

# SUFFOLK

suffolklivingmag.com

*Living*

A close-up photograph of two hands clinking champagne glasses. The glasses are filled with a bubbly beverage and are set against a blurred background of a sunset or sunrise, with warm orange and yellow light. The hands are positioned on either side of the frame, with the glasses meeting in the center. The lighting is soft and warm, creating a celebratory atmosphere.

**Through  
the eyes of  
our readers**

jan/feb 2025 • vol. 16, no. 1

# Holy Cow!

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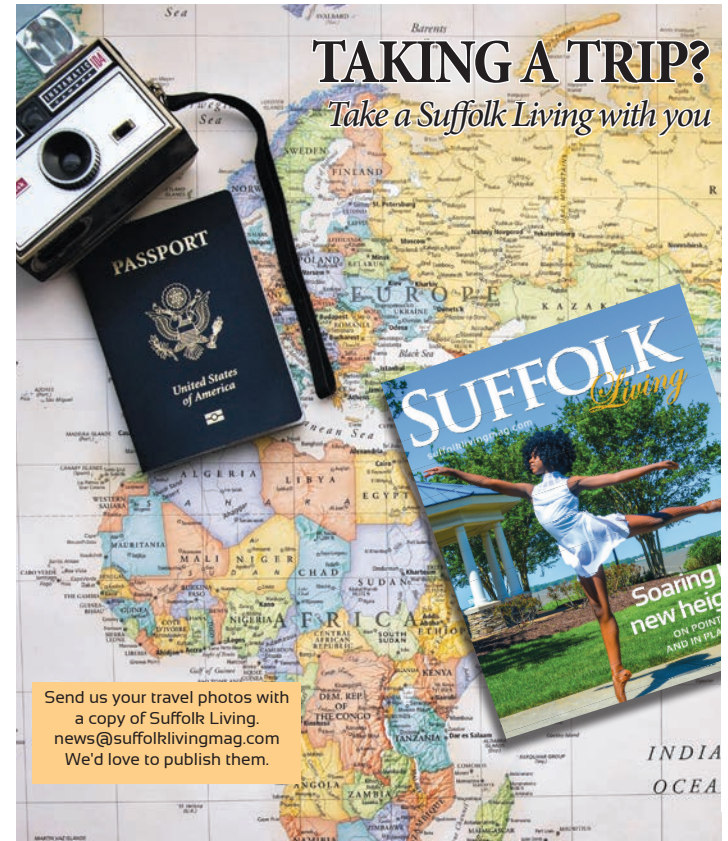
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## on vacation



Gladys Wiggins took Suffolk Living magazine on vacation when she visited the Lucy Desi Museum, Jamestown, N.Y.



Send us your travel photos with a copy of Suffolk Living. [news@suffolklivingmag.com](mailto:news@suffolklivingmag.com) We'd love to publish them.

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# FEATURE

View Suffolk through the lens of the community.

# 11

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## jan-feb | 2025

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### In the News

Duman recently sold the sales, service and parts division of Mike Duman Auto Sales to Priority Automotive



### Suffolk Scenes

See who was seen at the Suffolk Holiday Parade.

### ON THE COVER



The winner of our Suffolk Living photo contest is Aaron Stewart

# publisher's note

## Happy New Year

Welcome to the year 2025! It's hard to believe it has been 25 years since the turn of the millenia. Is anyone else wondering where the time has gone?

The new year brings a time to refresh, rejuvenate, shake off the "same-old-same-old" and take a look with fresh eyes. A new year invites a time for improvement and change, while honoring the past and preparing for the future. In the News, on page 7, a big change was announced just before the end of the year about a business that has been a staple in the Suffolk community for many decades. Though, one of the most noticeable changes you'll see in this edition of Suffolk Living is within the pages themselves.

In this January/February edition of Suffolk Living, you'll notice there is not one feature story, at all. That's a fairly large deviation from how we usually do things in this magazine. Now, don't worry, this isn't a permanent change that will affect future editions. We will still be bringing you the best in feature stories from around Suffolk for future editions in 2025. However, for this edition and maybe our January/February editions for the next few years, we want to feature Suffolk Living in a different light. We want what you, our readers, our supporters, to be the feature in this edition. So back in November we launched the inaugural, Suffolk Living Photo Contest.

We wanted to see Suffolk how you see Suffolk. To capture the essence of our city through your lens. Submissions for the contest were accepted online from mid-November until December 1, 2024, in the categories of Agricultural, Architecture, Landscape, Scenes and Waterways. During that time, the contest received nearly 100 submissions. Once submissions were closed, Suffolk Living staff had the difficult task of selecting only five photos from across all the categories to be put into a voting round, with the grand prize being the cover photo of this edition. The five photos selected were the best of the best. All the photos in the Suffolk Living Photo Contest were excellent and we appreciate everyone who took the time to submit photos.

Voting wrapped up on December 22. The photo with the most reader votes, which you will find as the feature photo on the cover of this edition, is "Sunset Toast" submitted by Aaron Stewart. Suffolk, you picked wisely, what a great photo to toast to the new year!

Within the pages of this first edition of the year, you will find sunsets, canoe trips, fiery skies, fascinating architecture, a few good horses and many of the other photos that were submitted in this year's contest. We encourage you to get out there with your own cameras and capture life in our city through your own lens, as our contest participants have done. Our contest sponsor, Visit Suffolk, who helped make this contest possible, is a great resource for activities, tours, and all things Suffolk. They can be your guide for capturing some of the best moments and views Suffolk has to offer. We hope you'll share your photos with us in a future contest.

Having a magazine that is mainly photos without any feature story, is certainly a fresh idea and a big change for this edition, but hopefully one you'll enjoy as much as we have enjoyed. It is refreshing to see Suffolk Living at its finest, from the view of its finest quality, its people.

Raise your glass for the New Year!  
Wishing you all the best,  
Lindsay Richardson, Publisher



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## in the news



# Suffolk mayor sells part of car business

Story by Daniel Evans  
Photo by Ed Pugh

Suffolk Mayor Mike Duman has owned his car dealership for decades, so the recent decision to sell part of his business was bittersweet.

"I've been doing this for 54 years," Duman said. "That's probably long enough."

Duman recently sold the sales, service and parts division of Mike Duman Auto Sales to Priority Automotive, a group with locations in throughout Hampton Roads and NOVA (Northern Virginia). The sale closed on Dec. 2.

Duman is retaining the rental car and collision center operations of the business. He will also still have a presence at the dealership for at least three years, which will assist with the transition.

"I'm working 90 hours a week, so it seemed like a good time to find somebody that I was very comfortable selling to. They're a first-class operation," Duman said. "They have a reputation for taking care of their customers. They're very philanthropic, so I thought they were a perfect fit for

Suffolk and someone I would feel comfortable taking over the sales operation."

Duman, who was just re-elected to his second term as mayor, said he had mixed emotions about the difficult decision to sell part of the business. The negotiations have been ongoing for the past year. "I was not determined to run for mayor the first of the year unless the dealership transaction occurred, and it didn't happen within the time frame, obviously, that I would have liked to have had it done, which would have been the early part of the year," Duman said. "... It's been a stressful couple of months getting to that point."

Over the last year, Duman has served as the city's mayor, run the business, negotiated the sale of the company and campaigned for re-election simultaneously, a combination he called "trying" mentally and physically.

"I think I'll be in a better position moving forward to represent the citizens of Suffolk, simply because there are only so many hours in the day, and I will still be afforded the ability to the opportu-

nity to serve my citizens in a business environment with the rental center being expanded," he said.

Signage had already changed at the business.



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# what to do

## Send us your news

To submit your calendar or news item, simply email it to: [news@suffolklivingmag.com](mailto:news@suffolklivingmag.com)

### JANUARY 21

AARP webinar - The Snake is Coming! - 3 p.m. Celebrate the Lunar New Year with us as we welcome the Year of the Snake! All webinars are free and open to the public, but registration is required to receive the Zoom link to participate. Sign up: <https://events.aarp.org/TE0121>. To learn more about AARP Virginia, like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia](http://www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia) and follow @AARPVa on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/aarpva](http://www.twitter.com/aarpva). Find AARP events in your community at [aarp.org/nearme](http://aarp.org/nearme).

**TUESDAY, JAN. 14**  
AARP webinar, The Theater Awaits: Discover the Magic of Community Theater - 3 p.m. Are you ready to embrace a new passion in the New Year? Join us for an inspiring webinar that dives into the vibrant world of community theater in the DC metro area. All webinars are free and open to the public, but registration is required to receive the Zoom link to participate. Sign up: <https://events.aarp.org/TE0114>. To learn more about AARP Virginia, like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia](http://www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia) and follow @AARPVa on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/aarpva](http://www.twitter.com/aarpva).

com/aarpva. Find AARP events in your community at [aarp.org/nearme](http://aarp.org/nearme).

Job Readiness Presentation by L. Wolfe, 11 AM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

Beginning Spanish, 1 PM – 3 PM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

Western Tidewater Reentry Council, 2 – 4

PM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15

Lee Group hiring event, 9 AM – 3 PM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

PDCCC Presentation by Admissions Team, 11 AM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

# what to do

Spanish II class, 1 PM - 3 PM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

Jobs R US Hiring Event, 2 PM – 4 PM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

### THURSDAY, JAN. 16

American Legion Post 49 will host a Community Bingo Game beginning at 7 p.m. at 818 So. Church St. in Smithfield. Doors open at 5 p.m., card sales begin at 6 p.m. Sandwiches and snacks are available from the Auxiliary. For up-to-date information check the Facebook Page (Post49SmithfieldVA) or call the Post at (757) 357-9239.

AARP webinar, Intro to Smartphone Photography - 1 p.m. Interested in learning more about your smartphone camera? Come to this webinar to explore your smartphone's camera and other features like recording a video, adding filters to pictures and using your camera's timer! All webinars are free and open to the public, but registration is required to receive the Zoom link to participate. Sign up: <https://events.aarp.org/SPO116>.

Windmills Training, 11 AM – 12:30 PM – (Story Module) at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

Jobs R US Hiring Event, 2 PM – 4 PM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 17

Living Beyond Home Health Care Hiring Event, 10 AM – 2 PM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 21

Navy Information & Recruiting Sessions, 10 AM – 3 PM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

Beginning Spanish, 1 PM – 3 PM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22

Lee Group hiring event, 9 AM – 3 PM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

Spanish II class, 1 PM - 3 PM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

Jobs R US Hiring Event, 2 PM – 4 PM at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

OFC Anger Management Class, 9:30 a.m. at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

Louisiana Tech University - Exam Proctoring Event, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Suffolk Workforce Development, 157 N. Main Street Suite D 2nd Floor. For more information call (757) 514-7730.

### THURSDAY, JAN 23

American Legion Post 49 will host a Community Bingo Game beginning at 7 p.m. at 818 So. Church St. in Smithfield. Come out and experience new equipment and new games upcoming with generous payouts. Doors open at 5 p.m., card sales begin at 6 p.m. Sandwiches and snacks are available from the Auxiliary. For up-to-date information check our Facebook Page (Post49SmithfieldVA) or call the Post at (757) 357-9239.



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# where am I?

In each edition the Suffolk Living staff provides a challenge of sorts, testing how much of Suffolk you really know. We photograph some location in Suffolk that is readily accessible and open to the public, and see if you can tell us where it is.

If you know where this photo was taken, submit your answer, along with your name and contact information to [news@suffolklivingmag.com](mailto:news@suffolklivingmag.com). If you're right, you will be entered for a chance to win a \$25 gift card.

So, if you know where this is, let us know. If you're right, you could be a winner.

Go out and enjoy Suffolk!



The photos on the following pages were chosen as the best submissions in each category from the online Suffolk Living Photo Contest.



Photo by John Bott



Photo by Tiffany Sutton



Photo by Joleen Neighbours

## Agricultural



Photo by Carrie Purser



Photo by Stephen Queen



Photo by Terricka Rodriguez



Photo by Terricka Rodriguez



Photo by Angela Farrenkopf

# Architecture

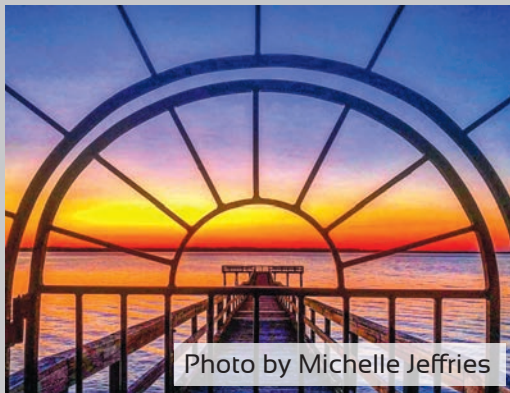


Photo by Michelle Jeffries

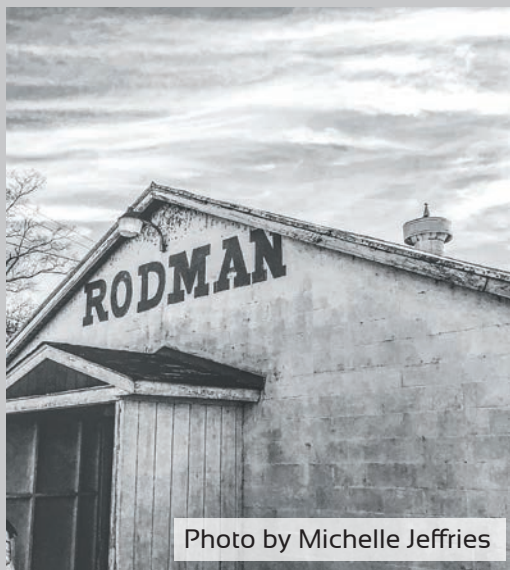


Photo by Michelle Jeffries



Photo by PJ Mitchell

# Landscape



Photo by Michelle Jeffries



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Photo by Natalie Kent

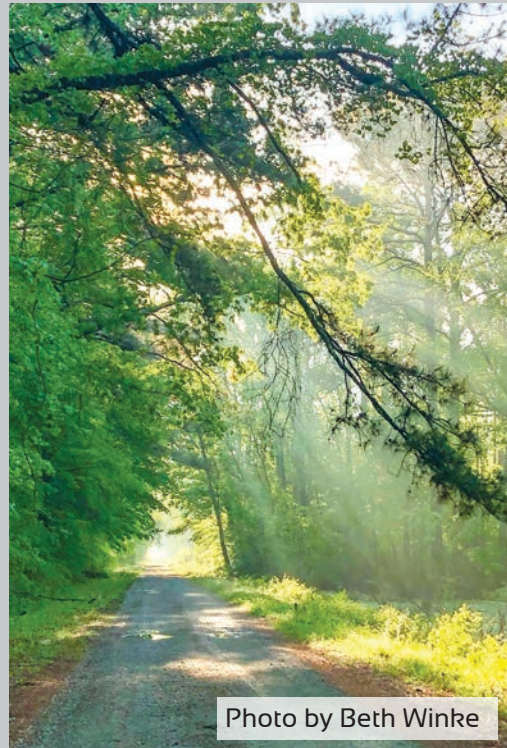


Photo by Beth Winke



Photo by Cyndi Osborough



Photo by Andrea Saunders

# Landscape

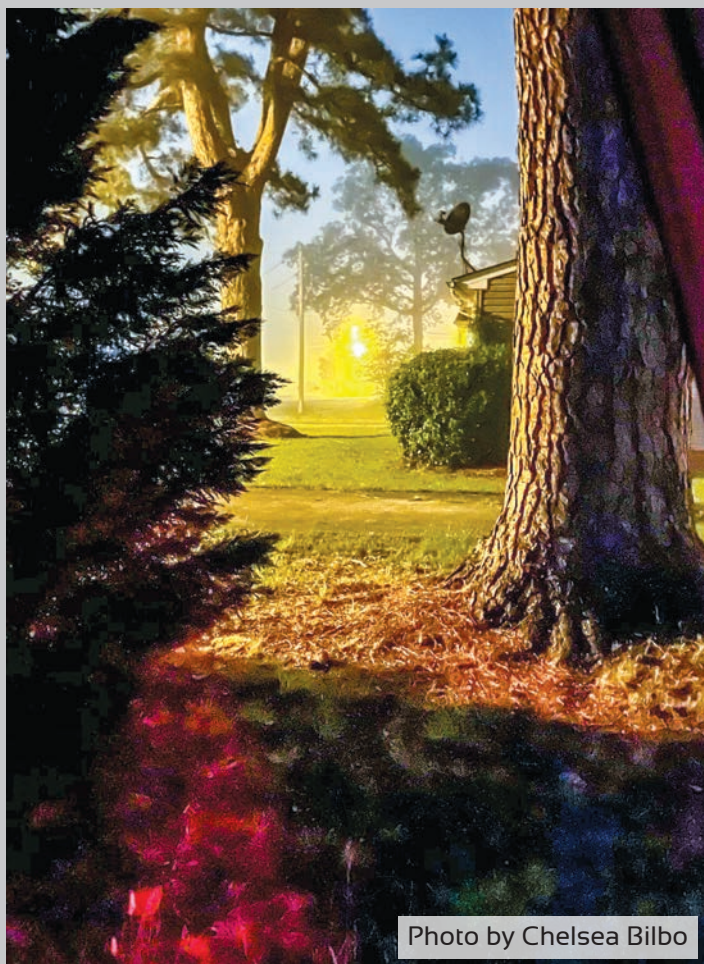


Photo by Chelsea Bilbo

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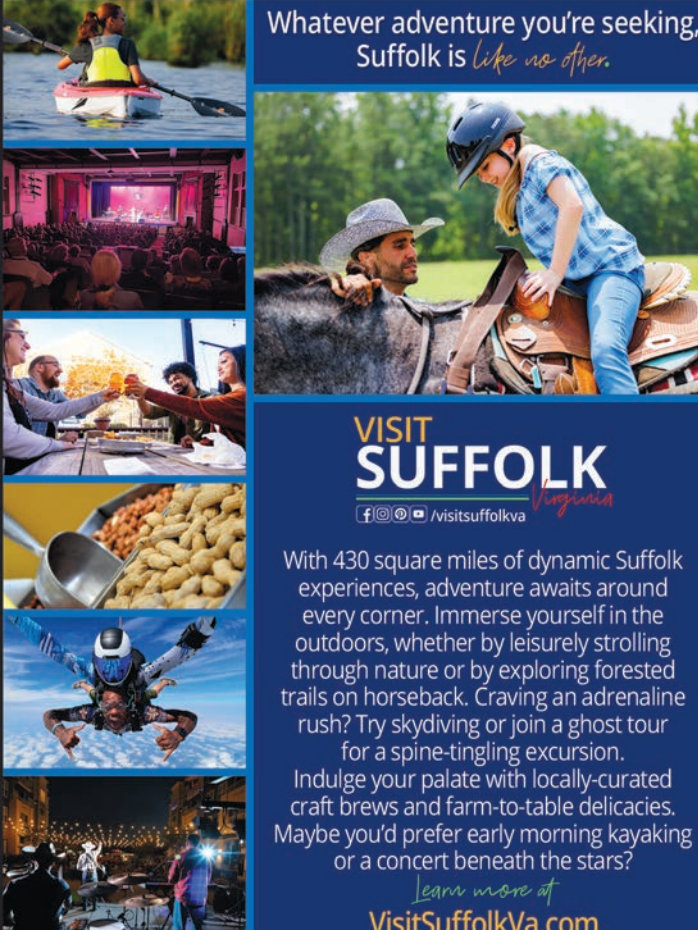


Photo by Tracy Graham



Photo by Makayla Johnson

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Photo by Cyndi Osborough

# Scenes



Photo by Ray Hill



Photo by Susan Blair



Photo by Heather Miller



Photo by Amanda Hardy



Photo by Julia Merriman



Photo by Ann Harris



Photo by Maureen Dietz



Photo by Beth Winke



Photo by Susan Blair



Photo by Dawn Hammond

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Photo by Susan Blair



Photo by Michelle Jeffries



Photo by Daniel McDonald



Photo by PJ Mitchell



Photo by Janet Byrum



Photo by Natalie Kent



Photo by Natalie Kent



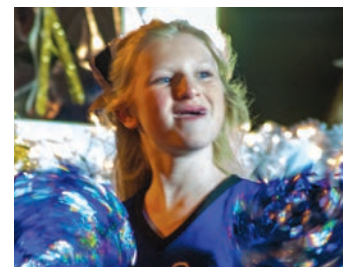
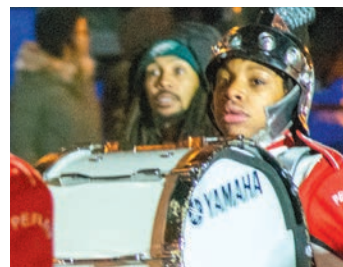
Photo by Robert Rhodes



Photo by Maureen Dietz

# Waterways

## Suffolk Christmas Parade



## Last edition's Where Am I?

The location of the Nov/Dec Where Am I is very near and dear to us. It is our new office at 110 W. Finney, in the back of the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts. 8 people guessed technically correct (guessing the Suffolk Center), with prompting to be more specific three folks came up with the full correct answer. Britt Carter is the winner of the gift card. Find this month's challenge on page 10.

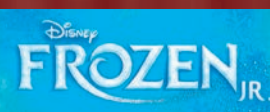


# Shows that bring the family together.

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February 27 – March 1



**Frozen Jr.**  
March 15



**Shrek the Musical**  
March 20 – 22



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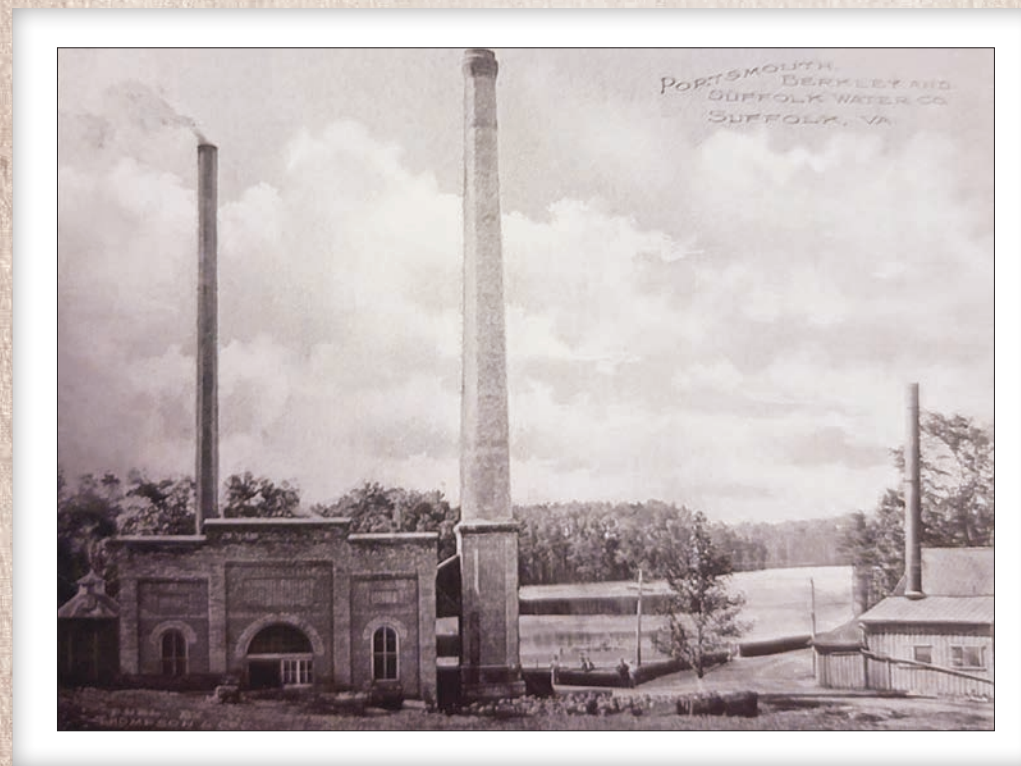
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C. Danielle Howell, DDS | Melissa L. Kovacevic, DMD

## scrapbook



**WATERWORKS:** Lake Kilby and Kilby's Mill had been on the South Quay (Holland) Road since colonial times but with different names as ownership changed. In the early days the mill and the water to run it were property of the Meade family. In 1885 the enterprise was bought by Portsmouth, Berkley and Suffolk Water Company and furnished water to those three locations.

— COURTESY OF "SUFFOLK IN VINTAGE POSTCARDS," SUFFOLK-NANSEMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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