

Historic school is rezoned

by Robb Hoff

WHITE STONE—The town council last Thursday conditionally approved the rezoning of the historic White Stone school for commercial (C-1) use by Miller McCann International, LLC, a company based in northern Virginia.

Attorney Raleigh Simmons of the White Stone firm of Dunton Simmons & Dunton, who spoke on behalf of Miller McCann International, said the company would use the old school building for its interior design business. The site would include business offices, a showroom for antiques and a facility for processing custom draperies, he said.

The approval was conditional upon proffers made on behalf of the company limiting potential uses of the property in the event it is resold. The company is in the process of buying the property from the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department.

More intense uses that won't be allowed at the site include welding and steel fabrication, lumber and building supply sales, hotels and motels, restaurants, service stations and funeral homes.

Uses that will be allowed include offices, wearing apparel stores, beauty and barber shops, churches, libraries, clubs and lodges, off-street parking, public utilities, and wholesale and processing operations that are not objectionable because of noise, dust or odor.

Simmons said the sales contract includes a first right of refusal for the fire department or the town to match an offer for the property in the event it is resold.

He indicated the fire department feels compelled to sell the building because it requires renovations that could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars due to its condition.

"It's just not an economically viable situation for them," Simmons said.

The sale would include a property line adjustment for part of the field owned by the fire department behind the school, he added. The additional property will meet reserve drainfield capacity needs.

Simmons said the prospective buyer also proffered that any proposed physical changes to the building's exterior would be brought before town council for architectural review due to the historic nature of the building, (continued on page A14)



The May Day crowd gathered behind Mount Vernon Baptist Church to watch and hear the Lancaster High School marching band during the annual May Day celebration.

May Day tradition continues

by Robb Hoff

WHITE STONE—A traditional May Day gathering that began more than a half-century ago was continued last Saturday at Mount Vernon Baptist Church in White Stone.

The annual event continues to bring generations of families to the site where community elders once attended the A.T. Wright Training School, later accredited as A.T. Wright High School. It was the first secondary educational facility for African Americans in Lancaster County, developed by the late A. T. Wright at the outset of the 20th century.

A marker behind the church, near the site of the since-raised school building, now commemorates Wright's accom-

plishment. During May Day, his legacy and that of the generations that followed him is revived.

"I'm the next generation down, and it makes me feel good to uphold the tradition," said Valerie Rich, whose grandfather, Isaac Lewis, and mother, Ella Lewis, were active in the May Day tradition.

Assisted by Debra Ward, Rich served her first year as chairperson for the church's May Day committee. Among the food and activities coordinated for the event was a performance by the Lancaster High School marching band.

Traditionally held just prior to Mother's Day, the event is attended by many past A.T. Wright students. Catherine Scott, a 1939 graduate, noted the strong bond between the school and the church.

"The school and the church—we worked together," said Scott. "We used to have activities at the church."

Calvin Hill from the A.T. Wright class of 1952 recalled the May Day ball games traditionally held between teams from the Julius Rosenwald School in Northumberland and A.T. Wright.

"The ball game was the last thing we had in the evening," Hill said.

Many were drawn to the marker in tribute to Wright, which was unveiled last year.

In 1979, the Lancaster County Historical Commission designated the former school location a historical site. The school building was razed after Brookvale High School was built more than 40 years ago.



Ladies who attended A.T. Wright schools pose for a marker in tribute to A.T. Wright during recent May Day activities. From left are Catherine Scott (1939 graduate), Elizabeth Wood (1955 graduate), Elsie Norris (1951 graduate), Ella Lewis (1953 graduate), Addie Bond (1939 graduate), and Julia Mattocks, who attended up to 1952.



From left, men who attended A.T. Wright schools and returned for annual May Day activities are Calvin Hill (1952 graduate), Joe Wood Jr. (1957 graduate), Clarence Tiggle (1943 graduate), Edward Wood (1953 graduate), Oneil Chinn (1957 graduate), and Lloyd Coleman, who attended A.T. Wright elementary school before it closed and graduated from Brookvale High School in 1967.

Dressing for school: Proposed policies are debated

by Robb Hoff

KILMARNOCK—Sixteen speakers aired concerns regarding proposed student dress codes at Lanaster schools during a related public hearing Monday.

Following the comment session, the school board unanimously approved dress code policies for the primary and high schools with minor changes to the existing codes.

However, the board opted to further study the proposed middle school policy, which garnered the most discussion.

Among the problems cited were girls' shirts fitting too tight, shirts bearing messages of profanity and drug use, shorts too short, spiked heels and boys wearing oversized pants.

"Your children may not wear these but they are exposed to them," said

school nurse Jane Vogel. She contacts parents of students when the current code is violated and keeps students in the school clinic until the violation is resolved.

Also cited were health issues related to girls exchanging clothes in restrooms during school. Middle school teacher Jesse Dize said cases of ringworm this year and body lice in the past are prob-

lems caused by this practice.

The revised middle school dress code presented to the board would allow only khaki pants and solid-colored collared shirts. It would prohibit the wearing of jeans, sweatshirts and t-shirts.

Also proposed was the establishment of a location for indigent students to obtain code compliant clothes at a reduced rate or for free.

The expense of buying the required clothes, the suppression of individual expression, and the impact of peer pressure were issues raised by several speakers.

Enforcement of the dress code was also discussed. Several questioned whether requiring a more restrictive code than the current one would change (continued on page A14)

Olympic hopeful practices here for Richmond race

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

LAUREL POINT—Joanne Kiesanowski has toured some of the most exotic places in the world, cycling through the countryside in Italy, Spain, Belgium, Holland, France, Germany and Australia.

To that list, she adds Devils Bottom.

"What an odd name for a place," Kiesanowski said with a thick Australian accent. "What does that mean?"

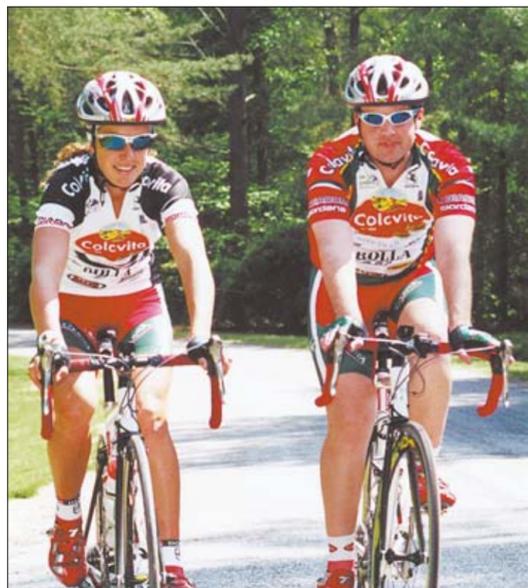
A native New Zealander, she flipped her sunglasses down over her eyes, tightened the chin strap of her red and white helmet and pedaled off with her team director, Greg Wheeler. The two were destined for Devils Bottom and parts unknown Friday afternoon, planning a two-hour bicycle tour of the area.

The ride was a way for Kiesanowski to shake off her "flight legs," said Wheeler. She'd arrived the night before at Richmond International Airport from her home-away-from-home in Colorado Springs to compete in the CapTech Classic the next day in Richmond.

Wheeler was entertaining Kiesanowski at the home of his parents, Larry and Barbara Wheeler, in Laurel Point. He's a resident of New Jersey, where he serves as the director for the Colavita Olive Oil Women's Cycling Team presented by Bolla Wines.

The team title is a mouthful, admits Wheeler, but in pro-cycling, sponsorship is everything. That was obvious from Wheeler's and (continued on page A14)

"I would just see people riding in big bunches and just thought that was so cool. I wanted to do that."
— Joanne Kiesanowski



Joanne Kiesanowski (left) and Greg Wheeler pedal Lancaster County backroads in preparation of pre-Olympic race schedule.

Supervisors to convene

HEATHSVILLE—The Northumberland County Board of Supervisors meets today, May 13, to conduct monthly business.

The meeting begins at 2 p.m. at the courthouse. Public hearings begin at 7 p.m. at the new courts building.

The agenda includes reports from superintendent of schools D. Clint Stables, Virginia Department of Transportation resident engineer Joseph Staton and county administrator Kenneth D. Eades.

Pim Montgomery will present for adoption a safe boating proclamation.

At 3:30 p.m., the board will close the meeting to the public to consult with legal counsel regarding a dispute with the Department of Environmental Quality over water quality monitoring at the Lara Landfill.

The hearing docket addresses proposals from the Northumberland Woman's Club to establish a club house at 2928 Northumberland Highway in Lottsburg, Donald L. and Frances N. Ashburn to operate a bed and breakfast at 74 Glebe Point Lane, and Wes Pullman to construct a wind turbine on a 104-foot tower at 375 Logan Lodge Road.

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