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Planners defer CARS vote pending clarity on conditions

Will consider again at April 1 meeting

BY JEFF POOLE
Editor

Last Thursday's Orange County Planning Commission discussion was at times a discussion of semantics, legal opinions, planning law, county-imposed conditions and parliamentary procedure.

After more than an hour discussing the proposed special use permit application for a church-based residential drug and alcohol treatment facility at the Mountain View Community Church Orange campus, the commission again deferred a recommendation as it hoped to clarify conditions it may or may not place on the project.

In February, the commission heard from the applicants from Christ-Centered Addiction Restoration Services (CARS) on their special use permit application to construct and operate a residential drug and alcohol treatment center at the Raccoon Ford Road church campus. The subject property is eight acres and is zoned agricultural.

CARS is a not-for-profit corporation established to help men and women struggling with drug and alcohol abuse. It cites its mission as bringing, "restoration to lives destroyed by addiction," with a vision to "provide a safe environment to redeem and grow men and women in a holistic, Christ-centered

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Returning to his roots



PHOTO BY MORGAN EDWARDS

Farmer Michael Carter Jr. on his family's 150 acre homestead in Orange County. Carter has converted a portion of the land into fields where he specializes in Africulture, an organic agriculture practice based around growing African vegetables and crops, specifically ones found in the nation of Ghana.

Award-winning Carter brings Africulture to Orange County farm

BY MORGAN EDWARDS
Reporter

Michael Carter Jr. has a lot on his mind. He jumps from subject to subject but manages to weave each topic into the narrative of his life and the history of race in Virginia. It's an impressive feat. Peppering his answers with self-deprecation and hu-

mor, it's easy to tell that Carter is a natural storyteller with a mind for the big picture. He doesn't shy away from examining his place among Black farmers in the state and abroad. To him it's a necessary and vital topic of discussion.

Seated at a picnic table on his family's 150-acre plot of land just outside of Unionville, Carter is wearing a face mask

adorned with a farming vista. Next to him is a traditional Nigerian hoe used to till soil for planting crops. It's one of those late winter afternoons where the sun hangs around longer, but the wind stings at your skin like a swarm of bees. The first buds are beginning to appear on trees and the world threatens to burst into bloom at a moment's notice. Planting season is still weeks away, Carter remarks, his eyes twinkling

> See CARTER, page A2

> Little Zion marker dedication

Family and friends of Little Zion Baptist Church gathered Saturday morning for the dedication and unveiling of a new roadside marker honoring the church's 150-year history. Here, those assembled circle the marker as associate minister the Rev. Marvin Trice delivers a closing prayer. For more from Saturday's event, see page A5.



PHOTO BY JEFF POOLE

Orange industry honored

Lohmann at the forefront of COVID testing market

BY MORGAN EDWARDS
Reporter

Lohmann Corporation and Subsidiaries is boosting production at its Orange County manufacturing facility to meet the high demand for COVID-19 testing kits. According to a press release from the adhesive solutions and materials company issued last week,

the Virginia Economic Developers Association (VEDA) recently acknowledged Lohmann's success in its Cardinal Comeback series. The list recognizes companies and small businesses in the commonwealth that are helping to push the state out of the economic recession caused by the pandemic.

VEDA's entry for the company on its website states that Lohmann "has been operating at 100% through the pandemic by hiring new employees and continuing to produce many of the essential ma-

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