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2024-2025

BEST OF *Lake Anna* READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Guide to Living & Visiting Lake Anna

- Local Culinary Icons
- Lake Anna is for Pet Lovers
- Ultimate Boating Playlist
- Plus, What to Do After Dark in LKA

Bronze, Silver & Gold Winners

- Best Places to Hang with Pets
- Best Restaurant with a View
- Best HOAs & Neighborhoods
- And much more!

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Editor's Note

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Best of Lake Anna, a new, annual tradition of celebrating the very best that Lake Anna has to offer, including local businesses, services, and people that have contributed to making our region truly unique. These awards represent the collective voice of our readers, who have cast their votes to recognize and appreciate all of the individuals and establishments that work hard but aren't always given the spotlight of appreciation.

Local news has long faced significant financial challenges, with traditional revenue streams dwindling, and the Best of Lake Anna plays a critical role in addressing this decline, which has left many small communities and diverse groups underrepresented and underserved. Our mission is clear: to provide Hyper Local Content for Rural Communities. We are passionate about sharing the untold stories of our past and pres-

ent while highlighting the efforts shaping our future. By building a robust local ecosystem of information, we are filling crucial gaps in news coverage and ensuring that every voice is heard.

Lake Anna Media plays a critical role in addressing coverage gaps and spotlighting unmet needs. We proudly serve what is often referred to as a "news desert," strengthening local communities through diligent, original reporting. We are at the forefront of addressing this divide by supplementing traditional print media with innovative digital platforms, ensuring broader access and engagement.

Our commitment to editorial excellence, independence, transparency, community-centered reporting, collaboration, and sustainability underscores every story we publish.

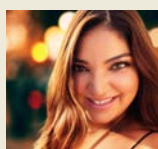
Our Team



Jennifer Bailey
Editor in Chief



Amy Alexander
Art Director



Brenda Laham West
Director of Partnerships



Dawn Mills
Editor

The Art of Words

*Editor Jennifer Bailey,
Readers' Choice Gold Winner
for Best Innovator; Silver for
Best Business Person*

Since practicing as editor of her college newspaper, Jen has been weaving magic through words as the visionary behind Lake Anna Media Group. A storyteller at heart, Jen's journey began in the bustling newsrooms of California, where her passion for writing took root. After relocating to Virginia, she transformed her college dorm room into the birthplace of her first digital marketing consultancy, crafting compelling narratives.



PHOTO BY TINA KROHN

Jen's approach to marketing transcends traditional boundaries. She doesn't just create content; she breathes life into it. Early in her career, she embraced the world of inbound, content-based marketing, where her efforts started to see organic results from all over the world, driving remarkable market growth. This success solidified her belief in the power of the written word to connect, inspire, and transform.

Jen's unique perspective as both a mother of four and a marketer informs her holistic approach to her work. She believes that marketing, much like parenting, should nurture genuine connections and foster meaningful relationships.

Jen envisions a future where marketing is more than just a tool for profit. To her, it's a superpower capable of sparking cultural change and promoting authenticity. "Most marketing is meaningless," she asserts, "but what if we did more than just reach business goals and build profit? What if we could change the world?"

As she continues to write her own story, Jen invites entrepreneurs with larger than life ideas to join her businesses to reclaim their marketing, infusing it with purpose and passion. "Relationships over transactions," she emphasizes, guiding her clients towards sustainable success.

Jen lives at Lake Anna full time with her husband, David (also known as the pirate of Lake Anna) and their four children. Managing The Breeze, Lake Anna Online and Best of Lake Anna keeps her days full, but in the evenings she enjoys live music and karaoke.

**For more information: jennifer@lakeanna.online
reclaimyourmarketing.com | 540-360-6570**



PHOTO BY TINA KROHN



PHOTO BY AARON BLOUNT

Lake Anna Photography

*Readers' Choice Gold Winners
of Best Photographer; Silver Winners
of Best Local Art Experience; Bronze
Winner of Best Charitable Business*

Living and working in Lake Anna, John and Carol are inspired by the community's supportive nature. They admire free thinkers and those who defy societal norms, drawing inspiration from diverse sources. Carol and John's story is one of passion, dedication, and the relentless pursuit of excellence in capturing life's most meaningful moments.

"I GET THE MOST SATISFACTION IN MY WORK WHEN I USE MY PHOTOGRAPHY TO BRING PEOPLE JOY, EXPRESSING THE BONDS AND PERSONALITIES OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES."

- CAROL BARKER WYATT

1ST
Winner

2ND
Place

3RD
Place

13,000 Square Feet of Endless Inspiration

Carol and John are a dynamic photography duo well known and loved at Lake Anna for capturing the bonds and personalities of the local community - from real estate to families, resident eagles and events, and everything in between.

John and Carol find immense satisfaction in using their craft to bring joy and aid to others. For Carol, delivering stunning images that help agents and homeowners achieve their goals is deeply fulfilling. She also cherishes capturing the bonds and personalities within families, creating visual legacies that last a lifetime. Their passion for photography is not just a profession but a natural extension of their artistic souls, deeply rooted in their core beings.

John Heishman and Carol Barker Wyatt

When not behind the camera, Carol and John embrace the tranquility of Lake Anna. They find solace in the water, the country settings, and nature's beauty, often enjoying solitude through reading, relaxing in their hot tub, or sailing on their boat. This serene environment fuels their creativity and grounds them spiritually and emotionally. Lake Anna is more than their home;

it's their expansive 13,000-square-foot photography studio, providing endless backdrops and inspiration for their work.

Their journey hasn't been without challenges, but they navigate life's rough seas with resilience and a strong moral compass. Carol often reflects on her past triumphs to stay grounded and motivated. This dedication to personal growth parallels their business evolution, where they continuously seek new challenges and innovations, such as aerial and underwater photography.

A defining moment for Carol was capturing the spirit of a vibrant young cheerleader who tragically passed away shortly after. The heartfelt gratitude from the mother highlighted the profound impact and priceless value of their work. This experience reinforced their commitment to delivering images that evoke powerful emotions and memories.

Despite their success, Carol and John remain humble, continuously striving for improvement and understanding the deeper meanings of life and art. Their unique approach, including personally editing their photos to ensure each image tells its own story, sets them apart in the industry.



PHOTO BY JOHN HEISHMAN

“Lake Anna Photography is more than just a service; it’s an invitation to join us on a visual journey. We’re here to listen, to collaborate, and to bring your ideas to life through the lens.”

**For more information:
LakeAnnaPhotog@gmail.com
540-446-9481
lakeannaphotography.com**

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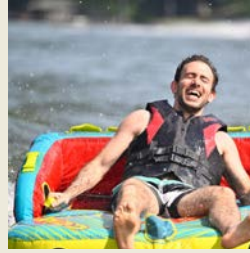
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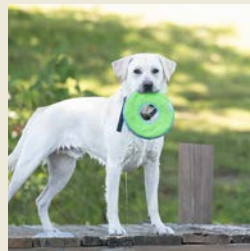
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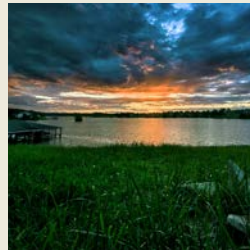
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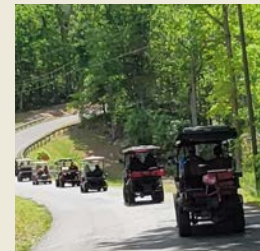
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SunChaser




CENTURION
BOATS

HYPERLITE 



SCAN ME 



If you're looking to maximize your experience and time at Lake Anna, look no further, we are your one-stop shop. Our offerings include top-of-the-line boats from leading brands like Centurion and SunChaser, available both for sale and rental. Additionally, we specialize in building exquisite boathouses to safely store your prized possessions or enhance your lake experience. For those seeking to further enhance their time on the water, we boast two lakeside Pro Shop locations stocked with everything you need to enjoy your time on the water.

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We extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, whose generous support makes the Best of Lake Anna possible. Your contributions have been instrumental in ensuring the success of this event, allowing us to celebrate the excellence and dedication of our community. Your commitment to Lake Anna reflects a shared vision of fostering growth, supporting local businesses, and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. Without your support, recognizing the outstanding achievements within our community would not be possible.



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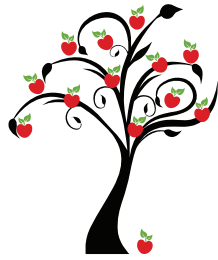


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PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

For Lovers of Lake Anna

Can you hear it? The gentle lapping of water against the shore; a soothing and profound melody that resonates with peace throughout the mind and body. This serene sound, a hallmark of Lake Anna, Virginia, is just one of the many reasons families flock to our docks and beaches year after year.

But beneath the peaceful surface of this modern-day paradise lies a tapestry of history woven with threads of gold mining booms and Civil War trails. Spanning 13,000 acres and 200 miles of shoreline, Lake Anna is one of Virginia's largest freshwater inland reservoirs, easily accessible from The Northern Virginia area, Fredericksburg, Richmond, and Charlottesville. The lake, completed in the early 1970s, serves as a critical resource for cooling the North Anna Nuclear Generating Station.

The story of Lake Anna began in 1968 when the Virginia Electric and Power Company (now Dominion) acquired 18,000 acres of farmland across Louisa, Spotsylvania, and Orange counties. Their mission was to create a reservoir by damming the North Anna River to support the nearby nuclear power station. As workers cleared the lake bed and constructed the dam, an

Lake Anna's first shoreline started to emerge in 1972

unforeseen ally sped up the process: Hurricane Agnes. The storm's deluge helped fill the lake to capacity in just 18 months, much faster than the projected three years. By 1972, the first shoreline communities started to emerge, heralding a new era for the tri-county region.

Long before the creation of Lake Anna, the area was known for a different kind of treasure—gold. In the early to mid-1800s, the Virginia Gold Pyrite Belt, a narrow strip of



PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

mineral-rich land, ran through Louisa County, drawing prospectors and miners eager to strike it rich. Among the most notable mines was the Goodwin Mine, now part of Lake Anna State Park. Visitors can still see remnants of the mining operations and even try their hand at gold panning, a nod to the area's gilded past. Boxley's Gold Mine, located near the small town of Mineral in Contrary Creek, played a significant role in this regional gold rush.

Discovered in 1835, Boxley's Gold Mine's operations continued through the 19th century, contributing to the local economy and landscape. The geology of the area, characterized by gravel deposits from the Holocene epoch and the Piedmont Upland's unique formations, provided a rich matrix for gold extraction. Although the mine is no longer active, its legacy remains a testament to the industrious spirit of early Virginia settlers.

Lake Anna's vicinity wasn't just rich in minerals; it also bore witness to the tumult of the American Civil War. Louisa County, in particular, was a strategic location due to its proximity to critical supply lines and battlefronts.

The Three Counties of Lake Anna, Virginia

Lake Anna is situated primarily inside of two Virginia Counties: Louisa and Spotsylvania, with part of North Lake Anna sitting inside of Orange County

The Battle of Trevilian Station, fought in June 1864, was one of the largest all-cavalry battles of the war, resulting in significant casualties and shaping the course of the conflict in Virginia. Today, remnants of these battles and the stories they tell are preserved in local historical sites and through community efforts to keep the memory of the Civil War alive.

A Modern Haven today, Lake Anna stands as a symbol of ingenuity and natural beauty, attracting visitors from all over. Its residential and business communities offer a blend of recreational opportunities, from boating and fishing to hiking and camping. Lake Anna State Park not only provides a haven for nature enthusiasts but also serves as a living museum of the area's rich history, from its gold mining roots to its role in the Civil War.

The lake's creation and the subsequent development transformed what was once farmland into a bustling hub of activity and leisure. With two nuclear reactors operational since the late 1970s, the North Anna Nuclear Gener-

ating Station continues to underscore the lake's importance to the region's infrastructure and economy. Lake Anna's allure lies not just in its scenic beauty but also in its layered history, a narrative that stretches from the gold-rich soils of the 1800s to the pivotal battles of the Civil War, and finally to its current status as a beloved recreational gem. The whispers of miners and the echoes of soldiers blend seamlessly with the laughter of

families and the hum of boats, creating a place where history and modernity coexist harmoniously.

For those who visit Lake Anna, the experience is more than just a retreat into nature; it's a journey through time. Walking along the shores, one might ponder the efforts of early settlers and miners, or reflect on the bravery of soldiers who once

From Goldmines to Battlefields

Up until the Civil War in the 1800s, the area was known for a different kind of treasure—gold.

PHOTO BY UNKNOWN AUTHOR, WIKIPEDIA



PHOTO BY JIKBLUME



marched across these lands. Exploring the state park, visitors can touch the remnants of a bygone era and imagine the golden dreams that once fueled the local economy.

As Lake Anna continues to attract new generations of visitors, its historical significance remains an integral part of its charm. The stories of gold mining and Civil War battles, once hidden beneath layers of soil and water, are now celebrated and preserved, ensuring that the lake's rich past is never forgotten. This blend of natural beauty and historical depth makes Lake Anna not just a destination, but a living, breathing chronicle of Virginia's multifaceted history.

So, the next time you feel the gentle lapping of Lake Anna's waters, take a moment to listen more closely. You might just

hear the whispers of miners, the echoes of battles, and the timeless stories that make this place truly unique.

Above, North Anna River Overflows Rt.1

PHOTO BY THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA @ FLICKR COMMONS



18 The number of months it took Hurricane Agnes to fill Lake Anna to capacity; much faster than the projected three years.

75 Louisa County, Virginia has 75 records of mining mines listed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

52 Lake Anna is celebrating its 52nd birthday in 2024. One of 40 lakes in Virginia, 38 man-made, with two lakes being natural.



Originally 1,100 acres, this 1742 plantation, called Jerdone Castle, is mostly submerged under Lake Anna.

Introducing the 2024 Best of Lake Anna Readers' Choice

With almost 46,000 votes and 1,600 nominations, the inaugural Best of Lake Anna offers a glimpse into the quality of community and service in this vibrant and growing region. This annual event celebrates some of the people and places that make Lake Anna unique, highlighting outstanding businesses, exceptional services, and dedicated individuals who contribute to making our community a wonderful place to live, work, and play.



PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Carefully Curated Groups & Voting Categories

The awards span a wide range of categories, reflecting the diverse and rich offerings of Lake Anna, from Best Place to Work to Best Local Cause, Best Neighborhoods to live in... and favorite food choices like Best Burger, Best Ice Cream and favorite Restaurant with

a View! The voting experience was intended for diverse coverage in all areas of our community.

By celebrating local achievements, we inspire others to strive for greatness and contribute positively to our shared environment. It fosters a spirit of camaraderie and mutual support that is essential for the growth and well-being of Lake

Anna. As we continue to celebrate, we look forward to even greater participation and recognition in the years to come.

This new tradition not only honors the past and present achievements but also sets the stage for future successes and innovations here at Lake Anna.

To Browse Live Results:
<https://bestof.lakeanna.online>

Auto Services

Best Detailer

Gold

**Mid-Atlantic
Lake Anna
Detailing**

Silver

Gibson's Auto Services

Bronze

Hawley's Auto Care
Fine Lines Detailing
Foxbrook Auto & Aircraft
Detailing

Best Gas Station

Gold

**Elk Creek
Country Store**

Silver

Sheetz Louisa

Bronze

Dickinson's Store
208 Variety Store
New Bridge Market & Deli

Best Small Engine Repair

Gold

**Gibson's Auto
Services**

Silver

Jon's Small Engine Repair

Bronze

Weimer Automotive
Rick's Garage
Greene's Corner Garage

Best Mechanic

Gold

**Gibson's Auto
Services**

Silver

Navarre's Auto Services

Bronze

A&N Diesel Repair
Weaver Services Inc
Precision Wholesale
Transmission

PHOTO BY AUSTIN NEWSOM



Meet Austin Newsom

*Readers' Choice Gold Winner
for Best Marine Mechanic*

Owner of A&N Diesel Repair and at Mid-Atlantic Watersports, Austin Newsom is winner of Readers' Choice Gold for Best Marine Mechanic and Readers' Choice Silver for Best Young Entrepreneur, as well as Readers' Choice Bronze for Best Mechanic, Newsom is leading the industry for both marine and auto.

For more information:
midatlanticwatersports.com
434-249-0986

Business

Best Place to Work

Gold

Dominion Energy

Silver

Callie Opie's Orchard

Bronze

Lake Anna Island Realty
Louisa Arts Center
Long & Foster Real Estate

Best Accountant/ Bookkeeper

Gold

Lake Anna Bookkeeping

Silver

Thomas Luck, Financial Accounting Services

Bronze

Bo Clarke Main Street Accounting Services

Best Law Firm

Gold

Craig Williams LLC

Silver

Law Offices of John David Gibson

Bronze

James L. Lillie
Commonwealth Life and Legacy Council

Best Charitable Business

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

Provisions Thrift

Bronze

Lake Anna Photography
Lake Anna Home Solutions
Sunshine Swan Boat Excursions

Best Young Entrepreneur

Gold

Crystal Hawley

Silver

Austin Newsom

Bronze

Christian Lam
Jesse Mitchell
Collin Henley

Best New Business

Gold

Log Home Brewing Company

Silver

DK's Coffee & Ice Cream

Bronze

The Home Point
Bethel Brews and Bites
SunShine Swan Boat Excursions
LKA Permitting Services

Best Business Person

Gold

Mike Kavros

Silver

Jennifer Bailey

Bronze

Steve Harler
BJ Blount
Carrie Withers

Best Commercial Insurance Agent

Gold

Jeff Feagans

Silver

Beth Powell

Bronze

Justin Clendenin

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Community

Best Local Cause

Gold

Lake Anna Fire and Rescue

Silver

Louisa County Resource Council

Bronze

Louisa Clean

Louisa Community Animal Response Team

Lake Anna Rescue Inc

Simply Angels

Best Rooster

Gold

Mark Strauss

Silver

Jack Chandler

Bronze

Paul Snyder

Doug Barmoy

Mark is... "a great guy & Rooster... does a great job at leading by example R & F..... lots of Fun to be with..."

- BILL H.

Best Residential Community

Gold

The Waters at Lake Anna

Silver

Sunset Cove

Bronze

Shorewood

Tara Woods

Kellys Landing

Best Innovator

Gold

Jennifer Bailey

Silver

Mike Anderson

Bronze

John Windley

Best Place of Worship

Gold

The Point Church

Silver

Elk Creek Baptist Church

Bronze

Mineral Baptist

Calvary Baptist Church

Best Local Art Experience

Gold

Louisa Arts Center

Silver

Lake Anna Photography

Bronze

Turn Up to Color

Best Neighborhood for Retirees

Gold

Sunset Cove

Silver

The Waters

Bronze

Kellys Landing

Cuckoo's Nest

Best Neighborhood Families with Kids

Gold

The Waters at Lake Anna

Silver

Windwood Covens

Bronze

Shorewood

Bluewater

Local Hero, Jody Korman



Readers' Choice Gold Winner for Best Local Hero & Best Local Humanitarian

Q What brings you the most satisfaction in your work?

A Serving others, helping to make people feel special, contributing to society by working with like-minded individuals to preserve our environment, and helping folks in need in the community.

Q When you're not working, where can we find you?

A Waterskiing, walking, biking, and going to local breweries and wineries.

Q What do you want to say to all the people who nominated and voted for you?

A Never can say thank you enough. It truly is an honor and a privilege to work with dedicated, committed, friendly, dependable volunteers. Volunteerism is at its best in Louisa County.

Contact Jody:
jody@jodyshomes.com
804-502-1128

Q What's your inspiration for getting through tough times?

A Feel the FEAR AND do it anyway. Persevering and continuing to keep and maintaining a positive attitude even when times are tough.

Q What aspect of Lake Anna's community spirit resonates most with you?

A Working with Lake Anna Business Partnership, Lake Anna Rescue, Ruralove, Elk Creek Baptist church, Ashland Kiwanis Club, LOUISACLEAN.

Q Who in your life, whether personally or professionally, serves as a constant source of inspiration, and why?

A Bruce, my husband, who has always been supportive when I served as an Executive Director of the YMCA, my real estate career, waterskiing and scuba diving endeavors, social gatherings. He has always supported what I enjoy doing.



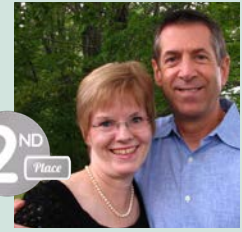
Thank You for Your Service

1ST
Winner



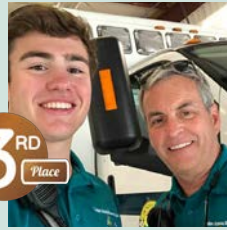
Jody Korman

2ND
Place



Jane Gallagher

3RD
Place



Dillard Family

3RD
Place



Liz Wilson

3RD
Place



Susan Purks

3RD
Place



Debby Reed

Best Fundraising Event

Gold

**Residents for
24/7 LKA EMS**

Silver

Log Home Brewery Darts

Bronze

Santa Council, Louisa Resource
Council

Woofstock

Louisa Arts Center Silver Tie
Gala

Belmont Club of Women Super
Raffle

Best Weekender Community

Gold

**Elk Creek
Landing**

Silver

Both Waters

Bronze

Countryside on Lake Anna
Jerodone Island

Best Neighborhood

Gold

**The Waters at
Lake Anna**

Silver

Windwood Coves

Bronze

Sunset Cove

Shorewood

Cuckoo's Nest

Tara Woods

Bluewater

Community

Best Fox

Gold

Marie Snyder

Silver

Alice Bougie

Bronze

Ronda Guill

Cindy Chandler

Best Teacher

Gold

Laura Austin

Silver

Colleen Moore

Bronze

April Sumner

Best HOA

Gold

The Waters at Lake Anna

Silver

Sunset Cove

Bronze

Shorewood

Cuckoo's Nest

Pine Harbour HOA

Kelly's Landing

Best Alligator Trapper

Gold

Jack Chandler

Silver

David Bailey

Bronze

Terri Wood

Matt Hayden

Best Full-Timer Community

Gold

The Water at Lake Anna

Silver

Windwood Coves

Bronze

Mill Run

Shorewood

Best Humanitarian

Gold

Jody Korman

Silver

Jane Gallagher

Bronze

The Dillard Family

Liz Wilson

Susan Purks

Debby Ree

Best Golf Cart Parade

Gold

Windwood Coves

Silver

Sunset Cove

Bronze

Tara Woods

Morgan I & II

MARIE SNYDER IS...

"[the] best human, friend, parent and great example to all!"

- LISA J.



PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

by Jennifer
and David
Bailey

The Lake

Watching in the background of this competition, we've patiently observed our readers choose people and places to become 'Best of' nominees and finalists.

While our editing team has abstained from voting, we've cast our own list of winners... best-kept secrets that we think are unique and special about this place, but don't necessarily fit into a specific or official voting group.

We've put this list together as a catalyst to show you - our amazing readers - what values propelled us to launch this competition and publish this guide.

This "Lake Anna Feels" list includes things that stand out to us as full-time residents as compelling reasons to love where we live. And we do... love it here.

The values we hold dear here at Lake Anna Media include Clarity, Community, Identity, and ... of course... a bit of Fun.

Best of: Community

Community is home. It's a safe Harbour. Having roots somewhere means that you belong, and therefore you care about the people and environment around you... good paying jobs, access to affordable housing, learning opportunities, healthy volunteerism, and active groups to get involved in.

Best of Community awards go to:

- Seeing people you know at Food Lion
- Always making new friends at different hangout spots on the water; and
- Watching the kids make new friends no matter where we are
- Rebecca at Rocky Branch Campground... who always makes you feel right at home

Best of: Clarity

Clarity is a state of mind. It's a feeling of overwhelming peace when you realize that the world is so much bigger than you. When you pause and let your mind live in the moment... as simple as the air on your face on a slow pontoon ride or taking a cool swim on a hot day. Clarity is a state of mind and a pure value that allows us to create out of a place of truth, life, and gratitude for all of it. It's... life on lake time.

Best of Clarity awards go to:

- Calm lake days when the water looks like glass
- Lake Anna's resident Eagles as they soar above us
- Feeding the ducks at the docks at the Lake Anna Yacht Club
- Day tripping to the Blue Ridge Mountains during the spring or fall

(Editor's Choice) Anna Feels

Best of: Identity

Identity is the past and the present. It is who we are, our collective personality... built upon by stories over time. It's a favorite past time... and a favorite present mood. Identity is a set of feelings someone gets when they think about being here, living here, and vacationing here. It is us.

Best of Identity awards go to:

- The Hideaway, a favorite past time that holds more stories than anyone will ever know
- The 90s rock playlist at the Taphouse
- The purple ride-on dinosaur underneath Tim's Restaurant
- Dave Fautleroy, a local Fish Tales legend who has finally retired

Best of: Fun

Fun is laughter, sometimes adventure, and always just good. Good times, good friends, and great memories. Don't let fun fool you, though... first comes the hard work, dedication and sometimes just rollin' your sleeves up and getting dirty... but then... then comes the fun. Work like a captain, and play like a pirate!

Best of Fun awards go to:

- The shuffleboards that sit, mostly unused, inside Callie Opies and The Log Home
- Kayaking to the rope swings and spotting all the turtles along the way
- "Wildside of Lake Anna" t-shirts by Justin Wood at 208 Apparel ... which just so happens to take after Lake the Alligator (man that guy gets around!)
- Alice Bougie and Jack Chandler who are basically the funniest and most liked people we've ever known

Diamond Award

The diamond award goes to the entity with the most number of Gold wins.

This year the diamond award goes to: Callie Opie's Orchard.



Bridge Builder Award

We have another very special award to give... one that is very important to the Lake Anna community and our identity here: The Bridge Builder Award.

This individual exemplifies the spirit of unity and collaboration, fostering connections that strengthen our community. They tirelessly dedicate their efforts to bringing people together, regardless of their differences, creating a more inclusive and harmonious environment for everyone. The recipient of the Bridge Builder Award embodies the values of clarity, community, identity and fun, making a lasting impact on the people who live and visit here.

This year's Bridge Builder award goes to: Mark Strauss

Entertainment

Best Trivia or Game Night

Gold

Coyote Hole

Silver

Southern Revere

Bronze

Lake Anna Taphouse

Best Local DJ

Gold

DJ Mike

Silver

Joey Cutright

Bronze

DJ Younger

Best Local Band

Gold

Chris Hanks

Silver

Sauna Mountain

Bronze

Last Call

Centerline Band

Campbell Road

Best Female Karaoke Singer

Gold

Tracy Hale Clark

Silver

Jennifer Bailey

Bronze

Marie Snyder

Melody Mayer

Best Local Music Venue

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard {Event Barn}

Silver

Log Home Brewing Company

Bronze

The Lake Anna Taphouse

Louisa Arts Center

Best Place to See Local Music

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

Log Home Brewing Company

Bronze

Lake Anna Taphouse

Cooling Pond Brewery

Louisa Arts Center

Best Place to Make New Friends

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

Log Home Brewing Company

Bronze

The Cove at Lake Anna

Coyote Hole Craft Beverages

The Lounge on Lake Anna

Best Musician

Gold

Chris Hanks

Silver

Michael Huntley

Bronze

JB Brown

*"By far we
have met more
lake friends at
Callie's Bar than
anywhere else!"*

- SHELLEY H.



PHOTOS BY MIDORI WINEGAR

Meet Chris Hanks

Readers' Choice Gold Winner for Best Musician and Best Local Band

For more information:
703-587-8598
chrishanksmusic@gmail.com
chrishanksmusic.com

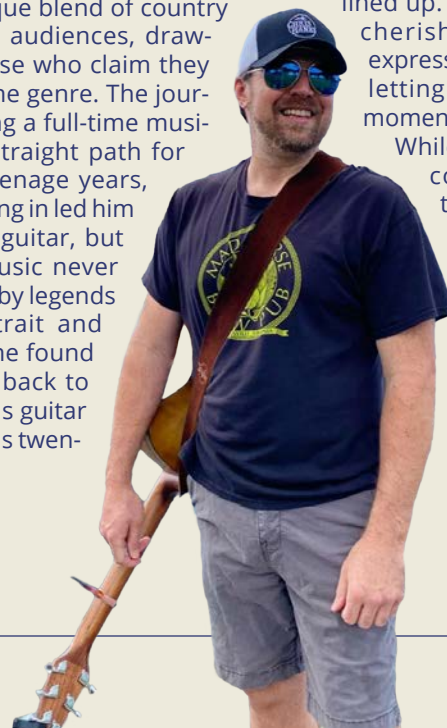
A singer-songwriter from Northern Virginia and roots here at Lake Anna, Chris Hanks is our Readers' Choice Gold Winner in both Best Musician and Best Local Band. Hanks found his way to music at a young age. His eclectic taste spans across various genres. Yet, it's his unique blend of country that captivates audiences, drawing in even those who claim they aren't fans of the genre. The journey to becoming a full-time musician wasn't a straight path for Chris. In his teenage years, the allure of fitting in led him away from his guitar, but the love for music never faded. Inspired by legends like George Strait and Garth Brooks, he found himself drawn back to the strings of his guitar as he entered his twenties.

"I just seemed to always love music since I was a kid." Hanks "fell head first" into his solo career at an open mic night, where he was encored and approached by a booking agent.

"Next thing you know I went from 'scared to play' to having lots of gigs lined up." As a solo artist, Hanks cherishes the freedom to express himself spontaneously, letting the emotions of the moment guide his performance.

While he enjoys belting out covers of his favorite tunes, Chris is also a talented songwriter in his own right.

This year, he plans to showcase more of his original compositions, adding his unique voice to the ever-evolving tapestry of country music.



Pontooning Playlist

From country to rock, pop, and reggae... keep your day groovin' with this broad mix of breezy, feel-good tunes.

1. Lake it Easy, *Demun Jones*
2. Pontoon, *Little Big Town*
3. Feels Like Summer, *Weezer*
4. Lakin' It Easy, *Dusty Moats*
5. Dreams, *Fleetwood Mac*
6. Cinderella, *Remi Wolf*
7. Sugar, *Maroon 5*
8. Hymn for the Weekend, *Coldplay*
9. Break in the Glass, *The Movement*
10. I Like It, I Love It, *Lyrics Born*
11. Swim Good, *Frank Ocean*
12. Let's Take a Ride, *The Hip Abduction*
13. Mr. Blue Sky, *Electric Light Orchestra*
14. Thunderstruck, *AC/DC*
15. Water, *Tyla*
16. It's All Good 'Til It Aint, *Struggle Jennings*

17. I'm Alive, *Kenny Chesney*
18. California Girls, *The Beach Boys*
19. Three Little Birds, *Bob Marley*
20. Sweet Home Alabama, *Lynyrd Skynyrd*
21. Born in the USA, *Bruce Springsteen*
22. God Bless the USA, *Lee Greenwood*
23. America the Beautiful, *Ray Charles*
24. Firework, *Katy Perry*
25. Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue, *Toby Keith*
26. What's Golden, *Jurassic 5*
27. No Diggity, *Blackstreet*
28. Riviera Paradise, *Stevie Ray Vaughan*
29. Rio De Janeiro, *Ugly Duckling*
30. Margaritaville, *Jimmy Buffett*
31. Vacation, *Dirty Heads*
32. Good Time, *Niko Moon*

Karaoke Night Favorites

Cap off your evening with a karaoke session featuring crowd-pleasers that everyone can sing along to. Classic choices at Lake Anna include Jelly Roll's "Save Me" and "Shallow" with Lady Gaga. You can find Karaoke at The Cove, The Lounge, and a few other great spots near Lake Anna.



Entertainment

Best Festival

Gold
Renaissance Fair

Silver

Lakefest

Bronze

Cider Fest at Coyote Hole
Laketoberfest

Best Male Karaoke Singer

Gold
Lance Wolak

Silver

Joey Cutright

Bronze

Ethan Snyder
Steve Smith

Best House/Cover Band

Gold
Cheap Whiskey

Silver

Cherry Red

Bronze

Deja Vu Band
Campbell Road

Best Karaoke Night

Gold
The Cove at Lake Anna

Silver

The Lounge on Lake Anna

Bronze

Coyote Hole Craft Beverages
Southern Revere Cellars
Unionville Brewing Co.

Congratulations to these exceptional nominees who won uncontested in their categories.

Best Merchant | Credit Card Services

Enzo Pay

Best Travel Agent

Rhonda Reinhart

Best Place to Get Local Produce

Mineral Farmer's Market

Best Place to Walk or Hike

Lake Anna State Park

Best on the Water Rescue Service

Towboat US

Best Water Sports Supplier

Mid-Atlantic Watersports

Best Kept Secret

SunShine Swan Boat Excursions



PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Food & Drinks

Best Bar Staff

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

Log Home Brewing Company

Bronze

Lake Anna Taphouse
Obrigado's Restaurant
Southern Revere Cellars
Coyote Hole Craft Beverages
Chateau MerrillAnne

Best Restaurant

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

El Gran Patron

Bronze

Obrigado Restaurant
Asian Cafe Lake Anna
Tavern on the Rail
Tasty Crab

Best Burger

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

The Cove at Lake Anna

Bronze

Joe-Joe's Super Heroes & Pizza
Mineral Restaurant
Patch Brewing

Best Bar Food

Gold

The Cove at Lake Anna

Silver

Lake Anna Taphouse

Bronze

Callie Opie's Orchard
Log Home Brewing Company
Coyote Hole Craft Beverages
Unionville Brewing Co.

Best Seafood

Gold

Tim's at Lake Anna

Silver

Dixie Joe's Crab Shack

Bronze

Callie Opie's Orchard
Tasty Crab
Tavern on the Rail



1ST Winner

PHOTO BY LIZ HART



The Cove Restaurant

*Readers' Choice Gold Winner
for Best Restaurant by Boat*

thecovelka.com
6320 Belmont Rd, Mineral, VA 23117



PHOTOS BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

For Mike Kavros, the leap into the hospitality sector has been both challenging and deeply rewarding. “When I hear a customer say, ‘Wow, you built all this from the ground up?’ there is tremendous pride and a sense of accomplishment to humbly answer ‘yes.’”

“Thank you for recognizing our hard work and commitment to excellence,” Mike noted, feeling grateful for winning Gold in so many categories. This acknowledgment fuels the drive to continue excelling and innovating.

Starting a multi-tiered business from scratch in an entirely new industry was a significant risk. Yet, it’s an accomplishment that Mike is most proud of. “Something in my head said ‘go for it,’ and I’m very proud of the progress we’ve made. We’re trending in the right direction!”

Advising a younger self, Mike emphasizes the importance of thorough research and understanding the job market. Reflecting on the journey, he identifies a core value: being goal-oriented and not accepting failure. What sets Callie Opie’s apart is the warm, sincere welcome guests feel. This genuine hospitality, coupled with a dedicated, familiar staff, leaves a lasting impression.

For more information:
callieopiesorchard.com
4533 Zachary Taylor Highway Mineral, VA 23117

*Readers' Choice Diamond Award
Winner for Most Golds Won*



Mike Kavros of Callie Opie's



Meet Brian Gilberth & the Team at Lake Anna Taphouse

Lake Anna Taphouse owner, Brian Gilberth, and his staff, are awarded Gold for Best Pet Friendly Bar & Restaurant, as well as Best Beer on Tap... among another 16 recognitions.



PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Q What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

A Making It through COVID... it was a tough time for a lot of very well-established businesses that didn't make it and I was proud we had the customers and staff to change with the times.

Q What's the most memorable feedback you've received from a client?

A One of our first customers, when we open in 2019, says they always love to see the changes and improvements each year and how we have grown to an amazing venue.

Q In a crowded market, what is your "secret sauce" that keeps clients coming back?

A A genuine desire to listen and provide excellent customer service.

Q Describe a moment in your career when you felt an overwhelming sense of fulfillment. What led to that moment?

A When we got licensed to operate. Unlike other businesses, you first have to build the operation and then you go for a license to operate, it's a bit worrisome to have invested time and money.

Q What aspect of Lake Anna's community spirit resonates most with you?

A How the community pulls together to make the lake life better.

Q What brings you the most satisfaction in your work?

A Seeing the enjoyment from visitors at the Lake Anna Taphouse.

Q When you're not working, where can we find you?

A A local gardening center, looking at plants.

Q What do you love most about Lake Anna?

A The diversity of people from all over the world.

Q What's your inspiration for getting through tough times?

A Knowing that staying focused will give the desired results.



lakeannataphouse.com
208 Lake Front Dr,
Mineral, Virginia 23117

Food & Drinks

Best Salad

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

Tim's at Lake Anna

Bronze

Roma's Italian Restaurant
Obrigado Restaurant
Vito's on Lake Anna
Asian Cafe Lake Anna
Below Deck

Best Fries

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

Log Home Brewing Company

Bronze

Vito's on Lake Anna
Joe-Joe's Super Heroes & Pizza
Elk Creek Country Store

Best Steak

Gold

Tavern of the Rail

Silver

Callie Opie's Orchard

Bronze

Tim's at Lake Anna

Best Pizza

Gold

Mineral Restaurant

Silver

Vito's on Lake Anna

Bronze

Roma's Italian Restaurant
Callie Opie's Orchard
Big Cheese Pizza
Below Deck Pizza and Subs

Best Local Brewery

Gold

Log Home Brewing Company

Silver

Lake Anna Taphouse

Bronze

Cooling Pond Brewery & Winery
Coyote Hole Craft Beverages

Best Breakfast

Gold

Mineral Restaurant

Silver

Callie Opie's Orchard

Bronze

Vito's on Lake Anna

Best Pet-Friendly Bar/Restaurant

Gold

Lake Anna Taphouse

Silver

Log Home Brewing Company

Bronze

Cooling Pond Brewery & Winery

Best Fried Chicken

Gold

Elk Creek Country Store

Silver

Dickinson's Store

Bronze

208 Variety Store
New Bridge Market & Deli

Best Ice Cream

Gold

MooThru Lake Anna

Silver

Frosties Rail Stop

Bronze

DK's Coffee & Ice Cream
Lake Anna Cream and Caffeine

Orange County

Lake Anna, Virginia



Private / Cold Side



Public / Hot Side



Boardwalk at
Lake Anna



Stubbs Bridge

Days Bridge

Belmont Rd

Stubbs
Bridge Rd

Spotsylvania County

Lawyers Rd

Lake Anna
State Park

Rt. 522

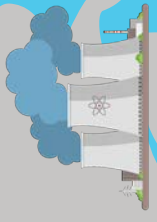


Lewiston Rd

Pleasant's Landing



North Anna Power Station



New Bridge

Kentucky Springs Rd

Contrary Creek

Rt. 208

Fredericks Hall Rd

Louisa County

Chopping Rd

Town of Mineral





Tim Bauckman

Tim's at Lake Anna is Readers' Choice Gold Winner for Best Seafood and Best Outdoor Dining, among many others.

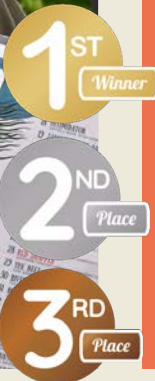


PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Q When you're not working, where can we find you?

A I love spending time with my family... if it is a trip or just for the day. Also, I love the water and boating. In the last few years I've taken many rides on my motorcycle all over the country.

Q What do you love most about Lake Anna?

A Lake Anna reminds me of a small town, so I enjoy the close-knit family feel. The lake itself is beautiful and the time I've spent on it has been amazing. It's been an honor to grow up with the lake over the past 12 years.

Q What do you want to say to all the people who nominated and voted for you?

A I think all you can say is 'thank you, truly.' We all work hard to make sure all the people that come to Tim's have a good time. We're

human, we make mistakes, and it hasn't always been good. So thank you for the feedback—good and bad. We need it to keep improving.

Q What's your inspiration for getting through tough times?

A My inspiration is the same as most people—to make sure my family has all that it needs. Tough times come and go just have to stay positive—there is always tomorrow.

Q In a crowded market, what do you believe is your "secret sauce" that keeps clients coming back?

A I think our secret sauce is our homemade, time-honored recipes. Keeping it the way it's been done for years. It's not out of a bag or made by someone else. The crabcakes? That recipe is inspired by my grandmother and they've been fried up since the Rivershore opened in 1994.

Q What advice would you give to your younger self?

A Surround yourself with the best people you can. If you sell something, make sure it's the best you can. That's what I've tried to do for the last 30 years at Tim's. Quality is more important than quantity and I notice that more and more every day.

timslakeanna.com

200 G Boardwalk Way
in Mineral, Virginia 23117



PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Food & Drinks

Best Cocktails

Gold

El Gran Patron

Silver

Tim's at Lake Anna

Bronze

Callie Opie's Orchard
Obrigado Restaurant
Chateau MerrillAnne

Best Happy Hour

Gold

The Cove at Lake Anna

Silver

Lake Anna Taphouse

Bronze

Log Home Brewing Company
Callie Opie's Orchard
Chef Lee Chinese Restaurant

Best Chinese

Gold

Asian Cafe Lake Anna

Silver

Chef Lee Chinese Restaurant

Bronze

Tasty Crab Lake Anna
Hunan Best Chinese Restaurant
Panda Garden

Best Coffee

Gold

DK's Coffee & Ice Cream

Silver

Bethel Brews and Bites

Bronze

Cream and Caffeine ~ Lake Anna

Best Brunch

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

Vito's on Lake Anna

Bronze

Coyote Hole Craft Beverages

Best Outdoor Dining

Gold

Tim's at Lake Anna

Silver

The Cove at Lake Anna

Bronze

Callie Opie's Orchard
El Gran Patron
Lake Anna Taphouse

Best Wine Selection

Gold

Fifty-Third Winery

Silver

Lake Anna Winery

Bronze

Callie Opie's Orchard
Southern Revere Cellars
Obrigado Restaurant

Best Restaurant by Boat

Gold

The Cove at Lake Anna

Silver

Tim's at Lake Anna

Bronze

El Gran Patron
Lake Anna Taphouse
Asian Cafe Lake Anna

Best Convenience Store Food

Gold

Elk Creek Country Store

Silver

Dickinson's Store

Bronze

208 Variety Store

Food & Drinks

Best Restaurant Hospitality

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

Tim's at Lake Anna

Bronze

The Cove at Lake Anna
Obrigado Restaurant
Tavern on the Rail

Best Wings

Gold

The Cove at Lake Anna

Silver

Log Home Brewing Company

Bronze

Lake Anna Taphouse
Below Deck
Tasty Crab

Best Romantic Restaurant

Gold

Tavern on the Rail

Silver

Callie Opie's Orchard

Bronze

Obrigado Restaurant

Best Appetizers

Gold

Tim's at Lake Anna

Silver

Callie Opie's Orchard

Bronze

The Cove at Lake Anna
Lake Anna Taphouse
Vito's on Lake Anna

Best Food Truck

Gold

Not Your Mama's

Silver

Cousins Maine Lobster

Bronze

Biscuit Batch LLC
Out of the Box
The Happy Waffle

Best Winery

Gold

Lake Anna Winery

Silver

Fifty-Third Winery & Vineyard

Bronze

Chateau MerrillAnne
Everleigh Vineyards
Southern Revere Cellars

Best Kid-Friendly Restaurant

Gold

Tim's at Lake Anna

Silver

Roma Italian Restaurant & Pizza

Bronze

El Gran Patron
The Cove at Lake Anna
Mineral Restaurant

Best Sandwich

Gold

The Cove at Lake Anna

Silver

Joe-Joe's Super Heroes & Pizza

Bronze

Below Deck
Vito's on Lake Anna

Best Barbecue

Gold

Country Boys BBQ

Silver

BBQ Exchange

Bronze

Smokin' Eddies
Butch's Nuttin' Butt BBQ

Food & Drinks

Best Dessert

Gold

Moo Thru Lake Anna

Silver

Callie Opie's Orchard

Bronze

Floozies Pie Shop
Mad Batter Bakery
Itavia
Tavern on the Rail

Best Tacos

Gold

El Gran Patron

Silver

Sabor a Mexico

Bronze

Tim's at Lake Anna
The Cove at Lake Anna
El Mariachi

Best Restaurant with a View

Gold

El Gran Patron

Silver

Tim's at Lake Anna

Bronze

The Cove at Lake Anna
Lake Anna Taphouse
Vito's on Lake Anna

EL GRAN PATRON

**"Margaritas.
Simple."**

- TREVOR F.

Best Beer Selection on Tap

Gold

Lake Anna Taphouse

Silver

Log Home Brewing Company

Bronze

Cooling Pond Brewery

Best Bartender

Gold

Tim's at The Lake, Katie Ward

Silver

Callie Opie's Orchard, Jenn Bernard

Bronze

The Cove at Lake Anna, Jen Brindel

Lake Anna Taphouse, Samantha Luck

Callie Opie's Orchard, Britton Friz

The Lounge at Lake Anna, Stephanie

Best Margarita

Gold

El Gran Patron

Silver

Sabor a Mexico

Bronze

Tim's at Lake Anna
The Cove at Lake Anna
El Mariachi

Best Fast Casual Dining

Gold

Sabor a Mexico

Silver

Asian Cafe Lake Anna

Bronze

Mineral Restaurant
Joe-Joe's Super Heroes & Pizza
Tasty Crab
Below Deck

TIM'S AT LAKE ANNA

**"I have
never had
anything
that I
didn't like
at Tim's!!!"**

- DAWN D.

Health & Beauty

Best Physician

Gold

Medical Associates of Louisa

Silver

Louisa Family Practice

Bronze

Orange Family Physicians
Merrick Family Medicine

Best Dentist

Gold

Smile Lake Anna

Silver

Dr. Larry Pearlman

Bronze

Mineral Dental Care
Louisa Comprehensive
Piedmont Regional Dental Clinic

Best Hair Stylist

Gold

**Andrea Williams
Hairs2Us**

Silver

Hometown Hair - Camdynne M.

Bronze

Hair Graphics, Melonie
Dunnivan
Ooh LaLa - Carla Lohr
LA Hair Design
Sherry's Snip & Style
Hometown Hair - Carey Lynn

Best Massage Therapist

Gold

**Aundria Galanti,
Lake Anna Spa**

Silver

Kathleen Deangelo,
Lake Anna Spa

Bronze

Jessie Wolfrey

Best Fitness Program

Gold

**Lake Anna
Wellness Studio**

Silver

Pickle-ball at Betty Queen
Center

Bronze

Fishers Fitness
Cardio and Core at Betty
Queen Center
Cutalong Golf Course

Best Nail Salon

Gold

Off the Hook

Silver

Lake Anna Spa

Bronze

Kara Nails
Talk About Nails

Best Group Fitness

Gold

**Lake Anna
Wellness Studio**

Silver

Cardio and Core at the Betty
Queen Center

Bronze

Cutalong Golf Course



**Aundria
Galanti**

*Readers' Choice
Gold for Best
Massage Therapist*

1ST
Winner



PHOTOS BY CAROL BARKER WYATT



Cutalong's Jack Snyder

*Bronze Winner for Best Group
Fitness & Best Fitness Program*

For more information:
cutalonglakeanna.com
540-894-4275

Jack Snyder finds the most satisfaction in his work at Cutalong by serving people daily and providing them with extraordinary experiences. His dedication to excellence is shared by his ownership, management, and fellow employees, creating one of the best facilities in the state and country.

For Snyder, inspiration during tough times comes from his faith in his Lord and Savior, his church family, and the unwavering support of his wife and family. They all remind him of the strength needed to overcome challenges. His passion for golf is profound, describing it as a game he loves to share with anyone seeking the joy it brings.

Exceeding client expectations is paramount for Snyder. He emphasizes listening as the most critical aspect of client relationships. Whether on the practice tee, in the pro shop, or on the golf course, he strives to elevate every experience, supported by ownership that encourages excellence.

When asked about his constant source of inspiration, Snyder mentions his father, a second-generation PGA Professional. Following in his father's footsteps, Snyder has adopted and improved upon his father's qualities, striving to exceed his accomplishments.

Empathy is the core value driving Snyder's business goals. He consistently puts himself in others' positions, whether addressing a client's concerns or helping them improve their golf game. This personalized approach fosters genuine connections and successful outcomes.

Snyder loves the Lake Anna area for its hardworking, church-going, and good-natured community members. He appreciates the diverse professional backgrounds of the residents and their passion for giving back to the community.

In a crowded market, Snyder's "secret sauce" is his friendly, welcoming smile, which clients repeatedly comment on and enjoy. This simple yet powerful trait keeps them coming back, making Snyder a beloved figure in his community and profession.



Paws & Prints

PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Exploring Pet-Friendly Venues Around Lake Anna

Whether your furry companion is large or small, fluffy or chunky, one thing is for sure: pet lovers at Lake Anna never have to leave their four-legged friends behind when venturing out. From lakeside breweries to vineyards with resident feline hosts, this area offers a plethora of pet-friendly spots for locals and visitors alike.

One such beloved character on the pet scene is Magnum (on the right), an English Bulldog who has made Log Home Brewing Company his second home. Regulars at the brewery are no strangers to Magnum's charming presence; he has become somewhat of a local celebrity, often seen lounging by the bar or greeting patrons with a wagging tail. What sets Magnum apart, though, is his entrepreneurial spirit – he even has his own line of merchandise, with t-shirts featuring his adorable face flying off the shelves!

For those who prefer a more tranquil setting, Lake Anna boasts numerous dog-friendly locations where you can enjoy the great outdoors with your canine companion. Whether it's a leisurely stroll along the lakeshore or a game of fetch in one of the designated dog parks, there's





PHOTO BY BECCA KENT

no shortage of activities to keep both you and your furry friend entertained.

But it's not just dogs who are welcome at Lake Anna's establishments. At Chateau MerrillAnne, a picturesque vineyard nestled amidst rolling hills, visitors are greeted not by barking but by the gentle purring of several resident cats, like the one named Bo (below). According to the Chateau's owner, Kenny White, Bo is a closet Taylor Swift fan and enjoys listening to her record in our little music room. These feline ambassadors add a touch of charm to the winery's ambiance, often found lounging in the sun-dappled courtyard or weaving between the vineyard rows as guests enjoy wine tastings and tours.

In addition to providing a welcoming atmosphere for pets, many of Lake Anna's businesses go the extra mile to cater to their four-legged patrons. From offering water bowls and treats to organizing special events like pet costume contests and adoption drives, our establishments truly understand the importance of including pets as part of the community.

So whether you're a local looking for new spots to explore with your pet or a visitor hoping to experience the best of Lake Anna's hospitality, rest assured that there's no shortage of pet-friendly venues waiting to welcome you and your furry friend with open arms – and paws!



PHOTO BY BECCA KENT



PHOTO BY JAN TOMLINSON

Home Services

Best Insurance Agent

Gold

Mike Wilson

Silver

NVT&E Title Insurance & Settlement

Bronze

Justin Clendenin

Stephen Thompson: Allstate

Best Land Surveyor

Gold

Axis Land Survey, Inc

Silver

Lake Anna Surveyors

Best Deck, Dock and Exteriors Builder

Gold

Mid-Atlantic Dock Builders

Silver

MDG Contracting and Design LLC

Bronze

Decked Out Boat Houses

Jade Construction Company LLC

Always Done Right Home Improvements

Best Painter

Gold

CC Dunkum Painting

Silver

At Ease Home Services

Bronze

Always Done Right Home Improvements

Chris Saunders

Best Landscaper

Gold

Local Landscapers

Silver

Zac's Lawncare

Bronze

Chiles Enterprises

Outdoor Lifestyles Landscape

Millpond Boys

A to Z Tree & Outdoor Service

Best Internet Service

Gold

iWiSP

Silver

Firefly

Bronze

Starlink

Fiberlync

Best General Contractor

Gold

MDG Contracting and Design LLC

Silver

Lake Anna Home Solutions

Bronze

Jade Construction Company LLC

Best Hardscapes

Gold

Lake Anna Nursery

Silver

Outdoor Lifestyles Landscape

Bronze

Local Landscapers

Chiles Enterprises

Stoneworx of Virginia

Best Plumber

Gold

Wet Spot

Silver

Greg the Plumber

Bronze

At Ease Home Services

The Smith Family at iWiSP

Readers' Choice Gold Winner for Best Internet Service

In the winter of 2008, Sam Smith faced a problem many rural residents know well: the lack of reliable internet. Undeterred, Sam researched and discovered a way to bring high-speed internet to his home. Realizing the potential to help his neighbors, he shared this service at minimal cost, quickly spreading through the community. By 2019, Sam and his family had taken a significant leap forward, establishing their own Fiber Optics Infrastructure. Today, iWiSP serves half its customers with fiber and half with wireless broadband, continually expanding to reach underserved areas.

When Sam isn't working, he enjoys spending time with his family, particularly his grandkids. A family that loves staying active, they often play pickleball together. "Family is the key to our life," Sam shares.

Lake Anna's community is one of the Smith family's greatest joys.

Through their business, they've forged strong friendships and built a personal community. "Our customers have become a big part of our family," Sam says. "We work hard to bring a service to Lake Anna. We love that people see that and recognize it. Thank you doesn't seem enough."

Reflecting on their journey, the Smiths' core values of love and hard work consistently drive their business goals. They pride themselves on being community-driven, locally owned, and family-operated, ensuring they meet the specific needs of their area. This personal investment makes iWiSP stand out from its competitors.

Outside of work, the Smiths have diverse hobbies: Sam enjoys woodworking, Helen loves sewing and quilting, Amber is passionate about the outdoors and water, Jeremy likes target practice, and Kyle is into fitness and workouts.

iwisp.net | 540-379-5866

PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT



Nick Covert

Dream Builders is Winners' Choice Gold for Best Construction Company

1ST
Winner

PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT



Nick Covert, the visionary behind Dream Builders, finds his greatest satisfaction in transforming ordinary backyards into extraordinary outdoor living spaces. As an outdoor living specialist, he revels in seeing a project evolve from a mere concept to a stunning reality. "Witnessing the transformation of a bare backyard into a beautiful outdoor living space, knowing it will be a gathering place for friends and family, is truly rewarding," Covert shares.

When he's not meticulously crafting decks, Covert unwinds by Lake Anna, enjoying family time or indulging in his own home improvement projects. Whether fishing with his children or savoring a glass of wine with his wife, the lake provides a serene escape. "Being by the water brings a sense of peace and relaxation, allowing me to recharge before diving into the next project," he says.

Covert's love for Lake Anna extends beyond its beauty. He cherishes the strong sense of community and the myriad outdoor activities it offers. "Whether it's boating, fishing for Striped Bass, or dining at water-accessible restaurants, there's always something to do," he enthuses.

In his professional interactions, Covert is committed to exceeding client expectations through active listening, clear communication, and exceptional craftsmanship. "By understanding their needs and maintaining transparency, I strive to not only meet but exceed their vision for their outdoor space," he explains.

For Covert, his work is more than a job; it's a passion. "Creating inviting spaces that enhance people's lives and foster memorable moments with loved ones is what drives me," he concludes. Through Dream Builders, Nick Covert is not just building decks; he's crafting cherished memories and lasting joy.

For more information:
dreambuildersofva.com | 540-295-4111

Home Services

Best Concierge Service

Gold

Lake Anna Linens

Silver

Lake Anna Home Concierge Service

Bronze

Lake Anna Caretakers

Best Pest Control Service

Gold

Ferrells Termite and Pest

Silver

Helping Hands Pest Control

Bronze

Guardian Termite & Pest Control, Inc.

Best Exterior Cleaning

Gold

Shine On Window & Exterior Cleaning LLC

Silver

Sharpes Property - Cory Sharpe

Bronze

A to Z Tree & Outdoor Service

Best Construction Company

Gold

Dream Builders

Silver

MDG Contracting and Design LLC

Bronze

Built Right Homes
Southern Image Design Builders

Jade Construction Company

Bethel Builders

Cassazza Construction

Best Pet Services

Gold

Lake Anna Veterinarian

Silver

LKA Belly Rub Club

Bronze

Fido's Fun Place

Best Electrician

Gold

Sparks Electric

Silver

Mikutins Enterprises

Bronze

First Source Electrical LLC

Best Handyman

Gold

Lake Anna Home Solutions

Silver

Always Done Right Home Improvements

Bronze

At Ease Home Services
Pirate Techs of Lake Anna

Best Lawn Care

Gold

Zacs Lawn Care

Silver

Local Landscapers

Bronze

Virginia Green
Lewis Brothers Landscaping
Millpond Boys

Best Flooring Services

Gold

Lake Anna Flooring

Silver

MDG Contracting and Design LLC

Bronze

Always Done Right Home Improvements

Home Services

Best Trash Services

Gold

Valet Trash & Hauling

Silver

Premier Trash LLC

Bronze

Carter's Trash Service

Best Roofing Company

Gold

Mastins Roofing

Silver

WG Hart Construction (Bubba Hart)

Bronze

Mills Roofing

K&J Roofing

Loundsbury Roofing

Best Photography

Gold

Lake Anna Photography

Silver

Denise Feagans

Bronze

Michele Heffernan Photography

Best Heating & Air Company

Gold

Wayne's HVAC

Silver

HVAC Specialists of Virginia

Bronze

Kober and Sons

Quality Air

Best Tree Services

Gold

Jim's Tree Service

Silver

Tree Junky Tree Services

Bronze

A to Z Tree & Outdoor Service

By Waters Tree Care

Best Cleaning Service

Gold

Heaven's Way Cleaning

Silver

Heaven Sent Cleaning

Bronze

Always Done Right Cleaning

By the Lake Cleaning

Cleaning with Care

Best Veterinarian

Gold

Lake Anna Veterinary Hospital

Silver

Daniel Slovis Lake Anna Veterinarian Hospital

Bronze

Animal Medical Center of Louisa

Montpelier Vet Hospital

Spotsylvania Animal Hospital

Best Home Builder

Gold

MDG Contracting and Design LLC

Silver

Spartan Homes, Inc.

Bronze

Built Right Homes

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CASUAL HOMES | ADDITIONS | REMODELS

Lake Anna Golf Cart Shenanigans

Golf cart parades aren't just for campgrounds and marinas; at Lake Anna, they have become a beloved tradition that unites the community in celebration. Homeowners' associations (HOAs) around Lake Anna actively organize and participate in these events, turning ordinary golf carts into dazzling displays of creativity and fun for all ages!

Lake Anna's 4th of July parades come alive with decked-out carts uniquely decorated in the patriotic spirit of Independence. Halloween transforms the carts into haunted houses on wheels, with hayrides full of neighborhood kids dressed in costume, going house to house to fill their giant bags with candy and treats.

Some communities, like Morgan I and II, run their carts for Christmas, adding festive cheer with twinkling lights and holiday decorations. And let's not forget the exciting poker runs, adding an element of competition and adventure to the parades.

These parades are not just for the young but for the young at heart as well. Families and friends of all ages join in the fun, engaging in water gun wars and donning creative costumes.

Windwood Coves is our 2024 Readers' Choice Gold winner for Best Golf Cart Parade. They are especially known for their 4th of July and Halloween parades, setting a high standard with their elaborate and imaginative designs.

The golf cart parades at Lake Anna are a reflection of the spirit of the people who live here. They showcase the creativity, community spirit, and joy that define life at the lake. Whether you're a participant or a spectator, the parades are a reminder of the simple pleasures of coming together, celebrating, and making memories with neighbors and friends.



Lake Life

Best Local Facebook Group

Gold
Lake Anna Roosters & Foxes

Silver
Best of Lake Anna

Bronze
Lake Anna Chatter

Best Local Hero

Gold
Jody Korman

Silver
Doug Straley

Bronze
Neil Rubsam - Diver
William Blount
Andre Rademeyer

Best Tourist Attraction

Gold
Lake Anna State Park

Silver
Mid-Atlantic Watersports

Bronze
Louisa Arts Center
SunShine Swan Boat Excursions
Cruise Rusty

Best Annual Event

Gold
Fourth of July Fireworks

Silver
Christmas Boat Parade

Bronze
LAKETOBERFEST at Cooling Pond Brewery
Belmont Ham & Oyster Dinner

Best Attraction

Gold
Lake Anna State Park

Silver
Pleasant Landing at Lake Anna

Bronze
SunShine Swan Boat Excursions

Best Place to Hang with Your Pet

Gold
Log Home Brewing Company

Silver
Lake Anna Taphouse

Bronze
Lake Anna State Park
Callie Opie's Orchard
Cooling Pond Brewery

Best Locals Spot

Gold
The Cove at Lake Anna

Silver
Lake Anna Taphouse

Bronze
Callie Opie's Orchard
Log Home Brewing Company
Cooling Pond Brewery

LOG HOME

"Ron and Becca make us feel like family"

- MARY B.





PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Mineral Midnight

Embracing the Quietude & Stars of Early Nights

At the heart of our rural community, “Mineral Midnight” is more than just an early closing time—it’s a cherished lifestyle. As the sun sets and businesses shutter their doors, a unique peace descends, inviting residents to unwind and reconnect. This early quietude fosters an environment where relaxation and strong bonds offer respite from the relentless pace of modern life.

Locals know there are two sets of hours: one for the “summer season,” mainly between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and another for the “off-season,” which can still be busy during the fall, spring, and Christmas time, but follows a different rhythm with less boating and more indoor activities.

One of the most enchanting aspects of these early nights is the unobstructed view of the night sky. Without the interference of city lights, the stars shine brilliantly, painting a canvas that captivates and inspires. Even boating in the dark brings a special allure, adding a touch of romance and adventure to activities like fishing or cruising.

There are two restaurants that currently stay open late: The Cove, in the Belmont area near Dillard’s Bridge, and The Lounge at Vitos, directly on the other side of the lake off of the 208 Bridge. However, for those late-night cravings, the nearest drive-through might be in Thornburg, Orange, or Louisa, depending on which side of the lake you’re on.

Even boating in the dark brings a special allure, adding a touch of romance and adventure to activities like fishing or cruising. The charm of “Mineral Midnight” is further amplified by the breathtaking sunsets that grace our skies. As the day transitions to night, the horizon explodes with hues of orange, pink, and purple, providing a perfect backdrop for evening gatherings and reflective moments. On special occasions like 4th of July... or honestly any big weekend here at Lake Anna during summer, the night is lit up by fireworks, adding bursts of color and joy

to the tranquil atmosphere, creating memories that last a lifetime.

The benefits of these early closures extend beyond the visual feast of the stars. They cultivate a lifestyle where peace and relaxation are not just possible but integral. Families spend more quality time together, friends chat on porches or by a wood fire, and the overall pace of life slows to a more human rhythm. This gentle cadence allows for deeper social connections,

One of the many reasons people flock to the water on 4th of July is to view the fireworks above the water.

enriching lives with the kind of interactions that are often lost in busier urban environments.

In embracing the quietude and the stars of early nights, our rural community finds a unique blend of tranquility and togetherness. “Mineral Midnight” is a time to appreciate the simple pleasures of life, fostering a profound connection to nature and to each other under the endless expanse of the starlit sky.

Lake Life

Best Campground or RV Park

Gold
Christopher Run Campground

Silver

Lake Anna State Park

Bronze

Rocky Branch Marina & Campground

Best Swimming Beach

Gold
Lake Anna State Park

Silver

Pleasant Landing at Lake Anna

Bronze

Christopher Run Campground

Best Sunset Spot

Gold
El Gran Patron

Silver

Cruise Rusty

Bronze

SunShine Swan Boat Excursions

Best Boat Launch

Gold
Anna Point Marina

Silver

HighPoint Marina

Bronze

Lake Anna Yacht Club

Best Equestrian Experience

Gold
Shenandoah Crossing

Silver

ECC Stables, LLC

Bronze

Ohana Horse Farm

Best On the Water Hangout

Gold
Cocktail Cove

Silver

The Sandbar

Bronze

The Islands

Best Fishing Guide

Gold
Chris McCotter

Silver

Jim Hemby

Bronze

Orange Troller

Best Hobby Farm

Gold
Pink House Farm

Silver

Pony Partners

Bronze

Sunny Bear Homestead

“Can spend an entire day at the Lake Anna State Park!”

- LACEY J.



PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Marine Services

Best Mobile Boat Services

Gold
Mid-Atlantic Watersports

Silver

The Dry Dock

Bronze

Pirate Techs, David Bailey
Sterling Aero-Larry Simpkins
Robbie Dudley

Best Boat Rental

Gold
Mid-Atlantic Watersports

Silver

Boato Rentals

Bronze

Shipwreck Boat Rental
Sturgeon Creek Marina
Duke's Creek Marina

Best Rescue Service

Gold
Tow Boat US

Silver

Lake Anna Rescue Inc

Bronze

Louisa County Sheriff
Coast Guard

Best Jetski Rental

Gold
Mid-Atlantic Watersports

Silver

LKA Watersports

Bronze

SkiLKA
Mobile Watercraft Rental

Best Marine Mechanic

Gold
**Austin Newsom,
Mid-Atlantic Watersports**

Silver

The Dry Dock

Bronze

Pirate Techs, David Bailey
George Blount

Best Boat Launch

Gold
Anna Point Marina

Silver

Sturgeon Creek Marina

Bronze

Christopher Run Campground

Best Marina

Gold
Sturgeon Creek Marina

Silver

Anna Point Marina

Bronze

Dukes Creek Marina
High Point Marina
Lake Anna Marina

Best Boat Storage Facility

Gold
The Dry Dock

Silver

Cedar Knoll

Bronze

Sturgeon Creek Marina
Dukes Creek Marina

Best Boat Excursions

Gold
Cruise Rusty

Silver

Mid-Atlantic Watersports

Bronze

Sunshine Swan Boat Excursions
McCotter's Guide Service

Gina Sensabaugh

SunShine Swan Boat Excursions won six Bronze awards from the Readers' Choice, including Best Boat Excursion and Best Sunset Spot!

Q What brings you the most satisfaction in your work?

A Providing peace, comfort, and an avenue to release stress with priceless memories for those around me!

Q When you're not working, where can we find you?

A I spend time with my husband Kavin (retired) and my family in Greene & Rockingham County. I am also an Independent Life Insurance Agent and very recently obtained my VA health License to work with Combined Ins, along with being an End of Life Doula.

PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Q What do you love most about Lake Anna?

A The Lake is gorgeous! The people are what make a great community here at Lake Anna.

Q What's your inspiration for getting through tough times?

A Grace! I find inspiration by keeping a positive mindset. And staying active and persistent in what my actual goals are.

Q What's the most memorable feedback you've received from a client?

A When we finished the excursion for a family of 4, the husband yelled "I HAD THE BEST TIME OF MY LIFE"!

Q What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

A I became a USCG Captain with Merchant Mariner Credentials! I have NEVER dreamed of being a female Captain of my own vessel!!! When I found out a USCG License was required for Chartering my boat, I did everything I needed to do to make it happen!

sunshineswanboat.com
434-960-7730

3RD
Place



Collin Henley

Boato is Winners' Choice Silver for Best Boat Rental

2ND
Place

PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT



Collin Henley is a passionate entrepreneur and the proud owner of Boato, a rental service dedicated to creating unforgettable boating experiences on Lake Anna. Collin's commitment to customer satisfaction is unparalleled; he personally reaches out to every renter post-vacation to ensure they had an exceptional time, cherishing the stories of families bonding over fishing or tubing adventures. This personal touch is what brings him the most satisfaction in his work, knowing he's played a part in creating lasting memories.

When Collin isn't working on boats, you can find him indulging in his new hobby, carpentry, in his garage. A new homeowner, he has taken to woodworking with enthusiasm, crafting everything from custom saw tables to unique boxes.

The people of Lake Anna hold a special place in Collin's heart. He finds the community incredibly friendly and supportive, particularly through local networking groups. This camaraderie has been enlightening and instrumental in the growth of his business.

Reflecting on his journey, Collin draws inspiration from his past self, proud of his growth and the resilience he's shown. His determination and ability to communicate effectively have been crucial in overcoming challenges.

One of Collin's proudest achievements is competing in the American Collegiate Hockey Association National Tournament with George Mason University, a testament to his perseverance and team spirit. This drive translates into his business ethos, where he ensures every interaction with clients exceeds their expectations through meticulous communication and a customer-centric approach.

Outside of work, Collin finds immense joy in woodworking, recently completing projects like custom tables and aiming to build a small shed.

rentboato.com
(540) 894-1837

Marine Services

Best Boat Repair Shop

Gold

The Dry Dock

Silver

Pirate Techs

Bronze

Performance Boats

On Lake Time Boat Services
LLC

Best Boat Accessories Shop

Gold

Mid-Atlantic Watersports

Silver

Sturgeons Creek

Bronze

The Dry Dock

Performance Boats

Best Boat Dealer

Gold

Mid-Atlantic Watersports

Silver

The Dry Dock

Bronze

Performance Boats

Safe Boating Tips

from Pirate Techs & Lake the Alligator

Boating can be an enjoyable and relaxing experience, but it's important to prioritize safety. Here are 3 tips to ensure a safe and pleasant time on the water:

1. Prepare and Organize Your Boat: Before casting off, ensure all passengers and gear have a designated place and are properly stowed. An organized boat reduces the risk of tripping and falling, which is crucial for maintaining safety.

2. Stay Patient and Calm: Especially in tight or crowded situations such as docking, navigating marinas, or popular hangout spots. Plan your moves with a casual and deliberate intent, maintaining a composed demeanor.

3. Be Aware of Other Watercrafts: Pay attention to vessels engaged in wakeboarding, tubing, or other watersports, as they often make sudden and unpredictable maneuvers.

3RD
Place

*Readers' Choice Bronze Winner
for Best Mobile Boat Service*

lkapirates.com
help@lkapirates.com
540-360-8993

Follow Lake the Alligator at bit.ly/lakeslife



Real Estate & Rentals

Best Bed & Breakfast

Gold

Boxley Place Inn

Silver

Dunlora Inn

Bronze

Littlepage Inn

Lynn Haven Manor

Best Property Management Company

Gold

Dockside Realty Rentals

Silver

Lake Anna Property Management

Bronze

Vacasa

Lake Anna Real Estate Group

Best Real Estate Agent

Gold

Ashley Hoffman

Silver

Jacey Orion Netzer

Bronze

Tiffany Hazelwood

Libby Sandridge

Tina Perry-Duval

Crystal Hawley

Liz Wilson

Best Real Estate Company

Gold

The Ashley Hoffman Group

Silver

The Orion Home Group

Bronze

Lake Anna Island Realty

Dockside Realty

Sunset Properties at Lake Anna

Lake Anna Real Estate Group

Long & Foster Real Estate

Best Moving Company

Gold

5 Guys and a Truck

Silver

JK Moving Services

Bronze

Dave the Mover

Best Mortgage Company

Gold

Andy Zemon Novus Mortgage

Silver

Brian McGovern Presidential Mortgage

Bronze

Atlantic Bay Mortgage Group

Best Rental Agency

Gold

Lake Anna Real Estate Group

Silver

Dockside Realty Rentals

Bronze

Vacasa

Best Unique Vacation Rental

Gold

All Decked Out

Silver

Lake Anna Cabana

Bronze

Seay Point

Blue Herron

Lazy Lake Escape

Segundo Viento

Best Rental Home

Gold

All Decked Out

Silver

Blue Herron

Bronze

Silver Sands

Meet Ashley & Grayson

*Readers' Choice Gold
Winners for Best Real
Estate Agent & Best
Real Estate Company*



The best of the best at Lake Anna. Ashley Hoffman has been the top producing real estate agent at Lake Anna since 2018, with over 500 million dollars in total real estate sales. In 2023 alone, Ashley and her business partner (and husband) Grayson Hoffman transacted over 114 million dollars with 165 clients in a single year. Their company is The Ashley Hoffman Group and are affiliated with Lake Anna Island Realty. Ashley and Grayson also develop real estate at Lake Anna; in 2022, they developed their own waterfront subdivision called Rum Point, where they now reside with their three children: Rocco, Kylie, and Cameo.

What's their secret sauce? Four things: (1) both are locals who have been at Lake Anna since birth, so they know every detail, cove, shoreline, and subdivision at Lake Anna; (2) they are the hardest workers in the room, often working 100-hour weeks to provide unmatched white-glove concierge service to their clients; (3) an incredible team behind them, and (4) God's blessings and grace abound in their lives. Grayson also hosts "The Lake



Anna Podcast," where he interviews local guests about various Lake Anna subjects such as short term rentals, fishing, boating, real estate financing, and the history of the North Anna Power Station. Ashley and Grayson have 25 years of real estate experience between

them. They also personally own short term rental properties, which helps them advise their clients about buying, selling, and operating short term rental properties at Lake Anna.

theashleyhoffmangroup.com
540-894-4400

Say Hello to Brian McGovern

Readers' Choice Silver Winner for Best Mortgage Company



PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Q What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

A I think I would have to say that both of my children have become wonderful, responsible, accomplished adults.

Q How do you stay motivated?

A When things are slow it can be difficult to stay motivated but that's also a great opportunity to keep learning and be better prepared to continue to help people reach their housing and financial goals.

Q What's the most memorable feedback you've received from a client?

A The best feedback is from the clients that truly appreciate the effort and let me know that they would not be in their homes if it wasn't for my dedication.

Q If you could distill your passion for your work into one sentence, what would it be?

A My commitment is much more than the individual transaction, it's about educating and custom tailoring each loan to ensure a great borrower experience.... It's not always easy but it's very rewarding.

Q Describe a moment in your career when you felt an overwhelming sense of fulfillment. What led to that moment?

A I had a buyer last year whom we worked together for over two years to find the right home and prepare her financially and we finally closed on her home this past December.

2ND Place

Q What brings you the most satisfaction in your work?

A Working with great people and getting the tough deals to closing to help people get into their homes.

Q What do you love most about Lake Anna?

A The laid-back atmosphere, the sunsets, meeting great people.

brian.mcGovern@presidential.com
703-929-5581



2ND Place

PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Meet Jacey Orion Netzer

Readers' Choice Silver Winner for Best Real Estate Agent and Best Real Estate Company

Q Describe a moment in your career when you felt an overwhelming sense of fulfillment. What led to that moment?

A I had a vision of bringing a Keller Williams office here to Lake Anna. Bringing that vision to life has been a dream come true. Stopping to look how far I've come to reach my goals has brought tears to my eyes!

Q Beyond the transaction, what aspect of your profession brings you the greatest joy?

A Discovering what my client's real estate goals are and formulating a plan with them to get them there!

Q How do you ensure every interaction with a client exceeds their expectations?

A Communication. Often. Listen to them and ask a lot of questions. Experience and knowledge to be able to present them with all of their options and educate them to help them make decisions to get them to their goals. Our team has a transaction coordinator who is also a licensed agent to help oversee the documents, and the timeline and be an additional resource especially if my clients need me and I am serving another client.

Q Outside of work, what passion or hobby consumes your free time?

A Spending time in the lake, boating, nature, being outside with the doggie and spending time with my family.

Q What aspect of Lake Anna's community spirit resonates most with you?

A The small-town feel is just what we had growing up. My family owned a restaurant in our downtown of Hamburg, PA, and we knew everyone and everyone knew us. I found community and relationships here in the 5 years we have become full-time residents.

theorionhomegroup.com
484-638-1059

Meet Liz Wilson

Readers' Choice Bronze for Best Real Estate Agent and Best Local Humanitarian



Liz Wilson's journey in real estate is a testament to her unwavering dedication to her clients. For over 34 years, she has called Lake Anna home, drawn by its breathtaking natural beauty and close-knit community. "Getting the most for my client's money is what drives me," Wilson says. "When they're happy, I'm happy."

Despite her busy schedule, Wilson finds time for her passions, which include boating, waterskiing, horseback riding, playing darts at the Log Cabin Brewery, and recently, cornhole. "I've met some great new friends through these activities," she shares.

Lake Anna's charm lies not only in its scenery but also in its people and businesses. Wilson appreciates the balance between socializing and enjoying solitude. "I am a quiet person, and I like that I can socialize when I want and if I just want to stay home, everyone seems to understand."

Acknowledged for her hard work and integrity, Wilson remains grounded. "To those who voted for me, I hope it's for my ability as an honest, hard-working, ethical Realtor who is determined to have their best interests at heart. I'm serious about my role and strive to maintain my reputation as a dedicated professional."

Wilson's resilience is evident through her career achievements, such as being named #18 of the top 20 agents with Long & Foster in 2021 and excelling academically with a 3.9 GPA in Business and Statistics. She finds motivation in her love for real estate and her competitive spirit. "I want to offer the best to my clients, providing education, dedication, knowledge, and follow-through."

Her commitment to clients extends beyond transactions. "I give every client my full attention and effort, whether it's a small home or a large waterfront property. Their success is my success," Wilson asserts. This dedication is highlighted by moments like securing a perfect home for a first-time buyer in a competitive market.

Wilson's core values—honesty, integrity, and a willingness to help others—drive her success. She advises aspiring realtors to work hard, continuously learn, and know their market intimately. Reflecting on her journey, Wilson attributes her success to her husband and close friends, who provide unwavering support and keep her grounded.

Outside of work, Wilson enjoys giving back through charities and supporting small businesses. Her recent experiences, such as playing darts for charity and attending a Queen + Adam Lambert concert, reflect her love for music and sports and her appreciation for the meaningful connections in her life.

Liz Wilson's story is one of dedication, integrity, and a deep love for her community and profession. Her journey continues to inspire those around her, ensuring that she remains a trusted and respected figure in Lake Anna real estate.

buyandselllakeanna.com
540-226-6475

Introducing Marie Snyder

Readers' Choice Gold for Best Concierge Service and Best Fox, of the Roosters & Foxes Social Club here at Lake Anna

lakeannalinens.com
804-370-0233

Q When you're not working, where can we find you?

A Around Lake Anna with friends or home with family. We love to entertain at our renovated schoolhouse home and think opening our home and sharing a meal around our table is the most caring form of hospitality.

Q What do you love most about Lake Anna?

A We live in a place where people come to vacation! It's paradise.

Q What do you want to say to all the people who nominated and voted for you?

A A referral/vote is the ultimate form of flattery and tells us we are doing a great job serving our clients and the community. We take our business seriously and give 110% to each and every client. To those who have been given much, the responsibility falls on us to do more for everyone else.

Q What's your inspiration for getting through tough times?

A We are actually in one of those times right now. While we're still doing great, COVID changed A LOT around Lake Anna and my first inspiration is to know that God always has my back. Always. If something doesn't work out, He always gives us something better. Always. My second inspiration is my family. We started this business as a team and remain a close-knit team in everything, personal and business. I started with "see a need, fill a need" and continue that philosophy today. You just have to be looking and listening for who needs what.



PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Q What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

A Honestly, it's my family. We have 4 amazing, boys who all have servants' hearts. Paul and I have watched them grow into people we love to hang out with!

Q What's the most memorable feedback you've received from a client?

A As simple as it may seem, one of our clients posted a review that said, "I don't know how we did it without Lake Anna Linens. We'll never go back."

Q Reflecting on your journey, what core value consistently drives you to pursue your business goals?

A I wasn't raised wealthy, not middle class really; but I WAS raised with a good work ethic and 100% honesty (character is everything). It has paid off in spades.

Retail

Best Fishing Supply Store

Gold
Fish Tales Bait and Tackle

Silver
Sturgeon Lake Marina

Bronze
Hellems & Son

Best Place to Browse

Gold
Mineral Mercantile

Silver
Home Point

Bronze
Ole Roosting Box
Sunny Bear Homestead

Best Place to Find a Gift

Gold
Mineral Mercantile

Silver
Ole Roosting Box

Bronze
Sunny Bear Homestead
Home Point
Jen's Crafters
Frillow Designs

Best Retail Store

Gold
Lake Anna Outfitters

Silver
Ole Roosting Box

Bronze
Home Point
Mineral Mercantile
KT Jean Boutique

Best Nursey/ Garden Supply

Gold
Lake Anna Nursery

Silver
Hottinger Greenhouses

Bronze
Deep Roots
Darnell's Garden Patch



PHOTO BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Weddings

Best Florist

Gold
Rockland Farm

Silver
Lake Anna Nursery

Bronze
Lake Anna Florist
A. Morgan Floral

Jen's **3RD Place**
Crafters

*Readers' Choice Bronze Winner
for Best Place to Find a Gift*

Located in Mineral, Jen's Crafters Gift shop features unique, quality items made by Virginia artists and handcrafters.

For more information:
78 Davis Hwy, Suite C in Mineral
540-259-3626



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Weddings

Best Cakes

Gold

Mad Batter Bakery

Silver

Jenny Cakes at the Lake

Bronze

Cafe Charm

Best Caterer

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

Out of the Box

Bronze

Vitos

Carrie's Soul Food

Blue Ridge Pizza

Best Indoor Event Venue

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

Rockland Farms

Bronze

Tavern on the Rail {The Event Barn}

Best Bachelorette Party

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

Coyote Hole

Bronze

Cruise Rusty

Best Bachelor Party

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

Lake Anna Taphouse

Bronze

Cruise Rusty

Best Outdoor Event Venue

Gold

Callie Opie's Orchard

Silver

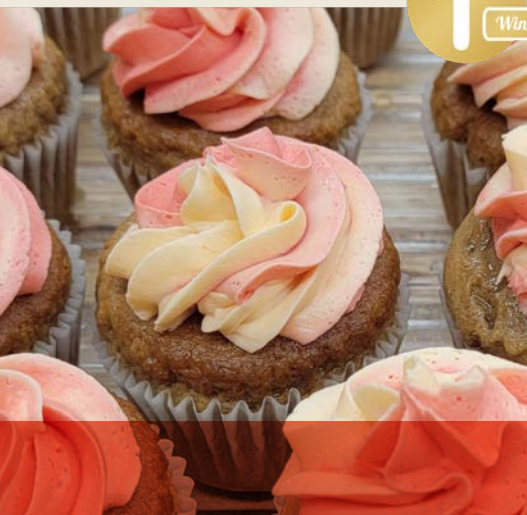
Rockland Farms

Bronze

The Cooling Pond

Avonlea Farms

Greenock Manor



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Readers' Choice Gold Winner for Best Cakes

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PHOTOS BY CAROL BARKER WYATT

Readers' Choice Gold for Best Romantic Restaurant, Best Steak, and Bronze for Best Indoor Event Venue

1ST Winner
3RD Place

Introducing Melody Bowers

Since 2001, Melody Bowers has owned and lovingly restored Tavern on the Rail, transforming it into a coveted venue for weddings and special events. This charming tavern seamlessly blends intimate countryside allure with refined elegance, creating unforgettable experiences for its guests.

Bowers, a culinary virtuoso with a passion for hospitality, took the helm of Tavern on the Rail with a clear vision: to craft memorable moments through

exceptional dining and ambiance. With a background deeply rooted in the food service industry since age 14, Melody's expertise and dedication shine through in every aspect of the tavern's operation.

Upon reopening in 2022 after the pandemic, Melody and her dedicated team reimagined the tavern's offerings. They curated a menu featuring delectable seafood platters and tantalizing combos, with Melody herself crafting each dish to ensure it reflects her commitment to quality and flavor.

Family plays an integral role at Tavern on the Rail. Melody's sisters, Yolonda Talley and Barbara Delooze, bring their culinary prowess to the kitchen, creating mouthwatering delights and decadent desserts that keep guests coming back for more.

A defining feature of Tavern on the Rail is its idyllic setting. Surrounded by vast fields and farmland, guests enjoy panoramic views that evoke serenity and tranquility. The tavern's historic charm, coupled with its remote location, makes it a sought-after destination for weddings, attracting guests from Richmond, Goochland, Fredericksburg, and beyond.

For couples seeking an unforgettable wedding experience, Tavern on the Rail offers the Event Barn & Loft. This beautifully remodeled old dairy barn now serves as a rustic yet elegant venue for ceremonies and receptions, with seating for up to 100 guests. The barn exudes country charm and timeless appeal, while the attached bridal suite provides a cozy retreat for newlyweds.



Beyond weddings, Tavern on the Rail hosts a variety of events, from intimate dinners to lively music nights, ensuring something for everyone. Melody's commitment to innovation ensures that each visit to the tavern is unique and memorable.

As Melody's vision continues to evolve, Tavern on the Rail remains a beacon of culinary excellence and hospitality.

Whether planning the wedding of your dreams or seeking a charming countryside retreat, Tavern on the Rail invites you to experience its magic firsthand. Book your reservation today and embark on a journey of culinary delight and unforgettable memories at this hidden gem in Virginia's historic landscape.

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The logo for Wet Spot Plumbing. The word "Wet" is in a simple sans-serif font. Below it, "SPOT" is written in large, bold, white letters. The letter "O" in "SPOT" is replaced by a circular icon containing a faucet with a single drop of water falling into a circular area with roots growing from the bottom. Below "SPOT" is the word "Plumbing" in a bold, serif font.

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