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Greetings from the Backroad!

One of the great joys in living on the Delmarva Peninsula is the interesting, beautiful views while exploring the backroads. Highways are fine and important for moving traffic quickly, but when you have time to explore, that's where the magic happens.

Weaving between shaded forests and wide fields (thank you, farmers!), it's magical to take the scenic route. I delight in the small streams, the sunlit vistas, cow pastures and then the unexpected businesses—from large factories to the general store-bar-grilles where all the local hunters know to get a hearty breakfast. And you can't beat the artwork, from a professional mural in Rock Hall to a child's turtle crossing sign in Salisbury.



I was lucky to skip most of the highways during a recent mini vacation to Chestertown. In the future, I hope to explore the Delaware Bayshore Byway, an easterly marsh-dappled alternative to DE Route 1, with small fishing villages and hometown cooking, bypassing Dover, Smyrna and Middletown.

Coincidentally, part of that journey would include DE Route 9, which swings by the King Cole Farm venue, the topic of another feature in this magazine.

With spring and summer on the way, this publication also honors

those lighter moments of life: weddings. Maryland and Delaware have not only sweet and stunning event venues and skilled professionals, but endlessly creative couples. Draw inspiration from their wedding photos, chuckle at their (saved!) mishaps, and remember that good people and a good attitude will give you what it takes to plan that special day.

In these pages, you'll also read about summer camps for the kids (and some adults), fishing tournaments, music, theatre, murder mysteries and more.

The Delmarva Peninsula is a fascinating place. Keep reading, and keep exploring!

Laura Walter
Editor



Bay to the Beach is a joint effort publication


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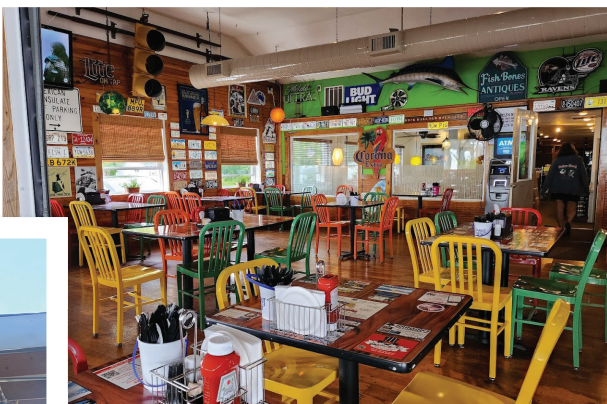
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Modern tunes and angelic tones with the Chester River Chorale

Celebrate the timeless allure of angelic figures across music history. This spring, the Chester River Chorale will perform a unique spring show, “Angels” bringing together a vast array of pieces inspired by angels, showcasing both the reverence of classical masters and the spirit of modern folk, country and rock.

Shows will be April 11 at 7:30 p.m. and April 12 at 4 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Chestertown, 905 Gateway Drive, Chestertown, Md.

With a choir of nearly 100 voices, featured singer Pam Ortiz, featured violinist/fiddler Nevin Dawson, and the dynamic accompaniment of the Pam Ortiz Band, “Angels” creates an immersive experience that bridges ancient traditions with modern soundscapes.

Highlights include classical excerpts from Faure’s Requiem, Mozart’s Requiem, and Carl Orff’s Carmina Burana, as well as iconic modern favorites with tunes by Charlie Daniels and Billy Joel. This powerful fusion of styles promises an unforgettable concert that celebrates a universal and timeless fascination with angel figures across musical history. Whether you’re drawn to the elegance of choral tradition or the freshness of contemporary hits, “Angels” invites you to experience the wonder where these worlds meet.

The suggested donation is \$20 per ticket (kids are free). Reservations are encouraged, as the show



will likely sell out. Details are online at chesterriverchorale.org.

The Chester River Chorale is a vibrant all-volunteer, 100-voice community chorus in its third decade of performing in Kent County, Md. Under the leadership of conductor and composer Alexis Ward, the Chorale’s repertoire is varied and diverse, including classic favorites as well as works from living and underrepresented composers.

The Chorale aims to provide opportunity, education, and inspiration for amateur singers to strive for artistic excellence. Performers range in age from teenagers to octogenarians and come together through a love of singing, learning new music and expanding their musical skills. They gather to entertain diverse audiences and enrich the cultural life of the community.

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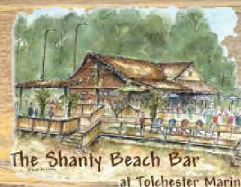


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Flowers and festivities take center stage in Galena

The annual Galena Dogwood Festival returns on May 10 for a fun, family-friendly event bringing together craft and food vendors from around the region. Celebrate the start of the Upper Eastern Shore's gorgeous spring weather, the beauty of charming Galena and its dogwood-lined streets.

This year's theme "Dogwood Through the Days" is all about celebrating cherished traditions with a fresh, fun twist. The festival kicks off with a parade down Main Street, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Activities will open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the community park. Admission and parking are free. There will be live entertainment, unique local crafts and vendors, games and activities for all ages, tasty food and more.



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Literature & Language:

KENT COUNTY POETRY FESTIVAL RETURNS

The 16th Annual Kent County Poetry Festival will be in Chestertown on April 4 to 6. This year's featured poet is Denise Duhamel, a Guggenheim and NEA Poetry Fellow, and National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist.

The festival starts Friday with a Poetry Jam hosted by Queen D, featuring special guest Maryland Poet Laureate Lady Brion and featuring a live band at 7 p.m. at Garfield Center for the Arts (free admission at the door; sign up online to participate).

Saturday will feature a Walking Eco-Poetry Workshop with Austen Camille at noon at the Lawrence Wetlands Preserve (online preregistration required).

Saturday night is the main event: Denise Duhamel's Keynote Reading and Conversation with NPR's Maureen Corrigan at 7 p.m. at Garfield Center for the Arts (online preregistration required).

Sunday will feature the annual Poetry Open Mic for the general public, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Robert Ortiz Studios (free admission at the door; sign up online to participate).

Find details and reservations online at kentculture.org/poetryfest.



Queen D



Lady Brion



Austen Camille



Denise Duhamel



Maureen Corrigan

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chestertownteaparty.org

Into the River:

CHESTERTOWN TEA PARTY FESTIVAL



The Chestertown Tea Party Festival welcomes all this Memorial Day Weekend to celebrate Kent County's historical roots and Colonial resistance to British rule.

History notes that, in response to the British Parliament's closing the port of Boston, the citizens of Chestertown met in May of 1774 and wrote a series of "Resolves" forbidding the import, sale or consumption of tea (since tea usually came from English trade) in Chestertown. But local legend goes further, suggesting that residents then gathered in town, marched down High Street to the brigantine *Geddes* anchored in the Chester River, and tossed her cargo of tea overboard. The annual reenactment of that local story is the centerpiece of today's Chestertown Tea Party Festival.

The festival kicks off Friday, May 23, with a Block Party at Wilmer Park. This free and local favorite brings out everyone to celebrate the start of an amazing weekend in town. Buy food from a food truck, let the kids play games, and dance to a live band. Domestic and craft beer, hard

cider and wine will be available for purchase.

Saturday festivities are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., starting with the popular Colonial Parade, complete with fife and drum groups and marching bands.

Visitors can enjoy more than 100 craft vendors, plus plenty of local food options—from crab cakes and barbecue, to fried fish, burgers and tasty sweets.

The Heritage Village features skilled artisan demos, like colonial rope making, ice cream making, woodworking and more curiosities from an era before America's Industrial Revolution.

Children's activities typically include puppet shows, colonial games, crafts, storytelling, music and face painting.

Reenactors and musicians stride the streets and add to the 1700s spirit of the day. Walking tours are also offered.

On Sunday, the festivity continues at Wilmer Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with live music, food trucks, craft vendors and plenty of fun for families: a Punch & Judy show, instrument mak-

ing and face painting. The Beerfest (ticketed, starts at noon) adds to the festivities with drinks, food, music and dancing.

The infamous Raft Race starts Sunday at 2:30 p.m. on the Chester River, so arrive early to witness the race handmade watercraft, made of non-nautical materials. In this off-beat event, teams compete for different awards in their not-so-sleek racing machines. The coveted Tea Cup, the race's highest honor, is awarded to the raft with the best synthesis of creativity, engineering and speed. Other prizes are good-spirited, like the Fabulous Flotsam Award, presented to the raft more likely to cause a spectacle than win the race.

Downtown parking is available, but can be a challenge, so free traffic shuttles will carry people from several major parking areas throughout town. Pets are prohibited at the festival, by town ordinance. Picnic blankets and chairs are welcome, but please do not bring tables, canopies or tents.

Details are online on social media and www.chestertownteaparty.org.

Upcoming Events:

March:
Holly Grove Christian
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April:
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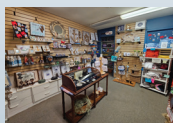
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- Lost Villages of Somerset County features pictures and stories about Jersey Island
- The largest collection of Crisfield Decoys, including the Ward Brothers, exhibit has been updated with new decoys.
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MURDER, MYSTERY & MELODRAMA IN SOMERSET COUNTY

Bring a sharp mind and affinity for adventure at these live theatre experiences on the Eastern Shore. Murder mysteries are fun in a controlled atmosphere, and these cheeky performances will

invite audiences to get involved. Find tickets, and have fun! Or make a weekend of it, and reserve a room at one of the many hotels, inns or bed & breakfasts across the region.

Murder Mystery at the Mansion

“Dearest Gentle Reader, Something tragic has happened, indeed. I do hope you can help shed light on this Murder Mystery at the Mansion.”

This interactive Murder Mystery at the Mansion includes an interactive performance, plus food, drinks and fun. The Regency-themed event will be Saturday, March 29, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the historic Teackle Mansion, 11736 Mansion Street, Princess Anne, Md.

If you’re the savvy sleuth who solves the mystery, you’ll win a \$100

gift certificate to Sugar Water 1744 at the Washington Hotel.

If you’re so inspired, Regency Era dress is encouraged! Two \$50 prizes will be awarded to the best dressed attendees, too, so, be sure to pull together your best “Bridgerton”-inspired garb!

The Somerset County Historical Society promotes the preservation, exploration and celebration of the region’s unique cultural and natural history.

This event is for ages 21 and above. Purchase tickets online at Eventbrite or in person at Somerset Choice Station, 11731 Som-



erset Avenue, Princess Anne. Details at www.somersetcountyhistoricalsociety.org/events.html.

LOWER SHORE PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY
PRESENTS

—THE—
Altos

Written by David Landau
Music & Lyrics by Nikki Stern

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.
Licensed through Concord Theatricals

The Altos

Crime boss, Tony Alto, has been whacked, and you’re invited to his funeral in this wacky, comedy spoof of mobster movies and TV. “Like the Sopranos, only lower.”

“The Altos” is a hilarious and interactive musical performed by the Lower Shore Performing Arts Company. Created by David Landau, with music and lyrics by Nikki Stern, this comedy mystery spoof takes a playful jab at the famous HBO series.

You’re invited to Tony’s “funeral” (or is it?) where his wife, Toffee, has planned a wake you won’t forget. Be ready to dodge bullets, laugh out loud at the clever songs, and channel your inner detective to solve the mystery of who put the contract out on Tony. It’s a night of fun, intrigue and music you won’t want to miss.

Note: Because of the adult themes, no one under 12 will be permitted to the show. For children 12-17, parental discretion is advised. Trigger warning: gun shots. Shows will be across the Delmarva Peninsula:

- March 15 at 3 p.m. at the Antioch Church, Princess Anne, Md.
- March 22 at 7 p.m. at the Art League of Ocean City, Md.
- March 23 at 4 p.m. at the Art League of Ocean City, Md.
- March 28 at 7 p.m. at Gallery 413, Crisfield, Md.
- March 29 at 7 p.m. at Island Theatre Annex, Chincoteague, Va.
- April 5 at 7 p.m. at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Pocomoke City, Md.

Purchase tickets online at www.lowershorepac.org/show-tickets.

Anglers set sail with the Smith Island Fishing Tournament

The Smith Island Fishing Tournament, founded in 2022, celebrates the culture of this iconic Chesapeake Bay community. The fourth annual tournament launches on May 16 to 18.

This year, proceeds benefit the Smith Island Fire Departments, the first responders and their equipment, dedicated to saving lives and preserving historical sites and buildings.

This three-day day tournament has prizes for the top “Smith Island Slam,” which is a three-fish stringer of red-



fish, rockfish (striped bass) and spotted seatrout (speck). The longest aggregate length of all three will win.

Cash prizes will also be awarded for the longest: rockfish, spotted seatrout, oyster toad, fish caught from a kayak, fish caught by age 17 or under, and fish caught and submitted by a woman (18 and over).

The weekend includes a Competitor Welcome Reception (food and drinks on the new marsh overlook) and ends with an Awards Ceremony, both on Smith Island.

Consider staying on Smith Island for the tournament itself, with plenty of inns and boat docking.

Find registration and lodging ideas online at: <https://ianglertournament.com/2025-smith-island-fishing-tournament-iv-mmxxv>



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CRISFIELDARTS.ORG

Tangier Sound Music Festival brings big names & big energy

The Tangier Sound Music Festival is back, baby! Crisfield, Md., will host live music, delicious food and unforgettable waterfront vibes on Saturday, May 24.

Jimmie Allen leads the musical lineup, which includes Josh Gracin, Lewis Brice, Bryan Elijah Smith, Joshua Diamond and Carley Twigg. Country, folk and Americana will fill the air from 2 to 10 p.m.

“Join us as we celebrate music, community, and the resilience of the human spirit. Let the music move you and be a part of something bigger than yourself,” organizers said.

The Tangier Sound Music Festival is more than just a concert; it’s a movement to revitalize the historic, waterfront city. This is a rekindling of a festival that began in Crisfield in 1990. With its beautiful waterfront location, the festival attracted more than 15,000 concertgoers each year. Attendees got to see artists such as John Michael Montgomery, Vince Gill, Brooks & Dunn, Martina McBride, Faith Hill and Tim McGraw.

“We’re rekindling the spirit of the 1990s, when the Tangier Sound Music Festival drew thousands of visitors to Crisfield. Together, we can bring back the magic of those days and create a brighter future for this beloved coastal town.”

Tickets range from General Admission Lawn Seats to exclusive VIP Tables.

As a bonus, on Sunday, May 25, the Crisfield Soft Shell Festival will be held in the same location, from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free, and guests can shop with local artisan vendors while digging into local seafood, crabcakes, soft shell crabs and

more!

Both events will take place near Hammock Pointe, a spit of land between the Tangier Sound and Somers Cove Marina. Both events are organized by the High Tide Club and its nonprofit affiliate, Rising Tide Crisfield.

Find tickets and details online at www.tangiersoundmusicfestival.com.



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SUMMER CAMPS 2025

When school is out, that's the perfect time to try something fun and new! Here are a handful of summer camps to explore for 2024. For more ideas, contact local schools, daycares, state parks, Boys & Girls Clubs, parks and recreation departments, colleges, art and science programs. Listings are current as of publication.

AMC AVIATION SUMMER CAMP

In Dover, Del., the AMC Museum's educational summer camp is for children interested in aeronautics and the U.S. Air Force. The campers will discover the history and science of aviation while applying STEM principals. Learn to fly in a simulator, pre-flight an actual aircraft, and take flight with a Certified Flight Instructor aboard a Cessna 172 from the Dover AFB Aero Club. Half-day classes are mornings for ages 9 to 11 and afternoons for ages 12 to 15. Visit <https://amcmuseum.org/events> for details.

BRANDYWINE VALLEY SPCA CRITTER CAMP

Are you crazy about animals? Consider joining the BVSPCA Critter Camp, geared toward youth ages 7-12. At day camp, young animal lovers will: Learn animal care skills (pet CPR, grooming, behavioral training); hear from guest speakers in the animal world; meet many of the BVSPCA's adoptable pets; engage in creative and educational activities; participate in team-building workshops; and practice their reading skills by reading to furry companions. Camp sessions run weekly from June 9 to Aug. 15, with aftercare available. Dates vary at Brandywine Valley SPCA locations in Georgetown, New Castle and West Chester, Pa.

Details at bvspca.org/get-involved or by calling individual locations.

CAMP FAIRLEE FOR ALL AGES & ABILITIES

Easterseals Camp Fairlee, near Chestertown, Md., is one of the only camps in the region that provides a typical overnight camp experience for children and adults with disabilities. Camp Fairlee provides a safe and accessible camp experience for guests to have fun, make friends and meet new challenges acquire new skills, under the guidance of trained and qualified staff. While campers enjoy their time at Camp Fairlee, their families are able to take a break from caregiving.

Sessions range from 6 to 12 days during June 22 to Aug. 31. Activities include arts & crafts, music, sports, games, swimming, hiking, canoeing, hayrides, campfires and more, led by a staff of trained professionals and college students. Camps generally have a 3:1 ratio of campers to staff, but 2:1 and 1:1 opportunities are available.

This is a program of Easterseals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore. Details at www.campfairlee.com or (410) 778-0566. Scholarships and funding assistance are available.

CAMP ODYSSEY

At Camp Odyssey, the mission is to provide the highest quality experiences, in an extraordinary environment, that make memories and a

difference in children's lives. Activities will stimulate the mind, body and spirit for children of all ages in Maryland. Camps at Wicomico Day School (rising K to 8) are offered weekly from June 30 to July 25 for science, art, outdoor adventures, swimming trips and more. Camps at Green Hill Country Club (rising pre-K to 8) are offered July 7 to Aug. 1 for Outdoor Adventure Camp (focusing on outdoor experiences); or June 23 to Aug. 15 for Day Camp (with sports, crafts, swimming and more). Details at campodyssey.org and (410) 883-7934

DELAWARE AEROSPACE ACADEMY

The Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation (DASEF) hosts a variety of full-day and overnight academies to provide hands-on training and experiences in aerospace-related activities and fields. Throughout the week, youth entering grades 2 to 10 are continually challenged to think, design, solve, build and work cooperatively. All academies are designed to integrate the study of STEM through earth and space themes. Lessons focus on learning through problem solving. Students learn in small groups, emphasizing the teamwork necessary in the real world. Camps are held at the DASEF site in Smyrna and at the University of Delaware. Details at dasef.org/aerospace/application.htm or (302) 659-5003.

SUMMER CAMPS 2025

DELAWARE BURN CAMP

The Delaware Burn Camp is a free camp for ages 5-18 who have been medically treated for burns. It was established to provide a safe and natural environment to promote physical and emotional healing to young victims of burn injury. The mission of the Delaware Burn Camp is to assist young burn victims in their adjustment to injury through the provision of a safe, supportive environment. Activities include boating, fishing, swimming, movies, dancing, archery, hiking, horseback riding, arts and crafts and more. Details at delawareburncamp.com.

DELAWARE HOSPICE: CAMP NEW HOPE

Camp New Hope is a two-day summer day camp for children and teens ages 6-17 who are coping with the loss of a loved one. Besides offering traditional camp activities such as crafts, water games, and sports, Camp New Hope gives children the chance to work through their grief and loss with their peers. Through fundraising, organizers aim to provide Camp New Hope free of charge.

Through a variety of fun camp activities and bereavement exercises, campers have opportunities to interact with other children who have experienced loss. Group projects, individual support, education, and free time allow children to process emotions and ask questions.

Serving the entire state of Delaware and southern Pennsylvania. A special memorial service at the end of camp celebrates and honors the life of each child's loved one. Details at (800) 838-9800 and www.delawarehospice.org/programs/camp-new-hope.

DELAWARE NATURE SOCIETY SUMMER CAMP

Let your child explore, discover and experience the outdoors this summer at Delaware Nature Society's fun and educational Summer Camp. Programs are at Abbott's Mill Nature Center in Milford, Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin, Coverdale Farm Preserve in Greenville, and the DuPont Environmental Education Center in Wilmington. Age-appropriate skills include stream & pond exploration, live animals, camping, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, survival skills, fishing, archery, arts & crafts, conservation and more. Camp sessions and day programs are scheduled for June 10 to Aug 30. Various programs are offered for all ages: half-day for ages 3-4 and 4-5; and full-day by age group, for grades K to 9 (completed). Details

at www.delawarenaturesociety.org/activities/education/program-calendar/summer-camp.

FIRST STATE BALLET THEATRE PROGRAMS

First State Ballet Theatre invites young people, from toddlers to age 21, to expand their ballet and movement skills with age appropriate activities in summer programs at two locations. Options range from weekly programs to summer intensives. Each program will have a performance on the final day of its program. First, at Whitehall north of Middletown: ages 18-24 months (Wednesdays June 9-Aug. 13); ages 2-3 (Tuesdays July 8-Aug. 12); ages 3-4 (Thursdays July 10-Aug. 14); ages 4-7 (daily June 23-27); ages 5-6 (Tuesdays July 8-Aug. 12); ages 7-8 (Wednesdays July 9-Aug. 13); ages 8-12 (daily July 14-18); and ages 12-18 (2-3 weeks, July or August). Next, at the Grand Opera House in Wilmington: ages 4-8 (daily July 21-25), and ages 9-21 (daily June 23-July 18, auditions required).



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www.FirstStateBallet.org

Photography by Tisa Della-Volpe



SUMMER CAMPS 2025

HORSE POWER ADAPTIVE SUMMER CAMP

Based along the Wicomico Forest in Parsonsburg, Md., the 4STEPS Therapeutic Riding Program is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides a range of outdoor equine experiences and trail rides for participants. 4STEPS Horse Power programs provide exceptional equine assisted activities for children and adults with disabilities. In summer, they offer a range of programs that cater to the needs of their students. Programs are flexible and can be tailored to suit individual requirements. Details at <https://4stepstrp.org>.

KIDSPOT AT CHESTERTOWN RIVER ARTS

This Chestertown, Md., nonprofit hosts week-long art camps. Day programs are scheduled for June 16-July 18. Various programs are offered in age-appropriate blocks, from 4 to 13 years: Storyteller Artists, Fundamentals of Art, Encouraging Calm, Creative Crafts Art History, Photography and Mixed Media. Details at www.ctownra.org/kidspot.

REHOBOTH SUMMER CHILDREN'S THEATRE

The Rehoboth Summer Children's Theatre continues their popular film and theatre camps. Movie makers and theatre artists of age 8 or 9 to 14 are invited to join in these weeklong sessions of enrichment, education and just plain fun. Participants in Film Camp (weekly in July) create their own original films, learning skills and collaboration. Participants in Theatre Camp (weekly in August) enjoy theatre games to

learn acting and communication skills. The camps run Monday through Friday. Camps are conducted in the Fellowship Hall of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Rehoboth Beach, Del. Visit rehobothchildrenstheatre.org or call (302) 227-6766.

WICOMICO DAY SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

Wicomico Day School in Salisbury, Md., offers Summer Camp 2025 with fun and engaging activities, outdoor water activities and local field trips. Campers will participate in STEAM activities promoting creative problem solving and collaboration while having fun. K-5 Summer Camp is for students who have completed kindergarten to 5th grade. Details at wicomicodayschool.com/wds-summer-camp.

YMCA SUMMER CAMPS

"Our summer camps are designed to give kids a place where they can explore new interests, make friends, and grow in confidence," said Robbie Gill, CEO of YMCA of the Chesapeake. "Whether they're trying a sport for the first time, diving into creative arts, or simply enjoying the outdoors, every child will leave with meaningful experiences and lifelong

memories." YMCA day camps are wide ranging, with plenty of locations to choose from. Details at ymcacheseapeake.org/programs/camps/summer-camp (for Maryland) and ymcade.org/programs/summerdaycamp (for Delaware).

DELAWARE STATE PARKS

The state park system offers public programs year-round, including these weekly day camp programs, each unique to the various parks. For information about registration, call the individual parks or visit <https://destateparks.com/summer-camps>.

Camp opportunities include Trap Pond, Killens Pond, Cape Henlopen, Lums Pond and more. Activities include art, hiking, games, water park visits, kayaking, animal exploration, fishing and more.

Teens can also become Counselors in Training (CITs). Do you enjoy working with younger kids and being outside in the summer? Need service hours for school or youth group? Ages 14 and above can contact the individual parks or send an email to StateParkPrograms@delaware.gov. The deadline to register as a CIT is April 1.



People of all abilities can find independence at Easterseals Camp Fairlee



By Natalie Scott

John is counting down the days until his adventure at Easterseals Camp Fairlee, and it is not hard to see why. For John, who is visually impaired and has Cerebral Palsy, camp means independence, new experiences and friendship. For his parents, it means a break from caregiving.

“Camp is a blessing to John and our family. John is an extrovert and needs a break from us too. It is nice for him to live in an environment that is not his own home,” said his mom, Lisa. “When John comes back from Camp Fairlee, he is more independent. The skills he learns there translate when he comes home.”

While campers rely on Camp Fairlee for adventure and independence, parents and caregivers depend on Camp Fairlee for high quality, professional services for their loved one, so they can also rest and recharge from daily caregiving. Each year camp counselors receive intensive training to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the participants.

“Camp Fairlee is a place for people with disabilities to explore their independence in a supportive environment surrounded by peers. It’s exciting to watch campers do things they’ve never done before,” said Sallie Price, Director of Recreation and Respite Services.

This is a residential camp that provides an unforgettable experience for people of all ages with disabilities. During a typical summer camp session, guests enjoy activities including climbing tower, ziplining, swimming, walking trails, horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking, arts & crafts, fishing, culinary programs, pottery, nature programs, campfires and so much more.

Currently, Easterseals Camp Fairlee is re-designing their pool and bathhouse for summer 2025. The new pool will provide additional safety and accessibility features such as 4 feet depth, zero entry ramp, chair lift & nonslip protective surface coating for all access areas. The new bathhouse will incorporate a shaded area for fragile campers.

“We appreciate people in the community who are invested in Camp Fairlee. The renovations help camp to be more accessible. They make the stay better and safer for John,” Lisa says. “We are so grateful.”

Summer 2025 will also include a new Sensory-Friendly cabin which will vary from the current cabin design to accommodate campers requiring more intense physical, sensory or behavioral support.

“Our new pool and sensory-friendly cabin will create decades of memories for current and future campers,” said Easterseals President/CEO Kennan Sklenar. “It is thanks to our community partners we are able to continue to provide innovative services to our community.”

Learn more about Camp Fairlee at www.CampFairlee.com or by calling (410) 778-0566. In addition to Camp Fairlee, Easterseals Delaware & Maryland’s Eastern Shore also offers a range of services for people of all ages and abilities. Learn more online at www.de.easterseals.com.

THE PINES AND PATHS OF PEMBERTON PARK

By Laura Walter

What was once a private house, a pointed display of wealth and a place of slavery is today a wide, open, free and public park for all to visit.

Guided by volunteers, history buffs and the local government park service, Pemberton Historical Park is a fascinating 262-acre place of exploration. Just minutes from busy US Route 50 in Salisbury, Md., the manicured lawn and historic buildings are surrounded by endless, forested walking trails, peaceful streams and the meandering Wicomico River.

Pemberton Hall is rich in history. Designed as a 1741 display of wealth, the plantation house's main room alone is larger than many Eastern Shore houses of the time—including the likes of the homeowner's own childhood home. Isaac Handy was a socio-economically-mobile landowner who eventually had fields, orchards, distillery and a riverfront landing to sell goods.

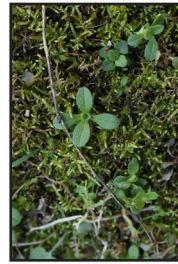
After much revamping, the park was created in the 1980s to blend history and nature. Amenities include 4.5 miles of trails, outdoor amphitheater, fresh water ponds, catch-and-

release fishing, public restrooms and several picnic areas—all across multiple landscapes of field, forest, tidal and freshwater ecosystems.

Walking the trails on a Friday afternoon was Brenda Parks, a local who enjoys walking with her miniature Schnauzer, named Zoe.

"It's pretty, it's calming, and she likes it!" Parks said, smiling at the small dog. Nature clearly makes people and animals happier. "When you go back home after being outside, seeing nature, it makes it a little bit better, I think," she mused.





The park is managed by Wicomico Recreation, Parks & Tourism, with support from the not-for-profit Pemberton Hall Foundation. Starting in May, the main hall and nature center will have weekend hours. Look for special events, like live music concerts and the 5K marathon. Private tours and venue rentals are available by request.

Admission is free. Hours are dawn to dusk. This is for day use only, not camping. Please respect park rules, including equestrian areas, dogs on leashes, no bikes. Bring insect repellent, sunscreen and water when planning an outdoor excursion.

Pemberton Historical Park is located at 5561 Plantation Lane, Salisbury, Md. Find details online at www.wicomcorecandparks.org.



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Women's+ FEST

Tickets are now available for Women's+ FEST, a multi-day celebration of inclusivity, empowerment and community. The festival takes place at a variety of venues around Rehoboth Beach, Del., from April 10-13.

FEST is a spring tradition that offers entertainment, sports, music, dancing, comedy education and fun. The event starts on April 10 with a golf tournament, art reception and welcome dance.

April 11 will feature the comedic stand-up of Gwen La Roka, the winner of the 2021 NY Latino Film Festival Stand Up Comedy Competition. She is now the first Latina from Chicago to make her comedy special debut on HBO Max. Following the performance will be a live auction and a performance by Be Steadwell and her band.

The Premier Dance will be April 12 with GirlsRoom, a local all-female rock-and-roll band and DJ Peggy Castle.

Other performers during the weekend include Tret Fure, an artist in the contemporary singer-songwriter arena and a veteran of the women's music scene; comedian Poppy Champlin; local band Mama's Black Sheep; and returning favorites Christine Havrilla and Regina Sayles.

Additional highlights include speakers such as Colonel Grethe Cammermeyer in conversation with Ret. Major General Tammy Smith, the first female general officer

to serve in an Eighth Army headquarters-level position; sports events such as pickleball, golf, and bowling; and an expo, which is free, open to the public, and features vendors selling jewelry, art, décor, foods, gifts and other items.

Each day of FEST offers a tantalizing array of options to choose from such as a pop-up bookstore, art show, singles happy hour and drag brunch. New activities this year are sound therapy and mingo (bingo with music), as well two singles events: Sip'n'mingle, a singles event that will include a fun "puzzle piece" activity to encourage mingling, and a singles dance party.

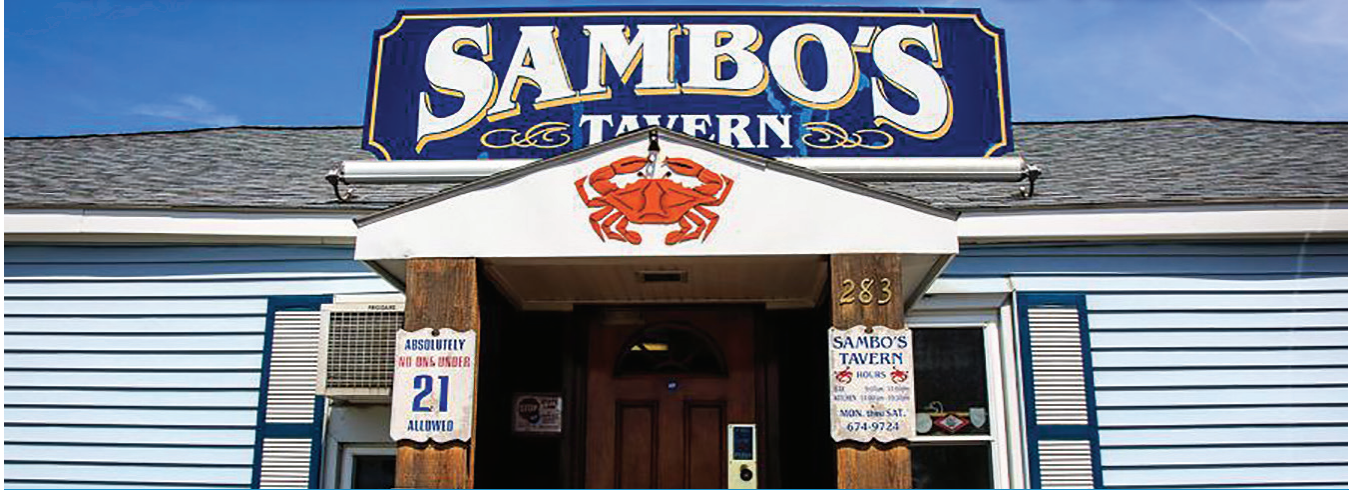
Events conclude at noon on Sunday with the Farewell Social.

Proceeds benefit CAMP Rehoboth, an LGBTQ+ community center determined to create an environment that is inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities in southern Delaware and beyond.

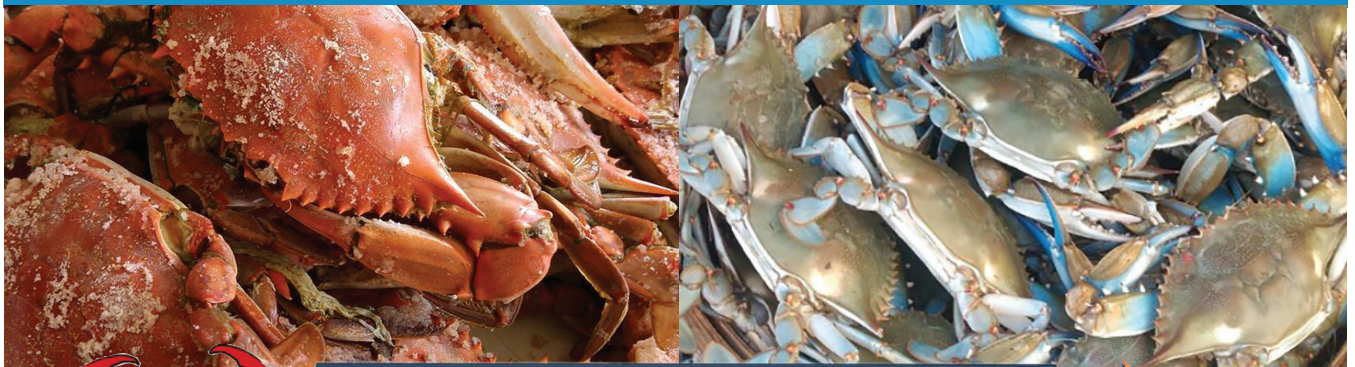
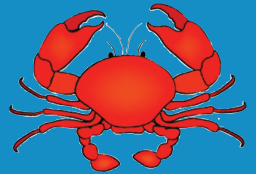
The 2025 Women's+ FEST has a new name and logo that features a plus sign to emphasize that it's an inclusive event for women, both trans and cis, nonbinary folks, and those that live on the spectrum of the feminine spirit.

Many activities sell out quickly, so visit the website camprehoboth.org/womensfest to purchase tickets, find event info and accessibility details.

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OperaDelaware champions the legacy of "Opera for All" by taking the power and exhilaration of live performance directly to the community with an outdoor Pop-Up Opera Mobile Stage.

At the start of the pandemic, when producing live opera in an enclosed theater became unfeasible, OperaDelaware began a series of parking lot performances and regularly serenaded front-

line workers during shift changes. Since then, the company has performed dozens, if not hundreds, of these travelling shows, welcoming the general public to experience this remarkable talent. With a roster of talented artists, an emcee, a supercharged t-shirt cannon, bubble machines, prizes and giveaways, Pop-Up Opera brings great art to a casual atmosphere, while feeling totally accessible to audiences.

Mark your calendar for outdoor performances of Pop-Up Opera this year: May 3 at 3 p.m. at Freeman Arts Pavillion in Selbyville, and Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. at Milton Theatre's QuaySide @ Night. Contact the individual venues for ticket details.

Whether you're a lifelong opera fan or a curious newcomer, you'll hear recognizable melodies from opera's most beloved and timeless stories, and English translations will be provided so you'll understand every word.

OperaDelaware, the nation's 11th oldest opera company, is dedicated to producing world-class opera while building bridges between the art form and the local community. As a trailblazer in reimagining opera's future, the company is committed to providing opportunities for artists and fostering a thriving cultural landscape in Delaware.

Live shows are always being added to the online calendar at www.operade.org.



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2025 WEDDING GUIDE



Starts Here!

*A springtime peek at people and places
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Photo by Natasha Stauffer of Picturesque Photography

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Daniel & Chelle

The Carriage House at Rockwood Park in Wilmington, Del.



Get Inspired!

Couples should wear whatever makes them look good AND feel good. Some cultures prefer white, some believe that red is good luck (and on Wednesdays, we wear pink). In Wilmington, this couple leaned into their preferred tones of black and emerald for a sumptuous, elegant, yet cheeky vibe.



October 2023

Photographer: Jeffery Murphy of Jeffery Murphy Photography

"Our wedding was very Pop Punk Princess meets Enchanted Fairytale. We got married a decade to the day we met. He had sold me [Chelle] a pair of shoes. I complimented the shoes he was wearing, which struck up a conversation between us. I actually still have the receipt from the sale, like a lovestruck schoolgirl. For our wedding, I wore the shoes he sold me, and he wore the shoes I complimented him on. It was the neatest thing!

"We disappeared from our wedding for about an hour to take amazing photos after all the standard things were done (dances, cake cutting, etc.) because we wanted to be sure we had memories of just us from that day. The park was decorated for Halloween, which fit our spooktacular theme. It allowed us to have an hour to just enjoy us and feel like royalty with our photographer. I had my bridesmaids handle the dance floor until we came back, and by the time we returned, it was packed, and everyone was grooving! It was truly a perfect experience."



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King Cole Farm wows couples during its first year

When we invited couples to share wedding photos, we discovered that a wide number of people chose King Cole Farm during its first year open in Dover, Del. From soybean to airfield, the old family property has been re-vamped to a fresh central Delaware venue. The winding driveway leads to a massive pole barn that belies its rustic elegant interior, with chandeliers, glossy wooden

features, a vintage style bar and wide lawn with firepits. The main house provides room for all the private parties, dressing and behind-the-scenes action.

King Cole Farm is located at 765 Pickering Beach Road, Dover, Del.

Learn more online at kingcolegfarm.com.

Morgan & Tyler

June 2023

Photographer: Chelsea Fluharty of Chelsea Fluharty Photography

"From the moment we first saw King Cole Farm, we knew it was the place we were meant to be married. The renovations had not even been done yet, but the venue was already stunning.

"They made us feel so welcome, and they were incredibly helpful throughout the wedding planning process. They gave us the best guidance and worked incredibly hard to ensure our day was absolutely perfect. They went above and beyond to show us they valued us and our wedding day. We also loved that we could use the house for the weekend. We didn't have to worry about rushing to set up and breakdown and we were able to be on the property from Friday until Sunday."



Amanda and Max

May 2023

Photographer: Katie Yandell and Alicia Commoroto of Katie Mary Photography

"The main house was phenomenal for the bridesmaids to stay at and get ready in the morning. The Bridal suite is spacious, with an amazing large bathroom, and a balcony with a beautiful view of the fields, woods, pond and ceremony space.

"Some fun details included the (hidden) entrance to the Groom's Lounge, which

is just a fun space in general. It's great for the groom's party to get ready, hang out and have a drink and enjoy some video games while they wait. It even worked as a place for a married couple to stay at the end of the party.

"One of my favorite touches was instead of having the bridesmaids and groomsmen walk up the aisle after the ceremony together, we had their significant others sit in aisle seats and meet them as they walked down. It gave great meaningful pictures for them and was just precious to see! Oh, and the flower grandmothers—they were so cute!"



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Kara and Logen

December 2023

Photographer: Natasha Stauffer of Picturesque Photography

"The home itself had great opportunities for photos, including the 'Prohibition Room,' with so many windows to let in natural light. We were so thankful that we had the estate house to not only get ready, but to stay in the bridal suite that first night as husband and wife. It felt like home for us.

"One specific memory that we will cherish was: we realized that no one had grabbed the rings for the ceremony, so by quick thinking and many laughs after, my dad gave me his ring to put on Logen's hand, as Logen's mom gave him her ring to place on my hand. It was honestly one of my favorite memories of that day. It was very 'us,' everyone thought it was a joke, but we made the most of it. We laughed and ran down the aisle married. After the ceremony, we were able to exchange our rings with our bridal party and family surrounding us outside."

Hunter & Marshall

April 2023

Photographer: Katie Horseman and Amanda Bunting of Katie Horseman Photography

"I love how much history comes with King Cole Farm, and that they have kept that history within the house. From just the paintings/decor to the hand-carved duck decoys, it couldn't have fit 'us' any better as a couple/family."

"With the bridal suite being in the back corner of the house, we were able to see everything unfold from up there, and it was so much fun! My Maid of Honor and I actually watched our ceremony from one of the windows until I had to walk down the aisle myself. Watching Marshall walk down the aisle without him knowing I was even there is such a core memory from the day.

"After we took pictures, we were able to walk out to cocktail hour, and entering that backyard is another core memory of mine. All of our friends and family were eating/drinking, playing cornhole, hanging around the fire pits, and it just made my heart so happy in that moment."





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