

Council work session sparks architectural review debate

by Robb Hoff

KILMARNOCK—The anticipated construction of a CVS Corporation retail store at the corner of North Main Street and James B. Jones Memorial Highway sparked debate among town council members over architectural standards last Thursday.

Mayor Mike Robertson urged consideration of an ordinance to establish architectural standards that might be more compatible with an overall community design concept rather than the packaged look of corporate entities who open businesses in town.

"We should have some strength in our community to advise and say this is what we want," said Robertson.

Councilman Fletcher Brown also voiced support for town standards to preserve more of a "hometown" look than the

patterned design of "corporate U.S.A." businesses like CVS, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Home Depot, Lowe's or Wal-Mart.

Brown suggested the town consider a six-month moratorium on large commercial retail development until architectural standards can be set.

However, town manager Lee Hood Capps advised council that a context for establishing architectural standards would first have to be created through the town's comprehensive plan. He said council could set recommendations for building designs and color selections but not require them like a mandatory building site review.

Town attorney P. Christian Stamm Jr. said the businesses could proffer architectural components for council review.

Capps said the town planning

commission can address architectural standards as part of its review for updating the town code. He said the update should be ready for council consideration in March or April and may include suggested ordinances for planned unit developments, a central business zoning district and a downtown zoning district.

"Let's get it done for the benefit of our community," Robertson said of the code update process.

Road priorities

The council members were gathered Thursday for a work session on other matters, including town road projects for inclusion in the Virginia Department of Transportation six-year primary road system program.

The projects include a \$700,000 right-turn lane project from North Main Street to School

(continued on page A15)



The Sunrise and the Virginia W. race for the finish line. More than 100 boats competed in the 14th annual Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta.

Sunrise wins Turkey Shoot Claud W. Somers capsizes at finish

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

YANKEE POINT—Wind played its heavy hand on the Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta last weekend.

Saturday, pea soup fog and "no air" left anxious racers drifting backward across the finish line, unable to even start the race. For the first time in the regatta's 14-year history the race was cancelled before it even began.

Sunday, clear skies brought in northerly winds blowing 10-12 knots with gusts up to 15 knots, creating conditions for a fast and wild pursuit race that was marked by several harrowing, near-miss crashes and two capsize.

Sailors were anxious to race Sunday, and more than 100 boats were out on the water by 10:30 a.m. warming up, practicing their moves and checking out the competition. The Turkey Shoot Regatta features an exquisite range of boats. Being the largest regatta on the Chesapeake, the Turkey Shoot draws both serious and amateur con-

testants, sailing everything from the top-of-the-line J-24 racer to a handmade Vietnamese-style boat.

Seasoned spectators gossiped about this boat and that for the hour before the race started, commenting on one new captain who had just bought a new boat and didn't realize how fast it could be and another who had tightened his sails too much for the strong winds.

The race took place on a triangular course just west of the Rappahannock River bridge. Boats started from the mouth of the Corrotoman River and headed downwind to the far shore at the mouth of Carters Creek. From there they paralleled the bridge to the second mark in the center of the Rappahannock River. They rounded the second mark for the last leg home, on a windward tack.

As the boats rounded the second mark, things began to get dicey. Although the boats were all released on a staggered start, with the fastest boat starting a full half-hour after the slowest

boat, by the second mark there was little space separating the scores of boats on the water.

The smallest mistake sent boats spinning 180 degrees back into the onslaught of racers. Turning too sharply or not quickly enough brought several boats within a hair's reach of a nasty accident. As a spectator, it was gripping to watch one boat completely stall in the wind right at the mark, forcing other sailors to change direction on a dime to avoid a collision.

It was just after the second mark that the Puffin, a 16-foot catboat, capsized. Jim Charbeneau helped rescue the captain while a Coast Guard Auxiliary boat patrolled the area. As this was occurring, two boats were racing for the finish: the Virginia W, a skipjack out of Kinsale, and the Sunrise, captained by James Covington Jr.

Tacking to port and then starboard, the two boats of opposing stature plodded nose to nose toward the finish line — roughly a 100-yard stretch between

(continued on page A15)

Ruth Richardson, nation's oldest living female veteran, celebrates her 107th birthday

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—Northumberland County celebrated the remarkable life of Ruth Richardson Thursday, October 7, — the day of her 107th birthday — in a large outdoor celebration on the courts building lawn.

Family members, elected officials and fellow veterans cheered Richardson for surviving to be the oldest living female veteran in the U.S.

Speakers showered her with awards, plaques, flowers, poems, photographs, stuffed animals, songs and letters of commendation for her service in the Navy during World War I.

Richardson's life has straddled three centuries. In that time, she has seen confounding revolutions in technology and culture that seem impossible for only one lifetime.

She was born to George and Ida Fisher in 1897, some 30 years before the Downing Bridge was built, connecting the Northern Neck to the world. She lived on Lodge Neck Creek near Callao, a waterway, claims District 1 supervisor Joseph Self, known for creating longevity in its residents. Several of Richardson's neighbors were also centenarians.

After graduating from Ivy Thicket School and Callao High School, Richardson and one of her best friends boarded a steamboat in Blundon and headed to Washington, D.C., to seek employment.

(continued on page A16)



Callao native Ruth Richardson turned 107 last week. In a celebration at the courts building, she was honored by national, state and county officials, friends and family members.

White Stone reissues bid request for boundary line adjustment study

by Robb Hoff

WHITE STONE—By consensus, the White Stone Town Council last Thursday agreed to re-advertise for bids seeking a feasibility study on extending the town limits through boundary line adjustments in four directions from town limits.

Among bidders responding to the first advertisement, town manager Sherri Jewel said only F.W. Poore & Associates Inc. of Richmond had a track record for boundary line adjustment studies rather than general surveying.

Mayor Lloyd B. Hubbard encouraged council to pursue more bids from companies with more specialized services than general surveyors.

"Not that those people are incapable, but it's hard to compare apples with apples until you have a pair," said Hubbard.

Council authorized Jewell to advertise in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, The Daily Press and The Washington Post.

Bay Act compliance

Jewell said the town has been notified that the town's non-compliance with revised Chesapeake Bay Act regulations has been forwarded to the state attorney general's office.

"They want us to be in full compliance by December 31," said Jewell.

The non-compliance centers around construction with the 100-foot Chesapeake Bay resource protection area, the public hearing process for construction proposed within the RPA, and mandatory pump outs of septic tanks every five years unless effluent filters are used.

By consensus, council opted to follow the lead of the Lancaster board of supervisors, which voted last month to await review of the same non-compliance issues by the attorney general's office.

Main Street project

Jewell said the town has received formal notification of its \$125,000 award by the Virginia Commonwealth Transpor-

tation Board for Phase 2 of the town's \$1.1-million Main Street project. She said she would work with the town's engineering consultant firm, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc., to prepare a new grant application for more funding by the November 1 deadline.

Additionally, Jewell reported that Main Street funds can be applied toward the town signs to be considered by council once the White Stone Business Association finalizes designs.

In another matter, council approved paying \$240 per month for weekly removal of trash from town's receptacles.

Town office relocation

Jewell also reported to council on renovation plans for the future town office site at 453 Rappahannock Drive. She said two companies have expressed interest in the renovation work, with a preference to start with the interior.

The town has until March to relocate due to the planned demolition of the current town office

(continued on page A15)



Captain and crew cling to the Claud W. Somers as help responds. The skipjack capsized during the Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta last Sunday on the Rappahannock River.

Scottish Day Festival is Saturday in Kilmarnock

KILMARNOCK—Pipers, Celtic bands, Scottish dancers, cloggers, border collies and plenty of food will be the order of the day as Kilmarnock's 15th annual Scottish Day Festival takes place at Lancaster Middle School on School Street.

The entertainment will get under way at 10 a.m. with a performance by the Lancaster Middle School Band. That will be followed by the Doonway Singers Celtic Band, a border collie demonstration, the Richmond Highlanders Scottish dancers, Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band, Kountry Kickers Cloggers, Steve Keith, the Lancaster High School Red Devil Band, the St. Andrews Legion Pipers and Drums, a border collie demonstration and the Kountry Kick-

ers. At approximately 4 p.m. combined bands will perform, featuring both pipe bands.

More than 50 vendors of arts and crafts, civic displays, children's games, horseback and pony rides and other exhibits will be open.

The menu includes Scottish shortbread, buffalo burgers, shrimp-in-a-basket, corn dogs, veggie hot dogs, chicken salad wraps, Italian sausage, hot dogs, hamburgers, funnel cakes, fudge, gourmet coffees, cappuccinos and lattes.

The Kilmarnock Museum will host experts from the Nansemond Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia. They will identify fossils, ceramics and other objects free of charge.

A new car and boat show in conjunction with Scottish Fest will be held at the new town center lot on Main Street from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sponsored by the Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce, admission to the Scottish Fest is free and parking is free. The family oriented event is alcohol free.

Inside

- School board support: LHS Red Devil Band gets \$7,500 for New Year's trip to London ... **B1**
- Letters, letters: The Presidential campaign spawns pages of partisan letters **A4-7**

- Business A11-12 Directory ... C14-15 Schools A13-14
- Calendar A2-3 Obituaries B3 Sports B5-9
- Churches B2-4 Opinion A4-7 Upcoming ... A2-3,8+
- Classified C1-6 Police report B1 Wildlife notes B9



Doggone good dog: A9

