

# WACHAPREAGUE Times

News, information  
& happenings from  
the Flounder  
Capital of the World  
- a small town with a  
big mowing problem

Volume 1

Sept. 13, 2023

No. 5



## Counting Crabs

Students from  
Wales hope to help  
fend off an invasion  
on their shores



Photos by Dave Groshong

If you saw a group of muddy young men and women walking around town earlier in the month, chances are they were graduate students from Wales, studying the habits of our native fiddler crabs.

The students were here for two weeks, catching crabs and tagging them with nail polish, for sorting and measuring purposes.

Alicia Gray grew up in St. Davids, in Wales, the smallest city in Britain. She said the students were prohibited from getting in any cars, so they spent the entire two weeks in town. They enjoyed

Wachapreague, and were only a little surprised to hear that most of America is not like our town, she said.

Our fiddler crabs apparently behave much the same as a type of invasive crab that's on the brink of arriving in Wales, the students said. The point of their study in Wachapreague was to monitor this population of crabs in hopes of learning ways to mitigate the invasion on their coast.

Students from Wales have come to VIMS for more than 20 years, said Richard Snyder, director of the Eastern Shore VIMS operation.

## Survey Might Help Raise Funds for Sewer Hookups

Steven Joseph, council member and builder/renovator, says that citizen interest in hooking up to the sewer line could help bring in money to defray the cost of those hookups.

And to gauge that interest, he's asking people to participate in a two-question survey. The point of this is to generate information to seek grants to pay to hook up Wachapreague homes to the sewer.



Joseph talked about the potential costs and benefits of hooking up to the sewer line.

The estimates vary, he says, depending on many factors, including the distance between your house and the street; the placement, age and capacity of

your electric box; and the person or group who does the installation.

The factors for each house include:

A grinder pump, which costs about \$6,000

The cost of digging trenches for the pipes, which comes in at about \$3 a foot

Plumbing, which will vary by house.

In Exmore, which is undergoing this process right now, the estimated cost is \$17,000-\$18,000 per home, he says.

*Continued on back*

## This and That

**VIMS MARINE LIFE DAY** takes place Saturday from 12-4, at the Seawater Facility on Atlantic Avenue.

It's a fun and interactive chance to learn about life in and on the marsh, and to see some of VIMS's work up close.

The event is free! VIMS asks you to register in advance, if possible, at [vims.edu](http://vims.edu)

*Continued on back*



## Doing Good - Sam Parker

**S**am Parker lives in Wachapreague, and has been picking up trash in town for a couple years.

A relative of the late Captain Ray Parker, Sam says he picks up trash when he feels like it, which is not all the time, and certainly not when it's blazing hot and humid outside.

He says he's never found anything wonderful - and

hasn't found any money, either.

\*\*\*

*Do you do something good for the town or someone in it?*

*Do you know someone who does? I'd like to feature them or you in the Times.*

*Please email me - carrieBjacobson@gmail.com, write me at PO Box 144, call or text me at 860-442-0246, or drop by 18 Bayview.*

## More This & That

**THE TOWNWIDE YARD SALE** is Oct. 7! Please sign up at Town Hall, call 757-787-7117 or email town@wachapreague.org

\*\*\*

**THE COMMUNITY PICNIC**, crab-cake cookoff and apple-pie contest take place Oct. 14 in Seaside Park, at 1 p.m. Make your best and bring it to be judged!

\*\*\*

**WANT AN UPRIGHT** piano? Contact Phil at 609-709-6253. Piano is free; you move it.

\*\*\*

**WANT A PRETTY** propane stove? It's cream-colored, and

looks like a Vermont Castings woodstove. The stove needs to be hooked to a propane line, not a tank. Free; you move it. Contact carrieBjacobson@gmail.com

\*\*\*

**HOOKS & NEEDLES** group meets at Powelton Presbyterian 1-3 PM- on Tuesdays.

\*\*\*

Tomoka Watkinson and others remind folks that it's illegal to put/blow your lawn clippings into the street. And it looks bad, too.

The factors for each house include:

A grinder pump, which costs about \$6,000

The cost of digging trenches for the pipes, which comes in at about \$3 a foot

Plumbing, which will vary by house.

In Exmore, which is undergoing this process right now, the estimated cost is \$17,000-\$18,000 per home, he says.

One of the major costs is the electrical system. Exmore has found that most older homes have 60- or 100-amp panels. The septic system would need a 200-amp panel or subpanel.

Plumbing is another variable, he says, and Exmore is not a great example there, because hook-ups are mandatory, and so the plumbing has to cover the entire town.

In Wachapreague, Joseph says, hookups will not be mandatory.

Initially, there was a lot of opposition to the idea of a sewer line in town, he says. But the Hampton Roads Sewer District (HRSD), was willing to lay the pipe along 3 miles of the Wachapreague Road. Grants enabled the town to pay the costs of completing the line through the commercial district, and to allow the commercial businesses in town to hook up at no cost.

Joseph says there was a lot of negativity about the project, but the council is allowed to decide on changes to the utility infrastructure, as long as those changes don't cost the citizens money. The council went ahead with the project, believing that it would benefit the town.

So, commercial businesses can hook up for free, and there are 27 households on the line through the commercial district that also can hook up, but at a cost.

The council has gotten a \$100,000 grant this year, and will receive another \$100,000 next year, to help those 27 homeowners defray the cost of hooking up. That comes out to \$7,407 per household, leaving the homeowners to pay the rest, whatever that might be. If anyone chooses not to hook up, their share of those grants will be placed back into the whole, to defray the costs for the homeowners who do want to hook up.

Joseph believes that HRSD is "not just coming to Wachapreague for the commercial district. They want the whole town. If the whole town wants sewer," he says, "I bet HRSD will work real hard to get it."

He asks residents to please fill out the survey. "If the survey shows great interest, the likelihood of getting grants increases profoundly."

## Sewer Survey

If the sewer line came down your street, would you be interested in hooking up to it? Circle Yes or No.

How much would you be willing to pay to hook up? (Write in your answer)

Return to Town Hall, please, by Sept. 30, 2023