

# Rappahannock Record

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www.rrecord.com

## Stimulus funds rescue budget

by Starke Jett

HEATHSVILLE—New developments, including word that Northumberland schools will receive over \$325,000 in federal stimulus funds, relieved budget concerns this week for school officials, county supervisors and county taxpayers.

School superintendent Clint Stables said Tuesday that he had received confirmation that the division will receive \$326,529 in federal stimulus funds.

"We thought that may not come through," said Stables, "but we got all that confirmed. We are very happy that we don't have to change anything. There won't be any pay increases, but we won't have any layoffs or cuts in any programs."

In another development, county administrator Kenneth Eades said the state legislated 5 percent reduction in the professional Virginia Retirement System rate, from 18 to 13 percent, translated into about a \$350,000 savings for the school division.

Those savings and the stimulus funds make up for most of the predicted shortfall in the \$15.4 million school budget recently adopted.

At the public hearing on the school budget, citizens indicated they did not want any school programs cut, although the division would be receiving substantially less state funding. A shortfall of more than \$700,000 was expected to require cuts, or an

BUDGET, continued on page A2



## Festivities mark opening day



Above from left, Hank Foiles, John Grubb and Jim Coates throw out the first pitches in unison last Saturday to start Lancaster County Little League's 2010 season. Foiles, Grubb and Coates are former Major League Baseball players. The three were introduced at the opening day ceremonies, which also included the induction of the new Northern Neck Wall of Fame members.

From left, Francesca Wilson and Aline Johnson look to the sky as fireworks and planes fly overhead during the National Anthem at opening day of the Lancaster County Little League. Wilson and Johnson play Minor League softball. Photos by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

See the story on the Sports page  
See the slideshow at RRecord.com

## Town slates to be filled on May 4

LANCASTER—Elections in Lancaster County's three incorporated towns will be held Tuesday, May 4.

In Kilmarnock, Mayor Dr. Curtis Smith is seeking re-election. He is challenged by Raymond Booth.

Five candidates are vying for three council seats in Kilmarnock. Two appointees to council in 2009, Howard Straughan and Randy Moubray, are seeking election. The three others on the ballot are Shawn Donahue, Otis Polk Sr. and William L. Smith.

In White Stone, incumbent Lloyd B. Hubbard will run unopposed for mayor. Four candidates are seeking three seats on council. They are incumbents Randy Reeves and Lee Anne Washington along with S. Joseph Sliakis and Irving T. Brittingham.

In Irvington, three candidates filed for three council seats. Incumbent Dr. Robert Westbrook is seeking re-election. Jerry S. Latell, who was appointed to council last month, and R. Wayne Nunnally are the other candidates.

The office of mayor in Irvington is not on the ballot this year.

Candidates in contested races recently were asked three questions by the Rappahannock Record. Their responses appear on pages A6 and A7.

### Meet and greet

Meanwhile, the Kilmarnock Inn announced it will host a "Meet and Greet" session among candidates seeking office in Kilmarnock and all registered voters of the town.

The social gathering will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 27. Both candidates seeking election to mayor will be attending, and all candidates for council seats have been invited, according to the innkeepers.

There will be refreshments and a cash bar. Those planning to attend are urged to RSVP by Monday, April 26.

## Going to the well: Can the same water source serve Kilmarnock, Bluff Point?

by Audrey Thomasson

KILMARNOCK—The town council on Monday expressed concern over the vulnerability of the aquifer system supplying the town's water should Northumberland County approve a 630-unit development just two miles from Kilmarnock.

According to town manager Tom Saunders, the proposed Bluff Point planned unit development (PUD) would pull 200,000 gallons of water a day from the aquifer.

"To give you an idea of the amount, Kilmarnock's average daily use is 200,000 gallons," Saunders told council members. He expressed concern about the capacity of the aquifer to supply enough water to meet everyone's needs. "There is no scientific data to base a projection," he added. "We just don't know, but we would like to get ahead of this rather than wait until problems occur."

Council agreed to ask Northumberland County officials to require the developer, Tom Dingleline, to test the capacity and transmissivity of the aquifer and to allow the town time to analyze the results "in light of the potential negative impact on the town's wells and water system" before granting a permit or special exception.

Utility extensions

Following the advice of the water and sewer committee, council voted 5-0 to provide water and sewer service to a proposed development on Boys Camp Road. The approval came with conditions that the subdivision, which is outside town limits, comply with the county's comprehensive plan and is granted a permit.

The developer, John Davis of the engineering firm KDL Group, will be required to pay all costs associated with installing utility lines as well as connection fees at out-of-town rates. The conditions also require Davis to put in writing his proffer to pay an additional \$5,000 per lot toward

capital improvements of the utility system. Some 108 lots are anticipated in the development.

Council also agreed the town will take responsibility for replacing existing water lines to the Venable Street neighborhood and extending the line to Mercer Apartments, a new 16-unit complex being developed behind St. Andrews Church off Route 200.

At last month's meeting, Bill Warren of Partners for Lancaster Schools Foundation suggested allowing the foundation's contractors to install the water lines in exchange for relief on connection fees. The request was made because of concerns that the town could not install the lines by the project's completion in July 2011.

"The town was uncomfortable with having a private contractor and developer lay a bunch of new lines and disrupting service to existing customers," Saunders said. He assured Warren the town will have the work completed within their time frame.

## \$1.25 million capital improvement plan headed to Lancaster supervisors

LANCASTER—Following a public hearing last Thursday, the Lancaster planning commission members voted 6-0 to recommend \$1.25 million for the county's five-year capital improvement budget, including \$304,308 for the fiscal period starting July 1.

"You did a good job. I appreciate it," said Charlie Costello of Merry Point, the only citizen to comment on the budget.

First-year projects include \$14,000 for a commercial dishwasher at the county jail, \$125,000 for a generator at the emergency shelter at the middle school, \$35,821 to replace the fire alarm system at the primary school, \$12,837 to replace worn carpeting at the Department of Social Services and \$58,000 to replace brick mortar at the historic jail and clerk's office of the Mary Ball Washington Museum.

Conditional approval was given to a \$58,650 expenditure for a generator at the high school. Members acknowledged the need for a generator, but questioned the size and cost requested by the school district.

District 2 member Glendon Pinn Jr. did not attend Thursday's meeting.

The county board of supervisors is expected to hold a public hearing May 27 on the capital improvement program budget.



From left are Robbie Spiers, Jenny O'Shaughnessy and Kenny Flester.

## O'Shaughnessy is awarded major music scholarship at state band performance

For the second year in a row, Lancaster High School, and the Northern Neck was represented at The All-Virginia High School Band. Jenny O'Shaughnessy, clarinetist and Lancaster High School Band member, was selected again for this honor.

"This band is very hard to be selected to. This involves every school in the state, big and small," said LHS band director Robbie Spiers. "When you think about how many band kids there are in the entire state public school system, it just blows your mind that we have one of the best here in our school."

In February, O'Shaughnessy participated in auditions at James Madison University. There she prepared a difficult etude, and played her memorized scales. The last requirement was sight reading, where she had 30 seconds to look at an unfamiliar selection, and then play it for three judges. She made the All State band, as the sixth chair clarinetist.

On April 8, O'Shaughnessy and band directors Kenny Flester and Robbie Spiers attended the three-day event at Great Bridge High School in Chesapeake. Two days were spent rehearsing and on April 10, The Virginia All-State

Symphonic Band presented a concert under the direction of Dr. David Waybright, director of bands at University of Florida.

"The All State band was another great experience and a good way to finish off my senior year at Lancaster High School," said O'Shaughnessy. "It was awesome to work with the conductor from University of Florida, as well as the other top musicians in the state."

She will continue her study of the clarinet as a music major next year at the University of Colorado, where she was recently accepted into the clarinet studio with other top clarinetists from around the country.

O'Shaughnessy also was awarded the Sidney Berg Scholarship, a \$2,000 prize given to the best player in the state who plans to pursue a music major. The scholarship is awarded by the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association.

"I was so proud of Jenny and of our little community which was represented so well at such a high level," said Spiers. "Jenny has truly been a huge asset to our program and I am fortunate to have had her in my band."



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### THIS WEEK ONLINE:

#### Lancaster Little League Season Opens

See family fun at Dreamfields in a slideshow at RRecord.com. Festivities include Northern Neck Wall of Fame inductions, opening ceremonies, sandlot skills competition and ballgames.

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Robert D. Mason Jr., Editor  
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**How to reach us:**  
To reach members of the staff, dial the  
main phone number, 435-1701, and  
then the employee's extension when  
prompted, or use the e-mail address.

**Newsroom Staff:**  
Robert D. Mason Jr., Editor  
extension 25, editor@rrecord.com  
Lisa Hinton-Valdighi  
extension 23, lvaldighi@rrecord.com  
Audrey Thomasson  
extension 22, athomasson@rrecord.com  
Starke Jett  
extension 28, sjett@rrecord.com  
William R. Fix, copy editor  
extension 24, editor@rrecord.com

**Advertising Staff:**  
Sara Amis, Manager  
extension 13, saramis@rrecord.com  
K.C. Troise  
extension 19, mail@rrecord.com  
Marilyn Bryant  
extension 11, marilyn@rrecord.com  
Joanna Marchetti  
extension 15, joanna@rrecord.com

**Production Staff:**  
(address e-mail to mail@rrecord.com)  
Wayne Smith, Manager  
extension 26, wayne@rrecord.com  
Sarah Bowis  
extension 17, sarah@rrecord.com  
Susan Simmons  
extension 18, simmons@rrecord.com  
Joan Ramsay-Johnson, extension 17  
Gloria Bosher, extension 17  
Brenda Burtner, extension 16

**Publishing/Business Staff:**  
Frederick A. Gaskins, President  
extension 20, fgaskins@rrecord.com  
Bettie Lee Gaskins, Treasurer  
extension 21, bigaskins@sensitel.com  
Kate Oliver, CPA, Accounts payable  
extension 21, koliver@rrecord.com  
Kim Kent, Accounts manager  
extension 14, ardesk@rrecord.com  
Ann Shelton, Accounts manager  
extension 12, mail@rrecord.com

**Subscriptions:**  
Anna Ticer, Circulation manager  
extension 16, circulation@rrecord.com

# Rep. Wittman launches re-election campaign

by Starke Jett

LANCASTER—Incumbent Rep. Rob Wittman launched his First District re-election campaign April 19 on the steps of the Lancaster County courthouse. He told the audience of more than 75 supporters that he is committed to changing the way Washington does business.

"We cannot spend our way to prosperity," said Wittman. "We must provide fertile ground for entrepreneurship and pay down the national debt. It is time to get back to fundamentals, basic math."

To repeated rounds of

applause, Wittman stressed his message of reducing government spending, eliminating unwanted government regulation and increasing financial accountability. He said that he felt like the coming election in November will be a referendum on the policy direction of the current administration.

"Collectively we will make a change in Washington," he said. "I want to make sure the ownership of our government goes back to you."

Wittman faces a primary challenge from Irvington resident Catherine Crabill. She recently secured the 1,500 signatures necessary to have her

name placed on the Republican ballot in June. At a local Tea Party meeting last month she said she is running to replace the "ineffective" leadership in Congress.

Wittman had no comment on her election bid other than to say, "We will be running as hard as we can go."

The Republican candidate will also face a Democratic challenger in November. Crystal Ball of Stafford County may have secured the party nomination several weeks ago when her opponent, Scott Robinson, dropped out of the race. The Democratic primary convention is May 8.



Rep. Rob Wittman seeks support from Lancaster County voters.



This is all that remains of a home in Weems recently destroyed by fire, forcing Sarah and Sherman Sutton to seek shelter elsewhere. Donations to the family can be made through the White Stone Church of the Nazarene in the name of the grandparents, Jimmy and Tammy Revere.

## House fires displace two families

by Starke Jett

WEEMS—Recent house fires have displaced two families in Northumberland and Lancaster counties.

There were no injuries in either incident. However, a family of six—two adults and four children—lost everything when their individual manufactured home near Weems burned to the ground.

Sarah and Sherman Sutton and their four children, Alyza, 3, Laura, 4, Elizabeth, 6, and Xavier, 8, were fortunate to avoid the fire. It started about 2 a.m. on Sunday, April 11. Sherman Sutton was home alone at the time and was able to escape the fire, according to his father-in-law, Jimmy Revere.

Six units from the Kilmarnock and White Stone volunteer fire departments responded to the blaze, but there was not much they could do to save the small structure or its contents, according to Kilmarnock fire chief Benny Balderson. He said the structure was already burned down when

he arrived. Fire fighters remained on the scene for several hours to keep the blaze contained.

"It was gone," said Balderson. "That place was like a match box."

Another structure fire in Ophelia on Tuesday, April 13, in the mid morning, was not as severe as the Weems fire. But Penny and Bob Marsh also will be displaced from their home for seven months or more, while fire damage to the second story is repaired.

It was a short circuit in an electrical outlet in an upstairs closet that started the fire, according to Fairfield's Volunteer Fire Department chief Phillip Keyser.

Marsh attempted to extinguish the fire, but the flames got into the roof area. Units from Fairfield and Callao responded to the scene and were able to contain the fire to the second story of the house although there was smoke damage to both floors.

"God was all over this," said Penny Marsh several days after the damage to her home. "Once I saw my husband was okay, I said the rest is just stuff. It could have been much worse."

The Marshes were insured, but the Suttons were not. The Marshes will rebuild and are renting a neighbor's house to be "close to the situation," according to Penny Marsh. The Sutton

family is staying with Tammy and Jimmy Revere. Both families received assistance from the local American Red Cross chapters.

River Counties chapter health and safety coordinator Beth Robins said the Suttons received food, clothing and three nights stay in a local motel.

Northumberland chapter director Shirley Grant said the Marshes received "minimal assistance" because they were able to get help from their neighbors. Grant and Keyser said there haven't been any other significant structure fires in Northumberland in the last month or so.

"We've been real fortunate," said Grant.

Robins said the River Counties chapter has responded to 11 fires in four counties since January 1. Three of those fires were in Lancaster County. She said the last fire was in March and was also a trailer fire in the Weems area. The others were in Richmond, Middlesex and Westmoreland counties.

## The Agenda

Local Government News

LANCASTER—The Lancaster board of supervisors will conduct a public hearing Thursday, April 29, to consider an application for special exception from Jacqueline Gibson.

Gibson seeks authorization to place an individual manufactured home on a 1.339-acre parcel on Buzzards Neck Road near the intersection of River Ridge Road.

The hearing will begin at 7 p.m. in the General District Courtroom of Lancaster court house.

## Budget

continued from page A1

increase in local funding. Stables had requested a property tax increase to cover the deficit.

Eades now predicts, "We will be able to have a balanced budget with no tax increases."

The overall proposed county budget is \$33,520,118. Over \$3 million goes to each of the public safety and health departments. Nearly \$1.5 million is slated for administration costs and slightly over \$750,000 for judicial costs. Another \$1.2 million goes to public works.

The revised school budget is \$15,126,850, reflecting the lower retirement account payments. The proposed property tax rate will remain the same as last year at \$ .40 per \$100 of assessed value.

A public hearing April 29 will address the proposed county budget, including the school portion. The hearing will begin at 7 p.m. in the General District courtroom at the courts building in Heathsville. The county budget could be officially approved as early as May 6, at the next regular supervisor's meeting.

## Crabill is certified to seek nomination

IRVINGTON—Catherine Crabill of Irvington has been certified to seek the Republican nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives from Virginia's first Congressional District.

Mrs. Crabill collected more than 1,400 signatures for her nomination. She will face incumbent Rep. Rob Wittman in the Republican primary June 8.

As a member of the 99th District Tea Party and the Lancaster County Republican Committee, Crabill has said she will not put loyalty to a party ahead of loyalty to the nation. Her support and belief in the Constitution's original intent as a bastion against tyranny runs throughout her platform.

"We must consider the facts as they are presented to us. We are faced with overwhelming evidence that we are in a fight for the very survival of our nation," said Crabill. "All incumbents who have failed to use their positions of authority, and their commitments to their Sacred Oaths of Office, to uphold and defend the Constitution, have proven that they are not fit to serve. In fact, these men and women have contributed to the great crisis we find ourselves in today."

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## The Haven helps to establish a Sexual Assault Response Team

WARSAW—The month of April is nationally known as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

In 2009, The Haven initiated efforts to assist local Commonwealth's attorneys in achieving Virginia's sexual assault response requirements, according to The Haven's sexual assault program coordinator Susan McGlenn.

In January 2010, Ruth Micklem assumed the position of community response advocate for The Haven. A former co-director of The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, Micklem has been working closely with Commonwealth's attorneys in The Haven's five-county service area assisting them in the establishment of written protocols for a multi-disciplinary team response to sexual assault within their respective communities, said McGlenn.

The anticipated goal of these efforts is that a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) will be implemented within an area county, she said. A SART is a group of community allied professionals who work to coordinate an immediate victim-centered response to sexual violence. The priority of a SART is to effectively and collaboratively address the medical and emotional needs of sexual assault victims while also meeting the evidentiary prosecutorial needs of the criminal justice system.

April is the ideal time to address issues relative to the needs of sexual assault victims, said McGlenn. Please help The Haven during the month of April, as well as year round, to raise awareness concerning sexual violence and its impact upon the community.

To get involved, call The Haven at 333-1099.

## LANCASTER COUNTY CRIME SOLVERS

Lancaster County Crime Solvers seeks information regarding the breaking and entering of a residence at 3512 Windmill Point Road in White Stone prior to 7 a.m. on April 8, 2010. The side door to the garage was broken and entry was made to the garage area.

A Kubota tractor and loader was removed from the garage. This is a tractor with loader attached LA482, orange in color.

The person or persons who took the tractor used a ramp to load it onto a trailer or large truck.

Anyone who saw a vehicle with a trailer at that home is urged to call Lancaster County Crime Solvers at 462-7463. You could receive a reward up to \$1,000 if your information is useful to the officers.

Your call will not be recorded and you will not have to appear in court.

## SHERIFFS' REPORTS

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

**Felonies**  
William S. Riley, 20, of Weems Road was charged April 14 on a direct indictment from the multijurisdictional drug grand jury with two counts each of manufacture/sale/possession of illegal narcotics and conspiracy to violate the drug control act (4 felonies).

Purcell O. Owens, 41, of Starling Place was charged April 14 with felony violation of probation.

Herman E. Turner, 29, an inmate at the Middle Peninsula Regional Security Center in Saluda, was charged April 15 with felony violation of probation.

**Misdemeanors**  
A Washington Street woman, 31, was charged April 14 with assault and battery and destruction of property.

A Western Branch Road man, 50, was charged April 16 with contempt of court.

A Roseneath Avenue man, 19, was charged April 18 with violation of a protective order.

**Activity report**

**April 13:** Staff responded to a trespass complaint on Howards Lane, to a domestic disturbance involving a woman with a gun in the 2000 block of Morattico Road and to a disturbance call in the 800 block of Nuttsville Road. Staff checked on the well-being of a Regina Road resident at the request of a concerned out-of-town family member.

**April 14:** Staff responded to a domestic disturbance/destruction of property call in the 100 block of Chestnut Grove Lane.

**April 15:** Staff received a credit card fraud report from a Rose Drive resident and a report of the destruction of several mailboxes at the end of Taylors Creek Road. Staff responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Chestnut Point Road and to Peake Drive on a stolen firearm complaint (complainant cancelled call when he located the firearm).

**April 16:** Staff responded to a hit-and-run accident on the Robert O. Norris Jr. bridge, with the Kilmarnock Police Department (KPD) to a disorderly conduct complaint in the 100 block of Harris Road, to a suspicious vehicle complaint on Taylors Creek Road, to a fight call on Twin Branch Road and to a suspicious vehicle complaint on Redwood Lane.

**April 17:** Staff responded to a fight call with shots fired on Chestnut Grove Lane, to an E911 disconnect call on High Bank Road (no emergency services needed, telephone

line problem), with KPD to a trespass complaint on School Street, to a larceny of a bicycle complaint in the 1200 block of Merry Point Road, to a suspicious/abandoned vehicle complaint on Davis Mill Road and to a prowler complaint on Chesapeake Drive. Staff checked on the well-being of two Keep Safe program participants after prearranged telephone contact could not be made (no emergency services needed).

**April 18:** Staff responded to a fight call in the 600 block of North Main Street, to a traffic complaint on Oak Hill Road, to a domestic disturbance in the 7300 block of River Road and to a suspicious vehicle complaint on Rocky Neck Road.

**April 19:** Staff responded to a walk-in complaint of an abandoned/disabled vehicle at the Hickory Hollow Nature Trail and to a single-vehicle accident on Christ Church Road.

The sheriff's staff also conducted 14 traffic stops, issued four summonses, assisted four motorists, investigated four business alarms, transported three inmates and handled two calls for animal control service.

**Fire calls**  
The White Stone Volunteer Fire Department responded to a tractor fire on White Fences Drive. The Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department and Fairfield's Volunteer Fire Department responded to a chimney fire on Mill Creek Lane.

**Northumberland County Sheriff Chuck Wilkins** last week brought misdemeanor charges against five individuals.

A Heathsville man, 26, was charged April 12 with failure to appear in the Circuit Court.

A Callao man, 45, was charged April 16 with driving while intoxicated.

A Richmond man, 65, was charged April 17 with driving while intoxicated.

A Baltimore man, 31, was charged April 18 with failure to appear in the General District Court.

A Weems man, 30, was charged April 18 with driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.



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From left are Tom Groh, YMCA co-director of development Donna McGrath, Mark Favazza, Lisa Shivers, Eska Beckstoffer, Jason Tesauro, Amy Newman and Amy Groh.

## 'unCorked!' deemed a success

KILMARNOCK—The Northern Neck Family YMCA's mission of building strong communities was embraced recently by guests at "unCorked!" the YMCA's 2010 fund-raising event benefitting the Guardian Program.

The winemaker's dinner at the Tides Inn raised more than \$45,000 for the program and otherwise exceeded expectations on all levels, said co-development director Susan Johnson.

The event included cuisine by chef TV Flynn, wine from Barboursville Vineyards, service by the Tides Inn, showmanship by Jason Tesauro of Barboursville and floral arrangements by Johanna Carrington of Fresh Flowers.

"The compassion of this community is incredible," said event chairman Eska Beckstoffer. "Ninety-nine percent of the attendees gave above and beyond the ticket price. This community clearly sees the need for the programs and services the YMCA provides and gives from the heart to help us deliver them."

Leading the charge are Tom

and Amy Groh, proprietors of Specials in Kilmarnock and longtime YMCA supporters, Johnson said. Amy Groh is a YMCA board of management member, and a volunteer for "unCorked!" and the Festival of the Trees committees.

"The Grohs' dedication to the YMCA's mission is unbelievable," Beckstoffer said. "Year after year, they donate their time, talent and treasure, often in creative ways. In addition to their many volunteer hours throughout the year, the Grohs hosted a benefit sale at Specials in March for the second year in a row; held a drawing for a wine cooler;

hosted a pre-event wine tasting; participated in "unCorked's" boutique; purchased a live auction item and made a generous donation to our fund-an-item."

"We also had wonderful support from our sponsors," said branch executive Mark Favazza. "Sponsor support is crucial to the success of our fund-raisers and Chesapeake Bank and the Bank of Lancaster support us every year. Without the commitment and support of these banks and of people like the Grohs, our YMCA would not have the ability to continue its outreach programs to the many that need them."

## NEWS BREAK

### Judicial nomination

Sen. Jim Webb and Sen. Mark Warner welcomed President Barack Obama's nomination of John A. Gibney of Richmond to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. The two Senators recommended Gibney's appointment to the White House last September.

Gibney, a partner in the Richmond law firm Thompson-McMullan since 2003, has practiced law for more than three decades in state and federal courts in the Commonwealth.



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**Time: 3 - 7 pm**

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*-Gladys Bing*

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## NEWS BREAK

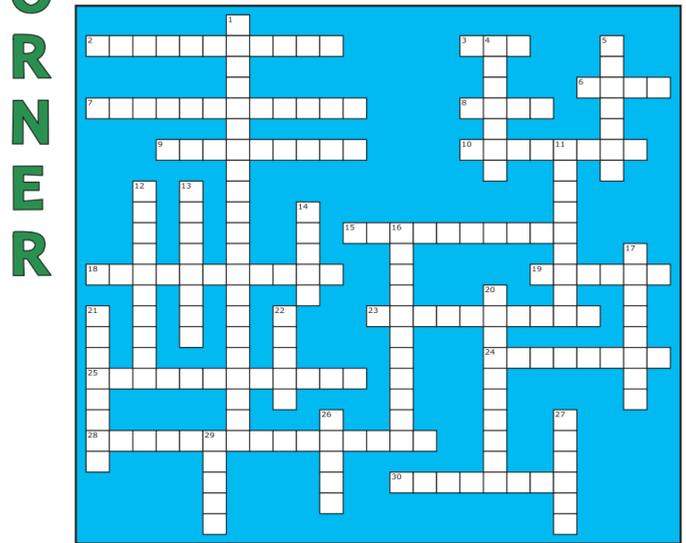
### Pothole blitz

Gov. Bob McDonnell recently announced that from March 1 through April 15 Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) crews patched more than 150,000 potholes statewide. Gov. McDonnell directed VDOT to launch its pothole blitz and focus efforts on patching the thousands of potholes resulting from the winter's harsh weather.

Continued wet conditions in March resulted in even more pavement deterioration and prompted the extension of the pothole blitz for two more weeks. Citizens can continue to report potholes and roadway hazards to speed response time and improve safety. To report a pothole, citizens should visit VirginiaDOT.org, or call 800-367-7623.

## CHAMBER Crossword

Test Your Knowledge...Merchants of Kilmarnock



### Across

- 2 The fork and spoon are outside this restaurant every day
- 3 Initials of the nonprofit that recently relocated to Main Street
- 6 This eatery is now in its 3rd generation
- 7 BBQ that used to be smokin'
- 8 Get your cruise wear here
- 9 The place with the "shoe hotline"
- 10 This "American" insurance company is located in an old bank building
- 15 Street that hosts First Friday WalkAbout bands
- 18 What this "cuisine" will do for you
- 19 Jewelry home of the "Bay Gems" Collection
- 23 Get your picture taken at this studio
- 24 Where to get your appliances and propane
- 25 Who's in the movie theater?
- 28 This eatery is on the location of Steptoe's Ordinary
- 30 Local lighting company

### Down

- 1 This firm could be named after the bay & a moon
- 4 The Triangle Trolley stops in front of this store
- 5 Our newspaper's website
- 11 You can build a doll here
- 12 Antiques, Collectibles but no wheels in this former bike shop
- 13 They're anything but ordinary
- 14 Real Estate office downtown
- 16 Get your fashionable eyeglasses here
- 17 Located in the old post office
- 20 This pharmacy is named for its location
- 21 Something for the child in everyone
- 22 Bank of Lancaster's mascot
- 26 How many "stars" are at this grocery store?
- 27 It's the "good" nachos place
- 29 At this big red building, you can get these in every size, shape & color imaginable

Correct answers will be posted in next week's paper

THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE SPONSORED BY: **Town of Kilmarnock**

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:  
ACROSS: 5-WHITE TAIL, 6-DOGWOOD, 7-EAGLE, 8-BORWITHE, 11-DAFFODIL, 12-CARDINAL, 13-SKUNK CABBAGE, 16-SOFTSHELL, 18-SPAT, 19-OSPREY  
DOWN: 1-SOOK, 2-CHOKER, 3-VIRGINIACREPER, 4-JIMMY, 8-BLACKSNAKE, 9-REDCEDAR, 10-GROUNDHOG, 14-AZALEA, 15-ROCKFISH, 17-SNAPPER



**Upcoming Chamber Events:**  
FIRST FRIDAY WALKABOUTS BEGIN MAY 7TH 5-8PM - FIRST FRIDAY CELEBRATES FIRST RESPONDERS  
CHAMBER AFTER HOURS RECEPTION MAY 20TH 5:30-7PM  
COMMONWEALTH ASSISTED LIVING, KILMARNOCK  
FARMERS MARKET MAY 22ND 9AM-1PM - \*CORVETTES-N-CARROTS\*

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## Focal Point



This squirrel was caught leaping from branch to branch while building a nest in a backyard tree.

Submitted by John Tullner of Ditchley

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.

### A waste of taxpayers' money

One of the most frustrating things in this time of personal and governmental belt tightening is seeing a project that is a waste of taxpayers' money. The widening of Devil's Bottom Road is a waste of taxpayers' money.

Devil's Bottom Road in Lancaster County is a tiny, narrow and winding road that carries an average 346 cars per day. It is technically a "short cut" between Kilmarnock and Merry Point, but it only saves a few minutes versus the "long way." Very few people live on the part of the road to be repaired.

Since it is a secondary road, upgrades are Lancaster County's responsibility and the issue of whether to upgrade has been around a long time. The cost to repair and upgrade the two-mile section is just over \$3 million. The cost to rebuild is high due to wetlands and the fact the road is being redesigned to newer standards.

In 2002, the board of supervisors rationalized the work on Devil's Bottom by saying they couldn't spend secondary road money on primary roads where there was clearly a more pressing need. In 2003, I sponsored HB1447 so that counties could spend their money on primary roads. The bill became law July 1, 2003.

The \$3 million which Lancaster may soon spend on widening Devil's Bottom could be spent on widening Route 3, which has more than 10,000 cars a day. It could be spent on a study for

replacement of the Rappahannock River Bridge.

Due to unrelated issues, the Devil's Bottom project languished. I put in another bill in 2008, House Bill 6016, to make clear to Virginia Department of Transportation engineers that improvements to secondary roads do not have to be the standard with which a new road would be built. The bill became law.

So, under this bill, if VDOT is straightening curves on a country road that is 20 feet wide, it doesn't need to rebuild the road to be 40 feet wide the way a new road would be built.

The issues have recently been brought back up by the county, but for some reason, despite HB 6016, the price tag to rebuild Devil's Bottom is still more than a million dollars per mile.

VDOT, by law, has to improve secondary roads if a county chooses to spend its road money that way, but that doesn't mean it's right. In this economy, there is simply no way to rationalize spending \$3 million to "improve" a two-mile stretch of road that only carries an average 346 cars per day.

Think about it this way: if you charged each one of those 346 cars a "toll" of \$5 per day, it would take over four years to pay back the principal cost alone of the reconstruction. Since a smart consumer would not pay the extra money, it immediately brings the expenditure into question.

By any other measure, this is simply a waste of taxpayers' money.

## The Congressional Report

by Rep. Rob Wittman

Last week I traveled to Afghanistan and Pakistan to thank our troops for their service and to meet with the commander of U.S. and Allied forces, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, and President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I believe it is important to meet with commanders and troops on the ground involved in combat operations to fully understand the situation. After visiting, I feel very optimistic about the continued American efforts in Afghanistan and our partnership with Pakistan.

Joining me on the trip were Senators Tom Carper, Tom Udall, John Ensign

and Scott Brown. I enjoyed traveling with them and was proud to be part of the delegation. Traveling with the senators was a valuable experience which allowed me to gain perspective and better appreciate the issues our nation faces around the globe.

While traveling, I met military service members and civilians deployed overseas, some of whom were from the Commonwealth. It was an honor to be with them and to personally thank the soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and civilians for the tremendous sacrifice they are making for us. To those with loved ones or family members currently serving at home or abroad, please accept my sincerest appreciation for the

sacrifices you also make each day to our nation.

All the troops we visited had extraordinarily high morale and they were optimistic about their mission, which I believe is reflective of the current military leadership and successes we are seeing in Afghanistan. It is truly a humbling experience to be with the troops on the ground and see the courage, tenacity, and dedication they demonstrate daily. As I have said before, I remain committed to ensuring we fully fund our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq to provide our service members with the resources they need to win.

Throughout the trip, I was able to see first-hand some of the tremendous

progress that we are making in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and some of the challenges we face.

We met with world leaders and high-level U.S. and foreign military officials throughout the trip. A few of these were Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. Commander in Afghanistan; Ambassador Eikenberry, the top U.S. Diplomat in Afghanistan; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; and President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani of Pakistan. Gen. McChrystal was extremely insightful. He defined success in Afghanistan as the time and space to build and maintain a workable and effective government.

We spent more than an hour with

President Karzai and asked many questions. Despite recent strained relations, I left feeling much better about the alliance between the U.S. and Afghanistan. During my meetings in Pakistan, the president and prime minister made it clear they want to strengthen the relationship with the U.S. beyond the efforts to combat terrorism.

I also kept a journal of my meetings and travels so I could keep you informed. Next week, I will update my website daily with those journal entries. Visit [wittman.house.gov](http://wittman.house.gov) to read them. To view this week's Senate press conference where I discuss the trip, visit [c-spanarchives.org/program/id/222431](http://c-spanarchives.org/program/id/222431).

## YOUR LETTERS

### Booth endorsement A third party is growing

We would like to voice our support for Raymond Booth for mayor of Kilmarnock. We have known Raymond for many years. The town can use his experience in business to make sure Kilmarnock does everything possible to tighten its belt and curb expenses rather than increase our taxes or fees for water.

Mr. Booth has vigorously reached out to our community to give them the promise of openness to let their voices be heard. He will listen and when he votes will vote the will of the people.

He is against the propane storage facility. He voted against it in the planning commission and has urged the council to turn it down. The proposed site is a bad fit near our hospital, the YMCA and other businesses and residents. The will of the people is to have it built somewhere else and he sees that. Where is there a worse place it could be built than where it has been proposed?

Mr. Booth feels that funds set aside for town projects should be left alone and used for the projects for which they were intended, and not to cover overruns of expenses of our regular budget. As citizens we have to follow prudent budget practices and the town should follow these same responsible practices using our money.

Mr. Booth is for promoting the businesses in town and extending our services with water beyond our town boundaries to lower our cost of usage in town.

It's time to move forward while cutting out waste and setting better guidelines for our town to follow and being hands on in management.

We urge you to vote for Raymond Booth as the next mayor of Kilmarnock.

It's not our intention to belittle or discount the value of any of the elected officials of our fine town, but we see the opportunity to use the skills and experience of Raymond Booth to give us, the voters, a better opportunity to have the best the town deserves.

Lynn and Steve Bonner, Kilmarnock

Aesop wrote a parable about a grasshopper and an ant that went something like this:

The ant works hard in the heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter. The grasshopper thinks he's a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away. Come winter, the ant is warm and well fed. The grasshopper has no food or shelter so he either dies out in the cold, or begs and receives humiliating charity from the ant he teased. The results of this parable can take on many endings.

A letter last week says we should all be responsible for the health and welfare of each other. I agree. The author says everyone should be able to get health care in this country. I agree.

What I disagree with the author about is the source of health care currently on the books. Everyone should have a Christian feeling of responsibility and try and help his neighbor, but it should be his or her choice, not an enforcement of law.

Everyone without healthcare is not a grasshopper. They may find themselves in a tough position through no fault of their own. But I believe the majority of people in that position never really tried to secure their future. I also do not believe that anyone in America would want an insurance company to drop someone because of a family history of an illness.

The author of that letter wrote that people proclaim "freedom and rights, but no responsibility." I do not see "responsibility" as one of the articles. Responsibility is something everyone should take seriously, and most do, but not everyone. I bet if you look and really did a study, the majority of those in need of help never took much responsibility in their lives.

I do not believe there is a significant number of people in this country who think health care is perfect the way it is, but I see 66 percent do not believe the current version is the answer to the problem and that up to 58 percent believe it should be repealed. Come on, can't we find some middle ground?

Thomas Jefferson said, "I think we have more machinery of gov-

ernment than is necessary, too many parasites living on the labors of the industrious." He wrote that over 300 years ago in a struggling democracy. What would he think of the massive government machine we have now?

The author of the letter implies the problem is the fault of the Republicans. I think there is enough fault to spread to all parties. As in the past in America, the rise of a third political party is growing everyday. Pay attention to the election results coming in the fall as the party in control thinks they have a free hand in everything and that the rallies of the Tea Party are just racist and extremes on the right. The ranks are growing just as they have in past history.

Jackson Neal, Christchurch School

### Clean it up

May will soon be here and once again there is much too much trash everywhere. I do not understand how people can be such slobs.

Can some of you people who do not care about your county start having better habits? Do you really like seeing paper, bottles, plastic and various other forms of trash here, there and everywhere? Are you proud of adding to the problem?

You cost us all extra in taxes as VDOT has to pick up some of it.

I have always found VDOT pleasant to talk to and very obliging. However, who they hired to plow is only costing more money. One time they plowed on our street (the snow was all gone so there was no snow to plow) but they plowed anyway as much as three feet from the road, leaving piles of dirt, grass and leaves to be cleaned up.

Never have I seen such a lousy plowing job. A ten-year-old could have done better. Then to top it off it happened again and made it worse.

I have made VDOT aware of it and they told me they have 40 streets to clean up after the plows, which of course is costing money they do not have. We will fix our own because it will be a long time before they come here.

Carolyn Reed, White Stone

More letters, page A8

## Excerpts

by Henry Lane Hull

Last week I described some of the places we visited in England over spring break from school. This week I shall conclude with some thoughts about the sites in London that constitute the "essential city," in other words, the places that I think every visitor should see. My good wife and I have traveled to Britain a number of times, but this trip was to engage the two B.E.s in understanding the basics.

London has been important in all phases of British articulate history. From pre-Roman to Roman, medieval, Renaissance, Georgian, Victorian and modern times, the city has been at the heart of British history. What follows is a brief encapsulation of the key places over that time span.

First off, the British Museum is perhaps the greatest repository of artifacts and relics from the classical period of history. We spent time in the presence of the Rosetta Stone, that unique piece of basalt that contains the same inscription written in Egyptian hieroglyphics, Demotic and Greek. In 1798, Napoleon's soldiers found it in the city of Rashid, Rosetta, and using it in 1822, Jean Francois Champollion opened the way for modern scholars to be able to read the ancient Egyptian language.

In the adjoining room, the fruits of Lord Elgin's negotiations with the Turkish authorities who controlled Greece two centuries ago put one in immediate touch with the greatest sculptures of the Hellenic Parthenon, namely the frieze sections of the Parthenon in Athens. Ever since he brought the "Marbles" to Eng-

land, controversy has existed as to whether Britain should send them back to Greece. Whatever the merits of such discourse, had he not removed them when he did, today the crispness of their carvings would be lost to modern civilization, as witnessed by the condition of the stones he did not purchase.

A few blocks away is one of the finest house museums in the world, the endowed residence of the English architect Sir John Soane on Lincoln Inns Fields. It is an amalgamation of three 18th-century townhouses that he left to the city upon his death in 1827 as a museum endowed with his personal fortune. The money ran out in 1947 and the museum now receives its funding from governmental appropriations. Sir John collected all manner of historical objects, and used every square inch of his homes for their display. The museum, which is free to visit, is of extraordinary interest in every nook and corner.

Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cath-

edral and Saint Paul's Cathedral are the standard religious tourist sites. The Abbey offers the panorama of a millennium of English history. The Chapel of Henry VII, the first Tudor monarch, puts one in the presence of the most elaborate English Gothic architecture.

Resting there in the same grave ironically are the two half-sisters, Queen Mary I and her successor, Queen Elizabeth I, the daughters of Henry VIII, who hated each other in life.

The graves and monuments of Britain's heroes are replete throughout the nave and chapels, affording the onlooker the opportunity to contemplate the full panoply of England's past. A few blocks away is Westminster Cathedral, appearing architecturally like a transplant from Siena, Italy, and across town rises Saint Paul's Cathedral, Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece with its dome that rises 365 feet.

My good wife and the Younger B.E. climbed to the gallery, while the Elder B.E.

and I contemplated the magnificent early 19th-century monument to Marquis Cornwallis, the inscription of which does not note any happening in which he was involved in the vicinity of Yorktown, Virginia.

A bit farther down the River Thames is the Tower of London, a place where uncountable numbers of ghastly events occurred, and the present home of the Crown Jewels. It sits at the north end of the Tower Bridge that links London to Southwark across the river. On the way back to Kensington, the quarter in which we were staying, we gamboled through the Burlington Arcade, built by the Lord whose name it bears, and still presided over by the uniformed Beadles. It houses some of the most elegant shops in London.

Our visit in passing to the exterior of Buckingham Palace did not include seeing the Changing of the Guard, as we already had observed the ceremony at Windsor Castle, but seeing it at one place or the other is a must. I began with the British Museum, and I shall close with the Victoria and Albert Museum, one of the world's most interactive displays of the historical past. Each exhibit totally projects the visitor into its era. It is a stone's throw from the mammoth Harrod's Department Store, which offers something for everybody, everybody who can afford it, that is.

Next week the finale on London, the places associated with the life of the most famous modern Englishman, Sir Winston Churchill.

# White Stone Town Council candidates respond to questions

The four candidates seeking election to the White Stone Town Council — Irving T. Brittingham, Randy Reeves, S. Joe Sliakis and Lee Ann Washington — were asked earlier this month to respond to three questions submitted by the Rappahannock Record. Here are the questions and their responses:

**1. Why do you want to serve on town council? What work experience and background would you bring to the council? What makes you the most qualified candidate?**

**BRITTINGHAM:** After returning home about three years ago, I wanted to know the direction the town was going and to be a part of the decision process. I love this town and want to give back to the community which is a part of me. I bring years of experience in the management of both people and working budgets from my military service. Most important it's my passion and willingness to serve the citizens of White Stone.

**REEVES:** As a life resident of White Stone and business owner I believe it is important to have council members who understand the needs of residents and business owners of the town. I have had the privilege of serving the town for 28 years as a council member. During my tenure I have served on the Finance, Safety, Building and Grounds Planning, and Zoning committees.

**SLIAKIS:** I have found through service in the military, the work place, and clubs that I have belonged to that the basic fundamental for success is cohesion or working together to solve problems. Our council has a fine group of people who have been doing this for quite some time. I am looking

forward to joining them and helping to prepare our town for modern day matters that are on the horizon as our population grows, and the needs of the town are expanding. I have a personal stake in the future of the town...I have a daughter and young grandson who are residents also. Being a former business owner I do understand the problems they face as they try to be competitive in today's market place.

**WASHINGTON:** White Stone has been home to members of my family for many generations and now it is my home. I grew up in White Stone—riding my bike to Jones Cones, getting groceries from Rom Sanders' store, and testing my driving skills at the four-way stop that was the center of the village.

As a resident and small-business woman, I want White Stone to flourish economically while retaining the small village characteristics that make it a safe and friendly place to raise my daughter. It's a delicate balance — but one well worth the effort.

I bring a deep-seated genetic love of White Stone, legal and business experience, and a parent's point of view to the issues addressed by the White Stone Town Council.

**2. The boundary line adjustment has been an ongoing issue in White Stone. Many residents included in the initial adjustment plan were concerned about what the town would offer them. If you agree with expanding the boundaries, what do you propose would be the benefits to both the town and the new residents. If you do not agree with expanding the town limits, why?**

**BRITTINGHAM:** Extending the boundary line



Irving T. Brittingham



Randy Reeves



S. Joe Sliakis



Lee Ann Washington

enables the town to receive additional funding. One way these additional funds could be used is in the unfortunate event of a natural disaster. If elected, I would encourage the citizens of White Stone to express their opinions to me or other council person. Your opinions matter and the council is your representative.

**REEVES:** I am highly in favor of the boundary line adjustment for the following reasons. The residents and businesses outside the present boundary lines will receive additional protection from the town's police department. The adjustment would also give the residents and businesses a voice to express their options on decisions made in their own community. I know that outside our boundary lines there are residents who would like to be considered residents of the town of White Stone. Our area is known as the southern gateway to the Northern Neck. By adjusting our boundary lines our town would become the gateway to the Northern Neck and a waterfront community.

**SLIAKIS:** Our town boundary lines are outdated. We are in need of a larger tax base. The citizens who live near White Stone boundaries receive many

of the town services, such as law enforcement and fire department services, which is as it should be, but who knows what the future holds...crime is on the rise everywhere. The cost of providing law enforcement may skyrocket. A larger tax base would help alleviate this funding. This granting of a change in town boundaries would not affect the amount of tax of any individual, only the way the tax is distributed.

**WASHINGTON:** I favor the boundary line adjustment to the extent that it defines the boundaries of White Stone by existing geographic boundaries, such as the Rappahannock River. Having the surrounding area under the control of the town will ensure that the rural and village aspects of White Stone are retained.

**3. What are your three most important goals if elected and explain, in detail, how you plan to achieve these goals?**

**BRITTINGHAM:** My primary goal is to ensure that all local laws and ordinances that are voted on benefits the citizens of White Stone as a whole and not just a small group or an individual.

**REEVES:** My major goal is to continue to control our

spending to maintain a balanced budget. In the past the town was blessed to have council members that were financially responsible with the town's assets. Presently town citizens and businesses pay no town taxes. If re-elected it is my goal to continue this trend.

My second goal is the boundary line adjustment. As I have stated above I will continue to work towards this goal.

My third goal is to obtain central sewage for the town of White Stone and surrounding area. I believe this is a must for our business district and residents in town. If White Stone and the surrounding area is to continue growing we need a sewage dispose system that meets state regulations. Currently the town does not have a public restroom facility available for visitors. I think this is an essential for our community.

**SLIAKIS:** 1. We have been blessed with a beautiful county. We have a planning commission that decides how our properties are best used, so as to provide as many benefits as possible to the citizens without infringing on the rights of their neighbors. Zoning is important now, and will become more so in the

future, as our basic amount of land remains the same and the population will increase.

2. We have a good base for small businesses. Many have found their special niche, and perform very well. The strength of any town or city is the health of their business community. I would like to see a strong business association formed to work hand in hand with the council to promote this asset of ours.

3. The country as a whole has suffered a recession. Although we haven't been hit as hard as some areas in the state, the lack of work and layoffs have weakened our tax base. I believe that we must have a period of belt tightening. This means taking care of mandatory needs, and put off any beautification projects until our shaky economy is on the mend. White Stone is a great place to live, let's keep it that way.

**WASHINGTON:** My three most important goals, if re-elected to the White Stone Town Council, will be (1) ensure the safety of its citizens; (2) support reasonable economic activity; and (3) find an attractive and affordable recreational use of the town's property.

# Kilmarnock candidates for mayor respond to questions

The two candidates seeking election as mayor in Kilmarnock — Raymond Booth and Dr. Curtis Smith — were asked earlier this month to respond to three questions submitted by the Rappahannock Record. Here are the questions and the responses:

**1. Why do you want to be mayor? Provide your work experience and the background you will bring to the position. What do you feel makes you the most qualified candidate for mayor?**

**BOOTH:** I am running for the office of mayor because I feel the town is in need of someone who can relate to all people of the town, someone who works in town each day, and who is both personable and accessible to our citizens. First of all, the town is in many ways like a business, providing services and using taxpayer money to do it. Too often, instead of working with existing revenues, town government looks to increase taxes and fees to raise more funds.

I feel we need people in town government like myself, experienced in business and accustomed to working with available revenues. In business, we're unable to raise prices in a bad economy or raise taxes as government does. We have to cut expenses and make our business run leaner in order to be solvent and pay its way.

I think the residents are tired of the same people constantly promising things they can't deliver, or increasing taxes and fees if they do deliver. It's time to put all the cards on the table and finally get things right by making sound spending and management judgments in order that we can all survive the special economic challenges we currently face.

As chairman of the planning commission, I have seen firsthand how the town works and how citizens feel about their local government. I look forward to hearing from both residents and sometime nonresidents at each monthly meeting, where anyone can speak regarding any issue during our public forum or with regard to advertised public hearings. I take seriously the views and comments brought before our board and treat each and every speaker with the respect he or she deserves for being part of the process of government. This service on the planning commission has fostered dialogue which has allowed me to communicate with people not only during our meetings, but also during my daily interactions as I work here in our town. I get phone calls, personal visits, and often hear good ideas. Former Mayor Mike Robertson told me once, "Sometimes it's more important to just listen

than to spend a lot of time talking about what you want to do." I think he had it right, and this is what I try to do each and every day.

**SMITH:** I am passionate about Kilmarnock; it is a great town with a lot to offer. I want to preserve the charm of our past while preparing for the future. I feel we on town council have made great strides towards that end, from the downtown revitalization, the community playground and maintaining a viable municipal water and sewer system.

My pharmacist background plays a big role in my management style. I am responsible for a multi-million dollar budget and a staff of over 25 men and women of varying backgrounds and ethnicity. My goal is to provide the town with the best service while keeping within a balanced annual budget. I know how to work with people and how to treat them with respect.

**2. Ethics are a critical part of elected office. Where do you derive your ethics and how important is it to you to maintain those ethics in office?**

**BOOTH:** One of the fortunate people who can call this area their lifetime home, I was raised on a farm in neighboring Northumberland County. It was then that I learned the values of hard work, honesty, fairness, and the importance of helping others. My current business was spawned from doing lawn work for my grandfather and his sister right here in Kilmarnock where I spent weekends and summers during my youth. I learned that hard work pays and learned the importance of giving people a good job at a fair price. I was taught to always clean my plate, and be thankful for everything I had, and not to be wasteful. My humble upbringing inspired me to strive even harder to be successful during my adult years. I still believe in these values today.

I think many of you have recognized my ethic for hard work both during my service on the planning commission and during this campaign. I will take this same work ethic to the mayor's office. Our town is essentially owned by the taxpayers, who pay taxes to allow its operation. We need to give the residents of this town a good job providing services at a good price, free of excessive taxes and fees. This can be accomplished while conducting town business openly instead of during closed sessions.

We need to listen to the voices of our citizens. For example, an overwhelming majority of our residents do not support the proposed large propane stor-



Raymond Booth



Dr. Curtis Smith

age facility along Harris Road. I agree that it's not a "good fit" for our small town. It doesn't belong among the residential properties, YMCA, hospital, and doctor's offices nearby. It has the potential to render the town's new \$400,000 purchase of property adjacent Technology Park unmarketable. Still, the town council has, I believe, purposely deferred voting on this matter until after the election, and I further believe council is poised to approve this over the negative recommendation of the planning commission. Too often, once elected, our public officials develop the "elite mindset" that they are better able to make decisions for their constituents as opposed to voting the will of the people.

**SMITH:** A major part of the mayor's role is the interaction with the town manager, the staff, citizens and the business community. The mayor also serves as the "bully pulpit" on the council, and interacts with neighboring towns and county boards of supervisors. Ethics plays a pivotal role in gaining trust and cooperation, especially when involved in difficult situations and negotiations. I always remember where ever I am, I represent our town and conduct myself in a professional and courteous manner. As a pharmacist, I was taught the old adage to "first, do no harm" when performing my duties filling prescriptions and physician's orders. Having worked in hospitals over 35 years, I understand the importance of working together with nurses and staff, very much like working with members of town council, to further our town's future. Ethics are central to the job, along with integrity. I believe I have these qualities and maintained them during my last four years as mayor.

**3. What are your three most important goals if elected and explain, in detail, how you plan to achieve these goals?**

**BOOTH:** My three most important goals are fiscal responsibility, reducing costs, and making sure Kilmarnock stays on the cutting edge, keeping it

the business hub of the Northern Neck.

We have a fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers to make sure we use their money wisely to get them the most services for their dollars. Town staff and some council members are already talking about another increase in water and sewer rates. Our current system is producing now only a fraction of its capacity; we need to sell water at premium rates to other homes, businesses, and developments outside of Kilmarnock in order to keep our own rates from climbing. This can be done by reaching out to those who need our water with a long-range plan of bringing them into our system.

Money that is allocated in the capital improvement portion of our budget needs to stay in the area it is allocated and not be moved around, as, for example, not to put scheduled plans for updating our water and sewer system behind schedule. This type of poor planning and failure to upkeep equipment has the potential to again create a sudden need for rate increases.

Finally, the businesses of Kilmarnock pay their fair share of the tax load. We need to do everything we can to promote the town not only in this region but all across the state. We need to reach out to people to have them spend more time in Kilmarnock by advertising our businesses, inns, and restaurants beyond our borders. This can be done collectively and inexpensively by applying new principles of communication.

Throughout the history of our town, our success has always been judged by the opportunities the town has made available to businesses, residents, and to those who wish to relocate here.

As your new mayor, I will work to give you the voice you deserve in your town and will keep open communication with you on all issues. I will maintain an

open door for you to voice your concerns as we face the future together.

**SMITH:** The three most important goals I see for the town of Kilmarnock are:

1. Maintain a balanced budget, not raise residential or business taxes, and endeavor to live within our means. We have been able to do this the last four years and I pledge to work with the next town council to continue this vision.

2. Continue to improve on our water and sewer systems, as these are central to our future growth and prosperity. While our operations are in generally good shape, there are problems we need to address. The town needs to upgrade our sewer pump stations and eventually add another water tower.

3. Jobs. Previous town councils have purchased tracts of land, put in roads and water/sewer infrastructure (such as Harris Road, DMV Drive, and the tech-business park) to stimulate small-business growth and location within our town, providing jobs and improving our tax base. The town is well positioned in obtaining federal and state grants

MAYOR, continued on page A8

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## RE-ELECT Dr. Curtis H. Smith



Mayor of  
Kilmarnock

PAID FOR AND AUTHORIZED BY CURTIS H. SMITH



# Kilmarnock Town Council candidates respond to questions

The five candidates for the Kilmarnock Town Council — Shawn Donahue, Randy Moubray, Otis Polk Sr., William L. Smith and Howard Straughan — were asked earlier this month to respond to three questions submitted by the Rappahannock Record. Here are the questions and their responses:

1. Why do you want to be on council? Provide your work experience and the background you will bring to council. What do you feel makes you the most qualified candidate for council?



Shawn Donahue

**DONAHUE:** Quite simply because I care about my hometown community and over the last several years have worked to improve our town. With bringing jobs to the town and increasing revenue to the town through taxes such as meal tax, lodging tax, and sales tax. I have the experience of running and building a business and understanding the real estate business and understanding the right kind of development that fits into our community. I have served for seven years as chairperson of the local Red Cross Chapter. I am a good listener, so I feel I can learn about the concerns of many different interest groups that live in Kilmarnock.

**MOUBRAY:** There are many reasons for my desire to be on the town council. After many years of living and working in the town, I feel like it is my duty to provide my opinions, ideas and knowledge. I feel the best way that I can do that is to serve on the council. After being appointed for my short term, I realize that there are a lot of pros and cons, but also believe it is worth the time and effort required of a council member. I can assure you that if I am elected, my decisions will not be based on persuasion or unresearched facts. My decisions are always based on what I feel will benefit the citizens and business owners.

**POLK:** Being a fourth-generation son of Lancaster County and getting to know people through my job with Dominion Power for nearly 30 years puts me in a position to meet people on a one-on-one basis. I have seen and heard their needs for many years. There are many who feel they are not being heard and I would like to be their voice.

I was in a leadership position during my tour of duty in the U.S. Army. After returning home, I became active in Lancaster Jaycees, The Masonic Lodge and the Oldie and Goodies in which I have been an officer in all.

Being a town councilman will allow the public's voices to be heard or listened to, without feeling left out of town decisions or that their vote will not count. I feel being councilman, I can put trust back in our people so they can understand what it means to be a part of our community.

**SMITH:** I was appointed by council two years ago to serve on the planning commission and have worked hard to serve my town during this time. I attended training in Williamsburg and have become certified as a commissioner — the first, along with the assistant town manager, to complete the program.

I served for two years as president of the Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce and have worked closely with many of the business owners. I served



Randy Moubray

as chairman of the Northumberland/Lancaster American Cancer Society's Relay for Life for two years and was an active part of the committee for several more years and have also served as a committee member for the March of Dimes Local Walk for Babies. I have served in the past and currently am coaching a Little League Coach's Pitch ball team. I know how important it is to be an active member of our town.

I am a partner in a new tax and accounting firm in Kilmarnock, Kilmarnock Tax & Accounting CPA's (KTAS), so not only am I a resident but I am also a business owner in town. I am a native of the Northern Neck, growing up in Reedville and have lived in town for the past five years. My wife, Cathy, and I have three children: Brad, Natalie, and Daniel. They are all a part of the public school system. As you can see, I am invested and committed to Kilmarnock and want to be your voice on town council.

I want Kilmarnock to be the place where my children want to live and raise their children and where other families want the same. Decisions made today will impact future generations. It is imperative that the town have forward thinking, common sense rationalization, and fair representation on its council. It is vital that decisions be made that are sensible and that follow our comprehensive plan and that are for the well being of both the residents and the local merchants. With my degree in accounting combined with my small business and bank management experience, I have the compassion and the balance to represent all fairly while also having an understanding of the financial needs that the town requires.

**STRAUGHAN:** First, after having been on the council now for the past two years, being appointed to fill a vacancy in 2008, I now want to continue my efforts in providing responsible town governance for a full four-year term.

I bring to the council my work experience which has been totally in banking for nearly 40 years, and was heavily involved in municipal projects financing and the structuring of financing methods. I headed the Corporate Trust Division of a major bank and was very much involved in the planning and funding for private and public employee benefit and retirement plans and financing for various other projects.

2. Ethics are a critical part of elected office. Where do you derive your ethics and how important is it to you to maintain those ethics in office?

**DONAHUE:** At an early age I had the opportunity to work with family members and good mentors in business and learned from them. This taught me how important ethics are in one's life. It defines who you are. As an active member of the community over the years, many of

the residents, business owners and government officials have worked with me and know my ethics. Ethics in public life is even more important because you are representing the community.

**MOUBRAY:** My ethics are uncompromisable. I feel that everyone needs to be treated equal and are entitled to their opinions. I live by the Golden Rule: treat others the way you would like to be treated. If all decisions are based on that I feel you can't go wrong. As a local business owner, these rules have been beneficial to a successful business. My ethics are derived from strong family values and Christian upbringing. As my father used to say, "a man only has his word."

**POLK:** Ethics has many meanings. One is respect which is not just for me but for others. Trust, not telling just what they want to hear, but the truth, and taking action on the things that concern them as people. Honesty, not making promises one cannot keep. In order to bring these, one must respect oneself first.

**SMITH:** I am a Christian, a father, a husband and a concerned resident, so I am accountable when it comes to maintaining the quality of life for all residents and businesses in Kilmarnock, whether I am elected to town council or not. I lost my father when I was 19 years old, but he instilled in me the work ethic that no matter what you decide to do, that you put all that you have into it. I commit to you as I did with my past employers that I will give you 100 percent effort. At the end of the day, you are only as good as your word. Whether elected or not, at some point in time I will let you down, I understand that. I will not always be able to vote the way you feel that I should but I will be able to sit down with you and explain the rationale behind the vote. I commit to you reliable representation and a fair vote after hearing all sides and issues. I will not be pressured into a vote that I do not agree with nor will I ever just go along with the majority. Ethics in office is the same as ethics in your home and business. As a leader, parent and coach, my actions are always looked at and scrutinized. My father also taught me that if you were going somewhere that was not appropriate for your children, as a parent you do not need to be there either. As a representative of the town, which I am today as a commissioner, it is imperative that I handle myself in a way that is respectful and ethical at all times.

**STRAUGHAN:** As you point out, ethics is of critical importance in the operation and management of any organization whether public or private. My ethics were derived first from my parents and developed through and by my church and the different banking organizations for which I have worked during my career.



Otis Polk Sr.

3. What are your three most important goals if elected and explain, in detail, how you plan to achieve these goals?

**DONAHUE:** How Kilmarnock develops will continue to be the overriding issue that covers many areas of town government. About 75 percent of the general fund budget for the town comes from business taxes; if we want to control our cost of water, sewer, and real estate taxes, we will need to continue to bring business and jobs to Kilmarnock.

To be a sustainable community, we need to recognize that development close to the core of town will be necessary. But, to retain the character of Kilmarnock, development must fit the fabric of the area being developed. It is a balance between old and new. We need wise management of growth and development to ensure both economic viability and community livability. Continued revitalization of our historic downtown as vibrant restaurants, arts and shopping area.

Finances will be challenging; if we are to continue to move forward we will need creative thinking and ideas, along with a good deal of citizen input and support. My vision for the town are the four C's of community development. They are cooperation, caring, creativity and common sense. Supporting programs that attract and retain young professionals to the area and establish Kilmarnock as a charming "destination location" to boost careers and raise families.

**MOUBRAY:** After serving my short appointed term on the council, I have many things I have started I would like to finish. First goal would be to continue the upgrades needed for our water and sewer system, to provide reliable service to all residents and businesses. Second goal, continue the development in a positive way for the town. Third goal, be a council member that can have a nonbiased ear to all issues brought forth.

**POLK:** There are many things one may think they can do or promise, but you must have support of voters and the public. I would like to see more opportunities and involvement for our youth, such as a junior councilman. I would like to create a drug-free center for those who would like a better way of life. Have workshops so that we can teach our youth a trade or how to do positive things in their lives.

I know that these seem like dreams that have no end, but



William L. Smith

with strength and support from the public we can put these wheels in motion, for I am just one.

Let the public know of our goals through our work, not just a voice. A house without a foundation will not have anything to stand on.

**SMITH:** I am all for growth in the town as long as it is productive and adds to the quality of our existing town; however, it needs to be organized and properly planned. We have approved several new developments in town which has the ability to more than double the population which can drastically change the flavor of our town. It is imperative that we work closely with developers in that planning process to make sure that the end product is something that compliments the existing improvements of the town. In becoming a part of town council, I would have an opportunity to monitor that accountability and follow that progress through to completion.

Fiscal responsibility is vital in the economic conditions that we as citizens face today. Just as we have to tighten our belts personally to financially survive, I expect the same of our town. With my financial background, I would welcome the opportunity to be an active part of the budget process and look at where expenses can be cut. Balancing budgets can be accomplished two ways, raising additional income to cover additional expenses or lowering expenses to meet the current income levels. I am not saying that I will not vote in favor of raising taxes or fees, but what I am saying is that first priority is to look at current spending habits and trends and start there. Fee structure should be the last option, especially when many residents are struggling just to keep their water and power on.

The current administration has done an excellent job with the Main Street project and the town beautification. I would like to be a part in continuing the project to see the additional sidewalks put in place. Water and sewer support structures are a constant concern, the systems are old and costly to maintain. The continued upgrades are necessary to existing users and to new residential wanting to connect; I would work closely with the town to put this project as a priority.

**STRAUGHAN:** The three most important goals facing the Town of Kilmarnock in my opinion are:

- Continue to upgrade and



Howard Straughan

improve our aging water and sewer infrastructure within our ability to pay and to insure that those services are not a drain on the other general tax revenues of the town. We have an efficient and affordable water and sewer system which is an asset that is the envy of our municipal neighbors. It is critical to our long-term interests to continue to maintain this advantage. We can accomplish this by initiating an ongoing three- to five-year replacement and maintenance program which should be rigorously followed and updated at least every other year

- Continue to maintain a high level of services to the residents and businesses of the town as we can without increasing taxes and thereby making Kilmarnock a very desirable business and residential location while continuing to maintain our current sound and viable financial situation. This objective will be met by constantly reviewing and critiquing the services we provide to insure that they are needed and being provided in the most cost effective way.

- It is imperative that we make Kilmarnock a preferred location to build or purchase a home or to locate and establish a business. This objective will be accomplished by keeping our town's finances strong and viable, maintaining reasonable tax rates and user fees, expanding our Business & Technology Park so as to attract more businesses and provide more jobs for our citizens while expanding our tax base, and extending our Main Street improvements farther out into the side streets.

## MAYOR

*continued from page A7*

and applicable tax incentives where appropriate. The Town of Kilmarnock has an outstanding town manager and town planner to guide and assist the mayor and council on these projects, as evidenced by the recent award for water and sewer grants on Mary Ball Road.

In closing, I want to say how much I appreciate the opportunity to serve as mayor, and to be a part of a dynamic and energetic town council. These four men and two women have been outstanding and have served Kilmarnock well.

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- Work on Lowering Taxes
- Improve Town Services
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- Better Management of Town Assets
- A Passion for Our Town

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## Raymond Booth For Mayor Kilmarnock, Virginia

**As a businessman, I know the challenges of these economic times. Because of my experience in business, I am qualified to look at the Town's expenses and cut out waste.**

**I am a native of this area and my wife Sharon and I have made a commitment to this town in our business and our residences here.**

**We need tough management at the town level because "business as usual" doesn't make the grade any more.**

**"I promise to be a Mayor that will listen, think, and act on the wishes of YOU the Taxpayer"**

Vote

## BOOTH FOR MAYOR Of Kilmarnock May 4<sup>th</sup> 2010

*Paid for and authorized by Raymond Booth*

## YOUR LETTERS

### Clinic offers counseling

On April 16, 2007, a Virginia Tech student opened fire on campus, killing 32 other students; he then turned the gun on himself. I remember this day vividly, as my nephew, Stephen, was a junior at Virginia Tech at the time.

In the hours immediately following the tragedy, I could not reach him on his cell phone. Those hours were some of the longest of my life. Stephen turned out to be lucky that day, and I can only thank God he was not among those 32 victims. My heart goes out to the families and friends of those who were not so fortunate.

As we reflect on the events of that morning, I'd encourage all of us to be mindful of our mental and emotional well being as well as our physical health. At the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic, our motto has always been "Neighbors helping neighbors," and in difficult times these words are especially significant. We need to look out for each other and offer support when we see neighbors in crisis.

Since its inception in 1993, the clinic has been fortunate to have volunteers who offer counseling services to those in need who could not afford the therapy on their own. Through a grant from the Virginia Health Care Foundation and a partnership with the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board, we are now able to formalize these services and have hired a therapist who works on site two days per week. Since this new initiative began in February, we have had more than 100 patient visits for counseling. The success of this new program speaks to the need for all of us to be there for one another.

The Virginia Tech tragedy highlights the need for mental health services and built-in support structures at every level of the community. If you, or someone you know, are having a hard time, seek help.

**Jean Nelson, executive director, Northern Neck Free Health Clinic, Kilmarnock**

### Report shows governor did raise taxes

Gov. Bob McDonnell is lying to Virginians about the impact of his budget on our taxes. Every time McDonnell speaks about his first budget, he reminds us that he did not raise taxes.

He's lying - in fact, McDonnell has raised taxes on middle- and low-income families.

The Commonwealth Institute released a report last week showing that McDonnell's budget eliminated \$6,000,000 in federal tax credits that were approved between 2009 and 2010. These tax credits were the result of the federal Recovery Act and are one reason that tax returns for 2009 increased by 10 percent.

According to the Commonwealth Institute's study, the elimination of these tax credits will mean that, "for a married

couple with three children, the average tax increase in 2010 is \$205 and for single parents with three children, the average tax increase is about \$125." The increase is estimated to affect 114,000 families earning less than \$49,000 a year.

The McDonnell administration has raised taxes on those who most need tax relief while, at the same time McDonnell and his best friend Ken Cucinelli rave and rail about federal taxes. In fact, 98 percent of Americans received a federal tax cut from the Obama administration—unlike the McDonnell crowd that talks about tax cuts while raising taxes on those who can't afford it.

**Joe Schlatter, Heathsville**

### Still reaching

I have lived in the Northern Neck for 20 years. One thing I noticed when I moved here was how the churches are segregated. This is fine if this is what one wants and I am surprised the government has not forced integration.

Government and the media have tried to demonize Tea Party people as racist. I even wrote a letter earlier to the editor talking about who we are and that we are not racist.

The Tea Parties are now reaching out to the black community. If we are racist, then why are blacks joining our cause? The blacks joining our cause are mostly in the bigger cities. I have a friend who is black and he started a Tea Party in Danville. The Northern Neck does not have any black members yet, and every black person I have talked to has told me they heard we are racist.

I have made several calls to black preachers in the area only to have my calls go unanswered. Is it that the black community does not want to engage in conversation?

Racism exists in the Northern Neck, more so than in Northern Virginia and it exists on both sides. I am no longer the president of the Tea Party in our area, but I still want to see race relations get better in our community. If you are black and your preacher has not mentioned that I called and wanted to talk about who the Tea Party people are, then ask him why. How can we ever fix perceptions of each other if we do not sit down and talk?

Some might say: well, white people never wanted our input before and have never wanted to know who we are before, so why now?

The healing has to start sometime and somewhere, so let it start now. If Martin Luther King were alive today he would welcome the dialogue. He would embrace whatever he could learn from the Tea Party, was it not he that said "Seek knowledge?" Why has the black community forgotten that it was the Republicans who introduced the Civil Rights Act and was filibustered by the Democrats? I bet that is not taught in the schools.

I hope blacks are not turning their backs on us because whites turned their backs on them. My mom always said two

wrongs do not make a right and I am sure some of your moms have told you the same thing. So let's talk, let's start the healing, call me today and say hi. I am not a racist and I do not like being called one any more than a black person likes being called a derogatory name. I can be reached at 804-761-1071; you can call me or encourage your preacher to call me. Let the healing begin.

Many thanks to the Rev. Bibbens who not only came to our Tea Party meeting, but brought a couple of people from his church with him. I found Rev. Bibbens to be a man who cares about his flock; he is a man who I believe cares about everyone.

"I had a dream" is what he said; we can make that dream come true.

**Jim Spiess, Lancaster**

### Look at the view

At least two mornings a week I take the long way around on my way to work. Living near the Chesapeake Bay affords me the opportunity to see some spectacular sunrises over waters sparkling like diamonds. Even on cloudy days, the view is worth the drive.

It's Monday, so I decided to take a quick drive around the loop before starting the routine of the work week. I started to take notice of some of my fellow drivers and I couldn't help but wonder if they saw any of the lovely sites around them. Each person seemed to be fixated on getting to their destination, passing me on small secondary roads at warp speed and if they couldn't pass, they were so close in my rearview mirror I lost sight of everything except their hood.

I had to wonder, did anyone notice the beautiful and fragile blue heron fishing for his morning breakfast on legs as thin as reeds, looking as delicate as a ballerina? Or did they notice the cat through a picture window curled on the back of a couch; sun slanting through the shadow of trees in what I call a grandma yard?

I hope so. I read somewhere that life is not a dress rehearsal. This is it folks. Don't convince yourself you don't have time for these precious moments. Don't wait until tomorrow for tomorrow is promised to no one.

Slow down and take time to look at the view.

**Sam Wheeler, Irvington**

### Pointing to Booth

In springtime politics it seems most popular to point a finger. I, too, wish to point a finger. My finger points to Raymond Booth.

Mr. Booth has worked with us on the Kilmarnock Planning Commission for the last four years. Of those years, he was unanimously elected by his peers to be our chairman.

We recognize and appreciate his capabilities. He exhibits proper procedural demeanor by following rules and innate courtesy to all who wish to speak. He makes an effort to avoid misunderstandings, especially in public meetings, by questioning statements for more in-

depth information. He educates himself on agenda topics prior to meetings by searching out and assessing public opinion. He works to create a better Kilmarnock by constantly being available to citizens and keeping up with the latest happenings and needs for change.

Raymond Booth created and owns a business that demands customer satisfaction. He knows how important it is for the governing bodies to include all the people with all their opinions. That is why I point to Raymond Booth to be our next mayor.

**Claudia Williamson, Vice Chairman, Kilmarnock Planning Commission**

### Supporting Booth

In last week's Rappahannock Record, one of our elected council members suggested Kilmarnock voters, before voting for mayor, should ask themselves who has the experience, integrity, character, and responsible judgment to lead our town through the next four years. I agree with this council member completely.

We need a mayor who is experienced in balancing a budget, working with existing revenues, and keeping expenses in check. We need someone with lengthy experience doing this in business, because town government in many ways is a business. As a business owner you can't raise prices in a slow economy and can't raise taxes as government does, so wise and responsible spending judgments must be made. We have one candidate who has almost 30 years experience in doing just that.

Without doubt we need a mayor who will make responsible judgments, common sense judgments, like not raising taxes and fees on already burdened taxpayers in a bad economy, not spending tens of thousands of dollars on wasteful consultants and studies, and by not supporting installation of a large propane storage facility which does not belong here in our town.

### A legacy of fairness

In observance of a long-standing policy, the Rappahannock Record will not publish letters endorsing candidates in the April 29 issue, the last paper immediately prior to town elections.

However, the Record may publish a brief statement from candidates to correct or clarify statements appearing in previous letters.

Political advertisements in good taste will be accepted.

We have that person in candidate Raymond Booth. It will be his experience that restores integrity to town government by employing sound money management practices and by doing the business of local government openly and not behind closed doors. He will not bring to his office, as other elected officials have done, the attitude that he is better able to make choices for our residents instead of voting their will.

Raymond Booth is not a "professional local politician," but he has served our town as planning chairman for the last several years sensibly and with dedication. He should be applauded for this thoughtful campaign, and should be rewarded by being elected our new mayor.

**Gary McElroy, Kilmarnock**

### We need Booth

I endorse Raymond Booth for mayor. As chairman of the Kilmarnock Planning Commission, Raymond has gained an extensive knowledge of the needs and workings of the town.

He is a full-time businessman on Main Street and a fine resident who will promote realistic growth with a major sensitivity towards controlling taxes and service fees.

Raymond is working hard to be elected mayor because he has the common sense to know what it takes to get elected in the tough political climate of today. He will use this same common sense to work for all residents and businesses. We need a hard working mayor like Raymond Booth.

**Jane B. Ludwig, Kilmarnock**

### Lancaster Democrats to meet

The Lancaster Democrats will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 26, at the Bank of Lancaster northside branch in Kilmarnock.

Del. Albert Pollard and his aide, Carmen Bingham, will review the recent legislative session.

All those interested in local Democratic activities are invited to attend.



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MSRP	\$36,455	<p>the <b>Jeep</b> spring drive</p>
Rebates	\$4,000	
GMAC Bonus	\$1,000*	
Quinn Discount	\$1,334	
<p><b>Your Price</b> <b>\$30,121*</b></p>		

### 2010 Ram 1500 Reg. Cab 4x2

MSRP	\$24,005	<p>Stock # 109021</p>
Rebate	\$1,000	
Non Hemi Bonus	\$500	
Red Dot Bonus	\$500	
Quinn Discount	\$957	
<p><b>Your Price</b> <b>\$21,048*</b></p>		

### 2010 Chrysler Town & Country LX

MSRP	\$30,485	<p>THE <b>MINIVAN</b> EVENT</p>
Rebate	\$1,500	
Bonus Cash	\$500	
Red Dot Bonus	\$500	
Quinn Discount	\$715	
<p><b>Your Price</b> <b>\$27,270*</b></p>		

### 2010 Chrysler Pt. Cruiser

MSRP	\$19,615	<p>Stock # 10702</p>
Rebate	\$2,000	
Quinn Discount	\$1,000	
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