



Caroline County News

2009 All-America City Award Winner

July 16, 2009

Caroline County, Virginia Wins Prestigious National Civic League Title

On June 19th, Caroline County became one of 10 localities throughout the nation to be named an All-America City for 2009 by the National Civic League. Thirty-two communities from across the country were invited to Tampa, Florida to compete as a finalist for the award, which began 60 years ago. The award recognizes neighborhoods, villages, towns, cities, counties and metro regions for outstanding civic accomplishments. To win, communities have to demonstrate their ability to address serious challenges with innovative, grassroots strategies that promote civic engagement and cooperation between the public, private and non-profit sectors. Communities ranging in population from over a million to just under 4,000 all competed against each other by performing an on stage presentation that identified specific challenges in their communities and the solutions developed for those challenges. A ten member judge's panel questioned each community on the specifics of their presentation and on their written application.

Judges this year gave Caroline the award after it finished runner-up in the competition last year.

Months of preparation, fund raising, hard work and rehearsals paid off for the team led by Frank Hammon and Vice-chairman Linda Thomas. Thomas wrote and performed the Dr. Seuss like poem describing the county's library system, the Dawn

Wastewater and Housing Rehabilitation Project, and the Caroline County Dental Program. Team members Kathy Beard, Cynthia Green, Olympia Tillman, Martice Tillman, Marquita Tillman, Yasenia Amaya, Alexis Amaya, Irene Fields, Eileen Beach, George Wieber, Joey Schiebel and Dr. Nancy Cole performed on stage in front of a panel of judges.

Funding for the project, including the trip to Tampa, was provided by private donors and individuals. No public money was appropriated.

This prestigious national award identifies Caroline County as a community working to blend public, private, and civic resources to collectively increase the quality of life for residents.

This national designation will be utilized by Caroline County in business recruitment and visitor attraction. Pictures of the Caroline Team at the competition can be found on Page 3.



Caroline County, VA



For more information please visit www.visitcaroline.com/carolineaaca.html.

Certain County Offices move to New Location

The offices of the Commissioner of the Revenue, Treasurer, Registrar, County Administration and Finance have moved to the former Union Bankshares Building located at 212 North Main Street in Bowling Green. The satellite office of the DMV office moved with the Commissioner as well.

Prior to the move, Caroline DMV patrons had to visit the Commissioner's Office first and then go to the Treasurer's Office located on Ennis Street to complete their transaction. Now that both offices are in the same building, citizens only need to visit one location.

County employees look forward to the improved efficiency and service to county citizens the new offices will provide.



Employee News

Veteran Chief ACO Retires

Animal Control Sergeant K. E. Harris retired on June 30th after over 26 years of service to the citizens of Caroline County. Harris, who was also a 22-year U.S. Army veteran, lives in the Sparta area of Caroline with his wife. A retirement dinner was held on June 6 at Bowling Green Town Hall with about 65 guests in attendance. Harris, his wife, son, and daughter were all on hand. Sheriff Lippa and Lieutenant Colonel M. W. Hall presented Harris a plaque and his retirement badge at the party.

Officer Harris was also recognized by the Board of Supervisors on June 23. Harris' expertise in animal control will be sorely missed by all. The entire staff wishes him happiness in his well-deserved retirement.



Sergeant K. E. Harris, surrounded by his family, receives his retirement plaque from Sheriff Lippa and Lt. Colonel Hall.



Sergeant Harris poses with current and former staff members at his retirement party.

Animal Control Deputy R.O. Carty receives Top Academic Achievement Award



Sheriff Lippa was proud to announce that Animal Control Deputy R.O. Carty was the recipient of the Top Academic Achievement Award during graduation from the 108th basic law enforcement session. Graduation was held on Tuesday, June 9th at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy in Fredericksburg. Congratulations, Deputy Carty!

Congratulations to Melissa Trainum



Medic/ Fire Fighter Trainum recently graduated from the Prince William Fire Academy. Trainum completed nearly 300 hours of physically and mentally demanding training and is now Virginia Firefighter I and II certified. She is pictured above with interim Fire/EMS Chief Mark Garnett.

John Goforth, Caroline Public Utilities, takes first place at the 2009 Virginia American Water Works Association

John Goforth, representing Caroline County, competed at the 2009 Virginia American Water Works Association Distribution Seminar and Utility Rodeo Competition held in Spotsylvania County, Virginia on May 13, 2009. For the third year in a row, Goforth placed first in the "Buried Treasurer" event designed to test the skills of utility operators in locating buried utilities. In doing so, he became the only person to win this state-wide event for three consecutive years. Goforth will now represent Caroline County and the State of Virginia at the International Utility Locate Rodeo Competition in Atlanta, Georgia on July 25th.

All America City Award Competition - June 17 - June 19, 2009



Chairman Wayne Acros assists team members setting up for the competition



Linda Thomas, author of the Dr. Seuss type poem presentation, practices her part of the reading.



George Weiber, Community Development Administrator for Caroline, gets into his part as Yasenia Amaya looks on.



Dr. Nancy Cole presents the Dental Health Program



Martice Tillman listens to her "bedtime story" during one of the rehearsals.



Judges react to Caroline skit.



Team members pose with the All America Award Certificate after learning that their hard work, dedication and talents had paid off.

Community News

Lippa Announces Citizens Police Academy

Sheriff A. A. "Tony" Lippa, Jr., announced that the Caroline County Sheriff's Office will hold its inaugural Citizens Police Academy beginning September 10, 2009. "The goal of the Caroline County Sheriff's Office Citizens Police Academy is to provide a better understanding between you, the citizen, and your Sheriff's Office, through education and exposure to the functions of the agency", said Lippa. Students are not trained to be police officers. Rather, they are informed and trained about each aspect of law enforcement. Students will learn the inner workings of law enforcement. Topics covered will include patrol, criminal investigations, court services, communications and special teams.

"I am excited about this new venture and plan for it to be an annual event. This is another opportunity for our men and women to show their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to our county," stated Sheriff Lippa.

The Caroline County Citizens Police Academy will be a thirteen week course that will be held on Thursday nights from 6:30p.m. - 9:00p.m. and an occasional Saturday at the Community Services Building on Richmond Turnpike just south of Bowling Green. The academy is open to Caroline County residents and business owners, 21 years of age and older.

For more information, contact Sgt. A.W. Lambert at 804-633-1120 or visit www.carolinesheriff.org

Caroline County is on the Map!



The weather map, that is. Caroline County now has three weather stations on the WeatherBug network. The newest location is the Lewis and Clark Elementary School in Ladysmith. This fully automated, professional grade facility was funded by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. Other weather monitoring locations include Caroline County High School and the Fire/EMS Department located in Bowling Green.

In addition to the educational opportunities provided by these weather stations and WeatherBug/AWS Technologies, the Caroline County Department of Planning and Community Development/Environmental Services uses information from weather stations like these to advise contractors and developers of severe weather (specifically, significant rain events) via the CarolineAlert system. These 'alerts' provide the notice for site inspections as required by the Virginia Stormwater Management Program. To read more about these Caroline County initiatives, look for a feature article in the upcoming Planning Department Newsletter at www.visitcaroline.com/planning.html.

You can access the weather data via these links: www.weatherbug.com or www.nbc12.com.



Election News

June 9, 2009 was Election Day for the Democratic Primary. All the polling locations were staffed and ready for voters. This was the county's first election with electronic poll books.

With the State Board of Elections' budget being cut again, they will discontinue providing paper pollbooks by 2010 and by 2011 it has been stated that there will be no money for "voter credit". In the past the paper pollbooks were sent by the State Board to an agency that typed each voter into a data base to be added on the computer giving them "voter credit" for that election. The counties will now have to pick up these expenses.

In response to this, the State Board of Elections provided the electronic pollbooks (EPB) at a low cost to counties. The EPB consists of a laptop, wiring and the software needed to work an election.

The poll workers were trained on the new equipment and, from every report this election went well. Another advantage to the EPB is there will no longer be a need for lines A-L and M-Z. The voter can just get in the shorter line. This should help with the wait time.

Voters are still required to state their full name and current residence address as required by the Virginia Election Law, but the time spent looking up that information is shorter and, if your name doesn't show up in that precinct, a click of a button can tell the precinct in Caroline in which you are registered.

Caroline County Day of Caring 2009

Organized by the Rappahannock United Way, Caroline County will hold their first annual Day of Caring on Thursday, September 24, 2009.

Donating time and talent for a day, volunteers from the business community will be matched with non-profit organizations, social services and schools to complete vital projects in Caroline County.

Volunteers and agencies have reported in the past a high level of satisfaction, bolstering of team spirit among participating employees, increased company morale and exposure in the community. For more information and volunteer/agency forms, please visit <http://www.visitcaroline.com/calendarevents09.html#september>.

For more information or to find out how you can participate please visit <http://www.visitcaroline.com/calendarevents09.html#september>, call (540) 373-0041 or email sbeck@rappahannockunitedway.org.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Control Technologies: A new business for Caroline

Control Technologies, Inc. (CTI) is moving to Caroline County. CTI is a 23 year old family owned business that is moving from the Bowman Center in Spotsylvania to Milford.

CTI primarily works in the Intelligent Transportation Systems market. Their work can often be seen on busy motorways as signs alerting traffic to upcoming road work or traffic accidents. Some of CTI's systems are currently serving the Cities of Boston, Raleigh, Denver, San Diego while also providing E-Z Pass Electronic Control Systems to Delaware, Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Bridge Control System, New Jersey Statewide Traffic Management, as well as many others.

The Milford location is the former Caroline Ice Company building which in 1914 was a thriving early refrigeration business. The Ice Company building has been empty since 1980.

CTI will restore the building as much as possible to retain the historic nature of the facility. The Department of Planning Virginia, Department of Health and VDOT have worked diligently to allow the site to meet the needs of the new firm coming to Caroline. CTI is a small firm with seven employees, but the work they do is national in scope and first in its field.

Caroline is delighted to have new business investment and a firm specializing in cutting edge technology. CTI along with past business recruitment such as VSE and MC Dean further proves that Caroline is right for business growth and high tech investment.

Caroline Unemployment Easing

The recession that has hit the world economy so hard in the last year did not spare Caroline County even though the community was better positioned to hold up under the strain than most localities. Caroline's unemployment began to climb last July, like most Counties in the Commonwealth, topping out at 9.3% in February. Post holiday lay-offs from retailing pushed the unemployment number up. As the economy is swinging into a period of fair weather construction and a few new investments have been added in the County, unemployment has dipped to 8.4% as of April this year. The unemployment rate in April 2008 was only 3.8%, a more typical level of unemployment for Caroline than the 2009 figure.

Over the winter Caroline has even added two new restaurants, Arby's in Carmel Church and Timbers in Ladysmith.

New investment in Caroline has been stalled due to the global banking crisis. A number of recruitments that had been nearing announcement were put on hold in 2008 and 2009 as the world's banks struggled with soured investments and unreliable credit reporting, to name just two problems facing the finance sector. Many firms the County has been courting are reporting that they are starting to see some daylight in credit availability. Few companies are optimistic that troubles in international banking and market demand are over.



Caroline's labor growth has been rapid in recent years for a County of less than 27,000. Most of the new employment announced has been in industrial and upscale service industries such as at MC Dean and Remuda Ranch. Many of the lay-offs that have driven Caroline's unemployment growth have been in the building industry and in retail sales in adjoining communities where some Caroline residents work. As a result, Caroline has had fewer business closings and less revenue loss than nearby communities.

Economists cannot say when the global recession will end, however, the "green shoots" of new investment that many communities keep looking for are already appearing in Caroline. The current year will likely continue to be a challenging one. Knowing this, Caroline will continue to work to bring down the unemployment rate that County government knows is not just a number, but real suffering to those affected.

Caroline County Technology Zone

Caroline County has in the past has been price competitive due to lower land costs and lower real estate taxes relative to other Interstate 95 communities. This advantage has often been overburdened by higher utility investment costs and inadequate zoning of available industrial-quality land. Caroline's advantages are often outweighed when other costs are factored in.

Recently, Spotsylvania County passed a Technology Zone ordinance that has made the immediate location and apparent price advantage of Caroline obsolete. The Technology Zone ordinance in Spotsylvania rebates 100% of real estate taxes for two years and then offers 50 percentage rebate taxed thereafter for three years. They also eliminate other fees and BPOL taxes as well.

To be competitive with our I-95 neighbors, and many other communities in Virginia that have passed similar ordinances, Caroline should pass an aggressive Technology Zone ordinance that will act as an incentive to put Caroline in a place of competitive superiority in seeking technology firms.

A Technology Zone incentive does not require Caroline to expend funds as an incentive unless the Board of Supervisors specifically wishes to include that provision in the ordinance. Technology Zones are authorized under the Tax Code of Virginia: 58.1-3850 (addendum).

A recommended Technology Zone will be one that encompasses specific areas of the County making Technology Zones based on the County's excellent road system, and fiber-optics availability paralleling Interstate 95, Rt. 1, and Rt. 207.

A Technology Zone is an overlay of existing land use designations and will not allow unsuitable business locations in improperly (land use) zoned areas. Areas where a business would wish to be located would have to follow all existing forms and procedures to pursue a change in land use designation—if actually required. The Technology Zone does not require existing land to be re-zoned or change the existing land zoning designation by being included in the Technology Zone.

The Board of Supervisors is expected to discuss the concept of technology zones at its July 14th meeting with a public hearing on any resulting ordinances scheduled for an upcoming meeting.

Miscellaneous News

Caroline Parks and Recreation Summer Camp Program

The 2009 Summer Educational and Recreation Camp program was not exempt from being impacted by the uncertainty of the economy. Budget constraints almost prevented the county from offering one of its greatest services of all to the parents, the summer camp program. Due to the commitment of the Board of Supervisors to provide safe and fun recreational activities for Caroline youth, provisions were made for school aged children between the ages of 5-12 to be afforded the opportunity to develop their social skills through their participation in fun games and activities during the summer. Although the participation numbers are down from the previous years, we are very thankful to be able to continue in our efforts towards providing our youth with this service. Special, thanks also to all the parents for supporting our efforts.



Community Health Center Set to Open in Bowling Green

A new community health center, known as Caroline Family Practice, is slated to open its doors on Broadus Ave in Bowling Green on July 22. The center, located in the Caroline Square Shopping Center next to Rite Aid, will include a primary care physician and staff. It is open to all adults and children, but targets those who have no health insurance and can't afford medical care. Fees are determined by a sliding scale based on income and family size.

The center is managed by Central Virginia Health Services, Inc, a non-profit agency that runs 13 community health centers throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, including Fredericksburg and Montross.

The center received a \$1.3 million grant as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and is one of five centers in Virginia to be funded with stimulus money.

County Administrator Presented with Caroline Chamber's 2nd Annual C.I.V.I.C. Award

County Administrator Percy Ashcraft, was chosen to receive the annual C.I.V.I.C. Award (Community Involvement and Volunteerism in Caroline) by the Chamber of Commerce at a dinner held June 25 at the Cafe' on Main Street in Bowling Green.

Ashcraft was recognized for his many contributions to the community and was described by Chamber President L.J. Moyer as "the ultimate fundraiser" and a "ground-up organizer". Ashcraft was selected from nine very deserving candidates selected for their commitment to community service.

Currently serving on the Optimist Club Board of Directors, Percy's projects have included The Athletic Foundation, a Dime a Day, Making Christmas Wishes Come True, Operation Shoebox, the Harvey Jarmon Memorial Scholarship, Cinderella's Closet and various sports activities. He coaches basketball, teaches Bible Class in his Church and is the founding charter member of Caroline's Promise.



Percy Ashcraft with Chamber President L.J. Moyer

Board of Supervisors Removes Obstacle for Pursuit of Dawn Wastewater Project Phase 2 Funding

A key hurdle to pursuing a possible Phase 2 of the Dawn Wastewater Project was cleared on July 14 when the Board of Supervisors agreed to waive all connection fees for low-to-moderate income households and provide a reduced fee of \$1,700 for non-LMI households who commit to connect to the system by a deadline of December 31, 2009. This is similar to the connection fee incentive approved by the Board for Phase 1 customers.

Phase 1 of the project has been completed with over 180 homes and businesses connected to a reliable method of wastewater disposal for the first time. Soil conditions in the area are ill suited for septic systems and a number of drainfields have either failed or experienced significant problems. Ninety-one (91) families connected to the system were identified as low-to-moderate income and nineteen (19) had no wastewater disposal system and were using portable toilets or privies.

Originally, the project was intended to cover a larger geographic area, but had to be scaled back due to funding limitations. The County hopes Phase 2 will pick up all remaining households and businesses interested in connecting to the system in the Dawn area.

The Board's action does not commit the County to provide any additional local funds beyond what has already been invested in the project. The County's investment in Phase 1 helped pay for sufficient capacity in the treatment plant (450 to 500 equivalent residential connections) to accommodate a second phase. This investment will be used as collateral for grant opportunities being pursued to pay for Phase 2.

In the event sufficient grant funds cannot be obtained to cover all costs of Phase 2, the project simply will not move forward.

The Board's action on July 14 paves the way for the project team to pursue user agreements committing potential users to connect to the system should Phase 2 become a reality. The project will not be seriously considered for highly competitive grant opportunities unless the County can demonstrate that a large number of potential users will agree to connect to the system and there are a sufficient number of LMI households in the area.

For more information about the Dawn Wastewater Project, contact the Department of Public Utilities at 633-4390.



