

Partnership helps shore up Windmill Point Road

by Robb Hoff

FOXWELLS—Through a National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant matched by the Virginia Department of Transportation, a wetlands restoration project has shored up Windmill Point Road at the Foxwells tidal pond with sand and rock, and replenished the roadside with marsh plantings.

A \$25,700 grant secured by the Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District (NNSWCD) enabled 360 linear feet of rip-rap filled Gabion baskets to be placed at the pond edge to buffer the roadside from erosion caused by tide and wind.

"Projects like this should show what can be done and I want everyone from Lancaster County to come down and take a look at it," said Lancaster NNSWCD director Derwin Booker.

The project is now a demonstration site for both VDOT and the NNSWCD to show how partnerships among county government, VDOT, the NNSWCD, and volunteers can produce erosion controls to protect Chesapeake Bay waters.

Erosion at the Foxwells site had caused a two-foot drop from the road to the water's edge before the restoration project began.

"We had no shoulder, no safety margin, nothing like that, and we were looking for some kind of way to fix it," said VDOT environmental specialist Bob Trower.

The use of 40 rip-rap filled Gabions, which are three-foot wide, three-foot high and nine-foot long, was more of an aesthetic enhancement than a revetment, said Trower. Sand

was used to fill space between the road and the rip-rap baskets.

In the sand buffer, the wetlands damaged by erosion were restored with plantings of tall cord grass and salt meadow hay. The restored wetlands offer the additional advantage of filtering stormwater runoff from Windmill Point Road.

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners, the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, the Virginia Department of Forestry office in Kilmarnock, and NNSWCD director Booker helped install the plants, said NNSWCD manager and conservation specialist Theresa Tabulenas.

The Foxwells project marks a new initiative of partnership for the NNSWCD.

"I think we need to do a lot more of them," Booker said.

"And I think we need to educate the public more on how to prevent shoreline erosion."

The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant funding for the project was matched by VDOT through goods, services and materials.

The Foxwells wetlands restoration project was dedicated last week. At the dedication were (from left) Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District manager and conservation specialist Theresa Tabulenas, Virginia Department of Transportation construction supervisor Ronnie Crabbe Jr., Lancaster County NNSWCD directors Mark Hollingsworth and Derwin Booker, VDOT water quality permit specialist Mark Haus and VDOT environmental specialist Bob Trower.



One of the youngest swimmers on the Indian Creek team, Cole Shomer (above) uses his best stroke in competition.

'Stingrays' make a splash in local competition

An Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club "Stingray" (left) dives into the pool during a relay race against the Deltaville "Sharks" on July 22 in Kilmarnock. The Stingray swim team this summer competed with teams in West Point, Urbanna and Deltaville. The championship meet takes place Saturday, July 31, in Urbanna. (Photos by Reid Pierce Armstrong)



Despite the clever slogan worn by Stingray team members, the Sharks won last week's meet.

Board to consider Corrotoman site subdivision plan

LANCASTER—County supervisors will meet tonight (July 29) to consider a proposed subdivision on the Corrotoman River where multi-family residential rezoning was earlier proposed.

The session begins at 7 p.m. at the courthouse in Lancaster.

On the board agenda is the consideration of a preliminary sketch for a 22-lot subdivision of 57.8 acres with 10 waterfront lots along the Corrotoman between Wharton Grove Camp and Cedar Pointe subdivision.

The subdivision proposal by Coastal Land Development LLC (CLD) is an alternative to a multi-family residential rezoning request for the proposed sale of 19 lots including 12 waterfront lots.

The county planning commission recently recommended that the board deny the rezoning

request. In other matters, the supervisors will consider a request from Guy and Judy Franklin to store stone, gravel, and landscaping materials on property at the corner of Mary Ball and Devils Bottom roads.

Additional agenda items include reports on ambulance billing and collection services and the Anthem inmate medical services program.

The board will discuss county participation in a preliminary water and wastewater engineering study, the development of a public service authority for water and sewer services, designation of Red Cross Month, and the 2004 performance contract for the Community Services Board.

The board has also set a closed session to discuss the acquisition or disposition of unspecified county property.

County gains signatures to move on sewer project

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

CALLAO—Northumberland County has acquired all the easements it needs to move ahead with the Callao sewer project.

All but one property owner has agreed to sign the 63 outstanding easements required to start the project.

County staff made countless phone calls and knocked on doors for a week straight to meet its July 22 deadline.

Residents who had already signed easements expressed concern when the board of supervisors announced that the project was on the verge of collapse due to scores of unobtained signatures.

With those signatures now obtained, the county can proceed with the original layout of lines.

Bids will be sought in September and construction should begin in the fall.

Town office to stay put Council nixes sale of property

by Robb Hoff

KILMARNOCK—By a 4-2 vote on Monday, the Kilmarnock Town Council opted not to sell the town's four-acre town office complex at 514 North Main Street for \$480,000.

The votes against the sale to North Carolina-based Biltmore Enterprises were cast by Curtis H. Smith, Paul Jones, Gerald Sellers and Fletcher Brown IV.

Smith, the town's vice-mayor, said he favored moving the town office complex to a vacant nine-acre downtown Main Street lot owned by the town. However, he cited uncertainties about the sale price tendered through an unsolicited offer without an appraisal of the property. He said he is also concerned about the lack of construction estimates and a

site plan for the town to build a new complex.

"I don't think the people elected us to guess on something this important," said Smith.

Councilman Jones voiced his concerns about the potential cost to build a new complex that may exceed the proceeds from the sale of the property. He cited the town's \$3-million Main Street project and another \$750,000 committed for sewer system work.

"That's a lot of money, it really is," said Jones. "I really think we need to finish what we're doing now and not put any more on the plate."

The value of the current town office complex and the land was also questioned by councilmen Sellers.

"I don't think the (\$480,000) price is enough, personally," said Sellers.

Brown, who voted last, said he voted against the sale despite being in favor of it. He cited "power of the vote" reasons, which would allow one of the councilmen who voted against the motion to make the motion in the future to reconsider the sale.

Prior to the vote, mayor Mike Robertson explained that the public use nature of the town complex would require a "super vote" whereby at least three-fourths of council would have to favor the sale in order for it to meet legal criteria.

Of the two councilmen who voted in favor of the sale, Frank Tomlinson and Emerson Russell, only Tomlinson commented.

"I've heard so many people in favor that we ought to do what the people want," said Tomlinson.

The buyer

Bob Thornton, the Virginia Beach manager of the Thalheimer commercial real estate office, said his firm was acting on behalf of Biltmore Enterprises in offering to buy the site.

Thornton said the developers were asked by the owners of Advance Auto Parts in Kilmarnock to pursue a relocation site for the business. It currently operates at 106 School Street.

"It will provide Advance the opportunity to stay here," said Thornton.

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What goes up must come down. Workers (left) dismantle the old Ferris wheel at the Kilmarnock carnival fairgrounds earlier this month to make way for the Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department's new Ferris wheel (above). The old ride had been used at the site for about four decades.

Firemen's Festival opens tonight

by Robb Hoff

KILMARNOCK—The rides are ready to roll and the prizes are lined up for the 69th annual Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department Firemen's Festival.

The festival starts tonight, July 29, at 7 p.m. and continues through August 7 at the carnival grounds on Waverly Avenue in Kilmarnock. The carnival operates from 7 to 11 p.m. every

evening except Sunday.

This year the event features a new Ferris wheel, purchased by the fire department to replace a 1941 model that had been used at the carnival for nearly 40 years. Other popular rides and games include the Paratrooper tilting ride, the Merry-Go-Round, the dunk tank and Bingo.

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