By Connie Morrison

It’s a little late in the season for the ukulele-toting tourists to “tiptoe through the tulips,” as entertainer Tiny Tim famously sang in the 60s, when they descend on Cape Charles and surrounding areas Friday, June 14, through Sunday, June 16 for the Shore’s first UkeFest. But organizers hope they will slow-stroll through area shops as part of a weekend meant to bring together ukulele lovers and to introduce new visitors to the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

“I want people coming to the Shore to find a new destination,” said festival organizer Kristin Willis.

Willis is a member of the Sonic Ukes ukulele group, billed as the Eastern Shore of Virginia’s very own ukulele band. Willis and fellow member Peg Volk cooked up the festival after Volk attended to a similar event in Ireland.

They hope to not only bring a new location but a new experience to festivalgoers. “Usually the conference takes place in a conference hall or a banquet room,” of a hotel, she said. The venues for ESVA Uke were selected to show off some of what the Shore has to offer.

Parts of the festival are only for those registered; others are meant to invite in the public. Attendees will be welcomed with a jam session on the beach Friday night, followed by a full morning of workshops in Cape Charles, and then an open afternoon to explore. Area merchants have contributed coupons and are offering discounts to participants.

Its reach is meant to extend beyond Cape Charles. The organization received one of Northampton’s tourism infrastructure grants.
“Our goal was to introduce people to the Shore who might not be coming here,” said Willis, “and hopefully have them return to the Shore.”

She and Volk also wanted to give local residents something different that they had not seen before.

The popularity of the ukulele, pronounced “OO-koo-lay-lay” by some to more closely mimic the Hawaiian origin of the word, has been skyrocketing. In the last decade, sales have increased from about 501,000 in 2009 to more than 1.7 million in 2018.

Willis believes its due to the instrument’s simplicity. “It’s not a pretentious instrument. It’s a fun instrument,” Willis said. “People associated with it usually carry the same characteristics.”

Festival registration is still open, and the Sonic Ukes always welcome new members. Their open jam is the first Thursday of every month, but the location varies, so check their Facebook page for the latest information.

For more information about UkeFest, go to https://www.esaukefest.com/
Experimental Film Virginia Enters Its Seventh Year

By Connie Morrison

Things are about to get “reel” in Cape Charles.

For the seventh consecutive year, the town will host Experimental Film Virginia, a weeklong film-making residency that draws artists from all over the world to experiment on-camera with light, sound, and movement, drawing the inspiration from the historic bayside railroad-town setting of Cape Charles.

From the launch party June 16 until the premiere on June 29, the town will be alight with creative energy.

Rather than following a narrative or storyline, the three-to-five-minute films produced on-site in Cape Charles over the two-week period are meant to evoke an emotion, inspire an idea, or capture a single moment. “We are innovative and entrepreneurial, created by artists for artists with audience and community experience in mind,” reads the website. “We see this as an es-

Photo courtesy of Experimental Film Virginia
Camera-toting directors, dancers, and actors filming outdoors and in shops and restaurants are commonplace during the filming period. Some locals volunteer to participate as extras.

Experimental Film Virginia began with an Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, which sought to use the grants for creative and collaborative efforts to help towns distinguish themselves through public spaces, sometimes called “placemaking.”

Since then, the Global Exchange Arts (GEAR) Roundtable was formed, a nonprofit that partners regionally, nationally, and internationally to promote arts, including sponsorship of the two-week long Experimental Film Virginia.

Stefanie Jackson contributed to this report.

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**EXPERIMENTAL FILM VIRGINIA KEY EVENTS**

**Launching Party:** June 16
7:30 p.m. at the Historic Palace Theatre Cape Charles
Tickets $15 Adults | $10 Students | Reception to follow

**Free Screening of 2018 Films:** June 17
7:30 p.m. at the Historic Palace Theatre Cape Charles

**Art in a Barn:** June 22
6 p.m. | Westcoat Barn, 1734 Savage Neck Dr. Eastville
tickets at eventbrite.com | search Art in a Barn 2019

**Reel and Raw Film Premiere:** June 29
the Historic Palace Theatre Cape Charles
Doors open 7 p.m. | Screening at 8 p.m. | Tickets $15

more information: [https://www.experimentalfilmvirginia.com/](https://www.experimentalfilmvirginia.com/)
By Connie Morrison

There will be more to love in Cape Charles this summer as the town prepares to mark the 50th anniversary of the state tourism motto, “Virginia is for Lovers,” and the 1969 Summer of Love. Cape Charles’ 50-day celebration includes special events and offerings from July 6 until Aug. 24.

From free movies at the Historic Cape Charles Palace Theater to the Harbor for the Arts Summer Concert Series (see schedule on Page 39) to special love-themed drinks and dishes, the town is going all-out to share the love.

“This summer will be a total throwback to the 60s where everyone who lived it will experience moments of transcendence, and those who didn’t will get to live it for the first time,” said Cape Charles Main Street Coordinator Karen Zamorski.

It all kicks off July 6 with a Love Fest in Cape Charles Central Park, where English Channel, a British band playing 60s and 70s pop, rock and progressive music, will help everyone get their groove on. There is no admission charge for the outdoor concert.

“Cape Charles Main Street is bringing some real 60s LOVE to the park with all kinds of decorations and activities for kids and adults alike — face painting, 60s dress-up station photo op, caricaturist, paper flower making, balloon artist, and more), said Zamorski. Citizens for Central Park is cosponsoring the event.

July 11 will see a LOVE Golf Cart Parade meandering through town and ending at the beach. Residents and/or visitors will be asked to decorate their golf carts in a 60s theme and congregate at the LOVE sign for the parade.

“Everyone is welcome — cart paraders or not — to bring their own picnic basket” and enjoy a bonfire while watching one of our breathtaking sunsets, said Zamorski. Some area residents will bring guitars for an informal beach concert/singalong.

Watch for brightly colored brochures, available by the end of June, with details of all the events and offers. They will be distributed on Main Street.

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at sam@easternshorepost.com

or Troy Justis
at ads@easternshorepost.com
What’s Happening in Cape Charles?

June - July

★ June 7, 6-8 p.m. - Musical Performance by Haze & Dacey - Lemon Tree Gallery, 301 Mason Ave., Cape Charles - 757-331-4327
★ June 8, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. - Cheriton Family Fun Day - Cheriton Park
★ June 8, 7 p.m. - Bingo - Eastville Vol. Fire Co., 17202 Courthouse Rd., Eastville
★ June 11, 3-6 p.m. - Cape Charles Farmer’s Market - 814 Randolph Ave., Cape Charles - great, fresh local produce, meats, honey, breads and more
★ June 11, 7 p.m. - Bingo - Cheriton Vol. Fire Co., 21334 Bayside Rd., Cheriton - doors open at 6 p.m.
★ June 14, 6-8 p.m. - Flatfooting to Live Bluegrass - Lemon Tree Gallery, 301 Mason Ave., Cape Charles - 757-331-4327
★ June 14, 7 p.m. - 100th Anniversary Committee of the Cape Charles Memorial Library Presents Celebration Friday featuring Narelle Kelvin - Cape Charles Public Library
★ June 14-16 - 1st Annual Ukulele Festival - 814 Randolph Ave., Cape Charles - Beach jam, live music, workshops, swap meet, and more
★ June 16, 7:30 p.m. - Experimental Film Virginia Launch Party - Lemon Tree Gallery, 301 Mason Ave., Cape Charles - tickets: $15/adults, $10/students - 757-331-4237
★ June 17, 5:30-7 p.m. - Golf Cart Tour of Cape Charles - Lemon Tree Gallery, 301 Mason Ave., Cape Charles - 757-331-4327
★ June 17, 7:30-8:45 p.m. - 2018 Experimental Film Screening - Historic Palace Theatre, 305 Mason Ave., Cape Charles - 757-331-4327
★ June 19, 5:30 p.m. - New Roots Youth Garden Pop Up Garden Dinner Party - 50 Fig St., Cape Charles - $25/person - Music by Clark Lovelady and Sheila Sheppard
★ June 21, 6-8 p.m. - Timber and Tide Opening Reception - Lemon Tree Gallery, 301 Mason Ave., Cape Charles - 757-331-4327
★ June 22, 12:30-2:30 p.m. - Old-Fashioned Community Picnic - Central Park, Cape Charles - Bring lawn chairs and a picnic lunch (no alcohol please) - Pony rides, games, face painting, and much more - Family event
★ July 4, 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. - 4th of July Street Fair, Festival, and Parade - Town of Cape Charles - Parade at 10 a.m., Street Fair at 10:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Fireworks at 9:30 p.m.
★ July 6, 7 p.m. - Harbor for the Arts Concert: The English Channel - Central Park, Cape Charles
★ July 13, 7 p.m. - Harbor for the Arts Concert: Few Miles South - Central Park, Cape Charles

Sweet Summertime at The Oyster Farm!

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www.oysterfarmatkingscreek.com for details

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Harbor for the Arts Summer Festival Concert Series Returns for 2019

By Connie Morrison

The family-friendly Harbor for the Arts Summer Festival Concert Series is back this summer with a lineup that includes something for almost all musical tastes.

Citizens for Central Park is the force behind the series. The all-volunteer organization was formed “to transform the vacant lot that used to be the football field for the old Cape Charles High School,” said member Bill Prickett. Once the park was dedicated in 2010, the group has continued to raise funds, add features, and ensure that the park is an integral part of the community.

Prickett is one of several in the group who works year-round to raise money and line up a variety of (Continued on Next Page)

Photo by Connie Morrison
A view of the Central Park gazebo, which serves as a bandstand during the summer concert series.

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