



# ***HARBOUR LIGHT***

Village Harbour Fishing Club, Inc. PO Box 1026 Manahawkin, NJ 08050

## **OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VILLAGE HARBOR FISHING CLUB**

Editor: Jeff Orsoe VHFC Web Site: <http://www.vhfishingclub.com> August 2017 Vol. 28 No.5

### **NEW MEETING PLACE**

**Bay Avenue Community Center**

**775 E. Bay Ave., Manahawkin.**

Doors open at 7:30 PM

Parking is off Bay Avenue.

### **EVENTS in August and September**

**BOARD MEETING: August 4, & September 1**

7:30 P.M at the **Bay Avenue Community Center**

775 E.Bay Avenue  
Manahawkin, NJ

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: August 11 & September 8**

At the **Bay Avenue Community Center**

7:30 PM: Doors Open Early - Come Help Set Up.

7:45 PM: Meeting Starts With Club Business:

\_ Committee Reports

\_ All-Present Fishing Discussion Break

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello everyone,

Can you believe we are almost 3 weeks away from Labor Day - where did the summer go!

On a positive note, the fall fishing and weather is usually fantastic here in southern New Jersey. But let's enjoy the present. With approximately 4 weeks left in the 2017 shortened fluke season, there is still plenty of time to get in on the action. Based on member reports, local websites, radio chatter and personal experience, Barnegat and Little Egg inlets along with Barnegat, Garden State North & South and Little Egg reefs are where the fish are now residing. As Bill Dabney and I found out, yesterday's action is no guarantee of action today but persevere and you will be rewarded. Of course, there is a lot more available than just fluking - kingfish, blowfish, seabass, blues, a few stripers, fewer weakfish, one tog, triggerfish and crabs are at their summer peak. If you have the equipment or can jump on a charter, offshore tuna are also here for the catching.

Once again, Member Reports on our website offer quite a collection of nice fish caught in July. Marty, Caesar, Phil and their friends along with Bill Dabney

and Bill Figley caught quality summer flounder and a few seabass. My highlight was my younger 7 year old grandson catching a 19" and 24" fluke in the Middle Grounds. Thanks for the posts and please continue to submit your reports for our members to enjoy..

Now for the best deal in town - our August fluke contest! Scheduled for 12 August with a rain date of 19 August, your \$20 registration includes a great BBQ with beer & wine for you and your spouse. All fees are returned as prize money and you can fish from your boat, headboat, charter or from shore on or departing from Ocean County waters. Final discussion will be held at the August meeting.

If for any reason you need to contact me, please email me at [edvalitutto@gmail.com](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com) or call or text my cell phone at 609 994 1311.

Hope to see you on Friday night.  
Ed

### **This month's speaker**

This Month's speaker is Captain Brett Taylor of Reel Reaction Sportfishing. Captain Brett has been a guess speaker before and bring a wealth of information to us. I'm sure that he has a surprise topic for us on Friday.

DJ Mueller was our speaker last mont. DJ spoke on Surf Fishing, the reports and feedbacks that I have heard were that the interest was outstanding. DJ also donated two books to our library. They were Fishing the Cape Cod Canal, A Surfcasters Guide To Stripers, By D.J. Muller and Stripers Strategies, A Surfcasters Guide To Stripers,also by D.J. Muller. Thank you DJ for a wonderful evening.

### **Regulatory & Legislative Report June, 2017**

By Dave Spendiff

THERE IS NO REGULATORY REPORT THIS MONTH

**Keep the Date: August 12, 2017 VHFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament Picnic to follow!!**

**Look for the separate email for this event.**

**ALSP Keep the Date: September 16, 2017 VHFC Annual Dinner.**

**Look for the separate email for this event.**

### **2016 TROPHY FISH OF THE MONTH AND FISH OF THE YEAR**

The "Fish of the Month and Fish of the Year" is changing slightly this year with a few changes. It is important that you check our website and/or the newsletter to stay up to date.

### **2016 Trophy Fish of the Year Program.**

The rules are simple: you have to catch a fish of the above species, take it to one of our official weigh stations to have it weighed and recorded on our official weigh-in forms. If you have weighed in the largest fish of a particular species for the calendar year 2017 then you win the FOY trophy for that species. **Note:** your dues have to be paid before you catch an eligible fish. .Go to our website for more information.

(<http://vhfishingclub.com/conteststournaments/vhfc-standings/>)

**WEIGH INNS** – Please see a separate sheet for the 2017 fish weigh inns for the year.

The following Weigh Inns were processed in July as follows:

7-17-17 Martin Friedrich Sea Bass 1lb 4oz.

7-18-17 Bill Dabney Fluke 2lbs 5 oz.

7-18-17 Bill Dabney Fluke 2lbs 9 oz

7-27-17 Martin Friedrich Fluke 3 lbs 6 oz.

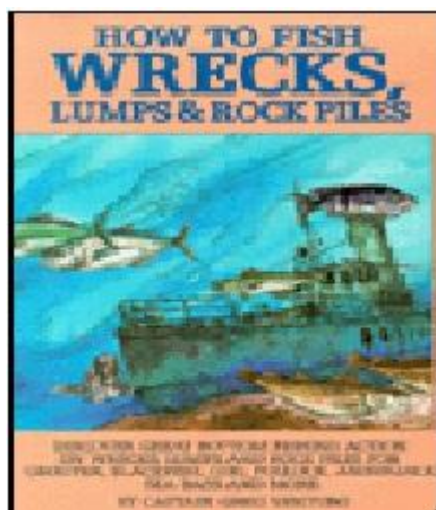
7-28-17 Jeff Wilson Sea Bass 2 lbs 6 oz

**Come to the meeting to fine out the details**

### **IN THE Reading Room**

Check out the Books and DVD at the meeting

By Bill Dabney



### **How To Fish Wrecks, Lumps and Rock Piles**

Captain **Greg Venturo**

Product Description

Discover great bottom fishing action on wrecks, lumps and rock piles for grouper, blackfish, cod, pollock, amberjack, sea bass and more"-NOW available at the club's library table.

Bill Dabney has accumulated some very good books & videos for our library but we will gladly accept any donations if you have fishing or boating books or videos you would like to donate to our library. If you have something, either bring it to a meeting or call Bill at 978-6893 to make arrangements for us to get your book or video.

### **Take a look at the new additions to our library**

Boat US also have their publications on line. There you can find back issues. Go to <http://www.boatus.com/magazine/archives/default.asp>

But you will also need your Member number to access them



(Vessel Safety)

Jeff Orsoe

In the current issue of "BoatUS" there seems to be a variety of articles to spur your interest. It also on line. There is an article entitled "[What The Trump Budget Means For Boating](#)"

As Congress shapes a new federal budget heading into the fall, some important programs to boaters are targeted for cuts. We look into the details. The full text can be found at :

<http://www.boatus.com/magazine/2017/august/what-the-trump-budget-means-for-boating.asp>

The current issue if Boat/US can also be found at :

<http://www.boatus.com/magazine/>

While you are at it, schedule a Vessel Safety Check . I can help you out wuth this. And it is still "Free". I am available tp perform that service to you. Please contact me via email at [jorsoe786@comcast.net](mailto:jorsoe786@comcast.net) or leave a message on my cell at 732-672-5530

Till next time, Tight Lines!

## T-Shirts are still Available

VHFC T- shirts will be available at all meetings. The

cost is \$18. Please see Vince to purchase yours while supplies last. T shirts may also be purchased by mail.

Please send a check for \$23 which includes shipping to: VHFC, P.O. Box 1026, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.

These shirts are very nice & are being sold at cost.

We are running low on the shirts, Come to the meeting to let your voice be heard about the future of this item.



I encourage everyone to go to the RFA website at ([www.joinrfa.org](http://www.joinrfa.org)) . Along with the current information that is on the website. They also put out a quarterly publication call "Making Waves". The latest issue that is on the site can be located at:

[https://issuu.com/recreationalfishingalliance/docs/fall\\_2016\\_making\\_waves](https://issuu.com/recreationalfishingalliance/docs/fall_2016_making_waves)

Take a look at it.

Taken from the RFA Website



I thought that I would take a look back at some of the people that have made an impact onto the the way we fish. So I reached back to the IGFA;s "Legendary Captains and Crew" So This month we are taking a look at Allen and Buddy Mettitt. They were inducted into the IGFA Hall of Fame Class of 2011. And were know for the Boat Bultig for the Sport Fisherman

**Allen and Buddy Merritt**





In the 1930s, teenagers Allen and Buddy Merritt were already integral parts of their father Roy's sport-fishing operation and the famed Caliban Fleet, spending winters in Florida and summers in Long Island, where they were already hailed as two of New York's top charter skippers. In 1948 Merritt's Boat and Engine Works was built in Pompano Beach. While Allen and Buddy ran the charter fleet, Pop kept busy in the yard, and within five years the business went from servicing boats to building them. Allen and Buddy eventually took on the operations of the famed boatyard, but not before they made their individual marks on the sport and became part of the elite group of most successful tuna captains in history.

Buddy, extremely competitive by nature, was known for his innovations in boat and tackle design and techniques. In the 1940s he began fishing baits far back, he revolutionized tuna fishing at Cat Cay by using a mast to spot and bait fish -- the first to do so -- and he designed the Merritt 37, considered by many the perfect tuna-fishing boat.

Buddy was the first to catch three swordfish on rod and reel in one day, and in 1963 won both the Cat Cay and Bimini Tuna Tournaments. In 1969, when he traveled to Newfoundland to experience his last

tuna season, Buddy caught a record 16 giant tuna in one



day.

Buddy suggested Bill Carpenter hire Allen for the 1951 Cat Cay Tournament and Allen went on to dominate the event in the 1950s and 60s. With Carpenter as angler and George Staros as mate he won seven out of 10 tournaments and took third three other times, an unrivaled achievement. All the wins and record catches were no fluke, for Allen was widely respected for his knowledge, his skills, and his demeanor "under fire."

During the 1968 tuna season in Newfoundland, Allen caught a record 15 giants, a feat only bested by his brother's 16 the following year.

To find out who else is in the Hall of Fame go to the IGFA.org website and start exploring.

This article was taken from the IGFA Website.

### **FISHING REPORTS**

I suggest that you look at the VHFC website at <http://www.vhfishingclub.com> to catch up club news and fishing reports.

### **MONTHLY HANDS ON**

A monthly hands on workshop at the monthly meeting may be of interest to members.

Let me know if you want to help out or just stop by if you have any fishing questions.

**CLASSIFIED ADS** by Jeff Orsoe

Classified ads may be placed free of charge by any club member for non-commercial fishing related items. Please contact Jeff Orsoe via email at [jorsoe786@comcast.net](mailto:jorsoe786@comcast.net) to place your ad if you wish to place a free ad.

**.FISHING WITH CLUB MEMBERS**

Members may place free ads in this section if you wish to find someone to fish with. Maybe you need to find someone with a boat or you are interested in finding someone to share expenses on your boat.

**What's This KNOT OR Why this LINE?**

## Choosing The Right Fishing Line



reel spooled up with braid plus a fluorocarbon monofilament leader lets you tackle a powerful

species such as tuna, because you need low visibility and stretch in the line. (Photo: Stephanie Vatalaro)

There are a mind-boggling number of fishing lines to choose from, and each has its own strengths and weaknesses. Do you know when to choose monofilament over braid? When to use fluorocarbon? What type of leader you need in different fishing situations? Understanding the different characteristics of these fishing lines — and which to choose, when, and why — will help you become a better angler.

**Braid Versus Monofilament**

When it comes to modern fishing lines, the braid-versus-mono debate is probably the biggest source of disagreement among anglers. First, let's get square with what each of these materials has to offer. Monofilament has been around for the better part of a century (it was first marketed as a fishing line by DuPont more than 75 years ago), consists of a single strand of nylon, and is made via an extrusion process. On the plus side, it's relatively inexpensive, knots easily, and has quite a bit of stretch. But mono is degraded by sunlight and only good for a season or two, offers relatively low sensitivity, and maintains memory when put on a spool — that's why you sometimes have to fight those springy coils of line spilling off your reel. And that aforementioned stretch can be a disadvantage in certain fishing situations.

If you use the term "braid" loosely, you could apply it to the cotton lines used long before the advent of monofilament. But to today's angler, braid usually refers to lines made of multiple filaments of gel-spun polyethylene that are braided together. This stuff became popular in the early 1990s and is made in two varieties: Spectra (made by Honeywell) and Dyneema (made by DSM, based in the Netherlands). The difference between them? Not much. Inside the industry, they're known as "sister lines" because they're so similar and share the same basic advantages: they're shockingly strong for their diameter (40 percent to 50 percent stronger than monofilament, in many cases), have greatly enhanced sensitivity, have no memory, and don't stretch at all. They also have one glaring weakness: braids cost twice

as much as monofilaments. Aside from this, braid's disadvantages mirror their advantages. That incredible sensitivity that allows you to feel a fish's gentle nibble also allows the fish to feel you on the other end of the line. And that absence of stretch may make for a firmer hook set, but it can also cause hooks to rip free from the fish's mouth or, if your drag isn't properly set, even result in a broken rod.

Things are about to get really, really simple here, folks. Because when these monofilament and braid traits are considered together, they allow us to make a generalization that's true the vast majority of the time: when you're fishing with bait, use (high-stretch, low-sensitivity) monofilament, and when you're fishing with lures, use (low-stretch, high-sensitivity) braid. Fish will almost always hold bait in their mouths for some amount of time either before they run or you feel them and set the hook, so in this case, monofilament's low sensitivity and high stretch offer serious advantages. But when fish strike a lure, it's almost always just that — a strike — and you need to make sure tension is applied ASAP to set the hook. Hence, braid's zero stretch and high sensitivity give you a leg up.

Fieldwork backs up this generalization. During the mid-1990s, I spent two full seasons pitting monofilament against braid, side by side. When I was chumming or drift fishing with bait, monofilament won, on average, by a 3-to-1 margin. When I was vertical jigging with plastics or spoons, trolling a wide range of lures, or casting and retrieving, braid won by about the same margin. There are, however, a few exceptions of which you should be aware. First off, surface plugs work better with monofilament because the zero-stretch aspect of braid causes the plug to hop out of the water during the retrieve and become tangled. And when you're fishing for large, powerful



A heavy-duty leader like this one will resist the chafe from the rough bill of a sailfish. (Photo: Michael Vatalaro)

species with lures, a 20- to 25-foot monofilament shock leader is necessary to prevent pulled hooks and broken rods when a fish surges near the boat. Finally, when fishing in extremely deep water of 500 feet or more, braid is a must because mono stretches so much that you won't even be able to feel your weight hit bottom or know when you have a fish on the line.

### **Rough It Up**

Wait! What about resistance to abrasion? Some experienced anglers say monofilament is in order when you're fishing around lots of snags because braid poorly resists abrasion. Other fishermen say just the opposite, but no one seems to know the truth. To answer this question, I went to Island Tackle Outfitters, a tackle shop in Chester, Maryland, that keeps hundreds of different lines and leaders in stock. The company gave me access to all those lines, as well as the scales needed to test breaking strength.

To simulate real-world abrasion, my testing team brought an old grappling anchor made from welded rebar — exactly the kind of snag your line might rub up against while fishing. After selecting assorted brands of braid and monofilament in 20-, 30-, 50-, and 80-pound tests, we stroked the



fishing lines eight inches up and down across the rebar anchor arms, with five pounds of downward pressure. The 20- and 30-pound tests received two strokes, while we gave 50- and 80-pound tests six strokes against the rusty metal. After we applied the abrasion, each line was pulled against a Manley factory-calibrated scale until breaking; we did this to measure how many pounds of test each line retained after being roughed up. We repeated the test three times for every line sample, then averaged the results.



Stroking the lines against rusty rebar arms provided plenty of abrasion for our test. (Photo: Lenny Rudow)

With 20-pound test, the results were slightly in favor of monofilament. It retained an average strength of 19 pounds; the braid retained an average strength of 17.4 pounds. When we went to 30-pound test, however, the results were far more significant: 28.2 pounds for monofilament to 17.4 pounds for braid. And when we doubled the abrasion to six strokes and moved up to 50-pound test, the mono retained 50 pounds of strength while the braid was cut through on the sixth stroke. With 80-pound test, the braid retained a mere 2 pounds of strength while the mono again tested at its rated strength.

But how could the 50- and 80-pound-test mono lines not be weakened by the abrasion? They were, but they broke at the stated rating because virtually all line

manufacturers intentionally underrate breaking strengths to make it seem as if the line performs better than the claim. In reality, most lines stamped as 50-pound test actually have a breaking strength of 60 to 70 pounds.

Manufacturer ratings aside, our test proved two things without a doubt: monofilament line is better at resisting abrasion, and although the advantage starts small with low-diameter lines, it grows epically as line size increases. If you're fishing in an area with lots of sharp snags, you'll definitely want to make sure you use monofilament line, or certainly at least a mono leader.

### **End Of The Line**

Leaders, of course, are in their own category. Virtually everyone agrees that braid's no-stretch characteristic disqualifies it for use as a leader because without some stretch on the initial strike, the hook often rips free. But what type of monofilament is best for this job? Fluorocarbon tops the list for use in leaders. Compared with other types of monofilament, fluorocarbon bends light much as water does — which means it's the type of monofilament that's least visible to fish.

When fishing with bait, choose high-stretch, low-sensitivity monofilament.

The refractive index for a material indicates the amount that light bends as it passes through that material; the refractive index for water is 1.33. If fishing line could be made with this exact refractive index, it would blend in perfectly and be unnoticeable. But the closest regular monofilament comes is around 1.62.

Fluorocarbon, however, has a refractive index of 1.42 — making it considerably less visible underwater than other monos. So when you're fishing in clear water and pursuing a species of fish with high visual acuity, you can't afford to use anything other than a fluorocarbon leader. Unless, that is, you can't afford fluorocarbon — 50-pound test commonly costs more than \$1 per yard. Regular monofilament leader, on the other hand, costs 12 to 15 cents per yard.

In dingy, muddy, or stained waters, save your cash and go for monofilament because in such



water, fish can't see well anyway. The same goes when you're fishing for species that don't depend mainly on sight, like catfish or carp. But when you're fishing for a species with keen eyesight, like tuna, or you're fishing in gin-clear waters, the extra investment is worthwhile.

### **Multicolor Madness**

We've yet to discuss color, but not by mistake. I saved this topic for last, because in my experience — and to my surprise — it's one of the least important factors to consider. I've tried fishing red lines next to green lines, clear lines next to fluorescent lines, and so on, ad nauseam. Amazingly, the results show little to no difference. True, high-vis lines are advantageous when you're using a technique that requires you to keep track of the line's position, like kite fishing. Yes, lines color-coded for length can come in handy when trolling or dropping to suspended fish at a specific depth. But the fish just don't seem to give a hoot what color line you offer.

A final note about lines: whatever type you pick, it should always be wound onto the spool by a professional, with the right amount of tension. Otherwise, the line can become pinched and tangled before it ever makes it off the spool. The folks at Island Tackle Outfitters recommend making sure that the tackle shop you choose for the job has a hydraulic tensioner, which ensures the line gets packed on with even pressure throughout the spool. And whatever offering you might choose to tempt those fish into biting, remember this: picking out the best line for the job is an important part of turning those bites into a successful day of fishing.

BoatUS electronics editor Lenny Rudow is a fishing expert and the senior editor for [Boatus.com](http://Boatus.com).

This article was taken from the BoatUS website for the use and enjoyment of the VHFC Members.

### **BUY, SELL or TRADE**

Classified ads may be placed free of charge by any club member for non-commercial fishing related items. Please contact Jeff if you wish to place a free ad. Please contact Jeff Orsoe via email at [jorsoe786@comcast.net](mailto:jorsoe786@comcast.net) to place your ad.

### **OFFICIAL VHFC WEIGH-IN STATIONS**

As of this time, we have 8 official weigh-in stations. More are in the process of being added. If you know of tackle shop that may become a club sponsor and also become a weigh station, forward that to a member of the board. The two sponsors are both Club Sponsors & offer VHFC members nice discounts: The 3 Weigh Stations are:

**Fisherman's Headquarters, Ship Bottom**

**Captains Quarters Bait & Tackle, Brighton Beach**

**Creekside Outfitters, Waretown**

**West Creek Bait & Tackle, West Creek**

**Viking Outfitters, Historic Viking Village**

**Surf City Bait and Tackle, Surf City**

**NEW**

**NEW**

**NEW**

**NEW**

**BHW Marine Center (New Weigh Station and Sponsor – 10% off everything except BAIT)**

857 Mill Creek Road, Beach Haven, NJ

609-709-5424

**Shelter Cove Marina (New Weigh Station)**

910 S Green Street, Tuckerton, NJ

609-296-9400

**CALENDAR****MEETING DATES**

<i>Board Meeting</i>	<b>Friday, 7 April, 2017</b>
<b>Club Meeting</b>	<b>Friday, 21 April, 2017</b>
<i>Board Meeting</i>	<b>Friday, 5 May, 2017</b>
<b>Club Meeting</b>	<b>Friday, 12 May, 2017</b>
<i>Board Meeting</i>	<b>Friday, 2 June, 2017</b>
<b>Club Meeting</b>	<b>Friday, 9 June, 2017</b>
<i>Board Meeting</i>	<b>Friday, 7 July, 2017</b>
<b>Club Meeting</b>	<b>Friday, 14 July, 2017</b>
<i>Board Meeting</i>	<b>Friday, 4 Aug, 2017</b>
<b>Club Meeting</b>	<b>Friday, 11 Aug, 2017</b>
<i>Board Meeting</i>	<b>Friday, 1 Sept, 2017</b>
<b>Club Meeting</b>	<b>Friday, 8 Sept, 2017</b>
<i>Board Meeting</i>	<b>Friday, 6 Oct, 2017</b>
<b>Club Meeting</b>	<b>Friday, 13 Oct, 2017</b>
<i>Board Meeting</i>	<b>Friday, 3 Nov, 2017</b>
<b>Club Meeting</b>	<b>Friday, 10 Nov, 2017</b>

**Board Meetings are open to any members wishing to attend/**

**Reminder: New Meeting Location**

**Bay Avenue Community Center**

**775 E. Bay Ave., Manahawkin**

**USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS**

**Boat/US:**

<http://www.boatus.com/>

**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary:**

<http://www.cgaux.org/>

**Notice to Mariners (District 5)**

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lnmDistrict&region=5>

**Fisherman's Headquarters:**

<http://www.fishermansheadquarters.com/>

**The Boat Shop:**

<http://theboatshoponline.com/>

**The Bass Barn:**

<http://www.thebassbarn.com>

**Barnegat Fishing Hole:**

<http://www.barnegatfishinghole.com/ubbthreads/ubbthreads.php>

**Surf City Bait and Tackle:**

<http://www.surfcitybaitandtackle.com>

**Animated Knots**

<http://www.animatedknots.com/>

**Weather:**

**Windfinder:**

<http://www.windfinder.com>

**Vessel Safety Checks**

Vessel Safety Checks: Call Jeff Orsoe @ 732-672-5530 and leave a message or email him at jorsoe786@comcast.net

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS:**  
**25 August 2017**

at jorsoe786@comcast.net

**Our Sponsors: The following have offered a discount with the presentation of current VHFC Membership Card**

**Discounts normally do not apply to items that are fair traded or items on sale**



10% discount on bait & tackle

**American Sportsman LLC**  
***Bait and Tackle***

Hunting, Fishing, Crab and Shellfish

857 Mill Creek Rd  
Manahawkin, NJ 08050



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**BRASWELL TROPHY & ENGRAVING**

Ken Braswell, Owner

618-1744

10% Discount to VHFC Members

**BOAT U.S.**

VHFC members only pay \$9.50 for a year of Boat U.S. Forms for members' use will be at VHFC meetings

Or call Jeff Orsoe 732-672-5530

**CAUSEWAY BOAT RENTALS**

On the LBI Causeway

494-1371

10% discount on bait and tackle



[www.theboatshoponline.com](http://www.theboatshoponline.com)

10% discount on regular prices

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**BILLS SURF AND TACKLE**

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609-342-1372

15% discount on everything in the shop, EXCEPT  
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purchase

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W 19<sup>th</sup> and Bayview, Historic Viking Village

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609-389-3647

10% Discount



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