

# The Farmville Herald

Honor for the past, help for the present, hope for the future

Farmville, Virginia

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

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## Is Green Ridge moving forward?

BY RACHEL AUSTIN  
The Farmville Herald

### CUMBERLAND

Since the start of the Green Ridge Landfill conversation in 2018, local residents have not hesitated to express concerns about this large project coming to Cumberland County. At the Tuesday, Feb. 14, Cumberland Board of Supervisors meeting, we learned more about where the project currently stands.

Green Ridge Recycling and Disposal have hired the Norfolk-based law firm of Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black (WRVB) to represent them in the situation.

According to WRVB attorney Will Shewmake, a

big concern is that Shoosmith Landfill is scheduled to close by the end of this year, leaving two waste companies owning 99% of the capacity in the state. He argued this raises the urgency to get this landfill finished as Green Ridge is working with government authorities, residents and interested parties to create a plan that will work.

"This landfill is extraordinarily important not only to Green Ridge but in terms of the budgets and localities," said Shewmake. "Once Shoosmith closes... the tipping fees are going to go through the roof."

Shewmake addressed a few of the concerns that

local residents have voiced about the landfill. This landfill will serve Central Virginia and will only accept Virginia waste. Green Ridge also plans to commit to reducing the daily waste from 5,000 to 3,000 as this will also help reduce the number of trucks on Route 60, which was also a concern. Shewmake plans to have these rules in the permits and agreements between the county and Green Ridge to make sure this is "ironclad."

### WHAT ABOUT PINE GROVE ROAD?

Another concern he addressed was the relocation

See FORWARD, Page A10



DAN PEMPEL

This was the scene earlier this month, as a trailer at 441 Crescent Road in Buckingham County went up in flames. Some residents of the Lower Francisco District want to see changes in how departments are dispatched.

## Supervisors tackle questions of fire response

BY BRIAN CARLTON  
The Farmville Herald

### BUCKINGHAM

Lawrence Kidd has done the math. From his home at 1753 Sawmill Road in Buckingham, it's 18 minutes away from Dillwyn Fire Department. It's 22 minutes away from Toga Volunteer Fire Department. Because he lives closer to the county line, it's only six miles or 9 minutes away from Farmville Volunteer Fire Department.

"Why would anyone think it was appropriate to call two fire departments that are farther away?" he asked Buckingham supervisors at their Monday, Feb. 13 meeting.

Other Buckingham County residents told similar stories. Because of where their homes are

located, Farmville or Prospect fire departments can get to the scene quicker than other operations in Buckingham. All total, 654 residents are affected by the issue.

Terry Buchanan is one of those. He owns a small farm in Buckingham, also in the Lower Francisco Fire District. As an emergency volunteer, he's responded to three fires since he's been in the area. In all three cases, Prospect Fire Department in Prince Edward County was the first on scene.

All of this matters because of a change requested by Prospect Assistant Chief James

See RESPONSE, Page A2

## Census data highlights a problem for region

BY JENNIFER HOLTON  
The Farmville Herald

The news from the Weldon Cooper Center wasn't good for Buckingham, Cumberland and most of the surrounding areas. More people are moving to the area, but not enough to offset the losses due to an aging population.

As Hamilton Lombard, the Center's demographer explains, there are two ways you can grow population: more people moving in than out, or more births than deaths.

"When you look at the region, with the exception of Appomattox County, every locality has had more deaths than births," Lombard explained. "Some of that is COVID, but rural areas have had an aging population that's catching up with them."

Data from the Weldon Cooper Center shows population losses for Buckingham (-0.1%), Prince Edward (-2.1%) and Charlotte (-0.8%) counties, while Cumberland and Lunenburg counties population grew 2.1 percent and 0.2 percent respectively.

"Cumberland and Lunenburg had been declining over the last couple of years, but now we've seen a boost of people moving out to rural areas particularly since 2020," Lombard said. "There's more affordable housing, you have more space, it's quiet, that's really what has boosted growth in those two counties."

See CENSUS, Page A2

## Middle, primary schools get evaluated

BY RACHEL AUSTIN  
The Farmville Herald

### BUCKINGHAM

emotional support.

During the February Buckingham School Board meeting, the board was updated on the performance evaluations that took place at the middle and primary schools. The Office of School Quality reported back on the areas the schools were doing well and where they needed improvement. Both principals reported on what initiatives are planned and what's already in place to bring their schools to where they need to be.

The schools were judged on their instructional leadership, classroom lesson evaluation, resource management and social and

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Zane Harshman, principal of Buckingham County Middle School, went over the three essential actions that the Office of School Quality had sent back after the review. These actions focused on the administration create clear expectations for teachers as they are creating their lesson plans and continue to provide professional development for all teachers no matter what they teach to make sure everyone is getting the support they need.

Along with the See EVALUATED, Page A5

## Lady Dukes roll into regionals

BY MATTHEW HATFIELD  
The Farmville Herald

### CUMBERLAND

The Cumberland Lady Dukes are enjoying a season to remember on the hardwood.

Since dropping their opener for the 2022-23 campaign to Altavista by a count of 42-41 back on December 1st, the squad has reeled off 20 consecutive wins. That was highlighted recently on Feb. 11 when they beat Buckingham County, 50-42, to capture the James River District Tournament Championship.

The all-around chemistry and camaraderie has been apparent during the hot streak.

"These girls have been playing together ever since eighth grade. Each game we've had our moments and they keep fighting. I'm just bless-

ed to have this group of girls," declared Cumberland head girls basketball coach John Trent.

Six seniors dot the roster for a team averaging 45.9 points per game and limiting foes to just 32.4 points per contest. The team leader is 5-foot-7 senior shooting guard Nalona Henderson, a speed merchant averaging roughly 11 points, five rebounds, four steals and two blocks per contest.

"She's very special and came to us as a track star, not a basketball star. Nalona is the player that keeps us in line and keeps us straight. That's a big help to our program," Trent

See DUKES, Page A10



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# RESPONSE: Other departments closer to some lower Francisco homes

FROM PAGE ONE

Redford. In a letter to Buckingham County Administrator Karl Carter, Redford argued that valuable time is lost while following the current process.

Currently, when a fire happens in southern areas of Buckingham County, there are times when the 911 call goes to the Farmville Emergency Communications Center (ECC), as that is closer. But because it's a different county, the ECC first transfers the call to the Buckingham County sheriff's dispatch center, who immediately dispatches the nearest Buckingham department and Farmville or Prospect (or sometimes both) are requested to give assistance.

### WHAT REDFORD PROPOSES

However, Redford argues in those situations, it would make more sense if the Farmville ECC could dispatch immediately. As soon as they receive the call, he proposes the ECC should be allowed to identify which department, either Farmville or Prospect, is closer and dispatch them to the scene. The only difference between that and the current situation is now the departments have to wait until Buckingham officially requests help.

"To prevent further delay in response, I am requesting that permission be granted to Farmville ECC, to allow them to dispatch those respective agencies without having to be specifically requested by Buckingham County," Redford wrote in his letter. "Thus resulting in quicker fire response into the Lower Francisco Fire District. Of course the Farmville ECC 911 dispatcher will still follow the proper protocol of "transferring the call" to (the) Buckingham sheriff's dispatch center in these scenarios. Once this permission is granted, Farmville ECC will be dispatching according to the most recent map data that was agreed

upon by the responding chiefs."

### CHIEFS SAY LET THEM FIND A SOLUTION

Now to be clear, this is a request from one assistant chief of a fire department in Prince Edward County. It did not come from the county or either of the fire chiefs of the respective departments. The chiefs of Arvonnia and Toga say they understand the concerns. But instead of asking the county to step in, before departments even have a chance to talk, they want a chance to better understand the situation and find a solution.

"A local automatic mutual aid agreement should be documented and agreed upon by the fire departments that will have direct interaction," said Arvonnia Chief Chris Davis. He pointed out that hasn't happened yet, nor has an actual request gone out to the departments for a discussion to take place.

Davis, who has lived and volunteered in Buckingham for the last 35 years, asked supervisors to let the fire chiefs sit down and come up with an answer. The chiefs of all fire departments in Buckingham County meet once each quarter with County Administrator Karl Carter and the Department of County Emergency Services. That next meeting is Monday, March 20.

"I'm in favor of efforts designed to reduce delays and response times during emergencies," Davis said. However, he cautioned supervisors that "good intentions with a bad plan will be a disaster for us all."

Glenmore Volunteer Fire Department Chief Mike Lily had a similar take. He pointed out that Glenmore dealt with a similar issue several years ago with Scottsville.

"Let us work on it," Lily said. "You take where Glenmore is and the Scottsville bridge, we're not gonna beat them there. But we've got an agreement, we dispatch them, they're there and we're

coming."

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Buckingham supervisors unanimously agreed with the chiefs.

"Why don't we let the fire departments, let the chiefs get together and work the problem out?" Buckingham Board of Supervisors Chairman Joe

Chambers said. "We just want to see the citizens protected."

Supervisors voted 7-0 to send the issue to the fire chiefs meeting in March. The fire chiefs are being asked to examine the issue, make a recommendation and bring that back to the supervisors, where a final vote will take place later this year.

# CENSUS: Cumberland, Lunenburg the only areas showing increases

FROM PAGE ONE

Cumberland County Administrator Derek Stamey says, the suburban lifestyle is something that's not for everyone anymore.

"Folks want to live where they've got some room, they want to live where they've got some space," Stamey explained. "A lot of folks are interested in raising poultry, things like that. I think the rural lifestyle is appealing to people."

Stamey says the Pandemic could have been the cause for this. But Lombard notes, COVID also caused a lot of issues with the Census' data collection this past year.

### THE PANDEMIC CAUSED A LOT OF PROBLEMS

Weldon-Cooper, which relies on different administrative data to collect its information, says the pandemic caused a lot of problems.

"We use data such as where public school students live, drivers licenses and death data, and residential construction data from local governments," Lombard explained. "Then it's a matter of developing a formula that gives you an estimate compared to the actual count. Normally

we adjust the formula after the Census, but the past Census had a lot of problems, some because of COVID."

For example, he explains in Prince Edward County, the Census data was skewed because they missed a good deal of college students who may have returned home to carry out their studies remotely. In order to correct this undercount, they took eight localities with over 20 percent of college students, including Prince Edward County, and benchmarked the 2020 and 2021 populations on their own estimates.

Doug Stanley, Prince Edward County Administrator explains, it's also about retaining students in the area.

"A lot of folks go away to college and they don't return, so a part of that is we as a community from an economic development standpoint need to be trying to attract jobs that will bring people back to work here and want to raise a family," Stanley said.

Looking toward the future, growth in the rural areas dealing with population losses are a way to offset that difference.

"Certainly something like the data center proj-

ect that Prince Edward County is working on and we've got SOVA innovation coming downtown," Stanley said. "I see some great opportunity on the horizon, but that's certainly a goal of ours, to not only create jobs, but ones that will bring and keep people here, and stabilize population figures."



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# The Farmville Herald

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Farmville, Virginia

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

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## How much should town pay rescue squad?

BY BRIAN CARLTON  
The Farmville Herald

**FARMVILLE**

The Town of Farmville had an agreement with the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad. Over the last three years, the town gave \$30,000 annually to help cover the salary of an executive director, in addition to other funding and support for maintenance and fuel costs. But that salary agreement wasn't permanent. The idea was for Farmville, along with Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College, to help get things started.

"The goal was for them to be more financially stable and (to help) get them on their feet when hiring an executive director," Town Manager Dr. Scott Davis told the Farmville council during their Wednesday, March 1 budget session.

For the upcoming budget year, the agreement had been for Farmville to only put \$15,000 toward the rescue squad's executive director salary. Then in 2024 and beyond, the town wouldn't

pay toward the salary at all, just continue to help cover fuel and maintenance.

"We budgeted this current year at \$15,000, saying next year we wouldn't do any (for the salary)," Davis told the council. "However, we got a bill for \$30,000. Unless you commit funds from contingency, we plan to pay what we budgeted. That would be \$15,000."

Asked why the rescue squad billed \$30,000 instead of \$15,000, Davis said he couldn't answer that. *The Herald* reached out to the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad, but hadn't received an answer as of presstime.

That's the question the town council has to answer, as it heads into budget season. Do they agree to double what's been budgeted to help cover the director's salary? Or stick with the original amount? Davis pointed out that the town currently covers more than

See **RESCUE**, Page A2



Lady Dukes Sophia Crespo and Abbie Winslow pose during the first Girls Wrestling State Championships, held late last month in Richmond.

## Making History: Lady Dukes compete for a title

BY SARAH MCCORMICK  
The Farmville Herald

**CUMBERLAND**

Sophia Crespo and Abbie Winslow now have a permanent spot in the Virginia history books. The two 10th graders from Cumberland High School competed in the state's first Girls Wrestling State Championships.

Winslow went 2-2 during the competition, held Feb. 25-26 in Richmond, finishing in the Top 12. Crespo went 1-2, but regardless of the results, both girls said they were just excited to compete.

"I wasn't really surprised," Winslow said of being selected to compete. "I was (just) excited to

go to a girls only championship." Crespo agreed.

"I was very excited," Crespo said. "I was off my rocker excited to tell my mom!"

**THE ROAD TO RICHMOND**

This is all pretty new to Crespo, as she just started wrestling at the beginning of this sophomore season. She said it's something she's always wanted to do.

"I have three brothers, so I grew up always getting picked on," Crespo said, adding that wrestling

See **HISTORY**, Page A3

## Downtown Partnership earns accreditation

BY RACHEL AUSTIN  
The Farmville Herald

**FARMVILLE**

The Farmville Downtown Partnership continues to grow and develop. Now the group has taken another step toward bringing things back to the way they were before the pandemic. As of this month, the Partnership has earned its accreditation with Main Street America.

The Farmville Downtown Partnership is a non-profit organization that focuses on serving residents and visitors by developing the culture of downtown. The

organization is part of a bigger picture as they are with Virginia Main Streets, which is part of Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, which is all under Main Street America.

The organization was previously accredited but had lost it due to the pandemic. Luckily, the accreditation process happens every year, so this loss was only temporary.

See **ACCREDITATION**, Page A3

## Panthers fall in national collegiate prep title game



Nile Atwater led SVCC with 22 points as the team fell just short in the national title game.

For the second straight year, Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC) made it to the national title game. And for the second straight year, they faced off against **SVCC** Tennessee Prep. This time, however, it was Tennessee claiming victory.

The two teams faced off Saturday in the 2023 National Collegiate Prep Championship, held in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. After a game that went back and forth, Tennessee pulled away in the second half for the 87-57 victory.

"The guys played well but we just

See **PANTHERS**, Page A3

## Center for Community Music helps make connections

BY EVELYN WOZNAK  
The Farmville Herald

**LONGWOOD**

Dr. Lisa Kinzer wanted to create a space for Farmville families to make music and memories. In 2014, with a sabbatical semester, the professor of music at Longwood University did just that. With a small team, Kinzer launched the Longwood Center of Community Music (LCCM). This program was made in order to teach music to anyone with a song in their heart.

The LCCM, currently under the direction of Dr. Kristen Topham, is a program run through the Longwood Department of Music that offers both private and group piano and string lessons for the younger residents of Farmville. Originally created and championed by Kinzer, the LCCM has done an incredible job of bringing families together under a shared love of music.

While Topham has not been sitting director of the Longwood Center of Community Music for its entirety, she has been there

through every step of its development. She stood alongside Kinzer during its initial start in 2014 and after Kinzer returned to the classroom, Topham took up the helm and has been serving as director ever since.

She sees it as making slow, yet steady progress, building popularity and just general awareness in the community. While COVID may have hindered the program's speed in the past few years, it certainly didn't hinder the passion. As the years have gone on and the worst of it has subsided, the Longwood Center of Community Music has picked up with the same momentum it left off on.

**A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PROGRAM**

LCCM has previously offered both piano and string classes for all ages, but currently they have steered most of their focus towards younger age ranges,

See **MUSIC**, Page A2



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# RESCUE: In addition to salary, Farmville covers fuel and maintenance costs

FROM PAGE ONE

just part of the director's salary for the rescue squad.

## A LOOK AT FUEL AND MAINTENANCE

The Town of Farmville on an annual basis helps the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad cover both fuel and maintenance costs. Last year, the town provided \$22,316 in fuel. Farmville also handles maintenance for rescue squad vehicles, which added up to \$22,510 last year.

"We don't actually charge them labor," Davis said. "The (figure) is just for the parts and things."

Davis added the town also maintains the exterior of the rescue squad's property at 500 Doswell Street in Farmville. That includes grass cutting in the summer and all the maintenance around the building.

When you add up the town's portion of the director salary, the fuel and maintenance, Farmville spent \$74,826 on the rescue squad last year.

This year, regardless of what decision is made with the director's salary, it looks like the other numbers may be going up. From the beginning of this fiscal year to mid-February, Farmville had spent \$16,584 on fuel for the rescue squad, Davis said, and \$6,747 on parts for vehicle maintenance.

All of this, Davis pointed out, adds up to more than

\$30,000 worth of services the rescue squad doesn't have to pay for.

## MORE ABOUT THE RESCUE SQUAD

Created in 1969, the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad responds to calls in Prince Edward and Cumberland counties, along with the Town of Farmville. And even though the word volunteer is in their name, the group also has more than 25 paid staff. They run five ambulances, an Advanced Life Support quick response vehicle, a mass casualty trailer, an ATV and a Heavy Rescue Truck.

And part of that operation is helped by the Farmville Fire Department.

"We sometimes provide drivers for the rescue squad when they don't have enough staffing," said Farmville Fire Chief Daniel Clark. He gave Wednesday, March 1 as an example. Farmville Fire Department provided a driver so the rescue squad could staff an ambulance and respond to a call.

Davis added that the Farmville Fire Department is often called out when the rescue squad needs help.

"When they get dispatched, we also get dispatched," Davis said. "Whether we're able to have people to help them is a different story. We help respond to a significant amount. We can't transport, (but) we do assist."

From January 2022 to December 2022, Clark said his department was dispatched to 648 calls within town limits. Out of those, the town responded to 438, meaning there were 210 calls where members of the department didn't make it to help the rescue squad.

"That was just unavailability of members to respond," Clark said. "Not all of our members are EMS providers, so it's not like a fire call where anybody can go. You need to be trained properly before responding."

## COUNCIL MEMBERS WANT TO STICK WITH THE BUDGET

During last week's budget session, council members said they don't see a reason to increase the salary payment back to \$30,000.

"When we agreed to do the \$30,000, it was with that three year sunset (clause)," Mayor Brian Vincent said. "But I think we've shown and continue to show good faith in helping the rescue squad with those other benefits. (They) far exceed that monetary value."

Council member Thomas Pairet echoed those sentiments.

"In the way of labor (and) fuel time, I feel like we've far exceeded the \$30,000 that we promised originally," council member Thomas Pairet said. "I see no reason for us to follow through with an additional \$15,000 at this time."

Since Wednesday's meeting was a work session, nothing was decided. Instead, this was meant to give council members something to think about, as budget season continues.

# MUSIC: Programs geared to help families

FROM PAGE ONE

specifically young children. You heard that right. We're talking toddlers and above. The program Topham was most excited about was the "Music Together" class which is geared towards ages 0-5. This class is offered to those who have recently welcomed a bundle of joy and want to strengthen both their minds and their bond.

"The power of live music and making music together in a live setting is amazing to watch the babies understand the music in a natural way," Topham said. "Not only does the access to live music give these tiny tots a way to bond closer with their parents, but it

also gives their brains a way to grow and expand outside of colored blocks and toys."

Topham added that the results have multiple benefits

"You see these kids become more academically inclined," Topham said. "Children and families performing together is immensely good for both academic and family value."

## BUILDING A BAND

Now even if you're not familiar with the Center itself, you may have heard about one of its projects. LCCM offers a volunteer symphony named the Heart of Virginia Band (HoV Band). The HoV Band is always open to all ages and skill ranges and has served

as a staple of support in the community for years, down to performing for the High Bridge Half Marathon to literally cheer on the community. The Band has recently been ramping up to perform again in the near future with much anticipation.

When asked about the impact of the HoV Band seen around Farmville, Topham remarked on the band's ability to create a beautiful, wholesome environment.

"I've seen it bring families closer, bring families together, and impact kids who can now create music that they couldn't before," Topham said.

The Heart of Virginia

Band has proven that live music and performances that incorporate the community are essential for not just the growth of not just Farmville, but to also strengthen bonds between neighbors. Having the space to just vibe in and hang out with your friends and family is crucial to living a full and happy life and the Heart of Virginia Band provides just that.

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

Preparations for the upcoming season of music are well underway with the next semester of Music Together (ages 0-5) beginning on March 18 with registration

currently open. More Music Together classes will be opening up for more availability very soon. Currently, they have piano lessons from beginner up to level one available. Violin lessons, taught by Dr. Lauretta Werner, are also available for younger students with hopes of developing and expanding the curriculum in the coming future.

Future classes will be announced on July 1st on the Longwood University website. Along with curating further plans in the following semesters, there are also talks of possible upcoming performances by the Heart of Virginia Band in collaboration with various other organizations like the Longwood

Center for Visual Arts.

Music is one of the most basic and primal ways that humans have to communicate with each other. The staff believe the Longwood Center of Community Music has crafted a beautiful way to connect with the community and family around you as well as expanding talents within yourself. As the spring flowers start to bloom and the sun starts to shine, what better way to welcome the sunshine than with live music and memories.

For any further information on the Heart of Virginia Band please visit [heartofvacommunityband.org](http://heartofvacommunityband.org) or email any questions to [heartofvacommunityband@gmail.com](mailto:heartofvacommunityband@gmail.com).



## Book Club hears from local author

The Third Thursday Book Club held its February meeting at the home of Helen Smith on Feb. 16. Jerry Todt, author of the book "Maple Valley Christmas", was the speaker. Todt explained how his book became a tv movie this past year on the Hallmark Channel. He also talked about his latest project, which will be a movie about Christmas in Farmville. Pictured are Jerry Todt, left, and Helen Smith.

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# The Farmville Herald

*Honor for the past, help for the present, hope for the future*

Farmville, Virginia

Friday, April 21, 2023

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## Kinex project keeps moving forward

BY RACHEL AUSTIN  
*The Farmville Herald*

Even though it's still a long road ahead, the Kinex project is moving right along.

The Kinex project is working to bring broadband to Cumberland, Lunenburg and Prince Edward counties over the course of three years. According to Kinex president Jim Garrett, the project officially began in July 2022 with contractors finally in place by October 2022.

According to Garrett, after only six months of work, Kinex is ready to complete its 200th mile of buried fiber. In Prince Edward County, Kinex has finished the bulk of the Northwest quadrant with 140 or so miles of fiber and are headed south to Lunenburg. There, Lunenburg has almost 50 miles of fiber in the center and north portion of the county and is expected to have about 125 miles finished by the fall. In Cumberland, there are about a dozen miles but will start north of the Courthouse in the fall and run fiber down

the eastern portion of the county and down into Farmville and further south.

"Our plan is based on passings because the federal side requires us to pass so many unserved homes each year, while we do our best to try and serve the whole area right now we cannot run more than six or so crews because the locators cannot keep up," said Garrett.

### BURYING THE CABLES

This process is taking longer due to Kinex choosing to bury the cables underground. Garrett noted that aerial projects are easier due to the cables not being in the ground but burying helps protect the cables from storms and harsh weather conditions.

One of the issues right now slowing down the process is waiting for Brightspeed and Verizon's locating companies to mark ahead of the construction. These companies hire locators to go

See **KINEX**, Page A6



## Town weighs options with airport

BY BRIAN CARLTON  
*The Farmville Herald*

**FARMVILLE**

The Farmville town council wants to see if there's any interest in the local airport. As part of their strategic plan approved in the Wednesday, April 12 meeting, the group authorized Town Manager Dr. Scott Davis to "contact the aeronautical programs at Liberty and Averett universities to determine if there is any interest in owning, managing or in some other way partnering with the Town on airport operations."

Speaking with *The Herald*, Davis said the council just wants to look at options.

"How do we take it from being wholly funded and operated by the town and how do we look at having partners, potentially?" Davis said. "Do we look at creating some kind of authority? An airport commission? Are there other counties, cities or entities willing to partner with us?"

Davis said Liberty and

See **AIRPORT**, Page A5

## Supervisors grant Olympia Moore's request

BY BRIAN CARLTON  
*The Farmville Herald*

**BUCKINGHAM**

Olympia Moore first filed her request with Buckingham County on Sept. 27, 2022. Now, after seven months and four planning commission hearings, county supervisors have stepped in and approved it. By a 5-2 vote, with Danny Allen and Don Matthews Jr. in opposition, supervisors agreed to change the zoning of Moore's property.

One of the things that makes the case unique is that this is the first time that many can remember the supervisors stepping in when the planning commission didn't recommend a project. In February, after multiple hearings beginning last fall, the commission took a vote and deadlocked in a 4-4 tie, unable to find a majority to either reject or endorse her desire for a zoning change.

But in Buckingham County, there's another option. In such cases, residents can then take their request directly to the board of supervisors. And that's what happened.

Olympia Moore owns a 13.77 acre parcel of land at 29661 N. James Madison Highway in New Canton, in one of Buckingham's designated growth areas. Moore inherited the property. The issue is it's currently zoned A-1 (that is, zoned for agriculture). Moore wants the county to change the zoning to B-1, in hopes of attracting some businesses to buy or lease it. Some residents of the New Canton and Arvonias areas have come out to meetings in support of the idea, arguing that

See **MOORE**, Page A3

## No change in fire coverage

BY BRIAN CARLTON  
*The Farmville Herald*

The 1700 block of Sawmill Road in Buckingham County is six miles or 9 minutes away from the Farmville Volunteer Fire Department. And yet it's Dillwyn Volunteer Fire Department, 18 minutes away, that gets sent first if something catches on fire there, because Buckingham departments get called out first to deal with issues in their own county. The reason, said Dr. Brian Bates, is because at least one truck needs to be on the road as soon as possible.

"We want them closing the gap," Bates said. "Buckingham Dispatch does not know if Farmville is fighting a fire at Longwood. So if you delay and dispatch (outside departments first) only to find they can't respond, now you haven't got anybody closing the gap to get to the scene."

Bates serves as chief for the Toga Volunteer Fire Department in Buckingham. He explained to county supervisors on Monday, April 17 that through mutual aid agreements, other departments are asked to assist on a regular basis. But to get trucks moving as fast as possible toward an incident, outside agencies aren't called first.

"Our dispatch knows what's going on in our county,"

See **COVERAGE**, Page A4

## Midkiff will run for re-election

Justin D. Midkiff will run for another term as the Circuit Court Clerk for Buckingham County. "Having performed my official duties with unwavering integrity and fearless determination these past four years, I would be honored to continue this journey as a public servant for the citizens of Buckingham," Midkiff said in a statement issued by his campaign.

Midkiff's 2018 campaign embarked on a "New Frontier", which he said will continue to support his mission and vision for the Buckingham Circuit Court and Clerk's Office to assist the judges in providing



Justin D. Midkiff

**BUCKINGHAM**

what he says is "an independent, accessible, and responsive

forum for the just resolution of disputes and to provide an effective, efficient, and productive management system to guarantee high court performance and quality public services for all individuals."

Looking back over his time as clerk, Midkiff detailed several changes he implemented, including:

Obtaining \$102,234.00 in grant funds from the Circuit Court Records Preservation Program through the Library of Virginia to preserve Buckingham's oldest records including land

See **MIDKIFF**, Page A6



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# COVERAGE: Buckingham chiefs decide to leave things as they are

FROM PAGE ONE

Bates said. “There’s no way for them to track what’s going on with surrounding (fire departments).”

This past February, some Buckingham residents asked supervisors to consider a change in the way things are done, when it comes to the departments. Supervisors turned it over to the county’s fire chiefs in March, asking them to come up with a solution. They were concerned about higher fire insurance, due to the fact many live farther out. The answer, according to the chiefs, is to leave the current system in place.

## THE OTHER ARGUMENT AGAINST THE CURRENT SYSTEM

In addition to local residents, a change was requested by Prospect Assistant Chief James Redford. In a letter to Buckingham County Administrator Karl Carter, Redford argued that valuable time is lost while following the current process.

Currently, when a fire happens in southern areas of Buckingham County, there are times when the 911 call goes to the Farmville Emergency Communications Center, as that is closer. But because it’s a different county, the ECC first transfers the call to the Buckingham County sheriff’s dispatch center, who immediately dispatches the nearest Buckingham department and Farmville or Prospect (or sometimes both) are requested to give assistance.

However, Redford argues in those situations, it would make more sense if the Farmville ECC could dispatch immediately. As soon as they receive the call, he proposes the ECC should be allowed to identify which department, either Farmville or Prospect, is closer and dispatch them to the scene. The only difference between that and the current situation is now the departments have to wait until Buckingham officially requests help.

“To prevent further delay

in response, I am requesting that permission be granted to Farmville ECC, to allow them to dispatch those respective agencies without having to be specifically requested by Buckingham County,” Redford wrote in his letter. “Thus resulting in quicker fire response into the Lower Francisco Fire District. Of course the Farmville ECC 911 dispatcher will still follow the proper protocol of “transferring the call” to (the) Buckingham sheriff’s dispatch center in these scenarios. Once this permission is granted, Farmville ECC will be dispatching according to the most recent map data that was agreed upon by the responding chiefs.”

## BORDERLESS WON’T WORK

Redford’s proposed system wouldn’t work here, Bates said. Another alternative, he added, would be to set up a system like the Metro areas around Richmond or Washington, D.C. But that would mean paying people to be there all

week, because again, Bates said, you couldn’t just rely on other departments to drop what they’re doing and come.

“Last year, the Farmville fire department ran 1,145 calls,” Bates said. “That’s an average of 3.14 calls a day. There’s a 13% chance that the Farmville Fire Department is on a call in their original jurisdiction on any given day. Prospect also backs Farmville up on a fair percentage of those calls, so they may be equally engaged.”

Bates again pointed out that a change to a “Borderless” system would mean paying staff, because you have to guarantee someone is there at all times. He said such a system worked in Richmond or Alexandria because those are cities with paid departments.

“Borderless 911 won’t work in a rural area where you don’t have a fully paid fire staff,” he said.

## HOW DOES THE CURRENT SYSTEM WORK?

In the current system, each address in Buckingham

County has been plugged into a Geographic Information System (GIS) with 14 departments. That includes the four in Buckingham and the 10 surrounding counties. For each location, the chiefs developed alarm packages of four departments, determined by GIS in ranked order. That means when a call comes in, the system identifies the location and the closest two Buckingham County fire departments are alerted. Then the closest two departments with a mutual aid agreement are also contacted.

“As incident command needs more resources, they simply tell dispatch to deploy the next (ones available),” Bates said.

The chiefs took a poll and by unanimous consensus, they agreed the current system seems to be working well and there’s no need for a change. The complaints by Redford and some residents earlier this year were the first since the system was put in place back in 2018.

# Opinion

## I YOUR VIEWS I

### Our hope lies in common sense

Dear Editor,

For far too long now, Americans, all, have had to suffer the lack of decent behavior at the highest level of government leadership. All of it provides minutia to crazed media moguls who find profit in hosting and even adding to the infighting dividing our country and polarizing our citizens.

While there are those who seem to

benefit from the chaos that all of it has created, the rest of the “reasonable” folks suffer, scratch their heads, and worry that the worst is yet to come. Our hope lies in common sense. The only question is then, how to insure reasonable people are heard. When our government leaders begin to show respect and tolerance for each other’s views, when fair minded debate and

common sense is used to compromise and resolve civil and legal issues, when insults and banter are replaced by civil discourse at the highest level, and when true transparency and honesty begin to replace the highly questionable practices of our government leaders, then those characteristics will once again be fashionable and find their way down to our state and local

leaders, our schools, and ultimately, our families.

And finally, when and if it does occur, perhaps the media will celebrate this behavior instead of sensationalizing the ridiculous juvenile antics of those same people.

Pete Kapuscinski  
Dillwyn

### Hunting with the King

Sorry, this is not about Elvis, though I did encounter him twice as a teenager in Memphis. The first time, I was working all night at the grand opening of a new Vickers gas station on Highway 51 close to Graceland, and Elvis rolled in on a big Harley chopper to fill up at about 2:30 am. I didn’t serve him, but I was nearby. The second incident came when I was working for the Coca-Cola plant in the summer of 1975. I was part of a team that set up special events (festivals, charity golf tournaments, etc.) and also delivered Coke, Sprite, and Tab (Yuck! Worst soda ever!) in iced coolers to dignitaries and friends of the owners when they were hospitalized (not for the patients, who frequently had dietary restrictions, but to attract more nursing attention to the room). I hauled the cooler up to the indicated room, and I was met by a bodyguard who inspected its contents and told me to leave it by the bathroom. When I entered, there he was, very large, recovering from surgery.

Though he was asleep, I felt a definite connection. But, like I said, this story is not about him...

(That summer, I also took a cooler to the deputy chief of police, who had lost a lower leg in a motorcycle accident. We chatted a moment, and then he said, “Hand me my wallet from that nightstand. I appreciate young people who work hard to pay for school.” He took out a twenty and extended it. “So where are you, Memphis State?” “No, sir, Amherst College.” He pulled the bill back as if avoiding a snake strike and declared, “Boy, don’t let those pinkos and Commies up there poison your mind!” Since they didn’t, I feel that his heirs owe me twenty with interest...)

In early 1990 I invited a former student to bring his dog over and hunt quail in a preserve near Farmville. This young man came from a very wealthy family (they owned a railroad), but you wouldn’t have detected it from his demeanor. In fact, his allowance in college was sometimes insufficient to permit the purchase of ammunition, so



I YOUR TURN I  
MIKE WILSON

a couple of times I reloaded some .243 rounds for his local deer hunting. He called the day before the hunt to ask if I would mind if he brought along an old family friend, and I naturally agreed.

When they got to the parking area the next morning, the guest emerged in a full Little Lord Fauntleroy outfit with a velvet cap sporting a jaunty feather, tie, waistcoat, wool jacket, corduroy knee breeches, and stockings. I saw him uncage a very high-grade English 16 gauge side-by-side double with very fancy engraving on the receiver. They walked over to me and my student said, “Dr. Wilson, I would like to introduce our good family friend, His Royal

Highness Wilhelm Prinze von Prusen.” The guest smiled, shook my hand warmly, and said, “Call me Willy.” Our conversations revealed that he was a direct descendent of the Kaiser who had lived most of his life in exile in Spain and occupied his time hunting and bon-vivanting internationally.

The hunt went very well. I knew that, in general, Europeans think that American autoloaders and pumps are, well, gauche, and of course I was carrying one, an Ithaca English Ultralight 20-gauge pump that only weighed five pounds. I think he probably frowned upon that piece until I knocked down five quail with five fast shots on the first covey rise; then he asked if I would like to try his piece and let him try mine. I did my best not to salivate all over that beautiful stock.

We found a lot of birds and

in a couple of hours got our group limit of 36, which they generously suggested I take home since they knew about the hungry mouths waiting at my house. As we loaded the cars to depart, I could no longer suppress a burning question. A colleague had recently brought me an actual little piece of the Berlin Wall, which had fallen in November. I asked, “Willy, what do you make of the possibility of reunification for East and West Germany?” His eyes turned a bit steely, and without thinking overly long, he replied, “Well, when East and West are reunited, that will not be all the German territory, will it?” “Yikes,” I thought to myself. I wonder what he would think of Germany today.

MIKE WILSON is a former Hampden-Sydney Spanish professor and 13-year resident of Prince Edward County, who now calls North Carolina home. He can be reached at jmwilson@catwba.edu.

To submit a letter to the editor please email Editor@FarmvilleHerald.com

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