

Saxapahaw Current

An independent, self-reporting news source in and for the community of Saxapahaw.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Number 2 Winter 2016

Then and Now
The Island, Our Island



Page 1

What's in A Name?
Saxapahaw- Sissipahaw

Page 2

Goings On
What's happening in the
village in the coming
months.



Page 2

S.A.F.E.
Now Available
Health Care
Referral Service

Page 1/2

Under Currents
A peek at what's



Page 2

Then and Now

The Island, Our Island

By Linda Pucci

The Haw River flows through today's Saxapahaw Island Park. Just north of Greensboro it meanders in a southeast direction flowing into Alamance County delineating the county's southern border. Throughout the ages the island located across from today's Saxapahaw together with its shoals, served a convenient way to cross the river. Europeans, following Native Americans trading paths used this crossing for almost three centuries. Early Mill owners commuted to work crossing the river at the island. During that time, fortunes were made and lost betting on the next essential crossing, but the island crossing at Saxapahaw persisted and retained its value. Recently I was talking with decedents of the Europeans who settled here. They recalled the island as a place to pasture cattle and grow corn. When the Mill was in full swing workers found respite in its natural beauty. During the mid 1900's girls softball teams had their games on the island.

That was then.

In the meantime, floods and tornados washed over the island. People abandoned it. Trees took over. It became a dumping ground where ATVs raced back and forth. The island groaned at the abuse it suffered.

Now members of the community have worked hard to clean it up. Alamance Waste Industries purchased the island and subsequently donated it to Alamance Parks and Recreation as part of a special Haw River Trail project.

The island was dedicated in July, 2015 and named the Saxapahaw Island Park.

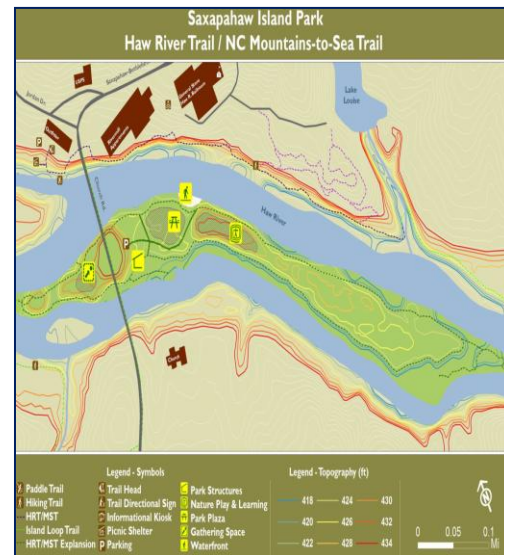
Brian Baker heads up the project. He and his staff met with volunteers and community residents several times during the summer and fall to discuss the design of various elements as well as the needs of the community. They discussed nature play and learning areas, informal and formal gathering areas and waterfront access.

Recently the project was awarded a grant to begin work on the island infrastructure, namely parking places, trails and informational signage.

Brian will meet again with community residents to tease out details for the park. There will be two working groups - one to design the nature play and learning areas and one to discuss the formal gathering area.

The trails on Saxapahaw Island Park will be connected to the mountains to sea trail that is crossing the state (see map).

And so our Island has long been a stepping stone for creativity and progress in the area. Want to get involved? Contact BrianBaker@alamance-nc.org



Do you have Diabetes? High Blood Pressure? Trouble Breathing?

Let us help you find a Doctor

Call S.A.F.E. Today. 1-336-525-2120m Ext. 2

GOINGS ON

JANUARY

Beginning January 4 & 6, **Crochet and Complain** meets 6pm every Monday at the Saxapahaw General Store and 10 am every Wednesday at Cup 22.

13 – **Pub Trivia** at the Eddy – winner gets \$25 gift certificates

15 – Come one. Come all to the First meeting of the Gospel Choir, 6-8PM 5624 Church Rd. Saxapahaw All are welcome especially singers, musicians, soloist and drummers.

16 – 1-5 PM, Meet and Greet at the Bridge at Rivermill. Chat with all the Yoga , Pilates and Healing practitioners who work at the Bridge at Rivermill.Refreshments will be served.

21 – **Culture Mill** presents **music and dance improvisation demonstration** – Haw River Ballroom - 10 am (Free). For more information contact Info@culturemill.org

28 – **Community Dinner** (Eddy's Farm Table room) – Linda goes to Cuba - Free (dinner menu available)

30 – The Embrace, Argentina Tango Class. www.intheembrace.com

FEBRUARY

3 – **Pub Trivia** at the Eddy – winner gets \$25 gift certificate

6 – **Benevolence Farms Fund Raiser** – sour beer tasting – for more information contact sourbash.com

25 – **Community Dinner** – TBD (Eddy's Farm Table room)

MARCH

2 – **Pub Trivia** at the Eddy – winner gets \$25 gift certificate

5 – **Culture Mill** presents **World Renowned Violinist, Jennifer Curtis** – playing Road from Transylvania home. For more information contact Info@culturemill.org

19 – **Second annual Triathlon** – fund raiser for Saxapahaw Island Park.

19 – **Annual Haw River Clean-up**. For more information contact www.hawrivercanoe.com

31 – **Community Dinner** – TBD (Eddy's Farm Table room)

- **Out of the Fire Sculpture Studio** offers glasses in clay for children and adults. For more information contact cbiles@triad.rr.com
- **Weekly Tango classes, Saturdays at 3PM**, for beginners and practice. ----- at the Haw River Ballroom. For more information contact melizeon@googlemail.com
- **Woodland Banners Poetry Walk** is open by appointment year round and on specially announced open studio weekends. For details contact <http://durland.com/poetrywalk/>
- **SAFE's Health Care referral Services** NOW AVAILABLE.

What's in a Name?

Saxapahaw --- Home of the Sissipahaw

By Joseph Pio Asterita



In 1607 the English were struggling to establish their first permanent North American settlement in Jamestown VA, while one hundred sixty miles to the southwest, the village of Sissipahaw had been inhabited for 300 years. A replica of a 1592 map of the area shows the village (now Saxapahaw) on the Haw River.

Although the first mention of the Saxapahaw people goes back to 1521, it is not clear where they lived. They were known by various names including Sissipahaw, Saxapahaw, Shakori (Shoccoree) Shakory and Shacio. (Ben Bulla, 1949). As early as 1569, Spanish explorers identified the people living in the area as Sauxpa.



These native peoples had migrated to the NC piedmont from what is today Virginia. There were a number of groups that shared a common seasonal subsistence culture and had similar language patterns speaking various dialects of the Siouan language. (Troxler and Vincent – 1999)

Keeping in mind that there are no accurate observations of native peoples from that period, we can nevertheless understand that they were an agrarian society growing corn and beans on the fertile land around the river. They lived in wigwam-like abodes and hunted turkey, deer and bear in the surrounding forests. It is estimated that their population averaged around 1200 and they often interacted with neighboring peoples like Sokuri for trade, marriage and protection.

To be continued...

Under Currents!

We're working to keep you informed.

Is a Gospel Choir coming to Saxapahaw?

Anything else you want to know?

Stay tuned.

The Saxapahaw Current would like to add you to our email list.

(saxapahawcurrent@gmail.com)

Got something to say? Tell us.

(saxapahawcurrent@gmail.com)

Compelled to volunteer or get involved in our community newsletter? Contact saxapahawcurrent@gmail.com

(Positive ideas and people are most welcome!)

Don't have health insurance?

Need to see a Doctor?

S.A.F.E. Health Care Referral Service 1-336-525-2120 ext.2