

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Inaugural “Chillin’ on the Choptank” Announced for Memorial Day Weekend Two-Day Event to Feature Wine and Beer Tastings, Oysters and Live Music on the Banks of the Choptank River

January 25, 2017, Cambridge, MD - The first annual *Chillin’ on the Choptank* outdoor festival will be held at Sailwinds Park in Cambridge, Maryland on Friday evening and Saturday of Memorial Day weekend 2017. The two-day event will feature wine and beer tastings, local oysters and other regional fare, and live music. Proceeds will benefit programming at the Dorchester YMCA and the Dorchester Chamber Foundation.

*Chillin’ on the Choptank* is the brainchild of Ed Johnson and Randy Decker, owners of The Wine Bar in Cambridge, Maryland.

“We can’t imagine a better way to spend part of this coming Memorial Day weekend just chillin’ on the Choptank with delicious food, exceptional wine and beer, and great jazz,” said Ed Johnson. “With sweeping views of the Choptank River, easy access from Route 50 and plenty of free parking, this event is a wonderful destination for anyone who wants to spend an hour or an entire afternoon relaxing and having fun in a beautiful small town setting. And, best of all, proceeds from ticket sales will support programs for the youth of our county.”

The weekend of events will be held on the grounds of Governor’s Hall at Sailwinds Park overlooking the Choptank River. Friday evening, May 26, kicks off with a “Small Plates Pairing Dinner” featuring food by Chef Henry of Tilghman Island’s Two If By Sea Restaurant, from 7 to 10 pm. The five course, small plate dinner will be served riverside, with expertly paired wine and beer. A Jazz concert under the stars will cap the evening.

On Saturday, May 27, *Chillin’ on the Choptank’s* “Wine, Beer and Oysters Tasting” kicks off at noon featuring wines from California to Chile to Europe’s renowned winemaking regions, as well as artisan craft beer from RAR Brewery specifically brewed for this event. Hoopers Island Oyster Aquaculture will be onsite shucking locally grown oysters, and other local fare will be available. Wine and beer will be available for both tasting and purchase.

*Chillin’ on the Choptank* 2017 wraps up with an open air jazz concert Saturday evening from 5 - 7pm. Tickets for the concert are available as part of the Tasting Package or can be purchased separately.

Tickets are on sale online at [www.chillinonthechoptank.com](http://www.chillinonthechoptank.com) and The Wine Bar at 414 Race Street in downtown Cambridge.

- Friday Small Plates Pairing Dinner - \$75 per person
- Saturday Wine, Beer and Oysters Tasting - Early Bird \$40 (before April 1), Regular and at the door \$45
- Saturday Night Concert - included in Wine, Beer and Oysters Tasting Ticket, sold separately for \$15

Net proceeds from *Chillin’ on the Choptank* 2017 ticket sales will go to the Dorchester Family YMCA and the Dorchester Chamber Foundation Scholarship fund.

To learn more about *Chillin' on the Choptank*, view a schedule of events, and sign up for updates, visit [www.facebook.com/Chillin on the Choptank](http://www.facebook.com/Chillin on the Choptank) or [www.chillinonthechoptank.com](http://www.chillinonthechoptank.com).

### **About Dorchester Family YMCA**

The Dorchester Family YMCA's mission is to strengthen the foundations of our community by nurturing and developing the potential of every child, promoting healthy living, and fostering a sense of social responsibility in the community. Their programs and services focus on the wellness of the whole person: spirit, mind, and body and we weave the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility into the fabric of all we do. Striving to break down economic barriers for families and to meet the health and social service challenges in our community, the Y remains a second home for many, providing a safe place where inclusiveness is fostered, diversity is embraced, and where children and families can build relationships and find the support needed to build stronger families and communities for a better tomorrow.

For more information about the Dorchester Family YMCA go to <http://www.dorchesterymca.org>

### **About Dorchester Chamber Foundation and the Jason T. Wise Scholarship**

The objective of the Jason T. Wise Scholarship is to further each recipient's education at a certified college, professional, technical, vocational or business school that will result in enhancing the recipient's ability to have a positive impact on the Dorchester County Business Community. The Award is \$1,000 a year for up to four years of study. Applicants must be between 16 and 21 years of age.

For more information about the Dorchester Chamber Foundation go to <http://dorchesterchamber.org>