

# Rappahannock Record

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www.RRecord.com

## Northumberland tax rate goes up 2¢

by Shannon Rice

HEATHSVILLE—After several work sessions, Northumberland supervisors have reached the bottom line on a fiscal year 2012-13 budget and tax levy.

Although the grand total, \$36,061,360, remains as advertised, \$200,000 will be cut from the school system budget and the real estate tax rate will increase to \$.42 per \$100 of assessed value, rather than the proposed \$.43. All departments will have to provide monthly utilization reports as well.

The budget was adopted June 20 in a 3-1 vote following a motion by District 3 supervisor Jim Long, seconded by District 1 supervisor Joe Self and support from vice chairman Richard Haynie. Chairman Ronnie Jett was not present. Self introduced a motion to adopt the tax levy, seconded by Long.

District 4 supervisor Tommy Tomlin voted in opposition saying, "I view we have sufficient funds to draw down," said Tomlin. "We have not completed reassessment due to a snafu on the part of the assessor. We're going to be double-taxing the taxpayers and thus, I cannot support it. The budget is built upon at least a 2-cent tax increase and I think we need to tighten our belts."

An original motion made by Long called for a \$100,000 reduc-

tion from various budget increase requests in addition to the \$200,000 reduction in the school budget.

However, after considering how this might affect some entities, particularly the social services department, the motion was withdrawn.

"It's hard to know when we make cuts how it's really going to affect them," said county administrator Kenny Eades.

To balance the budget, the county will have to pull \$100,000 from its undesignated general fund balance.

The board also voted to make appropriations on a categorical basis following a motion by Long, seconded by Self. Tomlin was in opposition.

The school board met Wednesday to settle end-of-year bills and budget transfers.

In an unrelated matter, the supervisors voted to pass an emergency ordinance increasing the penalty for unpermitted dance hall and outdoor events to a Class 1 misdemeanor, carrying a maximum of 12 months in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

Tomlin made the motion, seconded by Self, which was approved in a 4-0 vote. The new law, which went into effect June 20, follows a violent outbreak at a Lewisetta house party June 9 that left three people shot and another trampled.



Bob Lee and Suzy Stephens relax at their home on Carter's Creek.

## Parade grand marshals epitomize hospitality of the Northern Neck

by Audrey Thomasson

The annual Fourth of July Hometown Parade in Irvington will honor the founding family of The Tides Inn.

Former "Resort Executive of the Year" and Mobil Five-Star Hotel recipient Bob Lee Stephens and wife Suzy will serve as parade grand marshals.

The Tides Inn was a vision of Bob Lee's father, Ennolls A. "Big Steve" Stephens, who bought a vine-covered corn field on a point on Carter's Creek for \$5,000 and in 1945 began construction as the contractor. For a man who had no hotel experience, success in such a remote location and at the end of World War II was risky.

"He used army surplus materials," recalled Bob Lee.

There wasn't a bridge across the Rappahannock River in those days. Steamships were already a part of history, leaving only river ferries to carry travelers to the area from Norfolk and Richmond.

"My father was a promoter. He was a dreamer...but he had little interest in the day-to-day operation of the inn," said Bob Lee. Big Steve turned over the day-to-day responsibilities to his son soon after he graduated from the University of Virginia in the 1950s.

Bob Lee says he became an innkeeper and frustrated economics graduate. But he stayed with

## Irvington's hometown parade set for 10 a.m.

IRVINGTON—The Fourth of July Hometown Parade will roll through Irvington at 10 a.m. Independence Day, Wednesday, July 4.

The parade will start near Crockett's Landing and follow King Carter Drive east to Route 200.

A children's parade of decorated bikes, strollers and walkers will lead the parade.

Bob Lee and Suzy Stephens will be the parade grand marshals.

The parade also will feature the Mayor of Irvington and town officials, the Kilmarnock & District Pipe Band, antique cars, Shriners cars, decorated golf carts and floats.

Antique cars will be on display following the parade at the town commons.

To register a float or participate in the parade, call the town office at 438-6230 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

## Lancaster board is ready to adopt budget

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—On his final day before retiring as Lancaster's assistant county administrator, Jack Larson received public kudos for reducing county spending and tightening the reins on the budget planning process.

"This is about as well a managed budget cycle as I have seen," said George Bott during a public hearing on the county's proposed operating budget of \$27.5 million for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Bott's sentiments were echoed by another fiscal conservative, Charlie Costello, who said Larson has always treated him with respect during many calls over the years to question the numbers.

In his comments on the proposed budget, Bott targeted the Boys and Girls Club, saying the organization is over-funded by the county. The proposed county contribution is \$50,000, still under the YMCA at a consistent \$75,000 per year.

"Thirty percent of (Boys and Girls Club) revenue goes to their programs," he stated and noted a vast increase in public contributions. "They have \$2.5 million in assets, up \$1.5 million from last year."

On the subject of the Lancaster school budget, Bott repeated superintendent Dr. Daniel Lukich's claim that the school district gives back funds every year.

"That's the county's funds" the schools are holding, Bott reminded the board.

He also noted the county's reserve funds of \$3.9 million are "extremely high" and suggested supervisors reduce property taxes.

The county estimates the end of year fund balance at \$3,954,483.

"The (proposed) fishing pier and boat ramp...was the excuse for needing high reserves, but that never happened," said Bott.

Costello said he agreed with Bott on reducing the tax rate. He noted Larson had done many good



Assistant county administrator Jack Larson retires after 12 years with the county.

things to improve the numbers. But he questioned what he viewed as a salary increase for rescue squad employees. "It's the only group getting a pay raise, factoring out the VRS 5%" adjustment.

"In order to compete (in hiring paid professionals), you need to offer higher salaries," Larson replied. "That is not a raise and not included in the budget. The amount built into the budget equates to same pay. There are no pay raises."

"It's almost doubling salary," Costello argued. "It's almost 2/3 of the increase. Do you need that money?"

County emergency chief Christina Hubbard said she asked for seven new full-time paid professionals.

"The reality is we can't get volunteers for upper Lancaster," said county administrator Frank Pleva.

Supervisor Butch Jenkins noted the lower end of the county had the same problems.

The amount proposed for all rescue services is \$854,623, up \$323,304.

"I understand your concerns," Larson told Costello. However, he

LANCASTER, continued on page A2

the inn for nearly half a century, long after his father's retirement and move to Ft. Lauderdale in 1963.

He meticulously minded every detail down to the light bulbs, recalled Suzy.

Before selling in 2001 to Sedona Resorts, the couple built a reputation as operating one of the top inns in the U.S., putting Irvington on the map as an outstanding place to visit. Guests were welcomed with gracious

hospitality by four generations. No member of the Stephens clan was too young to take up the family tradition. Bob Lee and Suzy proudly tell how their 3-year-old grandson once walked up to guests at a cocktail party and thanked them for spending their vacation with them.

Visitors loved being welcomed back each year as longtime friends. They were among a grow-

IRVINGTON, continued on page A2

## Fisher House personnel to lead Lewisetta parade

LEWISSETTA—Representatives from the Fisher House Foundation facility in Richmond will serve as grand marshals of Lewisetta's 2012 Independence Day Parade on Wednesday, July 4.

The Fisher House Foundation provides a "home away from home" for military families to be close to a loved one during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury, said Ginny Pugh of the Lewisetta parade committee.

The parade will begin at 10 a.m., said Pugh. To participate, registration and line-up starts at 9 a.m.

The parade circles the Lewisetta community, she said. The Marine Corps League of Northern Neck will present the colors.

Additional units will include the Acca Temple Shriners and volunteer fire and rescue departments, continued Pugh. There will be floats, bicycle riders, and other entries, depending upon participation. Everyone is welcome.

Awards will be given for the best in each category, she said.

A picnic and award ceremony will follow at the pond on Lake Francis Road.

To register in advance, call Pugh, 703-969-4879, or Jackie Francis, 529-7349.

## Record to print a day early

KILMARNOCK—The Record will observe early deadlines next week.

Because our printing plant will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, the Record will be printed a day earlier.

Most display advertisements are needed by 4 p.m. Friday, June 29. The final deadlines will be 10 a.m. Monday, July 2, for display ads that are repeated from a previous issue or those submitted in the portable document format (pdf) and noon Monday for classified ads and news items.

By email, news items may be submitted to editor@rrecord.com and advertisements may be sent to mail@rrecord.com.

The Record office will be closed on July 4. Some newsstands will receive their papers late July 3; mailed papers will be available in local post offices Thursday, July 5.



Business.....C6-8 Churches.....B5-8 Directory.....D7 Obituaries.....B7 Police.....A3 Sports.....C1-3  
Calendar.....B2 Classified.....D1-8 Notices.....D6-8 Opinion.....A6-7 Schools.....C4-5 Upcoming.....B1-4

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## Wine Festival entertains hundreds

Donna Helmuth (right) of Good Luck Cellars near Kilmarnock serves wine to a row of tasters at the fourth annual Kilmarnock Wine Festival sponsored by the Lancaster By the Bay Chamber of Commerce. See more sights from the festival at [RRRecord.com](http://RRRecord.com).

Keith and Khrystal Butler of Kilmarnock split a Raspberry Blanc cupcake infused with wine last Saturday at the Kilmarnock Wine Festival. Several hundred people attended the event, which included tasting areas from nine vineyards and some 42 vendors. There also was music throughout the day. Photos by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



## The Agenda

### Local Government News

LANCASTER—Supervisors will vote on a proposed \$27 million operating budget for the next fiscal year during their meeting today, Thursday, June 28.

The session will begin at 7 p.m. in the county administration building in Lancaster.

Also on the agenda is a public hearing on maintaining the current tax rates. Supervisors will vote on a real estate tax rate of \$0.40 per \$100 of assessed value; a personal property rate of \$1.52 per \$100 of assessed value; machinery and tools at \$1.52 per \$100 of assessed value, and the merchant's capital rate of \$1.00 per \$100 of assessed value discounted 50%.

A public hearing will be held on amendments to the county code regarding the payment of administrative costs for the collection of delinquent taxes. The administrative costs would be increased to the maximum amounts allowed under

the code of Virginia.

Supervisors also will consider requests to erect data antenna/poles for wireless internet service. The first request, by Conley Properties, is for a 13.55-acre general residential parcel near Mulberry Creek Road. The second request is by Tammy and James Revere Jr. on 1.345-acre general residential parcel at 128 Meadowlark Lane.

Wendy Lashon Henderson is seeking authorization to place an individual manufactured home on a 1.384-acre general residential parcel at 232 Buzzards Neck Road.

Homer H. Kephart, trustee for Steve Rula (owner) and Mark Boswell (agent), is seeking authorization to operate a year-round oyster growing and shipping facility on adjoining 0.58-acre and 1.0-acre general residential parcels off Windmill Point Road on Windmill Point Creek.

## NEWS BREAK

### ■ TRIAD signing

The Warsaw-Richmond County TRIAD recently announced the TRIAD's "official signing" by Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli will be held at 1 p.m. today, June 26, at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw Campus.

All community seniors, senior service providers and law enforcement personnel are urged to attend.

For more information, contact the Warsaw Police Department at 333-3737.

### ■ Bridge work

The bridge crew has scheduled work on the Devils Bottom Road bridge for July 9 through August 8.

Expect road closures during this time, according to Virginia Department of Transportation Northern Neck residency

administrator David T. Brown, PE.

### ■ Fire assistance

Through its Volunteer Fire Assistance program, the Virginia Department of Forestry recently awarded more than \$191,000 in grants to 122 volunteer fire departments across the Commonwealth.

Locally, Callao VFD, Fairfield VFD and Hartfield VFD received grants.

## Irvington grand marshals

continued from page A1

ing list of "old friends" the family personally notified with news about upcoming events at their beautiful, tranquil setting on the shores of Carter's Creek.

"The Northern Neck is such a marvelous, marvelous place. Most of our guests were from up north. They'd marvel at how great the place was," said Bob Lee.

Also adding to their success was a constant and loyal staff—many with over 30 years of service. They provided service for yachtsmen docking their boats, golfers at the inn's golf course, the Golden Eagle, the spa facilities or in one of several dining facilities.

Bob Lee credits Suzy for the inn's special style.

"Suzy ran the gift shop. She was vice president in charge of taste," he bragged. Suzy reminisced about an array of fun events that went on at the inn to entice guests to return.

"We held Tuesday night cocktail parties to get people to stay over one more night," she said. "And we did fun things like Bingo, horse races, and pajama games on the front lawn. Honeymooners were also a big part of the inn. That was a time when people got married," she joked.

"We used to put a small shelf of drinks in the pool with honeymooners... We almost went to jail over it... when the ABC board came after us," Bob Lee said with a twinkle in his eye.

Another popular marketing tool was the Chesapeake Club, which allowed members and guests to keep liquor in assigned lockers. According to Bob Lee, it was another way around the ABC board.

The club was such a hit, families listed it in the newspaper obituary of members who passed away,

Suzy noted.

But the Miss Ann was credited with being the best feature of the inn for bringing people together. "It was the best mixer," Suzy said of the resort's yacht. "People always got closer to each other" on the Miss Ann.

The elegant teak-clad yacht regularly carried guests up and down the Rappahannock River on luncheon and cocktail cruises.

In 1976, the Golden Eagle Golf Course opened. It was also the 200th anniversary of the U.S., added Bob Lee. With the development of the course and surrounding homesites, the innkeeper discovered he had added builder to his resumé.

"I built over 50 houses. My kids call me Frank Lloyd Wrong."

The couple's attention to detail in taking care of the inn and their guests paid off when they won their first five star rating from Mobil Travel Guide, and continued the run for five straight years.

"I didn't even know what five star meant," laughs Bob Lee. "Back in the 1970s we got a call from Mobil saying we're one of seven hotels to be rated five stars. We kept it for five years but didn't have the money to compete with the hot shots," referring to hotels owned by corporations with deep pockets.

"Keeping the five star rating and being named Resort Executive-of-the-Year were the highlights of my career," said Bob Lee. When he received what is considered the industry's most prestigious award in 1993, he became the 21st recipient.

In the early '90s, a Japanese company showed interest in buying the inn. After

45 years at the helm, the couple was thinking of retiring so it offered an opportunity to assess their future. They asked their children if they had any interest in running the resort. Two of their sons, off on careers of their own, decided to return—R. Lee Stephens Jr. eventually becoming president and Randy Stephens as general manager.

"This is a 24/7 business," said Bob Lee. Nipping at their heels were corporate giants moving into the industry and eroding the niche The Tides Inn had carved into "business meeting" groups. We couldn't keep up with their advanced technology needs, said Suzy.

Sedona's interest came at an opportune time for the family.

Lee handled negotiations between Sedona Resorts and his father, who was on winter vacation on a remote island in the Bahamas. Bob Lee had to negotiate on the island's only phone—a pay phone down the road. And as these things go, all his conditions were not met and he reluctantly settled for partial payments over several years, killing his plan to invest it all in the aggressive stock market.

After the sale was completed, 9-11 hit and the resort industry took a nose dive right along with the stock market and economy.

At the next industry roundtable where resort owners had an opportunity to brag about their achievements over the past year, Bob Lee received a standing ovation on his announcement: "I sold before 9-11."

## Fireworks, parade and family activities slated for Reedville July 6-8

REEDVILLE—Reedville's Independence Day Celebration Weekend opens with a fireworks extravaganza, visible over Cockrell's Creek, at 9 p.m. Friday, July 6. The Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department Fireworks Cruise will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. aboard the Chesapeake Breeze. The \$30 fee per person, includes finger foods, soft drinks and adult beverages. Tickets are available from any VFVD member.

On Saturday, July 7, activities begin at 8 a.m. with a Firecracker 5K. Registration starts at 6:45 a.m. at Festival Halle. For more information, visit [reedvillerun.org](http://reedvillerun.org).

Children's events begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum and includes old-fashioned games, a fire truck hose down, tattoos and face painting, kid's pie-eating contest and a build-a-boat workshop.

An artists' arena and craft fair will be held on the grounds at Bethany United Methodist Church from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There also will be a boat display at the museum pier.

The parade will begin at 3 p.m. Community leader Warren Keyser is the grand marshal. Betty Kidd also will be honored as Miss Rescue Squad, for 40 years of service with the Northumberland Volunteer Rescue Squad.

The weekend celebration concludes Sunday, July 8, with a patriotic music performance at 3 p.m. at Festival Halle.

## Lancaster budget

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said Hubbard had done the analysis and options were still under review for hiring additional rescue squad personnel.

Costello told supervisors he plans to work for more reforms on school spending during their next budget process beginning in January. The hotly contested school budget request is up \$218,933 at \$15,827,224.

Before adjourning the meeting, chairman Wally Beauchamp expressed the board's gratitude for Lar-

son's accomplishments.

"How long have you worked here?" he asked.

"Twelve years, three months, 21 days and—it depends on how long the meeting lasts," replied Larson.

"I have nothing but admiration for you, sir," Beauchamp said.

The board will vote on the proposed budget tonight, June 28. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the county administration building in Lancaster.

## Town adopts \$115,305 budget

by Audrey Thomasson

IRVINGTON—Town council last week voted unanimously to adopt a \$115,305 budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

The 4-0 vote was taken at a special meeting of council Thursday, June 21.

Vice mayor Kathleen Pollard and council members Bob Westbrook, Wayne Nunnally and Ed Sulick approved the budget. Members Jerry Latell and Gene Edmonds did not attend.

No other matters were discussed.

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This black bear visited the home of Ronald and Charlotte Hughes in Lively last Thursday. Photo by Ronald Hughes

## Black bears may be roaming the neighborhood

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

LIVELY—There's a new resident of Lancaster County making some folks nervous.

Ronald and Charlotte Hughes spotted a black bear at their home in Lively last Thursday and caught the uninvited visitor on camera as he wandered around the front yard.

"My husband just got up and looked out the window for something and there he was," said Charlotte. "The cat hissed at him and kind of pawed at him and he walked away. When I went on the back deck, I think he heard the door open and he took off running."

Ronald estimates he weighed about 300 pounds.

Two days earlier, a bear matching that description was spotted by Karen Clarke's nephews at her father-in-law's home in Litwalton. The bear was standing at the edge of the garden, said Clarke, but quickly went into nearby woods.

The Hugheses called the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department to report the sighting. Charlotte wasn't sure whether the bear was being tracked.

According to Northumberland County Game Warden

Ken Williams, bear sightings are not that unusual in this area this time of year. There have been several sightings in the Northern Neck over the last few years.

"Bears typically travel the waterways in the spring and summer and follow the Rappahannock River here," said Williams. "Personally, I believe we have a few that live here full time."

Williams said a photo of a large black bear was taken last year off of Ridge Road. That one, he believes, is a permanent resident.

Black bears are not normally aggressive, said Williams, and are only seeking food when they come near a home.

"If you have cat food or a bucket of garden vegetables or fruit on your back deck, the bear may come looking it," he said. "Normally, if you wave your hands or make some noise, they will move on."

Bears in the area are not tracked, he added.

"In the western part of the state, I've heard some farmers have had trouble with bears destroying their crops," said Williams, "but not here."

If it is determined a bear has damaged a corn field, Williams will work with the farmer to reach a solution.

## Deputies respond to apparent suicide

WEEMS—Lancaster County Sheriff's deputies responded about 2:20 p.m. Thursday, June 21, to Elderberry Lane on a neighbor's report of a man down after hearing a gunshot.

Earl J. "E.J." Langaas Sr., 72, was pronounced dead at the scene from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, according to chief deputy Capt. Martin R. Shirilla.

According to the dispatch record and police report, a family member from out of the area called the sheriff's office about 11:30 a.m. out of concern for Mr. Langaas. The dispatcher called Mr. Langaas, who stated he had had an argument with his daughter but that he was fine.

Nonetheless, a deputy who knew Mr. Langaas was dispatched to meet with him, said Capt. Shirilla. The

deputy found no signs to indicate there was a mental health emergency and left after talking to Mr. Langaas for about 20 minutes.

Two hours later a neighbor reported finding Mr. Langaas on the ground near a golf cart. The neighbor told the sheriff's investigators that he heard a gunshot about 30 minutes earlier. It wasn't until the neighbor went outside that he saw Mr. Langaas on the ground with unknown injuries.

In addition to the sheriff's patrol staff, the Kilmarnock-Lancaster County Volunteer Rescue Squad was dispatched and a med-evac helicopter unit was placed on standby.

The body was taken to the Richmond medical examiner's office for a post-mortem examination. The final autopsy report will not be available for several weeks.

## Designate a sober driver before holiday festivities

RICHMOND—During the Fourth of July holiday, law enforcement will be out in full force, cracking down on impaired drivers.

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Virginia Highway Safety Office (VAHSO) reminds Virginians to designate a sober driver before the Fourth of July celebration begins.

"To prevent a tragedy from occurring this Fourth of July holiday, do not drive after drinking any alcohol, period," said Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb. "Even one drink can adversely affect a driver's reaction time and his or her ability to operate a motor vehicle. With the added traffic during the summer months, be sure to designate a sober driver before heading to your cook-out or Independence Day celebration."

In Virginia, tighter restrictions on driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol will take effect July 1. An ignition interlock device will be required after one DUI conviction, said Holcomb. Currently, the requirement for an ignition interlock is imposed after two DUI convictions or when the offender's blood-alcohol content (BAC) is 0.15 percent or above, even if it's the driver's first DUI. A Virginia driver's BAC must be below 0.08.

An ignition interlock system connects a vehicle's ignition to an analyzer that measures a driver's blood alcohol content, he

What time and where? RRecord.com

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## SHERIFF'S REPORT

Northumberland County Sheriff Charles A. Wilkins this week reported misdemeanor charges against eight individuals.

A Richmond woman, 29, was charged June 18 with failure to appear in the Northumberland County General District Court.

A Henrico woman, 29, was charged June 18 with driving on a suspended license.

A Heathsville woman, 25, was charged June 18 with assault.

A Lancaster County woman, 19, was charged June 13 with assault and battery.

A Farnham man, 44, was charged June 18 on a capias for failure to appear in the Northumberland County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

A Heathsville man, 48, was charged June 19 with failure to appear in the Northumberland County General District Court.

A Reedville man, 21, was charged June 22 with driving without a license.

A man, 21, was charged June 22 with contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

## Vaughan sentenced to 60 years in prison

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—Donald Vaughan, the man who pled guilty to the rape and sexual assault of two Kilmarnock women in December 2009, was sentenced Monday in Lancaster Circuit Court to 60 years in prison.

Judge Joseph E. Spruill Jr. sentenced Vaughan, 21, to four life sentences with all but 60 years suspended for three counts of sodomy and one count of rape, and 20 years each for two counts of burglary and one count of sexual battery. All sentences will be served concurrently. His prison term will be fol-

## Citizens must get permits for fireworks

Lancaster County Sheriff Ronnie Crockett reminds citizens to get fireworks permits for their upcoming July 4 celebrations.

There is no cost for the permits, which are required for firecrackers, bottle rockets, or similar materials that explode or shoot more than 6 feet from the ground, said Sheriff Crockett.

The permits may be obtained from the sheriff's office, or lancastersheriff.net.

lowed by supervised probation for life.

"This guarantees he'll serve 60 years," said Commonwealth's Attorney Robert Cunningham. "He's a dangerous man...he'll be an old man in his 70s or 80s before he's released. He'll basically be in prison the rest of his life."

According to one of Vaughan's victims, the judge called the crimes "vicious" and Vaughan a "menace" before agreeing to the sentence worked out by Cunningham and Vaughan's attorney, John Martin.

Vaughan also is serving a 40-year sentence for the rape and attempted murder of a Baltimore woman.

"He'll serve his time in Maryland and then will move directly to a Virginia penitentiary" to complete his sentence here, Cunningham said.

According to Martin, Vaughan could be released in Maryland after serving only 12 years.

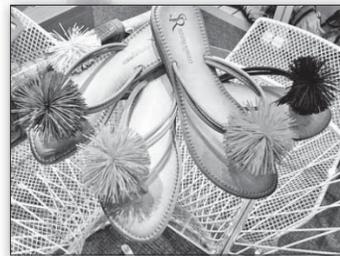
"The bulk of his sentence would be in Virginia," Martin told the judge in April when the plea agreement was presented.

Vaughan was being held in the Northern Neck Regional Jail in Warsaw awaiting sentencing, but is expected to be returned to Maryland immediately.



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From left at the Booker T. Washington Memorial Statue at Tuskegee University are Julius Rosenwald School Foundation board directors Bob Rosenwald, Marlene Howard, president Mary Jackson and Stanley Norris.

## Julius Rosenwald School Foundation sends four board members to Tuskegee

TUSKEGEE, ALA.—Four members of the Julius Rosenwald School Foundation of Northumberland County recently travelled to Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Ala., to participate in a conference.

The gathering, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of a project to construct public schools for African Americans in 15 Southeastern states, including Virginia, said board of directors member Bob Rosenwald.

The program, begun jointly by Booker T. Washington, president of Tuskegee Institute, and Julius Rosenwald, chairman of the board of Sears & Roebuck, helped underwrite the construction of some 5,000 school

buildings from 1912 to 1932, including 22 in the Northern Neck, said Rosenwald.

Nearly 350 attendees interested in saving various remaining Rosenwald schools and preserving and publicizing the legacy of this important piece of American history, listened to various presentations, toured the area where it all began, and networked to leverage knowledge and experience, he said.

The Northumberland organization intends to acquire, restore and reuse the Julius Rosenwald High School in Reedville as a museum, community center and education facility. The group is planning a Rosenwald Heritage Banquet November 3 at Festival Halle in Reedville.



Chesapeake Bay Garden Club members share their knowledge and love of the hydrangea.

## Chesapeake Bay Garden Club 'hydrangea trip' celebrates club president's first year

REEDVILLE—Chesapeake Bay Garden Club president Joan Clements returned tired and happy with 53 members and guests from a June 12 bus trip to the Norfolk Botanical Gardens.

The trip was arranged by ways and means committee chairmen Patsy Sylvia and Liz Mesec, reported publicity chairman Liz Campbell. This trip plus one more upcoming introductory floral design workshop by design committee co-chairmen Charlotte Spears and Lorraine Van Wickler mark the culmination of Clements' first year of a two-year term as president.

Her goal for the club was summed up at the beginning of her term as "Reaching Out, Reaching In."

Reaching out to the community was achieved during the year by members who maintained six public garden spaces, conducted a program on the life cycle of seeds for first-grade students, completed renovation of the elementary school butterfly garden and provided information on recycling, said Campbell.

Reaching in was achieved mostly by tapping the vast knowledge of club members. Spears and Van Wickler as well as horticulture

chairman Sharon Lemke shared their knowledge during the first program in September and at every subsequent meeting, said Campbell.

Member Bonnie Wilson, a Master Naturalist and member of the Northern Neck Audubon Board, described birds common to the area at a later meeting.

Member Angie Brack, knowledgeable on natural alternatives to chemicals used in the garden and home, was another program speaker.

Wonda Allain, one of the club's most knowledgeable members, gave a talk on the history, care, coloring and preservation of hydrangeas while the group was visiting the Norfolk Botanical Gardens.

Members toured the 1.5 acres of hydrangea cultivars consisting of 300 hydrangeas representing 200 different species and 200 different cultivars.

Members also visited the rest of the gardens by tram and boat, guided by the Norfolk Botanical Gardens staff. A visit to the Rose Garden was a special delight, said Campbell.

"Wonda Allain's superb hydrangea talk and accompanying handout were the perfect prelude to care-

taker Moriah's enthusiastic guided tour of the hydrangea garden," said Clements. "Their depth of knowledge and appreciation for the plants inspired each of us. I had hoped the tour would be educational as well as enjoyable and it surpassed my hopes and added to my goals for the year; reaching in to each other, sharing a great day and reaching out for deeper knowledge of a favorite plant, the hydrangea."

## Cooling Assistance may be available to those who qualify

RICHMOND—With Virginia's severe summer heat and humidity, staying cool is not a luxury, but rather a health and safety issue.

The Commonwealth's 120 local departments of social services are accepting Cooling Assistance applications from June 15 through August 15, as part of the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Energy Assistance Program.

"Our goal is to help eligible low-income families and our most vulnerable citizens throughout Virginia, who simply cannot afford to pay their electric bill or perhaps repair an air conditioner," said Commissioner Martin D. Brown. "In the extreme heat of the summer months, indoor temperatures can quickly reach the same levels as outdoors, leading to life-

threatening conditions."

Cooling Assistance is available to households with a child under age 6, a person with disabilities, or an adult age 60 or older living in the home who meet the program's income and eligibility requirements. To qualify for Cooling Assistance this year, the maximum gross monthly income (before taxes) for a one-person household is \$1,211 and \$2,498 for a household of four.

Cooling Assistance may include:

- Payment of electric bills to operate cooling equipment.
- Payment of security deposits for electricity to operate cooling equipment.
- Repair of a central air conditioning system or heat pump.
- Purchase of a whole-

house fan, including ceiling or attic fans.

• Purchase and installation of a window unit air conditioner for households without a working one.

Those eligible may qualify for more than one type of assistance. The Energy Assistance Program is funded by the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant. The amount Virginia receives to disburse to recipients varies from year-to-year depending on the appropriation made by Congress. Assistance is available until funds are depleted.

The Cooling Assistance component served more than 80,000 Virginia households last year.

Families and individuals must apply at their local department of social services by August 15.

## Lancaster NAACP remains active

KILMARNOCK—Lancaster County NAACP president Lloyd Hill recently reviewed branch accomplishments midway through the 2012 session.

"Members are the heartbeat and lifeblood of our organization," said Hill.

He noted a recent fundraiser netted nearly \$3,000, and singled out Genevieve Johnson and Joan Ball for bringing in more than one-quarter of the total.

He also noted William Lee was recently appointed by Lancaster supervisors to represent District 4 until a special election can be held in November to elect a supervisor to serve out the remaining years of the late Jack Russell's term.

In other business, chairperson Sandra Smyre announced the annual Freedom Fund Banquet will be held October 14 at The Beacon in Topping.

The Northumberland NAACP and the Virginia DMV mobile unit will aid citizens who do not have a driver's license to apply for a photo ID from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 21 and August 18 at the Northumberland County Community Center Organization facility at 679 Browns Store Road in the Wicomico Church area.

Applicants must bring \$10 in cash, money order, or check and several types of documents verifying their identity and local residency.

Mandatory verification documents include original copy of birth certificate and proof of residency. Secondary documents could be one of the following: Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid cards; marriage license; or school records.

Given historical facts and the current political controversy over various states tightening their voting laws in preparation for the 2012 presidential elections, Hill told members, "We want to make sure we are pro-active

in case the Virginia law should change."

Hill announced he will represent Lancaster at the NAACP national convention July 8 through 13 in Houston, Texas, where two of the featured speakers will be presumed Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama.

On another topical matter, Hill read the national organization's recent resolution in favor of marriage equality which states: "We support marriage equality consistent with equal protection under the law provided under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution."

Edna Davenport, direc-

tor of the Lancaster County Department of Social Services, informed the audience of a new state program available online which is designed to streamline the application process for all DSS programs except FAMIS.

Now in its test phase, CommonHelp allows citizens to go online and find out in 15 minutes whether they are eligible for assistance, and if so, it then takes about 30 minutes to complete an application for benefits.

Citizens will be able to interact with the department "from the comfort of home" anytime of the day or night, even on weekends, said Davenport

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Representing recipients, from left, are Stacey Evans, Sam and Betty Bridgeman, Jeanne Kling, Frances Callaghan and Anne Cook, (next row) Kiwanis Club president Clay Macauley, Lance Barton, Maida Dameron, Gov. Linwood Holton, Patrick McCranie, Mark Favazza, Robbie Spiers, Nina Thompson, Ed Furher, Lindsey Gardner, Cabell Westbrook, Michelle Dotson and Nancy Webster.

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## Northern Neck Kiwanis Club announces grants

KILMARNOCK—The Northern Neck Kiwanis Club recently welcomed 18 guests representing the service organizations of the Northern Neck for presentation of awards.

Over the past year the local club raised over \$45,000 to be used for service back to the community, reported president Clay Macauley. This amount had been raised primarily from the sale of donated boats

over the internet and the annual boat auction in May at Yankee Point Marina.

Macauley emphasized the majority of the amount that was distributed came from fundraising efforts in the Northern Neck. Additionally, there was a booth at the Oyster Festival in Urbanna which was greatly enjoyed by visitors and that effort raised over \$9,000.

Donations presented at the meeting were made to

the Boys and Girls Cub, Boy and Girl Scout troops, Hospice, Interfaith, Band Boosters, HOBY, CASA, the YMCA Guardian programs serving Lancaster and Northumberland counties, the Free Health Clinic, Lanacster Community Library, Northumberland County Library, Smart Beginnings, The Haven, and Backpack Buddies.

Scholarships for graduates from Lancaster and

Northumberland high schools, amounting to \$5,000, were presented at the respective schools awards ceremonies.

It was a pleasure for all that the principal speaker of the event, former Gov. Lin-

wood Holton, spoke energetically.

He commended the guests for their commitment to the community and particularly noted both his and his wife's special interests in several of the groups



Representing the recipients from left are (front row) Lance Barton, Betty Wirth, Lindsay Gardner, Cassie Leichty, Jeanne Kling and Kathy Conrad; (next row) Judy Hammell, Tim Shrader, KIWS Rotary Club president Bill Cronheim, Julie Dudley, Ellen Yackel, Sharon Timm, Jeannie Nelson, Pam Hodges and Aubrey Hall.

## KIWS Rotary Club distributes grants

IRVINGTON—The Kilmarnock-Irvington-White Stone Rotary Club recently held its annual Philanthropy Day Reception to distribute proceeds of the previous year's Bay Seafood Festival.

This year, the club donated \$24,000 to local charities, said preident Bill Cronheim. To date, the club has given back to the local community

over \$350,000 from the previous 21 festivals.

This year's recipients include Northern Neck Food Bank, Northern Neck CASA, Lancaster Community Library, Camp Kekoka, Interfaith Council, Lancaster Band Boosters, Upper Lancaster Rescue Squad, Friends of Belle Isle, River Counties Red Cross, The Haven, Hospice,

Northern Neck Free Health Clinic, Dream Fields, Jacob's Ladder, Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department and Northern Neck YMCA.

The 2012 Bay Seafood Festival will be held September 7 at Belle Isle State Park and is already more than half sold out, said Cronheim. "Party with a Purpose" is the motto.

## Garden Club of the Northern Neck awards 2012 grants

WEEMS—The Garden Club of the Northern Neck awarded its 2012 grants to four groups in the Northern Neck at its regular meeting in June, according to longtime Club member Helen Murphy.

The grants went to the following organizations:

- \$725 to Teachers on the Bay for a full scholarship which goes to Beth Roane who teaches at the Montessori School in Lancaster County.

- \$458 to Mildren Presbyterian Church for foundation plantings (hollies and boxwood) to be installed by members of the church in preparation for the 125th anniversary next summer.

- \$140 to Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library for five knock-out rose bushes to be planted along the rear of the herb garden to add a beautiful backdrop and screen the view.

- \$100 to the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck to be used to buy and plant tomatoes, radishes, peppers, let-



From left, Helen Murphy, longtime member of the Garden Club of the Northern Neck, presents a grant to Karen Hart, executive director of the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library,

tuce, squash, and other plants in their summer vegetable garden.

"Congratulations to all of our winners," said Becky Marks, incoming president of the Garden Club of the Northern Neck. "We wish you well with these projects and look forward to hearing about your progress."

## Mini cruise destination: Kelly home

DIVIDING CREEK—On Saturday, June 2, the Indian Creek Yacht Club held a "Mini Cruise" hosted by Jere and Jan Litsinger and Craig and Mary Charlotte Kelly at the Kelly's home on Dividing Creek.

The theme was "Attitudes Changed" and featured margaritas and Jimmy Buffet-themed music and dress, reported Wilson Throckmorton.

The 74 yacht club members attending enjoyed lawn games including cornhole toss, ladder golf and bocce ball, said Throckmorton. The weather was perfect and while most members arrived by car, eight boats traveled to an anchorage in Dividing Creek

After the games, the group enjoyed great Angus beef cheeseburgers fixed by Craig Kelly along with a lot of sides, salads and key lime pie, he said.

Awards were given to the winners of the games along with the winner of the "Best Hat" contest, Ellie Davis, added Throckmorton.

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## Fiction or Fact

from Bob's Almanac

by Robert Mason Jr.

A couple of weeks into summer vacation and you've run out of things to do?

Don't fret.

There are more books to read than days left before classes resume.

If you are at a loss for what to read, seek guidance from your friendly librarian, or give that favorite English teacher from your high school days a call. She'd love to hear from you—catch up on how this college thing is working out for you.

If you can't find a friendly librarian, and you're still not on speaking terms with that English teacher after you made a fool of yourself at that graduation party, there's still hope.

I've attached here, for your enjoyment, a reading list of sorts to help get you under way.

For starters, if you've never read the Bible, The Boy Scout Handbook or a good dictionary, that will pretty much consume your summer.

Other "must reads" are the *10 Rules of Writing*, by Elmore Leonard, *The Fat Boy Chronicles*, by Lang Buchanan, a current World Almanac and Book of Facts, a book of poetry, a local history book and a book by a local author.

Also, at least one book each by:

- James Lee Burke.
- Christopher Moore.
- William Styron.
- Randy Wayne White.
- John Sandford.
- Robert B. Parker.
- Lee Child.
- Harlen Coben.
- Larry Chowning.
- Edgar Allan Poe.
- Jimmy Buffett.
- Patricia Cornwell.
- David Baldacci.
- John Grisham.
- Brad Parks.
- Jane Austen.
- James Patterson.
- Janet Evanovich.
- Dean Koontz.
- John Steinbeck.
- Lewis Grizzard.
- Louis L'Amour.
- Tom Bodett.
- John Irving.
- Jeff Foxworthy.
- Garrison Keillor.
- Glen Beck.
- Robert Mason Jr.
- Nathaniel Hawthorne.
- Dan Brown.
- Bill Bradley.
- Margaret Truman.
- Fannie Flag.
- Nicholas Sparks.
- Mitch Albom.
- Richard North Patterson.
- Michael Connelly.
- Jodi Picoult.
- Nora Roberts.
- Zane Grey.
- Clive Cussler.

Or you could always go fishing.

## The Congressional Report

If there is an institution that folks look to that needs change, it is Congress.

So many of you indicate

Congress often works at a snail's pace, progress is at a standstill and often undetectable. I share those frustrations. Although I

am one of 435 members, I believe it's important that the collective voice from this district continues to resonate for com-

mon-sense solutions and results.

That's why I support numerous measures to reform Congress. Recently,

by Rep. Rob Wittman

I opposed the legislative branch budget, because it did not do enough to trim budgets for Congressional operations. Congress has a duty to set a tone of fiscal responsibility and this bill simply did not cut enough.

Members of Congress must set an example and cut their own salaries. I have continually supported legislation to cut the salary of members, especially as individuals and families struggle to pay their bills or even find work. In January of 2011, I voted to reduce the amount authorized for salaries and expenses of member, committee, and leadership offices in 2011 and 2012. There is still room to cut. I am also a cosponsor of the Congressional Pay Reform Act, to eliminate the automatic pay raise for members of Congress. It should be permanently eliminated. Any future attempt to raise pay for members of Congress should be considered in a fully transparent vote by the U.S. House of Representatives. This accountability and transparency is vital for Congress to responsibly serve the American people.

Congress also has a habit of procrastination on important deadlines. This must change. At the end of this year, many looming deadlines will affect every taxpayer in Virginia and across the country. I am extremely disappointed that Congress has not yet addressed these issues such as tax reform.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently issued a report outlining a bleak future if Congress does not act on fiscally responsible budget reform. Families and job creators cannot plan their budgets accurately without a concrete idea of what to expect in January. It is critical that action be taken to prevent disastrous tax increases, as well as catastrophic cuts to defense infrastructure, from taking effect.

The discussion on how to avoid these disasters and truly enact meaningful change in Washington must take place now, not after the November election. The American people truly deserve a representative body that can produce reasonable solutions to promote economic growth, reduce spending, and restore faith in the fiscal management of the federal government. Fundamental tax reform is an intrinsic part of this, combined with reductions in wasteful government spending so that our economy can start to see growth and job creators can begin hiring again.

As always, I can be reached at wittman.house.gov, (202-225-4261).

## Focal Point



Learning to sail on Indian Creek

Photo by Garnett Fisher

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

## YOUR LETTERS

### Keep it nice

It's summer time in God's Little Acre called the Northern Neck. With it, friends and neighbors enjoy the weather, their front porches, gatherings and each other.

But some seem to forget their manners, as well as their ethics or morals, in their quest for self importance in the social pecking order. Or, as the case may be, the teachings of their religious affiliation, whether these are Christian or otherwise.

Recently I had a nice chat with Father Bruse of St. Francis de Sales Church in Kilmarnock. I mentioned to him how upset I feel about the ever present local gossip. He reminded me of the caliber person who engages in such activity: they are to be pitied and prayed for because of their ignorance and their empty lives as well as their lack of compassion, empathy or Christ-likeness. And, to learn to ignore them.

I had similar conversations with Jesuit priests and an Episcopal bishop: A Christian does not bear false witness, spread unsubstantiated or ancient stories that malign or cloud the character of currently exemplary individuals, nor spread negative, damaging, hurtful or vicious diatribes maliciously.

I was reminded that such gossip reflects on the

speaker more than on the subject. While this may be true, it nevertheless causes unnecessary hurt and harm. Who of us wants to be considered as actively hurting or harming another individual for no reason than our own inadequacies or needs?

A Higher Being will judge us in the light in which we have judged. And this is universal, as expressed in the familiar Golden Rule.

I exhort the various congregations in the Northern Neck to reflect on this common human bond, and for clergy to expound on the virtues of brotherly love.

"If you have nothing nice to say about someone, say nothing."

Monika R Smith,  
Reedville

### Lower taxes

Tonight the Lancaster board of supervisors will vote to formalize the FY12-13 Budget and the tax rates which fund it.

The advertised real estate tax rate is \$0.40 per hundred of assessed value. No change from last year. This in itself is a notable achievement and is due to a well-managed budget cycle which kept cost increases mostly to critical areas, such as public safety—emergency medical services.

There is clear evidence that this tax rate should be lower.

The bottom line is that this budget still has an historically high end of year fund balance of \$3.9 million. This is after supervisors reduced revenue \$600,000 per year two years ago with a 2 cent reduction to \$0.40. Last year supervisors made another attempt, with three of five supervisors voting for a reduction. \$0.02, \$0.01 and \$0.015 were offered as motions but they couldn't agree on a specific amount, so the rate stayed at \$0.40.

Holding \$1 million in reserve for example, the tax rate could be reduced \$0.09 to \$0.31. One million dollars was about the historical reserve until after the last reassessment. A more modest \$0.02 reduction would leave a \$3.3 million reserve, for a tax rate of \$0.38. A sensible move, especially since there are additional efficiencies to be had in the following year's budget.

For example, school board member Robert Smart testified to overhead inefficiencies in the just adopted school board budget. Assistant county administrator Jack Larson quantified them as \$1.8 million or 6 cents of the real estate tax rate. Several citizens besides me have put this on our to do list.

Tell your supervisors you support a reasonable tax reduction of \$0.02. Call Chairman Beauchamp at

435-6008; Butch Jenkins, 462-7816; Ernest Palin, 462-5702; Jason Bellows, 761-5285; and William Lee, 435-6353.

George R. Bott,  
Lancaster

### Scout camp is fun and meaningful

Last week my son, and other Scouts in the area had the privilege of attending Cub Scout Day Camp in Lively. I had the opportunity to be there some of those days.

It was a good experience for the Scouts, some having been there other years and for some this being their first time. It was good to see the boys work together to encourage each other to excel in the different activities. These activities included archery, BBs, games, skills and crafts, such as making a bird feeder and a boat that they raced later in the week.

They got to swim at the pool, a nice break from the heat. They also learned the rules and got to play kickball and soccer.

I watched the boys encourage each other in the games, some getting distracted by a frog or some new bug they discovered.

Day Camp was a lot of fun for these boys. I saw how important it is for the

continued on page A7

## Excerpts

Today is the first day in the last 17 years that Father James Bruse has not been the pastor of Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Kilmarnock. He came here to his first pastorate filled with enthusiasm, a zeal that never diminished over the years. For the first 12 years he directed both Saint Francis and Saint Paul's Church in Hague by himself, driving back and forth to serve the needs of both on Sunday mornings, as well as many other days of the week, until five years ago when an assistant priest came to help with the large parish.

Father Bruse has officiated at over 1,000 funerals, and many marriages and other occasions made memorable by his gentle and caring presence. He has driven thousands of miles, covering every highway and byway in the service of his parishioners, and has led many religious pilgrimages to special events.

When he first arrived he enjoyed the Northern Neck to such an extent that his sister and his parents followed him here, establishing their own homes in Kilmarnock. He became identifiable in the area for his penchant for wearing Hawaiian shirts, the louder, the better. I do not

*As with all of his work, he has looked forward to doing the tasks for which he has been called in a new venue, always placing the message, rather than the messenger, in the place of prominence.*

know if he ever visited the Fiftieth State, but no one could be a better or more consistent ambassador for the casual attire for which the islands are famous.

Father Bruse is also recognizable for his profound interest in technology. I think he uses his GPS even to walk across from the rectory to the office on Church Street in Kilmarnock. He understands modern technological innovations, and uses them for the traditional application of the Sacred Scriptures to contemporary living. His fascination with all forms of science carries over

into everyday life. Thirteen years ago he spent many sermons discussing the significance of the new millennium. Despite all the media hype about Y2K, each time he brought forth a new thought or aspect about Christianity entering its third millennium.

Over a decade ago he took in a small kitten, which he named Turbo, often a reference in his sermons, and a frequent topic in his conversations. The cat appears to have been as much an assistant as a pet. He has described Turbo's having awakened him for appointments, and his reminding him to do various duties.

Earlier this month he announced that he would be going mountain climbing, a reference to his new assignment as pastor of the church in Madison, up in the Shenandoah Valley. As with all of his work, he has looked forward to doing the tasks for which he has been called in a new venue, always placing the message, rather than the messenger, in the place of prominence.

A pastor should be the unifying core of a congregation, the individual who brings together people of all races, polit-

ical identities, viewpoints, and economic positions. That role can be most difficult in a modern disparate society. The pastor as the central force for the expression of the collective faith of the congregation is one of the vital elements in the making of one out of many. In that arena Father Bruse has been a model.

Unlike other churches in which the clergy receive their appointments, or callings, from the congregations, in the Catholic Church the bishop makes the pastoral assignments. If Catholics were to follow the other method, Father Bruse would have received a unanimous vote of approval from the congregation, a simple recognition of the consistent good he has rendered to his parish and to those of other faiths in our area. His motto could be that of the Prince of Wales, quite simply, "I serve."

Writing this column the day after he departed the Northern Neck has been by design, for Father Bruse is the last person who would seek publicity or personal stature. Genuine modesty and humility are among his most abiding and enduring characteristics. As he leaves the most appropriate word to say is "Godspeed!"

by Henry Lane Hull



## Do you remember?

This picture post card, mailed from Kilmarnock in 1909, shows "a street scene in Kilmarnock," believed to be Main Street looking south, according to Kilmarnock Museum president Carroll Lee Ashburn. The post card was published by Ellis C. Richardson of Kilmarnock. "Do you remember?" is a public service of the Kilmarnock Museum.

## YESTERYEAR

(Reprints from the June 28, 1912, issue of the Virginia Citizen)

### Notice These

Schedule of extra steamer on Potomac river. J. W. Clarkson's hotel accommodations at Sharps. J. S. Woodward, White Stone, will tune your piano. Sale of valuable real estate by auction July 23 at Morattico. Sharps is preparing for an all day celebration on the Fourth. Reports of the Farmers and Merchants' Bank of Kilmarnock and the Lancaster National Bank of Irvington.

### Hotel Notice

I have been overhauling my house for the last two months putting up patten cement walls, graining, etc., on the inside. Have put down two long cement walks outside, and other improvements still going on. I offer the best location and cheapest rates to boarders of anyone on the river. Give me a trial and be convinced.

### Syringa Vs. Irvington

Two games of baseball will be played at

Irvington Thursday of next week between the above named teams. First game called at 2:30. Admission to both games is 25 cents.

### Ocran

Geo. L. Squires was in Norfolk on business Saturday. Miss Myrtle Squires is attending the summer school at Charlottesville. Steamer Struven, of the Bellows and Squires works, broke a piece of her machinery last week and had to go to the shops in Norfolk for repairs.

### Irvington

We have in the Citizen office a curosimy in the way of a double cucumber grown in I. K. Leonard's garden.

Paul Messick has returned to Fork Union Military Academy to take special summer work in order to finish up his course there next session.

A large crowd of missionary workers attended the missionary conference in Middlesex Wednesday, F. G. Newbill taking them on his boat.

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

# Watch out for birds

by Kathy Reshetiloff

Birds are nomads in the animal world, traveling with the change of seasons. Some birds stay in one area throughout the year, but most are condemned to constantly move, following their food source.

As the temperatures cool in the fall, birds who feed exclusively on insects, fruit or pollen must migrate to the warmer climates of South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. As spring returns to North America, so do the birds, following their food back.

The importance of migratory birds cannot be overlooked. Birds are the best natural insect control, eating tons of insects annually. As leaves emerge, so do millions of caterpillars and insects. Coinciding with this event, an array of birds, like orioles, vireos, flycatchers, warblers and swallows return to feast upon the abundance of insects.

More than 350 species of birds make this annual migration, including some raptors and a few waterfowl. The Chesapeake Bay watershed contains many types of habitats that attract a variety of birds.

Osprey nests on docks, bridges, pilings and water markers decorate open water areas. Marshes come alive with red-winged blackbirds, salt-marsh sparrows, seaside sparrows and black rails. Isolated islands are perfect nesting habitat for black ducks, common terns and snowy egrets.

Bluebirds, prairie warblers and field sparrows find plenty of insects and nesting areas in open meadows. Forests provide food and cover for many migratory birds, especially warbler species, such as Kentucky, prothonotary, yellow, hooded and pine warblers, as well as other songbirds like the great crested flycatcher, red-eyed vireo, eastern towhee, eastern wood-pewee, whippoorwill and

wood thrush.

Even small pockets of trees, shrubs and flowers in urban and suburban areas bring back barn swallows, ruby-throated hummingbirds, gray catbirds, and chipping sparrows.

International Migratory Bird Day is celebrated each May. IMBD this year celebrated its 20th anniversary by focusing on 20 ways people can preserve birds every day:

- Prevent bird collisions with windows. Collisions are one of the most frequent causes of bird deaths. Putting up curtains or window decals helps to make windows visible to birds.
- Protect birds from pets. Unleashed dogs and outdoor cats can disturb, chase and kill birds.
- Clean bird feeders. Dirty feeders spread disease. Clean out old seed frequently and put fresh water in the bird bath every day.
- Don't buy illegally caged birds: Buy only captive-bred birds. Make certain the breeder or pet store is reputable.
- Use reusable bags and bottles. Birds that mistakenly eat plastic trash can become ill or die.
- Recycle and properly dispose of fishing line. Anything that can be recycled reduces litter and saves resources. Birds, like osprey, can become entangled in fishing line and other trash they may pick up to use in making their nests.
- Restore natural habitat in the community. Birds need a place to live. Work with others in the community to re-create the habitat that once existed in the area.
- Keep your distance. Birds need space for feeding, nesting and other daily activities.
- Leave fledglings where they are found. Young birds may spend several days on the ground after they leave the nest before they are able to fly. Keep people and pets away, so the parents can continue to care for them.
- Slow down when driv-

ing. Cars kill millions of birds each year. Slow down if there is a bird or other animal in the road.

- Buy bird-friendly products. Help preserve bird habitat in Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean by buying shade-grown coffee and chocolate. Shade coffee farms support many more bird species than sun coffee farms.

- Plant natives. Native plants provide food, nest sites and cover for birds.

- Teach others about birds. Talk to friends about birds. The more that people know, the more they can do to help.

- Get outdoors. Appreciate the bird habitat near your home. Explore a local park or neighborhood.

- Take a friend birding. Invite a buddy. See if you can spot more birds together.

- Support conservation. Join a bird club or other conservation organization to learn more and contribute to protecting birds.

- Be a citizen scientist. Many projects need helpers to gather data on birds and their habitat. Contact a local conservation organization to volunteer.

- Reduce energy use. Riding a bike or walking reduces pollution in bird habitats.

- Avoid chemicals: Birds may accidentally eat pesticide and herbicide pellets which can harm them or have harmful effects on growing embryos.

- Learn the hunting laws. Federal and local laws protect sensitive areas and manage the harvest of birds to ensure healthy populations. Purchase a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.

For additional resources about bird conservation, visit [birdday.org](http://birdday.org).

Kathryn Reshetiloff is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Chesapeake Bay Field Office in Annapolis. This article is distributed by Bay Journal News Service.

## YOUR LETTERS

continued from page A6

boys to learn to get along with others, follow directions, be patient with others and themselves, persevere in activities that some had never done before only to find out at the end of the week that they could get a bullseye in archery and BBs.

I urge the scout leaders, parents, and volunteers to continue to devote their time and efforts to make Day Camp a lot of fun and a meaningful experience for these boys.

Rebecca Stickler,  
Lancaster

### Cut fraud

If President Obama really wants to lower health care spending, Medicare/Medicaid fraud is a good place to start.

He cut more than \$500 billion, over 10 years, in future Medicare spending in order to claim the bill was "paid for." Targeting Medicare/Medicaid fraud could save \$200 billion a year— or \$1.2 trillion, over 10 years.

"Abuses of Medicaid (alone) eat up at least 10% of the programs total cost nationwide—a waste of \$30 billion a year. Unscrupulous doctors billing for over 24 hours per day of procedures, phony companies invoicing for phantom services, pharmacists filling prescriptions for dead patients, home health-care companies demanding payment for clients already in the hospital— and on and on the rip-offs go." The Manhattan Institute.

Forbes Magazine disclosed, "Scamming Medicare and Medicaid is so lucrative that the Russian and Nigerian mobs have gotten involved." One New York crime family found that "defrauding Medicare is both more lucrative and less dangerous than some of the traditional organized crime activities."

IBM Corp offered to help cut Medicare/Medicaid fraud by \$900 billion two years ago and President Obama turned them down—not once, but twice. This fraud busting offer would have been at no cost to the American taxpayer.

President Obama promised he would "bend the health-care cost curve down." He and his administration are confident that expanding the government 'European-style,' raising taxes, recklessly borrowing and spending taxpayer's money fixes overreach.

This only amplifies how unwilling they are to choose the responsible, common-sense paths necessary to lower costs, balance the books and decrease government spending. I don't think that's their goal or intention, do you?

Matt W. Johnston,  
Morattico

### Early deadlines

The Record will observe early deadlines next week.

Because our printing plant will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, the Record will be printed a day earlier.

Most display advertisements are needed by 4 p.m. Friday, June 29. The final deadlines will be 10 a.m. Monday, July 2, for display ads that are repeated from a previous issue or those submitted in the portable document format (pdf) and noon Monday for classified ads and news items.

## Stylish Eyes SALE

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# RAL July Exhibit

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RAL is a proud affiliate of VMFA and is partially supported by grants from VCA, NEA, RFA and RCCF



### Presidential moment

On a handshake, Bill Pennell takes over as the new president of the Lancaster Community Library board from past president Peggy Stalnaker.



### Win a pony

Johnny Smith (above) and other Kilmarnock volunteer firemen will sell raffle tickets for this 2012 Ford Mustang throughout the month of July. The car is the grand prize at the 77th annual Kilmarnock Firemen's Carnival, to be held July 26-August 4. Tickets for the car are \$10 each and can be purchased from any volunteer firemen and at community events. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi



The Claud W. Somers sits in drydock at Butler's Railway.

## Claud W. Somers passes annual USCG inspection

REEDVILLE—On June 4, the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Hampton Roads Inspection Team visited the Claud W. Somers for its annual inspection.

"We want to ensure that the Claud W. Somers is up to code and safe for our passengers," said skipjack Capt. Walt Jachimski. "This safety inspection is conducted every year with the Coast Guard and includes safety drills for our crew."

The 101-year-old skipjack had a safety inspection for its seven bilge pumps, five fire extinguishers, life jackets, navigation lights, VHF radio, flares, horn, bell, life ring (with strobe light), buckets and manual pump, said Jachimski. The Coast Guard Inspection Team also inspected the three watertight compartments and verified that all pumps worked properly including manual and automatic operation pumps with audible alarms.

Crew training records, CPR and First Aid Certifications and Drug Consortium Enrollments were verified, he said. Vessel documents including previous inspection records, stability reports and registration records for the push boat and skipjack also were verified.

A structural inspection was conducted along with a mechanical inspection of the propulsion system, said Jachimski.

On-the-water drills were conducted in 20-25 knot winds for fire fighting and man overboard emergencies. The crew included Dick Bradt, Ray Reuter, Susan Tipton, Don Gallagher and Jachimski.

"After the exercises were completed, the U.S.C.G. Team debriefed our team on their findings and only one item was cited. A portion of a railing had rotted and it will be replaced," said Jachimski.

After the Coast Guard team departed, the CWS was transported to Butler's Railway for bottom cleaning and repainting. The work was completed by a Boat Shop Team and the CWS returned to the Reedville Fishermen's Museum on June 7.

"The Somers is ready for another season of passenger cruises in the Great Wicomico River and Ingram Bay," said Tipton. "We are looking forward to another year of giving people a feel of history by sailing on an historic skipjack."

Please call the RFM Office at 453-6529 to sign up for a two-hour sailing cruise.



The inspection team (above) found a section of rotten railing, which will be replaced.

# Dissolved oxygen continues to fall

ANNAPOLIS—Monitoring data collected by Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions and other partners shows dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations in the bay fell for 2011 to their lowest level in the last four years with 34% of the waters meeting the established standards for the summer months.

This represents a decrease of 4% from the 2010 figures according to the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership and is almost half of the higher DO values recorded a decade ago.

In spite of lower levels and in the face of many weather challenges, various habitats and creatures that have been the target of restoration efforts showed resilience last year. Scientists from

the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) recently reported that despite a decrease in bay grasses overall, the restored, healthy grass beds at Susquehanna Flats remained intact, widgeon grass beds grew and new grass beds were found in the James River.

In terms of fisheries, preliminary data by oyster scientists from Maryland Department of Natural Resources and NOAA showed good news, too. Experts estimate last year's oyster survival rate was at its highest since 1985; oyster biomass increased 44% and oyster disease was at an all-time low.

"Last year's heavy rains and even this year's early algae blooms and fish kills reinforce the critical importance of controlling polluted runoff reaching the bay's waters," said CBP director Nick DiPasquale. "The survival rate of some oyster and grass beds in 2011 shows us that our efforts are working. By actively restoring and protecting valuable resources, we can build a stronger, healthier bay ecosystem that can withstand the forces of nature. Clearly, while we can't control the weather, we can restore the water-

shed's ability to survive its more extreme events. We know what works; we just need to do more of it."

### Impact on the bay

Experts were not terribly surprised by the final information on the bay's 2011 "dead zones" given the extreme weather. Between the very wet spring that sent excessive nutrients downstream, a hot, dry, early summer and more heavy rains accompanying Tropical Storm Lee and Hurricane Irene, conditions in the Chesapeake were bound to be affected.

"The bay ecosystem functions most effectively when fresh and salt water can mix, just like oil and vinegar need to mix to form salad dressing," explained CBP monitoring coordinator and U.S. Geological Survey scientist Peter Tango. "A large fresh water influx such as that in 2011, along with intense heat, can result in vast differences in quantities of warm fresh and cool salt water in the bay. These variables make it more difficult for water to mix vertically in the water column."

In addition to vertical mixing, the DO levels are also affected by what happens at the edges.

"By the fall of last year, the Upper Bay became

mostly fresh water due to rain. The Lower Bay became a hot tub due to heat," said Tango. "While the initial effects of the Tropical Storm Lee's arrival was to mix the bay more than usual in late summer, this combination of salinity and temperature conditions resulted in minimal levels of oxygen in bottom waters that lasted well into the fall. The delay in autumn vertical mixing and the persistent summer-like water quality conditions at the northern and southern boundaries pushed on the mid bay waters, resulting in what we scientists call a dissolved oxygen or 'DO squeeze.'"

All of the bay's living creatures—from the fish and crabs that swim through its waters to the worms that bury themselves in its muddy bottom—need oxygen to survive, although the amounts needed vary by species, season and location. A DO squeeze challenges the health of fish, crabs, and other bay creatures since they become compacted together — predator and prey, from north to south and bottom to top — in significantly smaller sections of water where conditions are less-than-ideal for their survival.



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