



Voice of the Saponi



September 2025

Issue 189

If you would like to submit an article to us, please remember they are due on the 20th of each month prior to the month. (Ex December articles are November 20th).

Deadline

4 p.m.

You may email articles to crrichardson@haliwa-saponi.com or feel free to mail them to :

Haliwa-Saponi Tribe

Attn: Newsletter Editor

P.O. Box 99

Hollister NC 27844

(252) 586-4017 ext.221

NEVER FORGET 9/11 (PATRIOT DAY)



The anniversary of the 9/11 Terrorist attacks now known as Patriot Day is a national day of remembrance that honors the memories of the nearly 3,000 victims who lost their lives in the September 11th, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in NY City, the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, and United Flight 93, which crashed in Shanksville, PA. This year, on Thursday, September 11th, 2025, we ask that Americans honor the memories of those who perished by observing a moment of silence at 8:46 am (EDT), which is when the first plane collided into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Also, we ask that you try to **find ways to pay tribute for the courage and sacrifices of first responders on that day and everyday in our communities.** And lastly, please take time to reflect on the resilience of the American people as we stood unified in the face of such a tragedy.

Upcoming Dates and Meetings

September 19- Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Meeting will be at the Multi-Purpose Building at 6:30 p.m.

September 22- Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Council Meeting will be at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex at 6:30.

Committee Meetings

Finance Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Rev. Michael Richardson.

Federal Recognition Committee meetings are being held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Earl Evans.

Enrollment Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Angela Richardson.

Princess Committee meetings are held on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Sylvia Richardson.

Pow-Wow Planning meetings are held on the 4th Monday night of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Vice Chief Dr. Marty Richardson.

Haliwa-Saponi Senior Citizens Organization meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Council House.

Committee Chair: Rev. Al Cooper.

Veteran's Memorial meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Sylvia Richardson.

Education Committee meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Angela Richardson.

Election Committee meetings are being held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Ameila K. Oxendine.

By-laws Review Committee meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Attorney Joshua Richardson.

Boys & Girls Club meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Building.

Committee Chair: Karen Harley.

Fundraiser Committee meetings are being held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Tyler Richardson.

Personnel Committee meetings are PRN (As Needed).

Committee Chair: Earl Evans.

Awards Committee meetings are PRN (As Needed).

Committee Chair: Karen Harley.

Finance Long Range Committee meetings are PRN (As Needed).

Committee Chair: Rev. Michael Richardson.

AccessOn Internet

Warrenton, NC — On August 15, 2025, community leaders, elected officials, and local partners gathered to celebrate the official ribbon cutting for AccessOn's new office space. The event marked a major milestone in bringing high-speed fiber optic internet to Warren and Halifax Counties — a project years in the making.

The ceremony was well represented by the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, with Chief Ogletree Richardson, Vice Chief Marvin Richardson, and NC Commission of Indian Affairs Commissioner & USDA Rural Development Tribal Relations Specialist Sunshine Richardson in attendance. County leaders, including Commissioner Davis from Halifax County and Commissioner Cooper from Warren County, also joined in the celebration.

This long-awaited project reflects a strong commitment from local leaders and partners to bridge the digital divide, connecting rural communities to modern opportunities in education, healthcare, business, and daily life. USDA Rural Development played a key role in funding the initiative, making the vision of expanded broadband access a reality for thousands of residents.

AccessOn's state-of-the-art fiber optic network will deliver reliable, high-speed internet service to homes and businesses, fostering economic growth, improving access to resources, and strengthening connections between communities.

As the ribbon was cut, it symbolized not just the opening of a new office, but the opening of doors to greater possibilities for the people of Warren and Halifax Counties.



Grants & Loans

The Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe has partnered with USDA Rural Development to bring housing resources to the tribal community.

What does this program do?

Also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, this provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.

Who may apply for this program?

To qualify, you must:

Be the homeowner and occupy the house.

Be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere.

Have a household income that does not exceed the very low limit by county.

For grants, be age 62 or older **Who can answer questions and how do I get started?**

Applications are accepted for this program at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex. For more information on how to apply, contact Tosha Silver, Housing Coordinator, phone # 252-248-3750.



OPEN HOUSE

Open House- Apartment 180, has been completed with upgrades- Newly Painted Walls & Cabinets, New appliances, washer, dryer, refrigerator, stove , tub, commode, sink/ vanity. Backsplash in the kitchen.

Notices were given to tenants & Announcements were put on line for the public.

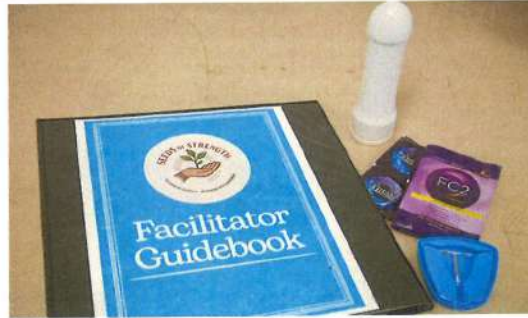
Apartment was open to Tenants & Public to view on August 14th from 4:00pm to 6 pm

We had 30 people in attendance, refreshments were served and a purchased & donated door prize were given away in a drawing, Ms. Debra Reid won the wreath that was donated by Cline- Wright Wreaths and Mrs. Sheila Rudd won the throw blanket that was purchased.

Seeds Of Strength Program

In July, 13 youth from our community participated in the *Seeds of Strength* program, led by Dr. Gabrielle Evans-Mitchell. The program focused on healthy

relationships, gender identity, consent, and sexual health, while incorporating cultural teachings. Youth reported feeling more confident in their decision-making, learning how to communicate boundaries, and understanding the importance of using protection. To support access to safer options, more than 1,000 condoms and 58 Plan B kits were distributed to youth and the broader Haliwa Community.



Twin County Cruisers Holds Another Successful Car Show

On June 21st the Twin County Cruisers held its 23rd annual car, truck, and bike show. This year's event brought in over 140 participants ready to show off their rides. We had several great vendors that kept everyone hydrated and full with delicious foods and treats. The sounds of Carolina beach music and southern soul added to the vibe as well. This successful event would not be possible without the support of our sponsors. Because of their support we are able to host community events such as the Toy Drive and Easter Egg Hunt. It also allows us to make donations to the American Cancer Society and our local Sister's Support Group which helps local women who are battling cancer. Club members and community helpers sold raffle tickets prior to the show and on the day of the show. The following people are the winners of those cash prizes: \$300 - Randy Richardson, \$200 - Isla Johnson, \$150 - Brian Ricks, \$150 - Rashinda Clark. Donald Richardson was our winner for the 50/50 raffle enjoying a nice cash prize of \$390. Congratulations on your winnings and thank you for the support. Thank you again for your support and we look forward to our annual car show next year. We hope to see you there.



Amilia Maria Berrun 2025-2026 Miss Haliwa-Saponi

Nah :pipi: Good Day to all my beautiful Indigenous Brothers and Sisters!

As Miss Haliwa-Saponi, my reign is getting more exciting and busy every month! I'm having an extraordinary time engaging in so many events and activities. So far, I've learned that being Miss Haliwa-Saponi is a huge responsibility; however, I surely wouldn't have it any other way!

For the last few months, I've been extremely busy representing our people. On May 19, 2025, I had the pleasure of attending my very first Tribal Council meeting as Miss Haliwa-Saponi! This was a great experience as I was able to sit around the table with our tribal leaders and learn the business aspect of the tribe. Through this opportunity I've realized that our Tribal Council has the weight of the world on their shoulders with so much business to attend to. One of my goals as tribal princess is to encourage more of our youth to attend these meetings so that we will one day have the ability to walk in the moccasins of our leaders.

On May 23, 2025, in honor and recognition of Memorial Day, I had the privilege of assisting our tribal veterans committee in placing flags on the graves of our deceased tribal veterans. I was so blessed to be a part of this special occasion as we took time to remember and honor those who served our country with pride, dignity and respect!

On Saturday, June 7, 2025, I attended the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Council Candidate Form. This was a very enlightening event as tribal members were able to hear the views of council candidates on issues pertaining to the tribe and its business. I found the forum to be very helpful in making my decision in selecting who to cast my vote for during tribal council elections. Tribal Council elections were held on June 14, 2025, and I had the opportunity to assist at the polls for a few hours. It was wonderful seeing our tribal citizens come out to exercise their right to vote for our tribal leaders.

As summer approached, I was as busy as a bee! I spent June 19-22, 2025, on the campus of UNC Wilmington for the North Carolina Native Youth Organization (NCNAYO) conference. There, I had a wonderful time interacting with native youth from all over North Carolina. One of the highlights of the conference was the Mr. and Miss NCNAYO Pageant where two of our very own tribal youth walked away with the crown, medallion, titles and trophies of Mr and Miss NCNAYO! Congratulations Lyla and Mason Richardson! These two made NCNAYO history as they were the first siblings to hold these titles at the same time! HOW AWESOME! In addition, the conference workshops, powwow, banquet and social events were great! Upon returning home on June 22, 2025, from the excitement of the NCNAYO conference, I attended a youth talking circle with members of the democratic party at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex. It was really great to know that members of the democratic party were actually interested in what our tribal youth had to say. Shout out to Councilor Tyler Richardson for organizing this momentous event and to Mr. Jessomy Evans for providing an outstanding meal!

As June came to an end, I attended the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Conference in San Diego, California! The conference was held June 26, 2025-July 1, 2025. What an experience this was! There were over 3,000 indigenous youth in attendance from all over the nation and I was so very proud to be one of them! More than anything, I was proud to be carrying the Haliwa-Saponi name! This conference was absolutely phenomenal! There were an abundance of workshops to attend, general assemblies, a banquet and a cultural exchange which turned out to be my favorite part of the event! Special thanks to our tribal council/tribe for providing financial assistance to help our UNITY Bound Youth group attend this year's conference!

On July 4, 2025, I celebrated Independence Day with our tribal citizens at our annual 4th of July picnic which was held on our tribal powwow/cultural grounds. The event was awesome! If you missed it, you miss a wonderful time! We started out with our 4th of July parade, then lots of social time, games and food. It was great to actually have a day that I could just relax and interact with my people! Special thanks to all of our volunteers for making our picnic a huge success!

Additionally, in the month of July, I had the great honor and pleasure of serving a Female Head Dancer at the Whispering Winds Powwow in Howard County, Maryland. This was a moment that I'll never forget as it was my very first time serving in this capacity. I'd like to give special recognition to Mr. Rick Bottchenbaugh of the Eastern Band of Cherokee who served as Male Head Dancer and guided me in my role as his dance partner. Thanks Uncle Rick, you're the best! I'd also like to thank Mr. Barry Richardson for allowing me the opportunity to serve.

Finally, on August 5, 2025, I participated in the Tribal Community National Night Out event that was held outside the Rev. C.H. Richardson Building. There were lots of free goodies, great information, free food, games, door prizes and fun for the kids. I chose to do something special for our youngsters so I sponsored and handed out 60 treat bags to the kids in attendance. I believe everyone that came out had a wonderful time. It was great to see UNITY in our community!

To all my Indian Brothers and Sisters, don't forget to join me in promoting my platform RISE UP! - Encouraging ALL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, both young and old to recognize and honor the sacred path that our ancestors paved for us and RISE UP to continue their legacy!!

In closing, I respectfully request that you continue to keep me and my family in your prayers as we travel during my reign to represent the great Haliwa-Saponi Tribe!

Pi:la'huk (Thank you)

Amilia Maria Berrun
Miss Haliwa-Saponi 2025-2026

First Tribal Council Meeting as Tribal Princess and Memorial Day Flag Placement



Tribal Council Forum



Tribal Council Election Day

North Carolina Native American Youth Conference (NCNAYO)



United National Indian Tribal Youth Conference UNITY- San Diego, California





Youth Talking Circle with Democratic Party



Haliwa-Saponi 4th of July Picnic



Whispering Winds Powwow - Howard Co., MD



Tribal Community National Night Out



HALIFAX COUNTY TITLE IX PRINCESS KEYARA HEDGEPEETH

WAS IN THE TRIBAL JULY 4TH PARADE.
SHE WAS PRESENT & PARTICIPATED
IN THE EVENT
REPRESENTING
HALIFAX COUNTY
AS THE
TITLE IX PRINCESS





**Congratulations to
Dakota and Rahem on their
wedding on**

May 31, 2024

Congratulations to Dakota

**Richardson and Rahem Purmul on
their new life together. May you be
blessed with many wonderful years
together**

**We love you both very much
Uncle Chris and Aunt Jackie**

Remembering Gone But Not Forgotten



Cory Mills- (4-1987)- (9-19-2009)

Tony Liles- (5- 1956) -(9-2021)

Cory and Tony you both are missed everyday

In our hearts forever,

Wife & Mom Annette Liles and Family & Friends



Happy Heavenly Birthday Momma

Albertia G. Richardson- September 14, 2025

**Love & Miss you , Laddie, Tony, Lori, Carol and
Rodney (D)**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

If you would like your name or a loved one's name to be published, please email Carol Richardson errichardson@haliwasaponi.com, mail, or bring by the office. If you do not submit your birthday or a loved one, we cannot publish it in our newsletter. No Call Accepted.

September 1- Portia Lynch (D)
September 6- Gladys Wilson (D)
September 13- Haywood Wilson (D),
September 14- Sheila Reid, Katie V. Boone,
September 22- Gabriella Krivosh, Kelvin Richardson,
September 23- Baby Lynch (D) son of Jared (Ha'ace) and Amelia Lynch
September 25- Conner Richardson, Camille Evans, Glenn Cooper
September 26- Gwen S. Cooper
September 27- Lou Jenkins,
September 28- Pam (McGee) Spessor,
September 29- Jewel Bissonnette,



Happy Belated Birthday our grandson Jordan (Rabbit) Silver August 21, 2025.

We love you. Love

Pa Chris and grandma Jackie



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



*Happy 49th Anniversary to
Exson & Trula Richardson
On September 04, 2025`*



Senior Princess Judy Richardson Brings Sweet Smiles to Tribal Elders in July



During the warm and welcoming days of July, our very own Senior Princess Judy Richardson carried out a heartwarming mission—spreading kindness, cupcakes, and cheer to Haliwa-Saponi elders throughout the community.

Joined by her sister Pearlean, Judy made personal visits to elders' homes across the tribal territory, delivering over 80 delicious cupcakes along with a radiant smile and a kind word. The effort was more than just a gesture of generosity—it was a tribute to the wisdom and legacy of

those who have paved the way for younger generations.

The sisters made sure each visit was special, often taking time to sit, chat, and share a laugh with the elders they served. "It's important to let our elders know they are loved and remembered," Judy said. "Even something as small as a cupcake can make someone's day."

This act of love reflects the values of respect, community, and service that are central to the Haliwa-Saponi way of life. Thanks to Judy and Pearlean Richardson for their heartfelt outreach and reminding all Tribal members that even simple acts of kindness can have a powerful impact.

We are proud of our Senior Princess and the example she continues to set. Pi Lahuk, Judy and Pearlean, for spreading joy and honoring our elders in such a thoughtful way.

Written by Alfred Richardson

Attention All Powwow Clean Up Volunteers

Angela Richardson is missing a CD player and Gospel CDs that were used during the powwow church service. It was last seen tucked into the podium used on the stage. Any information regarding this would be greatly appreciated! If you picked it and have been keeping it safe for its rightful owner please turn it in to the Tribal Office. Thank You

AUGUST 2025 MONTHLY REPORT The Housing Community

Outreach Assistant continues to have Monthly Sessions with Tomahawk Meadows Tenants, where they are given information on various subjects that concern their home. Planned and organized the national Night Out Event, that was held on August 5, 2025 at the Rev. C. H. Richardson Building. We had approximately 155 people to attend, 13, vendors, 13 donors, 127 donations that valued at approximately \$1075.00 I am truly grateful to everyone for all that you did to make this event successful!







Haliwa-Saponi Tribe
P. O. Box 99
Hollister, N.C. 27844

STAMP
HERE

Happy
LABOR
DAY

What's Inside This Month?

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Princess & Pow Wow Notice**

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Place Address Label Here



**SAVE THESE DATES! SAVE THESE DATES! SAVE
THESE DATES!**

~ **Saturday, October 4th** - Haliwa-Saponi Senior Citizens BBQ Plate Sale Fundraiser at Tribal Daycare Building, 10am-3pm. Tickets are presale only at \$10 each and are on sale now. Brunswick stew and frybread will also be available for purchase separately! Please see any Senior Citizens Org. member to purchase a ticket, or CashApp to Secretary Jewel Bissonnette at **\$JewelMcGeeBisonet**. Any jewelry/craft/ dessert and other vendors may set up a table in the Daycare Parking Lot for a \$40 fee. However, NO competing food (BBQ/Stew/frybread) vendors will be allowed.

~ **Saturday, November 8th** - Haliwa-Saponi Veterans Committee will host its 4th Annual Veterans Day Gala at the Doe Spun Community Bldg. We sold out last year...don't miss out! Tickets go on sale next month. More info to follow.