

Maternity care forum due tonight

KILMARNOCK—Physicians and several board members for The Family Maternity Center of the Northern Neck will answer questions tonight (June 24) during a public forum at Lancaster Middle School in Kilmarnock.

The need for prenatal care and labor and delivery services in the Northern Neck will be discussed.

The 7 p.m. forum is sponsored by The Family Maternity Center of the Northern Neck, a non-profit organization hoping to locate a maternity center in the Kilmarnock area. The facility would offer prenatal and delivery care and pediatric services.

Following a brief introduction, tonight's forum will include a question and answer period. Panel members include physicians James Hamilton, Matthew Vogel and Barbara Kahler and board members Faith Waddy and Kristie Duryea.

"We want the community to pull together and make this work," said Duryea. "We're looking for feedback and input. We need the community's support."



Canine disc competition takes flight

The 2004 Hyperflite Skyhoundz Canine Disc Championship was held at the White Stone firehouse June 19. Part of the largest disc dog competition series in the world, winners of more than 100 local championships compete in seven regional championships. Reigning world champion Jeff Stanoway and his dog, Cory, of Jamaica perform a two-minute routine set to music. Cory can catch 32 discs in two minutes. More photos appear on page A9. (Photo by Reid Pierce Armstrong)

Dr. Crowther to return to the Northern Neck as president of RCC

WARSAW—Rappahannock Community College will shortly enter a new era, led by its first president with local roots.

Dr. Elizabeth H. "Sissy" Crowther, a native of Northumberland County, will become RCC's next president, announced Glenn DuBois, chancellor of the Virginia Community College System.

Dr. Crowther, who is currently vice president of instruction and student services at Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, will assume her new post on or about August 1.

"I'm delighted to announce this appointment," said Dr. DuBois. "Sissy has just the right skills and touch to help Rappahannock move forward on our Dateline 2009 strategic plan. She joins a fine college led for the past seven years by Dr. Norman Scott. With its special strengths in distance learning and dual enrollment, Rappahannock has a wonderful future with Sissy in the president's role."

Dr. Scott, who became president in June 1997, is retiring.

"I have been involved from the very beginning with this competitive, national search. The process brought forward four excellent candidates," said RCC board chair retired Admiral Robert Fountain. "We're very pleased that Dr. Crowther will be our incoming president and we are confident that her tenure will continue the remarkable progress the college has made under Dr. Scott."

Dr. Crowther had very broad support among all elements of the college and the community, noted Fountain.

Dr. Crowther has been vice president at Blue Ridge since 2000. Prior to that, she was at Lord Fairfax Community College as director of instructional



Dr. Elizabeth H. "Sissy" Crowther

services from 1993 to 1998 and was director of instruction and student services from 1998 to 2000. From 1999 to 2000, she was also director of the Fauquier Campus at Lord Fairfax.

She has also held administrative positions at Rappahannock Community College, where she first joined the Virginia Community College System as assistant professor and coordinator of assessment and technology support in 1991.

She has a doctorate in higher education administration from The College of William and Mary, as well as a bachelor's and a master's from Virginia Tech.

"Sissy will do a wonderful job at Rappahannock and is a great choice for this presidency," said Blue Ridge Community College president Dr. James Perkins. "She has contributed a great deal here at Blue Ridge, and we will miss her. But we are also very proud of her."

Dr. Crowther, the daughter of Mary Lou and Prosser Crowther Sr. of Reedville, will be relocating this summer to the home she has maintained there.

Rezoning request for development on Corrotoman River is continued

by Robb Hoff

LANCASTER—The Lancaster planning commission has continued a request to rezone 58 acres of Corrotoman River property near Weems between Wharton Grove Camp and Cedar Pointe subdivision.

Coastal Land Development LLC seeks to rezone the property from general residential (R-1) use to multi-family dwelling use (R-2) for development of 19 single-family homes with 3,500 square-foot footprints for the res-

idences.

During a hearing last Thursday, Coastal Land Development (CLD) managing member Charles Chase said the "River Village" cluster development project would provide more affordable and smaller waterfront lots than otherwise available on the market.

"Not everybody can afford what I'm hearing now at \$400,000 to \$500,000 for waterfront lots," said Chase.

Architect George Thomasson

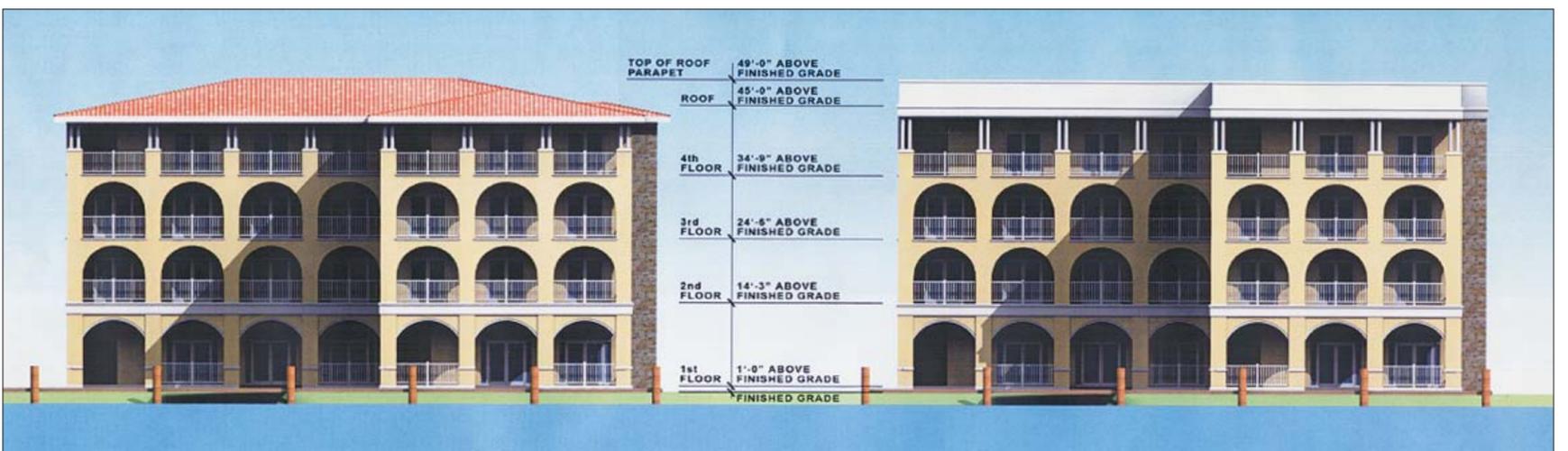
said the one and a half-story homes proposed for the project would include 10 homes with water frontage, two adjacent to a tidal marsh, and seven with water views.

Thomasson said the R-2 rezoning would allow the developers more waterfront lots than if the property were subdivided according to its current general residential use zoning, which would require two acre waterfront lots with an average of 180 feet of waterfront.

Thomasson said the essential difference provided by the rezoning "is that we're looking at a request for three more families on the river, that's it."

Subdivision of the property would permit up to 41 dwelling units, said Thomasson, instead of the 19 single-family homes sought by the R-2 request at a building density of one unit per three acres.

Another difference between the R-2 rezoning request and an R-1 (continued on page A16)



James Dunn of Deep Water Marine LLC plans to build one of these two hotel structures at Glebe Point. The building on the left, does not. Dunn is seeking an amendment to the ordinance to allow construction of a ridge line roof four feet above current height restrictions.

The building on the right, with a four-foot parapet wall, meets current zoning regulations.

Planners would raise roofs beyond current height restrictions

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—Do you prefer the building on the left or the right?

That's the question developer James Dunn of Deep Water Marine LLC asked members of the Northumberland planning commission last week as he revealed renderings of two hotels, one of which he plans to build in place of an old oyster house on the Great Wicomico River at Glebe Point.

Current zoning regulations allow Dunn to build one hotel but not the other. Both buildings are 45 feet tall. One would have a flat roof surrounded by a four-foot parapet wall, which is allowed under the current ordinance. The other would have a four-foot ridge line roof, which is not allowed.

Dunn is requesting that the zoning ordinance be amended in all districts to also allow the ridge line of a roof to be up to four feet above the limited height of a building.

Dunn said he is making the request not only for himself, but so future developers will also be able to put the proper roofs on their buildings.

Comparing the two renderings, commissioner Jim Stone said, "The proposed change makes (the building) look more rustic than this box on the right."

Eight people attended the meeting. Three voiced concerns.

Zoning administrator W.H. Shirley explained

why Dunn may be allowed to build higher than 45 feet. The 45-foot limit applies only to the walls, he said. It does not include the parapet wall, which is allowed to extend four feet above the building for a maximum height of 49 feet.

The commissioners and zoning administrator could not explain why the ordinance would allow parapet walls and not ridge line roofs of the same height.

(continued on page A16)

Lancaster citizens speak up on spending plan

by Robb Hoff

LANCASTER—A county budget proposal that's \$1.5 million higher than the current one and a proposed real estate tax rate that's effectively 11.7 per-

cent higher drew comments from several county residents during a hearing last Tuesday.

The proposed budget totals \$23.8 million, a 7.2 percent increase, and the board of

supervisors has advertised a real estate tax rate of 44 cents per \$100 of reassessed value.

A separate hearing on the tax rate will be held tonight, June 24, at 7 p.m. at the courthouse at 8311 Mary Ball Road in Lancaster.

The current tax rate in Lancaster is 60 cents per \$100. Because of the recent reassessment, land values in the county increased by 54 percent as a whole and a tax rate of approximately 39 cents per \$100 would keep revenues at their current level.

The proposed 44 cents rate would bolster county revenues by \$1.3 million.

At Tuesday's budget hearing, Howard Kyzer of Ocran said the three supervisors who voted for the tax increase — Patrick G. Frere of District 4, Peter N. Geilich of District 3 and Ernest W. Palin Jr.

of District 2 — were "too quick to tax, too quick to spend."

"I just can't believe that you can't in some way go back through that budget line-by-line with a fine-tooth comb and try to offset that tax increase," said Kyzer, who acknowledged supervisors F.W. "Butch" Jenkins of District 1 and B. Wally Beauchamp of District 5 for their vote against advertising for a tax increase.

Janice Fadley of Laurel Point called the 11.7-percent net increase "too high" compared to a year-to-date inflation rate of 1.91 percent.

"That's an awfully wide gap between the inflation rate and 11.7 percent," said Fadley.

Former county supervisor Cundiff Simmons said his real estate tax bill will be 21 percent higher at the 44 cents per \$100 rate due (continued on page A16)

Supervisors to adopt budget, set tax levy, appropriate funding

LANCASTER—The board of supervisors will consider the adoption of a \$23.8-million budget for 2004-05 tonight (June 24) at 7 p.m. in the general district courtroom in Lancaster.

Up \$1.5 million from the current year, the budget would be supported by an effective real estate tax rate increase of 11.7-percent. The board will conduct a public hearing on a tax rate of 44 cents per \$100 of assessed real estate value.

Following the adoption of the budget and tax levy, the board will consider an appropriations resolution designating funding for county departments and services.

Other public hearings are set on requests from:

- Bernard J. Brown to operate an automobile repair shop on Lara Road near Alfonso;
- Douglas A. Swane to operate a boat storage and automobile storage and repair facility on Merry Point Road near Merry Point;
- Guy O. and Judy B. Franklin to store stone, gravel, and landscaping material on Mary Ball Road near Kilmarnock, and
- R.R. Beason Jr. to increase the height of a boathouse off Hock-cake Road near Merry Point.

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