



Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe Council and Staff attend Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) training at Chief W.R. Richardson Government Complex.

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NEXT TRIBAL MEETING + Recognition Update

Oct 16th | 6:30 PM
Chief W.R. Richardson Govt. Complex

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Oct 19th | 6:30 PM
Chief W.R. Richardson Govt. Complex

CHIEF'S ADDRESS:



Dr. Ogletree Richardson
Chief, Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe

Tribal leadership continues to work diligently to strengthen communication among citizens, staff, and valued partners within and beyond our Tribal territory. We remain committed to keeping citizens informed with timely information about programs, resources, and opportunities.

A recent example is the Widows & Widowers Fund, made possible by a generous donation to the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe from Mr. Robert Riegling. Riegling made the donation in loving memory of his wife, Roberta Silver Riegling, daughter of Mr. Lindsey and Mrs. Clydis Silver and enrolled citizen of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe. We were pleased by the response from Tribal citizens and grateful for the opportunity to support widowed citizens while honoring Roberta's memory. On behalf of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, we extend sincere appreciation to Mr. Riegling for his thoughtful generosity.

As Chief, I look forward to continuing our work to strengthen communication, support our citizens, and build upon the spirit of community that has always been an important part of who we are as Haliwa-Saponi people.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT



John Nash
Tribal Administrator,
Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe

After a full month as Tribal Administrator, I am becoming more familiar with the people and activities of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe. There is a lot going on! Some things are up front and visible, such as events and activities at our various programs, like the Senior Nutrition Program and the Boys Club. Others are happening quietly, behind the scenes, but still in high gear. For instance, we have been preparing for a review of our Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs and interviewing candidates to fully staff our team while continuing to seek opportunities for future growth and engagement.

By the way, if you're interested in working in a fast-paced, creative environment that connects you to the culture and community of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, check out the most current job postings on our website: haliwa-saponi.gov/employment-opportunities. The Tribal office is growing to meet the increasing community needs.

We have good people here, and we are doing good things. It is my privilege to serve you all!

TRIBAL COUNCIL UPDATES



- The next Tribal meeting will be held on October 16, 2026, at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex and will include a special presentation on our federal acknowledgment plan. Food will be served. Please plan to attend.
- Going forward, seating will be reserved at Tribal body and Tribal Council meetings for both Tribal elders aged 65+ and Tribal royalty. The Tribal Council extends its tremendous gratitude to Ruth Richardson-Ealing for donating cushioned seating for elders.
- The Tribal Council Ad Hoc Veterans Committee received a grant from Halifax County to add lighting to the Tribe's Veterans Memorial. The Committee is also working on memorials that will honor our ancestors who fought against European invaders. Contact Jewel Bissonnette for more information.
- On October 3, 2026, the Tribal Council Standing Committee on Community Awards will begin accepting applications for community awards. Contact Karen Lynch-Harley for more information: kharley@haliwa-saponi.gov.
- The Tribe has housing assistance funds available. If you are having trouble paying your mortgage or household bills, consider applying for the housing assistance fund and contact the Tribal office for more information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee reported on back-to-school initiatives, student assistance efforts, scholarships, and other services for students and families.

Elections Committee reviewed the 2026 Tribal election and discussed election procedures, voter records, and future plans to ensure fair, accurate, and transparent elections.

Enrollment Committee reviewed enrollment policies, citizenship application materials, and procedures to improve administrative efficiency.

Federal Recognition Committee continues public outreach, historical and genealogical research, governance-related matters, and citizen education initiatives in service of federal acknowledgment goals.

Finance Committee discussed financial administration, policy development, and operational oversight to support responsible fiscal management and stewardship of Tribal resources.

Fundraising Committee continued Meadows Merchandise operations, partnership development, product ideation, and other revenue generators that support Tribal programs and community initiatives.

Health Committee reviewed prior health initiatives and discussed future health and wellness priorities.

Housing Self-Monitoring Committee updated its membership and discussed oversight responsibilities related to Tribal housing activities and compliance.

Powwow Committee continues fundraising activities, sponsorship development, grant opportunities, community events, and preliminary planning for the 2027 Haliwa-Saponi Spring Powwow.

Princess Committee updated committee membership and is developing plans to support Tribal royalty.

Public Relations Committee continues newsletter production, social media outreach, and external communications within and beyond our community.

Veterans Committee continues memorial projects, grant activities, community service, Veterans Day planning, and preparations for the Veterans Gala.

***Tribal Council Note:** Due to the delayed distribution of the September Council meeting package, Council postponed consideration of most agenda items requiring Council action to allow additional review. Time-sensitive items submitted by the Veterans Committee were later considered separately due to upcoming project and event deadlines.*

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex unless otherwise specified. Contact the Chairperson to confirm location and get involved.

TRIBAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Awards Committee—Meetings as needed
Committee Chair: Councilor Karen Harley

ByLaws Committee—3rd Wednesday | 6:30 PM | Zoom
Committee Chair: Attorney Joshua Richardson

Education Committee—1st Thursday | 6:30 PM | Zoom
Committee Chair: Justin Richardson

Election Committee—3rd Tuesday | 6:30 PM
Committee Chair: Councilor Amelia K. Oxendine

Enrollment Committee—2nd Tuesday | 6:30 PM
Committee Chair: Ruth Richardson-Ealing

Federal Recognition—1st Tuesday | 6:30 PM | Zoom
Committee Chair: Tribal Chair Earl Evans

Finance Committee—2nd Monday | 2:00 PM
Committee Chair: Councilor Tyler Richardson

Fundraising Committee—1st Monday | 7:00 PM | Zoom
Committee Chair: Councilor Tyler Richardson

Health Committee—4th Tuesday of Each Month | 6:30 PM
Committee Chair: Valerie West

Holiday Celebrations Committee—Meetings TBA
Committee Chair: Councilor Charles Richardson, Jr.

Legacy Tree Committee—Meetings TBA
Committee Chair: Pamela Sunshine Richardson

Long Range Committee—2nd Monday
Committee Chair: Dr. Marty Richardson

Personnel Committee—Meetings as needed.
Committee Chair: Tribal Chair Earl Evans

Powwow Planning Committee—Last Monday | 6:30 PM
Committee Chair: Councilor Amelia K. Oxendine

Prayer Committee—Meetings TBA
Committee Chair: Rev. Ron Richardson

Princess Committee—1st Monday | 7:00 PM
Committee Chair: Erinn Anstead

Veterans Committee—Last Tuesday | 7:00 PM
Committee Chair: Jewel Bissonnette

TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

Boys & Girls Club Supervisory Board
1st Wednesday | 6:30 PM
Location: Multi-Purpose Building
Board Chair: Karen Harley

Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School Board of Directors
4th Thursday | 6:30 PM
Location: Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex
Board Chair: Earl Evans

Senior Citizens Organization
1st Tuesday | 6:00 PM
Location: Senior Citizens Building (former Tribal Daycare)
Committee Chair: Rev. Al Cooper

HALIWA-SAPONI YOUTH REPRESENT AS 2025-2026 LITTLE AND TEEN MISS SWEET POTATO QUEENS

contributed by Consuela Richardson



Left to Right: Raylee Richardson,
Rosie Richardson

In November 2025, Raylee and Rosie Richardson stepped onto the stage of the Miss Bailey & Miss Sweet Potato Pageant with excitement, determination, and the support of a community behind them. Little did they know just how far that support would carry them.

The girls did an outstanding job throughout the pageant, but their journey to the title was made possible through the generosity of family, friends, and Tribal communities across North Carolina who contributed on their behalf. Although they were never made aware of individual donors, Raylee and Rosie want to express their heartfelt appreciation to everyone who believed in them, encouraged them, and helped make this opportunity possible.

Throughout their reign, Raylee and Rosie have proudly represented their hometowns and the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe. They stepped into spaces where few Haliwa-Saponi had served before, bringing

visibility to their people, culture, traditions, and community in ways that many in the region had never experienced. Their reign has been filled with opportunities to share their culture, meet new people, build meaningful connections, and demonstrate that representation matters. Through it all, they have been reminded that their community stands behind them.

As their year of service comes to a close, Raylee and Rosie extend a sincere thank you to everyone who supported them along the way. Every donation, word of encouragement, appearance, conversation, and act of support helped make this historic year possible.

On October 24, 2026, at Nash Community College, Raylee and Rosie will proudly pass their Miss Sweet Potato titles to the next queens. While they will surrender their crowns, they will carry the memories, friendships, lessons, and pride of this remarkable year with them.



Left to Right: Raylee Richardson,
Rosie Richardson

COOPER PROMOTED AT WILSON COUNTY INSPECTIONS DEPT.

contributed by Reverend Al Cooper



Congratulations to Josh Cooper on being promoted to Assistant Chief of the Wilson County Inspections Department! Josh has seven years of experience in Code Enforcement and holds Level 3 certificates across all five trades. Josh will supervise and train the residential inspectors, oversee the Fire Inspection Program, and assist the Chief with Commercial inspections, among other responsibilities.

HALIWA ACTORS ATTEND NY TABLE READING FOR SAVAGE

contributed by Jimille Mills



Third from the left: Nicolette Blount; Fourth from the left: Brooke Mills Simpson. Others pictured include the director and other cast members.

Brooke Simpson (Haliwa-Saponi) recently participated in a table reading in New York for a show entitled *SAVAGE: The Unconquerable Wanda Savage*. The show, created by Chickasaw playwright and composer Nicolette Blount, centers on the true story of Wanda Savage, a Chickasaw woman who became the first Native American vaudevillian performer. In the story, Wanda struggles to find work, love, and her children after they were taken away to Indian boarding schools. Brooke plays Wanda.

John Scott Richardson (Haliwa-Saponi) has also been part of the production, but was unable to attend this reading.

TWIN COUNTY CRUISERS THANK COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS AND ANNOUNCE PRIZE WINNERS

contributed by Amanda Lynch



Thank you all again. We look forward to seeing everyone next June.

Twin County Cruisers would like to say a big THANK YOU to the many local individuals, business owners, and out-of-town visitors who made the 24th annual car, truck, and bike show a wonderful and successful event. There were 127 registered participants and 72 plaques awarded across various categories, including one large best-of-show trophy. The total prize giveaway totaled \$1,135.00 in cash. This money was acquired from the registration fee, Purple Cancer ticket sales, the 50/50 raffle, and sponsors both in and outside of the community. Winners were as follows:

- American Cancer Society Purple Tickets:
 - \$300.00 LaDonna D. Richardson
 - \$200.00 Diamond Lynch
 - \$150.00 June Harrison
- 50/50 raffle tickets: \$385.00 to an unknown spectator
- Car pre-registration: \$100.00 to Larry Richardson

GYM CELEBRATES BIRTHDAYS AND INVITES NEW VISITORS

contributed by Zenia Buffaloe

The Haliwa-Saponi Exercise Room and Gym held its quarterly birthday luncheon on September 16th, celebrating July, August, and September birthdays. We work out together, and we fellowship together. Come visit your local gym and be part of it!

Gym Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8 am-11:30 am
Wednesday Evenings: 6:30-7:25 pm

Contact Zenia Buffaloe for more information:
zeniar.buffaloe@gmail.com.



Seated: Doris Hines, Glenda Evans, Pauline Davis.
First standing Row: Cynthia Richardson, Carolyn Philips, Teresa Rudd, Mary Battle, Gail Richardson, Nancy Spruill.
Back Row: Carroll Cooper, Wanda Richardson, Willis Richardson, James Silver, Bobby Mann, Jewel Bissonnette, Bobby Richardson



SENIORS TO HOST BBQ FUNDRAISER

Oct. 17, 2026 | 10 AM-3PM

The Haliwa-Saponi Senior Citizens Organization will host a barbecue on Saturday, October 17th, 10 AM-3 PM at the Haliwa-Saponi Senior Citizens Bldg. (former Tribal Daycare Bldg.). \$10 PER PLATE includes BBQ pork, coleslaw, boiled red potatoes, string beans, and a dinner roll, plus FREE dessert while supplies last. See any Haliwa-Saponi Sr. Citizen Org. member to purchase your ticket(s) now! Don't want a plate? Donations of any amount are appreciated.

Digital payments may be directed to organization secretary, Jewel Bissonnette:

Cash App: \$JewelMcGeeBisonet
Venmo: @Jewel-Bissonnette
Zelle: (540)446-1886 Jewel Bissonnette
PayPal: @JMcGeeBison8

Please support your Tribal elders as we strive to age with dignity and live with purpose.



VOLUNTEER for Indigenous Peoples Day

Oct. 12, 2026 | 5 PM-8 PM

Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day on Monday, October 12, 2026, from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the Chief WR Richardson Tribal Government Complex. Sign up to volunteer for setup, food service, performances, sales, and display coordination, as well as local vendors (\$25/table; 5 spots available). Contact A. Kay Oxendine at (804) 296-9820 to sign up or reserve a table.



SAVE THE DATE: Brick Dedication Ceremony

Nov. 7, 2026 | Time TBD

The Haliwa-Saponi Veterans Committee will hold its second brick dedication ceremony on Saturday, November 7th, honoring 19 veterans – including three Revolutionary War soldiers – and their families. Join us at the Haliwa-Saponi Veterans Memorial. Parking is available at the Old Council House Building: 39129 NC Hwy 561, Hollister, NC 27844. Contact Jewel Bissonnette at (540) 446-1886 or JBissonnette@haliwa-saponi.gov.

BIRTHDAYS

A note from the editors: There were several errors in the list of birthday acknowledgments published in the September 2026 issue of the Voice of the Saponi. We sincerely apologize for those errors and have issued corrections below, indicated by asterisks (*).

D'Niyah Richardson *	Sept 11
Toma Richardson	Sept 13
Haywood Wilson (D) *	Sept 13
Sheila Rudd *	Sept 14
Gwendolyn R. Evans	Sept 17
Malcon "Mike" Evans	Sept 20
Kelvin Richardson *	Sept 22
Baby Lynch (D) *	Sept 23
<i>son of Jared (Ha'ace) and Amelia Lynch</i>	

My'Kala Williamson	Oct 9
Lyla Danielle Richardson	Oct 11
Reese Jager	Oct 12
Troy Bissonnette	Oct 13
Rita Harris	Oct 13
Lucy Evans Richardson	Oct 15
Roland Burgess (D)	Oct 17
Mayola Harris (D)	Oct 17
Bria Richardson	Oct 17
Roger Evans	Oct 19
Hester Alice Evans	} (twins) Oct 21
Oris Dallas Evans	
Ana'ki Lynch	Oct 24
Patricia Richardson	Oct 28

ANNIVERSARIES

♥ Happy 39th Wedding Anniversary to Brian & Trina Lynch! (October 17th)

NEW DEMENTIA SERVICES COVERED BY MEDICARE'S GUIDE PROGRAM

Do you or a loved one have dementia? The GUIDE Program, offered through Continuum, provides comprehensive support at no additional cost to traditional Medicare beneficiaries.

Services include:

- Care navigators to guide you through the process
- Caregiver training, support, and check-ins
- Resources, referrals, and care coordination
- Up to \$2,500/year for respite care (in-home, adult day programs, or 24/7 community care)
- 24/7 telehealth access to over 125 specialty providers
- Medical oversight and coordination

GUIDE helps individuals with dementia live a better quality of life at home while supporting their caregivers every step of the way.

To learn more or enroll, call Continuum today at (252) 537-1500.

PANIC POINT FUNDRAISER



For every ticket sold using code **haliwasaponi** at checkout, the buyer receives 10% off, and the Tribe receives 15% of the proceeds.

BUY A SHIRT, SUPPORT THE TRIBE



The Haliwa-Saponi Fundraising Committee is pleased to promote the *Mainqhe:ta* ("We Will Stand") collection, available online through Meadows Merchandise. All proceeds directly support federal recognition efforts.

Shop and support at meadowsmerchandise.com.

Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe
PO Box 99
Hollister, NC 27844
(252) 586-4017



[mailing address]



HALIWA-SAPONI VOICE | OCTOBER 2026
www.haliwa-saponi.gov facebook.com/haliwasaponi.voice

pika'huik
thank you

scan me



What would you like to see in your Tribal newsletter? Would you like to receive the newsletter by email? Email publicrelations@haliwa-saponi.gov, call (252) 586-4017, or scan the QR code to submit an article, opt in to digital delivery, or share your feedback. Content must be submitted by the 20th of each month to be considered for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.