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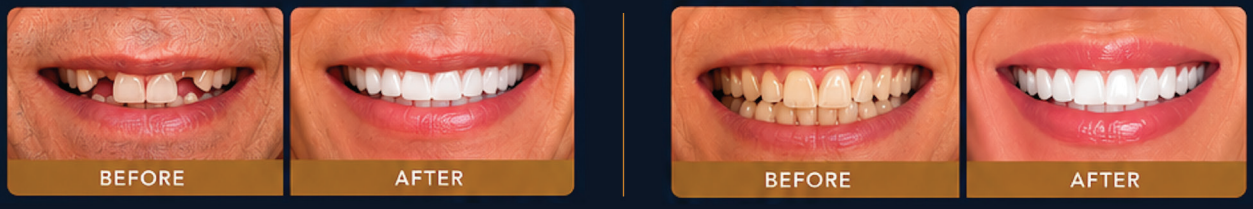

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Contents



JULY/AUGUST 2026

On the Cover: Celebrate summer with regional dining. Design by August Schwartz.
What's Up? Central Maryland online at whatsupmag.com.
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Arts & Culture

8 Events highlights special celebrations and activities
BY CALI SCHWERDTFEGER

12 Attractions offers how our State Capital is celebration our nation's 250th birthday
BY CAROL DENNY

16 Environment reveals the dedicated work of the Chesapeake Legal Alliance
BY LISA A. LEWIS



Features

19 Best of Central Maryland 2026 reveals the winners in the annual reader-voting contest, in which you have chosen the very best restaurants, shops, and services!

36 Senior Fiscal Responsibility 101 has sage advice for retirement and legacy planning, including estate considerations, investment adjustments, and must-have legal documents

38 2026 Summer Dining Guide has more than one hundred restaurant recommendations for remarkable dining experiences throughout the Chesapeake Bay region BY JAMES HOUCK

54 Lifestyle Investment offers considerations for aligning real estate with your long-term living goals

62 Roots of Liberty explores how the renown Liberty Tree of Annapolis continues to inspire us today, plus how its legacy is planted throughout the state BY JANICE F. BOOTH





Home & Garden

70 Featured Home: Next Era Annapolis profiles how a modest 1940s cottage with expansive Severn River waterfrontage underwent a thoughtful transformation BY LISA J. GOTTO

80 Interior: The Look of Soft Glamour explores nuance, texture, and approachable furnishings in modern interior design BY LISA J. GOTTO

82 Garden: Reorganizing Your Garden offers six practical suggestions for enhancing your home gardening experience BY JANICE F. BOOTH

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WHAT'S UP? MEDIA TOP DENTISTS 2024-2025 ANNE ARUNDEL
WHAT'S UP? MEDIA BEST OF ANNAPOLIS 2024

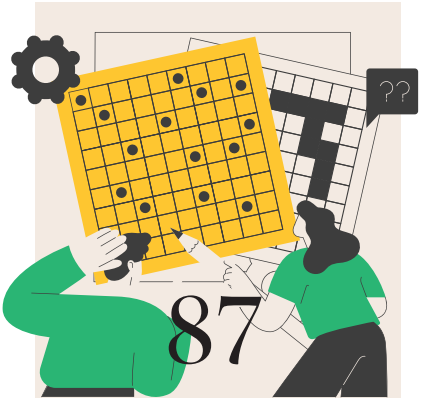
Contents

COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026
Visit Cool Schools, Thomas Point Lighthouse, 2026–2027 Top Dentists Awards

Health & Beauty

BY DYLAN ROCHE

86 Halotherapy
87 Exercise for the Mind
88 Poring Over Hair Care





Food & Dining

92 West River Story is our dining review of Pirates Cove Restaurant & Dock Bar in Galesville BY JAMES HOUCK

In Every Issue

5 From the Editor shares James' thoughts on this month's issue

95 Where's Wilma? Find the *What's Up? Media* mascot and win

96 One Verse at a Time features a historic poem by Thomas Paine COMPILED BY JANICE F. BOOTH

e-contents



Photo Time!

We're calling on you to share your favorite pet shots in our photo contest. All pets are acceptable. Think whimsical, sleepy, silly, or just plain lovable! Entries will be accepted through 7/31 and then posted to an online gallery where you can vote for your favorites. Voting will take place from 8/1 - 8/31. Winners and chosen favorites (by you and our staff) will be showcased in the Nov. 2026 issues of *What's Up? Annapolis*, *What's Up? Eastern Shore*, and *What's Up? Central Maryland*. And maybe even on the cover!

Each submission is $10. All proceeds benefitting local animal shelters.

WHATSUPMAG.COM/PETPHOTOCONTEST2026



Memorable meals and creating them are what this issue of *What's Up? Central Maryland* is mostly about. With the summer season heralded across the region, we find many restaurants in full swing with their doors literally open, waterfront breezes beckoning, and the Bay's bounty providing for great gatherings.

We spent considerable time and energy compiling the annual "Summer Dining Guide" that you'll find in the mid-section of this magazine and it was a true joy to write about the more than 100 restaurants within it. Fondly recalling crab picking, shell shucking, tropical bevvies, and atmospheres wide ranging in substance and appeal, writing about each restaurant was a walk down memory lane. Of course, we keep an eye toward the future and so, in this guide, you'll also find new eateries, escapes, and culinary adventures.

I expound upon one such adventure—a recent visit to the quaint waterfront community, Galesville, where a handful of dock 'n dine restaurants reside. Either in this magazine or online, you can read about Pirates Cove in "West River Story" and what made dinner with friends so enjoyable…so very special. A new memory that's worth hanging on to for quite some time with more than enough reasons to return sooner than later.

Being blessed with this abundance of engaging, entertaining, delicious, and good vibin' restaurants in our region is a testament to the creative entrepreneurs and chefs behind the front-of-house. And for this, we thank them. I think their restaurants will be pretty, pretty full this summer—especially because we also celebrate our nation's 250th birthday.

From Western Shore towns to Eastern, expect to see Fourth of July festivities amped up and the streets packed. Not since the '76 bicentennial have we seen so much planning, promotions, festivities, and general hoopla for an event (or weekend of events, some of which extend the entire month). So, please check our "Events" section for notable celebrations and visit Whatsupmag.com for oh-so-many more!

With the 250th in mind, we also recall the renown Liberty Tree that stood for more than 400 years in Annapolis before it was finally felled by storm and by pity—it had stood as the last surviving Liberty Tree of the original 13 colonies. Simply amazing. In the ensuing years, its legacy survived with generations of offspring scions from the original tulip poplar planted throughout Maryland. The latest planting and grandest ceremony of which we write about in the article "Roots of Liberty."

All of this to say, we truly hope you enjoy the *big* holiday weekend, and time spent with family and friends this July. We're glad to be a small part of it, perhaps offering some culinary and patriotic inspiration.

As our forefathers and mothers would have said while in good cheer back in 1776, "Huzzah!"

James Houck,
Editorial Director



Expert of the Month



Michael Davis

Michael Davis, DO, MS

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Physician
All Star Pain Management & Regenerative Medicine

Dr. Michael Davis is a fellowship-trained physician who specializes in treating spine and musculoskeletal conditions. As a former two-sport collegiate athlete, he understands that movement is critical for performance, health, and quality of life.

Dr. Davis works with patients to identify the root cause of their pain and develop personalized treatment plans. Utilizing minimally invasive, targeted treatments, he helps patients reduce pain and improve function—often avoiding surgery. His focus areas include sports injuries, joint pain, and neck and back conditions.

What are some misconceptions about living with chronic pain?

One misconception is that chronic pain indicates ongoing damage in the body. While acute pain serves as a warning, chronic pain is complex and can persist after an injury has healed. Over time, the nervous system can become more sensitive, amplifying pain signals.

Another misconception is that imaging studies like MRIs always provide an explanation for pain. Some findings, such as arthritis or disc degeneration, may not be the primary source of patients' symptoms. Patients often believe that successful treatment means eliminating pain completely. While sometimes possible, the primary goal is to improve function, mobility, and quality of life.

Can regenerative medicine help patients avoid surgery?

Absolutely. Conditions, such as rotator cuff tears, mild-to-moderate arthritis, and degenerative disc disease, can be treated with regenerative therapies that may help patients avoid surgery. These procedures are safe, minimally invasive, and carry a lower risk of complications. Early evaluation can determine if a patient is a good candidate.

What new technologies or therapies are emerging in the field?

Adaptive spinal cord stimulation systems can adjust in real time to provide more precise pain relief, while peripheral nerve stimulation continues to improve outcomes for localized nerve pain. **Minimally Invasive Lumbar Decompression (MILD)** can improve function and quality of life for patients with lumbar spinal stenosis who are not ideal surgical candidates. **Basivertebral Nerve Ablation (BVNA)** targets vertebrogenic low back pain, with research demonstrating sustained benefits for up to five years.

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Arts & Culture

8 EVENTS

12 ATTRACTIONS

16 ENVIRONMENT

HIGHLIGHTING ENTERTAINMENT, COMMUNITY, AND EVENTS



4th of July Celebration

PG. 10

Chesapeake Baysox July Homestand

Spend a summer day—or evening—at the ballpark as the Chesapeake Baysox host two exciting series at Prince George's Stadium in Bowie. The homestand begins with the Hartford Yard Goats from July 17–19, followed by a six-game series against the Erie SeaWolves from July 21–26. Fans can enjoy a mix of evening and afternoon games throughout the two-week stretch, along with all the classic elements of Minor League Baseball, including family-friendly entertainment, ballpark favorites, and a lively atmosphere. Whether you're cheering from the stands with friends, planning a family outing, or simply looking for a quintessential summer experience, the Baysox offer plenty of opportunities to catch the action at home this July. More info: baysox.com





CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH WITH FOUR BEERS OF THE REVOLUTION 250

Raise a glass to America's 250th anniversary on July 4 at 12 p.m at Chesepiooc Real Ale Brewery in Crofton during this unique celebration of Revolutionary-era brewing. The brewery's "Beers of the Revolution 250" series honors the Founding Fathers through four historically inspired ales, including George Washington's Tavern Ale, Thomas Jefferson's Secret Porter, Sons of Liberty Ale, and Secretary of Beer Colonial Ale. Blending history, storytelling, and craft brewing, the event offers guests a flavorful journey through the tastes and traditions that helped shape early America. It's a fitting way to celebrate Independence Day with a pint and a little history. More info: brewcrab.com

BRENCORE ENTERTAINMENT ALL WHITE AFFAIR FEATURING THE BRENCORE ALLSTARS

Dress in your finest white attire and head to the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts on July 11 at 7 p.m. for Brencore Entertainment's annual All White Affair. This year's celebration features the Brencore Allstars performing a tribute to music legends Stevie Wonder, The Isley Brothers, and The O'Jays, bringing timeless hits and soulful energy to the stage. Known for its lively atmosphere and enthusiastic crowds, the event invites guests to gather with friends and family for an evening filled with classic music, great entertainment, and plenty of dancing. It's a stylish summer tradition that promises a memorable night of nostalgia and celebration. More info: bowiecenter.org





A Red, White & Blue Tea

Celebrate the holiday weekend with an elegant afternoon tea on July 5 from noon to 3 p.m. at The Elkridge Furnace Inn and Garden House in Elkridge. This festive tea service features a thoughtfully curated menu of sweet and savory bites inspired by a patriotic palette of red, white, and blue, from fresh berries and delicate creams to beautifully crafted pastries and specialty teas. Blending classic tea traditions with seasonal flavors and creative presentation, the event offers a charming way to gather with friends and family while enjoying a refined culinary celebration of summer. More info: elkridgefurnaceinn.com



4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary with a day of history, music, and family-friendly fun at Historic Annapolis's Fourth of July Festival. Held at the William Paca House and Garden, Hogshead Trades Museum, and Museum of Historic Annapolis, the event features living history demonstrations, guided tours, colonial crafts, live music, patriotic activities, and hands-on experiences that bring the Revolutionary era to life. Special presentations by renowned Frederick Douglass reenactor Nathan Richardson add depth and perspective to the day's festivities, creating a meaningful celebration of the nation's history and ideals. More info: annapolis.org

2026 NCCA ANNUAL GOLF OUTING TO BENEFIT WARRIOR EVENTS

Join culinary professionals, food enthusiasts, and community supporters on July 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Crofton Country Club for the Nation's Capital Chefs Association Annual Golf Tournament benefiting Warrior Events. Participants can enjoy a full day of golf, lunch, giveaways, access to practice facilities, and an awards dinner following play. The event brings together the region's food community for a day of friendly competition and networking while supporting an organization dedicated to serving veterans and their families. Whether you're a golfer, a foodie, or simply looking to support a worthy cause, this annual fundraiser offers a rewarding day on the course. More info: acfncca.org





Annual Independence Day Parade - America's 250th Anniversary

Celebrate America's 250th birthday at Severna Park's annual Independence Day Parade, a beloved community tradition that draws thousands of spectators each year. On July 4 from 10 a.m. to noon, the parade will feature patriotic floats, marching groups, community organizations, and festive displays competing for honors including Best Overall, Best Theme, and Most Patriotic. With hometown pride, family-friendly entertainment, and plenty of red, white, and blue spirit, the event promises a memorable start to the holiday celebration. More info: gspacc.com



Premier Lacrosse League All-Star Weekend

One of lacrosse's biggest weekends is coming to Annapolis as the Premier Lacrosse League and Women's Lacrosse League bring their All-Star Weekend to Navy–Marine Corps Memorial Stadium on July 4 and 5. The two-day celebration will feature elite men's and women's All-Star Games, skills competitions, youth clinics, fan zones, player meet-and-greets, and community events, creating a festival atmosphere for fans of all ages. Set in one of the sport's most passionate hometowns, the event showcases the very best players in professional lacrosse while highlighting Annapolis's deep connection to America's oldest team sport. More info: premierlacrosseleague.com

CHESAPEAKE BAYSOX STAR-SPANGLED SPECTACULAR & FIREWORKS SHOW

Celebrate Independence Day with the Chesapeake Baysox during the Star-Spangled Spectacular on July 4 at 6 p.m. at Prince George's Stadium in Bowie. This festive evening combines the excitement of Minor League Baseball with family-friendly entertainment, on-field activities, music, and patriotic fun throughout the ballpark. Following the game, guests can enjoy one of the largest fireworks displays in the region as the night sky comes alive with a dazzling red, white, and blue celebration. It's the perfect way to spend the Fourth of July with family and friends while enjoying America's favorite pastime. More info: baysox.com





MIKE HEUER AT HOMESTEAD

Enjoy an evening of live music with internationally touring Alt/Soul artist Mike Heuer during select performances at Homestead Gardens in Davidsonville. Performing on July 1, July 8, July 23, and July 30 from 5 p.m. to midnight at 743 W. Central Ave., Heuer brings a soulful blend of alternative, soul, and contemporary influences shaped by his classical training and years of experience on stages ranging from intimate listening rooms to major concert venues. Known for his powerful vocals, dynamic musicianship, and expansive repertoire, Heuer delivers an engaging live performance that pairs perfectly with a summer evening in the gardens. More info: homesteadgardens.com



Printmaking will be one the colonial crafts demonstrated at the William Paca House. Photo courtesy Historic Annapolis.

A Birthday Bash

ANNAPOLIS CELEBRATES AMERICA'S 250TH

By Carol Denny

Unfurl the flags and light up the sparklers: the long-awaited celebration of the USA's 250th birthday kicks off this month, and Annapolis is all in. The city is throwing a party that will show off the best-preserved colonial capital in the nation and highlight its revolutionary spirit across centuries, and everyone's invited.

Local planning for the 250th, a.k.a. the semi-quincentennial, began back in 2023, when Alderwoman Karma O'Neill presented a resolution to establish an Annapolis 250 Commission. With City Council approval, O'Neill and other interested residents formed the commission and began to ponder what shape the celebration might take. "The National Park Service had published suggestions on possible themes that communities might want to highlight," O'Neill recalled. "We chose to work with three: Power of Place, We the People, and Unfinished Revolutions."

O'Neill noted that actual events in 18th-century Annapolis tie directly to those themes. "Annapolis had four signers of the Declaration of Independence, and George Washington and Thomas Jefferson walked these very streets. It certainly was a place that was central to the revolution, and diverse peoples of many backgrounds contributed. The burning of the ship *Peggy Stewart*, the story of Kunte Kinte—there are so many stories to tell, but we wanted to focus on Annapolis and the people of Maryland."

The commission highlighted 16 local sites where history was made in an exceptionally beautiful pocket publication, the Annapolis 250 Passport, which offers a fold-out map, photos, and descriptions of each location. It's not only a useful guide, but a handsome souvenir of the 250th, and it's available free at downtown businesses and the Visit Annapolis office on West Street.



Reenactor Nathan Richardson will deliver Frederick Douglass's famous speech, "For What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" Photo courtesy Historic Annapolis.

Another commission project has been encouraging personal reflections on the celebration through Voices 250, which invites residents of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to share their answers to the question, "What does the pursuit of happiness mean to me?" Each reflection will be gathered to create a mosaic of ideas that showcase the community's experiences, perspectives, and hopes.

Finally, Annapolis 250 has assembled a bang-up, two-day schedule of festivities for all, kicking off with an outdoor screening of *Hamilton* on the lawn at St. John's College on Friday, July 3rd and continuing with a full day of fun on the Fourth, including costumed reenactors, music, storytelling, parades, and fireworks across town. (See inset for the complete schedule.)

"It will be an old-fashioned, back-to-basics celebration, full of things like bike parades, food trucks, dancers, and the USNA band at the State House," O'Neill said. "Not fancy or glamorous, but fun."

Historic Annapolis will celebrate the 250th with live events at its leading properties: the Museum of Historic Annapolis, the William Paca House and Gardens, and the Hogshead Trades Museum. A single ticket will cover admission to all sites. Highlights include guided tours by Annapolis Living Historians, a Colonial Beer Garden and music at the Paca House, fiddlers at the Hogshead Trades Museum, live demonstrations of silhouette making, and more.

"A big part of this for us is the context—how Annapolis shaped the birth of a new nation and the ideals of the revolution," said Corey Ruth, Vice President of Communications for Historic Annapolis. He added that Historic Annapolis' 250 events will continue throughout 2026. "Later this summer, we'll be shining a light on individuals who were significant to the revolution, including Annapolis' Tilghman family, Asian and African participants in the war, and Maryland's First Regiment—both the soldiers and the camp followers who accompanied them."

"THERE ARE SO MANY STORIES TO TELL, BUT WE WANTED TO ZERO IN ON ANNAPOLIS AND THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND."
—ALDERWOMAN KARMA O'NEILL



Visit Annapolis's "Be Revolutionary: America 250 Exploration Trail" spans more than 50 locations, offering chances to earn points and win prizes. Photo courtesy Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.

Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County is promoting the region's biggest tourism event of 2026 with a new initiative, the Be Revolutionary: America 250 Exploration Trail. The trail includes more than 50 historic, cultural, and community sites across Anne Arundel County, with each location sharing its own revolutionary story through interpretive panels. Sites range from museums and archives to farms, breweries, libraries, and waterfront landmarks. To participate, visitors download a mobile passport to their phones and scan the QR code posted at each Be Revolutionary venue. At each location, they'll earn points that they can collect and redeem for prizes.

Heather Ersts, Director of Tourism Development at Visit Annapolis, said that while the Exploration Trail gives out-of-towners plenty to discover, it's equally valuable for residents who want to experience the breadth of local history. "We've gotten lots of feedback on the Trail from people who live here, saying 'We had no idea about this!'"

This Fourth of July, join Annapolis's 250th celebration and savor the extraordinary historic legacy that surrounds us. And happy birthday, America!

CELEBRATE ANNAPOLIS 250

Events are free unless otherwise listed

FRIDAY, JULY 3

Hamilton Under the Liberty Tree at St. John's College. Large outdoor screening with a pre-show concert by the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra brass quintet

SATURDAY, JULY 4

10 a.m.: Piscataway Nation Singers and Dancers at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts

10:30 a.m.: West Annapolis Bike Parade - Top of Melvin Avenue at West Annapolis Elementary School

11 a.m.: Children's Story Telling at Chesapeake Children's Museum featuring Dovie Thomason

11 a.m.: Eastport Parade - Start at Eastport Elementary School

11:45 a.m.: George Washington and Marquis de Lafayette Reenactors - Second Street, Eastport A conversation hosted by Jamie Costello

12 Noon: Food Festival and Local Vendors at People's Park. Featuring Annapolis restaurants and food trucks and a live broadcast by WRNR

12 Noon–4 p.m.: Historic Annapolis Fourth of July Celebration at the William Paca House & Garden, Hogshead Trades Museum and the Museum of Historic Annapolis. Tickets $10–20, good for admission to all properties. At Paca House: 30-minute guided tours, historic music on period instruments, showcase of revolutionary trades, silhouette artists, patriotic crafts, writing with quills and more. Colonial beer garden and lemonade. At Hogshead Trades Museum: Live traditional fiddle music from the American Revolution. At Museum of Historic Annapolis: Three floors of exhibits on 400 years of history. A Frederick Douglass reenactor presents encores of "For What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" at Historic Annapolis Museum at 2 and 3 p.m.



Fireworks will provide a final flourish to the Annapolis 250 celebration. Photo courtesy Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.

1 p.m.: Meet Frederick Douglass - front steps of the William Paca House. Reenactment by Nathan Richardson of Douglass's speech, "For What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"

1–3 p.m.: One Country, Many Cultures: Live Music and Dance - People's Park. Performances by Latin, Eastern European and Irish musicians and dancers

3–5 p.m.: One Country, Many Cultures: Storytelling and Oral Histories - People's Park. Presentations by Kunte Kinte Celebrations, students of AACPS and Chesapeake Children's Museum

6:30 p.m.: City of Annapolis Downtown Parade - West and Main Streets. Community groups, marching bands, vintage vehicles and local organizations

7:45 p.m.: USNA Electric Brigade - State House Grounds. Family-friendly concert with patriotic and popular songs

9:15 p.m.: Fireworks Extravaganza Over Spa Creek










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Teel Campus Open House for Grades 6–12 October 15 @ 7:00 pm

Middle School Parent Information Session for Grades 6–8 September 22 @ 9:30 am

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Chesapeake Legal Alliance

CHAMPIONING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY THROUGH THE POWER OF THE LAW

By Lisa A. Lewis

Tracing its origins to 2009, Chesapeake Legal Alliance (CLA) provides innovative legal strategies to address critical environmental issues in the Chesapeake Bay—leveraging its expertise as a catalyst to protect and restore the watershed. Although numerous organizations focus on improving the health of the Bay, few have the legal resources to hold local, state, and federal agencies accountable. CLA differentiates itself as the only regional organization dedicated exclusively to providing pro bono legal services to protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The idea of creating a nonprofit organization that focuses on legal representation was inspired by attorneys Russ Stevenson and Ridgway Hall. They envisioned a network of volunteer attorneys who could provide services to clients at no cost. As a result of their innovation, CLA was officially born, adding a new dynamic to Chesapeake Bay protection and restoration.



CLA receiving the Bay Protector Award at the 15th anniversary event.



CLA staff and Legal Fellow (far right) at the 2025 Arundel Rivers Federation boat day.

Since its inception, CLA has been dedicated to its mission "to apply the power of the law to protect and restore clean water and promote healthy, resilient ecosystems for communities across the Chesapeake Bay watershed." Based in Annapolis, its clients include individuals, community groups, and environmental advocates. CLA also partners with government regulators at every level.

According to CLA, its network of staff and volunteer attorneys has the capacity to manage nearly 100 legal matters and cases annually. The organization focuses on enforcing environmental laws and addresses critical issues, such as agricultural pollution, municipal and industrial wastewater, land use and habitat protection, fisheries, Bay cleanup and government transparency, and nonprofit assistance.

"We provide free legal services, education, and empowerment to clients who want to protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed," says David Reed, executive director, CLA, who is a biologist and an attorney. "Litigation is the last resort, and our clients feel strongly about this. But sometimes an issue is severe enough to require legal action."

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Staff attorneys, in collaboration with a network of volunteer attorneys, provide services through CLA's three centers: the **Environmental Action Center**, the **Legal Education Center**, and the **Community Outreach Center**.

In addition, CLA launched a new program, **Environmental Mediation Services**, this spring. Reed says the first-of-its-kind program, which is designed to help resolve environmental disputes quickly and efficiently, brings together all parties involved with a neutral mediator who can facilitate communication, clarify issues, and identify solutions.

"We are really excited about providing mediation services," Reed says. "It's a valuable tool for solving disagreements, and it can help clients avoid legal action. In some cases, it offers the best way to move forward."

Photographs courtesy Chesapeake Legal Alliance

ADVOCACY IN ACTION: THE MENHADEN ISSUE

The availability of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay is a source of long-standing contention among the baywide community. Scientists, researchers, commercial fisheries, watermen, conservationists, environmentalists, and recreational anglers have continued to sound the alarm, with some groups claiming localized depletion of the keystone species.

In spring 2023, CLA filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Organization (SMRFO) against the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). According to CLA, the purpose of the lawsuit is to compel the Commission to protect the Atlantic menhaden fishery—a vital food source for predators, such as striped bass and osprey. Phil Zalesak, president, SMRFO, chose CLA to represent the organization.

In short, the case contends that the VMRC is allowing one company, Omega Protein Corporation, a Canadian subsidiary, to harvest massive amounts of menhaden (approximately 300 million pounds annually) for the industrial reduction fishery in Virginia, which grinds and processes the fish for use in pet food and nutritional supplements for salmon farms. The company is the only facility of its kind on the Atlantic Coast. All other states in the region have banned reduction fishing.

The lawsuit argues that the VMRC neglected its duty to follow Virginia fisheries law, which requires it to use the best available scientific, biological, and economic data to establish responsible menhaden harvests.



CLA team and clients at a site inspection.

"Menhaden is a tough issue," Reed says. "I try to be thoughtful about any regulatory action, and my client and I don't take the decision to pursue legal action lightly. But when you have a total failure to regulate an industry, you have a public outcry. People are starting to realize the impact of this issue—not only on the menhaden population but on the overall health of the Bay ecosystem."

Due to delays at the circuit court in Richmond, VA, the case didn't get a timely review. However, Zalesak asked Reed to file another lawsuit in spring 2026, and he is hoping for a positive outcome.

"The VMRC is breaking the law, and it has to stop," Zalesak says. "I would like to see a complete moratorium of industrial reduction harvesting of Atlantic menhaden in Virginia waters to the benefit of the U.S. commercial and recreational fishing industry."

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

As CLA looks toward the future, it plans to continue to spend its resources to protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed and its aquatic ecosystem. The organization would also like to expand its services in the Bay states.

"Our goal is to take action using multistate strategies, so we can look across jurisdictions and agencies and really make an impact on the region," Reed explains. "We'd also like to focus on protecting wetlands and public lands and converting resources into conservation projects. If we're not focused on protecting the Bay ecosystem, we're doing it wrong."

To learn more about Chesapeake Legal Alliance, visit chesapeakelegal.org.



CLA staff with partners at the 15th anniversary event.



Thank you!

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Named Best Chef in What's Up? Media's 2026 Best Of issue, Chef John Walsh credits his passion for cooking to his upbringing in France, where fresh ingredients and homegrown meals shaped his culinary philosophy from an early age.

"The food was so fresh–if you wanted eggs, you went out to the chicken coop," he shared. When asked to describe his culinary style in one sentence, his answer was simple: "Fresh. Fresh. Fresh."

That same energy carries into Ashling's connection to the music industry, where the team regularly feeds touring artists and backstage crews throughout the region. When asked what fuels kitchen prep during long days and busy services, his answer came without hesitation: "The Wu-Tang Clan."

Despite the recognition, he says the award is really about the people around him. "Without everyone who surrounds me daily in the kitchen, out incredible team who sells the food and represents the brand every single day, and of course our exceptional marketing support, none of this would be possible. It truly takes a team effort, and I've never seen a group so diverse in talent and so driven when we put our minds together. This "Best Chef" recognition isn't just my success–it's our team's success."

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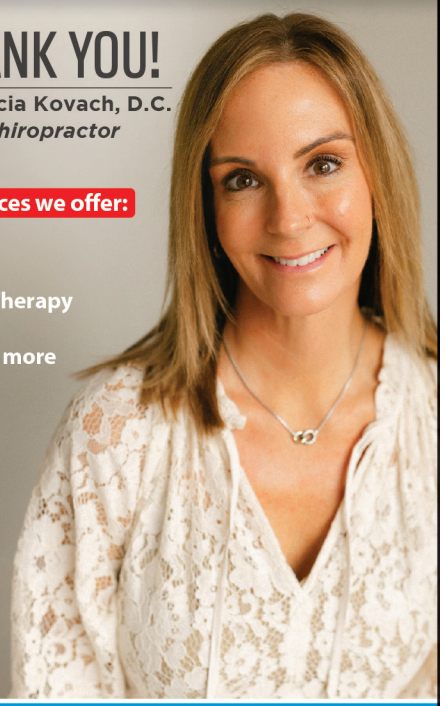

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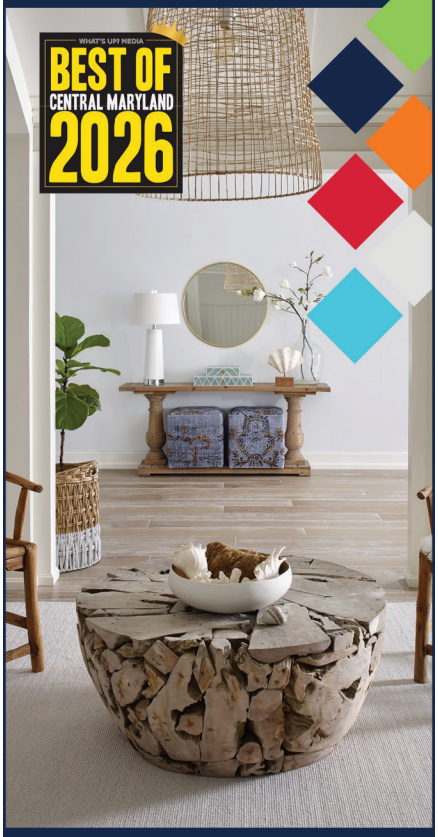

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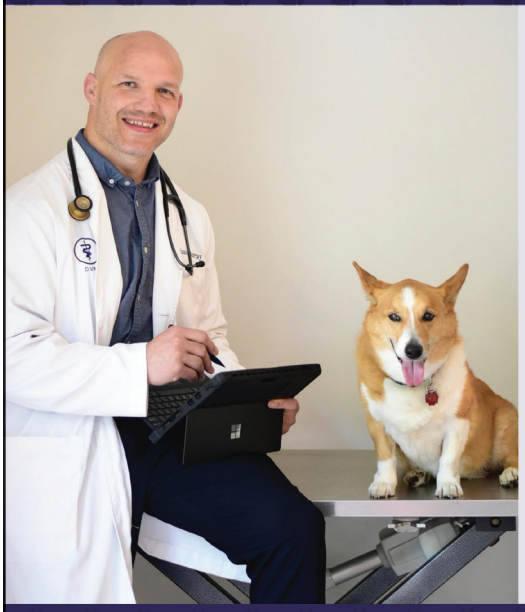

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CHESAPEAKE RETIREMENT GUIDE





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- Investment Management
- Retirement Planning
- Legacy Planning

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BY WHAT'S UP? MEDIA

SENIOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY 101

STRENGTHEN AND SECURE YOUR RETIREMENT YEARS WITH THESE 10 STRATEGIC FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

For our What's Up? magazine readers that are approaching retirement and/or living it out currently, we've compiled ten strategic financial moves to consider as part of your retirement readiness checklist. As always, we advise you to seek professional guidance when solidifying your financial plans—the following considerations offer a baseline from which to build your strategy.

1. Reevaluate Your Investment Risk Profile. The investment strategy that fueled portfolio growth during your earning years may deserve a fresh look as retirement approaches. While maintaining exposure to growth assets remains important, many retirees benefit from reviewing how much risk they are assuming relative to their income needs and long-term goals. A disciplined approach to diversification can help balance growth opportunities with capital preservation.

2. Develop a Tax-Efficient Withdrawal Strategy. Retirement often means drawing income distributions from multiple sources, including taxable brokerage accounts, traditional IRAs, Roth accounts, pensions, and Social Security. The order in which assets are withdrawn can significantly affect tax liability over time. Coordinating withdrawals strategically may help reduce taxes and potentially extend the longevity of retirement assets.

3. Stress-Test Your Retirement Income Plan. Even well-funded retirement plans should be evaluated against a variety of scenarios, including market volatility, inflation, rising healthcare costs, and longer-than-expected life expectancy. Periodically reviewing how your plan performs under different conditions can help identify vulnerabilities and provide opportunities for adjustment before problems arise.

4. Update Your Estate and Legacy Planning Documents. A comprehensive estate plan should evolve alongside your family circumstances and financial situation. Review your will, trusts, powers of attorney, healthcare directives, and beneficiary designations to ensure they remain aligned with your wishes. Changes in family relationships, asset values, or applicable laws may warrant updates.

5. Consider Whether Trust Planning Still Fits Your Goals. Trusts can serve a variety of purposes, including probate avoidance, privacy protection, charitable giving, and asset management for future generations. As retirement approaches, it may be worthwhile to revisit existing trust structures or explore whether additional planning tools could help achieve evolving financial and family objectives.

6. Evaluate Your Long-Term Housing Strategy. Where and how you live can have a meaningful impact on both lifestyle and finances. Some retirees choose to downsize and unlock home equity, while others invest in modifications that support aging in place. Still others relocate closer to family, healthcare resources, or tax-friendly jurisdictions. The best decision is often the one made proactively rather than reactively.

7. Plan for Healthcare and Long-Term Care Costs. Healthcare expenses represent one of the largest financial variables in retirement. Beyond Medicare coverage, consider how you would address extended care needs, whether through dedicated savings, insurance solutions, hybrid policies, or other funding strategies. Early planning may expand available options and reduce future financial strain.



8. Explore Opportunities for Strategic Giving. Retirement can be an ideal time to align financial resources with personal values. Charitable giving strategies, donor-advised funds, qualified charitable distributions, and family philanthropy discussions can help support meaningful causes while potentially creating tax advantages. Thoughtful giving can become an important component of a broader legacy plan.

9. Strengthen Your Defenses Against Financial Fraud. Fraud schemes targeting older adults continue to grow in sophistication. Scammers increasingly impersonate financial institutions, government agencies, technology companies, and even family members. Establish safeguards such as account alerts, trusted contacts, secure password management, and regular financial monitoring. A few preventive measures can significantly reduce exposure to fraud.

10. Coordinate Your Team of Advisors. Retirement planning often involves complex decisions spanning investments, taxes, estate planning, insurance, and healthcare. Bringing together your financial advisor, tax professional, attorney, and other trusted specialists can help ensure strategies work together cohesively rather than in isolation. Effective coordination may uncover opportunities and help avoid costly oversights.

ESTATE PLANNING DOCUMENTS YOU SHOULD HAVE

1. Last Will and Testament. A will outlines how your assets should be distributed after your death and names an executor responsible for carrying out your wishes. Without a valid will, state law determines how your estate is distributed, which may not reflect your intentions.

2. Revocable Living Trust (When Appropriate). A revocable living trust can help avoid probate, provide greater privacy, and allow for smoother management of assets in the event of incapacity. It can be particularly useful for individuals with more complex estates or multi-state property holdings.

3. Durable Financial Power of Attorney. This document designates a trusted individual to manage your financial affairs if you become unable to do so. It can cover tasks such as paying bills, managing investments, and handling real estate or tax matters.

4. Healthcare Power of Attorney. Also known as a medical proxy, this document appoints someone to make healthcare decisions on your behalf if you are unable to communicate your wishes. Choosing someone who understands your values is essential.

5. Advance Healthcare Directive (Living Will). This document outlines your preferences for medical treatment in situations where you are unable to express informed consent. It may address life-sustaining treatments, resuscitation preferences, and end-of-life care.

6. Updated Beneficiary Designations. Retirement accounts, life insurance policies, and certain financial assets pass directly to named beneficiaries. These designations should be reviewed periodically to ensure they align with your current estate plan and family circumstances.

7. Organized Record of Financial and Legal Information. While not a formal legal document, a secure and accessible record of accounts, policies, passwords, advisors, and key contacts can significantly ease administrative burdens for loved ones during a difficult time.

5 FINANCIAL SCAMS TO BE AWARE OF

1. Government Impersonation Scams. Fraudsters pose as representatives from the IRS, Social Security Administration, Medicare, or other government agencies. They may claim you owe money, your benefits are at risk, or your account has been compromised. Legitimate government agencies generally do not demand immediate payment, threaten arrest, or request gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.

2. Tech Support Scams. A pop-up message, email, text, or unexpected phone call claims your computer, smartphone, or online account has been hacked. The scammer then attempts to gain remote access to your device or convince you to pay for unnecessary services. Never grant computer access to an unsolicited caller, and contact technology providers directly through official channels if you have concerns.

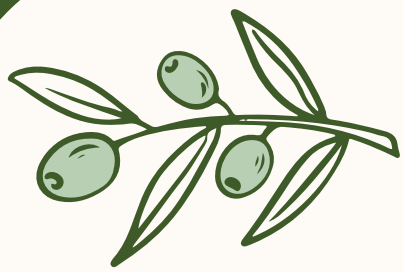
3. Investment and "Guaranteed Return" Schemes. Promises of unusually high returns with little or no risk are a classic warning sign. Fraudulent investments often involve real estate ventures, cryptocurrency opportunities, precious metals, private lending arrangements, or exclusive insider opportunities. If an investment sounds too good to be true, it deserves careful scrutiny.

4. Grandparent and Family Emergency Scams. Scammers impersonate grandchildren, relatives, or even attorneys claiming a loved one is facing an emergency and needs money immediately. The caller may urge secrecy and pressure you to act before verifying the story. Always contact the family member directly or confirm the situation through another trusted relative before sending funds.

5. Romance and Relationship Scams. These scams often begin through social media, dating websites, or online communities. After building trust over weeks or months, the scammer invents a financial crisis, business opportunity, or travel problem and requests money. Requests for financial assistance from someone you have never met in person should be treated with extreme caution.

PLUS, 3 Red Flags That Apply to Almost Every Scam: Pressure to act immediately, Requests for secrecy, Unusual payment methods (gift cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or peer-to-peer payment apps).


2026
SUMMER
DINING
GUIDE



From Western Shore to Eastern, the Chesapeake Bay region has dining adventures for all tastes, plus waterfront views, dockside service, local culture, and so much more!

By James Houck

Revised and updated, this summer dining guide features editors' selections, reader favorites, and local recommendations for restaurants, all within a mix of fun and unique categories. We have crab houses, waterfront views, dining by boat, beach bars, beer gardens, destination restaurants, overnight escapes, vineyards, and more packed into this guide! To be included, a restaurant had to pique the interest of our editors, be recommended by our readers, be legendary, be surprising, be summery, or be in the What's Up? Media family of clients. Restaurants are listed alphabetically—not by rank—under each category.

Don't see your favorite? Let us know the restaurants you think we missed and who should be considered for next year's guide. Write to us at: editor@whatsupmag.com.

RED = advertiser within *What's Up? Annapolis*, *What's Up? Eastern Shore*, and/or *What's Up? Central Maryland*

Go forth and enjoy a summer of dining adventures!

TOP BEACH/ DOCK BARS

Big Owl Tiki Bar – 3015 Kent Narrows Way S., Grasonville; 410-827-6523; thebigowl.com; From live music to Sunset DJ Parties, Big Owl Tiki Bar is a glorious beach bar right on the Kent Narrows just waiting for you to bring the party!

Coconut Joe's Bar & Grill – 48 South River Road, Edgewater; 443-837-6057; coconutjoesmd.com; Feel like you are at the beach with indoor/outdoor dining, three bars, including two tikis overlooking the South River. Make the day even better by enjoying the large sand-filled play area with a brand-new pirate ship for the kiddos.

Foxy's Harbor Grille – 125 Mulberry Street, St. Michaels; 410-745-4340; foxysharborgrille.com; Ready to visit paradise without a passport? Foxy's offers Caribbean-style dishes, Maryland crabcakes, local seafood, and more right in the St. Michaels Marina.

Harbor Shack – 20895 Bayside Avenue, Rock Hall; 410-639-9996; harborshack.net; In 2006, the plan was to create Rock Hall's go-to place for drinking, dining, and entertainment; it is safe to say this neighborhood hangout has succeeded. The Harbor Shack has one of the best views of the Rock Hall Harbor with an eclectic, fun, and upbeat atmosphere on the Upper Eastern Shore.

The Jetty Restaurant & Dock – 201 Wells Cove Road, Grasonville; 410-827-4959; jettydockbar.com; The Jetty has a packed social calendar, with live music all the time, plus trivia nights, karaoke, bingo, and so much more on the Kent Narrows. Enjoy refreshing drinks and local seafood right on the water! *Read our interview with management here:*



The Jetty Restaurant & Dock, Photograph by Bill Whaley

Lowes Wharf Bayside Grill & Tiki Bar – 21651 Lowes Wharf Road, Sherwood; 410-745-6684; loweswharf.com; Ice cold beer, cocktails, tasty treats...is there anything else we are missing? Oh yeah! Live weekend music. See ya at Lowes Wharf soon!

Pirate's Cove Restaurant & Dock Bar – 4817 Riverside Drive, Galesville; 410-867-2300; piratescovemd.com; The Dock Bar at Pirate's Cove overlooks the West River with weekend entertainment, locally caught seafood specials, and a vast selection of beers, cocktails, and wine. Anyone want to join us for happy hour? *Read the latest review in this issue on page 92*

Rams Head Dockside – 1702 Furnace Drive, Glen Burnie; 410-590-2280; ramsheaddockside.com; Rams Heads' pub grub and delicious entrees are served in a casual roadhouse-meets-beach bar atmosphere that overlooks Furnace Creek, complete with sandy beach, picnic tables, and palm trees!

The Sandbar at Rolphs Wharf Marina – 1008 Rolphs Wharf Road, Chestertown; 410-778-6347; rolphswharfmarina.com; Rolphs Wharf Marina offers more than just a great place to dock the boat on the Chester River. Grab a cocktail and watch the sun set tonight with sand between your toes.

The Shanty Beach Bar at Tolchester Marina – 21085 Tolchester Beach Road, Chestertown; 410-778-1400; tolchestermarina.com; Want me to spill what is considered the best kept secret on the Bay? The Shanty Beach Bar with their live entertainment and mudslides holds the key.

FAVORITE CRAB HOUSES

Buddy's Crabs & Ribs – 100 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-626-1100; buddysonline.com; With million-dollar views overlooking Annapolis' Market Space and the Ego Alley harbor, Buddy's is hard to beat for cracking crabs and enjoying a cold bucketful of brews. It's all-you-can-eat buffet also is renowned. The downtown dining staple is popular with out-of-town visitors, so arrive early to secure a table or spot on the waitlist.

Crafty Crab Seafood – 6800 Race Track Road, Bowie; 240-245-3715; craftycrabrestaurant.com; Crafty Crab has an urban "sports bar-meets-picking party" vibe with a decidedly New Orleans influence. The steamed platters are the star here, with your choice of crabs (Blue, Dungeness, Alaskan King, Snow, etc.), other steamer staples (mussels, clams, shrimp, crawdads, lobster), and type of seasoning.

Fat Boys Crab House – 1651 MD-3, Crofton; 443-292-4709; fatboyscrofton.com; It's a western Anne Arundel gathering spot for friends to pick crabs over a few cold ones while watching the game-du-jour on the flat screens above the bar. Indoors and air-conditioning make for comfy confines in which to crack jumbos!

● **Fisherman's Crab Deck** – 3032 Kent Narrow Way S., Grasonville; 410-827-6666; crabdeck.com; The expansive open-air seating and outdoor deck sits right on the Narrows of Prospect Bay, offering exciting views of the bustling boats, marinas, and Kent Island way of life. The Schulz family has operated the Crab Deck and adjacent **Fishermen's Inn** for decades—the entire operation became, and continues to be, a landmark seafood establishment serving jumbo crabs and piles of steamed seafood to patrons who arrive by both boat (ample docking) or car. *Read our latest review of the Inn here:*

Harris Crab House – 433 Kent Narrow Way N., Grasonville; 410-827-9500; harriscrabhouse.com; For more than 75 years, patrons have enjoyed picking crabs freshly harvested, delivered, and steamed on site. Harris is an iconic crab house located on the northern side of the Narrows, surrounded by marina docking, the busy water passage, and maritime culture that defines Kent Island.

Jimmy Cantler's Riverside Inn – 458 Forest Beach Road, Annapolis; 410-757-1311; cantlers.com; Waterman-turned-restauranteur Jimmy Cantler and his wife Linda founded what became a destination for crab picking and fresh seafood way back in 1974. Celebrating 50 years, Cantler's continues to delight guests from near and afar who flock to the tucked-away restaurant that overlooks quiet Mill Creek.

Mike's Restaurant & Crab House – 3030 Riva Road, Riva; 410-956-2784; mikescrabhouse.com; Since '58, Mike's has served locals and visitors fresh, local seafood in a dock setting overlooking the South River at the Riva Road Bridge. The picnic tables for crab picking are many, boat docking is free and plentiful, and the market-priced blue crabs some of the best on the Bay! Bonus: the Mike's operating-family purchased the old Sunset Restaurant in Pasadena and transformed into brethren restaurant, Mike's North.

Ocean Odyssey – 316 Sunburst Highway, Cambridge; 410-228-8633; toddseafood.com; When a restaurant has a specially-designated "Pickin' Room," they must be all about them crabs! And they are—the Todd family business dates back to the 1940s as local seafood processors before jumping into the restaurant venture in the '80s. Over time, Ocean Odyssey has become synonymous with Cambridge seafood culture.

The Crab Claw – 304 Burns Street, St. Michaels; 410-745-2900; thecrabclaw.com; What began as a clam and oyster shucking house in the '50s was turned in a full-service restaurant and crab house by Bill and Sylvia Jones in the '60s. The Crab Claw, which overlooks the Miles River, remained a summer institution ever since and today, though owned by the adjacent Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, remains operated by the same family.

The Point Crab House & Grill – 700 Mill Creek Road, Arnold; 410-544-5448; thepointcrabhouse.com; If the restaurant was any closer to the water, you'd need a bathing suit to enjoy your meal. Opened by chef Bobby Jones and wife Julie on Mill Creek, just off the Magothy River, The Point has a coastal-casual vibe with upscale taste with a refined dinner menu, and offers classic crab cracking on the outdoor patio or screened-in dining room.

Waterman's Crab House – 21055 West Sharp Street, Rock Hall; 410-639-6860; watermanscrabhouse.com; Smack dab in the middle of Rock Hall Harbor sits Waterman's. With the Chesapeake Bay just beyond nearby jetties, the setting for a complete crab feast with all the fixins', delicious crushes, and sunset views is near perfect.



● **Fisherman's Crab Deck**

MARITIME HANGOUTS

Beacon Waterfront Galley & Bar – 2020 Chesapeake Harbour Drive E., Annapolis; 443-949-8456; beaconwaterfront.com; Located in the heart of Chesapeake Harbour's marina and surrounded by the bayfront community of the same name, Beacon is ship-shape to serve cold drinks, nibbles, steamed seafood, crabcakes, hand-helds, and filling entrees.

● **Boatyard Bar & Grill** – 400 Fourth Street, Annapolis; 410-216-6206; boatyardbarandgrill.com; When the patron saint of sailing himself, Jimmy Buffet, frequented an establishment, you know it checks out! Nautical vibe...check! Trophy fish adorning the walls. Yep! Fresh, local seafood and "All killer, no filler" crabcakes—hey, it's a slogan. Supports local conservation and angling charities—of course. And a darn good margarita to wash down the eats while kicking back with like-minded water warriors. It's the Boatyard! *Read our latest dining review here:*

Carpenter Street Saloon – 113 S. Talbot Street, St. Michaels; 410-745-5111; carpenterstreetsaloon.com; It's the heartbeat of St. Michaels. For more than 50 years, the Saloon has served locals and visitors breakfast, lunch, dinner, and plenty of cold drinks to wash it all down. The saloon even runs its own shuttle bus on weekends to help patrons return home or port safely. Live music is also a big draw and keeps the crowds returning season after season.

Davis' Pub – 400 Chester Avenue, Annapolis; 410-268-7432; davispub.com; Located in the heart of Eastport's "marina district," Davis' is several things: a locals' hangout, a blue-collar catchall, a quick biz' lunch spot, a post-boating watering hole, and in recent years, tourist attraction. When famous chef Guy Fieri featured the eatery on his "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives" television show, Davis' instantly became a must-visit for out-of-towners seeking uniquely Annapolitan pub-grub.

Fish Whistle – 100 George Street, Georgetown; 410-275-1603; fishandwhistle.com; A northern Bay destination among boaters, Fish Whistle serves classic Shore seafood, plenty of surprises, and respite right on the beautiful Sassafras River. Located at Granary Marina, there's plenty of transient or long-term seasonal docking and all the amenities.

Red Eye's Dock Bar – 428 Kent Narrow Way N., Grasonville; 410-304-2072; redeyesdb.com; Red Eye's is more than lunch or dinner. It's more than great waterfront views in Kent Narrows, or even a boaters' destination. It's an experience. The Red Eye's experience. The dock bar and restaurant has become legendary among summer faithful for its stellar live music scene, bikini contests, cold drinks, and filling food. It's always a party at Red Eye's!

Wharf 38 – 479 Deale Road, Deale; 443-524-2633; wharf38.com; Hang out with friends, a drink, and flavors to savor at Wharf 38, right on the water! Enjoy stunning views at this perfect dining destination and celebrate everything with local music from talented bands from the community.



● **Boatyard Bar & Grill , Photograph by Stephen Buchanan**

DREAMY WATERFRONT VIEWS

Broken Oar Bar & Grille – 864 Nabbs Creek Road, Glen Burnie; 443-818-9070; brokenoarbarandgrill.com; Great food, a rockin' sushi bar, and panoramic waterfront views of Nabbs Creek...welcome to Glen Burnie! Arrive by boat and get ready for some oarsome food, oarsome beer, and oarsome fun!

Bridges Restaurant on Kent Narrows – 321 Wells Cove Road, Grasonville; 410-827-0282; bridgesrestaurant.net; The Narrows, Wells Cove, and Prospect Bay surround this peninsula restaurant that boasts indoor and outdoor seating; a robust menu of surf 'n turf selections, sandwiches, pizzas, and sweets; docking; and close proximity to multiple marinas.

Carrol's Creek – 410 Severn Avenue, Annapolis; 410-263-8102; carrolscreek.com; Did you know Annapolis' bustling Spa Creek was once named "Carol's Creek"? A map discovered in France and brought to Annapolis in 1976 showed that the waterway was originally named after Charles Carroll of Carrollton, our most locally famous signer of the Declaration of Independence. Today, Carrol's Creek restaurant takes pride in its name by offering an elite menu of fresh and delicious seafood and steaks with amazing views of the creek, marinas, and maritime activity. *Read our latest dining review here:*

Doc's Sunset Grille – 104 W Pier Street, Oxford; 410-226-5550; facebook.com/docssunsetgrille; Looking for a spot in Oxford with the perfect view of the Tred Avon River? I'm saving a barstool for you at Doc's Sunset Grille. Grab a steam pot of your choice, a great crush, and amazing views!

Dock House Restaurant – 110 Piney Narrows Road, Chester; 443-446-4477; dockhouserestaurant.com; The wrap-around deck gives Dock House the perfect panoramic views of the Kent Narrows. You choose whether you are docking your boat at their slips (GPS coordinates: 38.972897, -76.248326) or parking your car in their lot; either way, you'll enjoy delicious food and crafty cocktails. *Read our new dining review here*:

Harrison's Harbour Lights – 101 N Harbor Road, St. Michaels; 410-745-9001; harrisonsharbourlights.com; In 2019, Harrison's Harbour Lights Restaurant set out on a goal to create the best waterfront restaurant in the state. How do you think they are doing? Harrison's offers a pear and pecan salad, bacon wrapped scallops, crab imperial stuffed mushrooms, and so many more fresh selections, all with a Miles River view.

Latitude 38 – 12 Dock Street, Annapolis; 667-204-2282; latitude38waterfront.com; Historic Annapolis is full of gems, and not all of them seem to be hidden. Right on the water in downtown Annapolis, overlooking Ego Alley, is your seafood destination—Latitude 38.

Libbey's Coastal Kitchen + Cocktails – 357 Pier One Road, Stevensville; 410-604-0999; libbeyscoastalkitchen.com; Along the Eastern Shore, tradition is paramount, and so is family. You may be familiar with the building on the Chesapeake Bay, but meet the family that now owns it. Walt Petrie combined his wife and daughters' names (Lisa, Lindsay, and Abbey) to create Libbey's, where the views are stellar and the fresh, local cuisine is even better! *Read more about the restaurant here:*

Rosa Mexicano – 153 Waterfront Street, National Harbor; 301-567-1005; rosamexicano.com; Ready for a fiesta? Elevate the experience at Rosa Mexicano. Rosa Mexicano is a destination born of a unique vision to combine the rich heritage, culinary techniques, and global impact of Mexican cuisine, all while overlooking the National Harbor on the Potomac River.

Severn Inn – 1993 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Annapolis; 410-349-4000; severninn.com; There is no view quite like what you will get from the eastern side of the Naval Academy Bridge at the Severn Inn. Sit on the patio or inside with floor to ceiling windows to truly enjoy a dinner and view of the Academy and Annapolis Harbor.

The Choptank – 110 Compromise Street, Annapolis; 443-808-1992; thechoptankrestaurant.com; Local seafood takes the spotlight on The Choptank's menu. The Choptank is a modern take of a fish and crab house, serving Maryland's famous bay cuisine, cocktails, crushes, oysters, and craft beer. Since Summer 2022, Choptank in has been an indoor/outdoor dining destination overlooking Annapolis' Ego Alley and Market Space.



The Narrows, Photograph by Bill Whaley

The Narrows – 3023 Kent Narrow Way S., Grasonville; 410-827-8113; thenarrowsrestaurant.com; Water, water everywhere is the view you see walking into the main dining area of The Narrows restaurant, which is emblematic of the menu that features local seafood in traditional and elevated dishes. *Read our latest dining review here:*

Yellowfin – 2840 Solomons Island Road, Edgewater; 410-573-1333; yellowfinedgewater.com; There is plenty to look forward to at Yellowfin. Whether it's fresh fish, crabcakes, steak, scallops, or sushi, there are more than enough reasons to dine on the South River, especially when you time your visit with an amazing sunset view!

CRAFT BEER GARDENS & TAPROOMS

Chessie's Wharf – 609 Melvin Avenue, Annapolis; 443-603-12135; rarbrewing.com; From RaR Brewing with love, comes Chessie's Wharf, the newest taproom in West Annapolis with a beer hall atmosphere where you'll make new friends over cold pints. We especially enjoy the wall of "Big Mouth Billy Bass" that sings on the hour!

Crooked Crab – 8251 Telegraph Road, Ste. D, Odenton; 443-569-9187; crookedcrabbrewing.com; With large vats of actively brewing beer visible from the taproom, what you see is what you're getting! Serving a 36-tap rotation of seasonals and classic style beers (including mead!), Crooked Crab also offers brick oven pizzas to help tame the buzz. And the outdoor seating in the parking lot has that pop-up vibe that feels like a Sunday afternoon tailgate.

Cult Classic Brewing – 1169 Shopping Center Road, Stevensville; 410-980-8097; cultclassicbrewing.com; Since opening in summer 2018, Cult Classic has become a Kent Island destination—a place to enjoy fresh, local brews in an expansive taproom that also hosts rousing live music, talent and trivia nights, and more.

Forward Brewing – 418 Fourth Street, Annapolis; 443-221-7277; forwardeastport.com; If sipping fresh, on site-crafted beer with your besties in the rich maritime Eastport community sounds like a fun idea, look no further than Forward Brewing.

Garten – 849 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Severna Park; 443-261-3905; garten-eats.com; The Old World never felt so new and exciting. Garten is the brainchild of Jeremy and Michelle Hoffman, owners of Preserve in Annapolis. The farm-to-table concept is refined with German and French influence, and both indoor and outdoor dining areas in which to toast fine food with good friends.

Heroes Pub – 1 Riverview Avenue, Annapolis; 410-573-1996; heroespub.com; A pub that pays homage to first responders, Heroes was, perhaps, the first of its kind in Annapolis—a bar with *more than 40 taps* lined up and primed to deliver quality craft beer. Play darts over a couple pints, order the best wings in town, and enjoy Annapolitan camaraderie.

Lures Bar & Grille – 1397 Generals Highway, Crownsville; 410-923-1606; luresbarandgrille.com; The woodsy vibe of the outdoor beer garden lends well to shady summer and fall days spent enjoying a few beer selections from Lures' expertly-curated menu, along with fresh nibbles (rockfish bites!) and chef selections that lean on daily market fish and seafood.

Old Stein Inn – 1143 Central Avenue, Edgewater; 410-798-6807; oldstein-inn.com; Authentically German from stein to schnitzel, this south county gem has been a destination since the 1980s when Karl & Ursula Selinger emigrated from Rhineland Pfalz to open the restaurant (now run by son Mike). Today, Old Stein's outdoor biergarten is a four-season experience not to be missed.

Pherm Brewing Company – 1041 MD-3, Gambrills; 443-302-2535; phermbrewing.com; It seems the west Anne Arundel County community can't get enough of Pherm's heady brews. The company expanded its footprint, doubling in size to craft delicious concoctions. The taproom features live music, open mics, trivia nights, and, sometimes, yoga sessions. Bottoms up, and take care of your shoes!

● **RaR Taproom** – 504 Poplar Street, Cambridge; 443-225-5664; rarbrewing.com; The flagship taproom of RaR Brewing is located in Cambridge. It's an original, from the onsite brewing to cedar top bar and local artwork—a place where gathering with friends to share a pint is a uniquely rewarding experience.

Jailbreak Foodworks & Brewing Company – 9445 Washington Boulevard N., Ste. F, Laurel; 443-345-9699; jailbreakbrewing.com; HoCo's first production brewery, Jailbreak gained a following in Laurel and the surrounding communities for its precision crafted brews and approach to accompanying eats. The "Foodworks" side of the taproom offers a hearty menu of handhelds, flatbreads, and dry-aged meats.



● **RaR Taproom**

SUPERIOR SURF 'N TURF



● Ruth's Chris Steak House, Photograph by Laura Wiegmann

Blackwall Hitch – 400 Sixth Street, Annapolis; 410-263-3454; blackwallhitchannapolis.com; The nautical-meets-farmhouse design is omnipresent at Blackwall Hitch, from the upscale décor to the inspired menu, which features Chesapeake cuisine and locally-sourced meats.

Chart House Prime – 300 Second Street, Annapolis; 410-268-7166; charthouseprime.com; Long-revered along Eastport's "Restaurant Row" for its classic 'n classy menu and million-dollar views of Spa Creek, Chart House received million-dollar renovation recently and is primed to continue hosting your special occasion dinners.

InGrano Restaurant & Events – 17 Annapolis Street, Annapolis; 410-980-5514; ingranoannapolis.com; It's become the darling of West Annapolis—of the entire town really. InGrano boasts creative, contemporary Italian cuisine with world fusion inspiration (Japanese Wagyu served here), served with Vegas flair. Don't miss the Cioppino. *Read our recent dining review here:*

Lewnes' Steakhouse – 401 Fourth Street, Annapolis; 410-263-1617; lewnessteakhouse.com; An Annapolis institution since 1921, the Lewnes family continues to host an impeccable dining experience, in which cuts of U.S. Prime beef, lamb, chicken, and market fresh seafood are the stars. Look no further than Lewnes' for a dinner that's sure to impress. *Read our 2025 dining review here:*

O'Learys Seafood Restaurant – 310 Third Street, Annapolis; 410-263-0884; olearysseafood.com; In the heart of Annapolis' Eastport maritime district, O'Learys exemplifies fine dining, leaning heavily on the freshest seafood available for its culinary creations. While all manner of local and flown-in seafood shine here, don't overlook the Delmonico steak, Berkshire chops, or the craft cocktails.

● **Ruth's Chris Steak House** – Locations in Annapolis and Odenton; ruthschris.com; Feast in supreme style at this renown establishment, where USDA Prime beef cuts are main attractions, but a bevy of market fresh seafood dishes also shine. *Read our interview with management here:*

Suicide Bridge Restaurant – 6304 Suicide Bridge Road, Hurlock; 410-943-4689; suicide-bridge-restaurant.com; Despite its namesake (which has an interesting history), this restaurant is heavenly and well-known among Shore locals for fresh seafood and the weekly Thursday night prime rib special.

FRESH RAW BARS

McGarvey's Saloon & Oyster Bar – 8 Market Space, Annapolis; 410-263-5700; mcgarveysannapolis.com; For more than 45 years, McGarvey's has been serving oysters and fresh seafood in the heart of Annapolis. Can't figure out what you want from the Raw Bar? Not to worry, the Waterman's Sampler is calling your name.

O'Brien's Oyster Bar & Seafood Tavern – 113 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-268-6288; obriensoysterbar.com; Not only does O'Brien's offer an extensive raw bar, but they are also helping give back to our Bay. O'Brien's is a partner of Oyster Recovery Partnership to help repopulate the oyster environment in the Chesapeake Bay. The shells of every oyster you suck down at O'Brien's end up back in the Bay. *Read our latest dining review here:*

Ruse – 209 N. Talbot Street, St. Michaels; 410-745-8011; ruserestaurant.com; Ruse offers an oyster bar as an ode to the rich nautical history of the Eastern Shore, allowing them to showcase a variety of oysters and shellfish from the Chesapeake and other American waterways. I wonder what else Chef Michael Correll is cooking up tonight.

Sailor Oyster Bar – 196 West Street, Annapolis; 410-571-5449; sailoroysterbar.com; Looking for the raw bar of your dreams? Local and regional oysters, Japanese Madai Snapper Sashimi, Salmon Crudo, Tuna Tartar toast, are just a few hallmarks of the menu, which is subject to change during the seasons. Sailor Oyster Bar is a quaint yet hip spot, so take advantage of this unique dining experience!

Seasalt – 1 Park Place Unit 7, Annapolis; 443-288-0986; seasaltannapolis.com; Want to find your new favorite oyster? The perfect place is right in Annapolis. Seasalt has an abundance of fresh oysters to try, sourced from the east and west coasts, Canada, and occasionally New Zealand. The selection changes daily, giving you good reason to enjoy multiple visits!

Skipper's Pier – 6158 Drum Point Road, Deale; 410-867-7110; skipperspier.com; The oyster bar consists of more than just raw oysters at Skipper's. Try out the Crab Crusted Oysters, featuring Chesapeake Bay havrvest oysters with blue crab, garlic herb butter, bacon, parmesan, and beurre blanc. Yum!



O'Brien's Oyster Bar & Seafood Tavern, Photograph by Laura Wiegmann

BEST FOR GRAB 'N GO!

Capo Italian Deli – 139 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-304-3311; capodeli.com; The heartbeat of Annapolis just got a pick-me-up with the new Capo Italian Deli, which boasts *BIG* sandwiches and subs, plus a range of Italian dishes—all made inhouse and ready to eat!

Chester River Seafood – 4954 Ashley Road, Rock Hall; 410-639-7018; chesterriverseafood.com; Steamed crabs and fresh seafood are the main draw from this monger, which is a True Blue-compliant partner by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Seafood Marketing Program, supporting local watermen by selling Maryland crabs and crabmeat.

Eat Sprout – Locations in Easton, St. Michaels, Annapolis, and growing; eatsprout.com; Creating wholesome, nutritious, and absolutely delicious offerings (sandwiches, salads, entrees, drinks) for patrons that care about good health and great food is the mission of Eat Sprout. Husband/wife duo Ryan and Emily Groll founded Eat Sprout with scratch-made and organic in mind.

Giolitti Fine Italian Market – 2068 Somerville Road, Annapolis; 410-266-8600; giolittideli.com; In the heart of Annapolis' Parole community, Giolitti has served Annapolitans top-notch, homemade Italian fare, deli subs and sandwiches, and to-go meals since 1992. The market goods and fine wines are also worth the trip.



● **Piazza Italian Market**

● **Piazza Italian Market** – 218 N. Washington Street, Ste. 23, Easton; 410-820-8281; piazzaitalianmarket.com; Boasting a "curated pantry" of Italian food staples and culinary curiosities, Piazza also features a deli case with both popular and rare cheeses, cured meats, paninis (for that grab 'n go lunch), plus a kitchen that whips up prepared meals-to-go (lasagnas, meatballs, etc.). The market has been such a hit that ownership recently opened a full-scale restaurant, **Accanto**, also in Easton. *Read our 2025 review of the market here:*

Timber Pizza Co. – Locations in Annapolis, Edgewater, and more; timberpizza.com; The perfect dough for the crispiest undercarriage, fresh and local ingredients, and the right oven to make it all happen—pizza is not an easy endeavor, but the team at Timber has the formula down pat, making the this pizza place a favorite in town!

Toastique – 214 Harker Place, Annapolis; 443-430-0085; toastique.com; If you're seeking a healthy, delicious pick-me-up for breakfast or lunch, then head to Toastique for artisan toasts, craft coffees, fresh bowls, juices, smoothies, and, even, wellness shots.

SWEETS, TREATS 'N DRINKS



● **Always Ice Cream , Photograph by Stephen Buchanan**

● **Always Ice Cream** – Locations in Annapolis, Edgewater, Pasadena, Crofton, Severna Park, and more; alwaysicecreamcompany.com; Downtown Annapolis locals and visitors have long enjoyed the flagship scoop shop on Main Street, and as the company's delectable, creamy creations became increasingly popular, the Cohen family grew the business into neighboring communities—and always gives back, supporting local charities. *Read our interview with the owners here:*

Arnaiz Chocolat – 111 S. Talbot Street, St. Michaels; arnaizchocolat.com; Since 2014, Arnaiz Chocolat has crafted hand-made specialty chocolates using various blends of Belgian chocolate, sourced from around the globe. The creations range from traditional truffles and molded bonbons, to brittles, exquisite caramels, marshmallows, and more. Check out the sweet shop when visiting St. Michaels.

Bay Country Bakery – 2951 Coastal Highway, Cambridge; 410-228-9111; thebaycountrybakery.com; A Cambridge, Maryland, staple for more than 45 years, this sweet shop has homemade cakes, donuts, cupcakes, and fresh-baked breads, plus a café that serves coffee, breakfast, and lunch items.

Big Mack's Treats – bigmackstreats.com; Custom-made desserts are the name of the game for the mother-daughter duo that offer health-sensitive treats without compromising flavor and fun. Gluten-free can be indulgent and delicious. Order your treats today for convenient porch pickup. Shipping also available statewide.

Dessert First Dockside Coffee & Dessert Bar – 433 Kent Narrows Way N., Grasonville; 410-725-5767; dessertfirsthch.com; In the heart of the Narrows, you can enjoy craft coffees, freshly-baked pastries, and homemade ice creams just footsteps from the water, with great views of the bustling marina.

Fishpaws Marketplace – 954 Ritchie Highway, Arnold; 410-647-7363; fishpawsmarket.com; Gourmet grab 'n go options include everything you could possibly put on a charcuterie board, plus wines, mixers, sodas, and growlers/crowlers of fresh, local brews. Perfect for putting together a primo picnic! *Read our new interview with owner Kim Lawson here:*

Gluten-Free Bakery Girl – 342 N. Aurora Street, Easton; 410-693-1153; glutenfreebakerygirl.com; Dedicated to health-conscious *and* delicious sweet treats, Gluten-Free Bakery Girl has been serving cakes, brownies, tarts, pies—you name it—to the Eastern Shore community and many points beyond for 15 years.

Graze Craze – 8383 Piney Orchard Parkway, Odenton; 410-650-2502; grazecraze.com; Charcuterie boards of all sizes and appetites are offered here—order online and pickup locally. Or, go big and have your next summer soiree catered by this unique, fun, and sharable concept.

Kilwins – 128 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-263-2601; kilwins.com; There's amazing ice cream, yes...but Kilwins is much more than that with cases of handmade chocolates, candies, dipped pretzels, cookies, fudge, so on and so forth.

Nothing Bundt Cakes – Locations in Annapolis, Severna Park, Gambrills, and more; nothingbundtcakes.com; They're the sweet treats that brings smiles at every turn. The delectable bundt cakes are offered in a multitude of fun flavors (we love white chocolate raspberry) in bite-size and larger (to really feed that sweet tooth).

Scottish Highland Creamery – 103 S. Morris Street and 314 Tilghman Street, Oxford; 410-924-6298; scottishhighlandcreamery.com; Using fresh, locally-sourced milk and cream and traditional techniques, the creamery has made each batch of ice cream by hand since its opening in 2005.

Seasons Olive Oil & Vinegar Taproom – 180 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-280-1505; seasonstaproom.com; Fresh, naturally flavored oils and vinegars will help dress up your dishes at home. You can sample here, then purchase and take home to whip up your culinary creations.

Storm Bros. Ice Cream Factory – 130 Dock Street, Annapolis; 410-263-3376; stormbros.com; Since 1976, this straightforward scoop shop has served strollers along Annapolis' Ego Alley. No frills, all chills ice cream flavors keep the lines long all summer long.

POPULAR FOR LIVE MUSIC

Sweet Hearts Patisserie – 1410 Forest Drive, Annapolis; 410-263-6513; sweetheartspatisserie.com; One of the sweetest shops in Annapolis, the patisserie is renown for its craft-made desserts and especially macarons that epitomize French flavors such as vanilla, lavender, pistachio, lemon, pink champagne, crème brulee, and oh-so-many more. Yum!

Sugar Doodles Sweet Shop – Locations in Chester, Centreville, and Chestertown; sugardoodlessweetshop.com; Serving delicious Vanderwende Farm Creamery's ice cream, plus every imaginable topping, Sugar Doodles has become a go-to for Kent Islanders and Shorebound visitors for sweet treats, shakes, and even healthy acai bowls.

The Spice & Tea Exchange – 155 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-280-2088; spiceandtea.com; If you're looking to up your kitchen-game and add unique flavor to your cooking, the spices and blends you'll find at this artisan retail shop are certain to help. And the bevy of teas here will have you dreaming or zinging depending on what you're in the mood for.

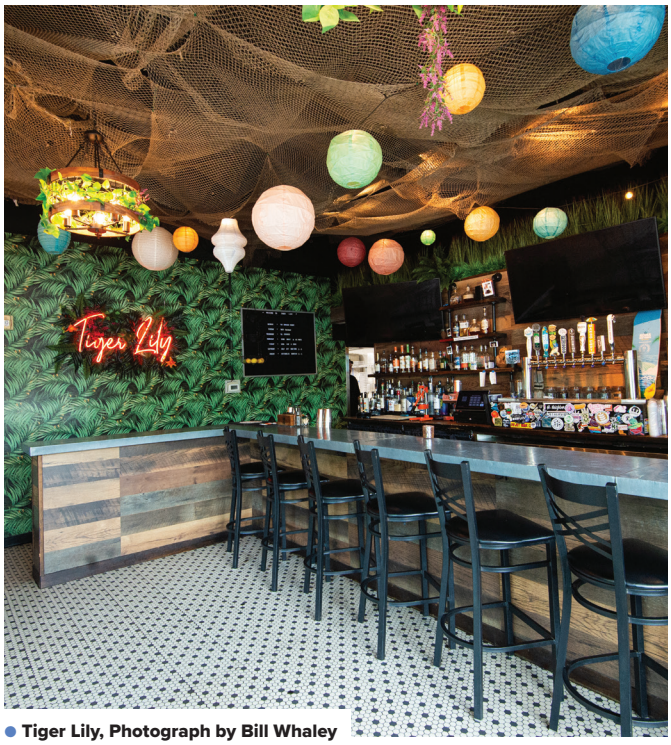
The Winery – 116 S. Piney Road, Ste. 104, Chester; 410-643-9466; thewineryki.com; A go-to for Kent Islanders' every party and picnicking libations and nibbles need. This store has it all, from gourmet meats and cheeses to fine wines, and even cigars.

The Boathouse – 604 Cabana Boulevard, Deale; 410-867-9668; theboathousedeale.com; There is plenty happening in Deale this summer. Check out The Boathouse at Anchored Inn for live music and a good time. Their music schedule is updated on Facebook.

Corah's Corner – 105 N. Talbot Street, St. Michaels; 410-745-8008; corahs.com; Grab a table on the porch at Corah's Corner and get ready for a relaxing night or food, drinks, and live music. Looking for a quick and cheap date night? Have a dessert cocktail on the porch while listening to local performers.

Galway Bay – 63 Maryland Avenue, Annapolis; 410-263-8333; galwaybaymd.com; It's always a hoot at Galway Bay. There's live Irish music every Wednesday through Sunday, weekend brunch, and plenty of other can't-miss specials; even Pub Trivia night on Tuesday. And the music and Irish eats carry over to the sister restaurants, **Killarney House** in Davidsonville (killarneyhousepub.com) and **Brian Boru** in Severna Park (brianborupub.com). Check them all out for lots of lucky fun! *Read the latest dining review from our June issue here:*

Rams Head Tavern & On Stage – 33 West Street, Annapolis; 410-268-4545; ramsheadonstage.com; One of the staples of Annapolis is Rams Head On Stage. Since 1989, locals have been loving live music performed at the renowned Rams Head. This is your chance to see national acts in a very intimate venue, at dining tables complete with full service, a delicious menu, and local brews. Take a look at their website to see who is playing next!



● **Tiger Lily, Photograph by Bill Whaley**

The Rumor Reel – 1701 Poplar Ridge Road, Pasadena; 443-702-2188; therumorreelpasadena.com; Get your mahi, meatloaf, and meatballs, plus a huge serving of live music! The "Electric Eel" stage at the Rumor Reel hosts live music Thursdays through Sundays. The full schedule is updated on their website.

Stan & Joe's – 37 West Street, Annapolis; 410-263-1993; stanandjoessaloon.com; Stan & Joes is an Annapolis bar-music destination. Be entertained by local musicians daily at their Annapolis (flagship) or Galesville (riverside) locations; during Dinner Under the Stars on West Street (Wednesdays and Saturdays through end of September) and First Sunday Arts (every first Sunday of the month through November), Stan & Joe's hosts performers in the adjacent parking lot.

● **Tiger Lily** – 206 N. Washington Street, Easton; 410-690-4602; tigerlilyeaston.com; It's become a darling of the Easton dining/live music scene with its eclectic fusion menu of small bites and large, creative cocktails/mocktails, high roller tequila collection, and a full sked of musicians and deejays performing. *Read our interview with the owner and chef here:*

DYNAMITE DESTINATIONS

Amalfi Coast Italian + Wine Bar – 401 Love Point Road, Stevensville; 443-249-3426; amalficoastki.com; Visit Amalfi Coast Monday through Friday from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. for specialty cocktails, beers, and wines at happy hour prices. And wine bottles are half-priced every Monday and Wednesday.

Ashling Kitchen & Bar – 1286 Route 3 S., Crofton; 443-332-6100; ashlingco.com; When a dynamo in the catering industry that had served music royalty opened her own restaurant several years ago in Crofton, the community took notice and a star was born. Ashling's kitchen fuses world-class cuisine to down-home cookin', altogether creating a unique dining experience.

Arturo's Trattoria – 1660 Crain Highway S., Glen Burnie; 410-761-1500; rturostrattoria.com; Northern Anne Arundel County's brethren to the renown Osteria 177 in Annapolis, the Trattoria is the brainchild of chef/owner Arturo Ottaviano and offers fine Italian dining. *Read an interview with Ottaviano here:*

Bella Italia Annapolis – 609 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis; 410-216-6061; bellaitaliamd.com; Across Rowe Boulevard from the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, Bella Italia draws Midshipmen, locals, and all fans of homemade Italian cuisine served in a casual setting. Owner Lino Chiaro brought home cooking from his native Italy direct to Naptown. *Read our latest dining review here:*

Carpaccio Tuscan Kitchen / Wine Bar – 1 Park Place, Ste. 10, Annapolis; 410-268-6569; carpacciotuscankitchen.com; Located in the uptown "piazza" at Park Place, Carpaccio offers an upscale experience with classic Italian cuisine and an expertly crafted wine list. Lunch and dinner crowds can be a who's who of townies at this hip spot. And on gorgeous afternoons, sipping a Bellini while nibbling charcuterie on the outdoor veranda might have you second-guessing if you're in the Old World or new. *Read a dining review here:*

Della Notte – 1374 Cape St. Claire Road, Annapolis; 410-757-2919; dellanotter-estaurant.com; Della Notte has quickly gained favor among Cape locals as the go-to restaurant for hearty Italian fare, fine drinks, and welcoming atmosphere. *Read our latest dining review here:*

Double T Diner – 12 Defense Street, Annapolis; 410-571-9070; doubletdiner.com; Have a hankering for chipped beef on toast, mile-high stacked pancakes, Rueben on rye, or a rib-eye? This local diner staple serves it all—breakfast, lunch, dinner, and then some.



● **Harvest Thyme Modern Kitchen & Tavern, Photograph by Laura Wiegmann**

Dry 85 – 193-B Main Street, Annapolis; 443-214-5171; dry85.com; A marriage of epicurean tastes, Dry 85 offers an exquisite menu of fine whiskeys, craft beers, and artisanal spirits that you can pair to made-from-scratch dishes that'll "stick to your ribs."

Galliano Italian Restaurant & Wine Bar – 2630 Chapel Lake Drive, Gambrills; 410-721-5522; gallianoitalian-restaurant.com; Galliano has elevated the dining scene in Gambrills/Crofton's Waugh Chapel complex with the white tablecloth, refined Italian cuisine experience. Attention to detail, from front-of-house to the line to each plate served, is a hallmark. Read our latest dining review here:

Harvest Thyme Modern Kitchen & Tavern – 1251 W. Central Avenue, Davidsonville; 443-203-6846; harvestthymetavern.com; Harvest Thyme has all the fixings of a trendy-meets-traditional, farm-to-table dining experience. The menu leans heavily on the craft and skill of the kitchen (open and visible to diners) with fine meats, seafood, and veggies expertly prepared. The wood-fired pizzas are a hit, and you won't go thirsty from the floor-to-ceiling wine and whisky selections ready to pop. *Read our latest dining review here:*

Jalapenos – 85 Forest Drive, Annapolis; 410-266-7580; jalapenosonline.com; Long revered for authentic Spanish and Mexican-influenced cuisine, Jalapenos offers upscale, full-service dining perfect for a special night out. *Read a dining review of the restaurant here:*

Julep Kitchen & Bar – 2207 Forest Drive, Unit 2, Annapolis; 410-571-3923; An absolute charm amidst the concrete jungle of the Parole area, Julep embodies southern cuisine and comfort with house-smoked barbeque, sandwiches, salads, and *all* the fixins' (their hushpuppies are the best we've ever had!). *Read our interview with Julep's executive pastry chef here:*

Lime & Salt – 8395 Piney Orchard Parkway, Odenton; 410-874-6277; A taqueria and agave bar (that's code for choice tacos and tequila), Lime & Salt is so much more than handhelds and rimmed glasses. With a full fleet of authentic dishes and fresh cocktails, the restaurant has garnered local acclaim and a loyal following. *Read our latest dining review here:*

Light House Bistro – 202 West Street, Annapolis; 410-424-0922; lighthousebistro.org; Eat and drink with good company knowing that your patronage of this casual-yet-refined restaurant supports the Light House Homeless Prevention Support Center. *Read our latest dining review here:*

Main & Market – 914 Bay Ridge Road, Annapolis; 410-626-0388; mainandmarket.com; With a Euro-café feel and expertly prepared dishes and delights to match, Main & Market has drawn the Bay Ridge community to the eatery for more than a quarter-century. And chances are you've been to an event catered by them—they've won Best Caterer honors in the annual Best of Annapolis readers' poll for many years. *Read our latest dining review here:*

Mamma Roma – 8743 Piney Orchard Parkway, Odenton; 410-695-0247; mammaromas.com; Mamma Teresa rules the roost (she still takes orders front-of-house), but sons Bruno and Rino Romeo manage operations and the kitchen, and made this family-style restaurant one of the most comforting, authentic, and enjoyable in the region. Odenton residents and visitors from afar can't get enough! *Read our latest dining review here:*

Mi Lindo Cancun Grill – 2134 Forest Drive, Annapolis; 410-571-0500; lindocancungrill.com; Mi Lindo represents the dream of owner Fredy Salmoran who came to the U.S. from Mexico at age 17 in 1999. He began working in the restaurant industry and by 2016 opened his own...Mi Lindo. Today, Fredy and his sons own and operate several more Mexican restaurants, including **Senor's Chile** locations in Edgewater, Arnold, and Severna Park. Their success is built upon authenticity and consistently excellent food. *Read our latest dining review here:*

Miss Shirley's Café – 1 Park Place, Annapolis; 410-268-5171; missshirleys.com; Breakfast, brunch, or lunch on your mind? Miss Shirley's epitomizes all three with a robust menu of creative dishes, which boast southern and Chesapeake influence...to the max! Skillets, chicken 'n waffles, signature omelets and pancakes, and creative sandwiches, salads, and more are *all* adored! *Read our interview with management here:*

Mission BBQ – Locations in Annapolis, Gambrills, Glen Burnie, and more; mission-bbq.com; Superb house-smoked barbeque is the main draw at Mission BBQ, where platters of pulled pork, chicken, beef brisket, sausages, and southern sides have put smiles on patrons since 2011.

Mucho Gusto – 991 Waugh Chapel Way, Ste. 100, Gambrills; 443-288-0720; muchogustogroup.com; Saddle up at Mucho Gusto for a dynamite weekday happy hour (Mon.–Thu. 3–6 p.m., and Friday 2–5 p.m.) with a special menu of festive, crowd-pleasing plates (quesadillas, taquitos, empanadas, birria sliders) and drinks (margs, sangria, crushes, beers, and wines)!

DYNAMITE DESTINATIONS



● **The IVY Café, Photography by Bill Whaley**

Osteria 177 – 177 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-267-7700; osteria177.com; Owner/chef Arturo Ottaviano had a dream to bring his native Italian recipes and experience to the states and by 2006 opened Osteria 177 on the most famed street in Annapolis. In short, the restaurant instantly elevated the restaurant scene and remains one of the finest dining experiences downtown.

Newk's Eatery – 1360 Main Chapel Way, Gambrills; 443-302-2734; newks.com; Fast-casual but with a scratch-made twist, Newk's offers a appetizing menu that features both heart healthy options and scrumptious dishes that leans into American regional influences from New Orleans to New York.

Positano – 106 Annapolis Street, Annapolis; 410-621-9374; positanoannapolis.com; From the well-established and esteemed restaurant group whose portfolio includes Della Notte and Ray's New York Pizza comes Positano in the West Annapolis neighborhood. The restaurant boasts a well-curated Italian menu that's reads posh yet is quite accessible. *Read more about the restaurant here:*

Pho Van Restaurant – 219 Marlboro Avenue, Ste. 44, Easton; phovaneaston.com; Real-deal Vietnamese pho in Easton? Yes! At Pho Van, you'll find fresh broths laced with all the fixings of authentic bowls, plus a robust menu of the county's classics. *Read our interview with the owners here:*

Red Red Wine Bar & Bistro – 189B Main Street, Annapolis; 410-990-1144; redredwinebar.com; Since 2011, RRWB has achieved the dream of offering a unique gastronomical experience to the downtown Annapolis scene with a focus on world-class wines matched to a smartly-curated menu.

Rumhouse – 422 Sixth Street, Annapolis; 410-469-2500; rumhouseannapolis.com; As its namesake suggests, Rumhouse draws from the Caribbean to create unique and flavorful cuisine (try crispy fried red snapper served with pickled vegetables, or the jerk lamb) making it a standout within the restaurant-rich Eastport community.

The Hideaway – 1439 Odenton Road, Odenton; 410-874-7300; hideawayodenton.com; Award-winning wings, smoked ribs, and adobo burnt ends tacos are all on the Hideaway Happy Hour menu in Odenton. Now's your chance to try the Blackberry Chipotle Wings while sipping a craft pint. *Read our interview with the owner, plus get a pulled pork recipe here:*

● **The IVY Café** – 2 & 14 W. Dover Street, Easton; 410-822-9751; theivycafeeaston.com; The IVY café in the heart of Easton is a fun discovery for some midday respite, casual dining, and friendly faces. The menu is chock full of sandwiches and salads, perhaps best enjoyed in the outdoor courtyard, weather abiding. *Read our latest dining review here:*

ESCAPES & OVERNIGHTS

Brampton 1860 – 25227 Chestertown Road, Chestertown; 410-778-1860; bramptoninn.com; Set on 35 acres, Brampton 1860 is a historic Eastern Shore estate reimagined for modern travelers who crave beauty, comfort, and connection. Their in-house chef creates seasonal meals for guests—you can enjoy a gourmet picnic whilst on your day's adventures or come back to a hearty meal in the privacy of your room or cottage.

Chesapeake Bay Beach Club/ Knoxie's Table – 180 Pier One Road, Stevensville; 443-249-5777; baybeachclub.com; Comfortable yet refined, Knoxie's Table is the hallmark dining experience of the renown Inn at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club. The restaurant offers a fresh, farm-to-table and catch-of-the-day dining experience, while The Inn is an luxury escape with top-tier overnight accommodations, spa, and salon amenities. *Read our latest dining review here:*

Chesapeake Manor Vineyard – 2015 Love Point Road, Stevensville; 443-249-3335; chesapeakemanorvineyard.com; Yes, you can catch the sun setting while sipping a glass of Barbera Rose or Chambourcin in an idyllic waterfront vineyard just, located just minutes from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

Crow Vineyard, Winery and Inn – 12441 Vansants Corner Road, Kennedyville; 302-304-0551; crowvineyardandwinery.com; While the Crow Farm property dates to the early-1900s, the family opened the vineyard experience in 2012. Since then, the Crow family expanded accommodations and culinary opportunities, pairing their wines to chef curated experiences, all set on 365 acres of Eastern Shore farmland. *Read more about Maryland vineyards here:*

Deep Blue at Kitty Knight Inn – 14028 Augustine Herman Highway, Galena; 410-648-5200; deepbluerestaurant.com; Overlooking the bustling marinas along the Sassafras River, Deep Blue offers both white tablecloth dining and more casual outdoor seating; perfect respite for refined palettes after a day of boating.

Hummingbird Inn – 14 N. Aurora Street, Easton; 410-822-0605; hummingbirdinneaston.com; Escape to the heart of Easton (even if you just need an overnight break from your own everyday) to experience top-class accommodations and the Inn's award-winning breakfasts and morning cocktails crafted imagined and prepared by Chef/Owner Eric Levinson.

Osprey Point – 20786 Rock Hall Avenue, Rock Hall; 410-639-2194; ospreypoint.com; Located in Rock Hall's protected harbor enclave, Osprey Point is near docking port and starboard, and even welcomes transient guests to their own, full-service, all-amenity marinas. The restaurant is white-tablecloth with a seasonal American menu.

The Oaks Waterfront Hotel – 25876 Royal Oak Road, Easton; 410-745-5053; the-oaks.com; An epicurean escape awaits at The Oaks, where chef curated breakfast and dinner menus are matched to classy cocktails and respite in elegant confines.

● **Tidewater Inn / Hunters' Tavern** – 101 East Dover Street, Easton; 410-822-4034; tidewaterinn.com; Hunters' Tavern is a world-class restaurant nestled inside the renown Tidewater Inn. The menu matches Maryland- to southern-style cooking, with a range of surf, turf, and special plates to enjoy. *Read our latest dining review here:*

Watermark – 1 Prince George Street, Annapolis; 410-268-7601; watermarkjourney.com; Offering site-seeing cruises departing Annapolis' City Dock en route to the Chesapeake Bay and up the Severn River, Watermark has several classes of boats that accommodate various experiences, some of which combine live music, cold drinks, snacks, or dining.

White Swan Tavern – 231 High Street, Chestertown; 410-778-2300; whiteswantavern.com; A historic bed and breakfast that dates to 1730 in the heart of Chestertown, White Swan Tavern has six well-curated rooms for guests to stay overnight, and a hearty breakfast in the morning for them!

Wylder Hotel Tilghman Island / Tickler's Crab Shack & Restaurant – 21551 Chesapeake House Drive, Tilghman; 410-886-2121; wylderhotels.com; Located at the Wylder Hotel, Tickler's indoor/outdoor crab shack overlooks Harris Creek, is a footstep from docking, and ripe with Maryland maritime influence, including all-things blue crab. The entire hotel property sits on nine acres of lush grounds and private waterfront, with 25 boat slips, a salt water pool, bocce court, and lawn games.



● **Tidewater Inn / Hunters' Tavern, Photography by Bill Whaley**

Lifestyle Investment

BEYOND ROI, CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALIGNING REAL ESTATE WITH YOUR LONG-TERM LIVING GOALS

BY WHAT'S UP? MEDIA



For generations in our country, and especially in our beloved Maryland, real estate has occupied a unique position within the portfolios of affluent families. Unlike investments such as stocks, bonds, or private equity holdings, property serves both financial *and* personal purposes. It often functions simultaneously as an investment, a lifestyle asset, and a cornerstone of inherited family legacy.

And now, we see that role evolving. While appreciation potential, tax considerations, and market fundamentals remain important, many high-net-worth individuals are approaching real estate acquisition through a broader strategic lens. Increasingly, the question is not simply whether a property represents a sound investment, but whether it supports the life they intend to build over the coming decades. This rings especially true within the luxury waterfront market prevalent throughout the Chesapeake Bay region.

This shift reflects a growing recognition that wealth is ultimately a means to an end. Financial success creates options, and real estate is one of the most powerful tools available for transforming those options into a desired quality of life. Affluent buyers are increasingly aligning real estate decisions with long-term goals related to wellness, family, education, mobility, climate resilience (more than ever before!), and legacy planning. For many buyers, successful purchases are those that generate not only financial growth, but also a meaningful, comfortable, and desirable lifestyle.



Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marhsall Airport is a convenient, central travel hub in the Chesapeake Bay region. Courtesy photograph.

BEGIN WITH LIFE PLANNING, NOT PROPERTY SELECTION

Many real estate transactions begin with discussions about markets, neighborhoods, and property features. Yet among sophisticated buyers, the process increasingly starts with an alternative exercise: defining long-term life objectives. Real estate and financial professionals that are hip to this concept often encourage clients to think beyond the next five years and instead consider where they expect their lives to be 10, 20, or even 30 years from now.

Questions prospective buyers could ask sooner than later, may include: How do we envision spending our time in retirement? Will future generations gather in a particular location or not? Are we planning for aging parents or adult children? How important is travel convenience? What roles do wellness and outdoor recreation play in our daily lives? Which communities best reflect our values and interests?

With these considerations in mind, real estate is viewed as an extension of life planning. A property may appreciate value over time, but if it fails to support a family's evolving needs, its practical value may be limited. Conversely, a residence that enhances daily living, strengthens family connections, and aligns with future goals could deliver benefits that extend far beyond financial performance.

THE RISE OF WELLNESS-ORIENTED REAL ESTATE

One of the most significant trends influencing luxury real estate today is the growing emphasis on health and longevity. More and more buyers are recognizing that their environment plays a critical role in physical health, mental wellness, and overall quality of life. Luxury residences are increasingly incorporating features such as advanced air and water filtration systems, circadian lighting, fitness and recovery spaces, spa amenities, and biophilic design elements that connect occupants with nature.

Equally important is the surrounding environment. Access to walking trails, outdoor recreation, fresh food sources, healthcare facilities, and wellness-focused communities have become significant considerations for many buyers. And for some families, wellness-driven decision-making is influencing entire relocation strategies. Communities known for active lifestyles, natural beauty, and strong healthcare infrastructure are attracting buyers who view their homes as investments in longevity as much as investments in real estate. In the Chesapeake Bay region, this trend has led to the development of several major communities with modern features, club-like amenities, and those important connections to nature and commercial/business/medical infrastructure. Even travel to and from the greater Baltimore-Washington region is considered top tier with several air, rail, and shipping hubs within close proximity.

CULTURAL ECOSYSTEMS AND INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

For families with children, education is vitally important in housing decisions. However, many affluent buyers now evaluate communities through a wider lens that extends beyond traditional school rankings. They are considering the broader intellectual and *cultural ecosystem* surrounding a property. Access to exceptional public and private schools remains important, but so does proximity to universities, research institutions, museums, performing arts organizations, and enrichment opportunities that support lifelong learning.

Communities rich in *intellectual capital* can offer advantages that benefit multiple generations. Children gain access to educational opportunities, while adults enjoy cultural programming, professional networks, and opportunities for continued personal growth. From Anne Arundel County and Prince George's counties on the Western Shore to those throughout the Eastern Shore, there are several active hubs that offer educational and personal enrichment opportunities (e.g. the community college network is especially fruitful!).

From a wealth-planning perspective, these factors can also contribute to long-term desirability and market resilience. Locations with strong educational infrastructure frequently attract highly educated workforces, sustained investment, and enduring demand. Cultural ecosystems represent both a lifestyle consideration and a strategic component of long-term value creation.

GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSIFICATION AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Just as investors diversify financial portfolios, many affluent families are now applying similar principles to their real estate holdings. The combination of remote work flexibility, evolving lifestyle preferences, and environmental considerations has accelerated interest in geographic diversification strategies. Rather than concentrating residential assets in a single location, some families maintain properties in multiple regions, creating flexibility while reducing exposure to localized risks.

Climate resilience has become a particularly important consideration in this process. Buyers are paying closer attention than, perhaps, ever before to factors such as flood exposure, wildfire risk, water availability, air pollution, infrastructure resilience, and insurance costs. This does not necessarily mean avoiding coastal or destination markets. Instead, it reflects a more comprehensive approach to evaluating risk and opportunity over extended time horizons.

COMMUNITY, CULTURE, AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

While financial professionals often focus on economic capital, many individuals recognize the importance of social capital as well. We saw this play out during the Covid-19 pandemic when travel was restricted, and we hunkered down in our homes and communities for long periods. The quality of a community significantly influences overall life satisfaction, particularly as individuals transition through different stages of life.

A residence may offer extraordinary architecture and amenities, but long-term fulfillment often depends on the relationships, experiences, and opportunities available beyond the property's boundaries. **Buyers frequently evaluate nearby opportunities such as:** Arts and cultural institutions, Philanthropic engagement, Social and professional networks, Recreational amenities, Culinary experiences, Community and civic life.

For entrepreneurs, executives, and retirees alike, a strong sense of connection can become one of the most valuable aspects of a location. Communities that foster collaboration, intellectual engagement, and meaningful relationships often create benefits that are difficult to quantify yet are profoundly important to long-term well-being.



Chesapeake Bay communities and towns, like Annapolis, offer a variety of property styles and continue to attract real estate investors/buyers looking to purchase into a legacy lifestyle.

REAL ESTATE AS A LEGACY AND WEALTH TRANSFER TOOL

For many families, real estate frequently serves purposes that extend well beyond personal use. Properties often function as generational assets, supporting both family continuity and broader wealth-transfer objectives. A thoughtfully selected residence can become a gathering place for children, grandchildren, and future generations. Over time, these properties often evolve into repositories of family history and tradition, creating emotional value that rivals their financial worth.

At the same time, real estate may play an important role within estate planning strategies. Depending on family circumstances, ownership structures, trusts, and succession plans, properties can contribute to broader efforts aimed at preserving wealth and facilitating orderly transitions across generations. In this context, a residence becomes more than a property. It becomes a platform for creating continuity across generations.

BEYOND RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Traditional investment analysis often focuses on measurable outcomes such as appreciation, cash flow, and tax efficiency. While these metrics remain important, they tell only part of the story. For affluent families, the true value of a property may also include factors that cannot be easily captured on a spreadsheet: health, convenience, personal fulfillment, family cohesion, educational opportunity, and peace of mind.

As wealth management becomes increasingly holistic, real estate is emerging as a critical component of broader lifestyle planning. The most successful acquisitions are often those that align financial resources with personal priorities and long-term aspirations.

Your most important question may no longer be, "What will this property be worth in 20 years?" Rather, it becomes, "How will this property shape and support the life we want to create during those 20 years?"

For many families, that distinction is redefining the meaning of real estate investment.

OUR BELOVED PETS!

Photo Time!

We're calling on you to share your favorite pet shots in our photo contest. All pets are acceptable. Think whimsical, sleepy, silly, or just plain lovable! Entries will be accepted through 7/31 and then posted to an online gallery where you can vote for your favorites. Voting will take place from 8/1 - 8/31. Winners and chosen favorites (by you and our staff) will be showcased in the Nov. 2026 issues of *What's Up? Annapolis*, *What's Up? Eastern Shore*, and *What's Up? Central Maryland*. And maybe even on the cover!

Each submission is $10. All proceeds benefitting local animal shelters.



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Experience Matters – Meet the Anchor Team

Led by Jack Papaleonti, GRI, the Anchor Team at Academy Realty brings a powerful combination of experience, teamwork, and dedication to every real estate transaction. With over 65 years of combined expertise, we understand the complexities that come with buying or selling a home—and we know how to navigate them.

In real estate, challenges can arise quickly and unexpectedly. That's why having a responsive, knowledgeable team by your side makes all the difference. We've successfully handled transactions involving waterfront homes, historic properties, condos, co-ops, investment and retirement homes, foreclosures, bank-owned and condemned properties, as well as commercial real estate. We're also well-versed in dealing with homeowner associations, well and septic systems, and more.

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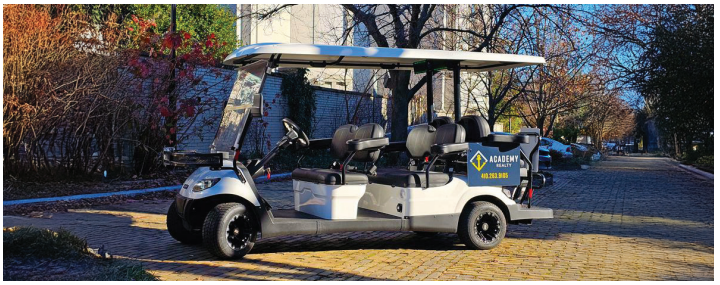



CHRISTY BISHOP

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES PENFED REALTY

Buying or selling a home isn't a hobby—it's a high-stakes financial move. That's why I treat every transaction like your wealth depends on it… because it does. For nearly 30 years, I've helped Maryland clients win with smart strategy, tough negotiation, and the kind of calm, confident guidance that turns a stressful process into a clear plan with real results.

If you want a Real Estate Professional who protects you, tells you the truth, and knows how to get the best price and terms without the drama, I'm your person. Anne Arundel County — I love it, I live it, I sell it.

I was raised in the Severna Park and Annapolis area, and that local-rooted perspective matters. I know the neighborhoods, the waterfront nuances, the hidden value in a street or school district, and the little details that can make a big difference in price, terms, and long-term lifestyle fit. Whether you're buying a condo, selling a generational home, or navigating a gated waterfront property, I bring sharp strategy, clear communication, and a calm, steady hand through every step.

Trust is everything in this business—and I don't take that lightly. I'm the daughter of two United States Naval Academy graduates who became Marines, and the values I grew up with—integrity, service, and accountability—still guide how I work today. My clients tell me the same thing again and again, they feel protected, informed and confident and they are thrilled with the results.

I'm proud to be a lifetime member of the top producing 1% of Anne Arundel County Realtors Masters Club, but what matters most to me is the relationship. My goal is simple: deliver the strongest outcome possible, while making sure you feel supported the entire way.

And yes—this is home. I live on the water in Annapolis with my husband and our German Shepherd, and when I'm not negotiating contracts, you'll find me boating to concerts, fishing, gardening, or escaping to the Delaware Beaches.

Anne Arundel County — I love it, I live it, I sell it.

CHRISTY BISHOP
A Spirited Vision

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For over 20 years, Mia Anderson has been a trusted guide for thousands of individuals and families, helping them achieve their dreams of homeownership. Whether navigating market fluctuations, rising prices, or personal decisions, Mia has expertly steered her clients through the complexities of buying and selling real estate with unmatched skill and care.

As an award-winning Realtor, Mia's reputation for excellence is well-known across Central Maryland. She has been named Best Residential Realtor by *What's Up? Magazine* for three consecutive years, recognized as one of Maryland's Top 300 Realtors by *Chesapeake Real Producers*, and honored as Baltimore's Best Realtor by *Baltimore Magazine*. Additionally, Mia is proud to be a recipient of the prestigious Chairman's Circle Award, reflecting her consistent commitment to her clients and the real estate industry.

Mia is also deeply involved in her community. She serves as Vice President of the Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce and sponsors their Women's Professional Network, helping businesswomen level up both personally and professionally. Outside of real estate, Mia is an avid gardener, sharing stories about her vegetable garden and her award-winning May Day Baskets. Choose Mia Anderson because *Nobody Moves You Like Mia Moves You!*





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Amanda Calhoun approaches real estate with the expertise of an Associate Broker and the precision of a Project Management Professional (a certification she has held since 2017). Known for her strategic mindset and calm confidence, she brings clarity to every transaction—whether you're buying your first home, upgrading, or relocating out of state. Known for her data-driven approach and responsive communication, she takes pride in simplifying the process; and, with a background in planning and negotiation, Amanda delivers personalized, strategic guidance that empowers her clients to make smart, informed decisions.

Born and raised in Maryland, she currently resides in Calvert County and focuses her real estate business there and in Anne Arundel County. Every day, she's in the market building relationships, staying ahead of trends, and working tirelessly to connect the right buyers and sellers. By combining innovative technology, strategic marketing, and a hands-on approach, Amanda delivers a seamless experience and results her clients can count on.

Amanda has been recognized by *Washingtonian* magazine, REAL Trends Verified, and the Southern Maryland Association of Realtors as a top Maryland real estate professional. And, while the awards and accolades are appreciated, what truly drives Amanda is helping her clients achieve their goals.

Ready to make a move with confidence? Let Amanda guide the way.

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH THE EXPERTS



Q: Do we need to make repairs or updates before we list our home?

A: Before you spend a dollar, let's talk. I'll walk through your home and tell you what will actually increase buyer interest and value—and what you can skip. If updates make sense, I can connect you with trusted, licensed pros, and in some cases the cost can be deferred until after closing. The goal is simple: maximize your return and avoid wasted time and money.

Christy Bishop
Associate Broker
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty



Q: Can I sell my investment real estate using a 1031 exchange and buy a vacation home that I can enjoy with my family during the summer months?

A: No. You can sell your investment real estate and reinvest the gain, tax deferred, to purchase your vacation or second home, the challenge is making sure it will qualify as a 1031 investment property. Meaning that during the initial 24 months of ownership there are strict rules to follow regarding personal use. The important rule is that you can only use the property for 14 days each year or 10% of the actual days that you rent it out. For example, if you lease it for 200 days each year, your personal use can be up to 20 days. If you are able to abide by these rules, after two years the dream vacation home is yours to use as often as you like without any more requirements.

Jack Papaleonti, GRI/Realtor®
The Anchor Team of Academy Realty





Roots of Liberty

Maryland's renowned and fallen Liberty Tree is given new life

BY JANICE F. BOOTH

On March 25, 2026, residents from across Maryland gathered at the William Paca House in Annapolis to celebrate Maryland Day during the 250th anniversary year of the founding of our democracy. The focus of the Paca House celebration was the planting and dedication of a tulip poplar scion or sapling of Maryland's original Liberty Tree. (*liriodendron tulipifera*)

Francis Gray, Chairman of the Piscataway Conoy Tribal Council, Jared Littmann, Mayor of the City of Annapolis, Karen Theimer Brown, President and CEO of Historic Annapolis, dignitaries, historians, and proud citizens were there to acknowledge the symbolic place the Liberty Tree had and has in our state and national history.

But let's go back and take a look at that history—the Liberty Tree, and particularly Annapolis' Liberty Tree in the context of the 250th anniversary of the founding of our United States.

Our Liberty Tree's Past

The first of what came to be known as "The Liberty Trees" was a great Elm in central Boston. The beauty of the tree and its central location made it a popular meeting place to discuss matters of importance to the Colonists. They gathered beneath the tree to buy and sell property, plan for the growth of their thriving city, and deal with matters related to the British colony of Massachusetts. In 1765, from Boston's Liberty Tree hung the effigy of Andrew Oliver, appointed to collect taxes and distribute stamps when England passed the hated Stamp Act. Colonists were told that this stamp tax on any paper item would cover the costs of housing the British troops garrisoned in their town! "Taxation without representation." Boston's angry response led to Oliver's resignation. For the next turbulent nine years, "The Liberty Tree" spread its protection over meetings of the "Sons of Liberty." In retribution the British army, when it occupied Boston, chopped down the great Elm



Before the American Revolution large trees served as meeting sites where patriots protested British actions. After independence, Maryland's Liberty Tree, a mature Tulip Poplar, continued to be an important landmark for Annapolis and for St. John's College, which, from 1929, held graduation in its shade. In September 1999, this last surviving Liberty Tree was fatally damaged by a hurricane. It's age was estimated to be about 700 years old. Photographs courtesy St. John's College.



of liberty. Like a flame of patriotism, word of this desecration spread throughout the colonies. Soon, Patriots had designated Liberty Trees in all the colonies and battle flags were designed with the Liberty Tree as central icon.

In Annapolis, Patriots had been meeting under a great Tulip Poplar for over 100 years. In Katherine Brodt's essay "The Legacy of the Annapolis Liberty Tree," she points out that Annapolis was never occupied by the British army and thus Maryland's great Liberty Tree remained unharmed throughout the Revolution. Founding fathers Willima Paca and Samuel Chase were among those who addressed colonists beneath the tree. Thomas Paine, revolutionary and author of *Common Sense*, penned what became a popular marching song, "The Liberty Tree."

Generals George Washington and the Marquis Lafayette met beneath the Annapolis Liberty Tree, and, according to historians at St. John's College, 4,000 French soldiers camped near the tree and College Creek on the way to fight at Yorktown. General Washington rode past the Liberty Tree on the way to resign his commission as head of the Continental Army in 1783. Some say the great Poplar sighed and bowed its limbs in tribute to the wise and brave commander.





In 1880, St. John's arborist created a scion that carried the same genetic code as the parent tree. Eventually seedlings from that scion and from the great Liberty Tree itself would be used to propagate new, healthy trees. Four offspring of the Liberty Tree grow where the public can admire them. Two are on the Green at St. John's College. The third of Annapolis' "Liberty Trees," flourishes near the recently restored Old Treasury Building. The fourth sapling was recently dedicated in honor of the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding at the William Paca House.

The Marquis returned to Annapolis in 1824 for festivities honoring the French nation's and his personal sacrifices on behalf of the United States. Lafayette stood on the College Green, beneath the Liberty Tree to review the troops.

Historians note that the sparks that ignited the French Revolution (1789–1799) came, in part, as French soldiers, returning from fighting for the Colonies' freedom from British rule, spread the desire for freedom and independence from a king and aristocracy. Thousands of "Liberty Trees" were planted across France.

St. John's College took on the care and protection of the Annapolis Liberty Tree in 1784 when the tree became part of the college's grounds. The great tree was, by then, almost 100 feet tall, spreading its branches as wide (approximately 100 feet) as it was tall. It stood nobly atop a rise, between St. John's Great Hall and the State Capitol.

For the next 50 years the Liberty Tree stood undisturbed. Eventually, the great poplar did have a few misadventures. In 1840 "schoolboys" purportedly setoff several pounds of gunpowder inside a hollow in the tree. Annapolitans feared the tree would die, but in the spring it awoke lush and proud. It seems the explosion and heat killed



Maryland's own Taylor Guitars acquired felled limbs from the original Liberty Tree. From them, 411 "Liberty Tree Guitars" were produced, along with 407 "Liberty Tree Baby Taylors." Photograph courtesy Taylor Guitars.

an infestation of worms that had been damaging the tree's core. Another apocryphal adventure of our Liberty Tree was recounted by Elihu S. Riley in his history of Annapolis, *The Ancient City*. A fire began, accidentally, in the tree's hollowed core. Riley asserts that the city's residents rushed out to extinguish the fire and save the great tree, "as if it [the Liberty Tree] had been one of the finest buildings of the town."

In 1880, St. John's arborist created a scion, a cutting from the Tulip Poplar that carried the same genetic code as the parent tree; that cutting was grafted onto a host tree, and eventually seedlings from that scion and from the great Liberty Tree itself would be used to propagate new, healthy trees.

Ah, but the grand tree's travails weren't over. The recurring damage to the cavity of the great tree had left it weakened and unlikely to survive. In 1907 "surgery" was done on the Liberty Tree. Arborists scraped and cleaned the tree's heart, removing the decay up to 56 feet above the ground and down among the roots. Some sort of "antiseptic wash" was applied, and then the tree's cavity was filled with concrete, steel, and iron. Eventually, the exterior gash was boarded up.

And so, our Liberty Tree stood, scarred but unbowed, for another 92 years. Ours was the last surviving of the 13 original Liberty Trees, designated by the Colonies and the "Sons of Liberty." During that time seedlings and scions were gathered and nurtured, presented when they were saplings, to various dignitaries and communities across Maryland.



Karen Theimer Brown, President and CEO of Historic Annapolis, speaks during the March 25th Liberty Tree planting ceremony. Photograph by Laura Wiegmann.



State and local dignitaries symbolically plant the Liberty Tree sapling on the grounds of the William Paca House in Annapolis on March 25. Photograph by Laura Wiegmann.

In 1999, Hurricane Floyd decimated Annapolis. Flooding and high winds damaged and destroyed historically important buildings and…the great Liberty Tree. After the storm had passed and recovery efforts were underway, the State, the City, and arborists called in to advise determined that the ancient Tulip Poplar, the last surviving Liberty Tree, was no longer viable. The tree had to be felled.

Providence Forum, an organization honoring the founding of the United States, purchased some of the wood from the ancient tree. Artist Eugene Landon sculptured an American Bald Eagle that was later donated to the Philadelphia National Constitution Center.

Additionally, three crosses carved from the Liberty Tree were presented: one to Brick Chapel in St. Mary's City, another to Pope Francis in Rome, and one to Prince (now King) Charles in Great Britian. (No hard feelings, we hope.)

Some of the wood was given to Maryland's own Taylor Guitars. From the felled limbs, 411 "Liberty Tree Guitars" were produced, along with 407 "Liberty Tree Baby Taylors" and a few specialty instruments. In total, the Liberty Tree's wood is making music in 875 exceptional guitars.

The Present

Today, Annapolis has four offspring of that grand Liberty Tree growing where the public can admire them. Two are on the Green at St. John's College, not far from where their ancestor stood. In 1889, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of St. John's College, a scion of the parent tree was planted in the same section of the college green. It stands, proud and strong 127 years old, a large plaque affixed to its trunk.

The second of the Liberty Tree's Annapolis saplings was planted on St. John's Green and dedicated by the Graduating Class of 2007. It too flourishes, and its roots mingle with its sibling. In 2017, the Providence Forum in conjunction with Maryland's State House, planted a scion in honor of their Silver Anniversary. This youngster, the third of Annapolis' "Liberty Trees," flourishes near the recently restored Old Treasury Building.

And the fourth sapling has been dedicated in honor of the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. The Georgian mansion, new home to this Liberty Tree sapling, was built in the 1760s by William Paca, signer of the Declaration of Independence. How fitting that a Liberty Tree will flourish in the courtyard of the home he built. By signing the Declaration of Independence, William Paca placed not only his life, but his family and his home in jeopardy. Had the Sons of Freedom lost the war for independence, the Signers' lives and property would have been forfeited.

The Liberty Tree's Future

The future of the Liberty Trees of Maryland looks bright. The Department of Natural Resources Forestry Service is engaged in the "5 Million Trees Project." The goal is to restore our nation's tree canopy by planting five million trees across the continent. In that context, each of the 23 counties in Maryland is provided with at least one sapling as part of the State's own "Liberty Tree Project."





Ashley Triplett-Peltzman begins the planting of the Liberty Tree sapling at the March 25th ceremony. Photography by Laura Wiegmann.

In an effort to keep track of the great, ancient trees in Maryland, The Big Tree Program (mdbigtreeprogram@aol.com) documented 292 trees that were alive at the time of the American Revolution. You can peruse the list on-line at the DNR's "Bicentennial Trees" project: Dnr.maryland.gov/forest/documents/bicentennial trees.pdf

And there the future lies, preserving the grand and beautiful values represented by these trees in Maryland and nurturing the young and resilient Marylanders and their trees.

Thomas Paine summarized the important role of the Liberty Trees for the Sons of Freedom:

For freemen like brothers agree;
With one spirit endured,
They one friendship pursued,
And their temple was ***Liberty Tree.***



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Home & Garden

80 THE LOOK OF SOFT GLAMOUR

82 6 SIMPLE SUGGESTIONS FOR REORGANIZING YOUR GARDEN



Next Era Annapolis

PG. 70

Next Era Annapolis

By Lisa J. Gotto

Legacy is a construct that is borne of time and circumstance. Our feature homeowner had the good fortune to have grown up in one of those cherished private neighborhoods in Annapolis where the streets were like narrow, windy paths that rewarded you with a Severn River vista when you arrived home.

After having moved out of that community where she experienced living with several relatives in their own houses as neighbors, our homeowner has re-settled decades later in a cottage that once belonged to a beloved uncle.



THE PROJECT: A modest 1940s cottage with expansive river waterfrontage. The structure had been weathered by time, wind, and shifting ground. The goal was a thoughtful transformation that would create a structurally sound, light-filled home that honors both its setting and its past.

THE PLACE: Tucked at the end of a narrow, one-lane road that winds down a steep slope, the home sits within a secluded enclave where the Severn River is so close it feels as though it is almost within arm's reach.

EXECUTING THE PLAN: This homeowner chose HD Squared Architects of Annapolis and its principal Melanie Hartwig-Davis initially to conceive a more advantageous main level floor plan that would open up some dimly lit spaces and create a more intuitive flow for entertaining and family gatherings. However, soon after meeting with Hartwig-Davis and assessing the structure's potential, the homeowner felt she was ready to explore some additional upgrades to the dwelling that she would share with her life partner.

Photography by Brian Distad | Aerials by Hunter Davis



ADDRESSING STRUCTURE

For Hartwig-Davis, the project stood out immediately—not just for its picturesque yet challenging setting, but for the deeply personal connection the homeowner had to the property.

Unfortunately, the house was found to require more than simple updates after a thorough examination was conducted. Several significant structural concerns came to light including the toll of long term exposure to strong winds coming off the river, and more notably, the discovery that subtle shifts had occurred causing a structural wall to begin to separate from the foundation.

"It was one of those moments where it was immediately clear—we needed an engineer on site," Hartwig-Davis says.

While a comprehensive renovation that balanced preservation with reinvention was recommended, Hartwig-Davis points out that the home had undergone several thoughtful improvements over the years that were already enhancing its aesthetic and value.

The homeowner had invested in a substantial waterside deck, supported by large columns, along with a beautifully designed stone walkway and mature landscaping. Yet, she says, the house itself felt comparatively understated.

"The deck and the columns were almost oversized for the house," Hartwig-Davis explains.

"Our goal was to allow the home to grow into that scale—for it to become what it wanted to be."







FIRST THOUGHTS

That evolution began with a series of design explorations. Initially, the homeowner's priorities were focused on improving the main living spaces—opening up the kitchen and dining areas, updating finishes, and enhancing access to river views.

Like many renovation projects, however, the scope began to expand as possibilities came to light. When presented with various schematic options, one in particular stood out: a bold reimagining that involved removing the existing roof and creating a second story, complete with dormers.

"That's when [the homeowner] got hooked," Hartwig-Davis says. "She saw what it could be."

The transformation of the upper level is perhaps the most dramatic aspect of the renovation. What had once been a cramped attic—complete with low, sloping ceilings, no air conditioning, and a single small window—has been reimagined into a spacious primary suite.

The highlight is a series of well-proportioned windows that frame sweeping waterfront views flooding the space with natural light and creating a serene retreat that the homeowner can experience every morning upon waking.



FINDING THE LIGHT

Hartwig-Davis carried this emphasis on light and views throughout the home. The HD Squared design team carefully reconsidered the placement and scale of windows to maximize sightlines and enhance the indoor-outdoor connection. In one instance, the main entry was relocated, and an interior coat closet was repositioned, to allow for an uninterrupted view of the river the minute you step inside. The result is an interior that feels airy, welcoming, and intrinsically tied to its surroundings.

Smaller details would also play an important role in the renovation. Enter a tale of two windows in the form of modest dormers that were placed with particular intention. One is located in the primary shower, offering a quiet, unexpected view of the water, while the other sits at the top of the stairwell, drawing natural light into the center of the home.

Inside, the floor plan was reconfigured to improve both functionality and flow. The original layout featured two separate staircases—one leading to the attic and another to the basement—positioned at opposite ends of the house. By consolidating and then stacking these stairs, the design team created a more logical floorplan providing greater efficiency.





The kitchen and dining areas were opened into a single, cohesive gathering space, supported by structural beams of stained fir wood that now serve as defining architectural elements. Below, the homeowner chose multi-tonal Acadia wood floors for their durability and style. A once-dated kitchen is now alive with deep navy custom cabinetry and Fantasy Lux Quartzite countertops. A gorgeous Equip La Riveria ceramic tile was chosen for the backsplash above the range.

Throughout the house, spaces that were once compartmentalized have been reimagined to support a more social, connected way of living.

The upper level, which was once limited to two rooms, now features two bedrooms, two full baths, convenient walk-in closets, and multiple storage areas which were neatly tucked beneath the eaves.

The home's third bedroom, a suite with bath, is located on the main level which brings a total of three bedrooms and four full baths to the residence. Even the lower level was slightly reconfigured to address previously obstructed views, opening up for better engagement with the waterf

WHY NOT MAKE IT SUSTAINABLE?

While the homeowner did not initially set out to achieve LEED certification, Hartwig Davis says, she quickly recognized its value as the project progressed. Now the home meets higher standards for energy efficiency and performance, qualifying it for a substantial tax credit—an added benefit that speaks to the long-term advantages of thoughtful, forward-looking design.

Throughout the renovation, the homeowner remained closely involved, particularly in shaping the interiors. With a strong personal vision and a keen eye for detail, she worked collaboratively with the design team and suppliers to select materials and finishes that reflect both her aesthetic and the character of the home.

Today, this legacy residence stands as a testament to what can be achieved when technical expertise meets emotional connection. What was once a more fragile, aging cottage has been transformed into a resilient, contemporary dwelling that not only withstands its environment, but celebrates it. More importantly, it provides a setting where this homeowner's past and present can converge—offering the perfect setting for gathering, reflection, and the creation of new memories for her next era in Annapolis.











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Image courtesy of digsdigs.com

The Look of Soft Glamour

By Lisa J. Gotto

Traditionally, we have always been able to spot a glamorous take on interior design because it announced itself the moment you walked in the room with its gleaming lacquered surfaces, elements of crystal contrived to catch every shard of light, and a basic sense that the space was dressed more for that first impression than for real living.

Today, that look and the aspects that speak to it offer a softer, more functional approach—one that merely whispers or hints of luxury, creating an overall vibe and tone that feels personal, intimate, and—perhaps most importantly—livable.

So, the beauty in glamour is still there; it's just a softer version recalibrated for contemporary living.

Nuance Replaces Drama

Perhaps the first thing you'll notice about this approach to design is the lack of a signature or statement piece in the room. The focus instead is on the atmosphere of the space or the feeling that comes to you. This is accomplished with a palette that centers and calms. Creams, warm taupe, pale blush, and the faintest wash of gray-blue layer gently atop one another, creating a quieting backdrop. These spaces tend to deal in shadow that is soft and intentional, and light that lingers rather than reflects. Nuance, rather than drama, is key here.



Image courtesy of nipponpaint.com

TEXTURE THAT WORKS

Upon further inspection you'll begin to understand the role texture will play in this scenario, when a velvet chair catches your eye—not in a theatrical, jewel-toned flourish, but in a subdued, smoky hue that invites touch. A curvy, bouclé sofa offers depth without demanding attention when accompanied by drapes that fall in loose, elegant folds, and function to filter daylight into something gauzy and forgiving. This is where soft glamour distinguishes itself most clearly: it engages the senses not through spectacle, but through comfort. It compels you to sit, to linger, to be still.



Image courtesy of decorilla.com



Image courtesy of nipponpaint.com

GLOW-Y, NOT SHOWY

Don't be surprised if you see a trace of shimmer that's intentional. Accents such as a side table in a brushed brass looks well-played next to a linen sofa, or an antiqued mirror that reflects its sense of nostalgia softly about the room. These elements nod subtly to the grand lineage of glamour, which echo the Art Deco period and a sense of Old-World elegance—but they've been scaled back and refined to encourage greater implementation. The shimmer of this iteration seeks to complement, not impress.

Approachable Furnishings

Furniture choices reinforce this gentler approach with architectural lines that curve where they once might have been rigid. Sofas have more movement in their design; arcing slightly, and chairs envelop, not just support your weight. Even the edges of tables are softened to encourage the flow around them. There's an inherent generosity in these shapes—a sense that the room is designed not just to be seen, but to hold you.



Image courtesy of curatedinterior.com

EDITED TO BE EFFORTLESS

And perhaps that is the defining characteristic of soft glamour: its restraint. Where traditional glamour might have layered objects to achieve a stylized goal, this approach embraces the power of editing. A single sculptural lamp. A stack of well-loved books. A ceramic vessel placed just so. Each piece harmoniously earns its place, not by standing out, but by contributing to the larger aesthetic.

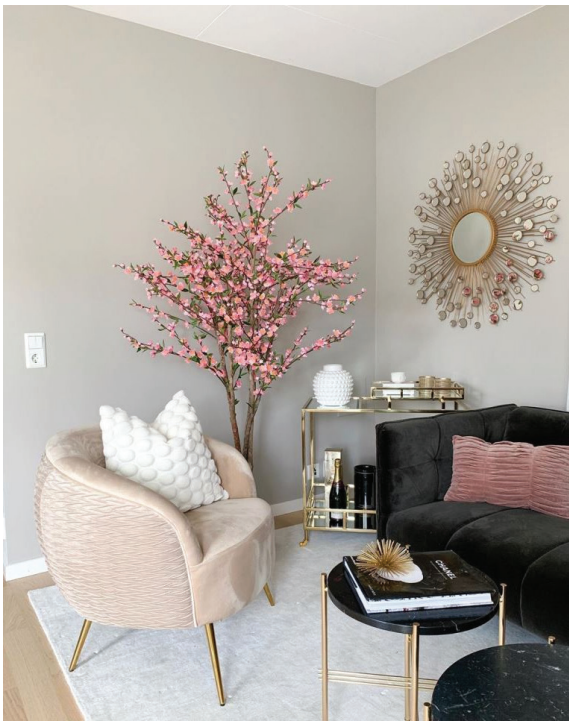

Image courtesy of digsdigs.com

The result is a space that feels deeply intentional yet effortless and tends to perform well over time in all of life's scenarios, so it is as suited to a slow morning with coffee as it is to an evening gathering lit by candlelight. It adapts, breathes, and lives.

In many ways, soft glamour reflects a broader cultural shift. We are no longer designing rooms simply to be photographed or admired from afar. We are designing for experience—for comfort, for calm, for a sense of understated beauty that supports daily life rather than distracting from it. Luxury, in this context, is no longer about excess. It is about intention.

And so, the glamour remains—but is softened, distilled, and realistic.

6 Simple Suggestions for Reorganizing Your Garden

By Janice F. Booth



Yes, it's the height of summer and time to set aside gardening tasks…for a few weeks. You've planted, weeded, fertilized, and watered; enough! Well… maybe there's a little something more you might want to do before you head off to the seashore or take the kids to summer camp.

Reorganize! Take an hour or two to do those small projects that will make your fall gardening so much easier. They won't take long, but here are six suggestions for organizing for optimum ease of use!

FIRST, TAKE STOCK!

- Take an inventory of the stuff you've collected for gardening—those packets of unusual seeds for fall planting, the exotic flowerpot from the antique store, the hand tools. (You get my drift.)
- Begin by simply taking photos of the supplies piled under the porch and the tools by the back door.
- Organize all that you've found into categories: hand tools, watering tools, fertilizers, and so forth.

SECOND, MAP YOUR PLAN OF ATTACK!

Have a bit of fun sketching a simple map of your garden. Note important shrubs and trees, those lovely, old plants that return every season. You might even color-code when portions of your garden bloom...if there is a pattern to your plantings.

- Mark the places or place you store your garden supplies and tools.
- Okay, are there things you want to change? Plants you want to move? How about those tools? Are they where you can use them conveniently? Are they discreetly or attractively stored when not in use?
- Mark places where you could store your garden supplies, perhaps places you can see now but haven't thought of using before.

THIRD, LOOK UP!

One useful storage option is vertical!

- How about that 6' stockade fence? It might be attractive to hang rakes, forks, and shovels. Be sure the fence is sturdy enough to bear their weight. Those hanging tools will easily show you if they need cleaning or a squirt of WD-40.
- And those small hand tools? What about hanging them in interesting pots or baskets from tree limbs? Be sure the pot or basket has easy drainage. You don't want to be running out to take down your basket of trowels and garden shears every time it rains.
- A trellis can be a useful place to store gardening tools too. Large "S" hooks can be used to hang light-weight tools on the trellis. (Be careful not to overload the trellis if it's not too sturdy.)
- Wall-planters can do more than hold flowers. They too can provide discrete storage for small bags of potting soil, fertilizer, and the sprayer of deer or bug repellent.

FOURTH, THINK SEASONS!

Since it's mid-summer, you have a pretty good idea of how your garden is producing and displaying during Spring and Summer (Fall and Winter too, for that matter.)

◆ Look back at your little map and the shade-in areas. Does this give you ideas for new plantings? If you have a gardener, ask him/her to help fill-in the blooming plan.

◆ It might be interesting to move some plants to another area of the garden, based on the way you'd like your garden to appear during all seasons.

◆ Set up a reminder calendar designating which plants are to be moved and when. It's helpful to have your ideas written or drawn so you and/or your gardener are working toward the same goals for your garden's appearance. You may have pictures on your phone of the garden in different seasons. They can be printed or pasted into your planting calendar.

FIFTH, DECLUTTERING!

Okay, this is a tough one, at least it is for me. Decide to toss out or give away plants, tools, and supplies that you haven't used in 12 months! (I have the same rule for my closet, and I struggle there too.) The temptation is to say, "Oh, it may be useful next year!" But, really, how likely is that? So...

◆ Go through those almost empty bags of potting soil and fertilizer. Toss the ones that are useless; pour the dried out potting soil into a flower bed. The fertilizer is a bit trickier. Do not dump it in the garden. Check the toxic chemicals recycling dates. Take that old fertilizer there.

◆ Gather up those packets of seeds you have been saving. Go through the packets. If they're not too old or if the packaging and thus the seeds are not damaged, why not make a little pot of surprise sprouts. You might find some sweet plants lifting their leafy heads from your seed nursery.

◆ Here's an easy one: Look over your tools. If they're in bad shape, toss them. If they're in fairly good condition, clean and oil them. Make a list of any tools that need to be replaced or added.





SIXTH, BINS, PEGBOARDS, AND BUCKETS!

Now, you're ready to put away what's left of tools, supplies, and seeds. This is the fun part. You can feel virtuous and in command of at least one thing in the garden. (I never feel in command of my garden! It's definitely in charge.)

◆ Survey what's left of supplies and tools. Sort by: what can HANG, what needs to be SEALED AWAY from moisture, what should be on hand every time you garden (garden gloves, your favorite garden shears)

◆ One option is a PEG BOARD. It allows you to hang items from hooks and also hang containers that will hold items. The only trick is placement of your peg board. If it will be exposed to the weather you'll need to paint both sides to prevent the particleboard from warping and rotting.

◆ Those wonderfully varied plastic tubs with lids are great for storing materials that you want to keep dry. Also, they're easy to label. You can list what's in the tub and change the label as you move items in-and-out.

◆ Finally, there are those old familiar shoeboxes and classic small baskets. (I like baskets since they like a bit of moisture to remain pliant, and they're pretty as well as functional.) You can use baskets or boxes for storing the seed packets that have "made the cut."

So, you've dedicated a few hours, maybe even an entire day to reorganizing. You survey your garden shed or table and see everything in its place. It's a great feeling. You're off to the seashore or mountains knowing the garden tasks to come will be mastered more easily because you're organized!



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Health & Beauty

86 HALOTHERAPY

87 EXERCISE FOR THE MIND



Poring Over Hair Care

PG. 88

Halotherapy

THE THERAPEUTIC POWER OF SALTY AIR

By Dylan Roche



Ever notice how Victorian novels always depict a sickly character spending a week at the seaside and making a miraculous recovery? Or maybe you've found yourself feeling a little bit better when you make a trip to the beach? There might be some science behind the idea that breathing salty air is good for us. Known as *halotherapy*, this practice has led to the popularity of salt caves or salt rooms built specifically to offer an environment where the air is infused with mineral-rich salt that goes into your body when you breathe it in.

Research in recent years has pointed to the possibility that halotherapy can:

- Improve lung function
- Clear mucus from airways
- Maximize airflow and capacity

And when you breathe better, you tend to see faster recovery times from sickness, reduced feelings of stress, and overall improved quality of life. However, though early research is encouraging, it's still not conclusive—and there are no official, clinically recommended guidelines for halotherapy yet.

SO, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? IF YOU'RE CURIOUS ABOUT HALOTHERAPY, HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

DOES HALOTHERAPY WORK?

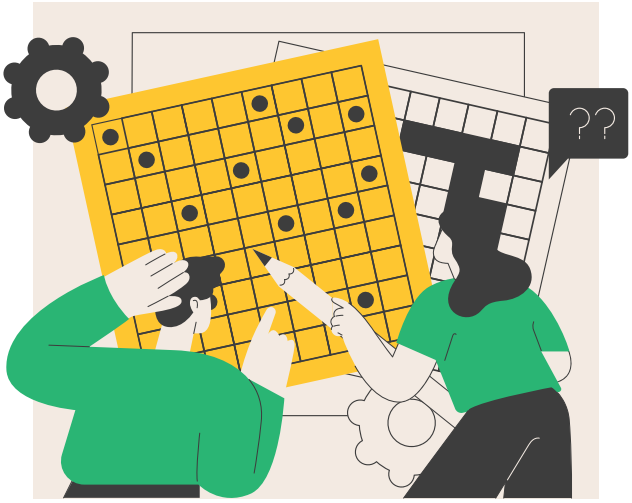
Most halotherapy research has looked at conditions like asthma, COPD, chronic bronchitis, and sinusitis. Because research is still inconclusive, halotherapy shouldn't be considered a reliable treatment option on its own, but it could boost improvement when it's used with other treatment options. You also might find breathing salty air is refreshing and simply makes you feel better!

SHOULD I TRY IT?

We all want to breathe more easily. But especially if you have respiratory conditions or mild allergies, or if you're prone to frequent colds or dry-air irritation, some salt aerosol might feel good on your respiratory system. Generally, anyone seeking to relax, de-stress, or sleep better will also feel better after halotherapy, especially because salt caves offer dim lighting and a quiet environment that lets you focus on deep breathing.

CAN I TRY A HIMALAYAN SALT LAMP AT HOME?

Most research points to professional salt rooms and caves as most likely to have any kind of measurable effect. That's because they're more likely to have consistent salt concentration in the air with a controlled particle size—salt particles need to be small enough to reach the lungs (or else they'll get stuck in your nose) but not so small you'll exhale them right away. Although salt lamps claim to purify air, they don't produce any meaningful amount of salt aerosol.



Exercise for the Mind

By Dylan Roche

It's not just our bodies that get worn out as we get older. Our minds do the same thing. It's why many people have trouble learning or remembering as they enter their golden years, or even risk developing a neurological condition like Alzheimer's.

But our brains are just like the rest of our body: Use it or lose it. When you make good use of your mind, you're less likely to see serious decline even with age. Here are five great (and fun) activities that will keep your brain sharp.

PLAYING CHESS

Much of cognitive decline happens because the networks in our brain weaken. When we play games that require strategy, those networks in the brain stay connected. A game like chess requires you to plan head, make decisions, and recognize patterns. This is why playing chess helps develop what's known as **cognitive reserve**—basically, your brain's ability to stay resilient even as your body changes. If you're not a fan of chess, games like bridge or solitaire can achieve the same outcome.

DOING CROSSWORD PUZZLES

One of the first mental abilities we lose is word retrieval. That's the frustrating feeling you get when a word is at the tip of your tongue but you can't quite remember it. When you play word games, it forces your ability to perform this kind of retrieval—and when you make a specific effort to do that, you're strengthening your verbal memory and your mental processing. So, if you're struggling to remember a word and you focus on making yourself remember it, you'll make your brain stronger in the long term! Other word games like Wordle or Scrabble are also beneficial.

MEMORIZING POETRY

When you commit poetry (or anything else) to memory, you're activating the hippocampus—the part of your brain responsible for your ability to remember (both short-term and long-term) and to learn. It's also good for improving your attention span, focus, and processing speed. If you're not into poetry, you could attempt to memorize a monologue from a favorite play or a famous speech, such as the Gettysburg Address.

LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE

You're never too old to learn—in fact, learning might be what keeps you (mentally) young. Learning a difficult skill like speaking a new language forces your brain to make new connections and improves your memory, unlike a passive activity like watching television. As with physical activity, challenging yourself mentally makes you stronger. Learning a new skill doesn't have to be about studying language. You could also learn to play an instrument, take up painting lessons, or try coding.

PARTICIPATING IN A BOOK CLUB

Research from the National Institute on Aging shows that socializing is good for reducing cognitive decline because it requires so many of the factors that keep our minds sharp: real-time processing, memory of names and prior interaction, verbal fluency, and emotional understanding. The best social activities are the ones that require thinking, such as a book club. You could also join in a game/trivia night, a debate group, or a class.



Poring Over Hair Care

By Dylan Roche

Ever feel like the haircare products you're using just aren't working the way you want them to? It might not be a problem with the brand itself—it might be because you're not matching the right type of product with your type of hair. So, before you go swapping out your favorite moisturizer, consider how porous your hair is.

That's right: You need to understand your hair's *porosity*. Some people have hair that's more porous than others, so their hair is going to absorb and retain moisture differently. If your hair isn't very porous, then using heavy products is going to leave a lot of buildup. On the other hand, if you've got highly porous hair but you're using lightweight products, they're not going to get the job done.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR HAIR'S POROSITY IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS FOR YOU TO KNOW HOW TO PROPERLY CARE FOR IT:

LOW POROSITY

Just like your fingernails, your hair follicles have cuticles. This is the outermost layer of hair follicle. It's made up of little cells that overlap and protect the inside of the follicle. When your hair has low porosity, the cuticles are tight and closed, so moisture struggles to get in. **When you've got low-porosity hair, you might notice:** Your hair takes a long time to get wet and a long time to dry, Hair product tends to sit on top of your hair without absorbing, Your hair is often shiny but also dry at the same time

If you've got low-porosity hair, your best approach is: Wash using warm water, Apply conditioner followed by heat, such as with a warm towel, Use lightweight products, avoiding heavy oils or thick butters, Clarify your hair occasionally to remove any buildup

MEDIUM POROSITY

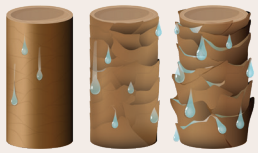
When the cuticles along your hair follicle are slightly open, you'll have medium porosity—this is ideal, as it's the best at maintaining moisture balance, so it looks healthy and styles easily. **If you have medium-porosity hair, you might notice:** Your hair gets wet fairly easily (but not instantly), Your hair drys moderately quickly, Your hair has a natural shine with no excessive frizziness, dryness, or greasy buildup from products

If you've got medium-porosity hair, it will be much easier to care for: Most products will work as advertised (no need for specialty shampoos or conditioners), Avoid overtreating it with too many masks, oils, or proteins

HIGH POROSITY

Hair follicles with open cuticles are very porous—water will go into the follicle quickly and easily, and escape just as quickly and easily. Although this can happen naturally, it's often the result of hair that has been chemically treated or heat damaged. **If you have high-porosity hair, you might notice:** Your hair gets wet quickly and dries quickly, Your hair is prone to frizziness and breaks easily

High-porosity hair tends to require the most maintenance, but you can keep it under control by: Using heavier conditioners or leave-in conditioners, Sealing moisture in with hair oils, Deep-conditioning it regularly, Avoiding harsh shampoos, excessive heat styling, or over washing



WHAT'S MY HAIR POROSITY?

Not sure how porous your hair is? A simple way of testing is to spritz your dry hair lightly with water:

If it beads up and sits on your hair: You have low porosity

If it absorbs slowly: You have medium porosity

If it absorbs instantly: You have high porosity

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Q: Are regenerative procedures like PRP and stem cell procedures safe?

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Food & Dining

92 WEST RIVER STORY



Photography by Laura Wiegmann

West River Story

By James Houck

It was a summery-yet-blustery May evening when our party of four—me, wife Kathy, friend and What's Up? Media COO Ashley, along with her beau Paul—drove through the countryside to the West River waterfront and Pirates Cove Restaurant. It's been a long spell since I last ventured into the quaint nautical village for some sunset respite, good eats, and company, but we found the restaurant very welcoming upon our return and most accommodating.







PIRATES COVE RESTAURANT & DOCK BAR

4817 Riverside Drive, Galesville • 410-867-2300 • piratescovemd.com

We had our choice of dining indoors or out on the expansive dock and, despite an east wind gusting 10-plus knots at times, chose a table outdoors with panoramic views of Galesville harbor and the river that stretches straight into the Chesapeake Bay. Here, on bustling weekends and evenings, the dock bar also is open and serves a good time for thirsty patrons. Our visit was a calm weekday—relaxing with on-point service and few distractions. When the weather is as beautiful as it was for us, this is *the spot* to herald the sunshine season. Bring on summer!

To go along with the summer vibes, the four of us ordered a round of bevvies—a Corona NA with lime wedge that could easily pass for the real deal, fresh iced tea, an orange crush, and a Hugo Spritz signature cocktail (prosecco splashed with elderflower liqueur, club soda, and mint). All refreshing starters. Glasses were clinking and clanking—cheers! The beverage menu is well-stocked with creative cocktails, mocktails, margaritas, spritzes, wines for every palate, and beers (including four NA options).

Onward with several appetizers we ordered: a brothy bowl of steamed mussels served with a piping baguette for sauce sopping; seared slices of ruby red ahi tuna seasoned with Japanese togarashi spice blend; one bowl of the house cream of crab soup (smooth 'n rich with lump); and another bowl mixed 50/50 with the cream of crab and spicier Maryland-style crab soup (best of both worlds with each spoonful!). This round of bites was perfectly prepared, shared, and enjoyed—and because it was happy hour, prices were softened a touch. Nice.

Photography by Laura Wiegmann



Moving into our entrée selections, we all agreed that seafood was what we were there for, and Pirates Cove covers all bases with *Bay* and *Sea* options offered in a variety of presentations—there's even an exclusive menu section devoted to Maryland-sourced blue crab. I chose the Grilled Seafood Ceasar salad, which offered a morsels of the wonderful seared tuna, plump shrimp, and large sea scallops set within a bowl of chopped romaine lettuce, buttery croutons, and a classic dressing that mixed and coated all participating ingredients evenly. Rounding out the table's selections, we had the Gabby Crabby (lump blue crab, tomato slice, and melted Muenster cheese atop an English muffin = yummy fun), Flounder Rockefeller (the renown spinach and bacon filling set on a flounder filet, broiled, and finished with a seafood cream sauce = divine), and the Fish and Chips (made with fresh striped bass, hand dipped, and fried golden = a fine version of the classic pub fare). We were all smiles, savored every bite, and cleaned our plates.

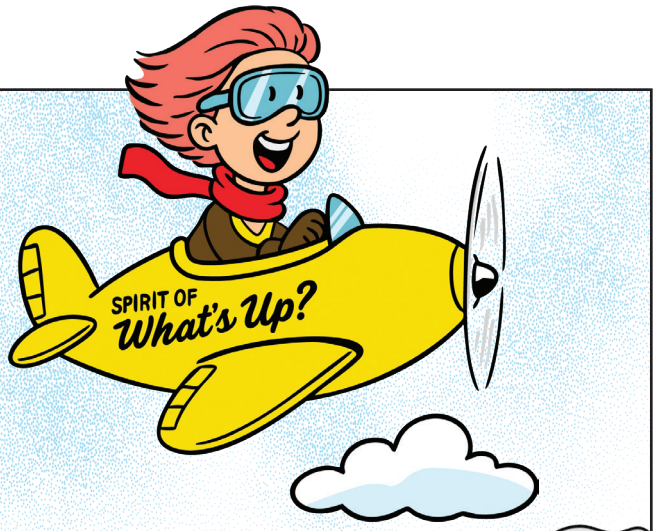






Room for dessert? You bet. We ordered a couple shareable slices of pie—the Key Lime and Apple a la Mode—that were absolutely spot-on, delicious versions. Plus, we had to try the made-to-order Beignets, sprinkled with powder sugar and served with raspberry sauce. If Heaven has a house-dessert, this might be it; the puffy, doughy Beignets dipped in the fruity syrup were simply *that good*.

On such a sweet note, we ended our meal with server Olivia, who promptly accommodated our payment. She was excellent all evening, as was the mood, food, and atmosphere. For a late-spring outing, Pirates Cove fit the bill in welcoming the warm season ahead with its nautical ambiance that offers as much class as it does fun.



Where's Wilma?



FIND WILMA AND WIN!

Chesapeake Bay breezes lift Wilma in her single-prop plane sky high as she flies from Western Shore towns to Eastern seeking outdoor dining experiences, superior shopping, and choice services. It's a beautiful time of year for Wilma to pick up good vibrations and enjoy the summer, summer time! Where will Wilma land next? Here's how the contest works: Wilma appears next to three different ads in this magazine. When you spot her, write the names of the ads and their page numbers on the entry form online or mail in the form below and you'll be eligible to win. Only one entry per family. Good luck and don't forget to submit your restaurant review online at whatsupmag.com/promotions for another opportunity to win a prize.

Congratulations to Gary G. of Bowie, who won a $50 gift certificate to a local business.

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Entries must be received by July 31, 2026. Winner will receive a gift certificate to a local establishment and their name will appear in an upcoming issue of What's Up? Annapolis. **Mail entries to:** Where's Wilma? Central Maryland, 900 Bestgate Road, Ste. 202, Annapolis, MD 21401 or fill out the form at **whatsupmag.com/promotions**.

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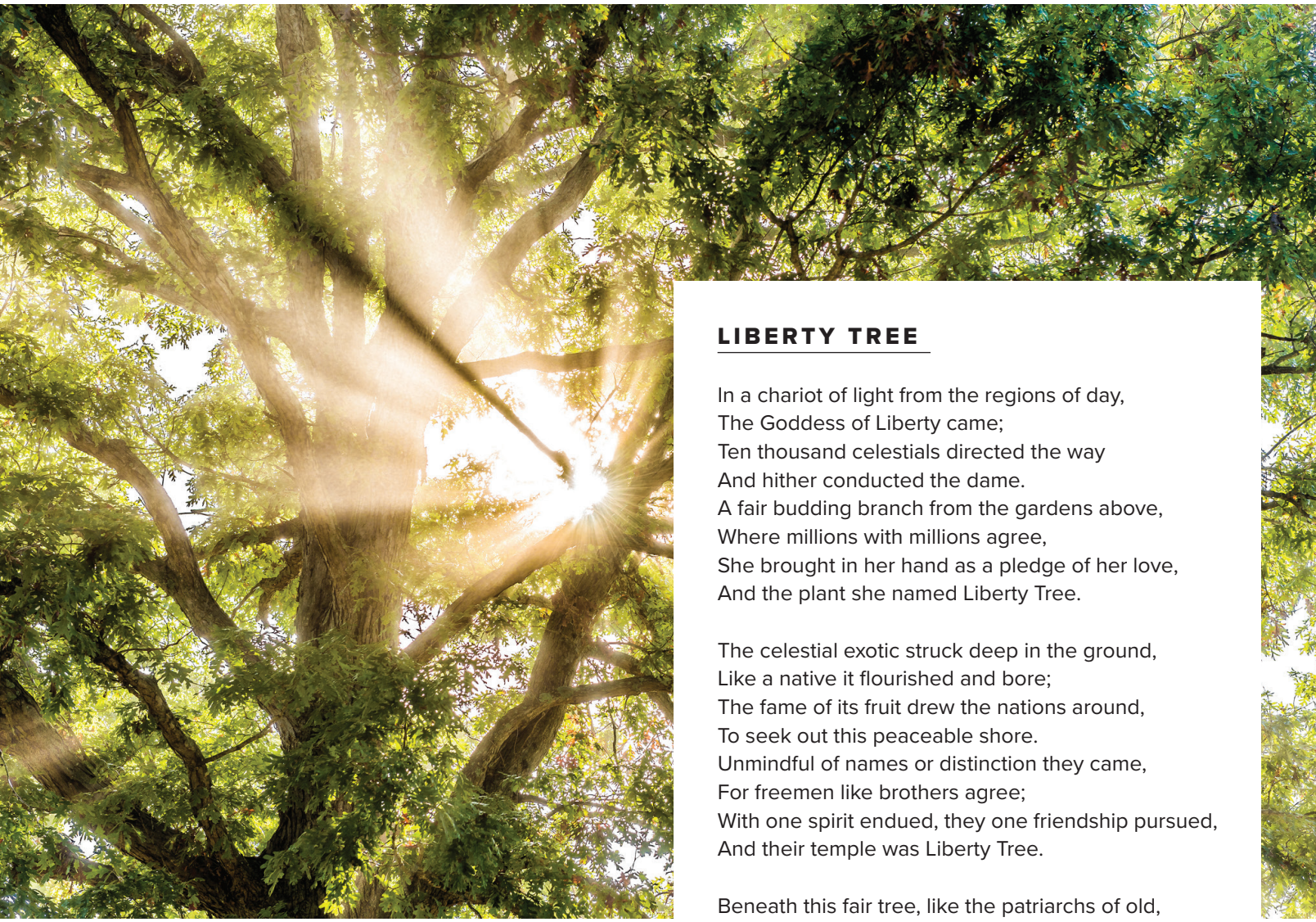
Academy Realty, Inc ..... LREP
All Star Pain Management and Regenerative Medicine 6, 89
Amanda Calhoun ..... LREP
Anchored Hope Therapy, LLC 27
Anne Arundel Medical Center - AAMC Foundation ..... IBC
Anne Arundel Medical Center - Fish For A Cure 84
Archbishop Spalding High School 15
Ashling Kitchen & Bar 22
Christy Bishop, CB Moves, Berkshire Hathaway, PenFed Realty ..... LREP
Ciminelli's Landscape Services, Inc 79
Djawdan Center for Implant and Restorative Dentistry 1
Drs. Walzer, Sullivan & Hlousek, P.A. 3
Elite Esthetic Studio 27
Fichtner Home Exteriors 27
Floor Coverings International of Bowie 29
Galliano Italian Restaurant & Wine Bar "Galliano Waugh Chapel" 21
Graze Craze - Odenton 21
Great Scottie Veterinary Clinic 30
Harvest Thyme Modern Kitchen & Tavern 23
Hospice of the Chesapeake 25
Kovach Chiropractic and Wellness Center 24
Lawn Doctor of Annapolis 79
Mamma Roma 22
Mia Anderson, Berkshire Hathaway ..... 29, LREP
Miss Shirley's Cafe 20
Mission Escape Rooms 31
MKS Architecture 28
Nancy Hammond Editions 78
Newk's Eatery 21
On The Green Inc 78
Peepers Family Eyecare 24
Perfect Pet Resort 31
PJ Fitzpatrick 68
Prostatis Group, LLC ..... CRG
Ruth's Chris Steak House 22
Severn School 15
Shore United Bank 18
Simply Organized Annapolis 28
Sinclair Prosser Gasior ..... CRG
Tangled Balloons LLC & Alpha-Lit Annapolis 31
The Hideaway 24
The Jaklitsch Law Group ..... IFC
University of Maryland Medical Systems ..... BC
University of Maryland Orthopaedics at Annapolis 89
Vaneska Adams with eXp Realty 30
Wonderwall Events Co. 31



One Verse at a Time

This poem was published in 1775 by Thomas Paine (1737–1809) as a ballad to be sung by the Patriots during the Revolutionary War. The tree honored in the poem was the great Elm that stood in Boston until it was cut down by the British in 1775. Paine is the author of *Common Sense* and was Aide-de-Camp to General Nathaniel Greene and then General George Washington.—**JANICE F. BOOTH**

LIBERTY TREE

In a chariot of light from the regions of day,
The Goddess of Liberty came;
Ten thousand celestials directed the way
And hither conducted the dame.
A fair budding branch from the gardens above,
Where millions with millions agree,
She brought in her hand as a pledge of her love,
And the plant she named Liberty Tree.

The celestial exotic struck deep in the ground,
Like a native it flourished and bore;
The fame of its fruit drew the nations around,
To seek out this peaceable shore.
Unmindful of names or distinction they came,
For freemen like brothers agree;
With one spirit endued, they one friendship pursued,
And their temple was Liberty Tree.

Beneath this fair tree, like the patriarchs of old,
Their bread in contentment they ate,
Unvexed with the troubles of silver and gold,
The cares of the grand and the great.
With timber and tar they Old England supplied,
And supported her power on the sea;
Her battles they fought, without getting a groat,
For the honor of Liberty Tree.

But hear, O ye swains, 'tis a tale most profane,
How all the tyrannical powers,
Kings, Commons, and Lords, are uniting amain
To cut down this guardian of ours;
From the east to the west blow the trumpet to arms
Through the land let the sound of it flee,
Let the far and the near, all unite with a cheer,
In defence of our Liberty Tree.

THOMAS PAINE

ANNE ARUNDEL MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

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