

WACHAPREAGUE Times

News, information
& happenings from
the Flounder
Capital of the World

Volume 2

Sept. 23, 2024

No. 16

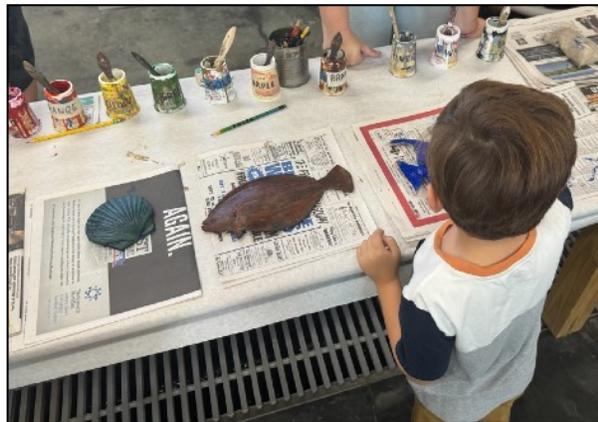


Seeing below the surface

VIMS Marine Life Day draws big, interested crowd

FOLKS FROM NEAR and far came to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Sept. 21 to learn about what VIMS does - and meet some of the creatures it tracks. Tanks held fish, a skate, a horseshoe crab and more. You could also see sea creatures through microscopes - and make art using fish. The event was free and fun.

Photographs by
Dave Groshong



You Can Help Our Town Claim its Historic Destiny

WHILE MANY COME to Wachapreague for recreational activities, says Jim Bell, others come for a variety of reasons. Some visit to see the architecture, some the seaside views and sunrises, while others visit the barrier islands spend time appreciating the natural surroundings.

Being listed on the Virginia Landmark Register and National Register of Historic Places might very well be an added attraction, says Bell.

He and his wife, Susan Batten-Bell have translated their beliefs into action, and are working to get Wachapreague recognition as a historic district. To make this happen, they've formed Wachapreague Renaissance Inc., which is online as www.wachapreaguerenaissance.org.

The purpose of the nonprofit group is to work in partnership with the town to seek ways to improve and preserve our town through grants, educational opportunities, and associations with similar communities.

Bell was involved with a similar project in Colonial Beach, VA, which was recently accepted to the State and National registers. While working on that project, he got to know

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GET RID OF THAT JUNK! Your neighbor surely wants it! The Community Yard Sale is set for Saturday, Oct. 5, from 8 a.m. to noon.

The rain date is Oct. 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Maps are available at Town Hall, 6 Main St., in the information box. Sign up at Town Hall or at the Post Office.

PHOTOGRAPHERS, TAKE NOTE - The deadline for the Picture the Shore event is Friday, October. 25 at 5 p.m.

Student, amateur and professional photographers are invited to submit one photo that shows the beauty of the Eastern Shore's natural environment.

Entries should focus on landscapes, plants,

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staff members of the Department of Historic Resources, and they have helped launch the Wachapreague program.

The project, in the works since 2021, sets the foundation for Wachapreague to be designated as a National Historic District and listed on the National Historic Register.

Wachapreague has already been accepted as a viable candidate for the designation, a necessary step along the way.

The project is seeking the designation for the entire town, not individual properties or sections. This opens the possibility for grant opportunities to preserve “docks, wharves, boatyards and other waterfront infrastructure that played a role in the town’s maritime economy and way of life.”

Bell says it’s important to understand that the Historic District designation is “honorific” and will not have an impact on people’s plans to build, add onto or change their homes. In fact, homeowners in the district might be able to qualify for up to 50 percent state tax credits for changes they make to rehab their homes, if they follow certain historical and architectural guidelines.

THE PROJECT’S FIRST PHASE, which was funded by a grant from DHR, surveyed 50 of the town’s approximately 130 properties and recorded them in the database.

You can find these 50 properties on the “Architectural Surveys” page of the Wachapreague Renaissance site. For each property, there are photos, sketches of the site plan, and a thumbnail story of the property, a brief architectural description and other details, such as the type of dwelling, and date of construction

The second phase, which requires a grant from DHR, will complete the surveys for the 80 remaining properties, and submit the nomination forms for National Historic District listing.

The cost of that phase of the project is \$23,000. Wachapreague Renaissance applied for the grant on behalf of the town and was awarded a grant for \$18,000.

The project requires the town to participate in funding the project, and so Wachapreague will have to come up with the remaining \$5,000. The council has committed \$2,500, and Wachapreague Renaissance has agreed to raise the remaining \$2,500 from Wachapreague residents and businesses.

Although Wachapreague Renaissance Inc. is a registered Virginia non-profit, it has not filed for 501(c)(3) status yet, so donations are not tax-deductible. Bell, who also serves on the Planning and Zoning Commission, hopes residents see the value.

“The project needs donations of money, but also needs expertise,” he says. He hopes that people reading this story will:

“Do three things:
“One - Go to our website - www.wachapreaguerenaissance.org - and click on all the links. See what we are all about.

“Two - Become involved! Consider volunteering to be a board member! We need expertise in areas such as fund-raising, promotion, design, and economic vitality. We won’t ask for a lot of your time!

“And, three, donate if you are able to help.”

There will be a Donate button on the website, he says, or you can send a check and/or a note with ideas and your own contact information to Jim Bell, PO Box 32, Wachapreague.

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waterways and recreation.

The event is put on by the Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust. For more information, check their website, veslt.org/

BIRDERS, TAKE NOTE!

Maggie Long and Joette Borzik will host a walk through the Mutton Hunk Fen Natural Area Preserve, looking for migrating warblers, raptors, terns, herons, egrets - and perhaps some early wintering ducks.

The walk takes place Saturday, Sept. 28, at 8 a.m., at the Preserve, 28565 Baker Road, Parksley.

The event is free. For more, www.easternshorebirding.org

NOVEMBER 11, at 9 a.m., people are invited to gather at the Wachapreague cemetery on Drummondtown Road in Melfa to place flags on the graves of veterans interred there.

Flags will be provided by the town.

SENIOR EXERCISE class takes place Thursdays at the Powelton Presbyterian Church on Main Street, from 10-11 a.m. The class involves gentle stretching as well as tai-chi and yoga moves, mostly done while seated. It is free and enjoyable.

SANTA WILL BE HO-HO-HOing his way into town on Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.

Join him at the Seaside Park Gazebo, and share hot chocolate or cider and of course, some Christmas cookies.

IT IS FRUIT FLY season, at least in our house. Yuck.

They seem to come from thin air, but of course, that’s not the case.

In the warm months, according to Country Living, fruit flies come out of diapause, which is a state like hibernation.

While that is happening inside and outside, fruit flies are also coming in on the

fruits and vegetables you bring in from your garden or from the store.

They are attracted to overripe fruits and vegetables, where they thrive on high-fructose substances the fruits create as they age. The process of fermentation, which happens as fruits and vegetable get overripe and rot, creates alcohols and vinegars that attract and nourish the fruit flies.

A single mated female can lay 100 eggs a day. It takes about 10 days for the eggs to hatch.

The very best thing you can do to get rid of fruit flies is to keep them out in the first place.

Clear the clutter from your countertops and wipe down everything including the sink. Keep the drain and drain screen clear of food bits, and pour boiling water down the drain. Plug the drain and leave water in the sink, killing any drain-based fruit flies by cutting off their oxygen.

Wash your produce as soon as you get it home. Pay special attention to bananas, separating the bunch before you wash them.

You can use apple cider vinegar and a few drops of dish soap to make a trap. Leave this on the counter uncovered.

Or you can make a trap with vinegar in a small bowl, plastic wrap over the top and holes put in the the plastic wrap with a skewer.

But in my experience, the traps seem to attract more fruit flies than they kill. Washing fruits and veggies works the best for me.

IF YOU ENJOY the newsletter, please consider helping with the printing costs. Any donation would help!

You can mail a check to me at PO Box 144, Wachapreague, or leave a donation at our home at 18 Bayview Ave. Thanks!