

WHAT'S UP?

# eastern shore

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THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO

# SUMMER DINING!



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OF THE BAY**

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Tales of Colonial Piracy

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WHAT'S UP? MEDIA JULY 2025



# Tricia Wilson



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We found that we could count on Tricia to follow through on everything that she was asked to do. Tricia is a great realtor, a fantastic person and has become a wonderful friend. If you are considering purchasing or selling a home on the Eastern Shore we would highly recommend that you contact Tricia Wilson at Wilson Realty & Staging, LLC... You won't be disappointed.”

*-Paula and Greg McVeigh*



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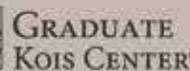
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♻️ Please recycle this magazine.

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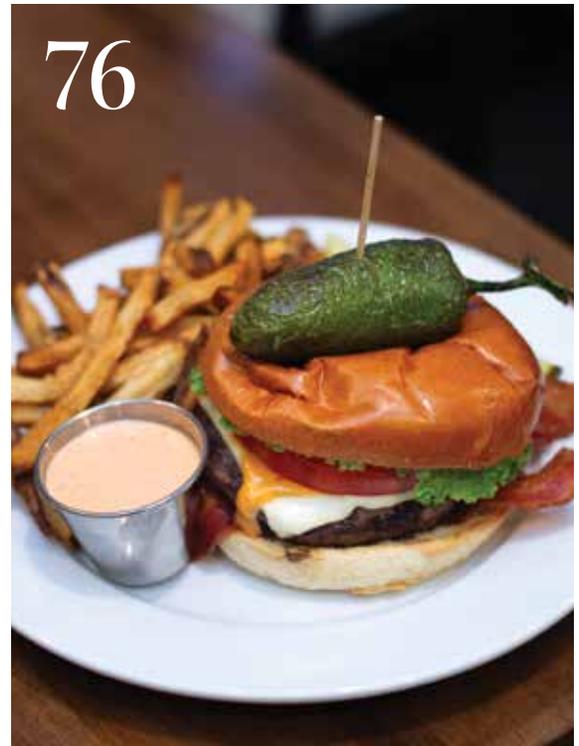
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**Showcase your photography skills!** We're calling on you to share your favorite pet shots in our photo contest. All pets are acceptable. Think whimsical, sleepy, silly, or just plain lovable! Entries will be accepted through 7/31 and then posted 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 November 2025 issues of *What's Up? Annapolis*, *What's Up? Eastern Shore*, and *What's Up? Central Maryland*. And maybe even on the cover!

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If you had to pick one—just one—favorite meal at a local restaurant, what and where would you choose? It's no easy task to narrow down the selection to a single top-tier breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Choosing one is very tough stuff. But...I do have a few ideas in mind.

Picking steamed crabs at a waterfront deck on the Shore is glorious fare. It's so Maryland. Ditto for prying through a bucket of mussels and sopping up the broth with a hunk of sourdough while overlooking bustling Ego Alley. Maybe it's a cold pint or two at the local watering hole after a day on the water. Or an expertly pulled shot of espresso paired with a fresh-baked biscotti, enjoyed within earshot of watermen unloading their morning catch at the wharf. That paints a picture. Perhaps a meal of prime surf 'n turf at the most well-appointed table in town fits the bill. Or just lazily slurping an orange crush with toes in the sand.

Honestly, I won't name restaurant names here. There are simply too many from which to choose and declare my standalone favorite. Although, with it being summer...now is possibly the best time to eat our way through a wide-ranging and far-reaching number of restaurant experiences. To help you, we've compiled the annual Summer Dining Guide for

this magazine. We include more than a few editors' and readers' go-to restaurants for everything from crab picking to beer gardens to sunset views. It's seriously summery. I invite you to check it out beginning on page 36. (And please, let me know about some of your favorites that are worth adding.)

About that orange crush...We also note how and why our great state originated and became the official home of the iconic drink. Don't even think about it Delaware. Read about the fun feud on page 50.

With summer in full swing, we've included even more seasonal articles in this issue, about the obvious (how to throw your own ultimate crab feast), about the obscure (seahorses thriving in bay tributaries), and about the obscene (colonial pirates of the Chesapeake). It's all fun stuff.

We also explore Blue Zone diets (actually fits pretty well with summer dining in our region), picture perfect gardening (lots of tips), what it takes to be a rockin' baseball pitcher (emphasis on rockin'), and the very best locations for Fourth of July fireworks. Oh, and there are at least 10 summer concert series to fill out the calendar.

*We've got you covered this summer. Have a great one!*

**James Houck,**  
Editorial Director

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# Arts & Culture

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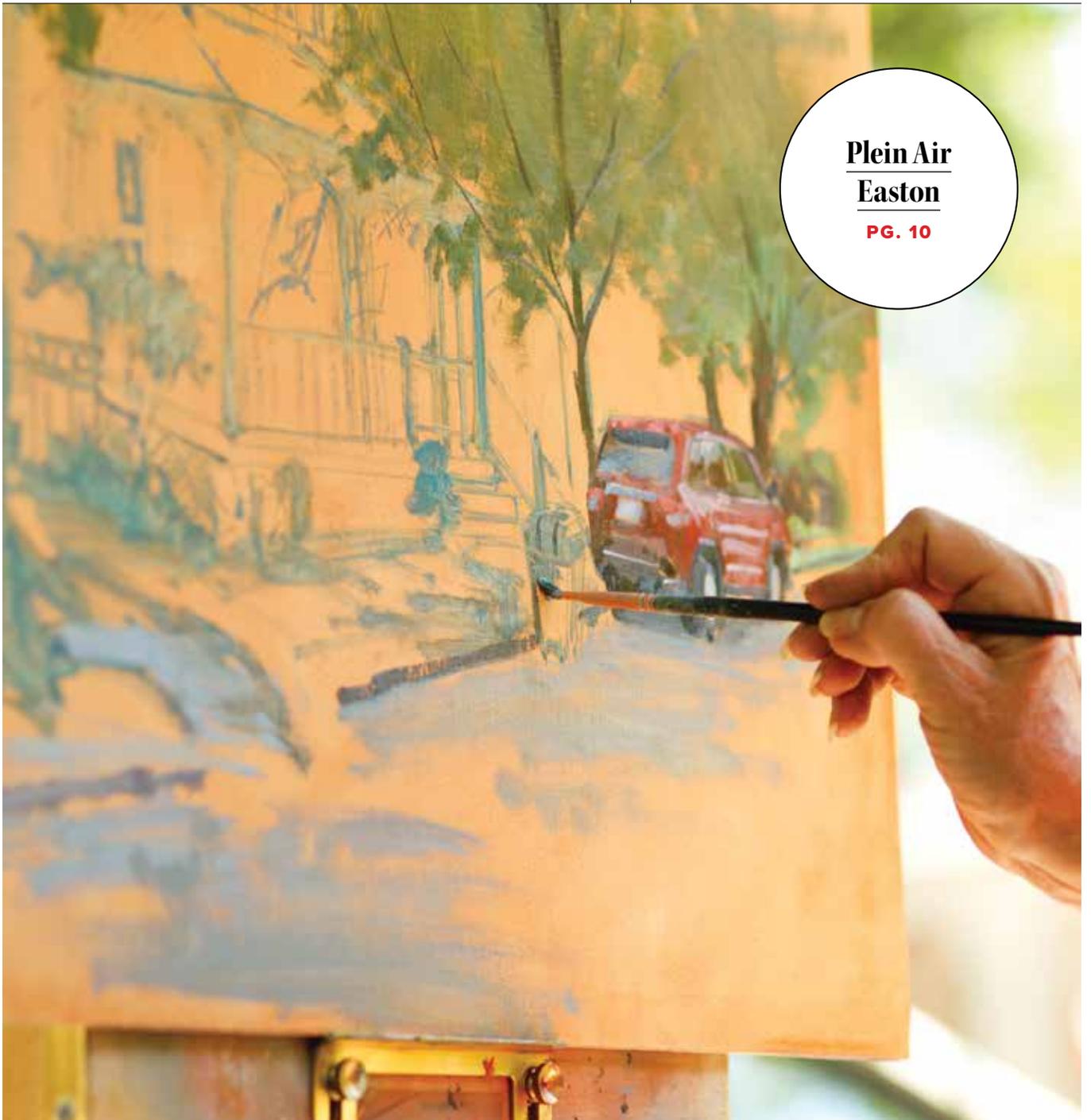
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HIGHLIGHTING  
ENTERTAINMENT,  
COMMUNITY,  
AND EVENTS

Plein Air  
Easton

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## **TUCKAHOE STEAM AND GAS SHOW**

The Tuckahoe Steam and Gas Association is hosting the 52nd Annual Steam and Gas Show on July 10th through 13th at their campus in Easton. The nonprofit, all volunteer organization, helps preserve the historic Eastern Shore's rural heritage. The weekend will be filled with steam engines, live steam train models, antique gas engines and tractors, home arts demonstrations, live music, blacksmiths, a tractor pull, and so much more. Find more information at [tuckahoesteam.org](http://tuckahoesteam.org).



## **TALBOT COUNTY FAIR**

July 10 through 12, get together at the Talbot County Fair! The fair will take place at the Talbot Agriculture and Education Center in Easton and will have plenty to do for the whole family. Enjoy a 4-H fashion show, pork barbecue dinner, hog show, games, dairy show and so much more. Find a full schedule of events and entertainment at [talbotcountyfair.org](http://talbotcountyfair.org).



Photo by Ted Mueller

## **Plein Air Easton**

The largest and most prestigious juried plein air painting competition in the United States will be held in Easton starting with a kick-off block party on July 11th. Fifty-eight artists then will spend time throughout the week painting all over Talbot County, culminating with the prestigious Collectors' Preview Party on 7/18. Be sure to view exhibits of their work at Plein Air Easton Headquarters and the Academy Art Museum. Find more information at [pleinaireaston.com](http://pleinaireaston.com).



## Regional Summer Concert Series

**Tuesday Series** – A floating concert series Tuesday evenings on Back Creek, Annapolis, 6 p.m. through August 26; [chronicsailing.com/tuesday](http://chronicsailing.com/tuesday)

**Summer Sunset Concert Series** – Sundays at Allen Pond Park, Bowie, 6 p.m. through Labor Day Weekend; [cityofbowie.org/concerts](http://cityofbowie.org/concerts)

**Summer Concert Series** – 4th Friday at Annapolis Town Center, Annapolis, 5 p.m.; June through August; [annapolistowncenter.com](http://annapolistowncenter.com)

**Waugh Wednesdays** – Wednesdays at Waugh Chapel, Gambrills, 6:30 p.m. through August 13th; [visitwaughchapel.com](http://visitwaughchapel.com)

**Thursdays in the Park** – Thursdays at Queen Anne's County Arts Council, 7 p.m. through September 4th; [queenannescountyarts.com](http://queenannescountyarts.com)

**Tides and Tunes** – Thursdays at Annapolis Maritime Museum, 7 p.m. through August 21st; [amaritime.org](http://amaritime.org)

**Quiet Waters Summer Concert Series** – Saturdays at Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis, mid-July through end of August; [fqwp.org](http://fqwp.org)

**Bayside Summer Concert Series** – Sundays at Downs Park, Pasadena, June 8th through August 17th; [aaccounty.org](http://aaccounty.org)

**Live on the Lawn** – July 13th, July 19th, August 9th, and August 17th at Maryland Hall in Annapolis

**Avalon Outdoor Concert Series** – Saturday nights June 14th through August 30th on Harrison Street between Dover and Goldsborough Streets, Easton; [avalonfoundation.org](http://avalonfoundation.org)



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## **BIG BAND NIGHT**

To celebrate Independence Day, the Chesapeake Maritime Museum is hosting their Big Band Night on July 5th at their campus in St. Michaels from 7 to 10 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and picnic blanket for an evening of music, dancing, and fireworks along the Miles River. Get tickets and find more information at [cbmm.org](http://cbmm.org).



## **KENT COUNTY 4-H FAIR**

The annual Kent County 4-H Fair will be held at the Kent AG Center in Chestertown on July 16 through 19. The fair is a perfect family weekend with great food, 4-H and community exhibits, animals, tractors, games, and plenty of entertainment for all ages. Find a full list of vendors and things to do at [kentcountyfair.org](http://kentcountyfair.org).



## **Fourth of July Fireworks and Parades**

**Sherwood Forest/Severn River Fireworks** – July 3rd, about 9:15 p.m. (dark), fireworks viewable by water on the Severn River at the Sherwood Forest community and Round Bay area

**July 4th in Annapolis** – Parade at the City Docks, 6:30 p.m., Fireworks at the City Docks, 9:15 p.m.

**Stars and Stripes Forever Independence Day Parade** – Parade in Severna Park, July 4th 10 a.m. to noon

**Queen Anne's County Fireworks & Family Fun Celebration** – Live music, kids zone, fireworks at Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center, 6 p.m. July 4th

**Rock Hall Fireworks** – parades and celebratory fireworks over Rock Hall Harbor, July 3rd

**St. Michaels Big Band Night & Fireworks** – Music, dancing and fireworks along the Miles River, July 5th at Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

**Easton's July 4th Carnival** – Fireworks, food, games and fun for the whole family! Through July 4th at 28539 Marlboro Ave, Easton (Lot behind Target)

**Cambridge July 4th Fireworks** – fireworks begin at dusk/dark, about 9 p.m. over the Choptank River at Gerry Boyle Park

**Six Flags America July 4th Fest** – July 4 through 6, nightly fireworks at Six Flags in Upper Marlboro

**Baltimore 4th of July Celebrations** – Live music and performances, fireworks at Waterfront Promenade, 4 to 10 p.m.

**A Capitol Fourth** – Washington, D.C.'s July 4th celebration features musical artists and the nation's greatest display of fireworks, 8 p.m.

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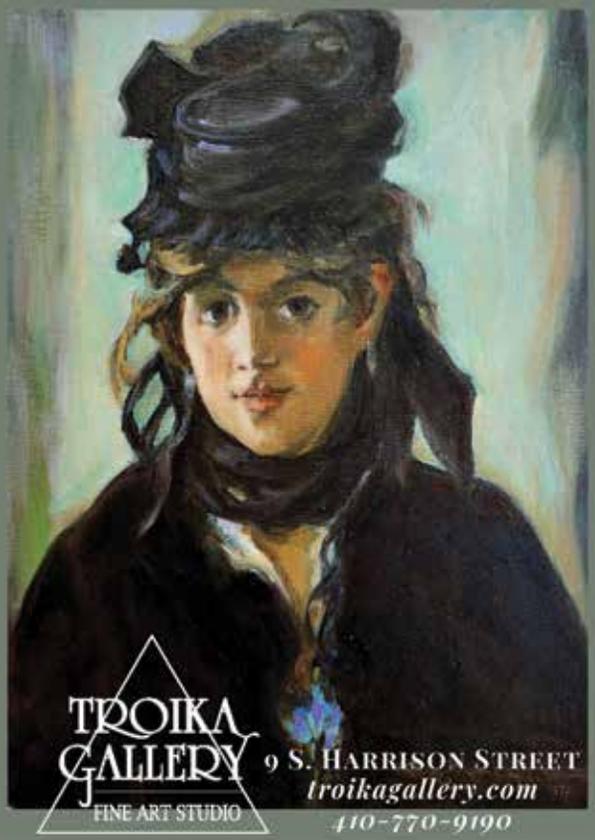
**Showcase your photography skills!** We're calling on you to share your favorite pet shots in our photo contest. All pets are acceptable. Think whimsical, sleepy, silly, or just plain lovable! Entries will be accepted through 7/31 and then posted to an online gallery where you can vote for your favorites. Voting will take place from 8/1 - 8/31. Winners and chosen favorites (by you and our staff) will be showcased in the November 2025 issues of *What's Up? Annapolis*, *What's Up? Eastern Shore*, and *What's Up? Central Maryland*. And maybe even on the cover!



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## Best Of Party 2025

On June 4th, one of the season's very best parties took place at the Doordan Institute at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis. What's Up? Media's Best Of Party 2025 celebrated the many Best Of winning businesses, bringing together more than 600 attendees to enjoy an evening of premium food and drinks, live entertainment, dancing, and camaraderie. Guests dressed in their most vibrant and colorful attire, mixed and mingled, sampled bites from winning restaurants, visited with local vendors, and enjoyed performances by DJ Hector, Maryland Performing Arts Center, Naptown Brass Band, and All You Need. A portion of the event's proceeds directly benefit the local nonprofits, Ballet Theater of Maryland and Hope for All.



1. The Naptown Brass Band performs 2. The Adoro Medical Spa team led by Dr. Elba Pacheco (center) 3. Guests enjoy the 360 photo booth 4. Ashley Raymond, Kori Donnor, Wendy Haas, Emily Nichols, and Becky Clapper 5. James Houck, Kathy Houck, Colleen Morehead, and Karl Anforth 6. Guests enjoy the outdoor patio 7. The Maxed Out Fitness team showed up in style 8. Biana Arentz and Elizabeth Arentz 9. Titan Hospitality 10. Maryland Performing Arts Center dancers 11. Steven Riker, Liz Volk, What's Up? Media Publisher Veronica Tovey, and Gene Deems 12. Dancing outdoors! 13. All You Need performs



7



8



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12



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## Show Off Your Swag!

What's Up? Media wants to see you out and about, enjoying and using your VIP swag from the Best Of Party. If you're toting your tote bag, enjoying nibbles at sponsor restaurants, cleaning your car, aiming for par at X Golf, or attending local "Creek" events, take a pic and send it to us, using the form linked to this QR code: We'll post a gallery of all the fun photos in a few weeks!





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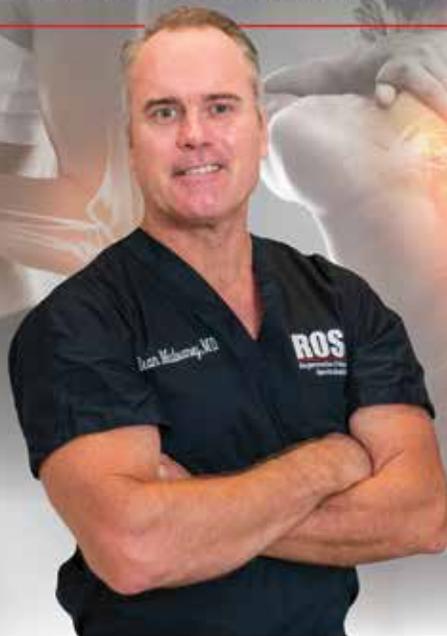


## Thank You Restaurants!

What's Up? Media would like to thank the 18 restaurants and beverage purveyors who contributed food, drinks, staffing, and service to the party. Their contributions were instrumental to making this party the most delicious party!

- Always Ice Cream
- Blackwall Barn & Lodge
- Carpaccio
- Cavalli (formerly Tuscan Prime)
- Della Notte
- Fisherman's Inn
- Fishpaws Marketplace
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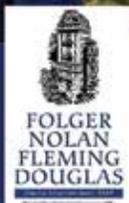
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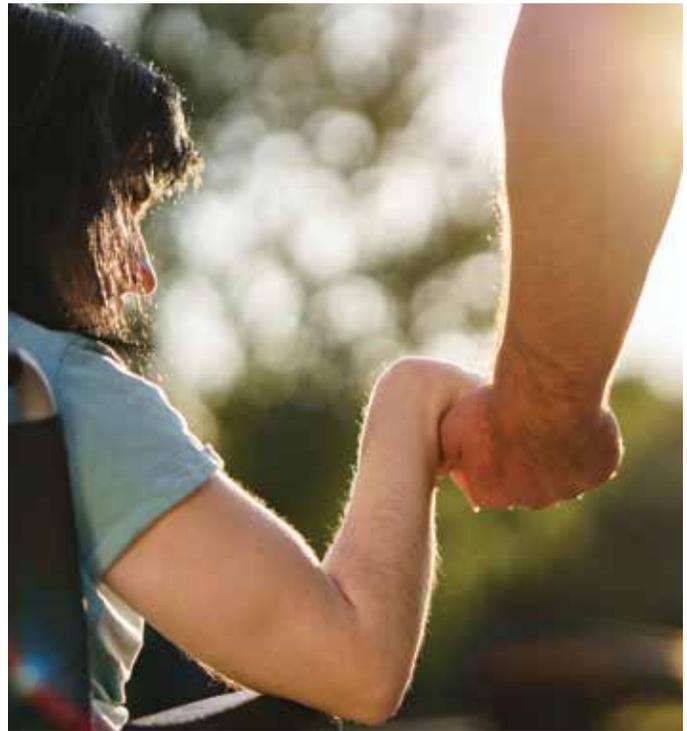
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**THE ARC MARYLAND CELEBRATES  
65TH ANNIVERSARY**

The Arc Maryland, the state’s largest statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to the rights and quality of life of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), celebrates its 65th anniversary this year. On May 29th, the organization hosted its annual statewide convention, bringing together hundreds of self-advocates, families, caregivers, community partners and policymakers to honor the past 65 years, and galvanize for the future. “Now more than ever, this is a moment to reflect on our legacy and re-commit to the work that lies ahead to ensure full inclusion and equity for all,” said Ande Kolp, executive director, The Arc Maryland. “Particularly in a year when we had to fight so hard for the funding to support our work, it is so important to celebrate milestones and to be reminded of why the work we do is so important to so many.” Founded in 1960 by a determined group of parents and advocates, The Arc Maryland was established to ensure that individuals with IDD could live full, meaningful lives in their communities. For more information about The Arc Maryland, including the organization’s local chapters, visit [thearcmd.org](http://thearcmd.org).



Pictured left to right: Ken Kozel, President, UM SRH; Stephanie Lachell, Project Manager, UMMS; Megan Cook, Mayor, Town of Easton; Chuck Callahan, Council President, Talbot County; Ken Fender, District Engineer, District Two, SHA; John Horner, President and CEO, Easton Utilities; Lu Ann Brady, Sr. Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, UM SRH.

**Route 662 Reopens!**

University of Maryland Shore Regional Health (UM SRH), a member organization of the University of Maryland Medical System, and key partners celebrated the reopening of Maryland Route 662 between Airport Road and Hiners Lane with a ribbon cutting ceremony in May. This section of Route 662 had been closed and traffic detoured to Route 50 since last September to facilitate construction work related to the new University of Maryland Shore Regional Medical Center, now being built on Longwoods Road. Route 662 is now open to traffic, with base pavement, temporary striping and temporary signage in place to ensure safe travel. Final paving, striping and signage are delayed until later in the hospital construction process. Learn more about the project at [umms.org/shore](http://umms.org/shore).



**HEALTHCARE LIFETIME  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDED**

Choptank Community Health System President and CEO Sara Rich, MPA, has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Maryland Assembly of School-Based Health Care (MAS-BHC). Rich was nominated by MAS-BHC Board President Patryce Toye, MD, on behalf of all Board members, and honored at the organization's awards dinner on May 14. MASBHC Board Member and Choptank Health Director of Community-Based Programs Chrissy Bartz, PA-C, presented her with the award, which honors individuals who have devoted their careers to enhancing the well-being of Maryland's youth through unwavering support of school-based health care. "Sara's contributions to school-based health are far-reaching and enduring," remarked Bartz while presenting the award to Rich. "Her work has not only changed systems but has impacted thousands of individual lives—students, families, and communities who are healthier today because of her tireless efforts." Learn more about MASBHC at [masbhc.org](http://masbhc.org), and Choptank Community Health System at [choptankhealth.org](http://choptankhealth.org).

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# Washington Nationals Pitcher Michael Soroka

By Tom Worgo

**W**ashington pitcher Michael Soroka wants to energize the Nationals' clubhouse with good vibes. Soroka plans to achieve this by being upbeat daily, showing outstanding leadership, sharing dinner with lots of teammates, and even playing pool, chess, or ping pong.

Soroka, who is Canadian, also can add to clubhouse camaraderie and culture with music. He has played the guitar for 15 years and, sometimes, brings one to the ballpark.

"I brought it to the White Sox clubhouse last year," Soroka explains. "Teammate John Brebbia was learning. I brought my acoustic and played. I should bring it to the clubhouse more."

Soroka says baseball is the only thing he puts more time into than music.

The 27-year-old will now get a chance to raise his profile as the Nationals' highest paid player (1-year, \$9 million). He has been effective in spurts when healthy. He wants to show the form he displayed as a 20-year-old in 2019.



The 6-foot-5, 250-pound Soroka went 13-4 that year, with a 2.68 ERA for the Atlanta Braves and made the All-Star team. He also finished second behind the Mets' Pete Alonso in the National League Rookie of the Year voting and sixth for Cy Young Award.

Yet he pitched only 46 innings over the next three seasons as he tried to rebound after tearing his right Achilles tendon in both 2020 and 2021. He missed both of those seasons and Atlanta traded him to the White Sox in 2023.

His season in Chicago (0-10, 4.74 ERA) was a disaster. After nine starts, the White Sox—who lost a league-record 121 games—moved him to the bullpen, where he averaged 15 strikeouts per nine innings while posting a 2.75 ERA.

"I went into the offseason wanting to be a starter," says Soroka, who had committed to the University of California, Berkeley, but turned pro instead, after being picked in the first round. "I narrowed down the list of teams. I thought Washington was the best fit."

**What appealed to you about the Nationals that made you sign a contract with them?** The number one goal was to be a starter. I talked to the teams that saw me as such. We moved forward from there. The first meeting with the Nationals was the best meeting I had. It seemed like everyone was on the same page. They gave me a lot of confidence that they saw me as a big part of the team this year. So, it was a no-brainer. I am looking to make a difference on a team that wants to get back in the playoffs. I am excited to do that.

**Do you want to be a leader on this team?** Absolutely. We actually talked about what it means to be a leader. I think when I came up, it was different. It was only seven years ago when I made my debut and how different leadership was back then compared to now. There's still a duty to our young guys coming up to show them what it means to be a big leaguer. Come ready to the field to work every single day and enjoy it, too. It's a privilege every day when you put on that jersey. You have to make sure it's not lost among the next generation. It's very important and I look forward to doing that with a bunch of new guys.

**Are you a big fan of the Washington area?** Of course. The first time I was in D.C. was 2010. I was in the Cal Ripken World Series with Team Canada. We saw some of the historical sites. It was great. I got the chance to see a lot of restaurants when I was in town with the Braves. I can do a lot more exploring, and I am excited to do that. I am partial to steak houses. That is typically my go-to meal. I also like Japanese American fusion. I really plan on checking out the restaurant scene.

**What managers or players have had big influences on you?** I played for (2021 World Series-winning manager) Brian Snitker in Atlanta. He just let us play when we came up. He was like, "This is how we do it and do it the right way." He showed me how he wanted the game to be played. You play it hard and with respect. You can tell the guys that appreciate every day they have in the big leagues. (Ex-Oriole pitcher) Darren O'Day is a veteran I got to know quite well. I learned a lot from Darren. I am still friends with him. I got to watch and learn from (2024 World Series MVP) Freddie Freeman. He was the ultimate professional.

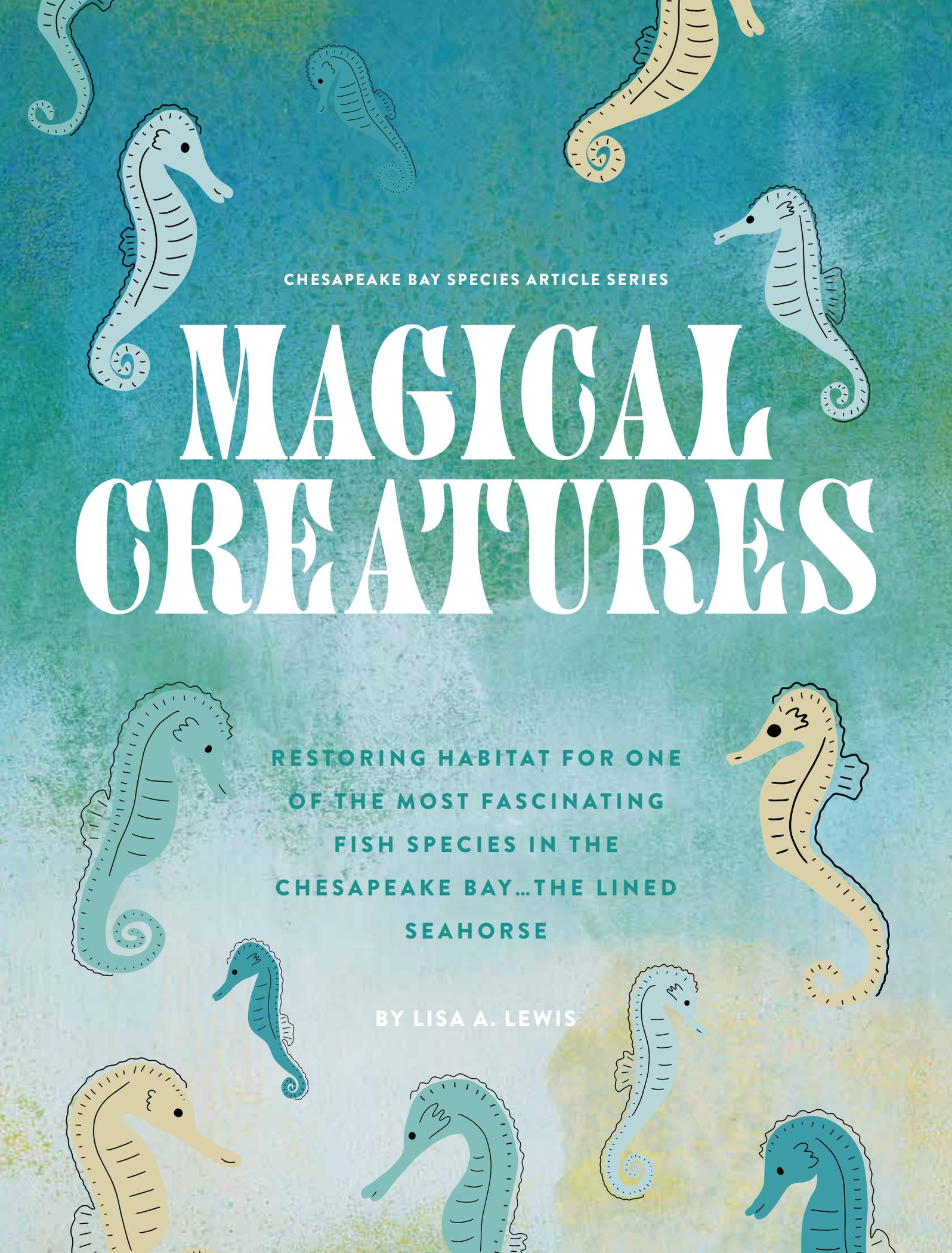
**Tell me about your passion for playing the guitar and where you want to go with it.** I will probably start a studio after baseball. I really do enjoy the guitar a lot. I have been playing since I was 12. I have to be careful not to play too much. If you are in the same position too long, it's not so good for the shoulder. Baseball comes first. I really started playing the guitar a lot during Covid. I got much better and learned a lot from watching musicians on YouTube that I followed. I like country rock and a little heavy metal. I like the heavier music for the guitar. My dad passed on all his likes of '70s, '80s, '90s, and 2000s country as well. It's definitely my main hobby outside of baseball.

**When people in baseball talk about you, your memorable 2019 season is brought up often. Talk about that year.** That season was surreal. It happened so quickly. There are some things you do at that time when you are so young. You don't know how you are doing it. You just keep riding the wave. I had more confidence than I knew. Baseball felt easy.



**Obviously, you've had success, but overcoming two torn Achilles tendons is a rarity for a professional athlete. What are your thoughts on what you went through?** Either time, I really didn't know what happened, especially the second time because I didn't think of it as a possibility. It ultimately got me to work harder every single day. I knew there was a possibility of turning away from baseball and coming back to it. I had a really good support system around me. That helped and fueled me.

**It seems like hockey was your No. 1 sport for a long time since you grew up in hockey-crazy Calgary. Why did you give it up?** I played hockey for about 10 years. I decided I wanted to be a goalie because at the time in Calgary we had a goalie in Miikka Kiprusoff. He was the reason the team made the Stanley Cup final in 2004. Eventually, I decided I didn't like it. At the end of the day, I liked baseball more. I think my dad Gary (played junior and college hockey) knew it long before I did. It was a lot easier going to baseball practice. I always wanted to be in the cage hitting and throwing. I never got tired of it.



CHESAPEAKE BAY SPECIES ARTICLE SERIES

# MAGICAL CREATURES

RESTORING HABITAT FOR ONE  
OF THE MOST FASCINATING  
FISH SPECIES IN THE  
CHESAPEAKE BAY...THE LINED  
SEAHORSE

BY LISA A. LEWIS

**B**

eneath the shallow waters of the Chesapeake Bay, a lined seahorse conceals itself in a dense bed of underwater grasses. Although the seahorse's choice of habitat may not seem significant, it is

critical to its survival. Lined seahorses are highly dependent on underwater grasses, also known as submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). In fact, SAV, particularly eelgrass, is the preferred habitat of seahorses. Not only does SAV provide home to tiny crustaceans that seahorses eat, but it also offers seahorses shelter from predators, camouflage for ambushing prey, and breeding grounds.

Although lined seahorses prefer eelgrass, which used to be the dominant species of SAV in the lower Bay, it is not their exclusive habitat. They live in other species of underwater grasses as well as in oyster beds. Seahorses have also been found clinging to crab pots, pilings, or ropes.

Forty-six species of seahorses are recognized within the genus *Hippocampus*, but only one, the lined seahorse (*Hippocampus erectus*), is native to the Chesapeake Bay. It is not known exactly how many lined seahorses are found in the Bay, and they are not common. However, scientists typically find them during yearly trawls.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), lined seahorses are listed as vulnerable primarily due to habitat loss. Since seahorses rely on SAV, declines in underwater grass beds can impact their survival. So, it's critical to continue efforts to monitor and restore SAV in the Bay.

"Lined seahorses are dependent on the structured habitat that SAV provides," says Brooke Landry, SAV program chief for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and chair of the Chesapeake Bay Program SAV Workgroup. "They are poor swimmers, so they don't have a lot of control over their movement. They use their tiny fins to move through the water and hold onto



SAV with their prehensile tail. Although there are no concentrated studies on lined seahorses, we can infer that the loss of SAV is a threat, and protecting the species is tied to SAV restoration."

#### RANGE IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

Lined seahorses live year-round in the middle and lower Chesapeake Bay within higher salinity areas. They have been documented in Hampton Roads, Virginia's lower Eastern Shore, Tangier Sound, Maryland's Eastern Shore, and Calvert County waters.

According to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), the Chesapeake Bay provides habitat for more than 200 species of fish. Since 1955, VIMS has conducted its Juvenile Finfish Trawl Survey to monitor fish populations and track trends in seasonal distribution and abundance. Although the trawl surveys target juvenile fish species, lined seahorses are among the fish caught.

"The VIMS Juvenile Finfish Trawl Survey conducts 1,224 tows each year, and our team is on the water every month," says Troy Tuckey, Ph.D., senior research scientist, VIMS. "We use a bottom trawl and tow the net for five minutes. Samples are taken in Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay and the Rappahannock, York, and James rivers—from the mouth of each river to approximately 40 miles upstream to where the freshwater-saltwater interface occurs. Water temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, and pH are measured at every station. We identify, count, and measure all fish species before releasing them back into the water. We also count and measure blue crabs and shrimp.

Lined seahorses' preferred habitat is eelgrass, a common SAV in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. They use their tiny fins to move through the water and hold onto SAV with their prehensile tail. Photo by Erin Shields, CBNERVA.

“Although lined seahorses are not common in the Bay, we still catch them every year. And we would be surprised if we didn’t catch them. Our team gets really excited when we see lined seahorses. They are such amazing fish with a truly unique lifestyle. Seahorses definitely bring a smile to your face every time you see them.”

Lined seahorses are also caught during the Maryland Blue Crab Trawl Survey, a sampling program that is conducted by the DNR every year. Samples are collected once a month from May through October from sites in the Chester River, Patuxent River, Choptank River, Eastern Bay, Tangier Sound, Pocomoke Sound, Little Choptank River, Fishing Bay, Nanticoke River, and Little Annemessex River. The trawl survey, which began in 1977, provides information about trends in blue crab abundance.

“The trawl survey focuses on blue crabs, but juvenile finfish and other marine life that live on or near the bottom are also caught,” says Chris Walstrum, natural resource biologist, fishing and boating service, DNR. “In this case, lined seahorses are not the targeted species, but they are caught when the conditions are favorable, and they are present in the right place at the wrong time.”

## A UNIQUE FISH

Known for their unique—almost magical—appearance, seahorses captivate aquatic enthusiasts of all ages. With its horse-like head, tubular snout with a small, toothless mouth at the end, bony plates covering its body instead of scales, and prehensile tail for grasping, the lined seahorse, or northern seahorse, doesn’t look like other fish. In fact, its closest relative is the pipefish, a small, skinny fish with a long snout.

Deriving their name from the white lines that can often be seen on their bodies, lined seahorses are approximately five to six inches long and vary in color from yellow to nearly black. Masters of camouflage, they change colors to match their environment and conceal themselves in underwater grass beds. Not only does this ability protect seahorses from predators, such as striped bass, tuna, and dolphinfish, it also helps them catch prey.

“Seahorses are ambush predators,” Tuckey says. “They hide among SAV structure, using their tail to hold tightly to the grasses, and wait

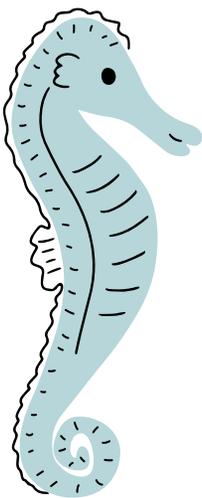


Lined seahorses are just one of the 500 animals and 70 species on display at Calvert Marine Museum, which focuses on the culture and natural history of Southern Maryland.

for currents to wash food, mostly zooplankton and tiny crustaceans, towards them. They remain undetected and then ambush, sucking the prey into their tubular snouts.”

In addition to their iconic appearance, seahorses are perhaps most well-known for a unique trait in the animal kingdom. In a rare case of reproductive role reversal, the males become pregnant and give birth. After an elaborate courtship ritual, the female deposits her eggs into the male’s brood pouch. The eggs are fertilized and incubate for about two weeks before they hatch. The male then releases 100 to 300 fully formed baby seahorses into the water. Juveniles are less than one-quarter of an inch long.

According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, seahorses, pipefish (native to the Bay), and sea dragons (native to the Western Pacific Ocean) are the only organisms in the animal kingdom in which the males get pregnant and give birth.



## PROTECTING THE HABITAT OF LINED SEAHORSES

SAV plays a critical role in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. It absorbs nutrients, produces oxygen during photosynthesis, improves water clarity, settles suspended sediments, stabilizes bottom sediments, absorbs wave energy, and reduces shoreline erosion. But although underwater grasses provide several benefits, they also face threats that impact their survival and abundance.

Perhaps the primary source of concern is poor water quality. Pollutants, including nutrient and sediment runoff, fuel algae blooms and cloud the

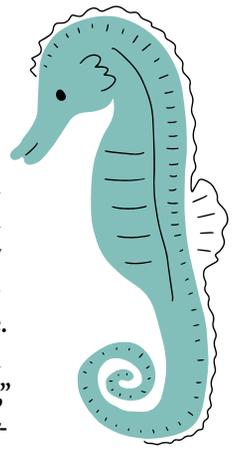
water. These algae blooms prevent sunlight from reaching the plants, causing SAV beds to die. In addition, weather conditions, changes in salinity levels due to heavy rains, and climate change also impact the ability of underwater grasses to survive.

“We know that lined seahorses are present in the Bay, but we don’t know much about them,” Landry says. “By collecting more detailed information about SAV, how it’s being used by fish and invertebrates, and how it’s responding to climate change and warming temperatures, we will be able to make more informed management decisions and take more timely action to protect it, and, therefore, the species that rely on it, such as lined seahorses.”

“Lined seahorses are sensitive to their environment,” adds Matt Neff, curator of estuarine biology at the Calvert Marine Museum (CMM). “They depend on SAV, and since losses of underwater grasses can impact this already-vulnerable species, we need to take actions to protect its habitat in the Bay.”

In order to protect underwater grasses, SAV monitoring efforts are critical. The Chesapeake Bay Program’s SAV Monitoring Program utilizes a three-tiered approach to gather data to help manage and restore underwater grasses.

The first tier involves working with VIMS and its partners each year to map the SAV beds of the entire Bay using aerial photography and sat-

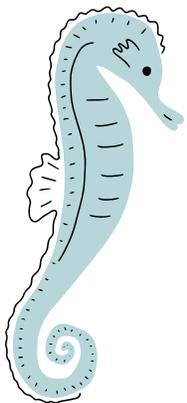


With its horse-like head, tubular snout with a small, toothless mouth at the end, bony plates covering its body instead of scales, and prehensile tail for grasping, the lined seahorse is one of the most unique creatures inhabiting Bay waters.





The Chesapeake Bay Program is developing a comprehensive Shallow Water Habitat Sentinel Site Program to help improve our understanding of the ecological functionality of shallow water habitats throughout the Bay where lined seahorses often thrive.



ellite imagery. The surveys, which are typically conducted between May and October, estimate the acreage of SAV. The data collected are used to track progress and identify trends over time.

According to data reported by Chesapeake Progress ([chesapeakeprogress.com](http://chesapeakeprogress.com)), an estimated 83,419 acres of underwater grasses were distributed throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries in 2023—an 8 percent increase over 2022 acreage. This data reflects the most recent survey results. At the time of writing, the acreage for 2024 is not yet available for release.

“An 8 percent increase is really good,” Landry says. “When things are trending up, we typically see about a 3 percent increase, so this was good news. SAV is recovering—not only on a bay-wide scale but also in local areas. I’m especially excited to see the expansion in recent years of species in the mid-Bay, and I’m confident that we will continue to make progress.”

To restore and maintain the health of underwater grasses, the Chesapeake Bay Program and its

partners focus on improving water clarity, planting underwater grasses, protecting existing grass beds, and promoting SAV-related education and outreach. The Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers program, which is the second tier of the SAV Monitoring Program, is an integral part of these efforts. SAV Watchers is the Chesapeake Bay Program’s first official SAV monitoring program for volunteers.

The third tier of the SAV Monitoring Program is the SAV Sentinel Site Program. Sentinel sites are located in each of the Bay’s four salinity zones and are monitored using a standardized, in-depth data collection protocol in which scientists track changes in SAV habitat. The program is coordinated by the SAV Workgroup.

In an effort to enhance their understanding of shallow water habitats where lined seahorses live, the Chesapeake Bay Program is working to expand on the idea of the SAV Sentinel Site Program by developing a more comprehensive Shallow Water Habitat Sentinel Site Program. Once developed and implemented, the program will help improve understanding of the ecological functionality of shallow water habitats throughout the Bay and allow scientists and resource managers to address

issues in these habitats more efficiently. The SAV Workgroup will lead the effort to develop the program. (Although program development has been funded, funding for program implementation has not been obtained at the time of writing.)

According to Landry, rather than concentrating solely on SAV, the comprehensive effort will monitor multiple living resources and water quality measures as well as climate impacts on the functional value of shallow water habitats in the Bay and its watershed. The data collected at the sites will help track changes, assess conditions, and provide early warning signs of potential issues.

“Since we don’t systematically collect data on lined seahorses, we know very little about their habits in the Bay ecosystem,” Landry says. “This new program may help us learn more about their preferences and habitat requirements, such as which SAV species they cling to, if they have dietary preferences or are purely opportunistic, how far up the Bay they will venture before salinity becomes limiting, and water temperatures at which they thrive. The more we learn about seahorses and their habitat, the more we’ll be able to protect both.”

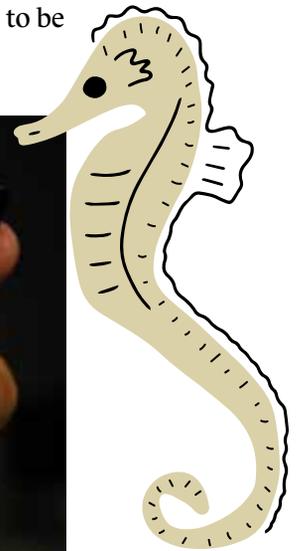
### OBSERVING LINED SEAHORSES

Although seeing a lined seahorse in its native habitat may be unlikely for people who do not work on the Bay and its tributaries, such as scientists or watermen, everyone can observe this captivating fish at CMM. The museum, which has about 30 lined seahorses on exhibit, allows visitors of all ages to experience their magic.

Lined seahorses are just one of the 500 animals and 70 species on display at CMM, which focuses on the culture and natural history of Southern Maryland. All of the exhibits feature species found in Southern Maryland and the Bay. Lined seahorses are part of the Hippocampus Haven exhibit and represent CMM’s dedication to the estuarine life of the tidal Patuxent River and adjacent Chesapeake Bay. The seahorses were born at the museum by parents who were captive bred.

“Our lined seahorses are a wonderful attraction, and visitors love them,” Neff says. “I especially enjoy seeing their excitement as they observe our

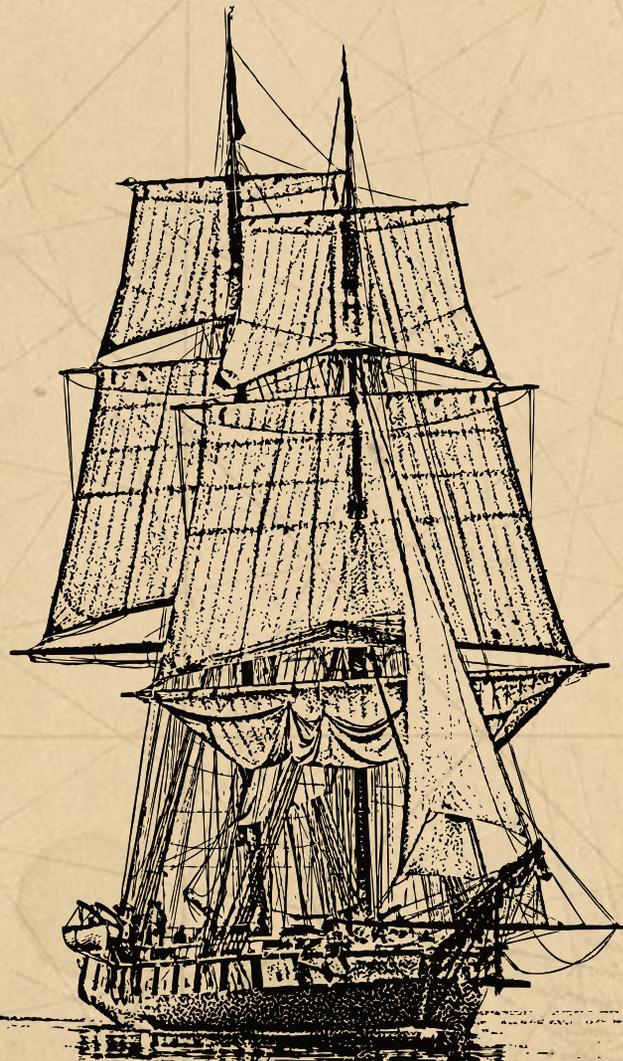
exhibits. I remember a little girl’s reaction after seeing the lined seahorses. She didn’t realize that they were real animals, and she was amazed by them. We hope that CMM can help raise awareness about lined seahorses and the importance of protecting their habitat. Seeing them here at the museum fosters a sense of stewardship and a realization that these charming fish—which are found right here in our backyard—deserve to be protected for future generations.”



Special thanks to the Calvert Marine Museum, Chesapeake Bay Program, and Virginia Institute of Marine Science for providing the photography illustrating this article.

• TALES OF CHESAPEAKE LORE •

# PIRACY IN THE BAY



## Buccaneers, explorers, settlers, and navies often clashed in Chesapeake Bay waters during Colonial times

BY ELLEN MOYER

**E** In the 1600s, everyday Europeans may not have known much about the New World, but the sea going “navies” of England, Holland, and Spain were familiar with it, and especially of the Chesapeake Bay. Spain saw the region as a habitat for buccaneers. With its many tributaries, it was well suited to offer protection for ships and the captains dedicated to plundering. The swashbuckling pirates that we envision from centuries ago may have sailed far up and into the Bay, but most skirmishes of piracy were between rival Englishmen exploring the Mid-Atlantic coast.

Kent Island, for example, was settled by William Claiborne, a member of Virginia’s Governor Council, and served as a major trading center for early settlers and Native Americans. As early as the 1620s, Claiborne led 100 Virginians to settle



Captains and pirates of the 1600s sometimes flew red flags to signal no quarter, while others flew black flags to intimidate merchant ships. Image source: Library of Congress.



Portrait of George Calvert (1580–1632), 1st Baron Baltimore. Vintage etching circa 19th century.

the land of Kent (named for his native English home) and built mills as well as a fort and homes.

The area, though claimed by Virginia, became instantly controversial with Sir George Calvert (Lord Baltimore) of the Maryland colony declaring he, in fact, had a patent on the area. The King of England refused to settle the controversy and the first naval battle between English men took place near Kent leading to charges of piracy.

Virginia’s Claiborne continued to spar with Maryland’s Calvert over trade, causing some Virginians to vow “they would rather knock their cattle on the head than sell them to Maryland.” Claiborne stood strong on his claim to Island of Kent. Politically, Calvert had a stronger voice with the King of England and eventually Maryland would win the land of Kent.

Claiborne was charged with piracy along the Eastern Shore on behalf of Virginia. He became an outlaw in Maryland and would lose his colony lands and estates. Calvert and Maryland simply had more political force in England. Virginia abandoned Claiborne and ceded the island and others in the Bay to Maryland.

Meanwhile, back in England, its government was experiencing a parliamentary crisis. While Maryland and Virginia were loyal to the King, both colonies would be affected by the home country’s preoccupation of its own, internal struggles.

Kent Island was one of the most controversial settlements in the 1600s, as both Maryland and Virginia laid claim to the land, leading to conflict and accusations of piracy.



Without England’s naval support, anarchy and piracy would rule the Chesapeake Bay into the early 1700s. Plundering escalated with more and more Dutch incursions into the Bay and self-styled pirates such as Richard Ingle became more prominent.

Ingle was a loyal Protestant driven by revenge and determined to plunder the Papists of Maryland in its capital of Saint Mary’s City. He was joined by Claiborne, who was plotting his own resurgence. Ingle focused on the estate of one of the richest men in Maryland, Captain Thomas Cornwallis, who had previously captured the Island of Kent for the Calvert family. What Ingle and Claiborne found was a lavish estate designed with art and fabrics from around the world and farmlands and animals. The plunders preceded to kill the animals and burn the house down after plundering the household wares and arts.



Map titled Virginia and Maryland by Francis Lamb that appeared in *The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain*, 1676. From the Huntingfield Collection, Maryland State Archives.

Ingle then set forth on a reign of terror against Maryland—a colony founded by a Catholic population—forcing many to flee to Virginia, while the Protestants continued to pillage their neighbors. Shipping was threatened. The Governor of Virginia declared the Bay is “so full of pirates, it is impossible for any ship to go home safely.” Ships were outfitted for war and traveled together in fleets to move the cash crop tobacco back to England. Royal Navy warships sailed out of England to escort ships transporting goods from Maryland, Virginia, and the Chesapeake Bay.

The chaos finally curtailed when Ingle returned to London and with the simultaneous ascendancy of the Lords of Baltimore (six Calverts across several generations would hold the title), who worked tirelessly to return the colony of Maryland back to prosperity and stability.

Eventually, the most valuable commodity of the New World, tobacco, would be eclipsed by other precious resources and trade preferences. A new form of piracy, however, would emerge in the Chesapeake Bay by the 1800s...focusing on the Bay’s prized oyster. New “oyster wars” and piracy were generated until this Bay resource was finally exhausted.

The Chesapeake Bay in the land of pleasant living that we enjoy now, was not a peaceful place during early European settlement. Englishmen waged turmoil against each other for power over trade and land. Religious warfare played a significant role, as did the control of natural resources. Today, we have a serene waterway, a recreational paradise with a few historic telltale signs of this plundering that dogged the area for more than 300 years.



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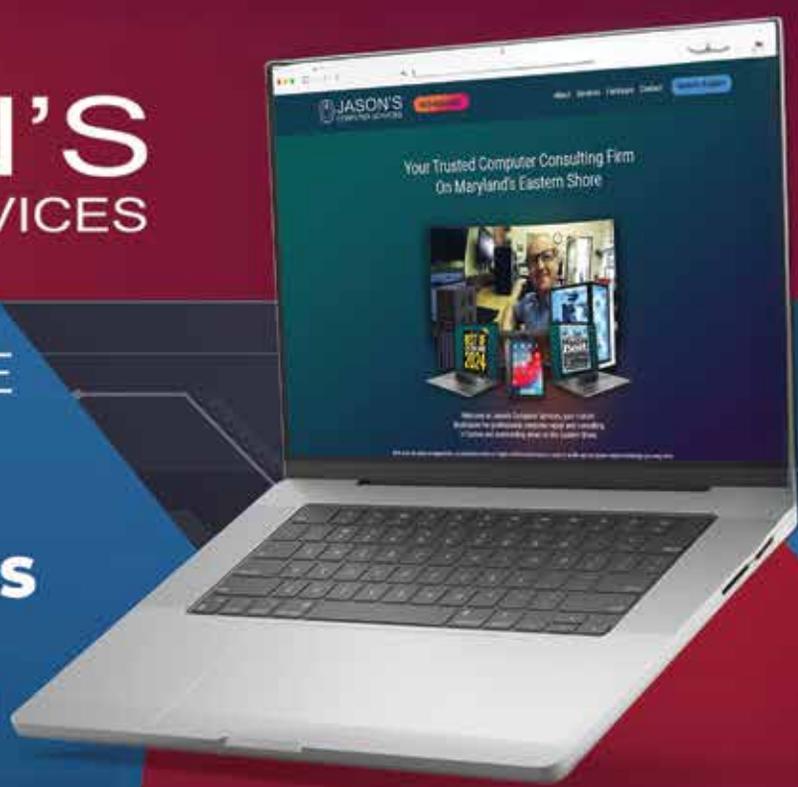
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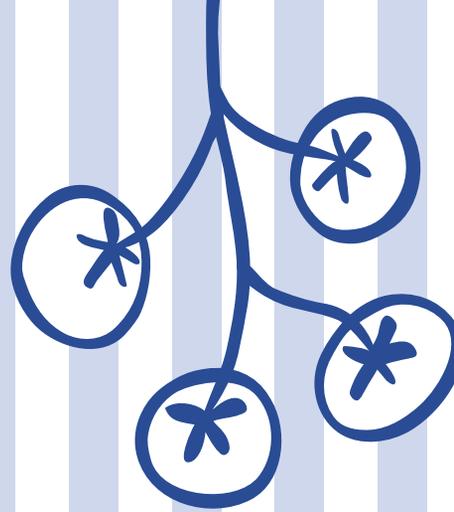
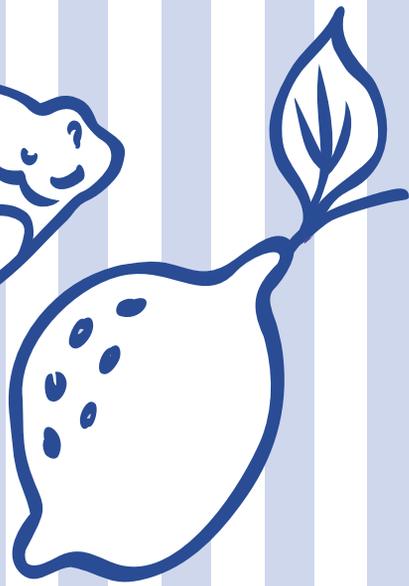
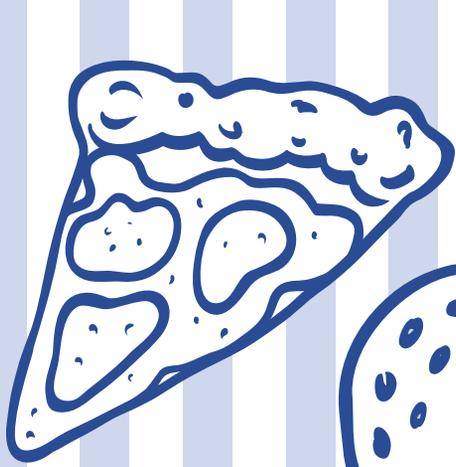
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# Summer Dining Guide

2025





*Chesapeake dining adventures for foodies and all tastes, plus beautiful bay views, dockside dining, local culture, and oh-so-much more!*



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Guide by **JAMES HOUCK AND MEGAN KOTELCHUCK**

Photography by **STEPHEN BUCHANAN AND TONY LEWIS, JR.**

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Welcome to our updated summer dining guide, featuring editors' selections, readers' favorites, and local recommendations in fun and unique categories that cover all-things summer. We have crab houses, waterfront views, dining by boat, beach bars, beer gardens, destination restaurants, 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](mailto:editor@whatsupmag.com).

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



*Let's make this summer a season of dining adventures!*



# Favorite Maritime Hangouts

## 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.

## Capsize OXMD

314 Tilghman Street, Oxford; 410-226-5900; capsizexmd.com; Come by boat (Lon W 76.17 X Lat N 38.69) to this relaxing seafood restaurant overlooking Town Creek in maritime-rich Oxford. This seasonal destination has free dockage while you dine and overnight space if you're in the mood to stay a little longer. The menu leans on blue crab, lobster, scallops, shrimp, conch...you name it. And the indulgent cocktails cover all bases.

## 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; fishhandwhistle.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; redehyesdb.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!

## Tickler's Crab Shack & Restaurant

21551 Chesapeake House Drive, Tilghman; 410-886-2121; wylderhotels.com; Located at the Wylder Hotel at Tilghman Island, the indoor/outdoor crab shack overlooks Harris Creek, is a footstep from docking, and ripe with Maryland maritime influence, including all-things blue crab.

## 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.



# Top Tier 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; crafty-crabrestaurant.com; New to the region's seafood scene is Crafty Crab and its 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. The menu is unique, the atmosphere active, and the food delicious! *Read our new dining review, here:*



## 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 about the Schulz family legacy 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 fixin's, delicious crushes, and sunset views is near perfect.



# Amazing 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 oar some food, oar some beer, and oar some fun!

## Carrol's Creek

410 Severn Avenue, Annapolis; 410-263-8102; carrolscreek.com; Did you know Annapolis' bustling Spa Creek was once named "Carrol'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 interview with owner Jeff Jacobs 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.



Photo courtesy Libbey's

## 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 our first impression dining review here:*



## 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.

## 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!



Photo by Bill Whaley

# Local 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 woody 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. *Read our interview with owner Mike Selinger here:*



## Pherm Brewing Company

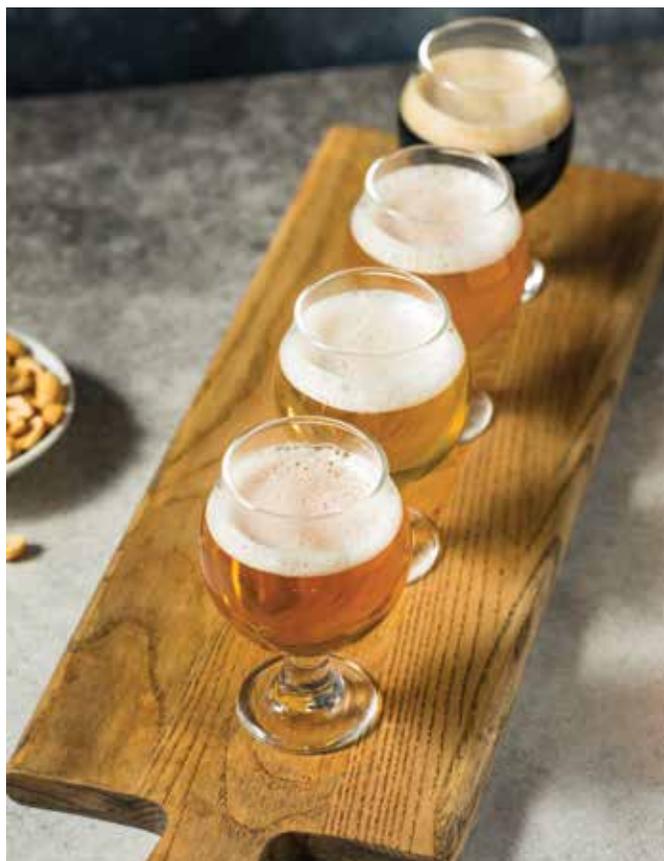
1041 MD-3, Gambrills; 443-302-2535; phermbrewing.com; It seems the west Anne Arundel County community can't get enough of Pherm's heady brews. The company expanded its footprint, doubling in size to craft delicious concoctions. The taproom features live music, open mics, trivia nights, and, sometimes,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

## 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 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.



# Favorite 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; harbor-shack.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, but there is also a chance for you to get involved. Enjoy trivia night, karaoke, bingo, and so much more on the Kent Narrows.

## Lowes Wharf Bayside & 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!

## Pearl Annapolis and Ponche Tiki Bar

26 Market Space, Annapolis; 410-280-8686; pearlannapolis.com; One of the newest hotspots in Downtown is blending artisan cocktails and gourmet fare. Not only does it have a chic ambiance, but it also has the perfect place for a luau flare: Ponche Tiki Bar. Ponche has a tiki-inspired cocktail menu, pizza, and tacos to enjoy!

## 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?

## 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.



# Super Surf 'n Turf

## Blackwall Hitch

400 Sixth Street, Annapolis; 410-263-3454; blackwall-hitchannapolis.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:*



## Knoxie's Table

180 Pier One Road, Stevensville; 443-249-5777; bay-beachclub.com; Comfortable yet refined, Knoxie's offers a fresh, farm-to-table and catch-of-the-day dining experience that features all the classics (crabcakes, rockfish, rack-of-lamb, New York strip) and plenty of fun, surprising dishes! *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.

## 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.



# Authentic 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 full dining review here:*



## Ruse

209 N. Talbot Street, St. Michaels; 410-745-8011; ruse-restaurant.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? I think I found the place right here in Annapolis. Local oysters, Japanese Madai Snapper Sashimi, Salmon Crudo, Tuna Tartar toast. Sailor Oyster Bar is open again (completely renovated after a fire); so, take advantage of this unique dining experience!

## Sea Salt

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. Sea Salt has an abundance of oysters to try from up and down the east and west coasts, including Canada and even the Royal Miyagi from Washington State!

## 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 harvest oysters with blue crab, garlic herb butter, bacon, parmesan, and beurre blanc. Yum!

# Grab 'n Go Options

## 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, and the business hasn't looked back, opening most recently in Bethesda.

## 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 interview with owner Kim Lawson here:*



## 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 ▼

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.). *Read our 2025 dining review here:*



# Happening Happy Hours



## Seasons Olive Oil & Vinegar Taproom

180 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-280-1505; [seasonstaproom.com](http://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.

## The Spice & Tea Exchange

155 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-280-2088; [spiceandtea.com](http://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.

## The Winery

116 S. Piney Road, Ste. 104, Chester; 410-643-9466; [thewineryki.com](http://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.

## Toastique ▲

214 Harker Place, Annapolis; 443-430-0085; [toastique.com](http://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.

Read our recent interview with the owners here:



## Amalfi Coast Italian + Wine Bar

401 Love Point Road, Stevensville; 443-249-3426; [amalficoastki.com](http://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.

## Cavalli (formerly named Tuscan Prime) ▼

1905 Towne Centre Boulevard, Annapolis; 443-572-4677; [tuscanprime.com](http://tuscanprime.com); Who says happiness should only last an hour? We, for sure, don't, and neither does Tuscan Prime. Enjoy a long list of happy hour options Sunday through Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m., Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to close, and all-day Wednesdays.

## The Goat

137 Prince George Street, Annapolis; 410-571-5577; [thegoatannapolis.com](http://thegoatannapolis.com); The Goat features happy hour every day from 2 to 5 p.m. Not only does The Goat have a great food menu, but also a delicious craft cocktail menu featuring homemade bloody Marys, local rotating drafts, and Rise Up Coffee.

## The Hideaway

1439 Odenton Road, Odenton; 410-874-7300; [hideawayodenton.com](http://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.

## Hunters' Tavern

101 East Dover Street, Easton; 410-822-4034; [tidewaterinn.com](http://tidewaterinn.com); Hunters' Tavern is nestled inside Tidewater Inn with happy hour Sunday through Thursday from 3:30 to 6 p.m. The menu consists of delicious bites like capicola flatbread and nacho cauliflower popcorn with wine, sangria, domestic bottle deals, and more! Read our full dining review here:



## Mucho Gusto

991 Waugh Chapel Way, Ste. 100, Gambrills; 443-288-0720; [muchogustogroup.com](http://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)!



# Sweet Shops

Photo courtesy of Dessert First



## Always Ice Cream

Locations in Annapolis, Edgewater, Pasadena, Crofton, Severna Park, and more; [alwaysicecreamcompany.com](http://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.

## Dessert First Dockside Coffee & Dessert Bar ▲

433 Kent Narrows Way N., Grasonville; 410-725-5767; [dessertfirsthch.com](http://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.

## Kilwins

128 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-263-2601; [kilwins.com](http://kilwins.com); There's amazing ice cream, yes...but Kilwins is much more than that with cases of hand-made chocolates, candies, dipped pretzels, cookies, fudge, so on and so forth.

## Nothing Bundt Cakes

Locations in Annapolis, Severna Park, Gambrills, and more; [nothingbundtcakes.com](http://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). *Read our interview with local ownership here:*



## Scottish Highland Creamery

103 S. Morris Street and 314 Tilghman Street, Oxford; 410-924-6298; [scottishhighlandcreamery.com](http://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.

## Storm Bros. Ice Cream Factory

130 Dock Street, Annapolis; 410-263-3376; [stormbros.com](http://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.

## Sugar Doodles Sweet Shop

Locations in Chester, Centreville, and Chestertown; [sugardoodlessweetshop.com](http://sugardoodlessweetshop.com); Serving delicious Vandewende Farm Creamery's ice cream, plus every imaginable topping, Sugar Doodles has become a go-to for Kent Islanders and Shore-bound visitors for sweet treats, shakes, and even healthy acai bowls.

# Marina Gems

## Beacon Waterfront Galley & Bar

2020 Chesapeake Harbour Drive E., Annapolis; 443-949-8456; [beaconwaterfront.com](http://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, handhelds, and filling entrees.

## Bridges Restaurant on Kent Narrows ▼

321 Wells Cove Road, Grasonville; 410-827-0282; [bridges-restaurant.net](http://bridges-restaurant.net); Water, water everywhere! 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.

## Deep Blue at Kitty Knight

14028 Augustine Herman Highway, Galena; 410-648-5200; [deepbluerestaurant.com](http://deepbluerestaurant.com); Overlooking the bustling marinas along the Sassafra River, Deep Blue offers both white tablecloth dining and more casual outdoor seating; perfect respite for refined palates after a day of boating.

## Osprey Point

20786 Rock Hall Avenue, Rock Hall; 410-639-2194; [ospreypoint.com](http://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.



# Popular for Live Music

Photo courtesy Rams Head Group



## The Boathouse

604 Cabana Boulevard, Deale; 410-867-9668; the-boathousedeale.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.

## Killarney House

584 West Central Avenue, Davidsonville; 410-798-8700; killarneyhousepub.com; It's always a hoot at Killarney House. There is live Irish music every Wednesday through Saturday, weekend brunch, and plenty of other can't-miss specials; even Ladies Night every Thursday.

## Rams Head On Stage ▲

33 West Street, Annapolis; 410-268-4545; rams-headonstage.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!

## 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 & Joe's 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. And could it not, with its eclectic fusion menu of small bites and large, creative cocktails/mocktails, high roller tequila collection, and a full sked of musicians and djs performing.

# Destination Dining

## 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; carpaccio-tuscankitchen.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 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 our full dining review here:*



## Della Notte ▼

1374 Cape St. Claire Road, Annapolis; 410-757-2919; delanotterestaurant.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 full dining review here:*



## 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; gallianoitalianrestaurant.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.

## 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 racks/selections ready to pop.

## 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.

## Lime & Salt

8395 Piney Orchard Parkway, Odenton; 410-874-6277; limeandsalt.co; 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.

## Light House Bistro

202 West Street, Annapolis; 410-424-0922; lighthouse-bistro.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.

## 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.

## 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 have taken over operations and the kitchen, and made this family-style restaurant one of the most comforting, authentic, and filling in the region. Odenton residents and visitors from afar can't get enough!

## Mi Lindo Cancun Grill

2134 Forest Drive, Annapolis; 410-571-0500; lindocancun-grill.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,





**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. *Read our full dining review here:*



◀ **Red Red Wine Bar & Bistro**  
 410-990-1144; redredwinebar.com; Red Red Wine burst on the Annapolis dining scene 14 years ago. The secret to its longevity and success? Owners Brian and Lisa Bolter created an upscale yet approachable gastro-pub atmosphere where fines wines, charcuterie, small plates, urban cuisine, and, even, hearty brunch rule, but pretention does not. *Read about our most recent visit here:*



including **Senor's Chile** locations in Edgewater, Arnold, and Severna Park. Their success is built upon authenticity and consistently excellent food. *Read our 2025 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 new dining review here:*



# Maryland Elevates the *Orange Crush* to State Cocktail Status



Story By **LISA J. GOTTO**



Photo by Arden Haley

Cold to the lips and refreshing to the palate, there's nothing quite like the sweet, juicy taste of the Orange Crush cocktail—the seasonal beverage staple as enigmatic with summers in Maryland as a bushel of fresh crabs.

And this summer we will no doubt be hoisting these fresh-squeezed, icy libations with greater gusto since the Maryland legislature passed a measure to make the vodka-based Orange Crush our official State cocktail in the eleventh hour of the last legislative session. The designation officially went in effect last month on June 25th.

But what is this you say about our neighbor and Atlantic shore sharer Delaware and its official state cocktail, which happens to be the Orange Crush?



Yes, this is a juicy tale indeed, as Maryland Delegate to the Assembly, Wayne Hartman of District 38C in Worcester and Wicomico Counties, tells it.

"In August of last year, the State of Delaware decided to take credit for the Orange Crush and declare it as their official state cocktail," explains Hartman, who co-sponsored HB 1001 with Maryland Senator Stephen S. Hersey.

"This proclamation stems from the drink's similar popularity in Delaware, and because of a bar in Dewey Beach claiming to have 'perfected' the cocktail. While imitation is the best form

of flattery, credit for this nationally-known drink should go to Maryland."

The lip-smacking roots of the Orange Crush go back decades to its origination in 1995 in a West Ocean City bar called the Harborside Bar & Grill, and its co-founders, Chris Wall and Lloyd Whitehead. And since that inception, Hartman says, many have tried to rebrand and redefine the Orange Crush as their own, but Hartman stresses that only the Harborside Bar & Grill has the true bragging rights to say, "Often Imitated, Never Duplicated."

In fact, the rivalry for Orange Crush supremacy has spilled over to the District, reportedly going viral between senators Chris Coons of Delaware and Ben Cardin of Maryland as they participated in a good-natured Orange Crush making competition prior to the summer of 2024 recess. We are happy to report that Team Maryland bested the concoction put forth by "The First State."

In addition to bragging rights, the official designation brings with it the potential to help boost tourism dollars in the State, as it serves up a prime menu item for promotion.

"The Orange Crush is not just a drink but part of the Maryland experience," says Maryland Tourism Coalition's Executive Director, Ruth Toomey.

The designation, she adds, will undoubtedly drive more tourism and strengthen the state's economy. With the current 9 percent alcohol tax on each beverage served, passing HB

1001 would create a perfect opportunity for celebratory events across bars and restaurants, boosting both food and beverage sales.

"By designating the Orange Crush as the official cocktail, we can also stimulate new campaigns with liquor stores and distributors, spotlighting key ingredients like orange vodka."

While the Orange Crush originated in Ocean City, the popularity of its juicy, icy goodness grew rapidly and has since been known to be promoted in various counties throughout the state, including Queen Anne's with its annual Crabs N' Crushes campaign that guides visitors to the places where crabs are noted to be delectably paired with this refreshing counterpart.

So, what crab dish best floats the boat for taste with this illustrious bill's sponsor?

"Delegate Hartman likes to pair an Orange Crush with a Maryland Crab Cake," says Hartman staffer, Will Smith.

At the end of the day, the quest to make the Orange Crush the official state cocktail was supported by nearly three dozen sponsors, passed in the House unanimously with a 137-0 vote, and cleared the State senate with a mere two minutes to spare in the last legislative session.

Cheers to the Orange Crush and all who partake! Hip, hip, hooray for the official State cocktail—a Maryland original!



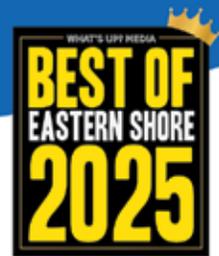
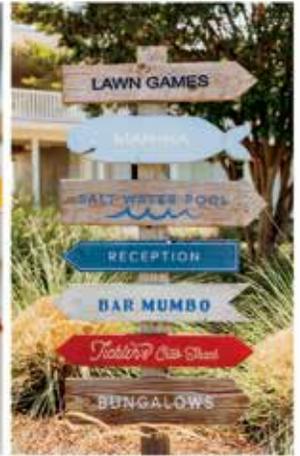
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# The Most Important Balancing Act of Your Life

## RETIREMENT INVESTING AND ESTATE PLANNING

Prepared by What's Up? Media



**P**lanning for your future and what are considered your very best years isn't just about building wealth, it's also about protecting your assets. While retirement investing and estate planning are often thought of separately, balancing the two is essential for achieving long-term financial security and leaving a meaningful legacy to your loved ones and/or causes you for which you care deeply.

Retirement investing focuses on growing your assets to support you throughout your non-working years. Through 401(k)s, IRAs, and other investment vehicles, the goal is to build a nest egg that will sustain your lifestyle for upwards of 25 years after you retire. But without a coordinated estate plan, all that hard-earned wealth may not be managed or transferred according to your wishes.

Estate planning, on the other hand, ensures that your assets are distributed the way you intend and that your loved ones are taken care of if something happens to you. It includes legal tools like wills, trusts, power of attorney, and healthcare directives—all critical for avoiding probate, reducing taxes, and preventing family disputes.

The key is to integrate both strategies. For example, knowing which retirement accounts have beneficiaries versus which pass through a will can avoid costly mistakes. A Roth IRA may offer tax advantages for heirs, while placing certain assets in a trust could protect them from estate taxes or long-term care costs. There are many considerations, each as unique as the person considering them.

To find balance, review your financial and legal plans every few years or after major life events. Though you may already know much of the forthcoming information, perhaps this article will serve as your reminder to take action. Coordinate with professionals such as your financial advisor, estate attorney, and accountant to align your investment strategy with your estate goals.

Ultimately, investing can help you live well today and into the future. Estate planning ensures your values and wealth continue to have impact beyond your lifetime. Together, they form a complete plan for peace of mind and a lasting legacy.

### HERE IS A DETAILED LIST OF 20 RETIREMENT INVESTMENT VEHICLES, INCLUDING RISK LEVELS, WHEN TO CONSIDER INVESTING (PHASE), HOW TO START, AND MORE.

**1. 401(K) PLAN:** An employer-sponsored retirement account allowing pre-tax contributions and tax-deferred growth. **Risk Level:** Varies (usually Medium depending on allocation) **Retirement Phase:** All **Income vs. Growth:** Balanced **How to Start:** Enroll through your employer; select from the plan's investment menu.

**2. ROTH 401(K):** Employer-sponsored plan using after-tax contributions, with tax-free withdrawals in retirement. **Risk Level:** Varies (Medium to High) **Retirement Phase:** Early to Mid **Income vs. Growth:** Growth **How to Start:** Enroll through your employer if offered; allocate funds and choose investments.

**3. TRADITIONAL IRA:** Individual retirement account that allows pre-tax contributions with tax-deferred growth until withdrawal. **Risk Level:** Varies (Medium) **Retirement Phase:** All **Income vs. Growth:** Balanced **How to Start:** Open with a brokerage or bank; fund and choose investments.

**4. ROTH IRA:** Individual retirement account with after-tax contributions and tax-free withdrawals in retirement. **Risk Level:** Varies (Medium to High) **Retirement Phase:** Early to Mid **Income vs. Growth:** Growth **How to Start:** Open at a brokerage; fund up to the annual limit and choose investments.

**5. SEP IRA:** Retirement account for self-employed individuals or small business owners with higher contribution limits. **Risk Level:** Varies (Medium) **Retirement Phase:** Early to Mid **Income vs. Growth:** Balanced **How to Start:** Open through a financial institution; contribute and invest based on earnings.

**6. SIMPLE IRA:** Plan for small businesses and their employees allowing both employer and employee contributions. **Risk Level:** Varies (Medium) **Retirement Phase:** Early to Mid **Income vs. Growth:** Balanced **How to Start:** Set up by employer; contribute from paycheck and select investments.

## 7. HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT

**(HSA):** Tax-advantaged account for medical expenses; funds roll over and can be used in retirement. **Risk Level:** Varies (Low to Medium if invested) **Retirement Phase:** Early to Mid (usable in Late) **Income vs. Growth:** Growth **How to Start:** Must be enrolled in a high-deductible health plan (HDHP); open HSA with a provider and choose investments.

## 8. TAXABLE BROKERAGE AC-

**COUNT:** Standard investment account without retirement-specific tax benefits; flexible withdrawals. **Risk Level:** Varies (Low to High depending on investments) **Retirement Phase:** All **Income vs. Growth:** Balanced **How to Start:** Open with a brokerage and invest in stocks, bonds, ETFs, etc.

## 9. TARGET-DATE FUNDS:

Mutual funds that automatically adjust asset mix based on your expected retirement date. **Risk Level:** Medium (reduces over time) **Retirement Phase:** All **Income vs. Growth:** Balanced **How to Start:** Select fund based on your retirement year via your 401(k), IRA, or brokerage.

## 10. INDEX FUNDS:

Low-cost mutual or exchange-traded funds that track market indexes like the S&P 500. **Risk Level:** Medium **Retirement Phase:** Early to Mid **Income vs. Growth:** Growth **How to Start:** Buy through a brokerage or retirement account.

## 11. EXCHANGE-TRADED FUNDS

**(ETFs):** Funds traded on stock exchanges that provide diversified exposure to various asset classes. **Risk Level:** Varies (Low to High) **Retirement Phase:** All **Income vs. Growth:** Balanced **How to Start:** Purchase through a brokerage account.

## 12. MUTUAL FUNDS:

Professionally managed portfolios of stocks, bonds, or other assets. **Risk Level:** Varies (Low to High) **Retirement Phase:** All **Income vs. Growth:** Balanced **How to Start:** Buy through IRAs, 401(k)s, or investment accounts.

## 13. REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT

**TRUSTS (REITS):** Companies that own income-generating real estate, offering high dividends. **Risk Level:** Medium to High **Retirement Phase:** Mid to Late **Income vs. Growth:** Income **How to Start:** Purchase via ETFs, mutual funds, or directly through brokerages.

**14. ANNUITIES:** Insurance products that offer a steady stream of income in retirement, often guaranteed. **Risk Level:** Low to Medium (varies by type: fixed, variable, indexed) **Retirement Phase:** Late **Income vs. Growth:** Income **How to Start:** Buy through an insurance provider or financial advisor.

## 15. TREASURY SECURITIES (T-BILLS,

**NOTES, BONDS):** U.S. government-backed debt instruments with fixed interest payments. **Risk Level:** Low **Retirement Phase:** Mid to Late **Income vs. Growth:** Income **How to Start:** Purchase through TreasuryDirect.gov or a brokerage.

## 16. CORPORATE BONDS:

Debt securities issued by companies to raise capital; they pay periodic interest. **Risk Level:** Medium **Retirement Phase:** Mid to Late **Income vs. Growth:** Income **How to Start:** Buy through a brokerage.

## 17. CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

**(CDS):** Time deposits from banks with fixed interest rates and maturity periods. **Risk Level:** Low **Retirement Phase:** Late **Income vs. Growth:** Income **How to Start:** Open at banks or purchase online through brokerage platforms.

## 18. STABLE VALUE FUNDS:

Low-volatility investment option available in some retirement plans, focused on capital preservation. **Risk Level:** Low **Retirement Phase:** Mid to Late **Income vs. Growth:** Income **How to Start:** Allocate funds within your 401(k) or similar plan.

## 19. GOLD OR PRECIOUS METALS:

Alternative investment often used to hedge against inflation or economic downturns. **Risk Level:** High **Retirement Phase:** Early to Mid **Income vs. Growth:** Growth / Hedge **How to Start:** Buy via ETFs, gold IRAs, or physical bullion dealers.

## 20. TIPS (TREASURY INFLATION-PROTECTED SECURITIES):

Government bonds indexed to inflation, protecting purchasing power. **Risk Level:** Low **Retirement Phase:** Mid to Late **Income vs. Growth:** Income / Inflation Protection **How to Start:** Buy through TreasuryDirect.gov or a brokerage account.

## NOW, MARRY THESE INVESTMENTS VEHICLES TO A SMART ESTATE STRATEGY. HERE ARE 15 ESTATE PLANNING TIPS:

**1. Create a Will:** Clearly state how you want your assets distributed and who will care for any minor children. Keep it updated as life circumstances change. **2. Establish a Revocable Living Trust:** Helps avoid probate and keeps your affairs private. Allows for easier asset management during incapacity. **3. Name Beneficiaries on All Accounts:** Designate beneficiaries for retirement accounts, life insurance, and brokerage accounts. Use “transfer on death” or “payable on death” designations where possible. **4. Appoint a Durable Power of Attorney:** Allows someone to manage your finances if you become incapacitated. Choose someone trustworthy and financially responsible. **5. Create a Health Care Proxy / Advance Medical Directive:** Specify who will make medical decisions if you’re unable to. Outline your preferences for life-sustaining treatment. **6. Review and Update Your Plan Regularly:** Life changes like marriage, divorce, birth, or death require updates to your plan. Review every 3–5 years even if nothing major has changed. **7. Minimize Estate Taxes:** Use strategies such as lifetime gift exemptions and charitable donations. Consider irrevocable trusts to move assets out of your taxable estate. **8. Plan for Digital Assets:** Include instructions and access information for email, social media, online banking, etc. Consider naming a digital executor. **9. Consider Long-Term Care Planning:** Look into long-term care insurance or Medicaid planning strategies. Protect assets from being drained by healthcare costs. **10. Include Business Succession Planning (if applicable):** Outline how your business will be transferred or sold. Prevent disputes among partners or heirs. **11. Consolidate and Organize Important Documents:** Keep all estate documents, insurance policies, deeds, and account statements in a secure, accessible place. Inform your executor and family where to find them. **12. Use Trusts Strategically:** For minor beneficiaries or those with special needs, trusts can protect assets and provide for ongoing care. Generation-skipping trusts can benefit grandchildren and reduce estate taxes. **13. Avoid Probate Where Possible:** Probate can be time-consuming and expensive. Use beneficiary designations, joint ownership, and trusts to bypass it. **14. Communicate Your Plans:** Let your family know your general wishes to avoid confusion and conflict. Keep your executor and healthcare proxy informed of their roles. **15. Work with Professionals:** Hire an estate planning attorney, financial advisor, and tax expert. DIY estate planning can be risky or incomplete if your situation is complex.

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### Move Your Body: Strengthen Your Health

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### Move Your Mind: Stay Sharp and Curious

Healthy aging isn't just physical — it's intellectual too. Londonderry offers abundant opportunities for residents to stimulate their minds through lectures, art classes, book clubs, and community events. Lifelong learning is encouraged and celebrated, keeping residents engaged and connected to the world around them.

### Move Your Spirit: Find Meaning and Joy

Emotional wellness is equally important. At Londonderry, residents find renewed purpose, meaningful friendships, and countless ways to connect with others — and themselves. Whether it's sharing stories over dinner, volunteering locally, or simply soaking in the view with a neighbor, every moment contributes to a full and joyful life.

"Since moving to Londonderry, I feel more energized than I have in years," said resident Helen Pritchett. "The friendships I've made, the activities I enjoy, even just walking by the water — it all moves me in ways I never expected."

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# Home & Garden

60 CHESAPEAKE'S ULTIMATE OUTDOOR FEAST

66 NEWLY SOLD IN "NEW HAMPTONS"

68 TOP OF THE LINE & ON THE WATER

Picture  
Perfect

PG. 62





# Chesapeake's Ultimate Outdoor Feast

By Lisa J. Gotto

**N**o doubt, the Chesapeake's most notable summer party is a cracking-good time that's as old as the Bay! Now that summer crab-feasting time is in full-swing, you'll want to set a festive tabletop that is both pretty and practical. Along those lines, we've cooked up some inspiration with a subtle spirit of Americana!

## Start smart

Let's face it, crab-cracking is a down-right messy endeavor on the best of days, so it pays to prepare with a proper, no-fuss table-topper. Honor tradition and lean into the theme of the day with this **Luuu Crab Kraft Paper Roll** from Bulk Party Supplies. This will provide an excellent base from which to build the rest of your table scheme.

## A PLAN & A SCHEME

At the center of it all, these **11.5-inch ceramic serving platters** from The Royal Standard will not only come in handy for delivering those steaming crustaceans to your guests, but they'll help you create a functional and attractive centerpiece by lining three- to four of them up along the length of your table. Wind groupings of **crystal blue votives** like these from Darjen in between for a casual, but attractive and low-profile party centerpiece.



## TO EACH HIS OWN

Set each place with a **sensible dinner plate**—after all, there will be cornbread and corn on the cob, too! We loved these stylish melamine plates from The Company Store for their practicality and simplicity. They will be the perfect base on which to top all the tools of the crab-picking trade that each person will need. These are served up in a **classic, pewter bucket** from Salisbury that you can use time and again at future seasonal feasts.





### The paired pint

Wash down those butter and Old Bay-infused morsels of crab claw meat with a local IPA served up in timeless **pint glass emblazoned with a handsome pewter crab**. This one from Salisbury sets the standard for quality and classic appeal. Pair your pint with a nearby **crab dip bowl** from Birch Lane to keep your warmed butter or additional condiments conveniently within reach.

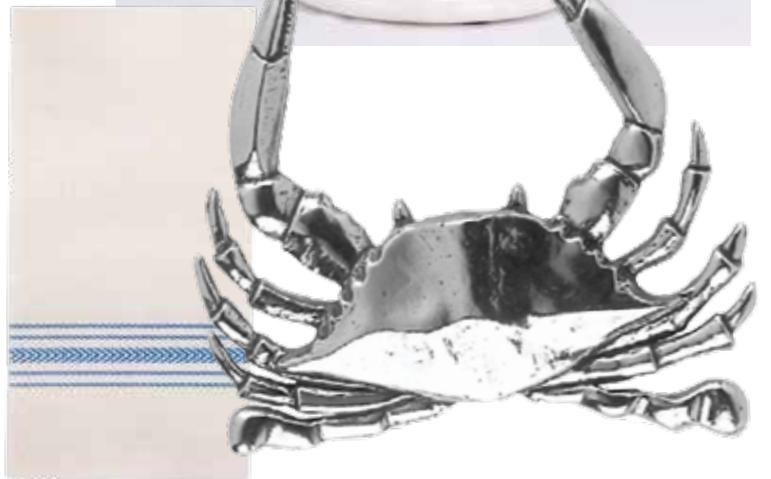
### WICKER WARMER

Speaking of cornbread, bring yours to the table in this sturdy, **handmade wicker bowl** by Camden. This White Wash version of the bowl will make a great addition to the tabletop when dressed with this **Chesapeake Crab flour sack towel** by The Royal Standard. The towel will help keep your bread warm and the wicker will lend tone, texture, and balance to your melamine and pewter scheme.



### KEEPING IT CLASSY

Address the mess as you go with an abundance of these **stylish and smart Hoffmaster Fashion Point, white and blue dishtowel-patterned paper napkins**. While they're larger and fluffier than most, you may still need to secure them to the table when our ubiquitous Bay breezes blow. So, we added these **pewter crab napkin weights** by Salisbury to the table for good measure.



# Picture Perfect!

## CAPTURING YOUR GARDEN'S GIFTS

By Janice F. Booth

**O**ur summer gardens are really showing off for us now, at this midpoint in the year. All the planning and hard work are bearing fruit—literally. You have every reason to be proud of your garden's beauty. And yes, I suspect, like me, you're also identifying flaws and weaknesses that your attentive gaze recognizes. But consider: There's another way to "look at it."

Let me suggest setting down your garden tools and picking up your camera or smartphone. Now's a great time to take some pictures!

"Why?" you ask. Well, there are several reasons to plan some summer photo shoots. Let's review some of the (1) uses you might have for garden photographs and (2) tips and tricks for taking great garden photos.



**You ought 'a be in pictures...There are lots of reasons for spending time taking photos of your garden and the gardens of others as well:**

A **fresh viewpoint** to observe both the familiar and the overlooked beauty in your garden. Looking at a picture often gives a fresh viewpoint. Plants, both welcome and uninvited, can be noted. Your perspective changes when you see your shrubs and trees in a photo.

A **diary** of the growth and expansion of particular plants and trees—throughout the year and over the years. On your computer create a folder for each area or special planting in your garden. Save this season's dated photos of each area, then you can add future photos. You may even locate some photos taken in the past of that lovely magnolia or the flowerbed you redid 2 years ago.

A **reminder** of work that needs to be done. Note the plants that need to be moved or trimmed or receive first aid at some future date—a visual "To Do" list.

A **source of beauty & gifts** to use as notecards, greeting cards, and other original creations. If you take photos of your neighbor or friend's garden, you have resources for gifts—notecards with pictures of his garden or a t-shirt printed with her garden's fountain and pergola.

You may come up with other uses for these photos. But one thing I've found, it is great fun to plan and execute these "portrait sessions" of your garden.

**Ready, Set, Shoot!...Which brings us to a review of garden photography with some bonus tricks and tips. Here are some pointers beyond the “point-and-shoot” variety of photos:**

### **LOCATION & COMPOSITION:**

- ◆ Make some notes on which areas you want to photograph.
- ◆ Consider the best angles and locations for photographing each area. (If you’re doing the photos of a friend or neighbor’s garden, ask about their favorite areas.)
- ◆ Decide on the preferred size: portrait (vertical photo) or landscape (horizontal pic).
- ◆ Does the area to be photographed demand a “big picture” or a “focused closeup”?

### **LIGHTING:**

- ◆ For outdoor plant photography *avoid* taking photos in the middle of the day. Images often appear washed out. For indoor plant photography, you may need to add light.
- ◆ Golden & Blue Hours: The “*golden hours*” are sunrise and sunset when the light is kind. The period when a cloudless sky becomes a dark blue is called the “*blue hour*,” a good time for photos when the house is lit inside and porch lights turned on creating a soft glow.
- ◆ Overcast skies are good: Diffused light works well for cooler colored flowers or plants creating richer colors. Be aware of what lurks in the background, and experiment with ‘Portrait’ Mode to blur the background.

### **SETUP:**

- ◆ Vary the viewpoints—from above, side, or below. Choose the best flowers for your focus. You may want to clean off insects and debris from leaves and around the base of the plants in the picture. Bring a spray bottle for “instant dew.” The droplets add freshness to the image.
- ◆ Look at the image you’re about to photograph from top-to-bottom and side-to-side. What’s in the corners of the picture?
- ◆ Avoid distractions in the picture unless that’s where you want the viewer to look—a favorite pet resting in the begonia bed, a bright Cardinal perched in the poplar tree.
- ◆ You may want to have a tripod handy—a small one allows you to steady the image and setup a picture from ground level looking up, a fresh viewpoint for most of us.



**SEQUENTIAL** photos: You may want to note your locations and return in a month or two, or every few weeks and take another photo of the same area. You’ll discover some interesting developments as you review the sequence of pictures.

Don’t forget **TEXTURE**. The veins of the leaves, the pebbles at the edge of the flowerbed, the fuzzy petals of the flower can all add to the beauty.

**Once you’ve gotten a satisfactory number of photos of each garden or portion of garden,**

**DISCARD, EDIT, and ORGANIZE** your photos. If you wait, you’ll forget what you were going for—beauty, growth, problem areas. Move those photos that make the cut into the garden folders you created. If you’re using a smartphone, you will automatically have the date of the photo, and you can add a note as well. When winter comes you can go back to the folders and enjoy revisiting the splendor of your summer garden.

You may find yourself sending photos of your garden to friends in your emails, or you might add a favorite image of your garden to your social media posts. Added bonuses after all your planning and efforts.

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# Newly Sold in “New Hamptons”

By Lisa J. Gotto

**T**his remarkable waterfront estate is ideally located between the quintessential towns of Easton and St. Michaels. Rumored to be the “New Hamptons” of the Chesapeake, the location of this stately residence is enviable and convenient to both D.C., Baltimore, and Philadelphia commuters.

Built in 2004 with a sturdy and stately light brick exterior, this 8,400-square-foot home and adjacent guest house provides the perfect water-side backdrop for epic family gatherings.

**Primary Structure Built:** 2004

**Sold For:** \$4,200,000

**Original List Price:** \$4,400,000

**Bedrooms:** 5

**Baths:** 6  
Full, 2 Half

**Living Space:** 8,453 Sq. Ft

**Lot Size:** 5.32 acres

Inside, a gracious foyer with inlaid wood ceiling detail and dark wood floors transitions to a large living area with light, wide-plank pine floors, a classic fireplace with red-brick surround, and outstanding views to the waterfront.

This space, when joined with the adjacent formal dining room, was designed with large-scale entertaining in mind. The dining room also offers amazing water views and is made cozy with its coffered ceiling overhead and an additional white-washed brick fireplace.



**Listing Agent:** Robert Lacaze, TTR | Sotheby's International Realty, 400 S. Talbot St., St. Michaels, m. 410-310-7835, o. 410-745-2596, rlacaze@ttrsir.com, sothebysrealty.com **Buyers' Agent:** Cynthia Brown, Benson & Mangold Real Estate, 220 S. Morris St., Oxford, m. 410-476-7493, o. 410-226-0111, cindybrowne711@gmail.com, bensonandmangold.com

The adjacent farmhouse-style kitchen offers modern amenities in its integrated refrigerator, its stainless-steel double ovens, charming island with its base of wainscoting, cooktop, and break-fast bar seating for four.

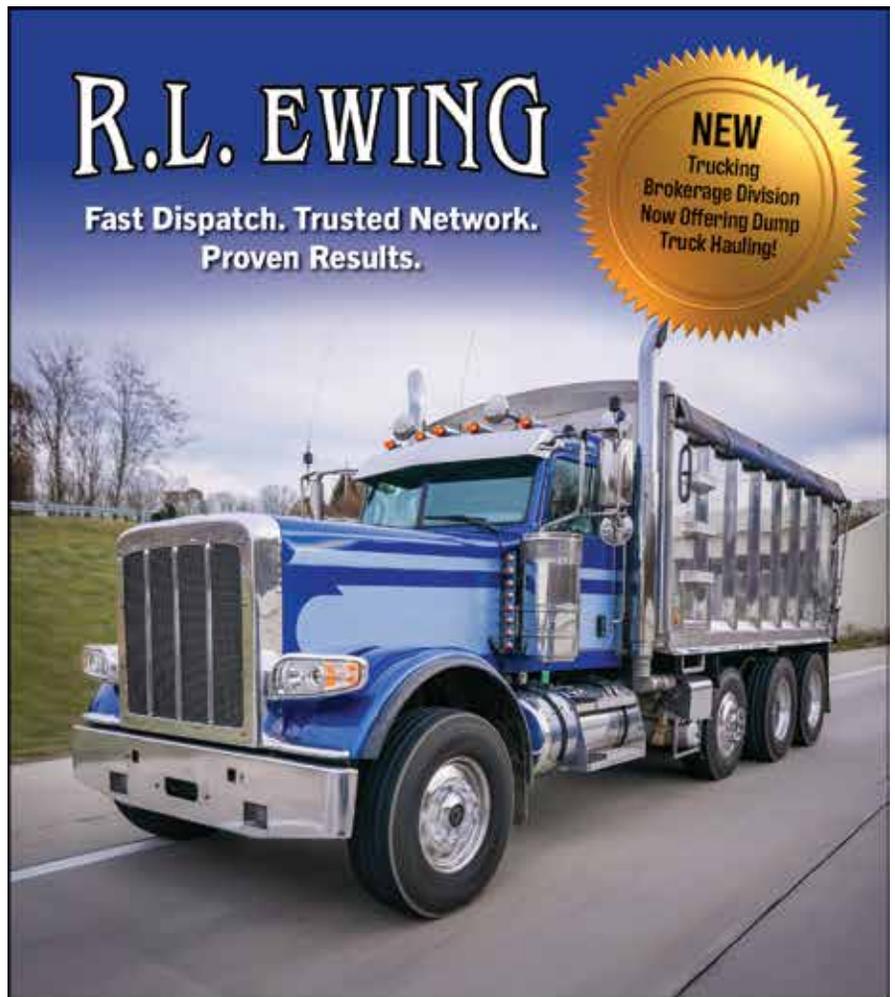
The main level of the home also has a spacious home office with a floor-to-ceiling brick fireplace, separate seating area, and like the living and dining room, offers access to the property's extensive covered patio space.

A main level primary suite is sunny and bright, and large enough to create a separate seating area. Its *en suite* bath offers a jetted soaking tub, a huge, walk-in shower with luxe tile treatment, and a pretty, granite-topped vanity.

The family has room to grow in this home with its three additional bedrooms, and there's a large recreation room located on the residence's upper level to keep everyone entertained.

This property also offers the best in guest quarters with its own cozy guest house. This sweet cottage offers its own lounging deck, a huge open-plan kitchen and living area with a gorgeous, herringbone pattern brick floor. A rustic, floor-to-ceiling brick fireplace makes this one bedroom, one bath cottage great accommodations when guests come to stay.

And while on the property they will enjoy outdoor amenities including a lovely, waterside pool and pool house, a fire pit, a sandy beach shoreline for kayaking and fishing, a large dock with deep-water slips, boat and jet ski lifts, and six feet of MLW, making staying and playing the ultimate no-brainer.



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# Top of the Line & On The Water

By Lisa J. Gotto

**A** slice of the Chesapeake dream is found in this three-bed, three-bath luxury condo in Chester.

Great water views are the order of the day, every day for the new owners of this 2,600-square-foot fully loaded condo.

Get used to endless views of water and native sea grasses from the balcony of this end unit and model home with its open-plan kitchen, dining,

**Primary Structure Built:** 2024

**Sold For:** \$824,900

**Original List Price:** \$950,000

**Bedrooms:** 3

**Baths:** 2 Full, 1 Half

**Living Space:** 2,600 Sq. Ft.

and living space. A smart layout and design bring a spacious air to this turn-key home. A lovely, entry hall with almond-colored hardwood floors convey guests to the home's main living with its sparkling new, all-white modern kitchen.

A convenient and attractive white, stone-topped island with sink and breakfast seating for three makes great use of this sun-filled space lined with numerous windows dressed in white Bermuda shutters. A shimmering backsplash of

subway tiles provides the perfect complement to the room's stainless-steel appliances and posh range hood.

This space transitions easily to the roomy dining area that is highlighted with a fabulous chandelier and then into the living space with its cozy, inset gas fireplace wall. Large windows with Bermuda shutters continue throughout this space flooding it with abundant natural light.



**Listing Agent:** Jimmy White, Long & Foster Real Estate, 202 Thompson Creek Mall, Stevensville, m. 410-320-3647, o. 410-643-2244, jimmy.white@longandfoster.com, longandfoster.com **Buyers' Agent:** Alex Tower Sears, TTR | Sotheby's International Realty, 209 Main St., Annapolis, m. 443-254-5661, o. 410-280-5600, alextowersears@gmail.com, ttrsir.com

This happy vibe flows through the extended patio door wall to reveal the charming outdoor seating area. This is what condo living is all about. The views from this space are just outstanding, and the patio was also designed to allow access to the condo's spacious primary suite. This room is also light and bright and offers a luxurious *en suite* bath with dual vanity, a large, glass-paneled shower, and neutral ceramic tile floor.

There are two additional roomy bedrooms in this property that share a lovely bath, as well as separate in-unit laundry facilities, and an entry hall powder room.

This condo is part of the larger, Four Seasons 55-plus community along the Chester River and offers a plethora of amenities, including a luxurious clubhouse, pickle ball courts, amphitheater, indoor and outdoor pools, walking paths, and much more—a totally fuss-free adventure and Chesapeake dream for the taking.

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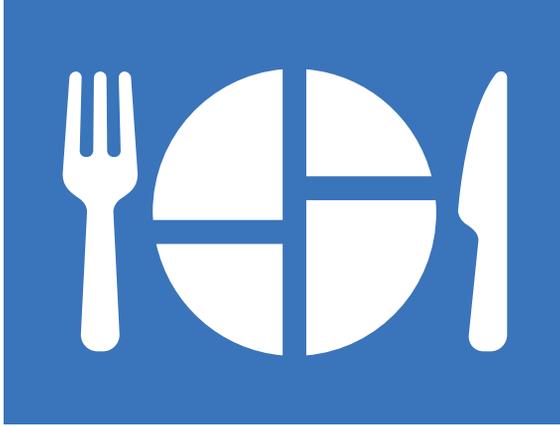
# Health & Beauty

72 SOME BENEFIT TO GOING BLUE?

5 Tips for  
Summer  
Skincare

PG. 74





## Some Benefit to Going Blue?

**THE IDEA OF A BLUE ZONE DIET COULD BE THE ANSWER TO LONGEVITY, BUT DON'T LET YOURSELF BE BOUND TO IT**

By Dylan Roche

**B**lue Zone.” It’s not exactly an official term for any region of the world. But there’s still a reason you might want to pay attention to these geographic areas. Blue Zones were identified and labeled by researcher Dan Buettner with *National Geographic* and the National Institute on Aging, who noticed five cities with the largest percentage of centenarians—that is, people who live to age 100.

The areas in question? Loma Linda, California; Nicoya, Costa Rica; Ikaria, Greece; Sardinia, Italy; and Okinawa, Japan. What Buettner noticed when he studied the lifestyles of people in these Blue Zones was that they had eating habits with many similar qualities. They ate mostly plant-based diets with minimal amounts of animal protein, consumed healthy fats like olive oil and nuts, consumed alcohol in moderation, prioritized whole foods while avoiding ultra-processed ones, and practiced good portion control.

All of that might sound like solid nutritional advice. But Dr. Taylor Wallace, CEO of Think Healthy Group, isn’t necessarily convinced. “I’m not certain why so many people like it,” he says of the Blue Zone Diet trend. “Studies show people don’t do well with eliminating food groups in the long-term... There is definitely strong evidence that fruits and vegetables can improve longevity and prevent the development of chronic disease. I’m not sure that there is great data on the Blue Zone Diet in particular, but components of the diet... do have good evidence to support their role in long-term health and longevity.”

As Wallace points out, components of the diet—fruits, vegetables, legumes, and fish—are frequently noted as nutrient-dense foods. But eating like people from Blue Zones isn’t a magic solution. There are other factors, such as higher levels of physical activity and stronger social support from communities, that can contribute to longevity in certain cultures.

He also points out that there are shortcomings to the diet. A plant-based focus is good for increasing your consumption of fruits and vegetables, but that doesn’t mean meat and dairy need to be avoided. Sure, he says, it’s okay to give up cheeseburgers and ice cream, but lean meats and low-fat or nonfat dairy products are good sources of protein and other vital nutrients.

“As someone who has done a lot in the protein research space, I can tell you that not getting enough protein and dairy can have repercussions on musculoskeletal health, which is super important as we age,” Wallace says. “We are also about to publish new data that show that low dietary choline, predominantly found in animal-derived foods and seafood, intake can also put you at increased risk for cognitive decline later in life.”

It’s also worth noting that there’s no formal studies on the benefits of Blue Zone Diets beyond Buettner’s observations. However, there have been studies that show components of the diet, such as increased intake of plant-based foods, reduced emphasis on meat, limited processed foods, and limited added sugars can all stave off chronic disease. The healthy aspects of the Blue Zone Diets are seen in other lauded diets as well, such as the Mediterranean Diet or the American Institute for Cancer Research’s New American Plate.

What is Dr. Wallace’s advice? He recommends, “It’s always smart to have a balanced diet (and take a multivitamin).”

**BUT IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO LIVE LIKE PEOPLE IN THE BLUE ZONES OR ADOPT SOME OF THEIR HEALTHY HABITS, HERE ARE SOME DIETARY TIPS YOU COULD CONSIDER:**

1. Build each meal around plant-based foods. You don't have to give up meat and dairy, but you should focus on vegetables and fruits primarily.
2. Be moderate in the animal products you consume by decreasing your portions and looking at foods like meat and dairy as a garnish rather than a protein source.
3. Replace refined grain products with whole grains. Whole-wheat bread, as well as brown rice, oats, and barley, will provide steadier energy than their white counterparts.
4. Enjoy a serving of legumes like beans, peas, or lentils every day for protein and fiber.
5. Consume healthy fats from olive oil or nuts and seeds.
6. Alcohol isn't off limits, but you should have it in moderation. Wine, particularly red wine, is typically drunk with meals in places like Sardinia and Ikaria. Limit yourself to one glass.
7. Limit foods that are highly processed or made with artificial ingredients. Refined sugars and trans fats are linked to risk of disease.
8. It's not just what you eat but how much. Portion control can aid in energy levels and overall weight management. People in Okinawa observe a cultural practice known as *hara hachi bu*—the idea is to stop eating when you feel 80 percent full. Satiety is about being not hungry rather than stuffed.
9. Let dessert be something you have on special occasions rather than a daily treat.
10. Drink primarily water along with unsweetened tea and coffee but avoid high-sugar drinks like soda.
11. Engage in physical activity every day, throughout the day. If you have the option, walk to do some of your errands, or take up an active hobby such as hiking or cycling.
12. Take time to relax and reduce stress every day through stretching, meditating, praying, or deep breathing exercises.



# 5 Tips for Summer Skincare

By Dylan Roche

**W**hen summer arrives, bringing heat and humidity with it, you might feel as if the last thing you want to do is lather up your face with moisturizer. After all, it's just going to feel heavy and greasy, isn't it? But just because it's summertime doesn't mean you should neglect your skin, especially when you need to consider sun protection during this season more than any other. Instead, you should rethink your skincare routine with these five tips:



## 1. Prioritize sunscreen.

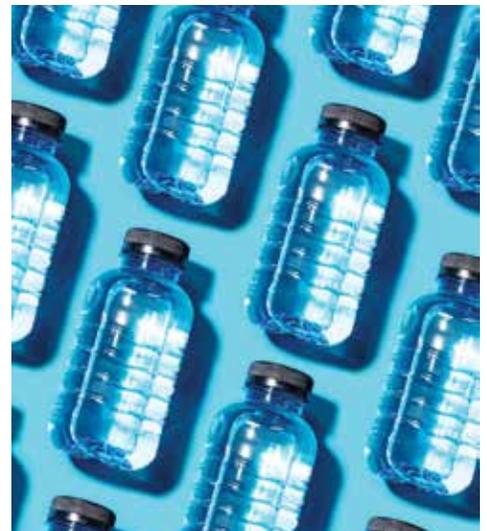
Ideally, you should be using sunscreen all year long. The sun's rays can still be harmful throughout the winter, but summer means you're likely spending a lot more time outdoors at a time when the UV rays are strongest. Opt for daily sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or greater and be sure to reapply every two hours.

**2. A lighter moisturizer is okay.** In fact, it's more than okay—it's probably better. In heat and humidity, you don't need the thick products you use in the winter to create a barrier and lock in your skin's moisture. A moisturizer that's too rich can cause milia, those tiny white cysts on your skin's surface. Instead, choose a moisturizer containing hyaluronic acid, which keeps your skin hydrated without feeling heavy.



**3. Use toner to freshen up.** Ever feel as if a hot summer day has just left you feeling gross? It's normal. But don't be so quick to give your face a thorough wash more than your usual twice-daily routine. You might already use a good toner for maintaining your skin's pH while prepping it to absorb any skincare products you apply, but toner is especially good in the summertime because it can refresh your skin when you've been sweating or enjoying the outdoors, but it does so without irritating your skin or stripping away moisture the way frequent washing would.

**4. Stay hydrated.** You can't have hydrated skin if you're...well, dehydrated. Drinking plenty of water is important for overall good health, especially in the summer when you're exposed to the heat. That extends to your skin, as staying hydrated saves your skin from drying out and keeps it looking fresh and supple.



**5. Wear less makeup.** Cutting back on the makeup you wear, especially if you typically wear heavy foundation, gives your skin a chance to breathe and relieves your skin of excess oil. Instead, consider using a tinted moisturizer instead, which isn't as heavy or as irritating but will still give your skin the consistency you seek from makeup.

# Food & Dining

76 FUEL UP AT THE SHORE HOUSE

Shore Side  
Chicken at  
Rams Head  
Shore House



# Fuel Up at the Shore House

By Lisa A. Lewis

**L**ocated in Stevensville, Rams Head Shore House takes pride in offering delicious food, flavorful beers, live music, and friendly service. The restaurant, which opened in 2006, is part of Rams Head Group, a family-owned and operated restaurant and entertainment company founded in 1989. Other Rams Head restaurant locations in Maryland include Annapolis, Crownsville, and Glen Burnie. Although the four locations are unique, they all exude a lively atmosphere where guests feel at home.

“Rams Head Shore House is a festive local tavern, offering a full menu for dining along with live music and entertainment throughout the week,” says General Manager Jason Rasmussen. “It’s a true reflection of Eastern Shore hospitality and local flavor. From Chesapeake-inspired dishes to the warm, family-friendly atmosphere, a visit to the Shore House is a great way to experience the unique charm of Kent Island.”

To learn more, we recently talked to Jason.

**“A VISIT TO THE SHORE HOUSE IS A GREAT WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE UNIQUE CHARM OF KENT ISLAND.”**



## RAMS HEAD SHORE HOUSE

800 Main Street, Stevensville; 410-643-2466; ramsheadshorehouse.com

**What makes Rams Head Shore House different from other Rams Head locations?** The Shore House offers two different dining

options for our guests: a cozy dining room—perfect for relaxed, intimate meals—and a casual tavern—ideal for laid-back gatherings or a delicious lunch or dinner. We serve breakfast seven days a week. Watermen can fuel up after a morning on the Bay, and nine-to-fivers can grab a quick bite before work. On the weekends, we welcome families as well as friends gathering to celebrate with our popular make-your-own bottomless Bloody Mary and mimosa bar.

**Tell us about your background in the restaurant business.** I’ve been in the restaurant business since the late 1990s, starting at Phillips Seafood in Annapolis as a server. Next, I moved into management, opening Greystone Grill on Westgate Circle. Other noteworthy stops along the way included Boathouse Canton, where I operated a 350-seat restaurant on the water; Mad Chef in Turf Valley, where we experienced critical acclaim for our culinary accomplishments; and Bluejacket Brewery in Washington, D.C., where we handled a very high volume of business, including the 2019 World Series.

**What are some of your top-selling dishes?** Some of our top-selling dishes include fish and chips, wings, and cheesesteaks. Our fan-favorite Dynamite Burger starts with an eight-ounce blackened Angus beef burger and is topped with lettuce, tomato, chipotle aioli, and American cheese. What makes this dish unique is our house-made candied cayenne bacon and the fried jalapeño on top! Chesapeake Rockfish is one of our most popular dishes, paying homage to the



rich flavors of the region. Served with rice pilaf, roasted corn salsa, Old Bay, and grilled asparagus, this combination offers a perfect and pleasantly surprising complement to the rockfish filet.

**Do you source your ingredients locally?** We purchase many of our products locally. All of our beef, including filet tips, ribeye, and burgers, are sourced from J.W. Treuth, a premier purveyor of fine meats established more than 100 years ago in Catonsville. We also buy from Teddy Bear Fresh Produce (Easton) and E. Goodwin & Sons (Jessup).

**Tell us about your large selection of beers.** We serve beers from Fordham & Dominion Brewing Company, which brews four staple beers for us, including Copperhead Ale and Gypsy Lager (30-plus year-old recipes), Rams Head IPA, and Big Horn Pale Ale, as well as a rotating seasonal that is released during a “Beer Release Party,” where guests can take home a commemorative glass. We also recently partnered with Heavy Seas Brewery.

**What type of musical entertainment and special events does the Shore House offer?** We provide live music on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights and trivia on Thursdays. Our trivia night is one of the most popular in the area. It’s always well attended and features great prizes. The Shore House has always hosted premier local musicians, many of whom have gone on to record albums and tour nationally. We also frequently host private events.

**How would you describe the ambiance at the Shore House?** The ambiance changes with the seasons, offering something special year-round. In the winter, guests can start their day with a warm breakfast in our cozy dining room. As spring and summer arrive, cold drinks provide a refreshing escape from the heat. The Shore House offers a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere by day and a vibrant, energetic nightlife with local live music once the sun goes down.

**What is the most rewarding part of working at Rams Head Shore House?** We’re more than just a team. We’re a family that’s deeply connected to the community. One of the ways we give back is through our regular “Give Back Nights,” where we donate 20 percent of food sales to the host organization of the evening. There’s something truly meaningful about serving people you know and care about.





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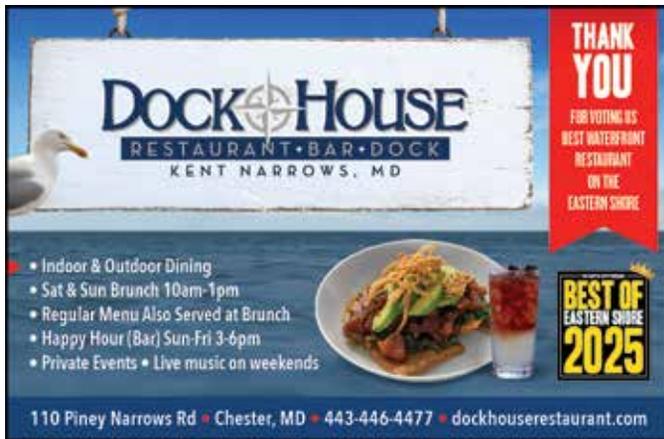
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