

WACHAPREAGUE Times

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

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"Canyon Lady" by Ted Leonard. His work is available at Current Reflections Gallery on Main.

You Can Have a Voice in Our Town's Future

THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN is up for review. The Planning Board will take comments by citizens in a meeting on Thursday at 6 p.m. in Seaside Hall at VIMS.

The plan is on the Wachapreague website, <http://wachapreague.org>. On the home page, scroll down to "2025 Comprehensive Plan," and "read more." Then click "click here to continue," and then click "click to view."

The state requires local planning commissions to create comprehensive plans at least every five years. The plans generally look at the towns as they are today, then draw conclusions about what the towns and its citizens will need and want in the coming years, to "best promote the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of the inhabitants, including the elderly and persons with disabilities."

Here are some of the highlights of the proposed comprehensive plan

VISION STATEMENT "Over the next five years, our small coastal town envisions transforming into a thriving tourism destination that celebrates its natural beauty, preserves its cultural heritage, fosters sustainable economic growth, and offers visitors unforgettable experiences while maintaining a high quality of life for our community members."

Along with a brief overview of our history, the plan touches on some of the town's assets - the cleanest waters on the East Coast, beautiful marshes, barrier islands, the rich fishery, VIMS and more.

"Residents enjoy a peaceful community without the clutter of fast-food chains and

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Drainage Ditch to Get Help

By Margo Digan

ON AUG. 2, Robert Hipple, Wachapreague Town Council member, provided information regarding the Bradford Road/Bayview Avenue Ditch Project to a number of residents, all of whom live on Bayview Avenue.

The good news is that Accomack County will fund the cost of clearing out debris and the built-up sediment in the Bradford Road/ Bayview Avenue ditches. The most recent ditch clearing was 27 years ago! Those ditches should be cleaned out every 15 years.

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Photo by Dave Groshong

This and That

ON THURSDAY, AUG. 7, early in the afternoon, several very large booms were heard, in central Accomack County and into Northampton. In Wachapreague, the booms were incredibly loud, and it felt like they shook our houses.

Margo Digan, who lives in town, reached out to the Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS Pax) Noise Hotline. A spokesperson there said they didn't know the cause of the booms, but that "for supersonic flights over land, the FAA requires military jets to operate above 30,000 feet. Over water, flights must be above 10,000 feet and at least 15 miles from shore. Supersonic flights are tested in the Atlantic Ocean and sometimes

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Plan

commercial traffic.”

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population - 290, in 139 households.

Median age - 58.1, with the largest group age 70-79 (26 percent), followed by ages 10-19 (23 percent). The 18-64 age range makes up 49 percent of the population.

44 percent of people are married

57 percent are female

92 percent are white

EDUCATION

97.6 percent have graduated from high school or a higher educational institution, which is about 20 percent higher than the rate in the county in general.

28.6 have bachelor’s degrees or higher, which is about 1.3 times higher than the county rate, and about two-thirds of the rate in the state in general, which is 41.5 percent.

SERVICE

Veterans account for 12.4 percent of our population.

ECONOMICS

Per capita income - \$33,479

Median household income - \$56,917

2.8 percent of people are below the poverty line; most of those are senior citizens.

Median value of owner-occupied homes - \$206,300.

The report discusses floodplain management and hazard mitigation and coastal erosion and sea-level rise.

IDEAS FOR THE

FUTURE include

Tourism development

More opportunities for fishing, crabbing and other eco-friendly activities, including an upgraded launch site for kayaks and stand-up paddle boards.

Establish a birdwatching education center

Update or replace the town’s tourism website

Research and organize festivals, farmers markets, art fairs and town park recreation opportunities

Start a town museum

Apply for historic district registration on state and national registries

Create a walking tour and app

Expand retail businesses and dining opportunities

Promote and market

Seaside Park for events like weddings and reunions

Study the possibility of building a small bandshell or covered stage for music, outdoor dramas and other activities

Explore the use of Powell

Park for sporting events

Promote the artisan

community

Other ideas include

Townwide public sewer

Reliable cell phone and internet

Public restrooms

The plan contains much more information than can be included here. The meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 14, will give the public the chance to hear more about it and offer opinions; the Town Council will vote on it in the

Ditch

William Savage is the Accomack County storm drainage program coordinator. On March 25, he walked the ditch from Bradford Neck Road to the end of Bayview Avenue, Hipple said.

Savage identified the primary problems as standing water upstream and overall lack of drainage.

“It starts out knee-deep behind the tennis court and is barely ankle-deep at the outlet on low tide. Clearly, the tide is bringing water in but the water isn’t going out.”

This ditch, which runs behind the homes on Bayview Avenue, takes most of the runoff from the ditches along the Wachapreague and Bradford Neck roads.

The Town of Wachapreague will be responsible for oversight of the project; Accomack County no longer has the equipment needed to complete the project.

The job will be put out for bid and then there will be a final decision to move forward with the work.

For residents interested in more information, Hipple can be reached at 540-398-9874. Town Clerk Susan Springer may be reached at 757-787-7117.

Also, there are information packets available at Town Hall, which is open Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Town Hall phone number is 757-787-7117.

The plan will go before the Council on Aug. 14.

This & That

weather patterns cause the sound and vibrations to travel farther than they usually would.”

A Chincoteague resident with ties to Wallops said that a lifeguard in Assateague told her naval ships offshore were firing big guns, but there was no confirmation.

She said that as far as she knows, there were no launches at Wallops.

THE WACHAPREAGUE GENERAL STORE

continues to add to its offerings, with fancy meats and cheese offerings, as well as interesting chocolates and, of course, flowers.

The espresso machine is up and running, and people report that the Fluffernutter drinks the store is offering are a big hit.

BLAKE JOHNSON, owner of the Island House, reminds people that his restaurant is a great place to watch a full moon, including the “Sturgeon Moon” earlier in the month. That night, the Island House gave a discount for anyone who mentioned the moon!

And check out the Island House’s Facebook page for a fun video of workers deep-cleaning the kitchen.

LILLISTON SEAFOOD had soft crabs last week, and might still... Check in with them, on Atlantic Avenue. All their regular crabmeat is hand-picked, they remind us!



You can find Nemo and other Garden Fish (made by Dave Groshong), for sale at 18 Bayview Avenue.