



The Claiborne Clarion

A Newsletter for the
Claiborne Community
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John Scott, July Editor
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Mary Gregorio, President, Claiborne Association



Claiborne Association President's Message

Mary Gregorio, Claiborne Association president

I hope you are enjoying the lazy days of summer.... well, perhaps not lazy, but warm and sunny with incredible Claiborne sunsets and a little more time to stop and chat with neighbors. Some of what we've been chatting about lately is the upcoming General Meeting (August) and the election of board members.

I'd like to share some information with you about the structure and work of the Claiborne Association Board and invite you to consider nominating someone – or nominating yourself – for a position on the Board. The voting will occur at the General Meeting in August and nominations can be made any time up to and including the day of the meeting.

You might think to yourself – what? me? on a Board? nah... meetings? blech! or perhaps you've just never considered the idea before. So think about it now while I tell you a bit about who's who and what we do. There's the President – me, the VP – Kirke Harper, the Treasurer – Molly Bond, the Secretary – Terry Babb and the at-large members, Jess Murphy, Judy Harrauld and Jake Flory. Meetings, though serious about business, are characterized by a fair amount of laughter and camaraderie; they are held once a month at the Village Hall. The meetings, which are open to all, usually last about an hour to an hour and a half. The president or vice president lead the meetings, set the agenda with input from members, and generally try to set a direction, the secretary handles the minutes of the meeting and sends out a reminder and agenda each month. The treasurer collects dues, donations and other funds; pays bills and keeps an accurate accounting of the funds and taxes. Together we discuss ideas and plans for building improvements, fundraisers, activities, community issues and grant possibilities. Each board member brings his or her own particular talent, skill and point of view, and your talents, skills and point of view could be just what the Claiborne Association needs! So think about it and don't hesitate to talk with any one of us if you'd like more information.

You can send nominations to claibornemd@gmail.com or talk to any one of the nominating committee: Bill Sewell, Renny Johnson, Will Murdoch. The general meeting will be held at the annual town picnic.

Claiborne Association Board Meeting

July 8th – 7:PM

All are welcome

July Birthdays

July 1 Chris Wells
July 6 Patti Cruickshank-Schott
July 8 Renny Johnson
July 14 Chris Noyes
July 21 Carol Kabler
July 21 Becky Otter
July 21 Kathy Bosin
July 25 Stella Kabler
July 27 Pete Gregorio



Love Blooms in Claiborne

Reported by the proud Mother-of-the-Bride, Shirley Cockey

On June 7, 2014 Rebecca Cockey Parks and Douglas Mullins were married. The ceremony and the reception we held at the home of the bride on Cockey Road. She was given in marriage by her mother. The Matron of Honor was Christina Schisler Holden and the bridesmaids were Rebecca's sisters. The Best Man was Brandon Nier and the Groomsmen were Brandon's sons. The Flowergirl was Ella Marr, greatniece of the bride. The ringbearer was Bully, Bull Mastiff of the bride. Jake Marr, nephew of the bride provided the music and Brynn Davitt was her photographer. The couple released balloons to honor her father and their grandparents. The wedding buffet for almost 200 people was prepared by the bride.

The day was beautiful. Guests danced and visited with family and old friends. After cutting the cake and throwing rice the couple was taken out on the Island Lady by Pat and Jake Flory for a cruise on the Miles River. After they returned from their cruise the couple remembered the bouquet and the garter. The bride's sister, Judy caught the bouquet and the garter was caught by Tommy Lednum.



Photo's courtesy of Shirley Cockey



Easton's Promise: Talbot Interfaith Shelter Obtains Shelter Permit

By Jack Harrauld, President, Talbot Interfaith Shelter

As you probably noted in the *Star-Democrat*, the town of Easton Board of Zoning Appeals granted a Special Exception Permit on June 11 authorizing the Talbot Interfaith Shelter to operate a center for the homeless at 107 Goldsborough Street, the former B&B *Easton's Promise*. It has been a contentious process, and as President of the TIS Board I want to thank all of you who provided moral and financial support. I particularly want to thank all of you who attended the hearings on May 13 and/or June 11. It was great to look back and see the Claiborne supporters, many of you TIS volunteers! A special thanks to Patti Diamond, who testified in our support as an expert witness on property evaluation.

TIS has been providing cold weather overnight shelter at church and synagogue sites for six years. Our mission is “to provide safe, temporary shelter to men, women and children who lack adequate housing, and to raise the awareness of the issues of homelessness in our community”. Our vision is “that no one in Talbot County will have to spend a night on the streets, in a car, or in the woods because he or she cannot find housing”.

In addition to shelter, we provide limited social services and assistance. Two years ago we started to fund two apartments for homeless families. While these programs have been remarkably successful in helping people transition back into stable situations, we are painfully aware that we are a long way from meeting the need in Talbot County for year round housing and services. Due to fire codes, our host sites are limited to 5 overnight guests and we only provide shelter during cold weather. For the last two years we have been looking for a building to buy or lease that would be appropriate for housing up to 15 people year round and working with the Housing Commission of Talbot County to design and seek funding for a larger facility for the long term. It was a discouraging search, all the buildings we looked at required extensive repairs and reconfiguration to be suitable for our purposes and all required the installation of a sprinkler system. Most were in areas distant from transportation and public services. A volunteer suggested that we look at *Easton's Promise*: a B&B with six bedrooms with baths and showers, large kitchen, dining, and common room and an installed sprinkler system. The property is zoned CR (commercial/residential) which specifically allows homeless shelters without a variance, but with a special exception permit. The only problem, we thought, was price. The next day, a TIS volunteer called offering to make a “substantial donation” to TIS, an offer which eventually translated into a generous donation that is making the purchase of *Easton's Promise* possible.

The story does not, however, end there. We anticipated some negative reaction to our purchase, but we were met with a very emotional, vocal and organized opposition by some of the residents of the neighborhood. At the May 13 hearing, they expressed concerns about property values, safety, and crime that we tried to counter with our historical record and evidence of our standards. (TIS has operated out of churches in the neighborhood for years, with no impact or objection). We will continue to try to establish a dialogue with our opponents (note part of mission that talks about raising awareness) to at least dispel the stereotypes and demonization that lead to fear based responses and hope to eventually be accepted into the neighborhood. Those opposing our purchase have 30 days to appeal the BOZA decision to the Circuit Court. We are confident that our permit will be sustained and our board has voted to stay the course, but as Yogi said, “it ain't over 'til it's over”. Of course, success in the permitting process is just the beginning. We need to close on the property, adapt our procedures to 24 hour, seven days a week service, coordinate the staff and volunteers and most importantly—raise the money to pay for the expanded operations, pay the mortgage, and maintain our new home. If you have any questions about what we are trying to do or want to help in any way, give me a call! This is going to be a very worthwhile, but difficult journey.

Save the Date

August 23, 2014

Town Picnic
and
General Membership
Meeting

Penny's Phoenix



Photos by John Scott

Happy Graduation Stella Kabler: Tilghman Elementary School Kindergarten Class of 2014



Hip Hip Hooray for Stella!



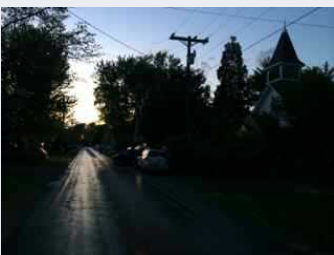
Photos by John Scot

It's All About Claiborne

Whether you think of yourself as an "artist" or someone who just likes to paint, or whether you consider yourself a "ceramicist" or you like to play with clay, even if you're someone who likes to write or you're just a "poet" or a professional photographer or a world class shutterbug... we're looking for you.

Calling all lovers of Claiborne, whether Claibornite or not. You are invited to share your creativity -- photography, ceramics, mosaics, writing, song, dance or whatever you have in mind.

The theme or motif of your work must be Claiborne. Sometime in August your works will be exhibited at the Village Hall. If you're interested in sharing your creativity please contact John Scott (jcscott@cpssc.com), Patti Cruickshank-Schott (awayhome@happynomad.com) or Jim Richardson (designs@atlanticbb.net).





NFWF Proposal Update: Not Funded

By Jack Harrauld

We received notification last week that our proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/Department of Interior Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resilience Grant Program was not selected for funding. I talked with the grant program manager and received some good feedback on our proposal. Our proposal scored well and was very competitive, but NFWF was only able to fund 54 out of 375 proposals.

Specific concerns expressed by reviewers included:

- The investment in the jetty was a detractor since the solicitation focused on habitat. We had attempted to make the case that we needed to repair the jetty and restore the landing in order to restore the habitat
- There was some question about the longevity of our solution--are we adding 10, 20, 50 years to the protective capability?
- We addressed the risks of the project, but reviewers felt that we should have done more to make the case that it is worth taking that risk

. To refresh memories, the objectives of the \$1.56 million proposal were to:

- Restore and enhance the man-made and natural protection of the Claiborne marsh and the Claiborne village
 - Stabilize the eroding causeway on its southeastern side
 - Create a living shoreline on the southeast and southwestern sides of the existing causeway
 - Repair and extend the jetty as close to its original 800' length as determined necessary
 - Repair revetment of northwestern side of jetty as required
- Create oyster habitat and control erosion by integrating the Claiborne Causeway and jetty area into the existing Talbot County Oyster Restoration program
 - Promotes the re-colonization of oysters by deploying artificial "reef balls" and oyster spat
 - Implemented successfully in Talbot County and in other locations in Chesapeake Bay.
- Restore health of existing Claiborne wetlands by removing invasive species and planting native species
- Improve health of wetland habitat through stormwater management improvements to address localized flooding in the coastal community's streets and yards and the resulting introduction of nutrients and pollutants into the marsh and bay
- Protect village water supply from contamination through inundation during flooding by protecting wellheads, air intakes, pumps and electrical circuits
- Develop risk, vulnerability, resilience outreach and education program for the Claiborne Community, Talbot County

NFWF may have another round of funding in the fall and they strongly encouraged us to resubmit. I am confident that other funding sources will appear as various agencies and programs focus on potential sea level rise and the need to make our coastal communities more resilient. In the meantime, Kirke and I met with Clay Stamp, acting county manager, and Ray Clarke, director of public works and they are very interested in building on the collaborative relationship we established working on the NFWF proposal and jointly seeking funds to do at least some of the elements of our proposal

(Editor's note: On behalf of the Claiborne Community -- Thanks to Jack, Kirke and the team for trying!)

More Love Blooming in Claiborne

Jack and Judy shared the Celebration of their 50 years of marriage and in the process gave clues about how others of us might get there...



Photos by Renny Johnson

**... And Still More love
Blooms in Claiborne**

Jim and Martha celebrated 30+ years of marital bliss in June



Photo by John Scott

Ask Norman Haddaway



What's with all these rays?

Just Ask Norman: So Norman, what's with all these Cownose Rays?

I'll tell you a story: When I was first dating Barbara I took her out in a small Styrofoam sailboat out to Poplar Island (in the pond, the inner circle). There had to be tens of thousands of Cownose Rays... and Barbara wasn't too happy about being in a 10 foot boat only 6 inches out of the water, with all those big rays bumping into us."

As many as there were back then, Norman thinks there might be more now, or at least more than there have been in the recent past. In his opinion, next to Virginia crabbers who have over-crabbed the pregnant females, the Cownose Rays are the worst enemy of the Chesapeake crab population. A friend of his harpooned one a couple of days ago and found its quart jar-sized stomach filled with small crabs.

Cownose rays find their prey by flapping their fins against the bottom to uncover buried shellfish. They then use their powerful dental plates to crush the shells open. They have also been known to destroy bay grasses and cause considerable losses to commercial clam and oyster harvests while feeding. For more info, check out the Chesapeake Bay Program website (http://www.chesapeakebay.net/fieldguide/critter/cownose_ray).

One redeeming factor might be they are good free trotline bait (Maybe cosmic justice? The animal that causes such havoc becomes bait for those crabs.)



Third Annual 4th of July Parade and Ice Cream Social at the Claiborne Village Hall

Claiborne will celebrate the 4th of July with an afternoon parade and ice cream social. Please decorate your bikes, trikes, riding mowers, golf carts, yard carts and pets. There will be material at the Hall for the final decorating starting at 2:00. Martha has offered to share her face painting talent with us.

At 3:00, we will start the parade from the Village Hall, loop down Cedar Street and then come back to the Hall for ice cream & lots of toppings. AND Liz Fellingner will sing!

In addition to the photo of Carol Kabler and grandson Mike leading the parade (see photo on masthead), here are some other memorable shots from past parades...



Photos by Pete Gregorio

Pat Flory Retires

Congratulations Pat! We're with you as you turn the page....



Cartoon by Renny Johnson