

January 7, 2025



MATTAPONI TRIBAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

Notification from the Mattaponi Indian Tribal Council

Please welcome Sarah Quint and Lois Custalow Carter to the positions for the HUD (ICDBG) grant project for the Housing Rehabilitation project of the Mattaponi Indian Tribe. Sarah has taken on the responsibility as Director of Rehabilitation and Lois is the Director for Tribal Services - (ICDBG) Housing Rehabilitation. Over the past several weeks, both Sarah and Lois have been in training, attending meetings, and working on the Mattaponi Tribe's HUD policies and procedures with Kenah LLC. consultants for this tribal project. As discussions, approvals, and best practices are documented and put in place, communications will be going out to Mattaponi Tribal members.



BIO: Allow me to introduce myself! My name is Sarah Quint, and I am a Mattaponi member, belonging to Donna Custalow Lang (mother) and Jean and Otho Custalow (grandparents). I have spent my adult life working in home design and rehabilitation, a passion of mine since I was just a little girl. After spending over a decade in Michigan, my family – Husband Steve, and our children, River (12) and Reed (10) – has made the move back to Virginia. I'm happy to be bringing my experience and passion to serve our Tribe as the Director of Housing: Rehabilitation. It feels good to be home.


Election of Mattaponi Tribal Government will take place on February 1, 2025

Nominations for the Mattaponi Assistant Chief and three Council members election has begun! Several weeks ago, in preparation for the upcoming Council election, lineal residents of the Mattaponi Indian reservation received their voting packets, along with the criteria for the election. Which will take place on February 1, 2025 on the reservation.

Open Enrollment

Friendly reminder: Mattaponi Tribal Enrollment was closed out until further notice when our Petition for Federal Recognition was submitted. Mattaponi Tribal Enrollment will reopen sometime in the future, after the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (BIA) has reviewed and formally gone through the approval process for our Petition.

Reminder: If your tribal (card) enrollment expires during this waiting period, it is your responsibility to renew your enrollment if you choose to. If you have any questions, please contact the Tribal Office at **(804) 353-5908**.



Reminders of the Event VA250 Calendar

VA250

JANUARY 2-5

Richmond

Arnold's Raid on Richmond

In January, 1781, General Benedict Arnold led British troops in capturing the new capital of Virginia. This annual event returns, focused on the Revolution in Richmond and the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Four days of activities will take place at four different locations.

JANUARY 3

Henrico County

Arnold's Raid Encampment

Drop in throughout the day to experience life in a local Patriot militia encampment. What's a powder magazine and why does it need to be guarded? Learn about the local militia's defense as British troops fought their way through Henrico County into Richmond. Engage with reenactors as they demonstrate how to load and fire weapons.

JANUARY 3-5

Fredericksburg

Twelfth Night at Kenmore: A Dramatic Performance

Experience the candlelight, music, and decorations of a colonial Christmas ... and the uncertainty of Revolution. In Twelfth Night at Kenmore, it is early January 1776 and the first Christmas that Fielding and Betty Washington Lewis will celebrate in their newly built home. In the 18th century, December 25 was just the start of Christmas, a twelve-day celebration that ended on Twelfth Night. This final night was the most festive of the holiday season, if not of the entire year! View dramatic scenes by costumed actors in the first-floor rooms of Kenmore with a special musical performance by Colonial Faire.

JANUARY 4

Henrico County

Arnold's Raid Encampment & Skirmish

Did you know Benedict Arnold led more than 1,000 British and Hessian troops through Henrico in January 1781? Travel back in time to visit a small Revolutionary War encampment of local militia to learn more about their uniforms, gear, and life of the common soldier. Hear about the Patriots' struggle to defend Richmond.

JANUARY 11**Charles City County****Battle of Charles City Courthouse**

A commemorative event honoring the historical significance of Charles City County in the American Revolution as part of the Virginia 250 Celebration. Featuring a portrayal of Benedict Arnold to provide historical context and narration to guide the program and a musical performance by the Charles City Elementary School Chorus.

Loudoun County**Eliza's True Story: The First Biography of President Monroe's Eldest Daughter**

For over 200 years, Eliza Monroe has been portrayed as a hysterical and temperamental woman who abandoned her country and fled to France. The tale, however, did not ring true to author Barbara VornDick. She spent years researching Eliza, utilizing records on both continents. Her ground-breaking work shows Eliza in a new light and dispels many of the untruths that have been written about her. Barbara will discuss her new book about Eliza and the project to repatriate Eliza's remains.

JANUARY 12**Gloucester County****The Lafayette Bicentennial & Gloucester County**

Join Robert Kelly, Director of the Gloucester Museum of History & Vice President of the American Friends of Lafayette, for a discussion about General Lafayette's legacy that includes connections to Gloucester.

Henrico County**London Pleasants: From Enslaved to Redcoat**

Follow the life of London Pleasants from enslavement to self-emancipation in Henrico County. Learn about his time as a Black Loyalist and fate after the American Revolution.

Isle of Wight County**Thanks! It Has Pockets!**

The word pocket comes from a French word meaning pouch. A version of pouch-type pockets persisted for millennia until the 16th century when they were fashioned to wearer's girdles or belts. Today's discussion by textile expert Renee Starling highlights women's fashion history and the story of where we put our stuff.

JANUARY 15**Richmond****Who's Your Founding Father?: One Man's Epic Quest to Uncover the First, True Declaration of Independence**

In 1819 John Adams came across a stunning story in his hometown newspaper that he described to his political frenemy Thomas Jefferson as "one of the greatest curiosities and

one of the deepest mysteries that ever occurred to me . . . entitled the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.” The story claimed that a full fourteen months before Jefferson crafted his own Declaration of Independence, a band of zealous Scots-Irish patriots, whiskey-loving Princeton scholars, and a fanatical frontier preacher in a remote corner of North Carolina had become the first Americans to formally declare themselves “free and independent” from England. The Mecklenburg Declaration was signed on May 20, 1775—a date that’s still featured on the state flag of North Carolina. A year later, in 1776, Jefferson is believed to have plagiarized the MecDec while composing his own, slightly more famous Declaration and then, as he was wont to do, covered the whole thing up. Which is exactly why Adams always insisting the MecDec needed to be “thoroughly investigated.” Now, with *Who’s Your Founding Father?*, David Fleming picks up where Adams left off, leaving no archive, no cemetery, no bizarre clue or wild character unexplored while traveling the globe to bring to life one of the most fantastic, important—and controversial—stories in American history.

JANUARY 16

Isle of Wight County

LUNCH & LEARN: 1781 Battle of Mackie’s Mill

This is the 244th anniversary of the Revolutionary War engagement between local patriot militia forces and British regular soldiers under Benedict Arnold along Cypress Creek. Join us as we present the story of this historic small battle portraying the bravery and determination of Isle of Wight County citizen-soldiers under the command of Smithfield’s own Colonel Josiah Parker.

JANUARY 18

Roanoke

Fincastle Resolutions 250th Anniversary

Virginia will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Fincastle Resolutions, which marked the first time Americans declared that independence was a cause for which they were willing to give their lives, a sentiment famously echoed two months later by Patrick Henry. To honor this milestone, VA250 will host a special event titled "A Salute to Southwest Virginia" at the O. Winston Link & Roanoke History Museum. The event will feature a variety of exhibits and activities, including the launch of the VA250 Mobile Museum Experience.

Westmoreland County

Commemorating the Lives: The Lee Men of Stratford Hall Discounted Admission Day

Stratford Hall invites visitors to discover the Great House and grounds in commemoration of the lives of Lee family men, many of whom had January birthdays. During your visit, take the Band of Brothers audio tour to learn more about the Lee men and their time at Stratford Hall, including Declaration of Independence signers Francis Lightfoot Lee and Richard Henry Lee, Revolutionary War hero Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee, and Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

JANUARY 19

Winchester

Battle of Cowpens Commemoration

The Ceremony to be held is in honor the Revolutionary War veterans who participated in the Battle of Cowpens and Daniel Morgan's efforts during the Battle. It will be held at Daniel Morgan's gravesite.

JANUARY 24

Chesterfield County

Chesterfield County and the Yorktown Campaign

As we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, Bert Dunkerly will share how Chesterfield appeared in this historic and pivotal military event.

JANUARY 25

Henrico County

Heirloom Lost Arts & Crafts: Dancing into the Colonial Past

Put on your dancing slippers and dance your way back in time 250 years ago to a time of powdered wigs and lavishly trimmed waistcoats. Dancing was popular and common pastime of colonial Americans, which served recreational, social, and political purposes. You'll learn the English country dances which were enjoyed by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. No partner required.

Pittsylvania County

Pittsylvania County Committee of Safety 250th Anniversary Commemoration

A special program commemorating the 250th anniversary of the formation of Pittsylvania County's Committee of Safety at the Old Callands Courthouse and Gaol on Sago Road in Callands. Join us as we commemorate this crucial step on the road to American independence and as we honor and remember the men who were elected to the committee that day.

Shenandoah County

Peter Muhlenberg Commemoration

This ceremony will held to honor of Peter Muhlenberg and his "a Time for War" sermon in front of the Shenandoah County Historical Society in Woodstock.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025



(804) 353-5908



mattaponi@mattaponi.gov



Mattaponi.gov

January 7, 2025



MATTAPONI ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

December's Water Monitoring

Water monitoring was collected from our Mattaponi River on December 3rd, for high tide monitoring and again on December 9th, for low tide monitoring.

We will be collecting January's water monitoring samples on Thursday, January 2nd from 1:30pm - 3:30pm for our high tide monitoring and again on Tuesday, January 7th from 12pm-2pm for our low tide monitoring. If a tribal citizen would like to help with completing our monthly water samples, please visit the Environmental Office on that scheduled day. All supplies will be provided, please allow 2 hours of your time.

December 3rd - High Tide Monitoring

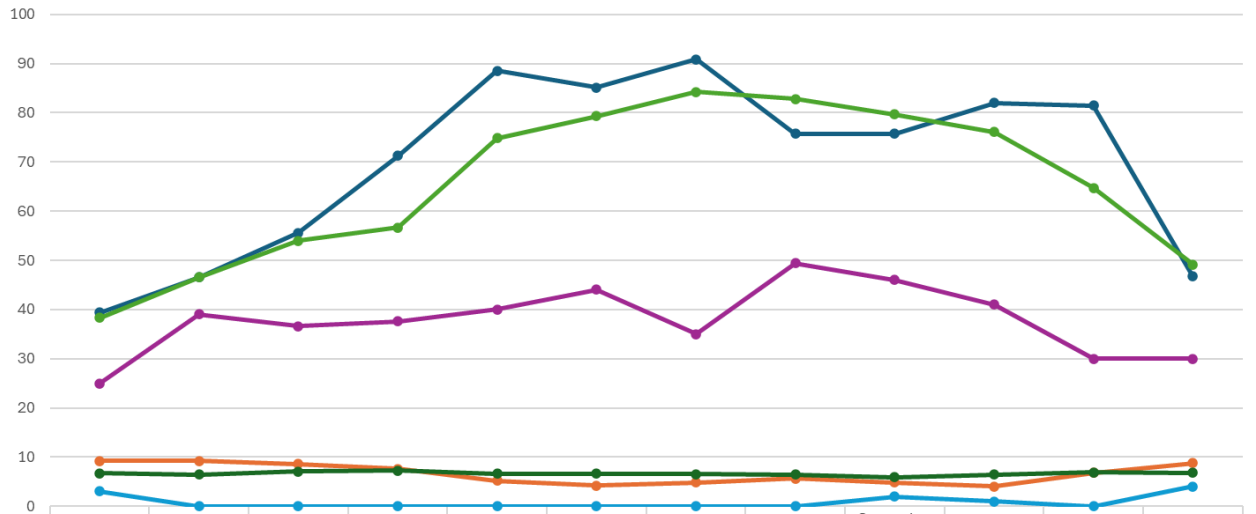
- Air Temperature – 27.5°C / 46.76°F
- Dissolved Oxygen – 8.8 and 8.8
- pH Level – 6.79
- Salinity – 4.0
- Water Clarity - 30
- Water Temperature – 18.2°C / 49.1°F
- Rain Fall past 7 days – 0.21
- Rain Fall past 48 hours – 0

December 9th – Tide Monitoring

- Air Temperature - 15.8°C / 57.74°F
- Dissolved Oxygen – 9.4 and 7.8
- pH Level – 7.36
- Salinity - 4
- Water Clarity – 21.2
- Water Temperature – 14.0°C / 44.6°F
- Rain Fall past 7 days – 0
- Rain Fall past 48 hours – 0

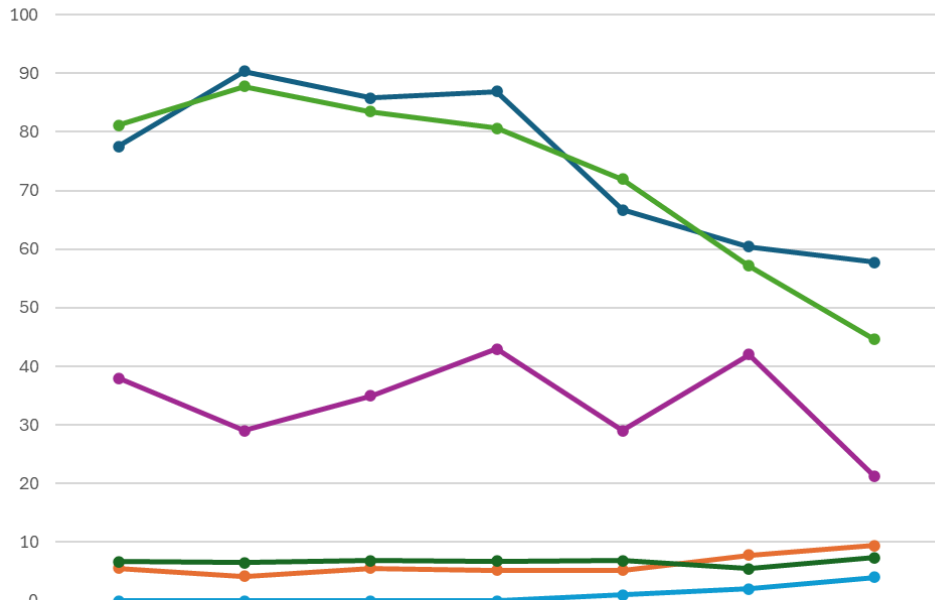
Since January, the Environmental Department has collected high tide water samples for a total of 12 months and low tide water samples for 7 months. The graphs include all the months of sample collections, showing the data for both high and low tide periods to provide a visual representation.

High Tide Data



	January 18th	February 7th	March 6th	April 8th	May 8th	June 5th	July 3rd	August 14th	September 4th	October 2nd	November 6th	December 3rd
Air Temperature	39.38	46.58	55.58	71.24	88.52	85.1	90.86	75.74	75.74	82.04	81.5	46.76
Dissolved Oxygen	9.2	9.2	8.6	7.6	5.2	4.2	4.8	5.6	4.8	4	6.8	8.8
pH Level	6.69	6.45	7.03	7.23	6.63	6.58	6.55	6.48	5.86	6.41	6.89	6.79
Salinity	3	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	4
Water Clarity	25	39	36.6	37.6	40	44	35	49.4	46	41	30	30
Water Temperature	38.3	46.58	53.96	56.66	74.84	79.34	84.2	82.76	79.7	76.1	64.76	49.1

Low Tide Data



	June 11th	July 9th	August 7th	September 11th	October 10th	November 19th	December 9th
Air Temperature	77.54	90.32	85.82	86.9	66.74	60.44	57.74
Dissolved Oxygen	5.6	4.2	5.6	5.2	5.2	7.8	9.4
pH Level	6.68	6.52	6.89	6.81	6.85	5.46	7.36
Salinity	0	0	0	0	1	2	4
Water Clarity	38	29	35	43	29	42	21.2
Water Temperature	81.14	87.8	83.48	80.6	71.96	57.2	44.6

Mattaponi River Shoreline Restoration

The Environmental Department is still awaiting approval for the permit for construction along the shoreline. In the meantime, the Department has begun the first steps of the second phase of the shoreline restoration along the upland bank area, starting with contractor bids for the initial draft designs that will eventually tie into the full shoreline restoration project. These early stages include conducting site assessments, gathering necessary environmental data, and working on preliminary plans for erosion control, stabilizing the shoreline, enhancing the natural habitat, and ensuring long-term protection against environmental threats. The Department is focused on developing a comprehensive plan that will address both environmental sustainability and the protection of the shoreline for future generations.

Caroline County Water Intake/Discharge Project Updates

The November newsletter highlighted that the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) held a Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting on December 4. During this meeting, it was announced that the permit to withdraw water from the Rappahannock River had been suspended for further studies on the water needs for Caroline County's drinking water supply. Once all studies are completed and the updated information is submitted to the DEQ, an amendment to the draft permit will be made. This amendment will include a public comment period to allow the community to review and provide feedback on the substantial changes.

The updated request for water intake is now projected at 5.1 million gallons per day (mgd), with a maximum of 9.1 mgd on days with high water flow. In contrast, the original proposal was for 7.9 mgd, with a maximum of 13.9 mgd.

Additionally, the Fredericksburg press release noted that the BOS unanimously voted to remove all references to "industrial cooling" from the permit. The inclusion of industrial cooling, particularly for data centers, had raised concerns. By removing this clause, officials aim to garner more public and legislative support for the project.

The discharge permit for releasing wastewater into Polecat Creek and the Mattaponi River is currently on hold. The county is waiting for further studies before moving forward with the permit. This additional research being conducted will likely influence the final decision regarding this permit.

Jamestown Tribal Advisory Committee

The Jamestown Museum's Tribal Advisory Committee, which includes tribal members Samuel McGowan and Tammy Heath, along with members from other tribal nations, completed their first year of meetings on December 7th, 2024. The committee held both in-person and virtual meetings throughout the year. During these meetings, tribal members played a key role in advising Jamestown Senior Directors on how to better incorporate Native cultural traditions, history, and perspectives into the Jamestown and American Revolutionary museums. Their efforts have helped ensure that the museums reflect a more accurate and respectful portrayal of Native American history, fostering greater understanding and appreciation of tribal cultures. Additionally, the committee has worked on identifying opportunities for future collaboration, enhancing educational programming, and supporting initiatives that promote Native voices within the museum experience. The committee's contributions have been instrumental in shaping the direction of the museums and ensuring that Native American heritage is represented in a meaningful way.

All Hands Meeting Held at Colosse Church

On December 5th, the Environmental Department attended the All Hands Meeting at Colosse Church. The meeting provided valuable information from various agencies about upcoming opportunities. It also featured breakout groups, offering a chance to network and explore potential collaborations that could benefit our reservation and department.



Friendly Reminder

**Trees that are still
available:**

Eastern Red Bud
River Birch
White Oak

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY
NEW YEAR**