

# THE CAROLINE Progress

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RESIDENTS HAVE MANY QUESTIONS

## Landfill meeting draws a crowd

Materials accepted would be wood, paper, glass, plastic, yard waste, and metals

By Daniel Sherrier | Editor

The principals of Caroline Recycling LLC conducted a community meeting Dec. 16 to discuss their proposal for operating a construction, demolition, and debris landfill at the intersection of Route 301 and Route 656.

A large crowd filled the Reedy Church Ruritan building and at times grew contentious, with residents openly skeptical of the project. The principals attempted to address concerns and lay out what they perceive to be the benefits of the landfill, if the project were ever to come to fruition.

As Board of Supervisors Chairman Floyd Thomas reminded residents at the end of the meeting, "This is not

a done deal. This is step one of what would probably be 20 steps. ... We're all going to listen to each other and we're going to talk and we're going to interface, and then we're going to come to what's best for the county."

The construction debris landfill would be nothing like a municipal solid waste landfill, according to principal Ed Wilbourne.

"If you equate our landfill with King George's, (that is) 100 percent wrong," he said. "It's not like the landfills that we all fear. I would not support a MSW landfill near me, no way, because I understand what we're talking about here and I've been around it."

Wilbourne added, "It's not going

*see Landfill page 3*

CURATOR HAD DONATED 10 PORTRAITS

## Donor upset over portraits' removal from courtroom

By Sarah Vogelsson  
CP Reporter

The donor of 10 portraits to the Caroline circuit courtroom is upset over the removal of the paintings from the chamber.

Herbert Collins, a Caroline historian and former Smithsonian curator, previously donated the 10 portraits to the courtroom with, he said, the stipulation that they always remain there.

However, a recent decision to place a portrait of Luther Morris, a former clerk of the court, in the circuit courtroom sparked a decision to remove Collins' paintings.

The local presiding judge has authority over not only what occurs in the courts, but also the

court buildings. According to Board of Supervisors Chairman Floyd Thomas, Caroline's presiding judge, the Hon. Patricia Kelly, made the decision that, as Thomas wrote in an email, "only judicial related portraits ... would be allowed in the Courtroom." A phone call to Judge Kelly was directed to the Board of Supervisors.

Collins believes that Thomas was responsible for having the portraits removed. Thomas, however, when asked if anyone from the county had asked Kelly to consider removing the portraits, stated, "Judge Kelly made the final decision on the portraits."

"Even if I suggested to Judge

*see Portraits page 8*

## LOCAL PUBLIC SERVANT SPOTLIGHT

### Gloria Bolecek: 'I just enjoy helping people if I can'

By Sarah Vogelsson  
CP Reporter

Few can claim to have given as much to their community as Gloria Bolecek.

The former Caroline County Public Schools teacher has in one way or another devoted her life to service in the county where she

grew up and has chosen to spend her life. Whether it's the Literacy Council, the Red Cross, or other relief efforts, Bolecek is almost certain to have a finger in the pie—and to be the first to offer a slice of that pie to whoever is hungry.

Born in Woodford, Bolecek was raised on a cattle and hay farm about five miles north of Bowling Green that her grandparents purchased when they first came to Caroline. Today, she both oversees that farm and takes care of her father, who this past year celebrated his 100th birthday.

From an early age, Bolecek was interested in science—the plants that grew on the land and the animals and other creatures that wandered there.

"I just like being outside," she said.

*see Spotlight page 3*



## 2014 YEAR in REVIEW

Top stories of the year



One facility opens, and another closes. Above, officials celebrate the grand opening of the Caroline Family YMCA in the spring. At right, Abundant Life Academy sent its students home in the fall following a string of runaways and criminal charges against school employees.



## 2014 was an eventful year Schools, YMCA opening, balloon accident are among top stories

By Sarah Vogelsson | CP Reporter

Caroline County saw its share of controversy, tragedy, and drama this year, but also a continuous stream of successes, victories, and community members coming together in support of each other and their home. Here, one reporter looks back on some of the events that got Caroline talking over the past 12 months.

### Schools

It's been a stormy year for Caroline County Public Schools, which spent much of 2014 trying to bring the system up to the level of surrounding localities.

Despite two formal groundbreaking, one in May and one in September, both the Madison Elementary School and Caroline High School renovation projects are currently on hold due to new stormwater management regulations from the Department of Environmental Quality that went into effect this summer. The agency, along with several other groups, is currently reviewing the school system's plans, as Caroline County waits with bated breath to see ground broken in earnest sometime in 2015.

County residents, who overwhelmingly approved borrowing roughly \$25 million to finance the school renovations in a bond referendum held last fall, have watched the ups and downs of the MES and CHS projects closely. This August, the news that incomplete plans for Madison Elementary School had been sent out to contractors for bid led the School Board to pull back and redesign the project to scale back its costs.

So far, the only part of the renovations completed is the track—which sparked a tempest in a teapot after the School Board voted to spend an extra \$63,000 to color it "Caroline blue." Any regular attendee of School Board meetings, like this reporter, has found that it's not a proper meeting unless at least five minutes are spent discussing the pros and cons of the blue track.

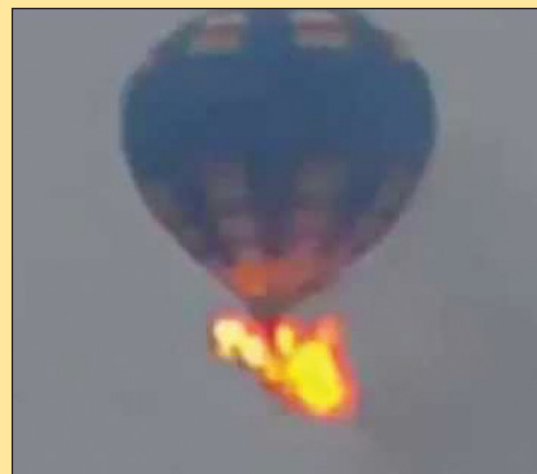
Even amidst criticism over the cost of the renovations, the School Board has plunged ahead with its work this year, ambitiously sketching a plan to increase salaries for teachers, administration, and support staff across the board in fiscal year 2016.

Whether the Board of Supervisors agrees to fork over the increased funds that will be necessary is a question best left to 2015.

No matter what, School Board meetings in 2014 were never dull. The fall was enlivened by an October incident in which Superintendent Gregory Killough allegedly threw Bowling Green Supervisor Jeff Sili out of Bowling Green Elementary. Whatever events exactly took place, the incident left a bad taste in the mouths of many, particularly after the School Board voted to formally censure Western Caroline representative Mary Anderson in connection with the occurrence.

### YMCA

The long-awaited Caroline Family YMCA in Ladysmith Village held its grand opening in March, an event attended by Senator Mark Warner and local dignitaries. Since then, despite some problems with contractor payments and lingering questions over how the facility will be paid for, the YMCA has quickly become an integral part of the community, a place of pride and opportunity



A fatal hot air balloon crash at Meadow Event Park made national news.

for many residents.

### Balloon accident

Caroline made national headlines in May when a hot air balloon at the Mid-Atlantic Balloon Festival at Meadow Event Park crashed into a power line, killing three. The tragic event brought

*see Year Review page 8*

### INSIDE THIS WEEK

Obituaries—page 2

Church calendar—page 5

Community calendar—page 5

CHS Math League gaining in popularity—page 5

CHS sports schedule—page 6



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