

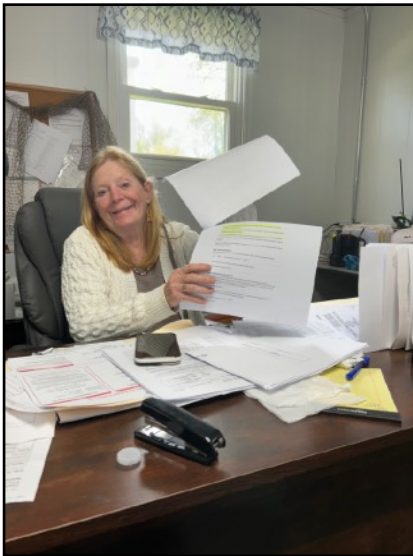
WACHAPREAGUE Times

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

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Bye-bye, Charlie!

CHARLIE GIBBLE moved to town four years ago, and hasn't really unpacked yet.

A big part of the reason is that she's been working as the Wachapreague town clerk. And while it's not truly a full-time job - it's Monday-Wednesday, 9-5 - Charlie has done lots of work on her own time.

She and her partner John McDermott are part of a wave of Pennsylvania residents who have moved to town over the past few years. When Charlie and John bought their house here six years ago, Charlie had been working in real estate, and also at QVC, the shopping network. QVC changed locations, and it

seemed like it was time for Charlie and John to do the same.

She says that Sandie Pulchaski approached her about the job; Sandie and Bob Williams interviewed her and decided that she was the one that Wachapreague needed.

The job involves interacting with citizens and the bookkeeper, attending town council meetings and taking the minutes. She says she does a lot of work on the grants that the town receives, not writing them - though she says she did write one - but recording how the funds are being spent and reporting that back

Charlie, back page

This & That

AMANDA MONROE, chief of Coast Guard Station Wachapreague, recently answered questions about changes to the station.

Q: So, from what I read, Station Wachapreague is going down to one person on duty? This is close to exactly opposite what the powers that be told you a few months ago?

A: As a Scheduled Mission Station, the assigned crew will operate during designated shifts to conduct scheduled boat operations and missions, training, maintenance and unit administration, but will not stand a 24-hour response schedule.

We will not have someone at the station 24 hours a day or overnight in a "duty"

status. We may operate overnight and have personnel at the Station, but for scheduled operations.

To read the rest of Monroe's responses, please go to the town website, <http://wachapreague.org>

TOWN COUNCILOR BOB

WILLIAMS has decided not to run for another term. Anyone interested in running for his position must register by June 18. Talk to Town Clerk Charlie Gibble for more information. I hope to have a story on Bob in the May Times.

All Along the Waterfront

ATLANTIC AVENUE is looking a little different these days, and the changes run deeper than the surface.

ISLAND HOUSE

BLAKE JOHNSON, owner of the Island House, said that one of the primary purposes of the work that's being done there is to eradicate the boat-launch ramp.

"It was not a good ramp," Johnson said, explaining that trailers were going off the end of it and being damaged, and that every time Wachapreague got a heavy nor'easter or even a high tide, the parking lot would be filled with debris from the marsh.

"It was time to put in some deferred maintenance," he said.

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Waterfront, back page

Charlie

to the grantors.

She sends out bills, accepts payment for and tracks town taxes and license plates or stickers, permits, business licenses, and golf carts licenses. She keeps the website up to date, too.

"It's more than just doing credit cards," she says.

Charlie has done lots of work to help strengthen and grow town events. She helped revive the Fourth of July parade,

and worked with Fire Chief Sean Fate to coordinate lunch after the parade, as well as fire department french fries and cooks.

Charlie says she's gotten to be "a really good beggar," getting Wal-Mart to donate 360 hot dogs and buns, and Food Lion to donate gift certificates that she used to buy condiments.

She has helped grow the annual town-wide yard sale (May 18 this year), has advertised it and made maps to help buyers find their way around.

She's sold Wachapreague license plates for \$10 each, and with the money, has bought supplies and treats for the Easter egg hunt, the crab-cake cookoff and the Christmas celebration.

She urged the town to buy furniture for the gazebo, and helped track down the gazebo manufacturer and get faulty pieces replaced. She helped organize the town hall renovation.

Charlie used more license plate money to buy, on Facebook Marketplace, a cabinet, coffee-maker and

microwave for the town hall. The cabinet holds various items and also covers a big hole in the wall. Charlie says that when she went to get the microwave, the seller told her that she herself used to work for a town on the Shore, and she gave Charlie the appliance for free.

Her last day was supposed to be April 30, but she has agreed to stay on long enough to train whoever the council hires as the next clerk. And she will continue to run events in the town.

Praise for Charlie

Mayor Charles Elliot

"Charlie has a great personality and a kind soul. She has a way of making you feel important. She is very generous, and has been a great asset."

Councilor Aileen Joeckel

"Charlie has truly been an ambassador to the town. Her friendly smile and full knowledge of what is happening in town has been a delight. We are lucky Charlie isn't leaving town just taking on a new role as a full-time resident... All the best!"

Waterfront

Part of the project will be to add one, or maybe two, floating docks, so that more boats could pull in. Some larger slips will be reconfigured to make more and smaller slips.

Johnson said he's not sure what sort of activities will take place on the filled-in bulkhead.

"We're kicking around different ideas," he said, adding that he would be open to hearing ideas from people in town.

"Ultimately, we want the restaurant to be a place everyone can enjoy."

The Island House is now open seven days a week.

Johnson said the restaurant has instituted a loyalty program, to give discounts to people who dine there regularly.

To make this happen, the computer system will recognize a credit card number, and award points to frequent diners. Those points will translate into discounts, he said.

TOWN MARINA

SANDIE PULCHASKI, harbor master for the town, explained the changes happening to the town marina - many of which are similar to the changes happening at the Island House.

An area with slips for large boats is being reconfigured to make slips for smaller boats. This will result in an additional two slips. A floating dock is being added, as well, to make it easier

to access boats and the water. And the marina bathrooms are now open.

COMMERCIAL MARINA

PAUL MORRIS, owner of the commercial marina, said that he has submitted applications to the Department of Environmental Quality, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission for improvements to the marina.

He has a meeting next month, he says, to show plans, which include new docks, new floating docks and a new seawall.

"The old ones are falling into the tide," he said.

He said dredging is needed, as well.

He's met with a conservation consultant whom the Island House used for its project, and he says that since he hopes to do something similar, he doesn't expect a lot of opposition.

The marina itself will have fewer slips than it once did, but "they're going to be better," he said, explaining that there were 68 clips when he bought the marina, and he plans on 51 when it opens.

Almost all of them will have floating docks, making it easier to get in and out of the boats.

He plans to remove and replace the green building, and plans to sell furnishings, equipment and whatever else he finds during the May 18 yard sale.

This & That

THE WACHAPREAGUE GENERAL STORE is open Wednesday-Sunday, with new food and drink items, new art and a new look inside.

THE WACHAPREAGUE WEDNESDAYS group meets at the General Store Wednesday mornings at about 9 to chat, say hi and drink coffee. All are welcome!

THE TOWN YARD SALE is May 18. Please sign up at town hall or in the post office.

THE FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT starts April 26 and runs through May 5 at 3 p.m. The entry fee is \$50; prizes are \$5,000 for first, \$1,000 for second and \$500 for third. You can register online and find out about the many more prizes at the Island House website. If you have questions, call 757-789-3222 or 757-787-4242 and ask for Debbie.

THE SHORE GIRLS Flounder Tournament takes place May 31 and June 1, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The awards banquet and silent auction are

set for June 2 at 1 p.m. at the Island House. Donations and silent auction proceeds benefit Dogs Deserve Better (<https://dogsdesservebetterva.org>).

For entry forms, rules and questions, contact Katrina Neal, nkatr@aol.com, or 757-787-3970.

THE WACHAPREAGUE INN is busy with Flounder Tournament participants, and owner Nikki Wardius says that the guests "have been catching lots of keep flounder all month long - we've been extremely busy!"

There's lots of new inventory in the gift shop, including hats, shirts, hoodies, jewelry, art and more. A shipment of new shirts is due soon.

And Stanley the cat, sporting his bowtie, is still happily greeting everyone.

THE SENIOR EXERCISE GROUP meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. at the Powelton Presbyterian Church. Exercise is an amalgam of disciplines, performed seated or using a chair to help with balance. The program is free, and generally lasts about 45 minutes.