

Providing Community News for Caroline County since 1919 Thursday, February 7, 2013 75 CENTS





As fisherman look on, participants in annual Polar Bear Plunge race into the cold waters of Lake Land'Or.

# Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!!!

### 'Plunge' into frigid lake pays off for churches, charities

RUTHER GLEN – A group of 70 people braved chilly weather and the icy water of Lake Land'Or to raise money for a good cause.

The annual Polar Bear Plunge, sponsored by Wright's Chapel United Methodist Church, raised \$17,546 on Saturday of last week. The funds will be used by participating churches to help pay for heating bills of people who need assistance, stocking church food pantries to help the needy, and support other charitable efforts to help people in Caroline.

The 70 brave souls who took the plunge pledged in advance to solicit donations for the cause. They lined up in the chilly morning – the temperature was 34 degrees - and raced into the water, which was a mere 36 degrees. Organizers had two bonfires blazing on the beach to help them warm up after the brief dip. The festivities for this year's eighth annual event also included, for the first time, a chili cook-off, which helped make warm bodies as well as raise additional funds.



# Report details county's debt service burden

In region, only Spotsylvania has more debt per capita than Caroline

#### By Eric Miller Reporter

MILFORD—A financial report prepared for the Caroline County Board of Supervisors shows the county government's debt is higher per capita than most other nearby localities.

Fran Hatcher, the county's finance director, prepared the report and presented it to the supervisors at their regular Jan. 22 meeting.

As of Nov. 16, 2012 the county's debt was \$117,701,808, according to Hatcher's report. In March 2010 the county's debt was at \$89,210,717.

The increase was due largely to a jump in utility fund debt from \$23.6 million to \$44 million in order to finance an expansion of the county's wastewater treatment plant. In addition, debt for schools increased from \$33.6 million to \$39.6 million due to renovation projects, and general government debt increased by \$2.1 million to \$34 million.

Hatcher's staff gathered data from surrounding counties, and the most recent data available for total county debt was June 30, 2011. Caroline's per capita debt was \$4,151. That compares to \$4,057 for King George, \$3,281 for Stafford, \$3,109 for Orange, \$2,203 for Hanover, and \$4,391 for Spotsylvania. Fredericksburg's per capita debt was \$3,616. save money.

The county will continue to face challenging times in fiscal year 2013-14, according to a five-year outlook prepared by its financial advisory firm, Davenport & Company, and County Administrator Charles Culley. The county will be paying for a new \$6.5 million radio system, which is required by the Federal Communications Commission, and the annual debt service payment for it may be \$630,000. If financed by Motorola, however, the first payment may not be due until fiscal year 2014-15.

Also in the next fiscal year the county will probably have to lease new school buses and sheriff's vehicles at a cost of \$1.09 million, and the annual payment would be \$195,000, according to Davenport's report. The county also may need to lease a new \$500,000 see Debt page A3

Board OKs phase 2 for Dawn area

The leading fundraiser for this year's Polar Bear Plunge was Ruther Glen attorney Susan Hafey, Greg Killough, superintendent of Caroline County Public Schools, bundles up with towels after brisk dip in annual 'Polar Bear Plunge.'

who collected more than \$2,830 and received the event's 'Golden Plunger' award.

Winners of the costume contest were:

· Best Overall, Scott Moser and

Ken Grier – the 'Blues Brothers.' • Best Male Costume, Robert Bingaman – the 'Christmas Elf.' • Best Female Costume, Wesleigh

see Plunge page A2

# Supervisors authorize talks with Motorola for new radio system

MILFORD - The Caroline County Board of Supervisors directed staff to negotiate with Motorola officials for a new \$6.5 million radio system to replace the aging one that now serves law enforcement, schools, utilities and fire and rescue. The supervisors took the action during their regular meeting Jan. 22.

Local governments were under a mandate from the Federal Communications Commission to upgrade radio systems by a Jan. 1 deadline. The mandate has loomed for years. Localities that do not comply face monetary penalties as well as having their radio communications systems closed down.

Caroline officials asked the FCC in December for an additional two years to comply with the deadline. However, the FCC gave Caroline until June 30 either to upgrade its existing system or to sign a contract with a vendor for a new system and provide a detailed schedule to implement it. The county received a bid from Motorola for a new radio system, and a committee of about eight people representing the agencies that use the communications system and the county's administrative staff also has studied options for complying with the mandate.

The committee evaluated six options, including improving the current VHF system, installing one of three new systems, and partnering with one of two other localities, Hanover County or Spotsylvania County; Hanover has a new communications system, and Spotsylvania is in the process of developing one.

The capital costs of the various options range from a low of \$1.9 million for improving the current system to a high of more than \$8 million to partner with Spotsylvania; the latter figure is an estimate because

see Radio page A6

The report did not include figures for King William, but the June 2009 per capita debt for King William was \$2,060. Caroline's per capita debt was \$3,260 at the time while Louisa was at \$932 and Westmoreland, \$926.

Total debt for other counties ranges from \$96.8 million for King George to \$537.5 million for Spotsylvania.

Caroline's debt service for the current fiscal year is expected to be \$9.59 million, according to the report. However, the county's debt service is expected to rise to \$10.29 million for fiscal year 2013-14 and continue rising until it reaches \$14.6 million in 2016-17. Debt service is expected to drop to \$8.2 million in 2017-18 and to \$7 million by 2020-21.

A state agency that provides bond financing for local governments rejected a request by the county to refinance existing bonds a year ago. The county's application to the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) was turned down because of its financial condition and increases in debt service expected in the future. The county was expecting to refinance the bonds at a lower interest rate and

By Eric Miller Reporter

MILFORD — The Caroline County Board of Supervisors has approved a contract for phase two of the Dawn community wastewater project. Work could begin in February.

The supervisors voted unanimously at their Jan. 22 meeting to award a contract for \$651,375 to Franklin Mechanical Contractors of Kilmarnock, the low bidder.

B.J. Carrier, the project manager for the contractor, said work would probably start in mid-February and be completed by August.

The project still is haunted by a shortage of money, but a consultant assured the supervisors that he will secure additional funds. Eldon James, the consultant who is coordinating the project, will continue to seek additional grants and reported that he is pursuing four additional sources of funding.

The project will provide public sewer service to about 29 homes in the community provided additional funding is secured. The area is served by a decentralized wastewater treatment system that was constructed in the first phase of the project, which also included

see Dawn page A2

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## <u>remembering</u>

OBITUARIES AND IN MEMORIAM

#### Gladys Rich Ferguson

Gladys Rich Ferguson, a native of Caroline County, died Jan. 2, 2013. She was 91.

Ms. Ferguson, who was born to Charles Rich and Sallie Beasley Rich in an area now contained within Fort A.P. Hill, graduated from Union High School and married Nathaniel B. Ferguson in 1941.

After living in Stafford

County from 1941-42, they

moved to Spotsylvania



**Gladys** Ferguson

County for 18 years and operated an 88-acre family farm and raised six children. They returned to Stafford County in 1964 and settled in Falmouth.

Over a span of more than 70 years, Ms. Ferguson was active in church and community activities, including the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank, Order of the Eastern Star, and the American Cancer Society. She devoted 40 years to Mount Lawn Cemetery in Woodford and for 35 years managed the School Dressing Days program of the Inter-Faith Council; the program helps provide back-to-school clothes for needy families in the Fredericksburg area, including Caroline.

She was pre-deceased by her husband, Nathaniel B. Ferguson; five sisters; three brothers; and a son-in-law.

Ms. Ferguson is survived by six children: Vashtye Ferguson, June R. Brown, Nathaniel B. Ferguson, Virginia Woolfolk, Carl Ferguson, and Pocahontas Wadkins. She also leaves eight grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren; several nieces; and a host of caring friends.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Feb. 9 at Shiloh Baptist Church, 801 Sophia St., Fredericksburg.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank.

#### Charles E Garlic Jr.

Charles E. Garlic Jr., 66, of Ruther Glen entered into eternal rest Feb. 2, 2013 at Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center.

He is survived by a daughter, Trelana ('Bootsy') Edler; four grandchildren; his mother, Lue Ella Gray Garlic; a brother, Rudolph Gray (Pearl); an uncle, great-aunt, two nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

A visitation will be held from noon to 8 p.m. Feb. 7 and from noon-1 p.m. Feb. 8 at C. W. Edwards Funeral Home, 16476 Richmond Turnpike in Bowling Green.

A funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Feb. 8 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, 18562 County Line Church Road in Ruther Glen. Interment will follow at the church cemetery.

#### Joseph L. Ketterman

Joseph L. Ketterman, 91, of Woodford died Jan. 29, 2013 at his home.

Mr. Ketterman, the widower of Elizabeth Ketterman, was a native of West Virginia and served in the Army during World War II.

Survivors include his five children, Sue Conrad and her

#### Mary Elizabeth Burke Warden

Mary Elizabeth Burke Warden passed away peacefully at her home in Virginia Beach on Jan. 27, 2013.

She was born May 7, 1921 to the late James De-Jarnette Burke and the late Beatrice Louise Knapp.

Ms. Warden graduated from high school in Chesterfield County and Smithdeal Massey Business College in Richmond. She was a highly respected business professional throughout her career and retired

from the Veterans Administration in Richmond.

She is survived by her son, Dean Allan Warden of Norfolk; her brothers, Thomas Randolph Burke of Woodford and his wife, Jeannette, and George Burke of Deltaville; and a niece, Donna Burke Allred of Greensboro, N.C.

The family extends a special thanks to her friend and caregiver, Tammy Eason.

In addition to her parents, Ms. Warden was preceded in death by her husband, James Olin Warden of Virginia Beach; a sister, Dorothy Burke Hall of Hampton; and brother, James DeJarnette Burke Jr. of Kinston, N.C.

A graveside memorial service will be held in the spring at the Burke family cemetery at Braynefield in Caroline County.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of Virginia Beach at www.vbspca.com.

#### Ollie R. Boulware

Ollie Reno Boulware, 93, entered into eternal rest Jan. 24, 2013 at Bowling Green Health and Rehabilitation Center.

She leaves precious memories to those who mourn her loss: two nieces, Arley Woolfolk and Louise Gray; three nephews, Ryland, Jack and Linwood Boulware, all of Ruther Glen; and a host of other relatives and friends.

A funeral service was held Feb. 2 at St. John Baptist Church in Woodford, and interment followed at the church cemetery.

Funeral arrangements were by C.W. Edwards Funeral Home.

#### **Debt** from page A1

fire truck, and it needs to drill new wells that would cost an estimated \$500,000.

With its debt service increasing, the county would have to obtain more revenue from real estate taxes, sales taxes, or other sources. For example, the \$630,000 annual payment for the radio system would be equal to another 2.54 cents on the real estate tax rate, which is currently 72 cents per \$100 in assessed value.

In fact, Davenport projected the county will need new, additional revenue equivalent to a 13.4-cent increase in the real estate tax rate in the next fiscal year - whether the revenue is raised from real estate taxes, personal property taxes, or other taxes or fees.

billion in 2012, according Sharon Carter, the county's commissioner of revenue. It may be inching back up be-

cause it was \$2.43 billion in 2011.

## Davis leads Planning **Commission again**

MILFORD – Members of the Caroline County Planning Commission have re-elected 'Pete' Davis as chairman for 2013.

They unanimously tapped Davis for another term as chairman and also Milton Bush as vice chairman at the commission's regular meeting on Jan. 16.

Davis, who lives in Ruther Glen and represents the Madison District, has nearly three years left in his term as commissioner and has been on the panel since 2006. He has served as chairman since 2007.

Bush, a retired educator whose term as commissioner expires in October this year, also lives in Ruther Glen but represents the Mattaponi District. He has been a member of the Planning Commission since 2004 and has served as

Doswell Ruritans plan breakfast Feb. 16

DOSWELL - The Doswell Ruritan Club will host an all-you-can eat salt fish breakfast Feb. 16 at the Doswell Community Center, 16433 North Washington Highway.

Breakfast will be served from 6:30-9 a.m. and also will include eggs, bacon, apples, biscuits, cornbread, potatoes, juice, and hot coffee.

The cost will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children, ages 4 to 10.





#### Blessed with relationships Part II

Continued from last week

By Rob Carter, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church of Ladysmith, a missionplant of Redeemer Lutheran, Fredericksburg

When we take the time to be a blessing

to take a moment and reflect for them the love that Christ has for each of us, as they see the love and care that we are expressing for them.

In a short time the season of

**A3** 

vice chairman since 2006.

During an organizational

session at the start of the meet-

ing, the commission also ad-

opted a schedule of regular

meetings for 2013 and revised

procedures for conducting

order, in the event of a tie vote

a case would be forwarded to

the Board of Supervisors with

rules of procedure clarify that

a majority vote is required to

advance a motion. In other

words, if a motion to approve

a request does not receive a

majority vote, it is not trans-

mitted to the Board of Super-

visors with a recommendation

of denial; a separate motion to

deny the request would have to

be approved by a majority of

the commission.

In addition, the revised

no recommendation.

Under the revised rules of

meetings.



Mary Elizabeth Warden

husband, William, Bobby Ketterman and his wife, Shirley, Larry Ketterman, Nancy Parker, and Bonnie Ketterman; nine grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren; and one greatgreat-grandchild.

A funeral service was held Feb. 2 at Storke Funeral Home in Bowling Green, and burial followed at Greenlawn Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bethel Baptist Church in Woodford.

An online register book is available at www.storkefuneralhome.com.

#### Thomas Joseph Ball Sr.

Thomas Joseph Ball Sr. of Bowling Green passed away Feb. 3, 2013.

Mr. Ball, who loved and was loved by his family, was recalled as a loving son, husband, father, grandfather, greatgrandfather, brother, and friend.

He is survived by his children, Mary Jo, Pat, Susan and Tommy Jr.; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and his sister, Shirley.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jeff and Lola Ball; his wife of 65 years, Mary Alice; his son, Jimmy; and his sisters, Marjorie and Mildred.

The family was scheduled to receive friends at Storke Funeral Home in Bowling Green Wednesday evening, and a funeral service was planned at 2 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home chapel with burial to follow at Salem Baptist Church cemetery in Sparta.

In lieu of flowers and food, memorial contributions may be made to the Caroline County Youth Association (Little League), P.O. Box 1179, Bowling Green, Va., 22427.

An online register book is available at www.storkefuneralhome.com.

#### Charles Cecil Janey

Charles Cecil Janey, 89, of Ruther Glen died Jan. 30, 2013 at Bowling Green Health and Rehabilitation Center in Bowling Green.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia Doris Janey; three children, Charles Ray Dixon and his wife, Beverly, of Barnwell, S.C., Linda Carter of Milford, and Debbie Holland and her husband, Billy, of Woodford; four grandchildren, Allen Holland and his wife, Kasey, Angel Holland, Jenna Austin, and Jessica Austin; and one great-great-grandson, Turner Holland.

A funeral service was held Feb. 2 at Mt. Hermon Baptist Church in Milford, and burial was at the church cemetery.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to Mt. Hermon Baptist Church.

Funeral arrangements were by Storke Funeral Home in Bowling Green.

An online register book is available at www.storkefuneralhome.com.

Caroline's real estate tax rate was as low as 48 cents in 2006, but that was after a reassessment drove property values higher. The most recent reassessment was in 2011.

In the current budget, one penny of the real estate tax rate generates \$245,683 in revenue.

Davenport expects the county to conduct its next reassessment in 2015. An increase in property values of 1 percent would provide the county with \$180,000 in additional revenue for fiscal year 2015-16 and beyond.

The county faces other significant costs, too. The supervisors and the School Board have been assembling a citizens panel to help guide a major new project to expand and renovate Caroline High School, which would cost in the range of \$20 million. Improvements planned for Madison Elementary School would cost an estimated \$3 million. The county may need to undertake a major water supply project that could cost in the neighborhood of \$20 million. The county may expand its solid waste convenience site in Ladysmith for \$200,000, and it is making plans for a new ambulance for \$150,000.

The weak economy of recent years has hurt, noted Culley. "Few people in government have dealt with this type of economic downturn," he said. "I've been in government for 26 years and nothing I've seen has been this long and strong and with unemployment this high."

The total taxable value of residential, commercial, and agriculture property in Caroline County dropped from \$2.86 billion in 2008 to \$2.46

for others we are able to learn patience, to be selfless and sacrifice, grow in our sense of responsibility, as well as hope and forgiveness as we invest time in relationships with those around us. Recognizing the people in our lives are there not because of what they can do for us, but to honor the opportunity that we have to be present and serve them, allows us the precious moments where we can see God's presence in our relationships with others. As we enter into other people worlds we have a moment in each interaction, each relationship where we are given the precious gift of being a blessing for them. Taking a moment to care for their needs before our own, to carry their burden,

Epiphany will be over, with that we begin Lent. During those seven weeks leading to Easter we will examine our hearts and minds more fully as we answer the call to repentance that will be a part of our worship and prayer focus. A time when instead of looking at how we are a Blessing for others, we will be focusing on the Blessing that Christ has been for us, and His journey to the cross, leading to His death and resurrection which is our salvation from Sin and gives us the promise of eternal life with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as well as all the Saints who have gone before us.

In His Grip, Pastor Rob



