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Inside Today: Martin Luther King, Jr., Day celebrated in Dawn • p8   /thecarolineprogress

Landfill amendment rejected by Board of Supervisors

By Sarah Vogelsong | CP Reporter

A surprise decision by the Board of Supervisors to not approve any changes to the county's Solid Waste Management Plan has left a controversial proposal for a commercial landfill dead in the water.

County residents have hotly contested a proposal by Caroline Recycling, LLC, to establish a landfill on 684 acres at the intersection of Route 301 and Route 656 since it first emerged in November.

However, because neither the county's Solid Waste Management Plan nor its zoning ordinance currently permit any private company to operate a waste management facility within the county, Caroline Recycling has not been able to file a formal application to develop the site.

On Dec. 2, the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the SWMP. Several dozen residents turned out to voice their opposition to any changes

that would open the door to an application from Caroline Recycling. At that time, the Board deferred a decision on the matter to its Jan. 27 meeting to allow Reggie Underwood, the representative for the Reedy Church district, where the landfill would be located, to hold several constituent meetings on the matter.

Although the landfill was not on the published agenda for last night's Board of Supervisors meeting, 10 residents spoke during the

public comment period to urge the supervisors to say no to the project.

After the public hearing closed, newly elected chairman Calvin Taylor informed those in attendance that "no decision has been made on the landfill."

"Some people feel that the Board has already made up its mind, and I can assure you that no decision has been made," he said. "The Board has not made up its mind."

see Landfill page 5



Rebound man

AJ Derricott, #34, grabs the rebound from a Chancellor opponent's shot. The Cavs lost the battle against the Chargers 82-74 at home last Tuesday. After a loss to North Stafford on Friday, the Cavs' season record fell to 6-7. See full story on page 7. Photo by Dawn Haun.

Route 722 bridge to close during construction

By Sarah Vogelsong | CP Reporter

A bridge on Nelson Hill Road spanning the Mattaponi River will be closed for 75 days to allow necessary structural work in 2016, the Board of Supervisors decided at its Jan. 13 meeting.

The decision represents a compromise with the Virginia Department of Transportation. VDOT, which is overseeing the bridge repairs on both Nelson Hill Road (Route 722) and Route 606, in November asked the Board to consider closing one or both bridges during construction in order to provide cost savings.

According to VDOT administrator Sean Nelson, the projects are currently underfunded by about \$500,000 to \$600,000.

Closing the Route 722 bridge during construction instead of leaving one lane open and carrying out the work in stages would save \$754,407. Closing the Route 606 bridge would save \$863,658.

No county funds will be used for either project. All money will come from the state. However, as Nelson told the Board on

Jan. 13, "the conditions of the bridges are deteriorating at a rapid rate," and delays in construction due to insufficient funding could cause lower weight limits to be posted and eventually the bridges to go out of service.

"I'm not asking for both of them to be open," Nelson said. "If we just have one to be closed for the duration, it's going to help us."

While closing one of the bridges wouldn't completely make up for the shortfall in funds for both projects, Nelson said that it would make it easier for VDOT to come up with the additional funds needed.

Other factors affecting the supervisors' decision included the length of the detours that would be produced by the bridge closures and the project duration. Although closing the Route 606 bridge would cut construction time from 270 days to 125 days, it would subject motorists to a 20-mile detour for three months.

Closure of the Route 722 bridge would also cut project duration from 270 to 125

see Bridge page 5

Hispanic Congregation of Ladysmith celebrates 10th anniversary

By Greg Glassner | CP Correspondent

Caroline County's only Hispanic church celebrated its 10th anniversary Sunday.

Are there enough Spanish-speaking residents in the county to support a church? The short answer: Yes, although Pastor Eduardo Negron and his wife Idalia asked themselves the same question when they moved here in 2003.

"We knew that God had brought us to work with the Hispanic community. The problem was that we did not know where they lived or who were Hispanic," Negron said.

"I remember praying with my wife, 'Lord, thou hast brought us here to do something for you but this place is a desert of Hispanics. Show us what to do and where to go as we are baffled.'"

"We bought a house here and went to several churches. We went to Ladysmith Baptist and Pastor (James) Eads and told him the Lord had brought us here and we didn't know why. We said we were inter-



Pastor Eduardo Negron and his wife Idalia.

ested in starting a Bible study," Negron said.

Eads was supportive and even suggested they look into the church building that Ladysmith Baptist used for many years before building a new church.

see Hispanic Congregation page 2

Board eliminates penalty

By Sarah Vogelsong | CP Reporter

A penalty for late filing of tax returns for personal property acquired mid-year -- a penalty that has angered some county residents -- is being eliminated from the county code in response to legal advice and the recommendation of the Commissioner of the Revenue.

At their Jan. 13 meeting, the Board of

Supervisors unanimously passed an emergency ordinance that makes the amendment effective immediately and is retroactive back to Jan. 1 of this year.

In Caroline, all residents are required to send an itemization of their personal property to the Commissioner's Office by Feb. 1 of each year. Until 2013, any property ac-

see Penalty page 2

LOCAL PUBLIC SERVANT SPOTLIGHT

Rachael Matern:

Every child is different

By Daniel Sherrier
Editor

Rachael Matern remembers several great teachers from her school days, particularly a few middle school teachers who would go out of their way to push her toward the next level, help her out in any problem areas, and generally make the classes fun and engaging.

Those educators inspired Matern to become a teacher herself—a decision she made while taking eighth grade history with a Miss Carlton.

"She made me love history," Matern said. "She made us look at different perspectives ... and why each side took the stand that they took."

That's an approach Matern brings to Caroline Middle School.

Matern, a Baltimore native and Randolph-Macon College graduate, has taught at CMS for the past seven years, the length of her career. She teaches ACE

(All Children Excel) social studies to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders—which means she teaches U.S. history through the Civil War, civics and economics, and world history to 1500 A.D., respectively—and she instructs a general education sixth grade class.

ACE is an advanced-level program that allows for extra enrichment. For example, Matern's sixth graders recently portrayed a debate between Revolutionary War-era patriots and loyalists—and midway through, the students switched which side they were presenting. That class will also be creating historically themed board games with special dice that will require them to use their mathematical skills as well.

With projects like these, Matern follows the examples of her own teachers who made the subject matter compelling.

"I had some pretty funny teachers in high school that



also drew me towards wanting to teach history. I took AP (Advanced Placement) U.S. and Government, but they made it interesting. It wasn't just that rote memorization," Matern said.

"I try to do that for my kids, because I don't want them just sitting there being bored," she added.

Working with three different grade levels of middle school students, Matern has little chance of becoming bored herself.

"I know everyone's like, 'Oh my gosh, how could you teach middle school?' They really are sweet, and they really mean well.

They don't always have filters. They don't always know the correct way to

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Rte. 722 will close for bridge repair from page 1

days but would produce a detour of only five miles, which would be in place for 75 days.

Several supervisors spoke in favor of closing the Route 722 bridge and leaving the Route 606 bridge open during construction. Newly elected chairman Calvin Taylor said that closing the Route 606 bridge would be "traumatic."

Mattaponi Supervisor Floyd Thomas, however, adamantly opposed closure of the Route 722 bridge on the grounds that it would inconvenience county citizens

and negatively impact commerce at the nearby Milford Industrial Park.

"It's the state's job to take care of roads," Thomas said. "Let the state do what the state's supposed to do."

Nelson responded that although he "kind of agree(d)" with Thomas, "if we don't get a replacement, the bridge could be posted at less than legal limit, which would also impact industrial areas."

Taylor also weighed in, saying, "I have no problem with letting the state do what the state's (supposed)

to do, but there's only so much money, and you're saying to me that the funds are not there."

In a 5-1 vote, with Thomas dissenting, the supervisors approved closing Route 722 during construction and leaving one lane of 606 open for the duration. If all remains on schedule, the projects will be advertised in December and will break ground in spring 2016.

Nelson also notified the supervisors that a VDOT inspection of the bridge over Beverly Creek on Route 721, Newtown Road, had

determined that replacement of the structure needed to be accelerated and that to do so, a temporary bridge would be erected in February or March.

During construction of the temporary bridge, that portion of Route 721 will be closed for two weeks, and motorists will be directed along a 22-mile detour. Once in place, the temporary bridge will be able to carry legal loads. It will stay in operation while a permanent structure is being built to replace the current bridge, which was erected

in 1952.

"This will impact the citizens for a short duration, but hopefully in the long run, it will help us accelerate this project and get it done," Nelson said.

A public hearing on the permanent replacement for the Route 721 bridge will be held Feb. 24 at 5 p.m. at Lawson-Marriott Elementary School in King and Queen County.

Landfill denied

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Nevertheless, as the meeting drew to a close, Taylor asked Underwood whether he "would like to send a message to (Caroline Recycling) that this is just not something that the Board feels they could entertain at this time."

Underwood initially seemed to balk: "My concern is that I like the processes to run their course, and whether the six of us agree or disagree, folks have a right to come out and present and be heard," he said. "I think that's what makes us a great nation, is the fact that the voice of the people carries our vote, but people still have the right to agree and disagree."

"If we know now that the majority of this Board has decided that (denial) is the direction that we want to go, then I don't know that we need this on the agenda (for Jan. 27)," Taylor argued. "We could vote that amendment tonight."

Madison Supervisor Wayne Acors agreed. "I really haven't gone into a public hearing with my mind solidly made up in the 28 years I've been on this board," he said. "But I'm going into this public hearing with my mind made up. It is not an issue I'm going to support."

County attorney Benjamin Emerson advised the Board that if it so wished, it could vote to place the SWMP on the evening's agenda and then take a vote on whether or not to approve the proposed SWMP as amended.

Western Caroline Supervisor Jeff Black put forth the first motion, and Acors the second. Both motions carried unanimously.

The Board's decision to not approve the amended SWMP means that the amendments to the county zoning ordinance that would permit a privately owned commercial landfill to operate in Caroline will also fail, barring Caroline Recycling from submitting any application for its project to the county.

Paul Farrell, a principal of Caroline Recycling, later expressed his dissatisfaction with the process of gathering citizen feedback.

"What we were looking for is a cross-section of the entire county, not just 20 people in Reedy Creek," he said. "Twenty people doesn't necessarily represent the viewpoint of 22,000 people." (Caroline County had approximately 28,500 people in 2010, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.)

Farrell also stated his intent to look into the legality of the Board's decision to add the SWMP to the agenda at the last moment.

Taylor explained this decision as stemming from the degree and intensity of citizen opposition to the project and said that he considered that the sooner the Board let citizens and the potential applicant know of their decision, the better.

"We want to alleviate as much anxiety as possible," he said.

Nevertheless, he also defended the process of public consideration.

"(Caroline Recycling) deserve(s) the opportunity to state their case," he said. "If you never give them an opportunity to do that, you really aren't being fair to them."

Underwood similarly said that he thought the process had "worked properly" and that he was pleased that people had turned out to make their views heard.

"It's a good process for me," he said. "Trust in what we've put in place and be proud of what we've put in place."



CAROLINE COUNTY

Readers' Choice

Your vote counts!



Vote for your favorites!

Please take a few minutes to think about and answer the following question for each category...Who, What, or Where is the Best _____ in Caroline?

- Auto-Car Service _____
- Attorney _____
- Bank _____
- Builder/Contractor _____
- Carpet Cleaning _____
- Convenience Store/Gas Station _____
- Preschool/Daycare _____
- Dentist _____
- General Doctor _____
- Local Event _____
- Historical Event _____
- Golf Course _____
- Place to Work Out (exercise) _____
- Hair Styling Salon _____
- Hardware Store _____
- Heating & Air Company _____
- Day Trip _____
- Insurance Agency/Agent _____
- Funeral Home _____
- Lawn Care Service _____
- Pest Control _____
- Electrician _____
- Plumber _____
- Neighborhood in which to live _____
- Real Estate Agency _____
- Real Estate Agent/where employed _____
- Speciality Shop _____
- Pet Groomer _____
- Veterinarian _____

RESTAURANT FOR:

Restaurant Overall _____

Breakfast _____

Dinner _____

Burger _____

Pizza _____

Dessert _____

Italian _____

Seafood _____

- Local Business Person _____
- Church _____
- Spiritual Leader _____
- Church Choir _____
- Local Celebrity (artist, musician, etc) _____
- Local Hero _____
- Local Political Figure _____
- Non Profit Organization _____
- Local Teacher/School _____
- Local Athletic Coach _____
- Local Athlete _____
- Local Volunteer _____
- Local Best Kept Secret _____
- Store in which to shop _____
- Farmer/Farm _____
- Place to swim _____
- Road for a scenic drive _____
- Place to take your kids _____
- Thing about living in Caroline _____

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Name: _____

Address: _____

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One entry per person.
One entry per mailing.
One entry per walk-ins.

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Contest Rules

Must be 18 yrs. old to enter. 75% of ballot must be complete to be considered valid. Be Specific. Check spelling. If we can't decipher it, it won't be counted. No photocopies of entry form. Only one entry per person. **Deadline for entry 2/2/15. No photocopies please.**