Island Arts Make Summer Splashes on Chincoteague

Two arts organizations make sure summer weekends on Chincoteague are filled with arts and culture. (See story on Page 4.) Pictured above is a scene from the Chincoteague Island Theatre Company’s production of “Enchanted April.”

Photo Courtesy of Chincoteague Cultural Alliance
The Buy Back Babes, a national organization of Chincoteague pony enthusiasts formed to raise funds to purchase “buy back” foals during the annual July auction, recently donated $30,000 to the Museum of Chincoteague’s endowment fund. Buy back foals are those selected by the fire company to return to Assateague and become permanent members of the pony herds. The naming rights for these foals are auctioned off and the funds raised are used for the care and keeping of the pony herds on Assateague.

In 2017, the Buy Back Babes decided to donate money that they had collected to nonprofit organizations of Chincoteague to aid their work serving the needs, culture, and history of the people of Chincoteague Island. The museum’s endowment funds can be used for purposes such as funding school field trips to the museum and for caring for the irreplaceable items in the museum collections. The museum endowment fund was started in 2009 and over the past nine years has grown to more than $100,000 through museum self-funding and with the help of the museum’s donors and members. This fund helps protect the future of the items, objects, and archives that tell the stories of Chincoteague’s past.

Buy Back Babes group leader Myfe Moore (center) and family pose with museum executive director Maria Grenchik (second from left) and museum board member Ellen Richardson (far left).
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Two Nonprofit Organizations Ensure Island Arts Abound

By Connie Morrison

When Brown Box Theatre Project presents Shakespeare’s “As You Like It” outdoors on Sept. 2 at Chincoteague’s Robert Reed Waterfront Park, it will mark another joint venture between the island’s two arts organizations: Chincoteague Island Arts Organization (CIAO) and Chincoteague Cultural Alliance (CCA). Although their missions differ slightly, the two are similar in their drive to make arts and culture accessible and integral to island life.

CCA emphasizes hands-on engagement of local artists of all types, while CIAO’s focus is on anchoring and offering performing arts in the renovated space.

The organization developed its program offerings around the theater, which seats more than 270, and the adjacent Island Theatre Annex, “a venue for smaller, intimate performances, a meeting space for community events, children’s programming, public forums and meetings,” said Borges. CIAO often brings in performers from outside the community to perform and utilize its renovated facilities.

CCA didn’t have a building when it started in 2003, and so began with arts programming to “give residents and visitors opportunities to experience the arts, both as audience members and creators,” said Madeleine Adamson, CCA’s treasurer and a long-time board member. Having a building was not part of CCA’s original vision but the organization was able to purchase the town’s old two-room schoolhouse, formerly the senior center, and convert it into a Community Center for the Arts. “Over 15 years, CCA has grown into a multi-faceted, nonprofit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to building community through the arts,” Adamson said.

“Arts organizations like CCA contribute to economic development by building connections between people, fostering tourism, which is the island’s chief industry, and supporting tourism,” she said. “We also know from experience that the existence of a vibrant arts organization on Chincoteague has influenced retirees to relocate here.”

That perspective is backed by national research by Americans for the Arts. Its most recent Arts and Economic Prosperity Report (AEP5), issued in 2015, found a national arts contribution of $166.3 billion in economic activity, $63.8 billion in spending by arts and cultural organizations, and an additional $102.5 billion in event-related expenditures by their audiences. The AEP5 is the fifth such national study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry. Communities participating in the study range in size from 1,500 to 4 million in population.

The research also shows that CIAO’s intentional use of the theatre as anchor to attract visitors to downtown Chincoteague, and the regional draws of CCA’s festivals, are sound economic development strategies.

“When a community attracts non-local arts attendees and cultural tourists, it harnesses significant economic rewards,” reads the preface to the AEP5 on the national organization’s website. It reports that non-local audiences spend at about twice the rates of local ones.

The study also points to the power of arts to draw in tourists and to keep local patrons in the community. When non-local event attendees were surveyed...

(Continued on Page 6)

The Island Theatre, right, is home to the Chincoteague Island Arts Organization (CIAO).
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Bring a chair or blanket

MON AUG 27, 1-3 pm
Community Bingo 25¢/game

FRI AUG 31, 7 pm
Story Swap This month: Local Lingo (aka “Teaguer Talk”)
chincoteagueca.org
veyed about their trip purposes, more than two-thirds said they were there specifically for the arts event. When local attendees were asked what they would have done if the local event were not taking place, 41 percent said they would have “traveled to a different community to attend a similar cultural event.”

Consistent with those results, both local organizations measure their success through participation and attendance in programs and events. CIAO will also look to its impact on historic Main Street, and CCA will measure engagement of volunteers and support from patrons and businesses.

Part of CCA’s success is in the acquisition of a headquarters building. “Having a building was not part of CCA’s original vision, but we have since transformed the town’s old two-room schoolhouse into a Community Center for the Arts,” said Adamson. The center is just a couple of blocks off Main Street.

But as CIAO board member Ace Seybolt points out, the ties between art, culture, and history run deep and the Museum of Chincoteague is at the intersection of all three.

The work of decoy carvers is one example. Having learned their craft from the masters like the late Cigar Daisy and Miles Hancock, they continue to refine the artistry of what were once functional pieces and are now premium, collector’s items.

Hancock’s recently restored workshop was moved to the museum last year and the museum has hosted carving demonstrations this summer to highlight the artistry, while a permanent exhibit illustrates the many sides of Miles Hancock (1887-1974) as a decoy carver, terrapin farmer, hunting guide, and actor.

And the museum brings this sto-
The Chincoteague Cultural Alliance headquarters office is on Church Street. The group sponsors more than 100 arts and culture events annually.

CCA offers art classes for adults and children.

Misty, the famous Chincoteague pony upon whom the famous book "Misty of Chincoteague" is based, and her foal, Stormy, are on exhibit in their taxidermied states at the museum. The film, "Misty," premiered at the Island Theatre and Misty's hoofprints are preserved in the concrete sidewalk in front of the theater.

Art and life have long been intertwined on Chincoteague. CIAO and CCA are working to ensure that they remain so.

Photo above courtesy of Chincoteague Island Arts Organization

Above, the Delmarva Big Band swings at the Island Theatre. Below, the Island Theatre Annex is used for concerts and activities needing a more intimate setting.
Fishing from the Shore

By Bill Hall

The gradual drop in night time air temperatures will signal a slow shift of improved action in most of the local species. The next few weeks should see an increase in speckled trout, puppy drum, and spot catches. The hot red drum action should continue unabated, but the cobia action will slowly start to drop off as fish begin to exit the bay. Offshore action should begin to pick up with white marlin, wahoo, and tuna action peaking during the month of September.

Upper Shore – Captain Matt Abell, of the Sea Hawk Sports Center, reported anglers were finding good numbers of Spanish mackerel in the bay off Pungoteague. Abell had been running charters most of the week a little further south, catching and releasing a total of 22 red drum and 14 cobia. Most of the drum were in the 40- to 44-inch size range, with four of the fish qualifying for release citations. Red drum have also been encountered around the target ships. Farther north, rockfish action is still improving along South Marsh and Bloodsworth Island. On the seaside, the railcars were still producing flounder as well as “tons” of triggerfish. Offshore, fishing has been on the slow side, although one boat did have a catch of 18 dolphin (mahi) from the Washington Canyon.

Wachapreague – Captain Lindsay Paul, of Trident Tackle, reports that most attempts to fish the offshore waters have been blown out due to the recent span of unsettled weather. There have been some king mackerel and false albacore caught over the hills, but tuna have been scarce. The best flounder action has been on the wrecks. Flounder action on the inside has been slow, with the top catch coming on Wednesday, which produced 10-12 fish, mostly on the small side.

Chincoteague – Pete Vasilou, of Captain Steve’s Bait & Tackle, reports that the surf action has been mostly spot and kingfish. He heard reports of a couple of puppy drum catches, but none have been brought by the shop. Puppy drum catches have also been reported from some of the creek mouths in the back bay. Inside catches have consisted mostly of small panfish such as spot, croaker, seabass, and small bluefish. Plenty of toothy sharks are available in the inlet. Blackfish Banks was producing some nice flounder as well as spadefish and triggerfish. Vasilou said that there has not been much going on offshore, just a few dolphin catches over some of the inshore locales.

Winners of the 2018 Youth Croaker Tournament were: First Place — Gavin Mechling (12.84 ounces); Second Place — Richard Everhart (12.12 ounces); Third Place — Aidan Szabo (11.25 ounces); and Fourth Place — Jordan EberSol (11.12 ounces). Asher Fisher took the top flounder award with his 4-pound, 15-ounce flatfish.

Mike, of Captain Bob’s Marina, reports that a mixture of species is coming from inside Chincoteague Bay, Chincoteague Channel, and Queen Sound, including flounder, croaker, spot, and a black drum. In Tom’s Cove, catches have consisted of croaker, kingfish, and flounder. Sharks are abundant in the inlet and shark catches have been reported in Queen Sound. Larger flounder, triggerfish, and spadefish have come from the subway cars.

Lower Shore – Mark Snook, at Chris’ Bait & Tackle, reports that there are plenty of Spanish mackerel, with some bluefish mixed in along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and along the shoals. Flounder catches have come around the bridge pilings and around the fourth island. Sight casters are still finding cobia from Cape Charles all the way south to the Virginia Beach oceanfront. Snook said croaker catches have been made near marker 262, in Magothly and off Wise Point. Sea mullet were being caught just outside of Lattimers Shoal. The pier at the Kiptopeke State Park has produced catches of bluefish as well as a speckled trout and puppy drum.

Jeb Brady, of Bailey’s Bait & Tackle, reports that the Spanish mackerel bite was excellent over the last week, both in numbers and in size for anglers trolling spoons. Brady said cobia fishing slowed up a bit, with the best catches coming from the waters along the bridge-tunnel up to buoy 36A. Big red drum action was occurring in the evenings from buoy 42 down to 36. Brady said that they still have not seen any decent croaker action.

Bill Hall was the first Eastern Shore resident to achieve Virginia Salt Water Master Angler Status. He has been named Virginia Saltwater Angler of the Year and Virginia Saltwater Release Angler of the Year. Bill is an I.G.F.A. International Committee Representative and a longtime member of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament Committee. He is the Virginia Recreation Fishing writer Conservation Leadership Award.
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<td>H 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>H 11:11 a.m.</td>
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<td>L 2:50 p.m.</td>
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<td>L 6:07 p.m.</td>
<td>L 11:49 a.m.</td>
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Disclaimer: Tides are provided for information only and are not guaranteed for accuracy.
Update on Maryland’s Assateague Seashore Wild Horses

Death of 2-year-old stallion brought population to 78 after National Park Service July census, but a new birth had it bounce right back to 79

From National Park Service Reports

The 2-year-old stallion (N2BHS-AO, Adriana’s Yankee Prince) involved in a motor vehicle accident Aug. 7 on Assateague Island was humanely euthanized on Aug. 15. It was struck on the Route 611 causeway Monday around 9 p.m. The driver of the vehicle was not injured.

The horse was located Tuesday morning and assessed for injuries. His left hind leg was reported swollen, and although lame, he was able to place full weight on the leg and to move around and forage without much difficulty. A small laceration over the left rib cage was also observed. Park wildlife staff monitored his condition, and in the early morning of Aug. 15, the horse was reported down in the saltmarsh and unable to stand.

This loss brought the total population of the Maryland herd to 78 horses, including 20 stallions and 58 mares. Two additional horses were missing/presumed dead after the July census. There was one mare known to be pregnant in 2018 based on test results from last November, who foaled in April. A report at the time of the stallion’s death stated no other mares were known to be pregnant.

But early Friday morning, Aug. 17, N9BM-J (Giggles) surprised everyone by giving birth to a pinto colt, restoring the population to 79. The new foal, N9BM-JQ, and its band live most of the year in the very busy developed area and campgrounds. For this reason, the National Park Service reminds visitors to remain a minimum of a bus length (40 feet) away from the wild horses at all times.

Everything is new to a foal. N9BM-JQ will learn how to interact with the environment from Giggles and other members of his band. About two-thirds of foals in the National Seashore are born in April, May and June, but it is not uncommon for foals to be born during any month of the year. A mare will be very protective of her new foal and it is important for their well-being that visitors give them, and all of the wild horses, plenty of space.

The National Park Service completes a full census of the horse population in Maryland six times per year, in February, March, May, July, September, and November. Managed as a wildlife population, the Assateague horses are free to roam over approximately 27 miles of the barrier island and can be difficult to find at times. During each census, horses are identified by their distinguishing characteristics, mapped and counted. Individual horses that are not observed during multiple census periods are presumed dead. The purpose of the census is to monitor the overall population dynamics of the horse herd in support of the long term fertility control program that was initiated in 1994.
Fall webworm nests are beginning to appear, just in time for the fall bird migration.

Pause Before Burning Webworms

Unsightly webs nourish birds fueling up for long flight south

From the Maryland Biodiversity Project

Fall webworm nests are beginning to appear right in time for fall bird migration. Nature has its timing down perfectly. In the spring, eastern tent caterpillars build their nests just in time to nourish the waves of neotropical bird migrants as they make their grand push to the northern breeding grounds. So, too, do the fall webworms build their nests just in time to nourish southbound bird migrants on their journey back to the tropics.

Fall webworm caterpillar nests are often viewed as a nuisance or eyesore. Remember, many species rely on these caterpillars. Do not tear down or burn the nests. The caterpillars may defoliate a branch or two, but generally they do not cause harm to the tree.

To see more photos of adult fall webworm moths, the caterpillars, and photos of fall webworm nests, go to the Maryland Biodiversity Project: https://www.marylandbiodiversity.com/viewSpecies.php?species=2490

Maryland Biodiversity Project is a nonprofit focused on cataloging all the living things of Maryland. The goal is to promote education and conservation by helping to build a vibrant nature study community. Bill Hubick and Jim Brighton started the project in 2012 and the growing community has since cataloged more than 17,700 species, including over 9,900 species with photographs, featuring the work of more than 1,000 naturalists and photographers.
Chincoteague Island Pony Express
2018 Trolley Schedule

**GREEN ROUTE**  EVENING HOURS ONLY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stop</th>
<th>5:02</th>
<th>6:02</th>
<th>7:02</th>
<th>8:02</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pine Grove</td>
<td>5:05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maddox Blvd. &amp; Deep Hole Rd.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main St. &amp; Church St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beebe Rd. &amp; Ridge Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Park</td>
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**RED ROUTE**  EVENING HOURS ONLY

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pine Grove</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School - Call In</td>
<td>5:22</td>
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<td>6:22</td>
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<td>Main St. &amp; Church St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beef Rd. &amp; Ridge Rd.</td>
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<td>6:04</td>
<td>6:34</td>
<td>7:04</td>
<td>7:34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Park</td>
<td>5:38</td>
<td>6:08</td>
<td>6:38</td>
<td>7:08</td>
<td>7:38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Additional Information**

Trolley fare is 25 cents per person per ride, or one token. Exact change is appreciated. Free ride tokens are available at local businesses. Drivers do not carry cash. The Pony Express is seasonal transportation service provided by the Town of Chincoteague. This service is open to the public. Many of the motels, restaurants, shops, parks, recreational areas, ice cream parlours, and campgrounds are along our routes. Trolleys are equipped with wheelchair lifts. To inquire about Americans with Disabilities Act public transportation option, please contact the Town of Chincoteague during business hours at 757-336-6519, or The Pony Express at 757-854-8572, after 5 p.m. The operator complies with all ADA rules and regulations. ADA trips will be arranged where logistically possible.
### What to do this week on and around Chincoteague Island

#### FRIDAY AUG. 24
- **10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.** - **Crush Friday History Lovers** - Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce, 6733 Maddox Blvd. - free event
- **1-3 p.m.** - **Captain Timothy Hill House** - 5122 Main St. - 973-831-5961
- free admission - [www.captaintimothyhillhouse.com](http://www.captaintimothyhillhouse.com)
- **2-3 p.m.** - **NASA Rocketry** - NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Ctr. - free admission - 757-824-2298 - [www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter)

#### SATURDAY AUG. 25
- **9 a.m.-1 p.m.** - **Farmers and Artisans Market** - Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St. - free admission and parking - [www.chincoteague.org](http://www.chincoteague.org)
- **10 a.m.-noon** - **Kitchen Gallery Opening** - Community Center for the Arts, 6309 Church St.
- **noon-3 p.m.** - **Decoy Carver Demonstrations** - 7125 Maddox Blvd.
- [http://www.chincoteagueumuseum.com/programs](http://www.chincoteagueumuseum.com/programs) - $4/admission
- **1:30-3:30 p.m.** - **Art Class: Pickling Foods** - Community Center for the Arts, 6309 Church St. - pre-registration is required
- **2 p.m.** - **NASA Tour of the Solar System** - NASA/Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Ctr. - free admission - 757-824-2298 - [www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter)
- **7 p.m.** - **Music at the Dock: Steel Drum Band** - Robert Reed Waterfront Park - free, bring a blanket or chair, or dock your boat - refreshments for sale

#### SUNDAY AUG. 26
- **8 a.m.** - **Episcopal Church Service** - Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chapel of Fox Holston Funeral Home, 5049 Chicken City Rd. - 757-894-7078 - [www.emmanuelchurch.org](http://www.emmanuelchurch.org)
- **1:30-4:30 p.m.** - **Beginners Guitar Part 2** - Community Center for the Arts, 6309 Church St. - pre-registration is required

#### MONDAY AUG. 27
- **11 a.m.** - **Movie: Misty of Chincoteague** - 4074 Main St. - $10/adults, $8/seniors 62 & under, $8/children 12 & under - [http://www.islandtheatres.com/](http://www.islandtheatres.com/)
- **11 a.m.-1 p.m.** - **Manna Cafe** - Christ United Methodist Church Social Hall, 6253 Church St. - free hot lunch every Monday - @MannaCafeCl on Facebook
- **1-3 p.m.** - **Community Bingo** - Community Center for the Arts, 6309 Church St.
- **1-4 p.m.** - **Board Games** - Island Theatre Annex, 4076 Main St. - free admission - [www.ciarts.org](http://www.ciarts.org)

#### FRIDAY AUG. 24
- **6-8 p.m.** - **Jeff Madson Performance** - Lemon Tree Gallery, 301 Mason Ave., Cape Charles - complimentary refreshments, cash bar
- **7 p.m.** - **Texas Hold ‘Em Poker** - Bloxom Vol. Fire Co. - doors open at 6 p.m. - 710-0408

#### SATURDAY AUG. 25
- **9:30-10:30 a.m.** - **Yoga on the Beach** - Kiptopeke State Park - $8, $3 mat rental - info @ [andsmileyoga.com](http://andsmileyoga.com)
- **7 p.m.** - **Bingo** - Eastville Vol. Fire Co. Bingo Hall

#### SUNDAY AUG. 26
- **11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** - **Worship Class: Spirit Movement Ecstatic Dance Wave** - 15 North St., Onancock

#### MONDAY AUG. 27
- **7 p.m.** - **Bingo** - Onancock Elks Lodge, Accomac - doors open at 5:30 p.m. - food served

#### TUESDAY AUG. 28
- **7:30 p.m.** - **Bingo** - Cheriton Vol. Fire Co. - doors open at 6 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY AUG. 29
- **3:30-5:30 p.m.** - **Special Back to School Day** - Onley Community Health Center, 20306 Badger Ln. - 787-7374 - [http://www.esrh.org/](http://www.esrh.org/)

#### Just BEE yourself! Do your own STING!

### Day Trips and Side Trips Around the Eastern Shore

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All listings are provided for information only; call or check websites for updates and confirmation.

**The Hitching Post is a publication of The Eastern Shore Post, Onley, Virginia. Contact us at 757-789-7678. Editor, Connie Morrison; Copy Editor, David Martín and Angie H. Crutchley; Ad Manager, Troy Justis; Advertising Associate, Sam Sellard; Ad Designer, Kimberly Perry.**

**Nameplate Photograph by Solid Rock Photography, Chincoteague.**
Last Week’s Answers

Awl Drill Hoe Razor
Chisel Gouge Ice pick Scissors
Cleaver Hacksaw Knife Sickle
Clippers Hatchet Machete

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ❣❣❣❣-sharing

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Chincoteague - Fully renovated 2BR/2.5BA townhome. Central location, turn key! MLS# 48027 $179,000

Captains Cove - Waterfront 4BR/2.5BA home on double lot. New grinder, furnished. MLS# 48142 $369,000

Temperanceville - Over 25 acres of commercial land w/ 100’ of highway frontage. MLS# 48029 $75,000

Captains Cove - Gorgeous 3BR/2BA home w/ walk in closet, screen porch & garage. MLS# 48343 $178,900

Captains Cove - Spacious 4BR/2.5BA home. New roof, carpet, paint. Move in ready. MLS# 48079 $169,000

Atlantic - Palatial 4BR/2.5BA home w/ oversized kitchen, fenced yard & large bedrooms. MLS# 47690 $242,500

Captains Cove - Waterfront 4BR/2.5BA home. Recently restored, sunroom & deck. MLS# 48273 $349,000

Cape Charles - Fully renovated 4BR/3.5BA home. Small portion dates to 1754. MLS# 48075 $320,000

Chincoteague - Creek front 2BR/2.5BA townhome. Community pier, sold furnished. MLS# 48116 $175,000

Chincoteague - Well maintained 3BR/1BA home with enclosed porch & 3 car garage. MLS# 48160 $275,000

Chincoteague - Affordable 1BR/1.5BA townhome with real wood floors & back deck. MLS# 48239 $139,000

Chincoteague - Almost 4 acres of gorgeous land. Build your dream house! MLS# 48049 $475,000

Willis Wharf - Waterfront 4BR/2.5BA home. Recently restored, sunroom & deck. MLS# 48273 $349,000

Lots for Sale
Capt. Cove
0.235 acres - $1,000
0.39 acres - $2,800
0.22 acres - $48,000 *Waterfront*

Chincoteague
0.25 acres - $48,000
0.28 acres - $218,000 *Waterfront*
2.2 acres - $285,000 *Waterfront*
3.855 acres - $475,000

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