



WORD FROM THE WATERFRONT

PRESERVING HISTORY AND GROWING COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 2026

Every Stitch Tells a Story

By Tina Bustos

We are delighted to share a wonderful new addition to the Morattico Waterfront Museum, a beautiful “crazy quilt” from the family of Bryan Johnson, longtime proprietors of the Morattico General Store. At first glance, it is a colorful patchwork of fabrics and intricate stitches. Look a little closer, and the quilt begins to tell a story. The crazy quilt became popular in America during the 1880s. Unlike traditional quilts made from regularly shaped pieces, crazy quilts were assembled from irregular fabric scraps often embellished with decorative embroidery. The style became especially popular during the Victorian era, when quilts might feature luxurious silks, satins, velvets, and elaborate hand stitching. The tradition continued long after its heyday, particularly in rural communities. By the 1930s and 1940s, women were creating quilts from whatever materials were available: pieces of worn clothing, feed sacks, leftover dress fabrics, and household textiles. During the difficult years of the Great Depression and World War II, this kind of resourcefulness was a way of life. For families in Virginia’s Northern Neck, a quilt could be both practical and deeply personal. A scrap of a favorite dress, a child’s outgrown garment, or a bit of treasured fabric could be given new life in a quilt. In this way, the quilt became a kind of family album made of cloth, preserving memories that might otherwise have been forgotten.

Each patch, stitch, and embroidered detail represents time, skill, and perhaps a memory known only to the hands that created it. A bonus is that you can see “Betty Jean” and “Dec 25, 1943” embroidered on the quilt. The

quilt’s connection to the Bryan Johnson family makes it meaningful to Morattico, linking this beautiful piece of needlework to one of the families whose story is woven into the history of our village.



We invite you to take a moment to look closely at the quilt the next time you visit the museum.

If you have any additional information about Betty Jean, please contact Moratticocurator@gmail.com Every stitch has a story. Every scrap has a memory. Together, they tell the story of a family—and our village.

July 4, 2026 at the Museum

Despite the heat, friends of the museum proudly displayed their patriotism by waving Old Glory and riding in the golf cart parade, followed by record-breaking attendance at the picnic.



The golf cart parade was led by our Grand Marshall, Marsell Bustos. Marsell was being honored for his years of contribution to the museum, and his diligence in keeping Morattico cool with ice cream throughout the summer months.



Team Walker decorated the Busto's golf cart à la Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Cart, driven by his lovely daughters with cherries on top!



Luckily for our picnic guests, our volunteers were extraordinary, keeping our guests well-fed and hydrated. Thank you to our grill masters, Oscar Farley and Ronnie Walker, and our bartenders, Shannon and Chad Good. 200 hot dogs and 130 pulled pork sliders were eaten along with chips and sweet treats.



Our new resident and museum member, Jenny Gerkin, jumped in to assist with the children's area, keeping the kids cool and entertained.



Fishing on Riverside Drive

MWM BOD President, David Henley, did not have to tell a tall tale about the one that got away! Check out this whopper he caught (and of course released) at the culvert on Riverside Drive! I would call this bragging rights!



Labor Day Weekend Community Coffee

At the MWM, not only are we preserving the history of our village, but the museum also serves as the hub of our community. When you become a member of the museum, you are helping to protect artifacts from the past for future generations while joining our community. Throughout the year, we offer casual gatherings to socialize with old and new friends.



Museum Members Get Crafty

On August 8th, the museum hosted a craft class at the pavilion, with our local craftswomen displaying their creative side with glass art. Lanterns, wind chimes, and fish sculptures were created for lasting memories.



13th Annual Crab Feast

Under the supervision of MWM Board Member Betty Barrack, the 13th Annual Crab Feast was held on September 12th. Our residents got cracking for an afternoon of succulent crab and homemade sides.



The success at every event sponsored by the museum is thanks to our enthusiastic volunteers. Whether setup, serving, or cleanup, our museum members are the driving force. We appreciate you!



But wait!!!! There's more!!!!

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Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, October 17th 3 – 5 PM

18th Annual Oyster Roast

Buy your tickets now and enjoy an afternoon of roasted oysters, clam chowder, ham biscuits, hush puppies, sweet potato fries, salad, and homemade desserts. Shucks! All this for only \$ 50.00 for adults, \$ 10 for children ages 6 – 12. Beer and wine are available for purchase. For more information, visit our Facebook page or contact Mwmva03@gmail.com or call 804-761-6213.



Sunday, November 1

Museum Closes for the Season

Saturday, November 28th Time TBD

Bring your friends, family, and pets to take a **holiday photograph** at the museum. The museum will be festive, the wassail will be flowing, and the retail area will be open for holiday shopping!



Thursday, December 31st 7 PM

New Year's Eve Pre-Party