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### **ORANGE COUNTY ANNOUNCES EDNA LEWIS MENU TRAIL**

ORANGE, VA – The Orange County Office of Economic Development and Tourism is pleased to announce the creation of the Edna Lewis Menu Trail in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the release of *The Edna Lewis Cookbook* in 1972.

Edna Lewis was born on April 13, 1916 in an area of Orange County called Freetown. Lewis authored three, groundbreaking cookbooks and is credited with bringing the culture and heritage of African American, Southern Cuisine to the world. She is often referred to as the Grande Dame of Southern Cooking and was the recipient of an honorary Ph.D. in Culinary Arts from Johnson & Wales University (1996) and the James Beard Living Legend Award (1999). The United States Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp in her honor in 2014.

The Orange County Edna Lewis Menu Trail is a collaborative effort commemorating Lewis and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her first cookbook – *The Edna Lewis Cookbook*. It highlights seven (7) Orange County restaurants whose chefs will be creating their own versions of Lewis's recipes for purchase on their menus from Thanksgiving 2022 to Memorial Day 2023. Assistant Director, Julie Perry says "This new Menu Trail is a way for visitors and locals alike to get a sense of Lewis's legacy today. It's a chance to see how local chefs reinterpret classic, Southern dishes - with access to many of the same ingredients and agriculture that inspired the great Edna Lewis. We can't wait to taste their creations!"

Participating Restaurants are the [BBQ Exchange](#), [Champion Ice House](#), [Clearwater Grill](#), [Coopers Cookin and Catering](#), [the Market at Grelen](#), [Spoon and Spindle](#), and [Vintage at the Inn at Willow Grove](#).

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