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# Farmville Herald

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Farmville, Virginia

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

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## Ruff plans to retire, special election set

BY BRIAN CARLTON  
*The Farmville Herald*

It's time to step down. That was the decision Virginia State Sen. Frank Ruff announced on Friday, Dec. 15, saying he plans to retire on Jan. 9. The newly elected senator for District 9 said he announced his resignation plan now so that a successor can be elected before the General Assembly convenes on Jan. 10, 2024. The reason he's stepping down, Ruff said, is because of his health.

"Having recently been diagnosed with cancer, and entering into an aggressive and ongoing treatment regimen, I have concluded I may not be able to devote 100% of my focus to doing

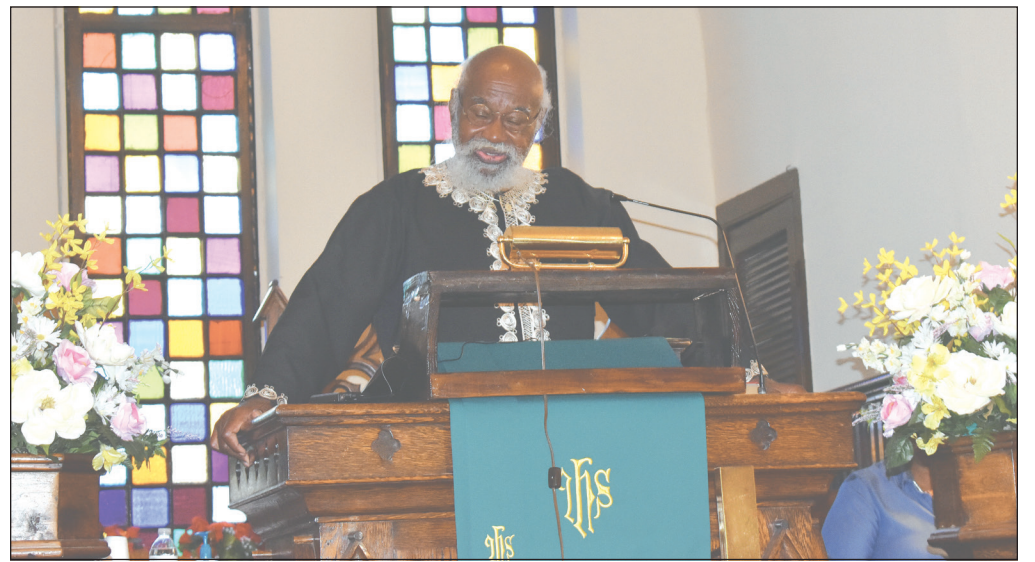


Frank Ruff

the work needed in the General Assembly," Ruff said. "Consequently, I believe now is the right time to retire."

Ruff had been elected to his

See **ELECTION**, Page A5



HERALD FILE PHOTO

The Rev. J. Samuel Williams Jr. is seen here delivering the keynote during a mass meeting to commemorate milestones related to education and civil rights.

## Rev. Williams honored in street renaming ceremony

BY BRIAN CARLTON  
*The Farmville Herald*

**FARMVILLE**

Father. Pastor. Teacher. Historian. Activist. The words and actions of Rev. J. Samuel Williams Jr. have inspired generations of men and women in Farmville, from those who listened to his sermons to those who asked questions about the town's history and others who walked with and were arrested with him in the fight for civil rights. It seemed fitting then, that a man who walked with and

fought to guide the community for decades received his own street.

On Friday, Dec. 15, the Town of Farmville did just that, honoring Rev. Williams by officially renaming Watkins Street to Williams Way. The road is right off of High Street and is the place where Rev. Williams still lives.

"It means a lot for us as a family to

See **WILLIAMS**, Page A9

## What does the new solar policy look like?

BY RACHEL AUSTIN  
*The Farmville Herald*

**BUCKINGHAM**

After months of discussion, the Buckingham Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to adopt the solar policy. Now that it's here, what does that mean?

This policy came from the solar committee that was put together to address the concerns many

residents have when it comes to solar facilities coming to the county. This policy sets a standard set of guidelines that every applicant who comes to the county to build solar has to follow.

Now that it's approved, all

See **SOLAR**, Page A9

## Trinity Memorial Gardens pays tribute in 'Wreaths' ceremony



TED HODGES

Their names were read aloud. One by one, the men and women who gave their lives for this country were honored at Trinity Memorial Gardens on Saturday.

**PRINCE EDWARD**

It was part of the annual Wreaths Across America tribute, where people gather at cemeteries and remember the fallen, before laying Christmas wreaths on their gravestones.

This year, Trinity was one of more than 4,225 participating locations where the

See **WREATHS**, Page A10

## County struggles with needs, competition

BY RACHEL AUSTIN  
*The Farmville Herald*

**CUMBERLAND**

The main hurdle for Cumberland County as it heads into 2024 involves competition. As supervisors discussed the upcoming budget during a Tuesday, Dec. 5 workshop, County Administrator Derek Stamey said the problem is that they need to increase salaries or risk losing employees. Many employees can simply

cross the county line to Prince Edward or Powhatan and earn higher paychecks for the same positions.

To keep competitive pay, Cumberland has had to eliminate and combine positions. Add that to some rising costs and you have a projected budget of \$41.8

See **STRUGGLES**, Page A2

## Aldrich reaches 100 wins

**LONGWOOD**

On Sunday afternoon, Longwood men's basketball extended the nation's longest winning streak to 12 straight games, but it didn't come easy at the Joan Perry Brock Center.

Fittingly, the defense did the heavy lifting for Longwood (12-1) in a 68-49 win over VMI that also marked Head Coach Griff Aldrich's 100th career win at the helm

of the program. "It's neat. It's a nice milestone, but I really think it is a milestone for the program," Aldrich said postgame. "I think the vision, and I talk about this a lot, the vision that President Reveley had to build a program that the



Griff Aldrich

See **WINS**, Page A2



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# ELECTION: Multiple people declare for the seat

FROM PAGE ONE

first term as District 9's state senator back in November. Previously, he served as senator for District 15, a position he had been in since November 2000, but thanks to the redrawn electoral maps, he was moved out of District 15 and now resides in the District 9 area. Prior to serving in the State Senate, he represented the 61st District in the Virginia House of Delegates and the Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors before that. He also helped found the GO Virginia economic group, served as Chairman of the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission and as Chairman of the Center for Rural Virginia.

It has been the honor of my life to represent and serve the people of our communities," Ruff added. "I am, and will forever be, deeply grateful to the people who have entrusted me to represent them in Richmond. As our region has always been and will continue to be my home, I look forward to thanking them in person over the years to come."

But now, Ruff said, as he fights cancer, it's time to focus on family.

"I am looking forward to spending a lot more time with (my wife) Jessie, my four children and four grandchildren," Ruff said.

## ELECTION SET, NOMINATIONS START

Ruff's statement set off a chain reaction Friday, with multiple candidates from several parties declaring their candidacy. Meanwhile, Virginia

Gov. Glenn Youngkin set a special election to take place in the 9th District for Jan. 9, 2024. To be clear, District 9 includes Charlotte County, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway and Pittsylvania counties, along with part of Prince Edward County and the city of Danville.

The first person to announce her candidacy was Ruff's opponent in the 2022 race, Democrat Trudy Berry. A former legal services specialist with the U.S. Air Force, the Victoria resident ran in 2019 for the 61st District seat in the Virginia House, losing to Del. Tommy Wright. She then ran last fall for the District 9 seat, but had to go as a write-in candidate, after a clerical mistake by Democratic officials caused her email to be mistyped on the campaign paperwork, removing her name from the ballot.

"I wish Sen. Ruff the best as he focuses on his health," Berry said in a statement. "And yes, I will compete for his seat when a special election is called. We must keep moving forward for a better economy and equal opportunities for all."

Farmville resident and Berry's fellow Democrat Rev. Josh Blakely said people had reached out to ask him to run for the

seat, but he's unable to do so, as he doesn't live in the district. Blakely had run against Del. Tommy Wright for the District 50 seat in the House of Delegates last fall.

Democrats held a firehouse primary on Tuesday, Dec. 19 to decide who their candidate will be, but it ended too late for press time.

## REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES ANNOUNCE

Meanwhile on the Republican side, things went a bit quicker. Over the weekend, six candidates declared for the seat and Republicans decided to choose between them during a mass meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 19, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The event was past press time for this edition, so we'll have the final Republican nominee announced online and also in the next paper.

The first is current Danville City Council member Lee Vogler. Elected at age 24 to the council in 2012, Vogler also serves on a statewide level, having been appointed in 2022 by Gov. Youngkin to the Virginia Small Business Commission. The Danville native also played a role in bringing the \$675 million Caesar's casino resort to his city and helped bring in

other businesses, which earned Danville its current "Comeback City" nickname.

Vogler has picked up 15 endorsements over the last two days, including Crewe Mayor Phil Miskovic, Virginia Del. Wren Williams, Disruptor Capital CEO and former Republican candidate for governor Pete Snyder, among others.

The second Republican declaring her candidacy for the seat is current Clarksville Town Council member Tammy Mulchi. The Mecklenburg County native, who served for nearly 14 years as legislative aide to Sen. Ruff, is also a realtor in Clarksville and has a connection to this region through her daughter, Brittany Barnes, a fourth grade teacher in Blackstone. She's been endorsed by her former boss, as Ruff said Mulchi "understands the issues facing our communities".

The third candidate is Andy Ferguson, a small business owner and pastor from Halifax County. Ferguson says he's planted churches in both South Carolina and Virginia, while also working as a contractor to help supplement his income.

The fourth candidate, Kade Gravitt, is somewhat familiar to residents in this area. Gravitt is the current

legislative aide to District 50 State House Del. Tommy Wright. The Clarksville native studied criminal justice at Radford University.

The fifth candidate is Dale Sturdifan, whose name may also be familiar to some locals, as he currently serves as the field director for Congressman Bob Good. A former officer with the Virginia State Police and former school board member in Mecklenburg County, he has also been appointed to the Virginia State Board of Education by Gov. Glenn Youngkin. And finally, we have

Del. James Edmunds, who had originally announced his retirement from the Assembly this year, choosing not to run in November's election. Under redistricting, his native Halifax County had been blended into a district held by fellow Republican Danny Marshall. After Ruff's announcement, Edmunds reversed course, filing as a candidate for the State Senate seat.

"After prayerful thought, I have decided that God may not be done with my public service quite yet," Edmunds said.

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## Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY D/B/A DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA FOR REVISION OF RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE: RIDER OSW, COASTAL VIRGINIA OFFSHORE WIND COMMERCIAL PROJECT, FOR THE RATE YEAR COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 CASE NO. PUR-2023-00195

· Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia ("Dominion") has applied for approval to revise its rate adjustment clause, Rider Offshore Wind ("Rider OSW").

· In this case, Dominion has asked the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") to approve Rider OSW for the rate year beginning September 1, 2024, and ending August 31, 2025 ("Rate Year").

· For the Rate Year, Dominion requests a revenue requirement of \$485,933,455, which would increase the monthly bill of a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per month by \$3.89.

· A Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing in this case on May 8, 2024, at 10 a.m., for the receipt of public witness testimony.

· An evidentiary hearing will also be held on May 8, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, to receive the testimony and evidence of Dominion, any respondents, and Commission Staff.

· Further information about this case is available on the SCC website at: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

On November 1, 2023, pursuant to Code § 56-585.1 A 6, Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion" or "Company") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an annual update with respect to the Company's Rider OSW for the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Commercial

Project ("Application"). Through its Application, the Company seeks to inform the Commission of the status of the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Commercial Project ("Project") and to provide the proposed cost allocation, rate design, and accounting treatment for service rendered during the proposed rate year commencing September 1, 2024, and extending through August 31, 2025 ("Rate Year").

According to the Application, the Project is proceeding on time and on budget, with certain minor modifications to the permitting schedule, though Dominion states those modifications are not expected to impact the planned in-service date of late 2026. The Company represents that the total Project cost forecast remains \$9.8 billion (excluding financing costs), including approximately \$1.4 billion of combined transmission costs. The Company requests that the Commission approve the updated expenditures for the Project, subject to subsequent true-ups, and find that such expenditures are reasonable and prudent in order to fulfill the Company's service obligations as a public electric utility.

In this proceeding, the Company is requesting a total revenue requirement of \$485,933,455 for recovery in Rider OSW for the Rate Year. If the proposed Rider OSW revenue requirement for the Rate Year is approved, the impact on customer bills would depend on the customer's rate schedule and usage. According to Dominion, implementation of its proposed Rider OSW on September 1, 2024, would increase the bill of a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by approximately \$3.89. The Company indicates it has calculated the proposed Rider OSW rates in accordance with the same methodology as used for rates approved by the Commission in the previous Rider OSW proceeding, Case No. PUR-2022-00187.

Interested persons are encouraged to review Dominion's Application and supporting documents in full for details about these and other proposals.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Application and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company's Application and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public

hearings on Dominion's Application. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Company's Application shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on May 8, 2024. On or before May 1, 2024, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting); (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to [SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov); or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting).

Beginning at 10 a.m. on May 8, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On May 8, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Application from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

Electronic copies of the public version of the Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Vishwa B. Link, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [vlink@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:vlink@mcguirewoods.com). Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the public version of the Application and other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

On or before May 1, 2024, any interested person may submit comments on the Application by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments](http://scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments). Those

unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00195.

On or before February 2, 2024, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00195. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before March 29, 2024, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling), any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00195.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The public version of the Company's Application, the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

## AARP offers help to avoid fraud

The holidays are a time when friends and family of all ages gather together, share updates on their lives and recount cherished memories. One thing to add to that list this year: a conversation on how to stay safe from fraud.

We know that scammers target people of all ages. Last year 40% of all scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission were from people under the age of 40, and victims over the age of 60 lose the most money to scams on average. So we are all vulnerable to these criminals, and we could all use a little help and guidance. Here are two fraud topics to talk about with your family this holiday season.

What is a question, story or phrase that no one other than your close family would know? Scams targeting parents and grandparents are only becoming more believable with the adoption of Artificial Intelligence, but no matter how realistic a voice may sound it won't know this private memory or password. Passwords are another critical topic. We all have so many passwords that it's hard to keep straight. This leads many to choose simple passwords or use the same one repeatedly. A quick chat about how you choose and protect your passwords could save someone you love a lot of money.