

WACHAPREAGUE Times

News, information
& happenings from
the flounder town
with a mulch
problem.

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Honoring Those Who Served

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, the Quilts of Valor program has given comfort in the way of quilts to more than 373,000 service members and veterans.

In Wachapreague, one quilt has been awarded - and Cathy Janci is hoping to award many, many more.

As a member of the Eastern Shore Quilt Guild, Janci is part of the Quilts of Valor effort, a program begun in 2003 by a woman named Catherine Roberts, whose son was deployed at the time in Iraq. She had a dream of him, suffering and in despair, and then saw him healing, with a quilt wrapped around him.

Deciding that quilts equaled healing, she launched the program.

Quilts, continued on back

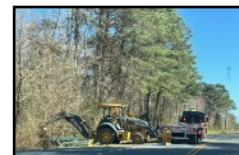


Top, Cathy Janci at work in the recycling center in Tasley that she runs with her husband Fred, the former mayor. Above, one of her quilts.

Sewer Work Begins Again

WORK ON THE SEWER lines coming into town began again on Monday, and is expected to continue for a couple months.

The work here is part of a Hampton Roads Sewer District project that will connect pump stations in Wachapreague, Nassawadox, Exmore and Accomac to the wastewater treatment plant in Onancock.



Lisa Bolen, spokesperson for HRSD, said that in the past, many projects were designed first and

then built after the design was complete.

“For some bigger projects, like the Eastern Shore project, the project is designed and constructed at the same time. This allows the contractors to be able to stay busy with permits and construction in one area while another area is being designed. So while it might seem like work is sporadic, it is actually planned out.”

A worker on the Wachapreague Road said

Continued on back

Reconsidering the Marsh

A STUDY PUBLISHED recently in Nature Communications, detailing the way coastal wetlands store and release carbon, should not change the way we think of our marshes, says Richard Snyder, director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science here in Wachapreague.

He adds that the report will not change the way VIMS approaches its work.

The study highlights the fact that erosion and migration of the barrier islands lead to the release of carbon, in numbers larger than most people have believed.

Carbon comes from sediment and decaying vegetation on the islands, marshes and lagoons. Sea-level rise and increases in the length and severity of storms are depleting sediment, driving the barrier islands toward the land, and releasing

Marshes, continued on back

Quilts, continued

The quilts are all handmade, and hand- or machine-quilted. Each is a specific size, has a label with some required info, and must be awarded (not "given"), and the award recorded.

Janci has two quilts nearly finished, designated for Wachapreague veterans or service members.

It's easy to nominate a veteran or service member for the award. Janci has put a stack of nomination forms in the post office. You're asked for contact info for the veteran or service member, his or her branch of the military, rank at discharge, years served and a short description of his or her service, and why you feel he or she should be awarded a quilt.

Janci has more information for anyone who needs it. Contact her with questions or to submit your nomination, at 40 Brooklyn Ave., in Wachapreague.

In addition to belonging to the Eastern Shore Quilt Guild, Janci is also a member of the Shore Birds quilting group, based near Pocomoke. This group also works with Project Linus, which provides quilts for children who are homeless or abused, or somehow in need.

The Eastern Shore Quilt Guild meets the second Monday of every month at the fire station in Tasley. Anyone interested in joining, or even in learning to quilt, is welcome.

"We will help you get started, without a problem," Janci says.

Marshes, continued

buried carbon along the way - more than the system captures, the report says.

The report, according to an article on the VIMS website, says that the discovery "entails potential trouble for the continued ability of the entire system to function as a net sink for carbon."

Researchers found that, in recent decades, the islands, marshes and lagoons on the Shore are now a source of carbon, rather than a capturer.

Snyder says that the findings are not really new.

"People have a limited window of remembering things," he says. "Barrier islands have been moving over marshes and forests for hundreds of years exposing marsh peat and tree stumps on the ocean side, but the rate for some places like Cedar Island have increased dramatically.

"Climate change, sea-level rise are in the front of people's minds these days," he says, "and this provides momentum to an observational study like this one."

The recent high tide, the one that covered all the marsh ground and grasses, was not necessarily "bad," Snyder said.

"Define 'bad.'" he said. "It's part of nature."

He said this tidal rise looked more dramatic because the marsh grass isn't high. The stems break off, so that the marsh at high tide looks just like the ocean.

"A flood later in the summer won't look nearly as dramatic," he said.

And there really isn't much blocking the water anymore, he added. The berm along the north end of Atlantic Avenue was built by the WPA in the depression, as a barrier for the town. Slowly, it's eroded."

This & That

SHOOTING POINT

OYSTER Company, headquartered in Franktown, has made remarkable progress restoring a bulkhead behind the former Daytrippers store on Atlantic Avenue.

Tom Gallivan, who owns the aquaculture company, says he is committed to sustainability and improving the water and the working waterfront, with the goal of the return of the native oyster.

The plan here is to extend the bulkhead to the edge of the boat-launch ramp by the Island House. Then, Gallivan says, his bulkhead will meet one the Island House is

planning on building over the current boat-launch ramp.

He says the construction crew, Fisher Marine Construction, had to pull a lot of debris out of the water to make the project work.

"We're in the clam and oyster business, and are interested in slowly making improvements on the waterfront."

JIMMY SWINEFORD, better known as Nitty-Gritty, is in rehab after falling and hitting his head a few weeks ago. If you'd like to drop him a note, you may do so, % Patricia Morris, 1310 Central Ave., Hopewell, VA 23860.

Sewer, continued

that crews have been working on parts of the project up and down the shore, and that the work in Wachapreague is expected to continue for a couple months.

The work here will occur along the Wachapreague Road, Custis Street, Main Street, Brooklyn Ave., High Street, Ice Plant Road and Atlantic Avenue. You might have noticed stakes with flags along these roads recently.

The HRSD provided answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

Why is the project necessary?

To provide improved wastewater treatment for the town of Wachapreague, and improve sanitary sewer service reliability to existing customers of Accomack County.

Will the project affect the flow of traffic?

Disruptions to traffic will be minimized, and in most cases, a single lane of traffic will be maintained.

Will access to properties be maintained during construction?

The contractor will ensure that access to residences and at least

one entrance to businesses will be maintained throughout construction.

What are the general working hours?

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., though there might be times when extended hours, work at night or on the weekend will be necessary.

What sort of noise should I expect?

Typical construction noises such as equipment engines, back-up alarms, materials being delivered, diesel generators, air compressors, sawing and the like should be anticipated.

Will residents be required to hook up to the system?

HRSD does not have a mandatory connection policy to its wastewater system.

What is the cost of the project?

The estimated cost for the Wachapreague portion is approximately \$3.92 million, and is financed by a combination of grants, loans and wastewater treatment fees paid by HRSD customers.

Signs of Spring



Daffodils are up all over town! Send me a photo of yours!