

## Lancaster supervisors waive permit fees for Interfaith Council, 3-2

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—In a split decision, Lancaster supervisors voted to waive permit fees for the Lancaster/Northern Neck Interfaith Service Council regarding its home repair and improvement projects for economically disadvantaged families.

Interfaith president Jeannie Kling asked for the waiver.

"We try to keep our administrative costs as low as possible," she told supervisors. "Part of our help to the community involves repairs of homes in dangerous condition, which often requires building permits. If the county could waive the fees involved in permit applications, it would be doing a service not only to Interfaith, but also to our neighbors needing our help. We try to stretch every Interfaith dollar."

In 2009, the organization installed 17 wheelchair ramps, put in a number of new roofs and windows and repaired floors with holes, said Kling.

Board chairman Jack Russell stated the fees were waived in the past, but county administrator Bill Pennell corrected him, stating the fees were never waived because in the past the organization had not obtained permits for the work.

"I would rather waive the permit fee than have them build without inspections," Pennell stated. He noted in most cases the permit fees are in the \$50 range.

Supervisors Pete Geilich, Wally Beauchamp and Russell voted to waive the fee. Supervisors Ernest Palin and Butch Jenkins voted against.

In other business, supervisors passed a resolution to place Golden Tale Lane in the state road system. The road is off Dungeon's Thicket Road in the Oestreich subdivision.

Following a public hearing, the board unanimously (5-0) authorized Frank and Barbara Wood to place an 80-foot wireless communication tower on a 2.1-acre parcel at 369 Lonesome Pine Trail in Heritage Point.

Supervisors also endorsed a request from Kilmarnock to amend the Northern Neck Enterprise Zone, relocating a 167-acre portion of the zone from a conservation area to locations on North and South Main Street. The change would better conform to development patterns in Kilmarnock.

They also endorsed an amendment for Westmoreland County for the same reason. Changes to the enterprise zone require the approval of all counties in the Northern Neck.

## Santa letters are due by December 15

The Rappahannock Record will continue a long-standing holiday tradition by publishing letters to Santa in the December 23 issue.

Letters must be in the Record office by Wednesday, December 15, in order to appear in the special section. If letters are written as a class project, teachers are urged to submit them by Friday, December 10.

Letters should be written with a dark pencil or ink and include the child's name, age and hometown. Parents, teachers and others are asked to make certain the letters are legible. Teachers' first and last names must be submitted with class submissions.

The Rappahannock Record mailing address is P.O. Box 400, Kilmarnock, VA 22482. Letters also may be faxed to 804-435-2632, emailed to mail@rrecord.com, or dropped through the front door slot at 27 North Main Street in Kilmarnock.

The December 23 issue also will include holiday greetings from area merchants and others. The deadline for these advertising messages is December 16.



Lancaster County's new judicial center is illuminated for Monday's dedication ceremony. Photo by Audrey Thomasson

# Judicial center is dedicated

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—Judges, supervisors, constitutional officers, elected officials and citizens gathered in the rotunda of the county's new Judicial Center on Monday evening for a dedication ceremony.

The 24,000-square-foot facility replaces the courthouse which has served the county since 1861. While originally expected to cost some \$7 million, the final figure came in under \$4 million and the building was completed in 14 months.

Lancaster's history of replacing courthouses every 100 to 150 years "helped us lobby for a new courthouse," Judge Harry T. Taliaferro III joked. His statement referred to the judges' efforts to persuade supervisors it was time to move beyond the Civil War-era facility to one that would meet the needs of the 21st century.

"By saying 'Every 150 years we need a new courthouse,'" we finally

got one, he noted. But he also recognized the "long, concerted efforts of a lot of people" in making it happen. Judge Taliaferro praised the design, which he noted provides adequate parking and energy efficiencies, and emphasizes safety.

For the first time, prisoners will be secured and separated from the public, juries and judges, he said.

Supervisors chairman Dr. Jack Russell addressed the board's decision to build a new courthouse.

"We see ourselves as servants of the county. We debate, we disagree...but it takes courage to do the right thing and building the Judicial Center was the right thing," Russell said. "Lancaster is a county where we do the right thing. And we try to do it right."

The Rev. Donald Conaway, a former supervisor, gave the invocation. Del. Albert Pollard presented the history of the state flag and school board member Ella Davis talked about the



From left are Clerk of the Circuit Court Diane Mumford, District Court Judge Gordon Wilkins, Juvenile and Family Relations Judge R. Michael McKenney, Circuit Court Judge Harry T. Taliaferro III, and supervisors Wally Beauchamp, Ernest Palin, Dr. Jack Russell, Pete Geilich and Butch Jenkins.

history of the American flag before Boy Scout Troop 222 presented the colors and raised the flags in front of the building.

In the benediction, the Rev. John Farmer said, "Every decision in this building will bring joy and heartbreak, gain and loss" and prayed for

wisdom for the judges presiding over each court.

The Juvenile and Family Relations Court will hold the first session in the new Judicial Center at 9 a.m. Tuesday, December 7. The Circuit Court will begin hearing cases in the facility December 9.

## Leftover Turkey Regatta: Cool

by Starke Jett

MERRY POINT—Warm-blooded sailors braved chilly winds on Saturday, November 27, to participate in the fourth annual Leftover Turkey Regatta. The race is hosted by the Merry Point Yacht Club and its lifetime commodore, Barr Brooks.

"It's a loosely knit organization," said Brooks. "We have about a dozen members and meet up at The Oaks once a month for lunch and beer. We also do this one race. It is a 6-mile course from the ferry cable to the outer channel marker and back.

"Other than having to round the marker, it is pretty much anything goes," Brooks said.

Thirty-one boats registered, but only 23 showed for the pursuit race that started at 11 a.m. in brisk 15- to 20-knot northwest winds. The temperature hovered at about 45 degrees.

After an hour and a-half, Brooks and his partner, Dave Peresluha, co-owners of the 1955 Samuel Crocker designed sailboat Charlotte Amelia, barely beat the second-place boat, Caper, a 36-foot Sabre owned by Randy Romaine. The third-place boat was Seabird, a 26-foot Farmer sailed by Wiley Wright.

"I am embarrassed to say the commodore won," reported Brooks.

The winner earns the dubious distinction of providing the food for the next year's race, but also takes home the Leftover Turkey Cup.



Some of the 23 sailboats jockey for position at the starting line. Photo by Starke Jett



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Orrie Lee Smith wants the VMRC to reinstate older crabbing regulations. Photo by Starke Jett

## Upper bay crabbers plead their case with the VMRC

by Starke Jett

SMITH POINT—Northumberland County waterman Orrie Lee Smith says the upper bay crabbers are being treated unfairly by state regulators. He wants to have some rules changed so he and other watermen in this area can continue to earn a living doing the work that some, like Smith, have been doing for generations.

"We just want to be treated fairly," said Smith.

Smith, his wife, Cynthia, and other Northumberland crabbers pleaded their case with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) on Tuesday, November 23, in Newport News. They had three main points of contention with regulations that were instituted in the spring of 2008 as part of VMRC's effort's to rebuild a dwindling crab population.

Smith said the May closure of the bay crab sanctuary, which was closed in June before 2008, has severely affected upper bay crabbers' livelihoods compared to southern crabbers. The crab sanctuary is a large protected area covering the center of the bay that is off limits to crabbing when it is closed.

"This caused severe economic hardships as the month of May is a pivotal month of income for this area, when crab prices are high and demand is plentiful," wrote Cynthia Smith in a letter to VMRC. "We need a spring crabbing season."

Crabbers in the southern waters can begin catching crabs in April because of warmer water temperatures there. Northumberland crabbers don't see much action until May, according to the Smiths. They want the closure moved back to June

for the upper bay.

The second point is that the boundary line for the sanctuary was expanded and moved into shallower water, from 30-foot depths to 9-foot depths in a triangular area near the Smith Point Lighthouse. This change took away some of Smith's best crabbing territory, he said. He works out of the Little Wicomico River near the lighthouse and would like the commission to reinstate the former boundary line in the Smith Point area.

The third point is that Smith wants the commission to do a better job notifying watermen of any regulation changes. He said he was completely surprised when he received a ticket in the spring of 2010 for crabbing in an area he has worked for 57 years. His and some other tickets issued in the area in 2010 were dismissed by the Northumberland General District Court after Commonwealth's Attorney Jane Wrightson declined to prosecute.

"These are good Christian men," said Smith's wife, Cynthia. "They are not trying to break any laws. They are just trying to earn a living. It is hard for them to keep up with regulation changes. Most of them don't have computers to check on the VMRC website."

VMRC spokesman John Bull said the regulation changes were necessary as part of the commission's efforts to protect the crab population, which was down to dangerously low levels three years ago. He pointed out that the population has rebounded in the last two years and that crab catches are up 35 percent compared to 2007.

"More crabs are being caught now than at any time since the early '90s," said Bull.

Bull said it's the fisherman's responsibility to know regulations. He said the commission sends out monthly newsletters to 1,700 commercial fishermen summarizing regulation changes, and the 2008 changes were extensively covered by the media because they were so major. He said he finds it hard to understand how any crabbers could not have known what was happening.

"We go through fishery changes regularly," said Bull. "It is the fisherman's responsibility to know the rules."

The commission listened to the Smiths' requests and voted unanimously to refer the issues to its crab management advisory board. That board is a subcommittee that reviews crabbing issues and makes recommendations to the full commission.

It normally meets once a month and has about a dozen members, according to member Ronnie Jett. He also is the chairman of the Northumberland board of supervisors and owns a crab distribution business in Reedville, which is close to Smith Point. He said he supports the Smiths' request to move the sanctuary closing date back to June.

"I think it would be justified because the crabs don't start up here as early as down south," said Jett. "I think it would be fair to everyone."

He was not as specific about the boundary line issue, but said it needed to be examined. "There is a lot to be discussed about the boundary line," said Jett.

Bull said no regulation changes will be considered until after the winter crab survey results come out late in April or early May.

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### VMRC approves Tides Inn project

NEWPORT NEWS—The Virginia Marine Resources Commission convening November 23 at VMRC Headquarters in Newport News approved a project request, 9-0, authorizing New Tides LLC to move forward with waterfront enhancement plans at the Tides Inn on Carter's Creek in Irvington.

The project involves the removal and replacement of a 24-slip marina pier with an 8-foot-wide floating pier extending some 237 feet channelward of a previously authorized bulkhead, including a 28-foot by 24-foot platform, a 10-foot long gangway, four 60-foot-long and five 40-foot long finger piers, and a 138-foot-long by 8-foot-wide T-head; the construction of two 20-foot-long finger piers extending from the bulkhead; and the construction of a 14-foot-long pier connection to an existing floating platform.

New Tides LLC was assessed a royalty of \$27,788 for use of state-owned bottom.

Following an oyster harvest status report from marine science supervisor Jim Wesson, the commission voted 9-0 to advertise for a January public hearing to establish a daily six-bushel per man harvest limit when Drumming Ground (area four) reopens in the Rappahannock River in February.

The commission also will

hold a public hearing in January on the creation of 15 aquaculture opportunity zones to provide for a streamlined permitting process and a waiver of many bottom lease fees and rents to encourage shellfish farming.

The commission will meet next at 9:30 a.m. December 21 at VMRC Headquarters at 2600 Washington Avenue in Newport News. Anticipating a light agenda, fisheries items will follow immediately after habitat, according to Commissioner Steven G. Bowman.

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Molly Stephens switched on the lights of Kilmarnock's official Christmas tree in front of the Palmer Building on East Church Street. The honor of lighting decorations along Main Street went to the Swaffin family.

## Illumination welcomes Christmas season

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—For many area residents, the holiday season officially arrived last week with the illumination of the Kilmarnock Christmas tree and Main Street. In a ceremony and reception in front of the Palmer House, Mayor Raymond Booth opened the ceremony and welcomed some 40 citizens.

Other town officials in attendance included vice mayor William Smith, council members Paul Jones and Rebecca Tebbs Nunn, town manager Tom Saunders and assistant manager Susan Cockrell.

Nunn read a list of citizens who purchased holiday banners in memory of a loved one as a bell tolled in their honor. Fourteen new banners were added this year, bringing the total number of banners hanging on light poles along Main Street to 37.

New banners came from Julia Lynn Jones for Scotty Jones; Catherine Kessler for John A. Kessler; Genny and Bert Chase for Henri B. Chase, Jr. and Margaret George Chase; Mary Anne Nonnemacker for Joe Nonnemacker; Pat Shepherd for

Will Shepherd; and Molly Stephens for Mr. and Mrs. George W. Noblett Jr.

Also contributing, Charlotte Swaffin for Fred H.



Mayor Raymond Booth offered opening remarks for the illumination ceremony.

## The Agenda

### Local Government News

HEATHSVILLE—The Northumberland board of supervisors will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday, December 9, in the General District courtroom at 39 Judicial Place in Heathsville.

Monthly reports are expected regarding transportation, schools and county administration.

The board also will reconsider a request from William and Grace Broaddus to construct a second noncommercial pier extending from the shoreline of Indian Creek at 509 Pocahantas Road.

At 7 p.m., the board will conduct a public hearing on an amendment to the zoning ordinance to allow the use of non-accessory tents for up to three days without a special exception permit. This amendment will bring the county code into compliance with state code.

WHITE STONE—The White Stone Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. tonight (December 2) in the town office.

Council will finalize plans and select judges for the town's holiday decorating contest.

Staff reports from the town manager and police chief as well as reports from the budget and finance and public safety committees will be presented.

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The moving crew positions the 1884 Shiloh School next to the 1906 school. More photos of the big move appear at RRecord.com. Photo by Starke Jett

## Two Shiloh schools are now united on same parcel

by Starke Jett

BALL'S NECK—The one-room circa 1884 Shiloh School recently was moved about two miles to join its 1906 replacement at the corner of Shiloh School and Ball's Neck roads.

"There is 45 years of Shiloh School history here now," said Northumberland Preservation Inc. (NPI) board member Jack Moore as he watched the white frame, tin-roofed building being moved into its final resting place.

Pete Thrift, William Rowe, John Luttrell and Lee Jones started the final phase of the relocation project at 8:45 a.m. November 23 deep in the woods on Ball Lane. The older school building was there for more than 40 years, next to an 1800s white frame farm house on property

owned by William Taliaferro Thompson.

The school originally sat at the corner of Ball's Neck Road and Ball's Lane less than a mile away. It had been a storage shed most recently, but had been used as a residence before that, according to Moore.

The team had prepared for about six weeks, shoring up the framing in the old school, cutting down trees and clipping limbs to clear a path down the little lane and jacking the school up on a 4.5-ton trailer, said Moore. Thrift estimated the building weighs about five tons.

Luttrell's pickup truck was finally hitched to the trailer and with a small lurch, started the school's journey back to its roots. At a snail's pace it was eased through barely passable trees and

brush.

At a turn in the lane, a pothole seemed to threaten the whole process as the school leaned over to the left. But it passed that obstacle and the rest of the trip was smooth sailing.

The little school traveled down the more even Ball's Neck Road at a fairly fast clip followed by curiosity seekers and NPI members. Close to its future home the building turned off the main road and traveled the last few hundred yards across a fallow farmer's field because the entrance to the Shiloh School was too narrow.

With a wide right turn the truck pulled up next to the newer restored school and the older school was backed up to a spot where its foundation will be laid in the next few weeks. The schools are almost identical with

the older one being just slightly smaller.

NPI had become seriously interested in the older school when the members discovered in early 2010 that it still existed and was so close by, said Moore.

Thompson agreed to donate it to NPI and Thrift was contacted to effect the move.

NPI president Susan Cockrell said the older building will be used initially for storage purposes for events associated with the newer school. At some future point it is hoped that funds will be found to restore the older school to match the newer one, she said.

"For a building that old, it is

not in bad shape," said Thrift, pointing out joinery work in the massive hand-hewn foundation timbers.

"It has been my experience that when a building like this survives for that long it is a testimony to the tin roof keeping water out," said Moore. "And that it didn't catch fire."



### Tax Tribute Ceremony held

Chief Carl Custalow of the Mattaponi Tribe and Chief Robert Gray of the Pamunkey Tribe, joined by members of both tribes, recently presented Virginia's first family gifts, including two buck deer and a turkey. The annual Tax Tribute Ceremony at the Executive Mansion dates from the Treaty of Middle Plantation in 1677 and is an annual Thanksgiving event. From left are Pamunkey Tribal Council member Gary Miles, Chief Gray, Gov. Bob McDonnell, First Lady Maureen McDonnell, and Pamunkey Tribal Council member Jeff Brown. The deer and turkey will be served at the Mansion. Photo by Michaele White, governor's photographer

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# Witherspoon faces murder charge following deadly domestic dispute

by Audrey Thomasson

MERRY POINT—A domestic dispute turned deadly when a man allegedly shot his girlfriend in the head at 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 24.

Korey S. Witherspoon, 29, and his girlfriend, Shayna Harding, 25, both of Magnolia Circle, were engaged in an argument outside their vehicles in the middle of West Point Road when Witherspoon fired a single shot and hit Harding in the head,



Korey S. Witherspoon

according to sheriff's investigator Matt Stamm.

A resident called 911 to report a commotion on the road but by the time deputies arrived, Harding was dead. Witherspoon was arrested at the scene, Stamm reported.

The couple has two young children who were not with them at the time, said Stamm.

Witherspoon is charged with second-degree murder, use of a firearm in commission of a felony and shooting in the street. He was being held without bond in Lancaster County jail pending arraignment December 1.

## SHERIFFS' REPORTS

**Lancaster County Sheriff Ronnie Crockett** last week brought charges against 11 individuals.

### Felonies

Kenneth M. Rich, 34, of Buzzards Neck Road was charged November 24 on a direct indictment from the multijurisdictional drug grand jury with manufacture/sale/possession of a controlled substance.

Antonio L. Churchill, 29, of Simonson Road was charged November 24 on a direct indictment from the multijurisdictional drug grand jury with manufacture/sale/possession of a controlled substance.

Korey S. Witherspoon, 29, of Magnolia Circle was charged November 24 with second-degree murder, use of a firearm in commission of a felony, and shooting in or across a road.

### Misdemeanors

A Carlsons Road man, 45, was charged November 22 with failure to pay restitution.

A Reynolds Farm Road man, 40, was charged November 22 with contempt of a Madison County court.

A Twin Branch Road woman, 47, was charged November 22 with nonpayment of court fines/costs.

A Kilmarnock area man, 44, was charged November 23 with domestic assault and battery.

A Nuttsville Road man, 49, was charged November 23 with three counts of nonpayment of court fines/costs.

A Lanexa man, 36, was charged November 23 with contempt of court.

A Riverwood Drive man, 38, was charged November 24 with contempt of a Spotsylvania County court, a Northumberland County court and a Lancaster County court.

A Regina Road man, 23, was charged November 25 on a Norfolk warrant with petit larceny.

### Activity report

**November 22:** Staff received a walk-in report of the possible theft of checks (determined that no theft occurred), a walk-in complaint of embezzlement (determined to be civil complaint), a walk-in report of contractor fraud (\$5,700 loss), and a walk-in complaint of a lost/stolen debit card. Staff responded to a domestic assault by threat complaint on Lancaster Drive, to a prowler complaint on Spencer Lane, to a trespass complaint on Crawford's Corner Road and to a motorcycle drag racing complaint on Scott Road.

**November 23:** Staff responded to Lancaster Drive on a report of an elderly patient threatening harm to himself, to a reckless driving complaint in the area of Belle Isle and River roads, to a trespass/violation of a court order complaint in the 8600 block of Mary Ball Road, to a domestic assault (grandparent/grandchild) on Regina Road, to an assault complaint on Riverwood Drive, and to a possible burglary in progress on Ocran Road. Staff delivered an emergency message to a Little Bay Road resident at the request of Virginia Commonwealth University police.

**November 24:** Staff responded to a deer strike accident on Devils Bottom Road, to a hunter trespass complaint on Windmill Point Road, to a deer strike accident on Johns Neck Road, to

a noise complaint on Spencer Lane, to a drunk/disorderly complaint in the 1800 block of Crawford's Corner Road and to a trespass complaint in the 2300 block of Morattico Road.

Shortly before 11:30 p.m., staff responded to a shooting in the 1400 block of West Point Road. Shayna Harding, 25, of Magnolia Drive in Kilmarnock was pronounced dead at the scene as the result of a single gunshot wound to the head. Korey S. Witherspoon, 29, of Magnolia Circle was charged at the scene with second-degree murder. He was later charged with use of a firearm in commission of a felony and shooting in or across a road. According to the police report, Witherspoon and Harding had a domestic argument immediately before the shooting. Witherspoon was being held without bond pending arraignment on December 1.

**November 25:** Staff responded to an animal control complaint in the 1600 block of Morattico Road, to a domestic disturbance (grandparent/grandchild) on Chestnut Grove Lane, to a disturbance call on Landsend East, and with Virginia State Police (VSP) to a single-vehicle accident in the 2800 block of Crawford's Corner Road. Staff received a report of the theft of gas tanks from Little Oyster Lane (three, 5-gallon gas cans with gas, \$100 loss).

**November 26:** Staff responded to a suspicious person complaint on Little Oyster Lane, to a disturbance call in the 500 block of White Chapel Road (domestic argument, father/son), to a possible fight call on Buzzards Neck Road (subject looking for person he believed stole his firearm several months ago) and to a suspicious person complaint on Merry Point Road. Staff received a report of the theft of a dog tracking collar and two tracking antennas from the 8000 block of River Road (\$190 loss) and a report of damages by gunshots to an outbuilding on Breezy Point Road (garage door, siding and downspout, \$690 loss).

**November 27:** Staff responded with the Kilmarnock Police Department (KPD) to assist Northumberland authorities on a fight call on Horn Harbor Road, to a suspicious persons/prowler complaint on Spencer Lane, and notified Northumberland authorities of a shots fired complaint on Old Tippers Road.

**November 28:** Staff responded to a domestic assault (boyfriend/girlfriend) complaint on Johns Neck Road, to the 9400 block of River Road on a report of an injured deer that needed to be destroyed, to a disturbance call in the 5300 block of Morattico Road, with VSP to a two-vehicle accident on Rappahannock Drive, and to

a suspicious person/prowler complaint on Spencer Lane. Staff received a larceny report from Riverwood Drive (\$50 cash), a larceny report from Long Lane Farm (bed linens, lamps, coffee table, end table, curtains, chair, sculpture, display case with 20 Sterling silver spoons, dinnerware, dining chairs, framed needle work, African art carving, framed pictures, fireplace screen, four Oriental rugs; \$5,920 loss).

**November 29:** Staff responded to a shots fired call on Paynes Creek Road, to a traffic complaint in Irvington, and received a larceny report from the 8500 block of Mary Ball Road.

Staff also conducted 15 traffic stops, issued four summonses, assisted four motorists, recorded four deer strikes, investigated four building alarms, made three inmate transports and fielded a call for animal control service.

### Fire calls

The Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department responded to a brush fire (controlled burn) on Lara Road and to a traffic accident on Lara Road.

The Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department responded to a smoke alarm in 500 block of North Main Street.

The White Stone Volunteer Fire Department responded to a traffic accident on Rappahannock Drive and a chimney fire on Blueberry Point Road.

**Northumberland County Sheriff Charles A. Wilkins** last week brought charges against six individuals.

### Felonies

Gregory Baker, 51, of Heathsville was charged November 24 on a direct indictment with distribution of cocaine.

Beth Balderson, 45, of Callao was charged November 24 on a direct indictment with distribution of methadone.

Anthony Gregory, 25, of District Heights, Md., was charged November 24 on a direct indictment with distribution of a controlled substance.

Richard Carter, 53, of Heathsville was charged November 24 on a direct indictment for distributing oxycodone.

Travis Wiggins, 23, of Lancaster County was charged November 24 on a direct indictment with distribution of marijuana.

### Misdemeanors

A Heathsville woman, 19, was charged November 26 with failure to appear.

### Correction

The Northumberland Sheriff's report last week indicated Burton Keyser Davis III was charged with a felony. However, he was charged with a misdemeanor in the brandishing of a firearm.

## LANCASTER COUNTY CRIME SOLVERS

The Lancaster County Crime Solvers seek information on two individuals.

Christopher A. Marchand, 23, is wanted for probation violation. He is described as a white male with blond hair and black eyes, standing 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighing 160 pounds. His last known address is 80 Chase Street in Kilmarnock.

Maurice C. Veney, 20, is wanted for probation violation. He is described as a black male with black hair and eyes, standing 5 feet 7 inches tall, and weighing 175 pounds. His last known address is 444 Twin Branch Road in Heathsville.

Report information on either of these people to Lancaster County Crime Solvers at 462-7463. Callers will not have to give their name or appear in court.

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## Fiction or Fact

from Bob's Almanac

by Robert Mason Jr.

Some things are worth repeating.

I know I've seen this poem time and again in the Record, but it has resurfaced locally, because some things are worth repeating.

It was written by James S. Allen, a student minister in Cople Parish, and dated July 20, 1926.

### The Northern Neck of Virginia

Between the yellow Rappahannock  
And the Broad Potomac blue,  
There's a lovely bit of country  
Down in Old Virginia true  
Just a narrow strip of inland,  
On the map it's just a speck,  
But it's Home to everybody  
In the good Old Northern Neck.

You go sixty miles from nowhere  
Down a winding country road  
Past a picturesque old mill pond

And a Patriot's first abode,  
Yes, it's rather isolated  
But I know when you reflect  
You will surely want to linger  
In the good Old Northern Neck.

You'll find many stately mansions  
Of the true colonial style  
Tucked behind old fashioned gardens  
Filled with flowers all the while,  
River views, with steamboat landings,  
Everything you could expect  
Old Virginia's rich tradition  
In the good Old Northern Neck.

The folks have got a charming way  
Of saying "Come right in."  
There's smoke-cured ham and batter-bread  
With potatoes in the bin,  
The people still believe in God,  
And home is not a wreck,  
And everybody's "kith and kin"

In the good Old Northern Neck.

Sure, I've heard them sing of Heaven,  
Guess t'was never meant for me

But sometimes I stop and wonder  
How the next world's going to be  
But St. Peter needn't worry  
When I'm cashing in my check,

For my soul will stay forever  
In the good Old Northern Neck.

After studying the poem, I felt compelled to add a verse of my own, because I can't leave well enough alone:

With all due respect to the author,  
I must add a simple note,  
Nowhere does he mention  
A blue crab or oyster float.  
And there's no mention of  
protecting the environment  
Or of the species Riverneck,  
But many souls are still content  
In the good Old Northern Neck.

## Focal Point



The last band of sunlight on an autumn afternoon illuminates the tree tops.

Photo by Steven M. Reiss

Submit your interesting photos capturing the life and times in the Northern Neck to editor@rrecord.com, subject line Focal Point.

## Delegate's Report

by Del. Albert C. Pollard Jr.

### An Agenda for Entrepreneurship

The U.S. economy has been a jobs making machine for a long time, with over 83 million jobs added between 1960 and 2007. However, we are now 7.5 million jobs below the pre-recession peak, and, as far as I'm concerned, despite the technical "economic" definition, we are still in a recession.

So the question is how does a member of the House of Delegates help fire up the job creation machine? After all, it's not the role of government to create jobs. And when government does create a job, it is usually through the transference of wealth and not the creation of new wealth. In other words, a government job is "created" by the taxes people pay.

A recent comprehensive study in Virginia indicated that lowering the corporate income tax would do little to spur job creation and that Virginia's corporate income tax is not a primary barrier to businesses relocating. Interestingly, poor roads and a poorly educated workforce are barriers.

Also, interesting is the fact that a company founded today has an 80 percent chance of dissolving in the next 25 years. But despite this statistic, almost all net job increases occur among startups.

So, how does a delegate help create jobs? I've come to the conclusion that it is by creating a startup friendly environment. As a representative I might not be able to increase

the "survival rate" of businesses, but I can remove obstacles which impede the startup process.

For this reason I will introduce a bill in the 2011 General Assembly to remove as many obstacles as possible for startup businesses. To me, there is no reason for businesses that gross, say, under \$300,000 a year, to pay sales tax or corporate income tax for the first two years; particularly since half of all new businesses fail within the first five years. We can have the biggest impact at the beginning of the life cycle.

I also don't think that a new business should have to pay the State Corporation Commission filing fee, litter tax, which is merely \$25 annually, or the myriad of fees with which the Commonwealth has been balancing its budget.

Obviously, these new small businesses have to follow pollution and health regulations even if they don't have to pay for the permit. One should never be able to live their life in such a way as to harm others.

In conclusion, the philosophy behind this measure is that a new business owner doesn't need the added expense during the difficult first few years. They further need to know that the Commonwealth is supportive of their efforts. In short, this is a compact between entrepreneurs and the Commonwealth. And together we can fire up the job creation machine again.

## YESTERYEAR

(Reprint from the December 2, 1910, issue of the Virginia Citizen)

### The Profit Sharing Store

We are now issuing sales slips, which are valuable to you. Save them, and after you have from \$25 to \$100 worth, call at our store and have them exchanged for handsome pieces of genuine cut glass. We cordially invite you to inspect our premiums.

Irvington Haberdashery Co., E. M. Edwards, manager

### Final Football Games

University of Virginia won Saturday from University of North Carolina.

N. C. Agricultural and Mechanical won from V.P.I.

Randolph-Macon takes the Eastern Collegiate champion-

ship.

In the South Atlantic Division, Georgetown takes first place. The others follow in this order: N.C.A.&M., Va. P.I., University of Va., Washington and Lee, University of Va., Va. Military Institute. Several of the Virginia teams were unable to play the others; hence their low standing.

In the hottest and most interesting of games, the Navy won over the Army, at Philadelphia, by a lucky kick. The score stood at 0 to 0, until near the close. Dalton, of the Navy, kicked a goal from the field during the last quarter, winning by 3 to 0.

### Millenbeck

Police Steamer Mauray was cruising in Corrotoman River this week.

W. H. Warren was in Baltimore this week.

R. W. Doggett is completing the new addition to his dwelling.

Mr. Potter, of Mathews County, while hauling mine props near here last week, was caught between his cart and a tree and received a very painful bruise on one of his lower limbs.

Mrs. E. W. Gresham, of Otoman, has returned home from Baltimore, where her husband is in a hospital for medical treatment. She reports him improving, which is very gratifying to his many friends.

W. K. Rogers, railway mail clerk on steamer Calvert, is visiting his brother, C. L. Rogers.

## YOUR LETTERS

### Airport scanning, pat-downs are necessary

It's totally understandable that a reasonably sensitive person would be made to feel very uncomfortable undergoing an airport body scanning or an invasive pat-down. Yes, there are some very long airport lines, and perhaps the TSA (Transportation Security Administration) personnel could use sensitivity training, but the screening process is not something optional, or a process the Obama administration is using to create jobs.

The fact is that there are more than a few homicidal extremists whose total concentration, work ethic, and intelligence is fanatically dedicated to our physical and cultural destruction, both here and abroad.

The United States cannot afford not to do everything it possibly can to lessen any probability of extremist murder in the air or on the ground. Our government's first and foremost responsibility is to protect us. Therefore I commend TSA for its unwavering stance regarding body scans and pat-downs on all who fly.

Airline personnel and their unions should be setting the example for optimum safety and not encouraging a bunch of crybabies objecting to being touched or questioned. TSA is correct in advising the crybabies simply not to fly.

The worst example of good citizenship and caring are once again our Congressional leaders who believe they are well beyond the common everyday life experiences their inferior electorate must endure. Yet it's better to be uncomfortable than turned into a carbon particle.

Garrett L. Howard,  
Heathsville

### Clinic issues call for volunteers and donors

Eleven businesses in the Northern Neck and Middlesex County have more than 100 employees, and just one of them has more than 300, according to YesVirginia.org.

### Lively

Farmers in this section have about finished saving their fall crops and seeding wheat, and are now turning their attention to their wood piles, etc.

Messrs. Wright and Stoneham passed through here Sunday en route to their homes near Monaskin from Kilmarnock.

Miss Hattie A. Clarke has returned home after a most pleasant visit to her cousin at Irvington. She was accompanied by her aunt, Mrs. M. A. Knight, who will spend some time with relatives here and at White Chapel.

(Transcribed by Stephen A. Redd, volunteer of the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library)

The Northern Neck Free Health Clinic, which serves this same area, has only about 20 full- and part-time employees, but in one sense it ranks right up there with the largest of the local businesses, since 435 volunteers also contribute, creating a powerful workforce.

The volunteers – doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, nurse practitioners, medical assistants, dental assistants, pharmacy assistants, pharmacy technicians, receptionists, screeners, statisticians, application processors, patient educators, administrative helpers, outreach workers in Middlesex and Westmoreland counties, and more – have helped the clinic deliver about \$7 million worth of health care this year to those with low incomes and without adequate insurance.

At least 10 to 20 volunteers are at the clinic on any given day, coming together to help the community.

They also are the reason the clinic operates as a truly efficient business, giving its shareholders, those who contribute to the cause, a fantastic return on their investment: every \$1 in donations results in nearly \$7 in care.

Since the clinic's founding in the fall of 1993, \$44 million in health care has been given back to the community. Without the clinic, most of this would not have been provided at all; the rest would have come by way of emergency rooms trying to keep up with the need.

This really is a case of the community taking care of itself. In these difficult economic times, when residents are seeing a reduction in their work hours, or a loss of their health insurance, or both, its importance becomes even more crucial.

For the past three years, the clinic budget has hovered around \$1.1 million annually, returning many times that in services. This year, a most difficult fund-raising year, about \$300,000 remains to be raised.

Volunteers and donors, caring for their neighbors, keeps the clinic going. The clinic needs more of both to keep pace with the times and the ever-increasing demand. To be a part of this model of a truly efficient health care system, please contact us at 435-0575 or P.O. Box 1694, Kilmarnock, VA 22482.

Jean Nelson,  
Executive director

### Helping others

This year, we have the ambitious goal of providing food and gifts for families for the upcoming holidays.

I am asking for donations such as turkeys, pies, cakes, can goods, and a variety of toys to help seven families in need.

After all, investing in just a few families is investing in an entire community. Please contact me at 804-438-6322. Thank you in advance.

Dianna Carter,  
Chairman, Lancaster County Division, The Salvation Army

## Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

In 1976, a young couple purchased the old Rio store at Wicomico Church. The sign out front went from being "S.G. Conley General Merchandise" to its new version, "The Corner Market." They undertook a remodeling project, expanding the floor space and adding new wares. They also incorporated into the interior some of the artifacts from the wheelwright shop behind the store.

The purchasers were Norman and Rio Sprague. Rio knew the area well from many visits to her aunt and uncle, Lydia and Grady Lester, who lived not far down the road. Rio remained with Norman in the store for a few years, then went to work in banking, where she stayed another few years before entering the grocery business in Heathsville.

Norman continued at the Corner Market until 1985 then followed Rio into the commercial grocery business. Both of the Spragues are outgoing people, who enjoy dealing with the public. Rio has a genuine gift for business, with a mind totally in tune with figures. Numbers come easy to her; she truly is one who has no need for a calculator. Using it would only serve to slow her down. All of her mercantile skills are uniformly impressive.

Rio also is a font of information about the lower Northern Neck. Perhaps much of what she has learned has come from her childhood trips to the Lesters, but she has amassed an independent body of knowledge that causes others to ask her first when seeking to know our area, its personages and its lore.

For many years Rio has been active in politics, not as a candidate, but as an ever-willing volunteer. She is the precinct captain at Wicomico Church, where she monitors the elections in every cycle. She knows the electorate to such an extent that she can tell by midday who has voted and who has not.

Her political activism stems from a deep-seated level of patriotism. She is unabashedly proud to be an American and a Virginian. She is committed to doing her part to make the country right in her own bailiwick with the hope that millions of like-minded folks

will do the same in theirs. To have voted at Wicomico Church without having seen Rio is a sure sign that one urgently needs an ophthalmologic visit.

Rio and Norman are also part of the group of dedicated members who have brought about a renaissance at Mila United Methodist Church. That venerable place of worship had declined in membership to the extent that many in the community feared it would close. The good folks who attend church there were determined that such would not be the case. Rio would eschew assuming credit for her part in the flourishing, although she richly deserves it. She has organized activities for the youngsters, and extended a welcoming hand to each of them. On Sunday mornings the cars present in the parking lot are the best testimony to the efforts of the members to keep the ecclesiastical pres-

ence there. The Spragues have built three successive homes in the neighborhood of Wicomico Church over the past three decades, each reflecting their particular, refined taste. Among her other attributes, Rio is also a born decorator. She delights in taking a room and bringing forth something of herself in its style.

Her taste is both original and distinctive. She defines space in her own motif, and always produces a setting that is pleasing and harmonious. She especially likes the process of re-working older pieces of furniture and art into new arrangements where their appearance becomes fresh and eye-opening. If she wished, she could have another career in the world of decorating for she is adept in any setting.

Today is Rio's birthday. The Northern Neck is a better place because she has spent the last 35 of these occasions here in our midst. She is the type person who quite naturally becomes a rock in a community, one who generates the trust and respect of the residents, and who labors selflessly for their benefit and wellbeing. In our community she is "The Grande Rio."

Ad multos annos, Rio.

*She is the precinct captain at Wicomico Church, where she monitors the elections in every cycle. She knows the electorate to such an extent that she can tell by midday who has voted and who has not.*

## The Congressional Report

by Rep. Rob Wittman

This week began with a great visit to the U.S. Naval Academy. Forty-six midshipmen are from the First District and it was great to have the opportunity to visit with them during their lunch.

These midshipmen are the nation's future leaders, and after just a brief visit, it was clear to me their training, attitude and love for their country will take them far. I'm honored to have the privilege to nominate high school students each year to the academy, and they can learn more about these opportunities on my website.

Following my academy visit, I returned to Congress to resume legislative work. I spoke out on the House floor about my

concern that Congress must chart a new path of more responsible spending, and extend tax cuts for hard-working Americans. You can watch my floor speech at [youtube.com/RobWittman](http://youtube.com/RobWittman).

One of the issues about which constituents share their frustrations concerns toxic Chinese drywall. Last Wednesday, I sent a letter to the chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. It has been almost a year since they released interim guidance on this issue and I asked for final remediation guidelines.

This instruction is critical to make homes livable or to prepare them for the market.

On Thursday, I was proud to support legislation H.R. 1722, the Telework Enhancement Act, which will foster the use of telework by federal agencies, resulting in cost savings and improved readiness and emergency preparedness, in addition to alleviating traffic congestion.

Virginia has thousands of federal employees, many of whom face long commutes each day. Telework can help ease congestion on the roads and also can ensure continuity of government in the case of a national emergency, or weather-related shutdowns.

This bill is now awaiting the president's signature.

## A safe holiday begins with you

One of the most effective resources shoppers and travelers have to make their holiday season safe is themselves.

Being cautious, staying alert and planning ahead are essential for a happy and safe holiday, according to Radford University criminal justice professor and former police officer Tod Burke.

"Putting your purchases in the trunk is certainly a lot better than putting them in view in the back seat," said Burke. "Be smart. If you are going out alone, try to make sure you are parking in a well-lit, crowded area. Let someone know where you're going, but don't put too much information out there."

Social networking is a stalker's dream, said Burke. Posting your whereabouts and what you'll be doing is not wise. Text-messaging while walking or sitting in your car—or elsewhere—creates additional problems.

"If you're texting, you're being distracted. It can cause a thief to take advantage of you while you're not paying attention," he said.

If traveling is part of your holiday schedule, plan accord-

ingly and allow for the unexpected.

Planning for traffic delays and mapping out alternative routes is good but often times taking an alternate route is not wise. Burke said the shortest route can sometimes be the worst route. He urges travelers to learn more about the neighborhoods they will be driving through.

While on the road, there is always the possibility of a health emergency. "Depending on the location, it may be quicker for you to drive on to the hospital instead of calling the police or rescue squad. It depends on the emergency, the location and your first aid skills. Know your limitations," said Burke.

Children also can play a vital role in travel safety and while they are helping, they're also learning and entertaining themselves.

"While you're driving and familiarizing yourself with a travel route, ask children to observe things around them," suggested Burke. "What's the location? What is the last street sign they noticed? Did they notice a hospital sign?"

He also advises letting chil-

dren gently know that being loud can be a distraction. "Plan activities for them in the car and plan on making frequent stops," he said.

While international travelers should adhere to many of the same guidelines, they also may be more at risk that those traveling domestically.

"Pick-pocketing and purse-snatching happens more commonly out of the country," said Burke. "Reasons international travelers are often targeted include language barriers, the culture and bad guys know that you tend to carry more money. They also know the likelihood of you coming back to testify is rare."

"Don't keep your wallet in your back pocket. If you do, keep a small amount of money. If you are in a street robbery, they are going to want something, and it is better for your safety if you have something to offer them."

Travelers have heard it said, "Don't look like a tourist." When robbers see someone with a map and a camera, it makes the traveler much more susceptible to crime. It's okay to ask questions, he says, but

also know that questions make people more aware that you are a tourist, he said.

Employing common sense tactics can be invaluable when traveling abroad. Don't carry a lot of jewelry, keep track of passports, and back up or copy all important documents. And again, avoid posting travel information on social networking sites, continued Burke.

"Knowing what hotel travelers are staying in and knowing their home is vacant is also a burglar's dream. There have been a lot of thefts because too much information was posted online. Even avoid posting that you have siblings. Someone could use that information," said Burke.

This could lead to con artists using the information to scam money from family members, he added.

Burke insists, however, the risks should not deter individuals from their holiday travel plans.

"It's the process, not the destination, that may make the trip fun," said Burke. "With a little planning and appropriate precautions, travelers can enjoy the ride as well as the destination."

by Marie Snider

## This Side of 60

### Happy, happier and even happier

Are you happy? If you aren't, listen to this. Harvard professor Tal Ben-Shahar believes that anyone can learn to become happy.

And if you are happy, he believes you can become happier and even happier.

Ben-Shahar is one of Harvard University's most popular teachers. His classes attract 1,400 students each semester.

Fortunately for us, we don't have to attend Harvard to hear his secrets of a successful life. He has written two books on happiness — "Happier" and "Even Happier."

The whole title of the first book, which was a New York

Times bestseller, is Happier: Learn the Secrets to Daily Joy and Lasting Fulfillment — Can You Learn to Be Happy?

Ben-Shahar's answer is a resounding, "Yes."

He bases his answer on scientific studies, self-help advice and spiritual enlightenment.

And the second book, Even Happier: A Gratitude Journal for Daily Joy and Lasting Fulfillment, is a companion workbook with challenging and inspiring exercises. Exercises he had devised for his students.

Ben-Shahar was himself a student when he first became interested in the theory of happiness.

At the time, he was an A+

student. He read every page a professor assigned and wrote each paper as if it had to be a masterpiece. He sought to be the perfect student.

But at the same time, he realized that he wasn't very happy. And he wondered what was wrong with this picture.

Gradually, he caught on that it was his commitment to perfection that was the problem!

So, using the 80/20 rule (80 percent of results come from 20 percent of work), he read the most important pages and allowed himself to receive an occasional B+. He was still a good student and became much happier.

At first he thought it was his personal problem. But as he researched, Ben-Shahar found it was a universal problem. When people told him they were unhappy, he found that what they meant was they weren't happy all the time.

"We're all laboring under our own and society's expectations to be perfect in every way — to look younger, to make more money, to be happy all the time." But life is never perfect.

Thus, perfection is the #1 internal obstacle to finding happiness.

## Officers will provide answers to questions about the military

Would you like to know more about today's military life and policies?

Led by Major William Christopher of Williamsburg and Lancaster, a group of armed forces representatives studying at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, has agreed to answer your questions.

Christopher is an Army Artillery Officer currently attending intermediate level education at Fort Leavenworth. The 10-month-long school is akin to graduate school and helps prepare military officers for the transition from Company Grade Officers to Field Grade Officers.

The officers are in the Army, Air Force and Navy, and look forward to sharing the story of the armed services by answering any questions you may have. The questions and answers will be printed in the Record as space permits and others will be included on our website.

So important is this obstacle that Ben-Shahar has written a book on the topic — The Pursuit of Perfect: How to Stop Chasing Perfection and Start Living a Richer, Happier Life.

He says that in order to be happy, you have to accept reality. Failure and sorrow are part of life. Become an "optimalist" instead of a "perfectionist."

Perfectionists are never satisfied and consistently set goals and standards that are impossible to meet. Thus, they are always disappointed and sad.

Optimalists, on the other hand, set extremely high standards, but their goals and standards are attainable. They don't expect everything to be perfect.

So the question is: Do you want to be perfect or happy?

As you answer the question, remember that you can never really achieve perfection. After all, imperfection is a consequence of being human.

But you can achieve happiness if you are willing to let go of perfection.

So what will it be for you? Perfection or happiness? It's your decision.

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## Lancaster County Sheriff's Sale

For sale at public auction at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 11, 2010

the following property:

All sales will be purchased with certified check or cash (NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED)

- 1- 1996 Ford Explorer • 1- 2001 Ford (4D SDN)
- 1- 1986 Ford Van • 1- 2005 Chev (4D SDN)
- 1- 1999 Chev (4D SDN) • 1- 1999 Infiniti (4D SDN)
- 1- 1999 Land Rover • 1- 2001 Chev Impala
- 1- 1991 Chev Pick-up • 1- 1994 Infiniti (4D SDN)
- 1- 2000 Chev Impala • 1- 1997 Pontiac (4D SDN)
- 1- 1990 Chev Caprice • 1- 2004 Dodge (4D SDN)
- 1- 2004 Dodge (4D SDN)



## HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

View five homes in the historic village of Irvington

Saturday December 18

12:00 to 5:00

Tickets \$20. 438-6888

Available at the Steamboat Era Museum

Warm cider and cookies served at the Steamboat Era Museum

An event to benefit the Steamboat Era Museum

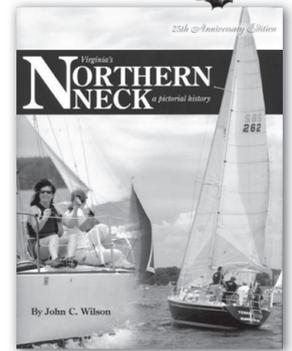
## THE PERFECT GIFT

Just in time

for Christmas

Book Signing

Saturday, December 4 9am-noon



Meet the author of Virginia's Northern Neck, a pictorial history

7<sup>th</sup> printing, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition at

Ross's Rings and Things, Ltd. 200 Irvington Rd. • Kilmarnock

## NOTICE

Lancaster Square & Chesapeake Commons Parking Lots Will Be Closed Next Friday, Dec. 10 at 6:45pm No Entrance/Exit To Main Street Until 8:00pm For Christmas Parade



## Photo Christmas Cards are at Yours Truly Photography

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## CALLING ALL MEMBERS

LANCASTER BY THE BAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Next All Members Meeting will be

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

8:00 am - Bank of Lancaster Community Room 432 North Main Street - Lancaster Square Shopping Center Kilmarnock, Virginia

Don't miss this very informative meeting!

Special Guests will be:

Representative from Chamber Solutions Member Benefits Program Dr. Elizabeth Crowther - Rappahannock Community College

# Fire department seeks assistance for roof repairs

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—Firefighters face danger every time they respond to a fire call, but the Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) is also facing danger of another kind: its 1976 firehouse on School Street is in need of \$70,000 in repairs.

That was the message delivered to town council members in November. On Sunday, the administration and finance committee made a site visit to view the problems.

About \$40,000 is needed to replace the roof, repair the underlying support structure, and replace the rotting cupola, said KVFD spokesman Cundiff Simmons. Additionally, they asked for \$29,000 to replace a generator, which was obtained second hand in 1980.

Over the next year, all six bay doors will need to be replaced as well as a 1979 fire truck, said Simmons.

According to KVFD president Tom Jones, public opinion is that the fire department has a large reserve of money. He says that may have been the case years ago, but today finances are very tight.

The department has a dwindling trust account which was further devastated by the decline of the stock market, said Simmons. What little funds remain are usable only for catastrophic events, such as the firehouse burning down. "But there's not enough left to help much with that," he said.

Rising utility and fuel costs and dwindling funds have added to the struggle to raise the money needed to serve the community efficiently and safely while still balancing daily jobs, homes and families, firemen explained. Each member can easily put in 10 hours a week which could jump to 60 hours if they respond to a lot of fires, said Jones. They responded to 140 calls in 2009.

Jones said many people don't realize the firemen are volunteers, or that the job is more than fighting fires—they have to be fund-raisers as well. It takes a lot of money to run a volunteer

fire department, he said. With the firehouse located in Kilmarnock, an added benefit to town residents is lower fire insurance rates, he added.

Over the past decade, public donations have declined by 20 percent, he said. The carnival is the department's primary fundraising event, bringing in more than \$30,000 in a successful year. Most of those funds go for equipment, he noted.

"It costs over \$2,000 to equip each man" with protective clothing, helmets and boots, said fire chief Benny Balderson.

In addition, self-contained breathing apparatus costs \$3,500 to \$4,500 with another \$500 for each pager used to notify members of a fire call. Multiply those costs by the 46 volunteers in the department and the numbers soar.

According to Jones, the organization recently completed 10 years of payments on a \$700,000 ladder truck that now sells for over \$1 million. The cost of an engine truck is about \$350,000 before adding in equipment. A brush truck (used to get into tight places) costs another \$140,000. This year, the department is purchasing training gear, breathing apparatus, and a thermal imaging device for detecting heat sources.

Each year, the department receives some \$75,000 from Lancaster County. However, support from Kilmarnock is not guaranteed. In the current year the town budgeted \$5,000, which is 3 percent of the operating budget, according to Simmons. In past years, the town only gave \$1,000 or made no contribution at all.

While KVFD is the first responder for the southern end of Northumberland County to Crosshills Road at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, it has never received funding from Northumberland.

Northumberland County administrator Kenny Eades said he doesn't know why they aren't receiving any county funds, but presumes it's because they don't need them or it may be a trade-off since Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department covers a small



From left are Kilmarnock town manager Tom Saunders, mayor Raymond Booth, councilmen Shawn Donahue and William Smith, Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department president Tom Jones and fire chief Benny Balderson.

corner of Lancaster County in the Brown's Store Road area.

Northumberland pays a combined \$220,694 to its Callao and Fairfield volunteer fire departments, which helps to cover equipment as well. However, both fire departments also raise funds from the public.

Jones said KVFD does not send out a fund raising letter every year. However, the department holds other fund-raising events during the year.

"It takes a huge amount of money" to run a volunteer fire department, said Simmons. "People don't realize how much it takes."

Councilman Shawn Donahue said the firefighters should have brought the problem to council's attention sooner. "We're in the middle of our fiscal year. You needed to ask earlier so we could budget for it." Donahue also suggested they consider bank financing. "That way we write monthly checks rather

than one big check."

"We should have been working together to budget for it," said vice mayor William Smith.

A leaky roof is "like a fire," replied Jones. "You don't think about it until it starts leaking. We only come to the town when we really need it. We don't want you to think we're holding you up with a gun."

Smith, who said he has looked over their books, noted the firefighters are spending more than they bring in. He said part of the problem is that the firemen need to let people know they need help.

"If they don't let the community know they need funding, they're not going to send them funds unless there's a catastrophe," said Smith. "We're going to try to do what we can."

Mayor Raymond Booth said he talked to 20 to 30 citizens about the problem. "They see this as something legitimate" and something they would sup-

port, he said. "We've always had a volunteer fire department. Kilmarnock's location gives savings to taxpayers on insurance. It's time for the town to step up."

Smith said the finance committee will discuss the issue at its Friday, December 3, meeting and make a recommendation at the next town council meeting.

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to attend

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