

# TOYS: 'The true meaning of Christmas'

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teens think in terms of what a 4th-8th grader would want — footballs, frisbees, skateboards, board and card games, electronics, etc.

Books and art supplies also make for a good donation, but liquids of any kind are not accepted.

Moore said some donors often forget the toy they have purchased may require batteries, adding the local program is blessed to receive battery donations each year. Moore and his team take the time to check each and every toy to see if it needs batteries and will tape batteries to the box if need be.

Donations have already started locally. Residents who would like to bring in a toy can stop by Moore's office at 306-A East Third Street in Farmville (Edward Jones), which serves as the official collection point for Farmville and Prince

Edward County. Drop off boxes are also located in businesses throughout the area. For more information on how to help out with the program, Moore can be contacted at (434) 391-1284.

Citizens have from now until Dec. 14 to get their toy donations in.

"If they want to come by the office and get it to us before 4 p.m. on Dec. 14, it will get into the hands of a child this year. I guarantee it personally," Moore said.

He highlighted that those who are looking to help the less fortunate can close their eyes and imagine their gift making its way into the hands of a child who would otherwise go without a Christmas present.

"It's the true meaning of Christmas," Moore said. "You're doing your part, and the child would never know you by name, but you're an angel to somebody if you donate to Toys for Tots."



Sports equipment, board games and some electronics are all great gifts for older kids. Toys for Tots does not accept clothing or liquids of any kind.

# SOLAR: 'I am looking forward to it'

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renewable energy here?" Walker asked. "This would be ideal for the county," he said. "I am looking forward to it, and I support this SUP."

Supervisors were torn when it came to the SUP's approval.

District 1 Supervisor Dennis Davis said he was concerned about possible runoff issues at the solar farm. He recommended the Board pump the brakes and ask for an independent review to be conducted, adding he'd like to see a solar ordinance established before the county is further bombarded by solar farms.

District 6 Supervisor Joe Chambers said that since the vast majority of his constituents were opposed to the project, he would vote no to the SUP request.

"I feel like these conditions we have here are really solid," District 4 Supervisor and Vice Chair Thomas Jordan Miles III said. "This is not going to be Louisa. This is not going to be these other counties because these conditions were not in place in these other counties."

Since the case's introduction in October, the county modified numerous conditions of the SUP for the project after feedback received from the public and the Board. Some of the modifications included a construction traffic management plan, the restriction of certain roads during construction and decommissioning and changing the setback of the project to 350 total feet.

Ultimately, the Board voted 4-3 to approve the SUP, with Miles, District 3 Supervisor and Board Chair Don Matthews, District 2 Supervisor Donnie Bryan and District 5 Supervisor Harry Bryant voting yes. Davis and Chambers voted no, and District 7 Supervisor Danny Allen was not present and therefore abstained.

The Board also voted 4-3 for a siting agreement between the county and Riverstone.

"The numerous conditions and rules we have approved and

the siting agreement for Riverstone go above and beyond in ensuring that this project will ensure the protection of the environment and the well-being of those who live near the project's footprint," Miles said in a statement made Wednesday. "These include a 350-foot setback from existing residences, buffers within and around the entire project, strict erosion and stormwater control measures, wildlife corridors, numerous runoff basins and third party, professional consultants to review all plans before construction. Additionally, this is clean, green energy, and Buckingham will benefit from this project."

"We are very pleased that the Board of Supervisors approved the Riverstone Solar special use permit," Apex Clean Energy Development Manager Jimmy Merrick stated. "Solar is a fundamentally clean, safe, and reliable form of energy generation, and this decision brings us one step closer to bringing the many benefits of renewable energy to Buckingham County. We especially appreciated the engagement level from residents of Buckingham County throughout this process. Our design is community-driven and will co-exist with surrounding land uses. This is illustrated by the 29 conditions that were negotiated with the supervisors and codified with our approval on Monday, which incorporate many suggestions we've heard from neighbors and local leaders."

Merrick said once Riverstone's plans are formalized, there will be a third-party, independent review by a firm of the county's choosing and paid for by Riverstone. "This independent review will make sure Riverstone Solar's plan is in alignment with the conditions in the SUP, protecting neighboring landowners and natural resources," he said. "We believe the Board's decision on Monday demonstrates the quality of our project and highlights the incredibly thorough review performed by the Board and county staff. We are excited to move

this project forward and to do the work necessary to get this project built and generating millions of dollars of new economic opportunity and renewable energy that will positively impact the community."

On Wednesday, County Administrator Karl Carter stated citizens are correct that the county needs a zoning ordinance or policy in the future.

"Whether the Apex project was approved or denied, we know we need to work on a policy or ordinance," he said.

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