

# Supervisors propose \$63.23M budget

COURTLAND

Southampton County's draft budget of \$63,231,606 for fiscal year 2019-2020 was agreed on during the workshop this past Wednesday, and is anticipated to be finalized during the board's meeting on Monday, April 22. As previously reported, a 4-cent increase in the real estate tax rate had been recommended, but that's now at 4-1/2 cents, which could make the rate at

.895 per \$100. Should that pass, the projected revenue could be increased by \$80,845.

As for the expense side, the proposed salary increases for the BOS members have been cut, creating a savings of \$5,950. Another \$15,619 in savings could be realized with the installation of a trash compactor at the Sebrell Refuse site in the second quarter of the next fiscal year.

The next opportunity for public comment will be for the final draft on Monday, May 20. The adoption of the budget and tax rates is anticipated for Tuesday, May 28.

In other business this Monday, a public hearing is scheduled for the priority list for secondary and unpaved roads as well as the FY 2020 budget for them. A representative from the Virginia Department of Transportation is expected to give

an overview about the matter.

Some of the roads that could receive attention from the Central Transportation Board are General Thomas Highway near the Nottoway River, Buckhorn Quarter Road, Delaware Road and Warrique Road. The later could see work done this summer.

Two other county items needing attention are the repair or replacement of school roofs and the prop-

erty acquisition and project design of the courthouse. During the February meeting, Davenport and Co. made a request for proposals about providing interim funding options for two projects.

The estimated cost for the first is expected to not exceed \$5.95M. The latter, the amount for getting land to expand the courthouse, if necessary, plus the designs, is expected to not exceed \$2.2M.



SUBMITTED | VICKY BROWN

A very young member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Franklin puts a book in the Little Free Library on the church property at High Street.

## Emmanuel Episcopal posts the good word

BY STEPHEN H. COWLES  
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FRANKLIN

A women's group of a local church is doing its part to spread the word, but not just that of the Bible.

On the morning of April 7, Emmanuel Episcopal Church on High Street in Franklin dedicated its first Little Free Library at Emmanuel.

According to church member Vicki Brown, the project was contributed by the congregation's Episcopal Church Women.

Brown stated in an email that the library is "Dedicated to the ladies past, present and future who work tirelessly to keep the church going. We, the ECW, will be the primary stewards of the Little Free Library."

She continued, "Books includ-



SUBMITTED | VICKY BROWN

The Little Free Library was donated by the Episcopal Church Women of Emmanuel Episcopal in Franklin, and dedicated on April 7.

ed will be all genres for all ages except for one month of the year when the children of the church will be tasked with the care and feeding of our LFL. During the

month of October, all the books will be for young people.

To learn more about contributing, call the church at 562-4542 Tuesday through Thursday.

## Juvenile correctional center voted down, 3-2

BY STEPHEN FALESKI

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WINDSOR

When it came time on Thursday for Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors Chairman William McCarty to cast his vote on a motion to approve a final contract between the county and the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice — which would have deeded 20 acres of land in the county's Shirley T. Holland Intermodal Park to the state for the construction of a 60-bed juvenile correctional center — the matter had stood at a 2-2 tie.

Smithfield District Supervisor Dick Grice had made the motion, and he, along with Hardy District Supervisor Rudolph Jefferson, had voted in favor of final approval. However, Windsor District Supervisor Joel

Acree and Carrsville District Supervisor Don Rosie both felt obliged to heed the wishes of many living in the southern and central parts of the county, who, for months, have been vocal in their opposition to the proposed DJJ facility. At 6:45 p.m., McCarty voted with Acree and Rosie, making the final vote 3-2 against approval. A few minutes later, McCarty also motioned that the Board withdraw its support for the DJJ project, which also passed 3-2 with Grice and Jefferson dissenting.

McCarty, who had voted in favor of deeding the land on Feb. 21, contingent on reaching a final agreement with the state, did not say what specifically had made him change his mind about the project following his vote, only commenting

SEE VOTE, A10

## Plenty to do next Saturday in Western Tidewater

BY LAUREN SLOAN

FRANKLIN

Call up all your out-of-town people: We've got an incredible day of events in your backyard on Saturday, April 27! The last Saturday of the month is jam-packed with events that will sure to interest locals and visitors alike. The Historic Garden Week in Virginia is showcasing their yearly event in Franklin, the Franklin Cruise-In kicks off their event season, and the Southampton Renaissance Faire comes to the county fairgrounds.

The Historic Garden Week in Virginia is the oldest and largest statewide house and garden tour event in the nation. The annual week-long event rotates throughout select cities and counties, and this year Franklin will showcase both gorgeous homes and incredible floral arrangements! The tour runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with headquarters at Franklin Baptist Church. Stroll through six of the city's most elegant homes, while learning structural history and experience local hospi-

SEE TO DO, 10

## Residents to open homes, gardens for tour

BY STEPHEN H. COWLES  
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FRANKLIN

Six houses in Franklin are to be featured for Historic Garden Week 2019 (April 27-May 4), which is presented by the Garden Club of Virginia. Regionally, the garden clubs of Franklin, Nansemond River (Suffolk) and Elizabeth River (Portsmouth) are responsible for Western Tidewater. Hosting duties alter-

nate among the three and this time it's Franklin's turn. The local tour of houses will be among 31 in the state, and include nearly 200 private residences and gardens.

See for yourself what local residents will present on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Here are two examples, first 1312 Clay St., home of Jerry and Dottie Grizzard.

SEE TOUR, A10



COURTESY | ASHLEY COTTON

Jerry and Dottie Grizzard live at 1312 Clay St. in Franklin, and will welcome visitors to their home, which they bought in 2014 and began renovating. See how it looks today when you take the house and garden tour on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Tidewater News

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DEATHS

Zoa King  
Judie McNamara, 86

BEST BET

Child Abuse Awareness Community Day:

This takes places today, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Boykins Fire House. A bounce house, animals, games and fun for all ages will be offered. The town fire department and Southampton Social Services are the sponsors. Children must be accompanied by their parents or guardians. Neither sponsor is liable for any injuries.



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