

WNRTA Summer 2017 eLetter has arrived!

Wellfleet Non-resident Taxpayers' Association
Promoting community involvement and communication

Summer 2017 eLetter

[Donations always welcome](#)



Photo Ellen K. Rothman

WNRTA Summer Programs

The third and final program of the summer will feature a report on the **State of the Town** from Town Administrator Dan Hoort at Preservation Hall at 7:30 on **Thursday, August 17**. Kathleen Wiener will give an update on the new Outer Cape Health Center to be built in phases on the current Wellfleet site with 50% more space than the current building. Pre-design and site planning will begin in summer 2018. To keep abreast, you can subscribe to OCHC's [newsletter](#).

On **July 27**, Bob Prescott, Director of the [Wellfleet Bay Audubon Sanctuary](#), presented an illustrated talk about Mass Audubon's 30+ years researching and rescuing sea

turtles off the beaches of Cape Cod, which are home to four species of sea turtles--leatherback, green, loggerhead and Kemp's Ridley.

About 60 WNRTA members and friends gathered at the Council on Aging on July 13 to hear a panel of permanent and non-residents discuss why they had, or had not, retired to Wellfleet. Dwight Estey and Judith Cumbler (full time) and Anne Fausto-Sterling, Paula Vogel and Rhoda Fishman (mostly in Wellfleet but with off-Cape apartments) discussed the wealth of things to do in the off-season (except for eating out), the interesting people, and the many opportunities for intellectual and community engagement (for example, the Wellfleet Open University). The Q&A focused on concerns about health care, transportation, and services for aging in place.

WNRTA Founder Becomes a Resident

As it happens, May Ruth Seidel, who founded WNRTA in 2000 to provide a voice for Wellfleet taxpayers who are not legal residents of the town and cannot vote at Town Meeting, recently came to live in Wellfleet full time. While she will continue on the WNRTA Board in an advisory capacity, May Ruth is looking forward to casting her first vote at the 2018 Town Meeting.

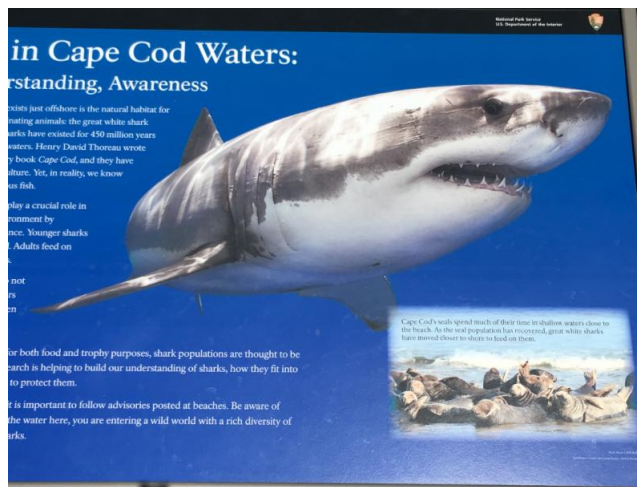


Photo Phyllis Bretholtz

Shark Tagging

The state's shark expert Dr. Greg Skomal tagged the first great white shark of the 2017 season on July 3. The 13-footer was tagged off North Beach in Chatham. Looking back on the 2016 season, Skomal said the number of sharks spotted--100-150--was about the same as the year before, with migration patterns trending further north along the Outer Cape. Researchers have now tagged 107 great whites in Cape waters since 2009. Why more sharks? Conservation efforts and the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act have produced a dramatic increase in the number of seals in Cape Cod waters, and seals are the great white's favorite food.

While shark sightings are indeed more common, the last shark-related death in New England occurred 81 years ago. Still, it is worth consulting the [safety tips](#).



For an interactive map of 2017 shark sightings, see the [Cape Cod Times website](#).

Tick Time

2017 appears to be a banner year for blacklegged ticks. As Catherine Brown of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health says, "We have a lot, and 33 percent of them are carrying Lyme." Other tick diseases found on the Cape include anaplasmosis, babesiosis and a relatively recent and often serious disease Powassan, which can be transmitted in 15 minutes. In the last few years, a new species-the Long Star Tick-has moved into the Northeast. It can transmit the pathogens that cause erlichiosis, tularemia and, strangely, cause an allergy to red meat consumption. "Anyone who spends time outdoors should be doing daily tick checks," Brown told the *Provincetown Banner*. "The first step is to remove it promptly. The best way is to use a pair of fine-tip tweezers. Grab as close to the skin as possible and pull firmly." The CDC recommends applying repellents containing DEET to exposed skin, but they only last a few hours. Clothing and gear can be treated with permethrin, which remains protective through several washings. Tick testing is available to Cape Cod residents for \$15.00. For more information, visit the [Cape Cod Extension website](#).

Progress on Affordable Housing

Housing that is affordable to teachers, tradespeople, and other middle income families is in very short supply on the Outer Cape. Six year-round, one and two bedroom townhouses affordable to people making from 30% to 100% of Barnstable County's annual medium income (from \$18,950 to \$63,200 for one person and from \$27,050 to \$90,200 for a family of four) are nearing completion on a ridge above Gull Pond Road. There were 67 applicants for the units. You may have noticed a [Habitat for Humanity](#) sign on Route 6. Within the next two years, Habitat will build two houses there on land the town purchased with Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. In 1989 Habitat's very first project on the Cape was a house on Route 6 in Wellfleet.



Photo Ellen K. Rothman

High Marks for Water Quality

The source of much controversy and expense over the past few years, the Wellfleet Municipal Water System earned high scores in the recently released [analysis](#) of 50,000 public water systems in the US. Wellfleet has the lowest number of detected drinking water contaminants among all Barnstable County public water systems and is number one in water quality among all municipal water supplies on Cape Cod. The Wellfleet Municipal Water System has 503 connections available; 254 abutters have connected as of July 31, 2017.

Mother of Past President Susan Reverby attracts national coverage of her marriage

Join us in congratulating the mother of our past President Susan Reverby! Her recent wedding and amazing love story was the subject of this New York Times article - [She's 98. He's 94. They Met at the Gym](#), written by Vincent M. Mallozzi.



If you haven't paid in 2017, please do so [online](#) to pay by credit card or, if you prefer, sending a check to:

Dues and donations, please

WNRTA dues are modest--

[\\$25 for an individual](#) per calendar year

[\\$35 for a family](#) per calendar year

--but they are what keep us afloat.

[Donations](#) are always welcome!

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