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## Germanna interested in opening Caroline location

By Daniel Sherrier  
Editor

Germanna Community College might soon have a presence in Caroline County.

The Board of Supervisors Tuesday night agreed to contribute up to \$42,000 a year for three years for Germanna to rent classroom space in the county.

This fits the college's usual business model. County Administrator Charles Culley told the supervisors that the initial three

years in a location are "to build up statistics of use," which Virginia Community College leaders can then bring before the General Assembly to request funding.

"Their goal is to do what they can to get numbers up to show that there are people using the facility," Culley said.

"Part of what their normal process is, is that when they come to a new location, they expect that locality to pay their rent for at least three years," Board Chair-

man Floyd Thomas said. "They want to get their RFP (request for proposals) process started. We're saying yes today that we want to make our commitment to them to come."

Thomas added, "They have several places that they're looking at, and one in particular is one that is going to cost \$42,000, but they have to put out an RFP."

Initially, Germanna would only offer non-credit courses related to workforce training, but that could

expand as enrollment increases.

"They feel that the non-credit workforce training is something they can start with and support right now," Culley said.

All supervisors expressed a desire to have a Germanna campus in Caroline.

Bowling Green Supervisor Jeff Sili indicated he had hoped Germanna would be interested in using the old Ladysmith Elementary School building near the intersection of routes 1 and 639.

Culley said Germanna didn't feel the site would meet their needs. For example, the building has restrooms designed for elementary school children.

"We've done extensive work to that building, and there is a whole line of new classrooms that were built in the 90s," Sili said, adding that the proximity to Interstate 95 and major subdivisions was another advantage.

Sili suggested looking into the see **SUPERVISORS** page 8

## Developer aims to combine Ladysmith Village and South River

By Sarah Vogelsong  
CP Reporter

The developer behind Ladysmith Village is attempting to simplify its development process by bringing together Ladysmith Village and South River under the same planning umbrella and cleaning up its zoning agreements with the county.

In a discussion at a July 2 work session, Bob Ditthardt, a senior project manager at Newland Real Estate Group, the developer of both projects, and Gloria Freye, an attorney for Newland with McGuire Woods, presented the commission with a plan to amend Ladysmith Village and South River's current proffers.

The amended proffers, which are still being revised, would eliminate items that have been completed since 2003, such as the construction of the Ladysmith library, the Caroline Family YMCA, and various turn lanes, and would combine both Ladysmith Village and South River under the planned mixed-use development zoning designation so that they could be developed in harmony with each

other. South River is currently zoned planned residential.

Together, the two developments encompass 719.5 acres. The only portions that have been developed are Founder's Park in Ladysmith Village and several lots in South River.

Freye noted that when the original proffers were approved more than a decade ago, "that was a whole different market for real estate ... and it was also the first opportunity for the county to consider traditional neighborhood development. ... As a consequence, that zoning was very, very complicated."

"The changes that we are proposing are not a result of development being taken out of control or any major problems," Ditthardt told the commission. "We're not asking for more density."

Under both the current and the proposed amended proffers, South River is allowed 320 residential units and Ladysmith Village 2,850, for a total of 3,170. Freye assured the board that Newland was proffering this density as a set

see **DEVELOPER** page 2

## Port Royal post office faces uncertain future

By Sarah Vogelsong  
CP Reporter

Port Royal's post office has been in almost continuous operation since its establishment in 1766, but residents fear that their community's institution may have reached the end of the road.

This past May, the U.S. Postal Service sent a notice to town residents that a meeting would be held at the post office Tuesday, July 8

at 2 p.m. to discuss four options: the first would keep the post office open but reduce its operating times from eight to six hours per week-day. The other three options are all based on the USPS conducting a discontinuance survey and would offer the alternatives of replacing the post office with roadside mailbox delivery and a rural carrier, the establishment of a village post office, and the transference of P.O. box service to another post office.

USPS also sent surveys to a sample of residents served by the Port Royal post office.

A spokeswoman for USPS stated in an email that the Port Royal post office is not closing and that it is under Post Plan, a cost-cutting program implemented in 2012 under which roughly 14,000 post offices around the country are being considered for reduced hours or closure.

Nevertheless, some residents are worried that the meeting is only the first step in a process toward closure.

"We've had a post office in this town since the beginning of this town," said Mayor Nancy Long. "Not only (would) they (be) taking a service away, they'd be taking a piece of our history."

see **POST OFFICE** page 2



History was remembered and brought to life by interpreters during the Fourth of July celebration sponsored by Historic Port Royal and the Caroline County Board of Supervisors. Below, Town Crier Michael Newman reads the Declaration of Independence. CP photos by Daniel Sherrier

## Independence Day celebrated at Port Royal

By Daniel Sherrier  
Editor

Hurricane Arthur didn't dare interfere with the 15th annual Independence Day Celebration in Historic Port Royal.

In fact, the rain cleared out in plenty of time, leaving clear skies and comfortable weather as crowds gathered in the town to meet living history interpreters, enjoy surrey rides, hear a reading of the Declaration of Independence, and partake in some food prepared by the ladies of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

This year's featured speaker was John Hennessy, chief historian with National Park Service.

"Independence was one decision for this nation. We just heard the Declaration of Independence, but what remained to be determined after that was the nature of this government. There was no guarantee that it was going to be a republic, a democratic republic. There were many who thought it was going to be a monarchy. Some advocated that Washington should be a king. So much work remained in this country, and that work goes on to this very day," Hennessy said.

He said the greatest challenge to the ex see **FOURTH OF JULY** page 3



## Mine application deferred until August Commission meeting

By Sarah Vogelsong  
CP Reporter

Chaney Enterprises, the Maryland-based mining company applying for a special exception permit to construct a sand and gravel mine along Route 17, addressed a number of unresolved issues regarding their application before the Planning Commission and county staff at a work session held July 2.

Much of the discussion centered on traffic concerns related to the transportation of materials to and from the proposed 544-acre site located on the Moss Neck Manor Plantation property owned by developer Larry Silver, particularly the possibility of disruptions

to intersections and the flow of traffic on Route 17 as a result of the "stacking" of trucks.

Chaney has conducted a traffic impact analysis and has been working with the Virginia Department of Transportation to assess the potential impacts of the trucks and ways to minimize those impacts.

County planner Angeline Pitts stated that although a recent letter from VDOT had concluded that the construction of turn lanes on Route 17 at the site's entrance was not warranted, "consideration should be given to them or to some other alternative that would basically get trucks off the road."

see **MINING** page 2

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Jan G. Henicheck, Caroline Family YMCA Community Relations Specialist; Archie L. Roberts, Caroline High School CTE Building Trades teacher; and Dr. Julia Britt, CHS Assistant Principal and CTE Director, display a plaque recognizing the work of CTE students.

## YMCA thanks building trades students

The Caroline Family YMCA presented a plaque to the Caroline High School CTE Building Trades class in recognition of their participation in an onsite build for the Y. The third-year students were supervised by CHS teacher Archie Roberts and demonstrated their mastery of carpentry, masonry, and electrical skills by constructing a handsome 12-by-16 foot storage building for the Caroline Family YMCA.

"We are pleased and proud of the work the students did on the build and invite the county to the YMCA to see their work. We will participate with the school in further projects, including their new program in health sciences. We encourage strong community alliances to help Caroline youth and feel that we are privileged to work with Dr. Britt and the Caroline Public School system," said Jan Henicheck, Caroline Family YMCA Community Relations Specialist.

Participating students appearing in the photo on the plaque are: Kevin Conley, Brandon Moore, Kevin Maddox, Luke Price, Devanti Garner, Josh Zelenick, Jawaun Dabney, Brandon Brooks, Aaron Lewis, William Howard, and Jimmy McClure.

## Supervisors from page 1

possibility of renovating the old Ladysmith Elementary School to meet Germanna's needs.

"I would just like to be able to give them more space and facilities, and if upgrading the bathrooms costs us \$20,000, the space would essentially pay for itself in the first year," Sili said.

Culley pointed out that the building is owned by the School Board, not the county government.

Madison Supervisor Wayne Acors commented,

"We need the Germanna presence in Caroline County. Sure, I'd like to get them in Ladysmith, because that's where the largest number of people are located, but if it's in Bowling Green or Carmel Church or Dawn, that's fine with me. We just need a presence of Germanna Community College."

Western Caroline Supervisor Jeff Black asked if Germanna officials could appear at a board meeting in the near future to discuss their plans and answer questions from supervisors.

Thomas said that could be arranged for later this month or in August.

Port Royal Supervisor Calvin Taylor said, "I hope that we will allow it in the end to be their decision where they go. ... Quite honestly, Ladysmith Elementary, I just don't think it's a building that gives a presence that they want. It's as simple as that. And I believe the renovation would be so extravagant in order to do that, it would defeat that purpose, but that's my opinion."

Thomas said the decision on the location would be Germanna's.

The board voted 6-0 to approve the contribution to Germanna for three years.

## School Projects

from page 5

plans, see the school and site, and meet the people that they may be working with should they be the low bidder for the project.

So far, nine general contractors from Winchester to the Tidewater area have expressed interest in the additions and renovation project at Madison Elementary School. Bids are due on July 17, 2014, with construction anticipated to begin in early August and be completed by mid-July of 2015.

Architects and engineers are entering the detailed stages of planning for the new additions and renovations to Caroline High School. The design team spent the last three months of the school year meeting with faculty and staff to develop a design that will allow the high school to be expanded to accommodate 1,600 students.

Work is anticipated to begin on the high school project this fall and will take approximately two years to complete.



## Caroline's JROTC trains at AP Hill

Caroline High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program sent 12 cadets to Fort A.P. Hill's annual JROTC summer camp JCLC. The cadets were split up and placed in separate groups and spent a week living on base with other cadets from different counties, training with and competing against them. *Photo by Heather Robertson, CP intern*

## Fracking from OP-Ed page 4

ken field of North Dakota and Montana had produced its first billion barrels of light, sweet crude oil.

Continental Vice President Jack Stark said, "This milestone validates the immense potential of the Bakken field and development is just beginning. Two-thirds of this oil was produced in the last three years. This is something our country can celebrate as the oil and natural gas industry continues to create jobs, grow our economy, and secure America's energy future. Horizontal drilling technology has spurred the discovery of vast new resources of oil in America. Much of this potential has yet to be accounted for in our nation's proved

reserves of crude oil."

Trendy movies that show fracking to be a dangerous, water-contaminating process have frightened some people, said Sherrill. DMME and DEQ representatives painted Virginians a much brighter picture at the King George meeting, however. More than 8,000 wells have been drilled in the southwestern part of the Commonwealth, and most of them have been fracked. Not one of these wells has contaminated groundwater.

Sherrill says that the DMME and DEQ are extremely committed to enforcing strict regulations. He adds, "Mother Nature assists us in keeping fracking from contaminating groundwater

supplies. The 100 percent success rate we enjoy in Virginia would not be possible otherwise. Basically, as fracking procedures move closer to the surface, 1/4 to 1/2-inch cracks that loosen the shale develop horizontally rather than vertically. In the Taylorsville Basin, impermeable rock layers that lie above the shale will form a barrier, guarding the freshwater aquifer from contaminates."

Sherrill refers doubters to "Just the Fracks, Ma'am," Virginia Oil and Gas Association President Greg Kozera's popular book. Kozera has more than 35 years of experience in the petroleum industry and endorses fracking.

Emmy Award-winning producer Jon Entine said, "Shale gas is a gift from God and if we let hysteria

drive regulation, if we let politicians set the ground rules for what should be a scientific enterprise, we are going to set the American economy and the world economy back 50 years."

In the documentary "FrackNation," he counters activists' claims: "There are always voices trying to restrain change in the name of preserving 'nature' in its romantically constructed form. Protestors who opposed the industrial revolution 200 years ago, blocking plant construction in the name of preserving 'pristine' rural communities, fashioned themselves as the progressives of their time and on the cutting edge of science. History calls them Luddites—those who cannot look beyond their limited self-interests and therefore oppose on precautionary

grounds technical or technological change that can have transformative benefits. ... We have in our grasp game-changing technologies not unlike those that drove prior revolutions."

Chairman of Shore's Board of Directors, Edmund DeJarnette, Jr., says cheap energy will give the United States a great advantage in today's world-wide competition. Cheap foreign labor has taken industry away from the United States, but cheap energy can bring it back.

DeJarnette looks forward to the ripple effect of a new industry that will demand new employees and provide many dollars to the area. He expects oil and gas activity in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula to continue for 30 to 50 years. There will be jobs for those directly involved in oil and gas, and in banks, restaurants, car dealerships, and repair shops. Petroleum engineers, builders, carpenters, painters, and truck drivers will be in high demand.

"In Virginia, the county receives a severance rate of 1 percent on oil and 3 percent on gas. That is not a trickle-down tax. It does not go to the state and trickle back to the county. It goes directly to the county. Finding oil or gas would enrich and improve Caroline County. Roads and highways should be better than ever. Other tax dollars could go toward other much needed infrastructure and toward paying down county debt," said Sherrill.

Wayne and Maxine Beazley of Sandy Lane Farm in Sparta have signed with Shore. They said, "We are in it to make this country fuel efficient. Hopefully, it will bring some income to us and some jobs and income to the county. It would help us pay our taxes."

Oil and gas money will "keep the countryside country, because farmers can pay their taxes and keep the land in their family," agrees Sherrill.

Former U.S. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar, a noted environmentalist known for his support of renewable energy sources, says that fracking technologies will lead to an industrial revolu-

tion and America's energy independence by 2020.

"From what I've seen ... there's not a single case where hydraulic fracking has created an environmental problem for anyone. We need to make sure that story is told. It doesn't matter whether you're in Ohio or Pennsylvania or California or in Houston. Letting people know this kind of information is very important," Salazar said.

Former U.S. Secretary of Energy Stephen Chu echoes his views. Former Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Lisa Jackson said there is no "proven case where the fracking process has affected water."

Taylorsville Basin's location almost entirely within the Coastal Plain—in Virginia called the Tidewater—gives it special protection. Tidewater, with a capital T, is a legally defined area that includes 46 jurisdictions, including every county in the Basin. Sherrill says that, based on their respect for the people, law, land, wildlife, and plants of Virginia, Shore welcomes strict guidelines that are in place under the Code of Virginia. He looks forward to seeing inspectors at the drilling site at all times. The DMME, DEQ, State Water Control Board, Secretaries of Natural Resources and Commerce and Trade, Governor, and General Assembly will all have a say in the process.

With strict rules and regulations in place, some might wonder why a company like Shore Exploration & Production would even bother to try to explore and produce oil and gas in the Taylorsville Basin. Sherrill is optimistic about their chances. "Thanks to the thickness of the Taylorsville source rock, it has the potential to be very, very prolific," he said. Virginia Tech Extension Agent Mike Broaddus put it plainly: "I signed because if oil were to be drilled, I'd want to be on the ship."

*Mary Tod Gray is a former Caroline Progress reporter and the author of Caroline County: A Pictorial History.*

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