

Town pays \$100,000 for parking lot

by Robb Hoff

KILMARNOCK—The town council last Monday unanimously approved paying \$100,000 to acquire a .767-acre lot on Waverly Avenue near its intersection with South Main Street.

The action to purchase the property came following a public hearing, with no public comment. The purchase price had not been advertised prior to the meeting or publicly discussed prior to the vote.

Currently, .3-acre of the property is used for parking. The remaining .467 acre is green space.

Councilman Paul Jones said the parking area is needed by

the town. However, he suggested that the town consider selling the unused part of the parcel.

The property is to be purchased from Joseph H. Adams. A condition of the purchase is a 15-foot right-of-way perpetual easement for entrance and exit to adjacent property owned by Adams.

Funds for the purchase were approved from the town's general fund. The lot currently has 22 parking spaces with an entrance and exit. It is adjacent to a larger parking area that is leased by the town. The property is also the site of the historic Kilmarnock Christmas tree.

In another land issue, council authorized town manager Lee

Hood Capps to seek a real estate appraisal of the four-acre town office complex at 514 North Main Street.

"I'd like to know and I think the people of this community ought to know exactly what this piece of property is worth," said Mayor Mike Robertson.

Town attorney P. Christian Stamm Jr. added that upcoming changes in accounting procedures for government auditing purposes will eventually require that the town's assets be appraised.

Council last month declined to sell the property to a developer for \$480,000.

Future use of the complex was further addressed by Jones, who

requested that a town office committee be reinstated to research construction of a new public works building on the property.

"I don't think we need to drag our feet on it because we have a building in the back (for public works) that's been condemned for almost a year," said Jones.

However, Capps said preliminary work is under way to plan a new public works building on property near the town's wastewater treatment plant. He said a request for proposals to bid for the construction project could be developed within 60 days.

Robertson said he would appoint a new town office complex committee per Jones' request.

Wastewater plant

Councilman Gerald Sellers said the town's water and wastewater infrastructure committee will meet August 23 to consider engineering companies qualified to study the wastewater treatment plant's capability to meet environmental standards for treated discharge.

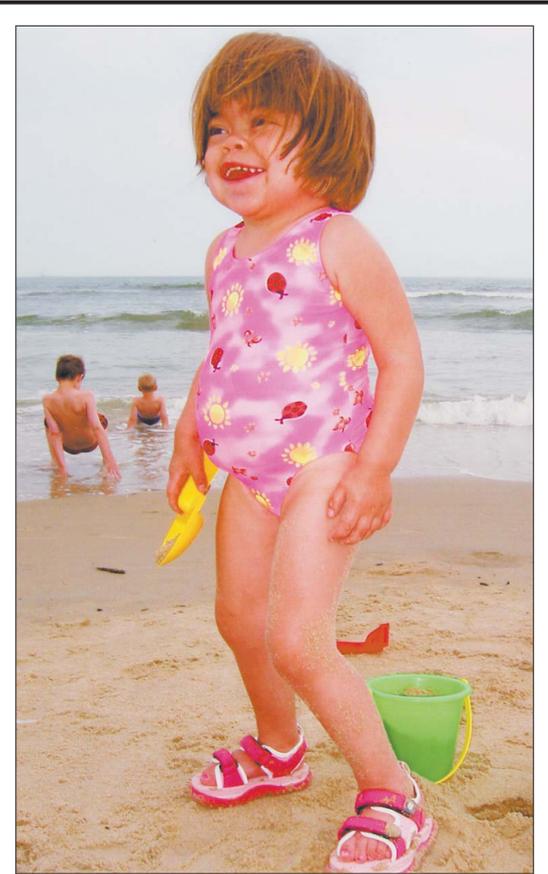
Robertson said requests for proposals to conduct the study would address projected nutrient loads for phosphorous and nitrogen in addition to current violations of zinc and copper levels, which he said have occurred for the past four years.

Robertson authorized Capps to notify the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality about the town's progress toward handling nutrient loads and correcting violations. He said town officials agreed on June 29 to inform DEQ within 60 days about the progress.

"I just want to make sure we
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Kilmarnock councilman Emerson Russell (left) and town manager Lee Hood Capps visited the three-quarter acre Waverly Avenue property approved for purchase by the Kilmarnock town council on Monday for \$100,000. The property has 22 parking places, nearly a half-acre of open space, and the historic town Christmas tree.



In one of her mother's favorite photographs, Karly Davis plays on the beach during a family vacation.

Karly Davis faces challenges with help from enzyme therapy

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

SHARPS—Karly Davis awoke from her afternoon nap Monday flashing a big smile.

She threw off her blanket, hopped down from the living room sofa and immediately burst through the front door, calling for her beagle Copper.

"She has so much energy now," said her mother. "She wasn't like that a year ago, before the treatments. She can run and jump like other children and not get tired."

Four-year-old Karly had spent most of her time curled up on an oversized chair, watching television. Playing for more than just a few minutes at a time would cause fatigue and labored breathing.

In the past year, however, a remarkable new drug has given Karly the energy to run and play like a typical preschooler and given her parents, Ryan and Sarah Davis, hope.

The diagnosis

Karly was 19 months old when doctors at the Medical College of Virginia told her parents she'd probably die by age 5.

She has a rare genetic disease. It's proper name is Mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS) I. It's commonly known as Hurler syndrome and comes in three severities from mild (Scheie syndrome) to severe (Hurler). Karly suffers from Hurler-

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New information rescues ferry project

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—It was beginning to look like the Reedville-Crisfield ferry project was a "no-go."

The early results of a feasibility study concluded that a two-boat system traveling 16.5 to 20 knots could break even in terms of operating costs and revenues, but would not be able to support the capital costs for new vessels and access improvements.

This is not what Northumberland County officials wanted to hear.

Sen. John W. Warner, Sen. George Allen and Rep. JoAnn Davis have warned that it could be a struggle, though possible, to obtain money for the terminal improvements, but that it would be impossible to get the necessary funds for the vessel construction.

"It was always our understanding that both localities would seek federal funds to build the ports or terminals, and an operator would provide everything else," said county administrator Kenneth D. Eades.

Unwilling to invest any of its own money and disheartened by the prospects of federal funding, Northumberland supervisors were on the verge of calling the study off two weeks ago.

"I must also point out that a lot of money has been spent on studies, and even

though this is grant money, it is still taxpayer dollars," Eades said in a July 29 letter to Maryland officials. "We do not want to spend any more money if this project cannot be feasibly done."

But last week a clarification from the consulting group conducting the study shed a light of hope on the project, convincing supervisors to give it one more chance.

Before proceeding with the next phase of the study, Eades asked PB Consultants "to convince my board that it would be feasible to continue with the study."

Responding by email, Joe Savage said "The Reedville to Crisfield ferry route is the best opportunity for successful vehicle-passenger ferry service on the east coast today."

Savage rephrased the conclusions of the study, noting that he used the most conservative assumptions (high end of cost ranges and low end of ridership expectations and fares).

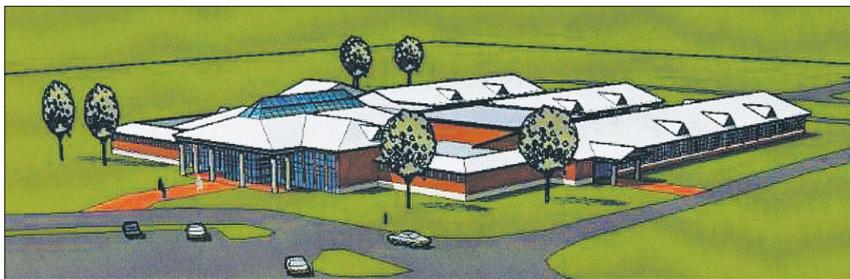
Economic boost?

A February 2001 study regarding a ferry route between Reedville and the Eastern Shore of Virginia estimated local economic development benefits at \$1 million per year in wages and \$700,000 in purchases from local businesses, \$1.5 million in new sales by local businesses and \$6 million a year in tourist spending. These figures would be revisited in later phases of the current study.

in ferry operations today."

He agreed that funding for the terminals would be easier to obtain since the facilities could be used for other purposes besides the ferry, "such as a community center, a public dock for excursion and other commercial and large private recreational vessels, and a passenger cruise ship terminal facilities that

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Placing a ridgeline roof on the school, as shown in this rendition of a modernized middle school, would add \$500,000 to the cost of the renovation and addition to the existing structure. Several supervisors object strongly to a flat roof on a new or modernized school because the current school's flat roof has caused so many problems. The new school estimates reflect a ridgeline roof.

County and school officials study the \$3 million question

Second in a two-part series
by Reid Pierce Armstrong

CLARAVILLE—To do nothing is not an option.

The county must decide whether to renovate or replace the 48-year-old Northumberland Middle School — that is the \$3 million question.

Renovation would cost an estimated \$8.2 million, including site work, demolition, renovation and new construction. A completely new school would cost an estimated \$11 million, including site work.

The firm conducting a school needs study, Rodriguez Ripley Maddux and Motley Architects,

last week explained three "modernization" concepts and a new building concept to the Northumberland board of supervisors.

The first two modernization concepts were initially proposed

School price tag

Based on current local commercial rates, Northumberland County can expect to pay (per square foot):

- \$7.50 for demolition.
- \$75 for renovation.
- \$125 for an addition.
- \$140 for new construction.

to provide the optimum modernization design solution. These were reviewed and evaluated with the county and from this discussion a third modernization idea was developed.

"The study has determined that the main building of the existing (school) complex is structurally sound, and can be renovated and expanded by additions to provide a modernized facility," the study states.

The firm recommends Concept 3 as the best modernization option, "because its design not only closely meets the modernization criteria contained within

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Rezoning request is resurrected

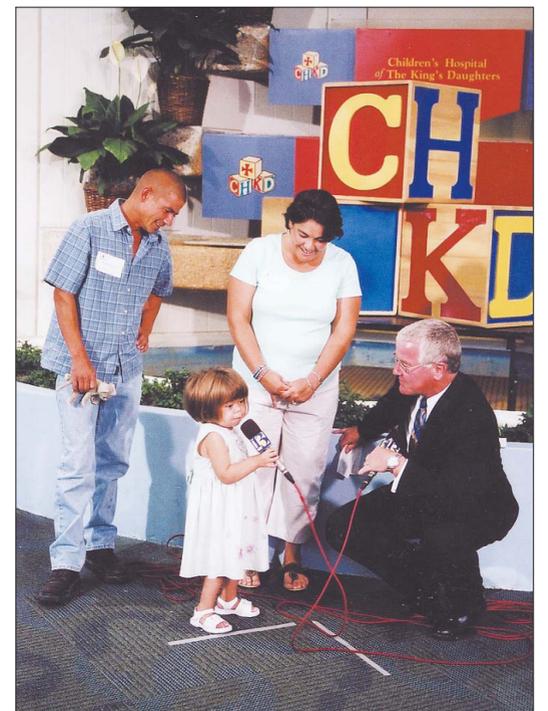
LANCASTER—The county planning commission will meet today, August 19, at 7 p.m. in the Lancaster general district courtroom to reconsider a rezoning request by the New Tides LLC for the former Tides Lodge property.

As proposed, some 9.43 acres would be redeveloped to accommodate a 65-unit condominium and 56 boat slips on Carters Creek. The rezoning request seeks multi-family residential zoning (R-2). It is currently zoned for general residential use (R-1).

The request was previously considered by the planners following a public hearing in June. The commission then voted 5-2 against a motion to recommend it for approval by the board of supervisors, but later agreed to continue the request for further consideration.

Also on today's agenda is a discussion concerning ordinance amendments for establishing planned unit developments (PUDs).

The proposed PUD ordinance would enable by-right residential development with greater building densities per acre than otherwise permitted. The ordinance also would include provisions for open-space areas where development would be restricted.



Karly Davis and her parents, Ryan (left) and Sarah, were recently featured on a telethon for the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters.

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