

Supervisors OK tax district for Caroline Pines

MILFORD – The Caroline County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to establish a service district for the beleaguered Caroline Pines neighborhood in order to defray the long-term cost of providing water to the community.

The establishment of the service district paves the way for the county to levy a tax on the property owners in the neighborhood in the future.

Caroline Pines has an aging community water system that has been beset by problems, and residents are supplied with murky, tea-colored water.

The county is in the process of extending public water to the neighborhood, a project that now is expected to be completed by Oct. 1. It will add 380 homes in the community to the

county's public water system.

Revenues collected from a tax would be used to replace water lines in the neighborhood in the future.

The action by the supervisors allows the county to begin collecting a tax in calendar year 2013, but they did not establish the tax rate. The tax rate likely will be set in early 2013 at the same time the supervisors set other tax rates.

The supervisors were briefed on the proposal for the service district by acting utilities director Joseph Schiebel and then held a public hearing on the measure.

Some water lines in the neighborhood are 40 years old, noted Schiebel. Even though a tax is not needed immediately, he suggested establishing the service district "now

to let people know what they're getting into."

John Bowers, vice president of the Caroline Pines Property Owners Association, urged the supervisors not to create the special tax district yet, saying "we might not need it."

County officials originally believed a service district tax would be unnecessary, noted Bowers, although subsequent financial models demonstrated a need for additional revenue.

"The models are just that – models," said Bowers, who asked the supervisors to delay creation of the service district for two years since a tax is not expected to be levied until about five years.

"You cannot base reality on models," he added.

Supervisors Floyd Thomas and

Wayne Acors were not persuaded. The supervisors had compassion on the neighborhood in agreeing to extend county water to serve Caroline Pines, said Thomas. However, the tax revenue will be needed to help maintain the water system in the community, he argued; without it, the financial burden would fall on other county residents.

"I'm ready to make a motion right now to start the tax district," said Thomas.

"Why wait five years to start taxing?" asked Acors, who noted that water line repairs may be needed any time in the near future. "What happens in an emergency? Will Caroline Pines have to be without water for five years until there are enough funds for a repair?"

The project has cost over \$2 million, which includes design and engineering, obtaining easements, construction work, and installation of meters.

Caroline Pines residents will pay a \$2,800 availability fee that may be spread over 60 months, or \$46 per month, in addition to paying a regular water usage bill.

The proposal before the Board of Supervisors did not include the imposition of a tax yet, but a tax is envisioned to be levied at the end of the 60-month period that residents will have to pay the availability fee.

The service district tax likely will be about \$16 per month, according to Schiebel, which would be sufficient to raise \$250,000 every five years to replace aging water lines.



Louise Beazley (left) celebrated her 102nd birthday with friends at Calvary Baptist Church in Bowling Green earlier this week. Also shown: Gail Sanders of Bowling Green.

Church fetes oldest member, 102

Calvary Baptist Church in Bowling Green said 'Happy Birthday' this week to its oldest member, Louise J. Beazley, who turned 102 on Aug. 5.

The church hosted a birthday party in her honor following the Sunday worship service. About 150 people gathered for the event.

"I started going to Calvary Baptist Church when I was about five years old," said Beazley, who grew up and spent most of her life in Caroline. "I had a wonderful time at the party," she said, visiting with old friends and new friends alike.

Beazley donated chimes to the church, an electric keyboard, and shrubbery. The generous centenarian with a good sense of humor moved to Chancellor's Village, a senior living facility in the Fredericksburg area, in 2002. "I love it here," said Beazley.

Beazley, who was eight years old when World War I ended, remembers when U.S. 301 was built in the 1930s, dividing her family's property. In 1950 the county purchased the land on the west side of the road to build Union High School, which is now the Caroline

County Community Services Center.

Beazley's mother died when she was young. Her father opened a post office in 1933 and named it after the two families in the area – the Beazleys and the Goodwins. He called it Post Office Begood.

Beazley and her sister, Lillian, who is deceased, lived on Lafayette Avenue in Bowling Green for many years. They rented out space in their home, and many tenants over the years were members of the church.

When Beazley was 27 she got a job with Virginia Electric - which later became Rappahannock Electric Cooperative - as a secretary to the manager. She retired from REC at the age of 65.

She is one of seven remaining charter members of the Caroline Historical Society. At one time, Beazley served as the society's secretary. Although she no longer attends society meetings regularly, she still pays her membership dues early every year.

Beazley said she has nothing to fear at this point in life. "I believe in the Lord, and I'm ready when He's ready," she said.

Downed power lines close I-95

Downed power lines blocked traffic in both directions on Interstate 95 in the Carmel Church area on Tuesday morning.

The power lines were knocked down about 2 a.m. by a dump truck that was working with a repaving crew, Virginia State Police reported. The incident occurred in the vicinity of mile marker 104.

The power lines came down across all lanes of I-95, and two northbound vehicles struck the power lines, but no injuries were reported.

All lanes were closed until utility crews could repair the downed wires. Northbound traffic was diverted off I-95 at exit 98 in Hanover County, and southbound traffic was

diverted off at exit 110 in Caroline.

After the power lines were repaired, southbound motorists continued to experience congestion and delays because the repaving work resumed.

All northbound lanes were re-opened about 6 a.m. along with the far right southbound lane. The remaining southbound lanes were re-opened shortly before 9:30 a.m., according to the state Department of Transportation.

The driver of the dump truck, William Zimmerman, 39, of Chesterfield County, was charged with reckless driving, State Police reported.

Applicants sought for citizens academy

The Caroline County Sheriff's Office will host its third annual citizens police academy Sept. 13. Applications are due by the middle of August, but submissions will still be considered until the beginning of classes.

The academy will consist of weekly sessions to be held 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays at the Caroline County Community Services Center in Milford. One Saturday will be spent at a shooting range at Fort A.P. Hill.

The 13-week program was

initiated four years ago. Due to dwindling participation, the academy was not held last year.

A minimum of 10 participants, aged 21 years or older, is needed, according to Sheriff Tony Lipka. There is no charge for the academy.

In the past, a total of about 20 citizens have participated in the program.

Citizens wishing to participate must be residents of Caroline County and complete an application process, which includes a background check.

Applications are available on the sheriff's website, www.carolinesheriff.org, or may be picked up in person at the office in Bowling Green or obtained by mail if requested by phone.

The participants will be taught about various aspects of law enforcement, including topics such as patrol, criminal investigations, court services, communications, and special teams.

For more information, call Lt. J.H. Crowder at (804) 633-8045.

Bowling Green

Sunset
Art Walk

Thursday, August 16

6–8:30 p.m.

Main Street –Bowling Green

*Join artists and musicians for a warm
summer evening on the sidewalks of
Bowling Green.*

Restaurants and shops open late

*Sponsored by The Bowling
Green Arts Commission*





NOTABLES from 1910, the year Louise Beazley was born:

- U.S. President William H. Taft
- The Boy Scouts of America was founded.
- The "American cinephone" was unveiled at a New York press conference, showing technology that might make it possible to have sound on films.
- Western Union created a forerunner of long distance telephone calling, with the inauguration of its new "telegraph-telephone" service, set up on a network of telephone connections between New York's Western Union Building, and local telephone company switchboards.
- The National Museum of Natural History, second of the museums of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., opened to the public for the first time.
- William H. Taft began the tradition of the President of the United States throwing the ceremonial "first pitch" to open the professional baseball season. The President and Mrs. Taft attended the Washington Senators' opening day game against the Philadelphia Athletics, and Taft threw the ball from the stands to Senators' pitcher Walter Johnson. The Senators won, 3-0.
- Samuel Langhorne Clemens, beloved to millions of readers for his writings under the pen name Mark Twain, died at the age of 74 at his home in Redding, Connecticut.
- Father's Day was observed for the first time.
- The first air flight for the purpose of delivering commercial freight takes place in the United States of America. The flight, made by Wright Brothers pilot Philip Parmelee between Dayton, Ohio and Columbus, Ohio.

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