



Voice of the Saponi



May 2026

Issue 196

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 errichardson@haliwa-saponi.com or feel free to mail them to :

Haliwa-Saponi Tribe
Attn: Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 99



**THE TRIBAL OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED
FOR
MEMORIAL DAY
Please Be Safe!!!!**

Upcoming Meetings

- April - Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Meeting TBA
- April 27- Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Council Meeting will be at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex at 6:30p.m.
- 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 6:30 p.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 first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 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.

Magazine Spring Ceremony *By Alfred R Richardson*

On a beautiful Saturday morning a special cultural ceremony was held at a site sacred to the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe of North Carolina, Magazine Spring in historic Halifax North Carolina. The event held on Saturday, April 11th at 10:00 AM was enjoyed by a very respectful and overwhelming crowd of visitors. This sacred gathering honors the moment when Rev. C.H. Richardson declared the waters of Magazine Spring to be sacred to the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe. These same waters were shared by Haliwa-Saponi Tribal ancestors with the colonial village of Halifax some 250 years ago. The event led by a hand drum song by vice chief Dr. Marvin Richardson and Chief Dr. Ogletree Richardson in a grand entry of Tribal members dressed in their finest regalia. Tribal liaison Alfred Richardson emceed the program that included introductions of Tribal members, remarks by Secretary of the Department of Cultural and Natural Resources Pam Cashwell, Director of North Carolina Historic Sites Michelle Lanier, Quinn Godwin Executive Director NC Cultural Heritage Commission, Carl Burke Halifax visitor center site manager and Greg Richardson Executive Director of NC Commission of Indian affairs as well as a host of Tribal members and other dignitaries. The event was highlighted by the telling of the history of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe, the third largest tribe in the state of North Carolina. Chief Dr. Ogletree Richardson read a land acknowledgment statement and Dr. Marvin Richardson concluded the event with a song and a round dance that everyone was invited to participate in. It was a meaningful time of reflection, culture, and community at this important site. This event was held to coincide with the Halifax County America 250 celebration.

Halifax Visitor Center Ribbon Cutting *By Alfred R Richardson*

On Tuesday, April 7th at 11:00 AM there was a ribbon cutting ceremony in historic Halifax at the newly remodeled Halifax Visitor Center. This special event featured North Carolina Governor Josh Stein and was highlighted by the beautiful walkway design created by Haliwa-Saponi Tribal artist Senora Lynch. Many came to celebrate this exciting addition to the community and experienced a space that honors local history and culture. Many dignitaries were in attendance including members of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal members led by Tribal Chief Dr. Ogletree Richardson and Tribal liaison Alfred Richardson. A welcome to the Governor was given by Pam Cashwell, North Carolina Secretary of Department of Cultural and Natural Resources. This ceremony coincides with the America 250 celebration for the Halifax Resolves event that runs from April 10th to 12th. Halifax visitor center site manager Carl Burke was elated that so many came to share this momentous occasion.



Congratulations Heather Hedgepeth Lakewood Local School District

● Heather Hedgepeth is a 1992 Warren County High Graduate and the daughter of the late Rev. Tecumesh and Barabra Brayboy.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Heather Hedgepeth as Lakewood Local School District's new Superintendent!

The Lakewood Local Schools Board of Education approved and hired Dr. Hedgepeth in a special meeting last night, and her official start date is August 1.

Dr. Hedgepeth has served for the past five years as Assistant Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer for Pickerington Local School District (PLSD). In this role, she has provided strategic leadership across multiple areas critical to the district's success.

"The board is excited to welcome Dr. Heather Hedgepeth to Lakewood Local Schools," said Board President Jonathan Lynch. "We are looking forward to watching her lead, inspire, and make a positive impact on our students, staff, and the entire community."

To learn more about Dr. Hedgepeth's background in education, please visit <https://www.lakewoodlocal.k12.oh.us/news-and-media/news-feed>

[#lakewoodlocalschools](#) [#lakewoodlancers](#) [#lancerpride](#)

Congratulations Keyara

Keyara will graduate from Halifax Early College High School on May 8, earning both her high school diploma and an associate degree in Arts. She has achieved a 4.0 GPA and will continue her education at East Carolina University. Keyara, we are so proud of you!

Love, Mom and Dad



Interim Housing Director Report- April 2026

(Reporting for March 2026)

Tomahawk Meadows- The playground was installed. Five (5) washers & dryers were installed in five (5) apartments. #220 Renovation in progress, #196 repaired leak under washing machine, #101 replaced commode bolts in seat, #227 replaced mini blind, #79 checked and tightened sink sprayer, #196 replaced mini blind, #226 repaired septic pump pipe, #46 tightened gate valve, #74 checked and turned antenna, #32 removed existing drain and cleaned out trap, #62 checked ceiling fan, #76 checked HVAC unit, #46 replaced aerator, #101 checked water leak at refrigerator.

Tomahawk Meadows Administrative Office: The Housing Community Outreach Assistant's monthly session titled "Clearing Out the Old, Welcoming the New, Spring Clean". Seven (7) tenants attended and refreshments served.

Tribal Office Complex- no new issues

Tribal School- no new issues

Multi-purpose Building- Playground currently closed. Waiting for the contractor to complete installation of exercise bars, septic tank pumped out.

SNS/Daycare- repaired drip in women's bathroom sink.

Old Council House- no new issues

Renovations- Medoc Mountain Rd- an inspection was completed and a few more items needed to be adjusted according to the inspector's notes. Warren County Highway 43 is still in process.

Emergency Repairs- Two (2) Emergency Home Repairs were completed

Home Rehabilitation- Took applications for review for rehabilitation.

Cemetery- none sold.

TOT- no new issues.

Saponi Village- No new issues.

Rev. C.H. Richardson Building- replaced bulbs on double entry.

Vehicles- no new issues.

Work Orders for all Tribal Buildings

Work Orders	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Submitted	7	8	12	14	9	12	11		7	12	5	10
Completed	5	10	16	14	9	10	7		4	12	5	9
Started	1	0	0	1	0	1	0		2	0	0	1
Not started	1	0	0	0	0	1	4		1	0	0	0



**Tomahawk Meadows
playground was installed.**



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe

Special Thanks
from your local BGC!



We appreciate all who have poured into our Club and invested in our kids! Special thanks to those:

- who volunteered for our **Easter Bash**
- supported our cause at the **61st Powwow**
- and filled the room for our **Christmas Gala!**

We enjoy every moment families come together!

LOVE
binds Us
TOGETHER
In Perfect
UNITY

HOW TO SUPPORT US

- Inquire about volunteer opportunities
- Donations are accepted in person (at the BGC location) or using our Parichute QR code



OUR MISSION

To empower young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible members of the community.

Sigma Omicron Epsilon, Inc.

ROSE Scholarship

In Memory of
Cabrina Lynne Cummings

Award Amount \$1,000

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
JUNE 30, 2026**

First-year female student enrolling at
East Carolina University
North Carolina State University
University of North Carolina at
Pembroke

For more information, or to download a copy
of the application, please visit our website:
<https://sigmaomicronepsilon.org/scholarship>

Reaching Others through Service and Education



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

If you would like your name or a loved one's name to be published, please email Carol Richardson crrichardson@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 Calls Accepted.

May 1- Tony D. Richardson, Jessica Kizer,
May 2- Laura McGee,
May 5- Ko-Ann Richardson, Keyara L. Hedgepeth,
May 6- Dorothy B. Evans,
May 9- Slyvia Johnson,
May 8- Christina M. Richardson
May 11- Deanna Macon, Aliyah Grace Harris,
May 13- Paris R. Silver
May 15- Talia D. Harris,
May 16- Kaylee Evans,
May 18- Randy D. Evans
May 20- Samantha Dale,
May 21- Rachel McGee- Jager,
May 22- Bettie Mae Cooper, Maecey Evans, Keith Evans
May 27- Rodney A. Richardson (D), Linzie Evans, Suxion Richardson,
May 28- Ryland Dale, Graylon S. Silver
May 31- Vicky L. Richardson, Carolyn Richardson,



HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

April 13- Angelica Kizer
April 13- Cristina Kizer

IN MEMORY OF

Quincy

May 12th will make 3 years since you've been gone.

“We lost you but we also got to love you and be loved by you”

Love always, Pops, grandma Rene, aunt Sherry,
Pa James, Baby J, Chesley, Caroline, and Ivy.

Love you, Miss YOU



STAMP
HERE



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



**What's Inside This
Month?**

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Place Address Label Here

Highlights from the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School *NaháꞤ:pipi*: from the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School! It has been a busy time heading into the final stretch of the school year. Here are some



highlights we would love to share: ● **Grades K-8 Enrollment is open!** ● **Class of 2026 senior, Amilia Berrun, has become one of the first Haliwa Saponi citizens to receive the Spirit of Old Main Scholarship which provides a full ride to UNC-Pembroke** ● **Class of 2026 senior, Jacoa Richardson scored a Gold on the ACT Work Keys** ● **On March 27th, Elementary cohort students, families, and staff enjoyed our Annual Sneaker Ball.**

Class of 2026 Commencement will take place on May 29th Thank you to the community for the continued support as we stay diligent in our dedication to our mission and

“Catching the Vision!”