments made in the Treasurer's Office by, or postmarked with the date of, December 5, 2024 (or before) will be timely. Accounts remaining unpaid after the deadline will be subject to additional charges as provided by the Code of Virginia and the Gloucester County code. Get more information or assistance by:

- Visiting our website, gloucesterva.gov/treasurer
- Calling our office at [804-693-2141](tel:804-693-2141) any Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- Emailing us at treasurer@gloucesterva.info



Gloucester going 'current' with new water meters

Gloucester County Public Utilities is in the process of updating its water meters. The Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project will cut back on the staff time required to check meters, bring more transparency to customers and establish a new alert system for staff to identify leaky pipes.

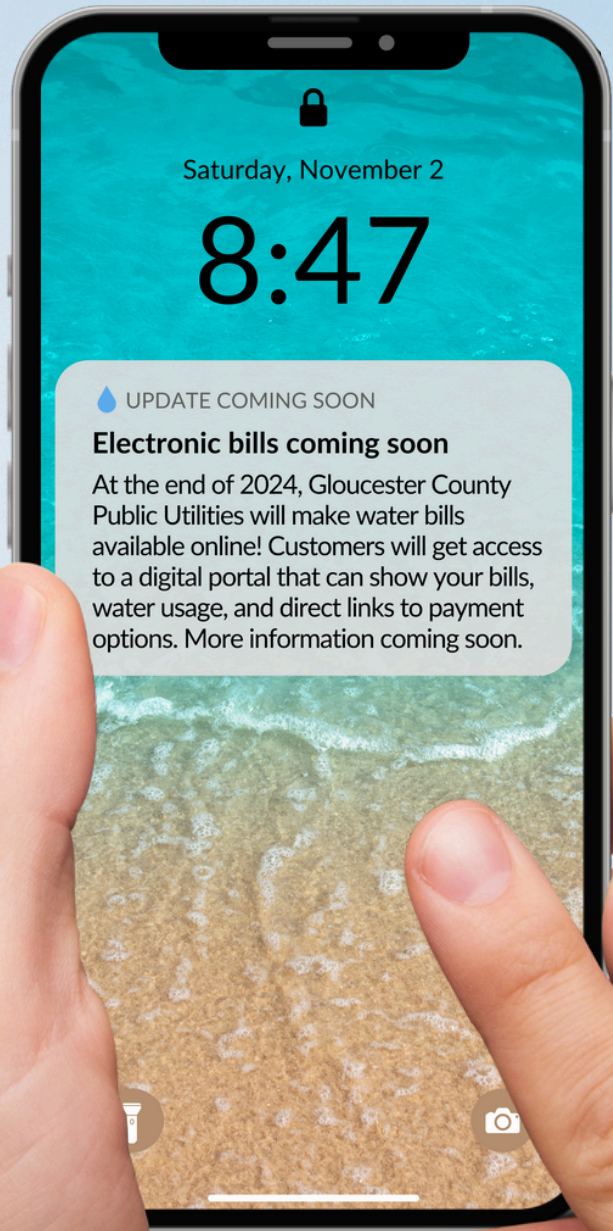
The water meters currently in use rely on mechanical parts, which spin to track how much water flows through that particular pipe in a month. These require employees to physically come by and collect usage data. It takes a crew of six employees a full week to drive to each meter and retrieve that information. This monthly update is when our teams find out if anything seems unusual, which has sometimes allowed leaks to go unnoticed for weeks.

With the new meters, public utilities workers will be notified of water leaks as soon as they happen! Problems will be less severe when our crews get to them, and Gloucester will waste less water as a county.

You can expect to see our contractors, HST Utility, working on the water meters through the end of 2024 and into 2025. If you see their trucks in your neighborhood, be sure to show them a warm Gloucester welcome. Customers will get a notification when their water meter has been updated.

Psst... Utilities is hiring!

Gloucester County has several full-time opportunities in the Public Utilities field! These careers offer training, earn you great benefits and come with a wonderful team. Check out [GloucesterVA.jobs](https://www.gloucester.gov/jobs) for more.



Zoning Ordinance & Comprehensive Plan: Looking forward into Gloucester's Future

The Gloucester County Board of Supervisors adopted a Zoning Ordinance Update in September. This is the result of almost five years of hard work and community collaboration. The update weaves together Board initiatives, business recommendations, and public feedback. It also addresses recent changes to state law. The changes include:

- additions, deletions, and revisions to certain definitions;
- removal of the Residential Mixed Use district;
- updating the Village Business District to Village Mixed Use district;
- allowing up to eight residential dwelling units per acre in the Village Mixed Use district;
- changes to the uses permitted and how they are permitted in each district;
- removing the minimum lot size requirements for three districts (Conservation, General Business and Rural Business);
- allowing agriculture in the Bayside Conservation and Suburban Countryside districts by a special permitting process (the last code only allowed agriculture if it was grandfathered in for your property);
- revising Article 9 (Supplementary Regulations) to:
 - reduce rules surrounding home occupations;
 - create rules about freight containers used for storage;
 - require common open spaces in new large subdivisions and multifamily developments;

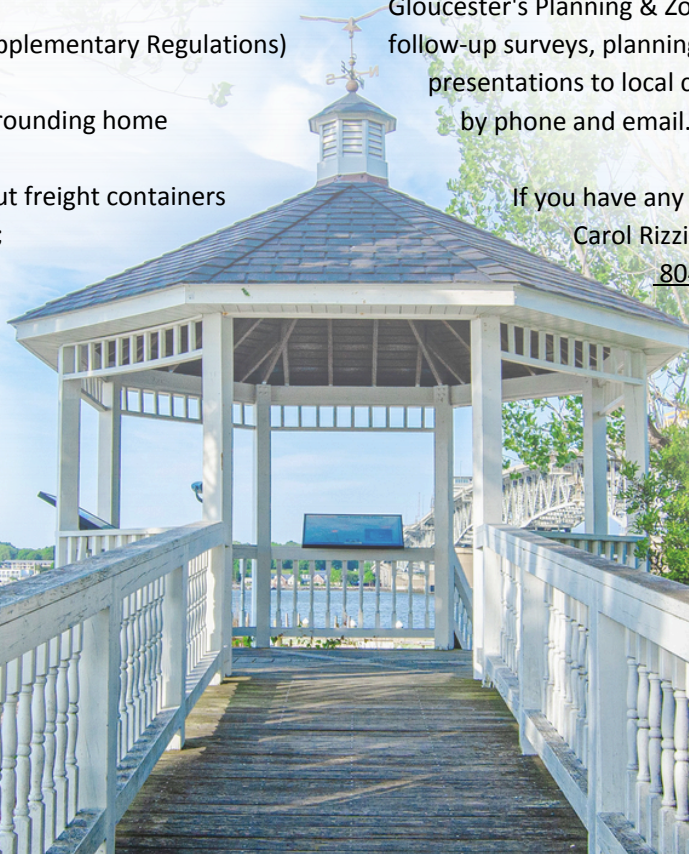
- expand neighbor notifications for proposed uses on private roads;
- remove fees from the Zoning Ordinance, and create a separate schedule of zoning fees;
- other updates and changes to articles 1-15.

With the Zoning Ordinance update now complete, our staff is getting ready to update the Comprehensive Plan. This plan will act as a long-term guide for development in Gloucester. If you want to help steer the future of the county, this is your chance!

We are gathering public feedback from a random sample survey. A group called Zencity will help us reach every segment of Gloucester's population. The survey will ask residents what characteristics of Gloucester they enjoy, and what they would like to change. If you get a request from Zencity to complete this survey, please take the time to fill it out. The County wants to know what is near and dear to your heart as we plan for the future.

Even if you are not chosen to take the survey, there will be many opportunities to get involved. Gloucester's Planning & Zoning staff will be creating follow-up surveys, planning town halls and giving presentations to local clubs. We are also available by phone and email.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Rizzio or Anne Ducey-Ortiz at [804-693-1224](tel:804-693-1224).





Commissioner of the Revenue's Office:

As the second installment due date approaches, we wanted to share some information with our taxpayers.

Please keep in mind that all personal property is assessed as of January 1 of the current year in mass using recognized pricing guides and/or percentages of cost depending on the directives of Virginia State Statues. This is not our opinion of your property's worth; Virginia law dictates how we assess personal property.

When a taxpayer moves, purchases, sells, trades or disposes of personal property, they are required to notify DMV, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and the Commissioner of Revenue's Office to ensure the proper handling of such transaction. Failure to do so will result in unnecessary and burdensome processes to correct the taxation of the item later.

To report changes, reach out to:

- Dept. of Motor Vehicles: 804-497-7100
- Dept. of Wildlife Resources: 804-367-1000
- Commissioner of the Revenue: 804-693-3451

For more tax facts or answers to FAQs, visit gloucesterva.gov/cor or call 804-693-3451.



Open for Business:

Gloucester County's Economic Development staff promotes economic health and champions resources to create the best environment in which to live, work, shop, visit, and do business. In light of that mission, 2024 was a robust year for the county's economy.

Some of the initiatives our Economic Development team took on included hosting a new Gloucester High School Business Advisory Group, coordinating the county government's first Reverse Vendor Fair, awarding almost 50 Small Business Incentive grants, and honing in on several Gloucester Point revitalization projects.

Three local businesses (Tony & Milena's, The Pool Store, and Goodman Antiques & Estate Jewelry) saw expansions in 2024. Gloucester also welcomed 20 new commercial businesses and 99 home-based businesses.

If you would like to get more information or get involved in Lunch-n-Learn seminars, reach out to Director Sherry Spring by calling [804-693-1414](tel:804-693-1414) or visiting gloucesterva.gov/economic-development.

Please join us in visiting, supporting and celebrating these businesses who opened new doors in 2024:



New Businesses

- | | |
|--|--|
| Ark Auto & Truck Sales, LLC | Mood Exotic Snack Shop |
| Atlantic Aqua Farms USA-
Virginia Division, INC (former
Mobjack Seafood) | Nooners Bar & Grill |
| Classic Collision, LLC | Point Periodontics and
Implants, PLLC |
| Ducky's Dog Spa | Queen of Shears, LLC |
| Hunter's Heaven, LLC | Starbucks |
| Langley Federal Credit Union | Super Tobacco and Vape |
| Mariposa Medical Spa, PLLC | Tech Solutions |
| Milk Panda | The Auto Spa of Gloucester |
| Middle Peninsula Golf Carts | WKE Accounting, INC |
| | Valvoline Quick Oil Change |
| | VAMAC, Inc. |

Congratulating a job well done for our County:



Gloucester County received special honors from the Virginia Values Veterans V3 Program in early October. The V3 Secretary's Award recognizes state, regional, and local entities that welcome Virginia veterans and military spouses into their workforce. Gloucester was the only entity that received the prestigious award!

Gloucester became a V3 Certified Employer in 2022. The program offers training to Human Resources departments and employers so they can implement nationally recognized best practices in recruiting, hiring, and retaining highly skilled veterans.



Deputy County Administrator Steve Wright was awarded the Julian F. Hirst Award for Distinguished Service by the Hampton Roads Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. The award is given each year to an administrator with an exceptional record of public service. Wright has nearly 20 years experience serving in local governments, and he's left his impact on towns from Ohio down through Virginia Beach.

Since coming to Gloucester in 2022, Wright has worked to improve Key Performance Indicator measurements for all County departments, and has implemented programs to foster employee development within the organization.



Katey Legg, former Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director for Gloucester County was honored in September with the James C. Stutts Fellows Award, the highest honor of the Virginia Recreation and Park Society (VRPS) during the organization's Annual Conference.

Over the years, Legg has served in several leadership roles with VRPS, helping move the organization forward. Legg has now moved on to be Gloucester's Director of Public Utilities.



The Community Engagement & Public Information Department feels humbled and honored that the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) selected Gloucester as one of 45 recipients of its 2024 Achievement Awards, which recognize excellence in local government programs. VACo received 145 project submissions this year.

Winning entries focused on addressing issues of housing, recreation, and communications, as well as finding solutions to other challenges that counties face daily. Gloucester's winning entry focused on the modernization of The Beehive into a community magazine. We'd like to thank our readers for their support of this project.

Contact your school board member



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Use a smartphone camera to scan this QR code or visit gets.gc.k12.va.us/page/school-board to access the School Board's meeting schedule.

From Superintendent Anthony Vladu, Ed.D.

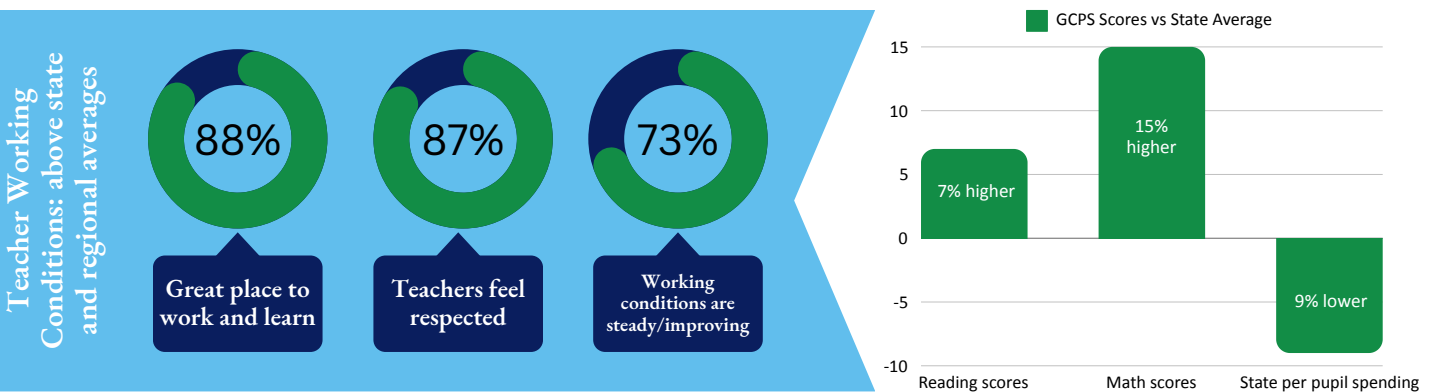
Dear Gloucester County Community,

This past year has been one of growth and accomplishment for Gloucester County Public Schools. Our strategic plan was reorganized with a focus on five critical areas: Safety, Staff and Student Wellness, Community and Parent Engagement, Operational Efficiency, and Instruction and Academic Achievement. This well-rounded approach has paid off, as we have reached our highest state ranking among Virginia’s school districts since 2006.

Ensuring safety across all schools remains our top priority. Over the last year, we completed the installation of security vestibules at every school and placed School Resource Officers (SROs) at our elementary schools. In addition, we implemented metal detectors at high-profile events, such as graduations and football games. A major milestone was funding and deploying OpenGate weapons detectors in all of our schools, providing an extra layer of security without disrupting the school environment.

Supporting the well-being of our students and staff has been central to our efforts. Through the implementation of Care Solace, a free service connecting students and their families with local counselors and mental health providers, we’ve taken steps to ensure mental health is a priority. A federal grant has allowed us to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students, ensuring that the 8% of students who previously didn’t eat at school now enjoy a warm meal with their peers.

Gloucester achieves more with less, spending 10% less per pupil than the state average while consistently outperforming in math, reading, and science. This year, we fully funded transportation, maintenance, and facilities, added two instructional positions, all while providing a 3% raise to all employees. With 88% of employees reporting that GCPS is a great place to work and learn, and 73% noting stable or improved working conditions, we recognize the critical link between staff satisfaction and student success.



Our on-time graduation rates increased from 90.6% to 93.5%, while dropout rates were reduced by 50%. With a 9% reduction in behaviors impeding academic progress and a 27% reduction in disruptions affecting school operations, we are seeing improvements across the board.

Our next steps are to build on these successes and engage parents and the community in the education of all of Gloucester’s children. Together, we are making public education thrive.

Sincerely,

Anthony Vladu, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent

School nutrition

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Gloucester is looking to hire some substitute cafeteria workers! Do you want to earn some extra cash while benefitting from a flexible work schedule? Try your hand in a school cafeteria! You will get to see your child get on and off the bus, and work only while your child is in school. Our pay rate starts at \$14.00 per hour.

Apply online by going to gets.gc.k12.va.us and clicking "Employment Opportunities" on the menu at the top of the page. You can also scan this QR code to go directly to the job listing.



MY SCHOOL BUCKS

My School Bucks is a great tool to access and manage your student's snack account online. You can monitor your student's account and purchases, and register your email to get low balance reminders. You can also add money to your student's meal account(s) for a \$3.25 per child processing fee.

You can still send in a check or cash at no extra charge to replenish your student's account. Please visit www.myschoolbucks.com to register, or you can download the MySchoolBucks app on your cell phone or handheld device. It's available through the app store or Google Play.



WE ARE HIRING

GCPS is growing its team of school bus drivers! Training is provided at no cost. This is the perfect opportunity for stay-at-home parents, retirees, and others with a flexible schedule.



SCAN HERE



REQUIREMENTS

- 21 years of age and older
- Must work well with kids
- Must pass background check
- Must pass drug & alcohol testing

APPLY NOW

- gets.gv.k12.va.us
- [804-693-2127](tel:804-693-2127)

Special Education Advisory Committee

Please mark your calendar with the meeting dates for the Gloucester County Special Education Advisory Committee for the 2024-2025 school year. The members of the Committee would like to extend this invitation for you to attend! The Committee, which includes parents of children with disabilities and persons with disabilities, discusses not only Federal/State regulations governing special education, but also local special education issues. Most meetings include a presentation by a guest speaker on a particular issue relating to special education. All

meetings are open to the public. Please call [804-693-7944](tel:804-693-7944) if you have any questions. Please plan to join us on the following dates at 6 p.m.:

- Dec. 2, 2024 – TC Walker Education Center
- March 3, 2025 – TC Walker Education Center
- May 5, 2025 – TC Walker Education Center

We look forward to seeing you! All meetings will be held in person with an option to attend virtually.



Middle Peninsula Regional Special Education Program

The Middle Peninsula Regional Special Education Program serves students with autism and multi-disabled students from Gloucester, King and Queen, King William, Mathews, and Middlesex Counties, and the Town of West Point. The group holds meetings at the Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center located at 6099 TC Walker Road, Gloucester, VA. All meetings are open to the public. The upcoming meeting dates for the Middle Peninsula Regional Special Education Program Board of Control are listed below.

- Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024 at 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025 at 9 a.m.

Please call [804-693-7944](tel:804-693-7944) if you have any questions.



Rappahannock Community College

Register now for spring classes! From culinary arts to welding; nursing to diesel training; Associate degrees to transfer; RCC has something for everyone. Associate degrees, certificates, and career and workforce studies programs are offered in person and/or online, in addition to nearly 40 guaranteed admissions agreements with colleges and universities across the state and region.

By starting at RCC, you can save \$18,000 on a college degree. Plus you have the opportunity to earn \$50,000 per year or more in a high-demand workforce career.

Spring classes begin January 16. College navigators are available to help you get started. Call [804-758-6730](tel:804-758-6730) or email advisor@rappahannock.edu. For more info, visit rappahannock.edu.



Ware Academy

Ware Academy will host an Oyster Roast on November 8 at 5:30 p.m. This festive celebration of the school's 75th anniversary will be held on our campus.

We welcome community members, alumni, former staff, board members, current students, and families to this family-friendly event on the lawn.

Enjoy local entertainment and dance the night away while savoring delicious oysters, food, and beverages (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) available for purchase.

While there's no admission fee, pre-registration is required. Secure your ticket at www.event.gives/Ware75. Don't miss this special occasion!

Gloucester's first Festival of Trees

The Gloucester Resource Council is a network of community resources that works to identify needs, promote agency services, encourage collaboration, and advocate for the community. The council will be presenting its first ever Festival of Trees on December 6 from 5-8 p.m. in the Courthouse Circle of Gloucester's Main Street.

Nonprofits and service organizations that help people in Gloucester (and the surrounding areas) will be coming together to decorate trees and wreaths based on their unique missions. There will be a seek-and-find, photo opportunities, carolers, interactive QR codes, and more! It will be fun for the whole family.

If your organization would like to participate, or if you have a business along Main Street that would like to host a tree or wreath, please reach out to Debra Falkenberg and Crystal Booker at grcfestivaloftrees@gmail.com.



Gloucester Main Street

Mark your calendars for November 30!

Kick off your holiday shopping by supporting local businesses on Small Business Saturday. It's a perfect day to find unique Christmas gifts while making a big impact on your community.

Shopping small is easy and meaningful. Every purchase helps support the businesses that make Gloucester's Main Street special.



Holiday Open House

Celebrate the season at Gloucester Main Street's Holiday Open House!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 8, as Gloucester Main Street hosts its delightful Holiday Open House from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon filled with holiday cheer!

Enjoy local businesses, festive music, photos with Santa, and more.

WINTER CONCERTS

NOVEMBER - JANUARY



WÖR @ ABINGDON EPISCOPAL

5 P.M. | FREE ENTRY | 4645 GW MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, HAYES

WÖR (pronounced 'were') is a band of five musicians whose curiosity, passion and talent has led to a niche goldmine of melodies in stunning contemporary arrangements. Their instruments include fiddle, bagpipes, accordion, guitar and saxophone. With their finely textured arrangements, WÖR injects new energy into 18th-century melodies from the Flanders region of Belgium. Presented by Arts at Abingdon. A free wine/cheese reception will be open to the public following the concert in the Parish Hall.

KATE VOSS AND THE HOT SAUCE @ MATHEWS HIGH

3 P.M. | TICKETS \$30 | 9889 BUCKLEY HALL RD, MATHEWS

A renowned jazz singer accompanied by five award-winning musicians. Music ranges across danceable favorites from classic artists like Hank Williams, Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly and many more. Presented by Concerts by the Bay. Students may attend for free.



CCO @ BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 P.M. | FREE ENTRY | 1860 HAYES ROAD, GLOUCESTER POINT

Join the Courthouse Community Orchestra, a symphonic group made up of your friends and neighbors from the Gloucester-Mathews area, as we celebrate the music of Christmas! Bring your family, this concert will be fun for all ages.



CCO @ COBBS CREEK ARTS CENTER

7 P.M. | FREE ENTRY | 61 COBBS CREEK LANE, COBBS CREEK

The Courthouse Community Orchestra, a symphonic group made up of your friends and neighbors from the Gloucester-Mathews area, will be performing a blend of Christmas pop hits and classic movements from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker ballet.





DEC. 7

CCO @ NEWINGTON BAPTIST

7 P.M. | FREE ENTRY | 6169 MAIN STREET, GLOUCESTER

The Courthouse Community Orchestra wants to celebrate the sounds of the season with you! Our trademark style is to build a program that pairs popular songs with symphonic works, and Christmas gives us some fantastic song options to play for you. Bring your family to Newington Baptist Church for this upbeat holiday performance.

JIM CURRY @ MATHEWS HIGH

3 P.M. | TICKETS \$30 | 9889 BUCKLEY HALL RD, MATHEWS

Concerts by the Bay presents an afternoon of songs performed by Jim Curry, the "voice of John Denver." Curry and his band, renowned country-wide for continuing John Denver's legacy, will also include Christmas selections. Students may attend for free.

DEC. 15



JAN. 17

TENET VOCAL ARTISTS @ ABINGDON EPISCOPAL

7 P.M. | FREE ENTRY | 1860 HAYES ROAD, GLOUCESTER POINT

This winter, TENET Vocal Artists visits Virginia and North Carolina to share deeply expressive music from Claudio Monteverdi's Italy and Henry Purcell's England. Among the ensemble's specialties, TENET explores the rich and fruitful way baroque composers crafted duets as a way to double the impact of a single idea through the use of two voices or instruments with powerful and dazzling results.



CONCERTS BY THE BAY

concertsbythebay.org

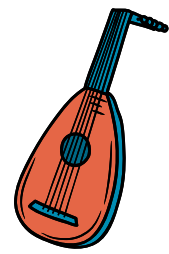
concertsbythebay22@gmail.com



CCO

courthousecommunityorchestra.org

Facebook.com/CourthouseCommunityOrchestra



ARTS AT ABINGDON

abingdonchurch.org/arts

804-693-3035





NetworkPeninsula

NetworkPeninsula builds stronger communities by providing local nonprofits with tools needed to fulfill their missions effectively and connecting them to citizens and businesses in the community.

We are a trusted leader providing education, connections, advocacy, and authentic collaboration opportunities to help our nonprofits remain sustainable, able to continue the valuable work they do.

What we offer:

- Monthly Executive Director and Development Director Coffees for peer support and encouragement.
- Nonprofit EXcellence Training (NEXT); Our continuing education for nonprofit staff, board members and volunteers.
- Grants Database; Up-to-date grant alerts to funding opportunities across the country, organized by program category.
- And more!

Learn about joining our network of nonprofits at linktr.ee/networkpeninsula.

Give time. Share life. Volunteer today.

At Riverside Hospice, we are focused on living life to its fullest, regardless of the diagnosis. Our volunteers play an invaluable role in that commitment.

Volunteers give their time and share compassion in many ways. With specialized training, our volunteers assist our team in a variety of areas including:

- Patient companionship
- Family and caregiver respite
- Pet therapy
- Team member and clerical support
- Bereavement support

To learn more about volunteering with Riverside Hospice, please call us at [804-693-1111](tel:804-693-1111) or visit us online at riversideonline.com/hospice.



Guinea Heritage Association

December:

Giving Tuesday will be December 3. The Guinea Heritage Association, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, appreciates your support for its scholarships, educational programs, historical preservation and community outreach.

Come celebrate Christmas in Guinea on December 14. Join in a day of fun and “Thank You” as GHA gets to show our gratitude to the community for its continued support. Do a little Christmas shopping, visit with family and friends, and enjoy a light lunch with dessert (of course).

Please bring a toy for the Toy Drive and nonperishable food items to benefit the community food closet at Union Baptist Church.

Santa is scheduled to come by for a visit at noon!

January:

Stay tuned for more information on how we will thank our existing Volunteers and Donors, and efforts to recruit new volunteers!

Blessed Couples United Outreach

Save the date! On Saturday, Nov. 16 from 6-11 p.m., B. C. United Outreach will host our annual Chucks & Tux Gala. This event serves as an annual scholarship fundraiser for our nonprofit organization that serves K-12 students, seniors, and families in need.

This special evening will feature live music, a catered dinner, drinks, and a photo booth. It’s a great time, and gives us an opportunity to share our plans for 2025.

The event will be held at the Abingdon Ruritan Club at 8784 Guinea Road in Hayes. Tickets are \$60 per person. If you would like VIP tickets, those are \$100 per person. You can also reserve a VIP table (for 8 people) for \$600.

For more details, visit www.bcunitedoutreach.org. You can reach us by phone by calling [757-503-3250](tel:757-503-3250) or [757-817-2411](tel:757-817-2411).



MPNN BH Prevention, Health & Wellness

Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Behavioral Health would like to invite you to participate in any of these upcoming trainings/events:

ACE Interface Training (two free virtual trainings)

When: Tuesday, Nov. 12 and Monday, Dec. 18

Online registration: www.allianceva.org

Question, Persuade & Refer Training (two free virtual trainings)

When: Thursday, Nov. 21 and Wednesday, Dec. 11

Online registration: www.allianceva.org

Walk for a New Day: A Suicide Prevention Walk

When: Nov. 9, 2024 from 10 a.m. to noon

Where: Main Street Shopping Center, Gloucester

Keynote Speaker: Charles R. Walsh, Jr., LCSW, Retired Executive Director of MPNN CSB. No registration is required.

You can contact us by calling [804-642-5402](tel:804-642-5402) or sending an email to prevent@mpnn.state.va.us.

Piankatank Community League

The Piankatank Community League (PCL) is a civic league in northern Gloucester County. Our facility may be rented for business or social and family events. Please message our coordinator through our Facebook page to make arrangements.

Our activities include supporting those who improve, serve, and protect our community. The PCL hosts an appreciation dinner for the Gloucester Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad twice yearly. The PCL meets the third Thursday in March, June, September, and December at 6:30 p.m. at 11888 Harcum Road. Our socials and guest presentations are open to all.

For more general information or if you would like to speak at one of our meetings, contact Phil Olekszyk at [804-815-3479](tel:804-815-3479).

TOPS 0469

Looking for support for your loss weight program? TOPS 0469 (Take off Pounds Sensibly) meets weekly and is here to help. Meetings are held on Wednesday mornings at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, 6470 Main Street, Gloucester. Weigh-in runs from 9-9:50 a.m., with the meeting from 10-11 a.m. Your first visit is free!

There are 3 membership tiers, starting at \$49.64 per year (about \$4.13 a month, which goes to the national organization). Subsequent renewal is \$37. Chapter dues are \$4 per month, which go toward Gloucester chapter expenses. If both you and your spouse wish to join, half-priced memberships are available.

For more information, contact Barbara Fleming: [804-854-5290](tel:804-854-5290).





A penny for your thoughts? How about \$50!

Tell us what you think - you could win a \$50 Walmart gift card!

How do you feel about quality of life in Virginia's Middle Peninsula & Northern Neck? Your confidential responses to our survey will help us allocate resources.

Five randomly chosen survey respondents will receive \$50 Walmart gift cards! The survey ends on Nov. 15, and the gift card drawing will happen on Dec. 2.



Ways to take the survey:

- Scan the QR code to take the survey on your smart phone.
- Take the survey online at surveymonkey.com/r/6FVLRVQ.
- Stop by Bay Aging, 5306 Old Virginia Street in Urbanna, to pick up a paper survey. We are open M-F from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Call us at [804-758-2386](tel:804-758-2386) and we will mail a survey to you.

Gloucester Adult Day Center: A Service of Bay Aging

GADC is pleased to announce Financial Aid Scholarships for those who qualify. The application can be found on our website under the Health tab at www.bayaging.org or contact us directly for assistance with the application process at [804-695-9008](tel:804-695-9008).

Adult Day Center Services enable caregivers to work, tend to daily tasks and have needed time for themselves while allowing your loved one to maintain their current home placement and prevent institutionalization.

Included in our services are a full activity calendar, opportunities for socialization, and home cooked meals which can rekindle a sense of independence.

We are located at 5873 Fiddlers Green Road in Gloucester, and open M-F from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call today to schedule a tour: [804-695-9008](tel:804-695-9008).



Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Winter Registration Begins Nov. 12 for Residents
(Nov. 14 for non-residents)

The Stewart Building · 6382 Main Street Gloucester, VA 23061 · (804) 693-2355 · prt@gloucesterva.info



CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY PARADE

DEC 7TH · 3PM · MAIN STREET

Contact us:

BY EMAIL

prt@gloucesterva.info

BY PHONE

General inquiries: 804-693-2355

Athletics: 804-693-1262

Recreation Programs: 804-693-1264

Clean Community: 804-693-5370

Daffodil Festival: 804-210-1903

Museum of History: 804-693-1234

Visitor Center & Gift Shop: 804-693-3215

Tourism: 804-693-0014



STAY INFORMED

Do we have the correct contact information for your family? We frequently send notices via email. You can update your household information online, or send us an email at prt@gloucesterva.info

CONNECT WITH US

Facebook: [Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism](#)

Instagram: [@gloucesterparksandrec](#)

Website: gloucesterva.gov/pr

Registration: gloucesterva.gov/civicrec

Every effort is made to ensure the information inside is accurate. Up to date information is available on our website.

Scan code above for committee member contact lists.

Athletics

Phone: 804-693-2355 | Playline 804-693-5811

YOUTH SPORTS

The goals of all youth leagues are to have fun and display sportsmanship. Players must wear proper shoes/cleats and equipment listed for each sport. All youth sports are equal-play leagues for players that attend regularly **Please be sure to enter carpool requests for siblings during your registration process, especially siblings in different age groups.** Coaches and officials are volunteers, so please remember to THANK them!

For all athletic program email communication, please be sure to add tbates@gloucesterva.info to your contacts along with checking your spam folders as there have been issues with communication being lost in junk mail.

BASKETBALL & FIELD HOCKEY

JUNIOR LEAGUE BASKETBALL

Tuesday & Thursday | 5–8 p.m. | \$55 | Peasley Middle School

A co-ed league for ages 12-14. This league is dedicated to showing sportsmanship and progressing skill levels through dedicated coaching! We have an eight game season with contracted referees. March 11-April 26 **DEADLINE March 4**

SENIOR LEAGUE BASKETBALL

Tuesday & Thursday | 5-8 p.m. | \$55 | Peasley Middle School

For high school students ages 15-18, boys and girls. Eight game season followed by a single elimination tournament with contracted referees. Mandatory Skills Day evaluation (February 22). Meet twice a week (Mon-Thu) for practice.

March 4-April 26 **DEADLINE Feb. 25**



YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – BASKETBALL SCORE/TIME KEEPING

Friday, March 14 | FREE | Stewart Building

For ages 13-18. Students seeking volunteer hours for school clubs can operate the score clock during basketball season (March 3-April 26). Certificates of volunteer hour completion will be awarded at the end of the season to turn into club teachers. A score clock operation class will be held before the start of the season.

Pre-registration is required! **DEADLINE March 10**



Scan For Details!



UPWARD

Tuesday & Thursday | 5:30-7:30 p.m. | Newington Baptist Church

For ages 6-15. A Christian-based basketball league combining elements of sportsmanship and faith-based teaching during practice and games. Practice sessions are one hour. Let's have fun at Upward! Dec. 28-March 15 **DEADLINE Dec. 16**

FIELD HOCKEY

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday | \$50 | Bethel Field Hockey Field

For ages 6-13. Designed for fun & sportsmanship. All players must have shin guards, mouthpiece, protective eyewear and a stick. Practice: twice/week on weekdays, at 5 & 6 pm. Games: Saturdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the occasional Sunday afternoon.

● March 14-June 4 **DEADLINE March 3**



COACHES & OFFICIALS

Volunteer coaches & referees are needed for basketball, field hockey & soccer leagues. Training is provided. The pay's not good, but the rewards are GREAT! Super way to support the youth of your community. **For info on volunteering, call Tiffany: 804-693-1262.**



Park Programs

Beaverdam has something for everyone with its 635 acre lake and acres of natural splendor.

The park is open seven days a week, and is located in the central part of the county.

Main Entrance: 8687 Roaring Springs Road  Second Entrance: 9537 Fary's Mill Road

BEAVERDAM PARK OFFERINGS & RENTALS

- * Whitcomb Lodge (enclosed 70 person capacity)
- * Smith & Beaverdam shelters (35 person capacity)
- * Picnic areas (open areas w/seating for 12)
- * Freshwater lake fishing & accessible kayak launch
- * Full trail experience is over 20 miles!

For park hours, information or reservations, please call **804-693-2107** or visit gloucesterva.gov/Beaverdam.

*****UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, DEADLINE IS 1 WEEK PRIOR TO START DATE*****

PARK PROGRAMS



PICTURES IN THE PARK

December 14 | Multiple Time Slots Available | \$10 | Whitcomb Lodge

For the whole family! Join us at Beaverdam Park for a Holiday Photo Op! Wear the ugly sweaters, the holiday finery or "our favorite" park attire. We will email photos for you to use as Christmas Cards, presents, and scrapbooks. Register for 10-minute appointments between noon and 3 p.m.

THE FULL HIKE

3rd Saturdays | \$5 | 10 a.m. | Ranger Station | Registration Closes The Day Before

For ages 16 and older. Beaverdam has beautiful trails where you can enjoy the flora and fauna of Gloucester. The multi-use trail runs from the park's main entrance to the Fary's Mill Road (FMR) entrance. We will shuttle you to FMR and drop you off at the trail so that you can hike, self-guided, the approximately 9 mile hike. Hike is roughly 3 hours (at a 4 miles/hour pace). Take your time, take it all in, just be back to the Main Entrance by park closing time and check out at the Ranger Station. Dress for the weather and in sturdy shoes (no open toe, open back, slides or flip flops). Bring water, snacks/food, binoculars and a camera if you'd like. The following Sunday will be the rain date. **Please arrive at the Ranger Station at 9:45 a.m.** Dates: December 21 | January 18 | February 15



FIRST DAY HIKE

January 1 | 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. | \$5 | Beaverdam Park

It's a new year; join us for a first day hike at your favorite park. Set your pace for the year, take a hike on day 1 of 2025!

THIS IS A SELF GUIDED HIKE from Beaverdam Park's Fary's Mill Road Entrance to the Main Entrance. It's a beautiful hike along the Beaverdam lake. Bring your camera, binoculars, water, and food. Dress for the weather, and wear sturdy shoes. A walking stick may be helpful.

Here is how it works: Drive to Beaverdam Park's Main Entrance (8687 Roaring Springs Road), arrive by 9:45 a.m. We will shuttle you to Beaverdam Park's Fary's Mill Road Entrance. There you will hike the Multi-use Trail back to the Main Entrance. Please return to the Main Entrance before closing time. Pre-registration is required. Check-in is also required at our ranger station when you arrive back at the Main Entrance. **DEADLINE Dec. 29**

HUG A TREE AND SURVIVE

Thursday, February 13 | 5:30-6:30 p.m. | Free | Stewart Building

For ages 7-11. Hug a Tree and Survive was created many years ago after a tragic accident. This program teaches how to help yourself be found if you ever become lost. It includes info on how searchers look for you, how to stay dry and warm, and how to be patient. Parents are welcome to stay for the presentation.

Pre-Registration is Required! DEADLINE Feb. 6

OWL WALKS

December 13 | 4:30 pm- 6:30 p.m. | \$5 | Beaverdam Park Fary's Mill Entrance

We know they are out there, let's go look for them!

Take a hike into the woods of Beaverdam Park (Fary's Mill Entrance) to look and listen for the owls. Barn Owl, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl and Barred Owl are common in this area!



Recreation

*****UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, DEADLINE IS 1 WEEK PRIOR TO START DATE*****

KARATE

Mondays or Thursdays | T. C. Walker Gymnasium

Sensei Brian Jensen. Ages 4+. Learn the Shorinji Ryu style Japanese Karate form. Karate provides the opportunity to increase balance, strength, self-discipline & self-confidence. Kata forms are traditional & can be used in AAU or open tournament.

Mondays at TCW, Nov. 11- Jan. 27, skip 11/25, 12/23, 12/30, 1/20

Karate Ages 4-7, 6-6:30 p.m. \$43
 Karate Ages 8-12, 6:40-7:20 p.m. \$45
 Karate Family, Adult, 7:30-8:10 p.m., \$40
 Karate Family, Child, 7:30-8:10 p.m., \$35
 Karate Ages 13+, 8:20-9 p.m., \$45

Thursdays at TCW, Nov. 14 - Jan. 30, skip 11/28, 12/26, 1/2, 1/23

Karate Ages 4-7, 6-6:30 p.m. \$43
 Karate Ages 8-12, 6:40-7:20 p.m. \$45
 Karate Family, Adult, 7:30-8:10 p.m., \$40
 Karate Family, Child, 7:30-8:10 p.m., \$35
 Karate Ages 13+, 8:20-9 p.m., \$45

Next session will begin the week of February 10/13.

FLOOR YOGA

Mondays | 5:30-6:30 p.m. | \$64 | Stewart Building

Instructor: Michaela Lee. For 16 and older. Yoga with a focus on breath helps you improve your balance, flexibility, stability and strength. The practice of yoga will help you to have a sense of well-being and enhanced quality of life. We create a safe environment with no pressure to leave your comfort zone. Dress comfortably, and bring a yoga mat and water.
 Jan. 6-March 3 | March 10-April 28

FREE FLOW YOGA

Tuesdays | 5:30-6:45 p.m. | Whitcomb Lodge

Instructor: Nichole Knott. For ages 13 and older. You can expect a creative, soulful, adventurous and fun flow that weaves together breath and movement with moderate holds which steadily builds muscle, inner strength and stamina. Nichole's style of teaching is structured, fluid, playful and soulful – everyone will be appropriately challenged. Bring a mat, blocks, strap and water. Register for the month or for individual days @\$9/day. Deadline 1 week prior to first class.
 December-February, \$32/month

SENIOR YOGA

Wednesdays | 10:30-11:30 a.m. | \$64 | Stewart Building

Instructor: Michaela Lee. For 55 and older. This is a chair yoga class, so there's no need to get on the floor, unless you want to. We will explore slow and measured movements and strengthening poses. Focusing on breath helps you improve your balance, flexibility, stability and strength and gives you a sense of well-being. All of this in a safe environment with no pressure to leave your comfort zone. Dress comfortably, and bring a yoga mat and water. Deadline 1 week prior to first class.
 January 8-February 26 | March 5-April 23

We are working on some other activities, please check our registration website for new programs
www.gloucesterva.gov/civirec

WINTER GYMNASTICS

Head Coach: Caitlyn Coltrain. For ages 3-18 (still in high school). Parents are not permitted at practice sessions, with the exception of the Parent and Me classes. The last class of the session will be open house where you may watch your child's class. Please read over the requirements for each class on our registration site. We reserve the right to remove students from Intermediate classes if they have not met the minimum requirements. When in doubt, register for the beginner classes.

Tuesdays @ Botetourt – January 7-March 11

Parent and Me, age 3-4, 4:30-5:15 p.m. \$75
 Beginner 5-8, 5:15-6 p.m. \$75
 Beginner 7 & up, 6-6:45 p.m. \$75

Wednesdays @ Abingdon – January 8-March 12

Parent and Me, age 3, 4:30-5:15 p.m. \$75
 Beginner 5-8, 5:15-6 p.m. \$75
 Beginner 7 & up, 6-6:45 p.m. \$75

Thursdays @ Botetourt – January 9-March 13

Beginner 5-8, 4:30-5:15 p.m., \$75
 Intermediate 6 & up, 5:15-6 p.m., \$75
 Advanced/High Advanced, 6-7 p.m., \$90

WALL PILATES

Mondays | 2:30-3:30 pm | Stewart Building

Instructor: Tessa Timberlake. Gain core stability, lengthen and strengthen the body with balancing using the wall for steadiness. Dress to move and bring an exercise mat and water bottle. Register for the month or for individual days @\$9/day. Deadline 1 week prior to first class.
 December-February, \$32/month

ZUMBA

TBA | 6:15-7:15 p.m. | Page Middle School

Instructor: Hannah Bychowski. For ages 16 & older. A total workout, combining elements of cardio, muscle conditioning, balance, flexibility and boosted energy. It's a calorie-burning dance fitness party! Register for the month @\$8/day or for individual days @\$9/day. Deadline 1 week prior to first class.



is back for 2024!
Check our Facebook for updates!

Recreation Cont...

*****UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, DEADLINE IS 1 WEEK PRIOR TO START DATE*****

BASIC BELLY DANCE

Mondays | 7-8 p.m. | \$65 | Stewart Building

Instructor: Aela Badiana. For ages 16 and older. This class is for new dancers or those wanting to brush up on technique. We teach basic belly dance movements, technique, posturing, language and move execution, while helping you to build up necessary strength. This low-impact workout is a great core strength-building exercise, and you will have fun shimmying! We introduce different styles of belly dance, as well as the historic background of this ancient art. No prior dance experience is necessary. Dress comfortably and bring water. January 6-March 3, skip 1/27 **DEADLINE Dec. 30**

Y.E.S - YOUNG ENERGETIC SENIORS

Mondays | 1-2 p.m. | Stewart Building

Instructor: Tessa Timberlake. Calling all Young Energetic Seniors to keep that energy going with this seated or standing exercise class. You will accomplish some cardio, strengthening and stretching. Other benefits are memory and balance. Move at your own pace. Dress to move, and bring an exercise mat, water bottle and any weights you may have. Register for the month or for individual days @ \$9/day. Deadline 1 week prior to first class. December, \$32/month | January, \$32/month | February, \$32/month

FOOD SAFETY CERTIFICATION

Tuesday/Thursday, January 7/9/14/16 | 2-5 p.m. | Stewart Building

Instructor: Marilyn Morris. This program is ideal for those in the restaurant industry. Gloucester County Code requires one full-time staff person per establishment be certified. The course will cover contamination, foodborne illnesses, food storage, food preparation, employee training, sanitation and more. Jan. 16 is test day. **DEADLINE Dec. 16**

Full course with materials, \$185/person | Test Only with Book, \$90/person

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE CULINARY CLUB

Wednesdays | 5:30-7:30pm | \$105 | Stewart Building

Instructor: Michaela Badiana. For ages 16 and older. In this eight-week course you will explore international cuisine, and characteristic cooking practices and traditions often associated with a specific region, country or culture. We will use ingredients accessible to us here in Virginia and recreate treats from around the world: Germany, France, Italy, Turkey, India, Thailand, and Mexico, just to start. January 8-February 26 | March 5-April 23



SENIOR BINGO

Wednesdays | 10:30-Noon | \$10 | Stewart Building

For ages 50 and older. Join us for Bingo, fun and laughter! There are no cash prizes. Bring a friend, a drink and a snack if you'd like.

January 22, **DEADLINE Jan. 15**
February 26, **DEADLINE Feb. 19**



2025
May 10th

7AM | \$50 | Deadline April 21



Tourism- Museum & Visitor Center

The Gloucester County 250th Committee will be planning, partnering, and promoting programming to educate, engage, and inspire people from all backgrounds.



The Gloucester Woman’s Club Presents “Waiting for Washington” at the Historic Edge Hill House.

Christmastide is a time when families gather and there is nothing more Lady Washington wants than to have her General home from the War. Join Martha Washington and her daughter-in-law, Eleanor, in December of 1783, as they wait for the General and discuss Christmastide traditions, family, and Eleanor’s marriage to David Stuart.

The Gloucester250 Committee, in partnership with the Gloucester Woman’s Club, invites you to attend this free and family-friendly holiday event featuring food, beverages, and entertainment straight out of the 18th century.



New Visit Gloucester swag is available at the Gloucester Visitor Center! Whether you’re a local or a visitor, you can show your love for this beautiful area with stylish t-shirts, hats, mugs, and more. These unique items capture the charm of Gloucester and make the perfect souvenirs or gifts. Stop by the Visitor Center to pick up your favorites, and take a piece of Gloucester home with you!

6504 Main Street · Visit Our Website For Hours
visitgloucesterva.org

WOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Gloucester Visitor Center & Gift Shop

Learn how you can make a difference!

We are looking for friendly and dedicated docents to assist with staffing the Center. Several thousand visitors stop in the Visitor Center every year, and our numbers continue to grow!

CONTACT AMY STEELE AT 804-824-2476 OR EMAIL ASTEEL@GLOUCESTERVA.INFO



*It's not my garbage,
but it's my planet!*

When we pick up trash that is not ours, we help
normalize caring for our planet"
- laurainwaterland



Leave Gloucester cleaner than you found it!
Cleanup supplies available through Clean Community.
gloucesterva.gov/clean-community

Live Christmas Tree Recycling

Available at all 5 convenience centers.
Place in brush containers

December 26, 2024 → January 31, 2025

Trees must be completely clear of decor.

Questions? Call Clean Community at 804-693-5370



BEE CITY USA
AN INITIATIVE OF THE XERCES SOCIETY

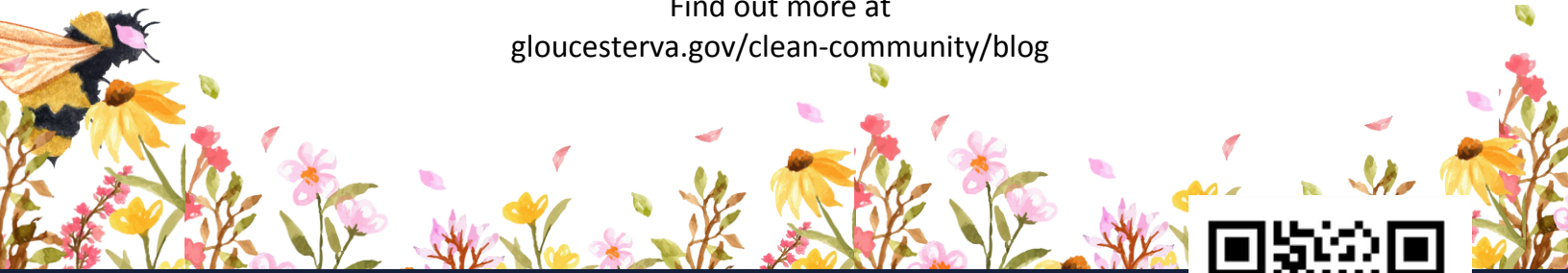
Bee City Committee

Protecting Pollinators and their Habitats in Gloucester

County since 2022.

Find out more at

gloucesterva.gov/clean-community/blog



Clean & Green Advisory Committee

Get involved with your community! Help advise the Board of Supervisors on matters affecting the quality of local environment as it relates to litter prevention, solid waste management, recycling, and beautification!



For more information 804-693-5370 or email cleancommunity@gloucesterva.info

Recreation

Best Years Trips



Just ride. Leave the driving & planning to us!

- For age 55 and older.
- Plays, adventures, musicals, seasonal traditions and fun!
- No refunds/credits after deadline unless for a medical reason, doctor's note required. Sorry, trips and group pricing based on registration. We have to pay for spaces reserved. A \$10 cancellation fee will be applied.
- Registration Begins Nov. 12 for residents & Nov. 14 for non-residents at 8 a.m. in office or online.
- **TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING ONE PARKING LOT (OLD DAILY PRESS BUILDING).**
- Trips that don't meet registration requirements will be canceled. Sign up early to make sure you don't miss out.



GINTER LIGHTS

Wednesday, December 4 | 4-9 p.m. | \$55 | COB 1

Enjoy the incredible holiday lights at the beautiful Ginter Botanical Gardens, Richmond. This is a walking tour of the lighted gardens, so wear your walking shoes. We will eat on the way to the museum, on your own. **DEADLINE Nov. 20**

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS & DINNER

Wednesday, December 11 | 3:45-8 p.m. | \$20 | COB 1

Join us for a local holiday tradition, Celebration of Lights at Newport News City Park. We will have dinner on the way to the park, dinner is on your own. Then ride through the lights to get into the holiday spirit. **DEADLINE Dec. 4**

CHRYSLER MUSEUM

Wednesday, January 8 | 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. | \$30 | COB 1

We will visit the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk. There will be a Glass Blowing display just across the street. You won't want to miss that! Many other exhibits and displays. The museum is always changing so it will be different than the last time you were there! We will have lunch at Zinnia Café, on your own. Wear comfy shoes, you will be doing some walking. Food, snacks and drinks are not allowed in the museum. **DEADLINE Jan. 1**



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND CULTURE

Wednesday, January 22 | 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. | \$50 | COB 1

With more than 9 million items on display, this museum has something for everyone. The story of Virginia, Our Commonwealth, History Matters, Treasures of Virginia and The Lost Cause. Special exhibits include Virginia and Vietnam, during the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon. We will have lunch at the museum, on your own. **DEADLINE Jan. 15**

VALENTINE MUSEUM – WICKHAM HOUSE

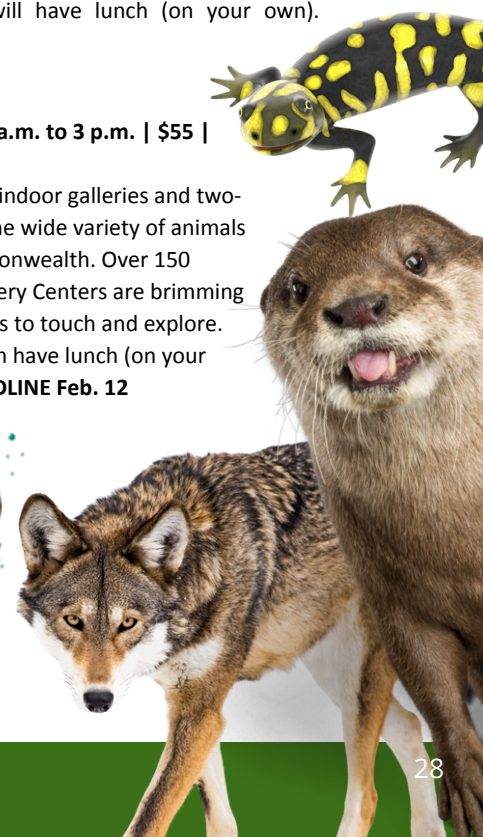
Wednesday, February 5 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. | \$40 | COB 1

Join us for a tour of the Valentine Museum's Wickham House. This house was built 1812-15 and is furnished/decorated in the urban Richmond style of the early 1800s. Housing a large family including lawyer John Wickham, his wife Elizabeth, their children and the enslaved people living and laboring in the home. After the tour we will have lunch (on your own). **DEADLINE Jan. 29**

VIRGINIA LIVING MUSEUM

Wednesday, February 19 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. | \$55 | COB 1

The Virginia Living Museum's indoor galleries and two-level habitariums showcase the wide variety of animals and plants living in the Commonwealth. Over 150 species are on display. Discovery Centers are brimming with natural history specimens to touch and explore. We will tour the museum then have lunch (on your own) on the way home. **DEADLINE Feb. 12**





Main Library

804-693-2998

Point Branch

804-642-9790

www.gloucesterva.gov/library



FAMILY

ROBLOX PARTY



Main Library

Saturday, November 2, 2-4 p.m.

Registration begins Oct. 19

Meet new friends and share your favorite Roblox experiences. Bring your own devices to play.

Snacks provided. All ages.



Holiday Open House

Main Library

Saturday, December 14, 1-4 p.m.

Performances by Bayside Youth Ballet at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Cookie Contest awards presented at 3:30 p.m. Crafts for children.

Family Event.



Visit with Santa



Main Library

Saturday, December 14

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Registration begins Nov. 30

Make an appointment to visit with Santa!

All ages.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover



Main Library

Thursday, Nov. 7 at 6 p.m.

Registration begins Oct. 24

Wear your pj's and bring a stuffed animal for a special bedtime storytime! Leave your stuffy at the library overnight and receive a photo collection of the mischief they get up to. Pick up your fuzzy friend the next day between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. All ages.

CHILDREN

Thanksgiving Storytime

Main Library

10:15 a.m.

Tuesday, November 12: Birth-24 months

Wednesday, November 13: 3-5 years

Thursday, November 14: 2 years

Registration begins Oct. 29

Celebrate Thanksgiving with a special storytime!

Christmas Storytime

Main Library

10:15 a.m.

Tuesday, December 17: Birth-24 months

Wednesday, December 18: 3-5 years

Thursday, December 19: 2 years

Registration begins Dec. 3

Stories, songs and activities to welcome the holidays!

Point Holiday Storytime

Point Branch
 10:15 a.m.
 Wednesday, November 13
 Wednesday, December 18
 Registration begins Oct. 29
 Celebrate the holidays with a special storytime and craft activity!
 2-5 years.



Glitter & Gem Ornaments

Point Branch
 Saturday, November 16 at 11 a.m.
 Registration begins Nov. 2
 Add some sparkle and shine to your Christmas tree.
 Grades 6-12.



Let's Draw Christmas!

Main Library
 Tuesday, December 3 at 6 p.m.
 Registration begins Nov. 19
 Learn to draw Santa, a gingerbread man, Frosty, Santa's sleigh, and a Christmas tree! Grades K-5.



Gingerbread House

Main Library
 Wednesday, December 4 at 6 p.m.
 Registration begins Nov. 20
 Engineer a holiday masterpiece!
 Grades K-5.

Christmas Ornament Craft

Main Library
 Friday, December 6 at 10:30 a.m.
 Registration begins Nov. 22
 Make several Christmas ornaments for the holiday season! 3-5 years.

Dungeons & Dragons Adventure Campaign

Main Library
 1-4 p.m.
 Nov. 23, Dec. 15, Jan. 18 & 26
 Registration begins Oct. 5
 We are looking for adventurers, join us for a short D&D Campaign.
 Ages 12 - Adult.



CHILDREN

TEEN



WANTED:

Teen Volunteers
 (ages 13-17)



Contact Teen Staff Coordinator Nancy Halstead 804-693-2998.

Organize and shelve books. Help with special events.

Pick up an application TODAY!

Yum Yum Cookbook Club

Main Library
 Wednesday, November 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Registration begins Oct. 23
 A book club with a tasty twist! If you enjoy reading cookbooks, trying new recipes and sharing good food with friends, this club is for you. Each month is a different theme.
 Adults 18+.

First Friday Fun

Point Branch
 Friday, November 1 &
 Friday, December 6
 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
 No registration
 Enjoy crosswords, jigsaw puzzles,
 games and more.
 Adults 18+.

Jigsaw Puzzle Showdown

Main Library
 Thursday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m.
 Registration begins Oct. 24
 Teams of 2-4 race to complete a 500-piece puzzle.
 Win prizes!
 Adults 18+.

Leave It, Move It, Roll It, Take It

Main Library
 Thursday, November 21 at 6 p.m.
 Registration begins Nov. 7
 Presented by Carlos Britos, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones. Learn the ins and outs of employer retirement plan options. This is helpful for the crossroads of finding new employment or retiring.
 Adults 18+.

Ranger Game Night

Main Library
 Thursday, November 14 at 6:00 p.m.
 Registration begins Oct 31
 Join the rangers for a fun game night, where you can place yourself into the lives of animals and try your hand at trivia.
 Adults 18+.



Basketweave Ornament

Main Library
 Saturday, November 23 at 10:30 a.m.
 Registration begins Nov. 9
 Presented by Master Weaver Tamme Durant.
 Weave a beautiful Christmas ornament.
 Space is limited. Adults 18+.



Library Kitchen

Each month recipes are demonstrated sure to tickle your taste buds. Videos posted to YouTube and Facebook.



Byte Size Basics

Main Library
 Nov. 12 & 26, Dec. 3 & 17, Jan. 14 & 28
 Appointments available from 1-2:30 p.m.
 Have questions about Microsoft Word, email, or your smartphone?
 Register for 30 minutes of individual tech help!

Holiday Craft

Point Branch
 Wednesday, December 4 at 2 p.m.
 Registration begins Nov. 20
 Create a sparkly holiday decoration.
 Adults 18+.

Pinecone Wreath

Thursday, December 5
 Main Library
 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.
 Registration begins Nov 21
 Presented by the Rangers of Machicomoco State Park.
 Make a winter decoration using natural resources.
 Adults 18+.

Master Gardeners: Blue Birds

Main Library
 Wednesday, January 8 at 6 p.m.
 Registration begins Dec. 27
 Presented by Master Naturalist, Bill Blair.
 Learn about the nesting habits of Eastern Bluebirds and proper placement of their boxes.
 Adults 18+.

Yum Yum Cookie Baking Contest

Bakers:
 Grades 3-5, Grades 6-12, Adults 18+

Cookie Categories:
 Gingerbread, Baker's Choice

Registration:
 Dec. 3-11-pick up containers and rules at the Main Library

Drop-off:
 Thursday, December 12 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
 Awards presented at Open House: Dec 14, 3:30 p.m.

Judged by the Library Chef and his team of cookie enthusiasts

ADULT

hoopla

THANKS GIVING

for Kids

Celebrate with hoopla's Thanksgiving for Kids collection featuring heartwarming stories and movies. Dive into pumpkins, turkey, gratitude, family traditions, and more!

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Join a 4-H Club!

Cloverbuds:

Our 4-H Cloverbud program allows children to explore areas of healthy living, nature, agriculture, citizenship, consumer skills, science and technology, and expressive arts. The primary goal of the 4-H Cloverbud program is to promote children's healthy development – mentally, physically, socially and emotionally. The 4-H Cloverbud program encourages creativity and play in a non-competitive environment. It's a place to make friends and have fun. This is open to youth ages 5-8. The Cloverbud group meets on the third Tuesday (monthly) at TC Walker: 6099 TC Walker Rd.

Gloucester 4-H Animal Science Club:

Gloucester 4-H Animal Science Club: The 4-H animal science club is where youth learn about livestock and companion animals, including animal health, feeding, nutrition, record keeping, and general care. The club has elected officers, and youth develop personal goals for their animal project. There are opportunities to participate in fundraising, service-learning, and educational contests. While some youth exhibit their animals at fairs, animal ownership is not a requirement. The club meets on the third Tuesday (monthly) at TC Walker.

Gloucester Hippiess 4-H Horse Club:

For youth interested in horses, this is the club to join. We call it the Hippiess 4-H club because hippology is the study of horses!

The club participates in a variety of learning experiences including educational contests like horse bowl and hippology. Youth enrolled in the horse project keep records of their animal's health and nutrition while improving horsemanship and leadership skills.

There are non-ownership opportunities for youth to learn about horses and equine science, but youth with access to horses often also participate in shows.

Save the Date for 4-H Camp at Jamestown

The Gloucester week of 4-H Camp at Jamestown 4-H Educational Center will be June 9-13, 2025. More information will be coming out soon. We are accepting applications for camp counselors and counselors in training (CIT). We hope to conduct interviews in December, with training to begin in January.

Volunteer service as a camp counselor is a rewarding experience, and counselors have a lasting impact on the youth they mentor at camp!

Prospective Counselors:

You can apply online at: bit.ly/2025GEMTeenCounselor. If you would like to apply to be a CIT, use this link: bit.ly/2025CITApplication.

A Call for 4-H Volunteers

No matter how much time you have, volunteering with 4-H makes a difference by helping youth explore and discover the skills they need to lead for a lifetime. There are lots of ways to get involved!

Help youth lead a club

Assist a youth club leader with organizing monthly meetings, speakers, and other logistics.

Lead a SPIN club

A SPIN club meets once a week for 6 weeks and can be related to anything from beekeeping to investing, and alpacas to engineering.

Join us at Camp, or help us with a Day Camp

Our week of 4-H Camp at Jamestown is June 9-13, 2025. We provide training!



Start a new club

We are hoping to start new clubs in Gloucester, but need volunteer help to do so. We would like to see a cooking club, a dog club, an Eco club, and a club that serves the needs of homeschooled youth. Additionally, we are looking for a co-leader for our horse club.

If you would like to volunteer, please email Krista Gustafson, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development at kgustaf@vt.edu



**Extension
Master
Gardeners**

Gloucester County Chapter

Nov 4: Gloucester Extension Master Gardener Meeting

(public invited to lecture)
Honeybees by Pamela Darney
Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Abingdon Episcopal Parish House
4645 GW Memorial Hwy,
Gloucester VA 23061

Nov. 16: Master Gardeners Present "What Happened to My Garden"

Time: 10 a.m.
Location: Brent and Becky's
7900 Daffodil Ln,
Gloucester VA 23061

Dec. 14: Master Gardeners Present "Grow Something Different to Eat Next Year"

Time: 10 a.m.
Location: Brent and Becky's
7900 Daffodil Ln,
Gloucester VA 23061



PHOTO: Michaelle Munger-Dulong

Gloucester County, Virginia


The Beehive



Community Engagement & Public Information

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