

# The Farmville Herald

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Farmville, Virginia

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

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## Davis named interim town manager

BY CRYSTAL VANDEGRIFT  
*The Farmville Herald*

The Town of Farmville has named Dr. C. Scott Davis as interim town manager following the retirement of longtime Town Manager Gerald Spates.

Spates abruptly announced his retirement on Aug. 26.

During a special called meeting regarding the retirement of Spates, Mayor David Whitus informed Davis that the Council accepted the town manager's retirement letter effective immediately and approved appointing Davis as interim town manager with a 10 percent salary increase effective Aug. 26.

In a July 2017 article in *The Farmville Herald* it was noted that Davis would be making \$98,838 annually as assistant manager.

Davis has served as the Farmville assistant town manager since October 2017.



C. Scott Davis

### FARMVILLE

In an interview with *The Farmville Herald* last month, Davis said, he intends to build trust and stronger relationships with employees during this time of transition. "I want to ensure the mayor, town council, and the community that the employees and our staff, will continue to

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ALEXA MASSEY | HERALD

Pictured is the aftermath of a house fire in Buckingham where a mother, father and son were found deceased.

## Three found dead after house fire

BY ALEXA MASSEY  
*The Farmville Herald*

### BUCKINGHAM

A mother, father and their 10-year-old son were found deceased Monday morning after a fire destroyed their Buckingham home.

Virginia State Police Public Relations Director

Corrine Geller stated in a press release, "The Buckingham County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call at 4:54 a.m. about a house fire in the 20300 block of James Anderson Highway/Route 60."

Geller went on to say, "Volunteer fire departments from Dillwyn, Buckingham, Toga and Arvonias responded to the scene. The house was engulfed in flames when the first fire crews arrived on scene."

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TITUS MOHLER | HERALD

## Raising funds to raise homes

Piedmont Habitat for Humanity (PHFH) held its signature fundraiser, the pig roast, Saturday evening at the Farmville Community Marketplace, drawing a good crowd for homemade food, live music by Class Act and craft beer provided by Third Street Brewing. PHFH board members and staff gathered for a photo during the event are, from left, Sam Rabon, Gary Elder, Jen Fraley, Cheryl Steele, John Miller, Jayne Johnson, Lisa Gallimore, Dan Weese, Sasha Johnson, Alanna Rivera and Loretta Wood.

## Morris seeks seat on school board

Pamela Paulette Morris announced her candidacy for the Buckingham County School Board in District Three. The election will take place Nov. 5.

Morris grew up in Charlottesville and attended Charlottesville city schools. She graduated from Radford University in 1980 with a degree in Early Childhood Education. Morris began teaching in Buckingham County in 1980.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve the community. I hope that my experience in education will allow me to contribute to the board in a positive manner," Morris said.

Morris retired from Buckingham County Public Schools in 2014 after teaching there for 34 years. She taught kindergarten, second, third, and fourth grades as well as gifted education and summer school. She also has experience working with students who have special needs.

"All children can learn but not in the same way. We must take into account their individual needs to help them progress and achieve in school. I have



Pamela Paulette Morris

See **MORRIS**, Page A2

## PEVRS receives new ambulance

BY TITUS MOHLER  
*The Farmville Herald*

Prince Edward County and Farmville witnessed Friday afternoon one of the first fruits of the investments recently made into sustaining the county's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) with the delivery of Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad's (PEVRS) new ambulance.

The Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors voted at its regular August meeting to adopt the ordinance establishing a countywide EMS District, and the board also voted to approve the following tax levies for that district: 1 cent for real estate and 10 cents for



TITUS MOHLER | HERALD

Posing for a photo in front of PEVRS' new ambulance Friday in Farmville are, from left, Prince Edward County Sheriff Wesley W. Reed, Farmville 701 District Supervisor and Board Chairman Jim Wilck, citizen Tacola Scott, Farmville 801 District Supervisor Pattie Cooper-Jones, Prince Edward County Administrator Wade Bartlett, Leigh District Supervisor and Board Vice Chairman Jerry R. Townsend, Interim Farmville Town Manager Dr. C. Scott Davis, PEVRS Treasurer Carol Broadwater, PEVRS President David Norman, PEVRS Vice President Richard Broadwater and Longwood University representative to the PEVRS board John Miller.

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# DAVIS: ????????

FROM PAGE ONE

make Farmville a great place to live, work and play." Prior to his position as the Farmville assistant town manager Davis was the director of planning and community development

for the City of Colonial Heights. Davis has a doctorate and a resume heavy in local government experience at various levels and an educational background rich in policy and public administration. From 2009-15 Davis

served as mayor of Colonial Heights after having served as a councilman for six years. He has held various positions at Richard Bland College of William and Mary, including director of advancement and alumni relations and chief of police.

"The Town of Farmville and the City of Colonial Heights have many similarities," Davis said in an Aug. 17, 2017, edition of *The Farmville Herald*. "Both communities strive to provide excellent service while keeping a small-town feel."

Davis earned his Doctor of Law and Policy degree from Northeastern University. He earned a master's degree in public administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. Next month, the Farmville Town Council

is scheduled to hold a meeting with local government consultants to receive information on developing the search process for the next town manager. According to Farmville Mayor David Whitus that process could take from six to 10 months.

# FIRE: Grief-stricken and confused

FROM PAGE ONE

Once the blaze was extinguished, fire officials found three deceased individuals inside the residence." According to Derek Tucker, who identified himself as the son-in-law

of the home's occupants, victims included Earl Booker, 57, Collette Booker, 46 and their 10-year-old son Nayquaris. Lewis Booker, who identified himself as a cousin of the victims, had driven by the scene earlier in the morning

before the fire broke out. "This morning, everything was fine. Not a soul. Nobody. Nothing. The house was in perfect shape," Booker said. "About 5 a.m., 5:15 a.m., that's when we got the call saying the house was on fire. My fiancée

was going to work. She called me back and said, 'I've seen a lot of fire trucks going through 60. I'm thinking there's probably been an accident.' After I talked to her she went to work and that's when I got the phone call 10 minutes later," Booker said. The fire consumed most of the residence

and left the home's roof partially collapsed. According to Geller, "At this time, state police fire investigators, with the assistance of the Buckingham County Sheriff's Office, are still combing through the burnt debris for evidence to help them determine if the fire was accidental or suspicious in nature."

The tragedy left the community of neighbours and family members grief-stricken and confused. An autopsy is still underway. "As far as what happened, we don't know anything right now, besides that the house caught on fire and they died in the house," Tucker explained.

# MORRIS: ?????

FROM PAGE ONE

seen our school system go through many changes over the years. I know we have the ability to produce students who do well no matter what path they choose after graduation. It is our responsibility to provide an environment where all

students can reach their potentials." Teaching has always been a passion for Morris. She started by helping in Vacation Bible School as a teenager. As a senior in high school, she started a program for high school students to serve as teacher aides in a local elementary

school. Even after retirement, Morris has continued to keep informed of what is going in the school system. "School teaches more than academics. It is a place where students learn to be community members. We have to teach the students how to be successful in life and

how to overcome problems they will encounter." Since retirement, Morris has continued to be involved in the school system as a parent. Her last child graduated from Buckingham County High School this past May. She keeps informed of events occurring in the schools and continues

to read about ways to improve education. She enjoys following the lives of former students. In her spare time, Morris enjoys reading and singing in her church choir. She is a member of Concord Baptist Church.

Morris is married to Timothy E. Morris of Dillwyn. They have five children who all graduated from Buckingham County High School between the years of 2008 and 2019. They have two grandchildren.

# AMBULANCE: Is the squad's first new one in two years

FROM PAGE ONE

personal property, including machinery and tools but excluding merchants' capital. During the board's regular July meeting, it set up the public hearings required to make those votes possible and also voted to authorize PEVRS to immediately purchase a new ambulance, the one delivered Friday. In a July press release, the county stated that it "will provide immediate funding for half of the \$250,000 total cost of the ambulance and the balance upon delivery. It is envisioned this cost will be paid from the revenue generated by the dedicated tax levy." Farmville 701 District Supervisor and Board Chairman Jim Wilck was among the government officials who gathered Friday in the parking lot next to the South Street Conference Center to

look at the new emergency vehicle and pose for a photo commemorating its arrival. "I think it's great," Wilck said of the new ambulance in a Sunday interview. "... And we have made the payments on it now, because it has been delivered." Just prior to the commemoration photo, PEVRS President David Norman shared how he was feeling on a day in which his squad received a new vehicle like this: "Very proud and very gracious to the community and the board to be able to support us and everybody to come together to one table and saying, 'Hey, this is what's best for the community, and we need to make this happen,' and it's happened, which is amazing. Very amazing." He said that once this new ambulance is ready for operation, it will be replacing Rescue 11 in

the rescue squad's fleet. As for when the ambulance will be ready for use, Norman said, "Probably a month or less, tops. Probably a lot sooner than that, but with Murphy's Law — you know how that works." He said the squad already has all of the equipment that will need to be installed. "The main thing is we have to wait on Comtronics to come and put all the radios in," he said. "Then it has to get inspected. So that's the big hurdle we have to get over. Usually Comtronics is pretty quick, so usually it will be two weeks at max, but we like to say a month. It'll definitely be less than that." Rescue 11 will remain active until the new vehicle is ready to go "just to make sure we have enough vehicles, enough ambulances to take care of the community," Norman said. He noted that the last time the rescue squad had received a new ambulance was two years ago. With the added funding coming the way of EMS agencies in the county, the hope is that PEVRS will receive a new

ambulance every year moving forward. "With the passing of the EMS budget and tax and stuff like that, it'll help Prince Edward, it'll help Meherrin, it'll help all EMS in the whole county, which will be good, because it's going to roll back to the community and our citizens," Norman said. "So that's the main goal."



## RAFFLE

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DRAWING SEPTEMBER 20 AT HOME FOOTBALL GAME

# ASC to perform 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

One of Shakespeare's most popular plays is coming to Longwood University this month for a free performance open to the public as part of the university's longstanding relationship with the American Shakespeare Center (ASC), a Longwood press release cited. The touring cast will perform "A Midsummer Night's Dream" — one of the Bard's most raucous and beloved plays — on Sept. 19 in Jarman Auditorium, officials noted in the release. The show is free and open to the public and will begin at 7 p.m. with a special pre-show at 6:30 p.m. The release stated that this is the seventh year the ASC has presented a free performance at Longwood. Some of Shakespeare's most beloved plays have been performed by the troupe, including "Hamlet," "Romeo and Juliet" and "Taming of the Shrew." The Staunton-based company is known for a unique performance style that blends traditional stagecraft with modern sensibility, officials said in the release. Shakespeare-era staging conditions include universal lighting, minimal sets, doubling, cross-gender casting and music. The release concluded by citing that the ASC's mission is to recover the joys and accessibility of Shakespeare's theater, language and humanity by exploring the English Renaissance stage and its practices through performance and education. The company's plays have been called "shamelessly entertaining" and "bursting with energy."

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