

The Home Edition

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Virginia Counties: Lancaster County, Virginia

By Elaine VonCannon

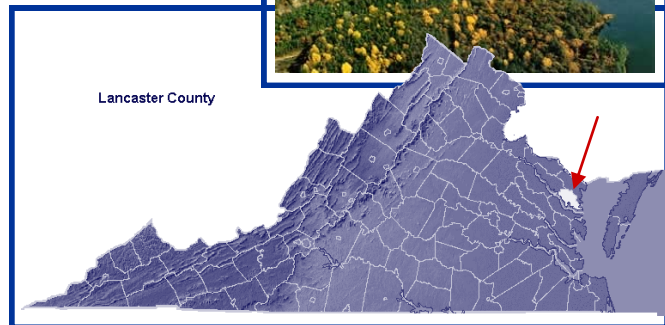
A Place in American History: Lancaster County Virginia

Lancaster County Virginia was established in 1651, and was originally part of Northumberland and York Counties. The County is bordered on one side by the mouth of the Rappahannock River and on the other by the Chesapeake Bay. Captain John Smith journeyed to Lancaster County by boat in the early 1600s and landed there to replenish supplies. The County has many historic estates, waterfront estates, farms, and farmettes, some which date to the Colonial or Civil War era.



Famous Americans from Lancaster County, Virginia

Mary Ball Washington was born in Lancaster County, Virginia. She was born eight miles from the site of the present day Mary Ball Washington Museum in Lancaster, Virginia. The mother of our country later resided in New Kent County, Virginia, and then with the father of our country, George Washington, at Mount Vernon.



Waterfront Estates, Country Estates, and Historic Property, in Lancaster County

For the discriminating homebuyer, with some nostalgia for the past and a yearning for a quieter, simpler life, Lancaster County offers a wide variety of homes for purchase. The home buyer interested in country estates, historic property, farms and farmettes will find Lancaster County is a great place to look. Waterfront homes and/or homes in waterfront communities are beginning to be developed in Lancaster County. Some of these waterfront properties offer docks with deep-water access nearby. Some waterfront communities provide marinas and dry boat docking within the community.

Seafood Restaurants in Lancaster County, Virginia

There are a wide selection of locally owned restaurants in Kilmarnock, Virginia. Cap'n Reds Seafood Market, Rappahannock Seafood Market, Rose's Crab House and Raw Bar, the Dockside Restaurant, and Kelley's Seafood are all excellent choices for the catch of the season. In nearby Irvington, Abbott Brothers, Kellum W. Ellery, and The Tides are great seafood restaurants with fresh local catches.

Historical Landmarks in Lancaster County

Mary Ball Washington Museum was named for the mother of George Washington born in Lancaster Co. Extensive library and genealogical research material dating to 1651. Tour the historic buildings, view exhibits, participate in educational programs and trace family histories. The five building complex includes the Old Jail (1820), Clerk's Office (c. 1797), Lancaster House and Stuart Blakemore Bldg (c.1900). Located in the Lancaster Courthouse Historic District. Fun and educational exhibits are on display covering 350 years of history in Lancaster County. Located across the street from Lancaster Tavern. Christ Church, an Episcopal Church in Lancaster, was first built in 1670. It was redesigned in detailed brickwork and opened in 1735.

Lancaster County Marinas

The avid boater will find many excellent choices for marinas in the areas of Weems and Irvington, and Lacaster. Carter's Cove Marina is in Weems, and they offer a "well protected, deepwater marina with full length finger piers." The brand new boathouse has sewage pump outs for each slip. The Tides Marinas in Irvington is located on Carters Creek, about 9 miles from the Inter Coastal Waterway. The Tides won Best of the Bay by Chesapeake Magazine. In Lancaster, Virginia, sail boaters will find the Yankee Point Sailboat Marina a perfect place to stop and relax with a beverage, do some laundry, use the swimming pool, or relax.

Lancaster County Wineries

White Fences Vineyard and Winery in Irvington Virginia is the place where locals and visitors celebrate the Irvington Stomp each year at



Lancaster, continued from page 1 . . .

harvest time. White Fences Vineyard has a tasting room and a gift shop and is open every day except Tuesday and Wednesday, from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Lancaster County Outdoor Activities

Lancaster County is a flat piece of land surrounded by water on two sides. With the Rappahannock River to the south and west and the Chesapeake Bay to the East, the County offers rural charm near the Bay. Cycling has been popular in the county since the invention of the bicycle, and this remains so even today. Boating, fishing, golf, and hiking are popular activities as well.

Belle Isle State Park

Belle Isle State Park was purchased by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation in 1992. It was purchased by John Bertrand, a Huguenot, in 1692 and was operated as a plantation throughout the 19th Century. Belle Isle State Park just opened 30 new campsites, with electric hookups, in 2007. The Park is situated close to Litwalton and Nuttsville and can be accessed by the free ferry stop by taking 354 or 622. The overnight facilities include the Bel Air Mansion and the Bel Air Guest House.

Lancaster County Proximity to Major Cities

Lancaster County is only one and one half hours from the Washington D.C. metro area, making it the perfect place to retire, relocate, or purchase a second home. The County is also only one hour from Richmond and Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg, all urban areas offering international airports, fine dining, culture, and recreation.

Contemporary Lancaster County on the Chesapeake Bay

There are approximately 12,000 residents in Lancaster County, and the county is situated on 133 miles of land and 98 miles of water. Life in Contemporary Lancaster County Virginia is changing slowly. Between 2000 and 2004 there was a 4% increase in population. Gradually more people are retiring, relocating, or purchasing a second home in this scenic niche of Virginia. Because Lancaster County is close to the Chesapeake Bay, there are numerous waterfront properties available. The gradual development of Belle Isle State Park, the former site of a plantation, also makes Lancaster County appealing to new residents.

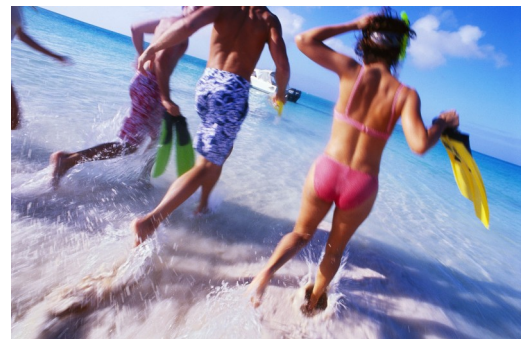
Summer Safety Tips

Summertime is here!!! The kids are off school, adults are on holiday and it's time for outdoor activities and having fun. Keep safety in mind for you and the family at this time and be extra vigilant to help prevent accidents happening.

Always check where your children are playing and if it is safe. 80% of pond drownings happen in the garden of a friend, relative or neighbor, even the shallowest of ponds, can be lethal! If your child is playing near one, a rigid mesh or grille can be used to create a secure cover.

Wear gardening gloves Mundane gardening tasks like planting, digging and mowing can all lead to trouble. Cuts from tools and thorns are among the most common injuries and could be often be prevented by wearing gloves.

Always use a Power Breaker (RCD Residual Current Device) Garden tools can be very dangerous if they are not correctly used. Electrical garden tools should always be used with an RCD, which cuts off the power quickly in the event of an accident. Maintenance must never be carried out while tools are plugged in



Make sure your home play equipment is safe 60% of play equipment injuries are from falls, so having a safe surface is critical. Concrete or packed dirt surfaces are too hard. Use at least 9 inches of wood chips or mulch.

Food Safety Remember, food perishes more quickly in warmer weather, so ensure that all such food is stored in accordance with the manufactures guidance.



Summertime in Hampton Roads

Fairs, Festivals and Events for July and August 2007

2007 Sundays in the Park Beach Music Series Neptune's Park

Catch 31 Fish House & Bar and Beachevents are proud to join together for the 2007 Sundays in the Park Beach Music Series at Neptune's Park at 31st Street. The Series will welcome some of the East Coast's most popular Beach Bands to the Ocean-front and will provide the residents and visitors of Virginia Beach the opportunity to celebrate the popularity and energy of Beach Music on Sundays throughout the summer.

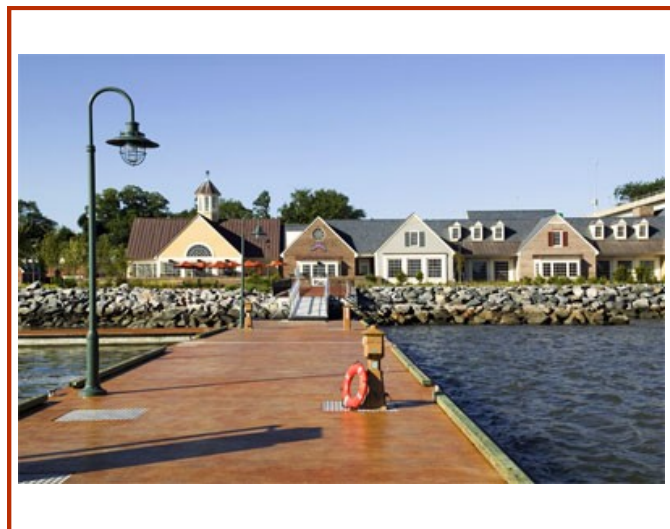
The 2007 Sundays in the Park Beach Music Series kicks off on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13th at 4 p.m. featuring Ammon w/ The Rhondels and will continue on almost every Sunday throughout the summer with a total of 16 scheduled dates

Dog Days of Summer July 15, 2007 First Landing State Park

Enjoy a fun-filled day for you, your family and your four-legged best friend. Take in a demonstration by the Virginia Beach Police canine unit, a dog fashion show, kids' crafts, exhibits and much more. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet while in the park.

Busch Gardens' Summer Nights Concert Series Busch Gardens

Busch Gardens Summer Nights Concert Series has grown in stylistic range and show dates for the 2007 season. In addition to the country and oldies music line-up, Busch Gardens Europe has also added classic rock to the mix. The concert series debuts July 21 and continues every Saturday and Sunday through Sept. 2 for a total of seven weekends of headlining entertainment including Dennis DeYoung on July 21-22, Oak Ridge Boys on July 28-29, Eddie Money on Aug. 4-5, Darryl Worley on Aug. 11-12, Brenda Lee on Aug 25-26, and Chubby Checker on Sept 1-2. The seventh act will be announced at a later date.



Yorktown Market Days at the River Riverwalk Landing

Yorktown Market Days at the River began with a soft opening June 9th with more than 14 vendors and over 200 customers. The York Town Crier rang in the first market located on the banks of the York River between Buckner and Ballard Streets.

Markets continue this summer from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following Saturdays: June 23, July 7 & 21, August 4 & 18, and September 8 & 22.

This free Market features local produce, fresh meat and seafood, baked goods, herbs, specialty cut flowers, live musical entertainment and quality art. Approximately 20 market vendors are scheduled for the June 23rd grand opening event including Carrot Tree, Lowes Arlington Farm, The Gardener s Workshop, Bees n Blossoms, Jamestown Pie Company, A Thyme to Plant, Watermen s Museum, Virginia Blue Crab, Tignor Produce & Nursery, Buzz s World Famous Bloody Mary Mix, Working Dog Bakery, Cyprus Maid Cheeses, Arabesque Soaps, La Bodega Hampton Deli and Belmont Peanuts.

***** If you would like to see all of the properties that have sold in your zip code in the past month, please email me or call me at (757) 564-1557. This is a great way to see how the market is doing in your area, especially if you are considering listing your home for sale in the near future. I am more than happy to offer you this complimentary service, so please let me know if you are interested in receiving this information. *****



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Hot Summer Grilling Tips & Recipes

- (1) Always clean the grilling surface prior to using it. Before placing food on the surface, heat up the grill to kill bacteria. By thoroughly cleaning and removing charred food debris, you reduce the exposure of cancer-causing substances.
- (2) When grilling with charcoal, allow the excess lighter fluid to burn off before you place food on the grill. The coals should be grayish-white in color. You should never squirt starter fluid on smoldering charcoal . . . this can cause an explosion!
- (3) Be sure to thoroughly defrost meat before grilling. If the meat is not completely defrosted, the exterior may char and the interior may remain cold and uncooked.
- (4) Avoid fire flare-ups by using lean meats and trimming away visible fat. Raise the rack to the highest point away from the heat. Keep a squirt bottle filled with water handy to stop fire flare-ups.
- (5) Experiment with meat marinades. They not only enhance the natural flavor of the meat, but they also help tenderize the meat and keep it moist while grilling. Mixtures consisting of wine, vinegar, soy sauce, or lemon juice are popular. Coat the meat with marinade sauce on both sides and sit it in the refrigerator for at least three hours prior to grilling.
- (6) Grilled veggies and fruits always adds pizzazz to your meal! Slice eggplant, squash, bell peppers, tomatoes, mushrooms, onions, mangoes, pineapple, and peaches in to chunks. You can even try potatoes and corn on the cob! Brush them with olive oil seasoned with garlic and other herbs to enhance their flavor. These items grill better if you place them on a foil-covered surface, or eve wrap them in foil.
- (7) Fish tastes great when it is grilled . . . be sure to cook it in foil packets to retain its natural flavor and protect it from smoke and fire.



From Nana's Kitchen Seafood Kabobs

- 12 med. shrimp, shelled with tails on
- 3/4 lb. scallops
- 12 cherry tomatoes
- 1 lg. green bell pepper, cut in 1" pieces
- 1/2 lb. fresh pineapple, cut into sm. wedges
- 1 med. onion, cut into 6 wedges

MARINADE:

- 1/2 c. dry sherry
- 2 tbsp. sesame seed oil
- 1 tbsp. sesame seeds, crushed
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2 tbsp. grated fresh ginger, optional
- 6 cups vegetable stock, recipe follows

Combine all ingredients for the marinade in a bowl, coat shrimp and scallops and let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Keep excess marinade. Thread shell fish and vegetables on 6 skewers alternating pineapple. Broil or grill for 8-10 minutes, turning and brushing with excess marinade. Serve on steamed rice, light and delicious!