

WACHAPREAGUE Times

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

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Hearing from the Legislators

By Margo Digan

PEOPLE ATTENDING the Eggs & Issues breakfast packed the Island House on April 3, while more than 50 people protested outside, with signs showing their political beliefs to people attending the event.

There was a large police presence, and the protest was peaceful; the average age probably being north of 60.

Inside, Robert Santini, executive director of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, opened the meeting, with remarks focusing on the mission of the Chamber to serve all Shore citizens.

Rep. Robert Bloxom shared information about the state budget process, emphasizing his partiality to the Shore during the budget process.

John Coker, chairman of the Northampton County Board of Supervisors, spoke about a number of Northampton-related issues, and also touched on the Rails & Trails progress, saying that the stretch from Cape Charles to Cheriton will be completed soon. He also talked about the regional food bank, saying that federal cuts had taken a couple million dollars from it.



Even when money is cut, he said, “programs don’t go away; we still have to fund them.”

Renata Major, vice chairman of the Accomack County Board of Supervisors, discussed a proposed 5-cent per \$1,000 tax increase, saying that even if it were to pass, Accomack County would still have one of the lowest tax rates in the state.

Sen. Bill DeSteph said that the 815 people who had lost jobs so far because of federal government cuts had been offered access to new jobs. He also said that he had been able to fund a number of health-related positions, including two additional pediatricians and more medical residents.

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Here Are the Hummers!

HUMMINGBIRDS HAVE ARRIVED!

Meriwether Payne posted today on Facebook that she has seen a hummingbird at her feeder; the map at hummingbirdcentral.com concurs.

According to the website, hummers are only found in the Western hemisphere, with only a few of the 366 species making their homes in North America. Most live in Central and South America.

Here, the most common species is the ruby-throated hummingbird. The males are the brightly colored ones, with the distinct ruby throat, glistening green on their backs and sides, and a white collar.



butterfly milkweed (which is also great for monarch butterflies), swamp milkweed and crocosmia.

Feeders will bring hummingbirds to your yard, as well. Clean your feeders every 3-5 days with a mixture of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water; be sure to clean the inside thoroughly, too.

This and That

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, is the opening of “Splash Down,” a show of art works by Ted Leonard, who is now living in Wachapreague. The show starts at 5 p.m. and runs until 8:30 p.m. Current Reflections is at 8 Main Street.

TOWN HALL WILL be open Saturday, April 12, from 9 to noon, to make it easier for residents to buy decals for their vehicles. Town Hall was also open last Saturday, and Town Clerk Susan Springer said a number of people came in to buy decals. A few people who aren’t in town during the week came in just to see our town hall.

SATURDAY, MAY 10, is the date for the spring townwide yard sale. The rain date is Saturday, May 17.

THE NEW TRASH TRUCK is once again operational, after a leak in the hydraulic system sent it back to the dealer



Public Works crew Dylan Eder, driving, and JD Bradford are happy with the new truck.

for repairs. It is smaller than the old truck, though, so that means that our Public Works Department will not be picking up large brush, furniture and the like on trash day. If you put those items out for pickup, the guys will get them with the brush truck.

WORK HAS BEEN DONE and will continue on the drainage problems in town. Robert Williams, who served on the council for years and headed up the drainage committee, brought an update to the March

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About 50 people protested before the Eggs & Issues breakfast

Eggs & Issues

Rep. Jen Kiggans, who was scheduled to attend the meeting, was in Washington, DC, voting on issues, and could not be at the breakfast, but did send a representative.

Jeanette Edwards, CEO of Eastern Shore Rural Health, was not a speaker, but said that the Franktown Dental

Clinic is expanding to include three more chairs, one new dentist and two new dental hygienists.

And ESRH is providing a dentist to Occohannock Elementary School.

- Carrie Jacobson contributed to this story

This & That

council meeting. He said VDOT has replaced a grate at the corner of Powellton and Paul streets, and planned work on a culvert box further down the line. He expected work to begin soon on the main ditch line.

THE HISTORIC DISTRICT NOMINATION project, headed by Jim Bell and Susan Batten-Bell, is nearing completion.

Funds raised for the cost-sharing portion of a grant, along with the town's matching funds, were submitted to the Department of Historic Resources in January.

In March, Jim met with the DHR contractor who is completing data entry work to the state database and writing the nomination forms.

He also is planning to hold a public meeting in early June for citizens to see the process and ask questions.

STEVE JOSEPH has resigned from the Town Council. The council nominated and accepted Robert Hipple as Joseph's replacement. Hipple visited Wachapreague for the first time 20 years ago, and moved here a few years ago from southeastern Pennsylvania. He was in the financial services industry for 30 years.

THE WACHAPREAGUE VOLUNTEER Fire Department held a lottery earlier in the spring and has sold 20 of the 24 horses that graced the old carousel. Each sold for \$1,500. Kerry Paul says there's one reindeer left, and it is available for \$500.

The money will help bring three new kiddie rides to the carnival: a new-to-us carousel, a Roto Whip, and a pony cart ride. All are antiques, and all were made by the W. F. Mangles Co. of Coney Island, NY.

The new rides will be up and running for the carnival, which starts June 18. The carousel will be housed in a metal building with garage doors that open and close, so the fire department won't have to take everything down each winter.

He said the project cost for materials is \$84,000; labor, \$48,000 and concrete, \$30,000.

DARRYL LILLISTON'S SEAFOOD operation on Atlantic Avenue will soon be offering sandwiches. Kennedy Lilliston, 16, said they'll be selling flounder, crabcake, soft crab and oyster fritter sandwiches. They'll be doing seafood boils and offering steamed crabs, as well. She expects sandwich and cooked seafood sales to start in a couple of weeks.

Since the closure of Taylor's (the former Edwards Seafood) on Route 13, Lilliston's is really the only place in the area to get fresh-caught seafood. They've been open for the season since March 31.

THE NEW FIRE TRUCK that the Wachapreague Fire Department needs will cost more than \$1 million, said Kerry Paul. The department is getting ready to "spec out" the truck now, he said, and explained that fire trucks don't just come off a line somewhere, in the way that cars do. Each truck is made to a department's specifications.

The existing fire truck is nearly 30 years old, and while it is still running, repairs are continuous and expensive. It has 36,000 miles on the odometer.

In 1952, Paul said, the department bought a truck for \$7,500. The next truck, bought in 1974, cost \$44,000. The current truck, bought in 1995, cost \$282,000.

Once the department makes its order, the manufacturing will take three or four years.

THE DREDGING OPERATION has been halted for a while now, and will be delayed indefinitely because of a broken piece of equipment. No one has been available to give an approximate time for restarting.

IN FEBRUARY, THE Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Department held its annual awards banquet and honored firefighters for their achievements.

Firefighter of the Year... Justin Paul
Outstanding Service Award... Tracy Fate

55 Years of the Service... Kerry Paul
45 Years of Service... David Fluhart
45 Years of Service... Wayne Taylor
35 Years of Service... Brian Joynes
10 Years of Service... Wayne Dize
5 Years of Service... Toby Hamilton

The Island House catered the dinner; awards and door prizes were by Classic Graphics & Etched Design and Shore Stitches; flower arrangements were by Baskets & Bows

THE WACHAPREAGUE GENERAL STORE has new operators, who are excited about opening and making some changes. Tracey and Zenny Chareas own and operate Saltwater Flower Farm, a cut-flower farm and equine rescue operation on the Drummondtown Road.

The Chareas moved here from Atlantic a couple of years ago. Their vision for the store includes iced and hot lattes, prepared foods, sandwiches, and New York bagels. Expect interesting household and gardening tools, too, and flowers from their farm and other farms in the area. And there will be plants for sale, as well.

All the food and gifts will be from or inspired by this beautiful place we live, Tracey Chareas wrote on Facebook. They expect to open in mid-spring.

THE ARTISANS OF WACHAPREAGUE, a new group formed to help support the many artists in town, will have its first show and sale on Saturday, May 17, at the Powelton Presbyterian Church. The show will start at 10 and run until about 3. There will be art and craft items for sale, and possibly, also, some yummy food items.

With at least 12 crafters and artists in town, Wachapreague might be, per capita, the most artist-heavy town on the Eastern Shore!

If you are an artist or crafter interested in regularly showing and selling your work, and you live in Wachapreague, please email me at carrieBjacobson@gmail.com.

The group includes Lynne Rogers, Ann Crain, Dave Groshong, Larry Pitts, Tomeka Watkinson, Bob Bilicki, Ted Leonard, Beth Lohr, Carol Eastmen, Lee Ann Shontere, Sue Fountain and myself, Carrie Jacobson.