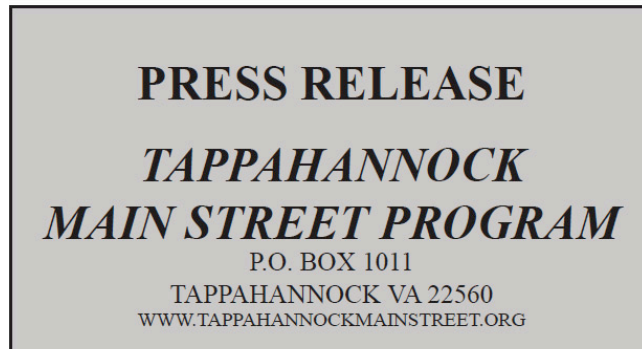




Contact: Forrest French, AIA  
Phone: 804-443-1115



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Tappahannock Main Street Program Requests Tappahannock Community Opinions**

Imagine strolling down Prince Street in Tappahannock. The street is bustling with activity and there's a new look. Benches, gazebos, and freshly planted flowers line the street. Some folks are picking up their favorite locally grown vegetables and seafood at the Farmers' Market. Others are admiring the latest art in the new artist gallery, while checking out the schedule of events in the Beale Community Center. There's a group settled on the benches of the town pier down at the river, taking in sights and sounds of the Rappahannock. Others are in their favorite restaurant, enjoying the variety of food and spirits offered by local restaurateurs.

The Tappahannock Main Street Program (TMSP) is a grass roots community effort initiated by local citizens, business and property owners, and members of civic groups, to promote the revitalization of downtown Tappahannock. Community input is essential to the success of this program so it reflects the wishes of the community. To gauge community interest, a short survey is being circulated. The survey measures citizens' interest in revitalizing the downtown historic district, touching on several community and business topics ranging from historic preservation, landscaping, and a river-front park to community events, specialty shops, farmers' markets and more. Lastly there is opportunity to express interest in volunteering for the Main Street Program.

Residents of the town, the county, and the surrounding area are asked to complete the survey. A return-mail postcard may be found in local business establishments and dropped in convenient boxes, or completed online at [www.tmsp.us/survey](http://www.tmsp.us/survey)

TMSP has published a brochure that outlines the goals of the Program, available with the survey. Current projects include providing strategic consulting for the Beale Sanctuary arts enter and the restoration of the Daw Theater, both located in the historic district. These plans are viewable at [www.tmsp.us](http://www.tmsp.us)

“I've seen the Main Street program revitalize downtowns in Virginia communities that don't have nearly the resources that Tappahannock offers ” remarked Sarah Dillard Pope, an Essex County native. A former planner with the Virginia Main Street Program and instrumental with the Culpeper, Franklin, and Bedford revitalizations, she is now Executive Director of the Menokin Foundation. “With it's rich history, the banks of a beautiful river at its doorstep and the benefit of being at the crossroads of two major state roads, downtown Tappahannock has tremendous potential to become a unique destination for local residents and visitors alike.”

Several towns in Tidewater have embraced the Main Street concepts and made considerable improvements, particularly Kilmarnock, Gloucester, and Urbanna. “The time is right for Tappahannock” commented TMSP committee member Brooke Kriete Mullery, an Essex native. “We need the support of residents and business to enhance our historic district to a level we could all be proud of.” added Bill Croxton , a life-long Tappahannock resident.

Inquiries may be directed to Aaron Bowles, Promotion Chair  
[tappahannockmainstreet@gmail.com](mailto:tappahannockmainstreet@gmail.com)



*Photo caption: Tappahannock on the Rappahannock – a Main Street concept of a river-front park and pier that finally connects the river and the community together again.*