

Rappahannock Record

Thursday, January 22, 2004 • Kilmarnock, Virginia • Eighty-seventh Year • Number 15 • Three Sections • 50¢



From left are Dr. Ron Hurt of the Virginia Commonwealth School of Dentistry, Dr. David Newman and Dr. Matthew F. Vogel of the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic board of directors, clinic executive director Jean Nelson, and Vandy Toulson of Vandy's Transportation Service.

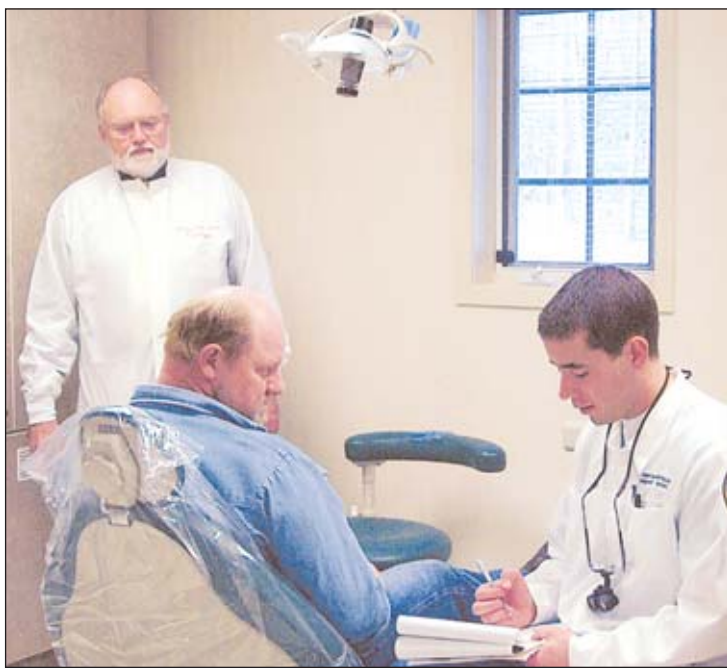
Dental Clinic opens

KILMARNOCK—A Dental Clinic for low-income patients began operations last week at the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic in Kilmarnock.

Three area dentists worked last Thursday and Friday with three students from Virginia Commonwealth University during the inaugural shift. Some 32 patients were seen. Dentists were Dr. Darryl Pirok of Urbanna, Dr. Al D. Hurt Jr. of Reedville and Dr. Noel Root of Deltaville and Richmond.

The Dental Clinic, with six stations, will evolve into full-time hours as funds are secured to maintain operations. Meanwhile, services are provided weekly on Thursdays and Fridays to free health clinic patients in need of dental care; services will expand to include children on Medicaid and Famis, and the elderly on Medicare.

"The need overall is clear, as more than 600 already are on a waiting list for care," said free health clinic president Dr. Vickie Kinsel. "Also clear is the connection between good oral hygiene



Dr. Darryl Pirok (standing) and dental student Bryce Castellion (right) review a patient's history during a recent Dental Clinic session.

and one's general health, and its impact in the treatment of other diseases."

Prior to the Dental Clinic opening last week, area dentists helped address the health care gap. They saw some patients on a referral basis and the free health clinic arranged for those most in need of oral surgery to visit MCV in Richmond with transportation provided by Vandy's Services. In September of 2001, a partnership was developed between the free health clinic and the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry.

The partnership benefits senior-year dental students and area patients in need as students rotate through the clinic and work with area dentists.

The free health clinic secured \$185,000 for first-year funding, including grants from the Virginia Health Care Foundation and the Nettie Lokey Wiley Foundation, and \$60,000 for equipment. Costs for the equipment alone are expected to total \$300,000.



From left are Virginia Commonwealth University clinic administrator Hazel Lufen, Dental Clinic coordinator Keisha Godfrey and students Bryan Geary and Kris Lara.

Tow service decision is delayed in Irvington

by Robert Mason Jr.

IRVINGTON—Following a recent public hearing, the Irvington town council tabled action on a conditional use permit authorizing Light House Towing of Weems to establish a facility at 4525 Irvington Road.

Light House owners Paul and Tammy Davis explained they plan to temporarily store a limited number of vehicles which would be hidden by a privacy fence behind the former service station.

"We're not a service station," said Tammy Davis.

There wouldn't be a lot of cars coming or going for service work, or parts, she noted.

"We're not a chop shop," added Paul Davis.

The only things folks would see out front would be a truck and plants, continued Tammy Davis.

Light House has five tow trucks and they would only be servicing their own vehicles, including the use of a welder as needed, they noted. They do not operate a welding service for hire, they said. They don't stockpile cars, they don't keep them, they hold them until the insurance compa-

nies release them.

When asked if out of the goodness of their hearts they'd service a car if someone pulled onto the lot in need of assistance, they said they'd offer to tow them to a service station.

A handful of town businessmen and residents questioned the proposal. Several comments were based on a prior planning commission decision rejecting the application because the town zoning ordinance does not specifically address towing services as a permitted use or a conditional

use in the business district.

If that's the case, the only way the use could be allowed is if the zoning ordinance were amended, noted William D. Prilaman, whose office is across the street.

Resident and business owner Duncan Bright said he isn't as concerned with a small-scale towing service as he is with the potential for it to evolve into something less desirable.

"As a resident of Irvington, I don't feel it's appropriate on the corner of the historic district,"

said Bright.

It would be the first thing visitors would see when entering the town from White Stone, he added. The current commercial trend is shifting from an industrial base to softer retail uses to enhance the town's appeal as a tourist destination, he explained.

Property owner Mike Christopher said the property has housed automotive repair services for 50 to 60 years. A wrecker service is associated with automotive repair and previous tenants had wreckers, he said.

Town attorney Matson C. Terry advised council that a towing service is allowed as a conditional use. The ordinance allows for automotive services and that would include towing services. Prior use of the property as the site of automotive repairs and wrecker service establishes a precedent, he added.

The town council has the authority to approve or disapprove the request and to set conditions, said Terry.

After the hearing had been

(continued on page A12)

Remembering Reedville:

Tales of yesteryear enthrall audiences

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

REEDVILLE—Local residents, including some "come-heres," tapped into the memories of several "born heres" Monday for a glimpse into life around Reedville in the mid-20th century.

The Reedville Fishermen's Museum kicked off its 2004 lecture series with a panel discussion among citizens born in the area who told stories of growing up here.

Charles H. Williams III, who grew up in Fleeton; Mariah Rogers, who grew up in Fairport; and Dr. John H. Harding and Jean Booth McKenney, who both grew up in Reedville, shared stories from their childhoods.

"Reedville, as defined by the postal code, was very different 50 or 60 years ago," explained moderator Spud Parker. "Fleeton and Fairport were very separate places."

The single greatest changes to the region, said Dr. Harding, happened between 1927 and 1935.

Prior to that time, the area relied on steamboats to connect it to the greater world, and waterways were the best means of transportation within the Northern Neck.

When the bridge at Tappahannock was built in 1927, some change was guaranteed. But it was the stock market crash in 1929 and the great storm of 1933 (which wiped out all the area docks) that sealed the fate of the steamboat era.

By the time the bridge was built at Glebe Point in 1935, cars were well on their way to becoming the primary mode of transportation in the Northern Neck.

By 1947, when Williams was born, there were three new car dealerships in Reedville.

There were little general stores and grocers everywhere, including three in Fairport, five in Reedville, one in Fleeton and one in Tibitha.

"For a while there it seemed like every time we got a new post office we got a new store," McKenney said.

The main road into Reedville was made of tar and gravel and went behind the Masonic lodge, rather than in front of it.

"The streets were always filled with basket carts of red tomatoes," McKenney recalled.

When John D. Hinton, who owned the local tomato cannery,

decided to reroute, widen and pave the road, everyone had to move their fences and take down their maple trees, McKenney said.

"You see, we had fences in our yards then, but we really didn't have any fences," McKenney said. "Now, we don't have fences in our yards, but we do have fences."

Growing up on a farm in Fairport was a whole world removed from Reedville, said Rogers.

"I thought we lived in the best place in the world," Rogers said. "We had everything there."

The school and movie theater (with two shows every night) were in Reedville, but there was plenty of fun to be had around Fairport, watching the fishermen work on their nets or swimming in the creek.

By the time the kids grew older, there were parties to attend at Slaughter's Beach, VirMar Beach and White Stone Beach. There was a

drug store, bowling alley and a pool hall in Reedville.

Of course, McKenney noted, only men were really allowed in the pool hall.

Church was a main hang out, Rogers said. Even though her family was Episcopalian, she often hung around the nearby Baptist church in Fairport.

"You didn't have to go far to find something entertaining to do," McKenney said.

Girls and boys played a lot of softball.

Up and down Fleeton Road, said Williams, there were 25 teenage boys and 26 teenage girls.

"Now there are not a dozen of both," Williams said.

Men gathered in the stores at night to smoke tobacco, play

dominos and tell stories.

"Their conversations were always about fishing—how you caught them, why you caught them, where you caught them—they caught those same fish over and over," Dr. Harding said.

Children, even, knew the name of every boat. "Their whistles were so different, I could tell which one was getting ready to unload just by the sound of it," McKenney said. Then the big diesel boats came along: "When they went to metal, all the luster went out of fishing."

World War II provided its own entertainment, the panelists explained. Many people, including McKenney, took aeronautical classes and learned to identify planes flying overhead. From observation towers, Reedville citizens would watch and report every plane they saw.

Rogers said her father brought home giant windsocks that he pulled from his fishnets. The military used the windsocks as targets, but they were large enough that when the wind blew strong across the net fields, children could run through them. When that grew old, the girls made doll clothes and baby clothes from them.

But the war was also a fearful time. Living so close to the bay, residents were forced into blackouts on summer nights. Rogers remem-

bers that it was often cooler just to turn the lights out and sit in the dark.

There was the Home Guard, for which her father often trained. He would tell her he was practicing to save her from the enemy.

As small as her world was back then,

Rogers said she imagined the enemy might be up at Burgess, ready to strike any time.

It was even more of a fright for Parker to hear that the Germans had captured Warsaw. McKenney was certain that when those Germans did come and strike they would hit Norfolk, Washington and then have one bomb left over for the smoke stacks in Reedville.

The panelists patched their memories together into a quilt that warmed the crowd. As the stories were woven together, the 60-some people attending sat hushed like a child listening to a grandparent tell a favorite story.

The series continues on March 15 with a lecture featuring Betty Belanus and Harold Anderson discussing their fieldwork in preparation for the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival this summer on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

As the stories were woven together, the 60-some people attending sat hushed like a child listening to a grandparent tell a favorite story.

Remember those dusty roads?

For our annual Vintage Years supplement, the Record is seeking old photos and memories of area roads and streets before they were paved. Do you have photos showing the family's first car trying to negotiate a dusty or muddy road to town, or a horse and buggy on the way to grandmother's house? If so, we'd like to borrow them for this publication. The photos are needed by February 6.

Photos may be brought to the Record office on Main Street in Kilmarnock, or mailed to the Record, PO Box 400, Kilmarnock, VA 22482. They can also be scanned and emailed to editor@record.com. Please be sure each item is identified with your name, address and phone number. All originals will be returned.

Inside

Eye on Richmond:

Sen. Chichester presents budget, menhaden issue surfaces..... B1

Asian oysters, etc:

Hearings will cover environmental study, pound net proposal A12

Business B4-5 Directory C12-13

Calendar A2 Deaths B3

Churches B2-3 Opinion A4-5

Classified C1-8 Police report B1



Montana Skies in Virginia: A12

Schools B6-7

Sports A9-11

Upcoming .. A2-3, 6+

Wildlife notes .. A10

Turbine generators still in the wind; hearing set

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—Failing to come up with a set of conditions for allowing turbine generators in the county, the Northumberland planning commission is turning to the public for input.

A related hearing will be held February 19 at the Northumberland courthouse in Heathsville.

After reviewing information on the wind-powered generators provided by Jim Madden of Chesapeake Renewable Energy, the commission last Thursday was still unsure how to proceed,

explained assistant county administrator Luttrell Tadlock.

Proponents say the winds along Northumberland's bay shoreline are among the most consistent in Virginia, and thus a good location for the modern windmills.

The matter was before the board of supervisors in December, but the board tabled any decision and asked the planners to take a closer look at the use of the windmills as a source of power.

During the meeting, supervisor Joe Self withdrew a motion to

approve wind turbines as a special exception when former supervisor Thomas Tomlin expressed concern that a 1- or 10-kilowatt turbine would not create enough energy to run a refrigerator.

The visual impact and noise pollution could easily outweigh the benefits of a wind turbine, Tomlin argued.

The board asked the commission to investigate the pros and cons more closely and to return with a set of standard conditions for allowing wind turbines.

Tadlock plans to provide more

details about the hearing next week.

The commission also worked last week on finalizing an application for water access grants. The grants will seek funds to install four canoe and kayak launches including one on the Yeocomico River at Hampton Hall, one on the Coan River at Rows Landing and two on the Great Wicomico River at Cooper's Landing and Glebe Point.

All that remains to be completed for the application is a cover letter, Tadlock said.