



# Caroline County News

2009 All-America City Award Winner

October 2009

## New State Fair Site Draws Rave Reviews

The response to the State Fair of Virginia move to Meadow Event Park has been overwhelmingly positive and the new site is an unqualified success. Fairgoers have flocked to the new location in droves to enjoy the picturesque setting and expanded rides and attractions the venue offers.

The Board of Supervisors, County elected officials and staff joined state dignitaries, SFV officials and special guests for a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 24 to mark the official opening of the fair at Meadow Farm. All America City (AAC) Team Chairman Frank Hammon, Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Maxie Rozell and County Administrator Percy Ashcraft presented Caroline County AAC t-shirts and memorabilia



Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Maxie Rozell presents a Caroline County All America City shirt and hat to legendary recording artist Percy Sledge.

to performing artists Jason Michael Carroll, Dean Brody and Percy Sledge during the opening days of the fair.



Caroline County maintained a booth in the Farm Bureau Exhibit Hall to greet the public, distribute information about County attractions and businesses and offer County AAC memorabilia for sale. Commissioner of the Revenue Sharon Carter and her staff were on site daily to assist with meals tax, sales tax and business license revenue.

The State Fair move to Meadow Farm has been an enormous source of pride and prestige for the people of Caroline County. Next up at the Meadow Event Park is the Meadow Highland Games and Celtic Festival October 24 & 25.

## Board Approves Measures to Jump Start Construction

The Board of Supervisors has approved revisions to the County's ordinances governing the payment of water and sewer availability fees in an effort to stimulate housing starts and development in the County. The measures, which were initially adopted as emergency ordinances to take effect immediately, were adopted permanently by the Board following public hearings on September 22.

Under the amended ordinances, builders may pay water & sewer availability fees either at the time of application for installing the water meter or 90 days from the issuance of a building permit for new construction, whichever occurs first. Availability fees, which are a combined \$14,000 for the average residence, were previously due at the time of application for service. Commercial fees are higher based on the size of the meter being installed.



"I've had conversations with at least two builders who tell me things are really bad," commented Board of Supervisors Chairman Wayne Acors who represents the Madison District. "Don't think for a minute that the downturn has not hurt our people in Caroline County."

Local builders have indicated that the actions taken by the Board have already had a positive effect on housing activity.

Follow Caroline  
on  
Twitter!



### Inside:

- First Lady Visits Caroline
- November 3 Election Information
- Water Tower has New Face

# Employee and Community Recognition

## Layman is County's First Ever Fire-EMS Chief

David Layman began his tenure as Caroline's first ever Fire-EMS Chief on August 17. A native of Lancaster County, Layman comes to Caroline from the City of Newport News where he served since 1988 and retired as Assistant Fire Chief.

He rose to the top of an impressive group of over 70 candidates that included many experienced fire and rescue professionals. "After conducting a national search, we are confident we landed the person who is best suited to lead us into a new era of fire and rescue services," commented County Administrator Percy Ashcraft. "David has a thorough understanding of all phases of the operations. He has experienced high degrees of success at every level of his career."

The Board of Supervisors' decision to phase out the Director of Fire & Rescue position in favor of a Fire-EMS Chief was a fundamental change in the direction of fire, emergency medical and emergency management services in Caroline County. The move consolidates authority of these operations under one central authority and Department, which includes all fire and rescue volunteers. The reorganization was the highest ranked priority identified by an independent November 2006 study completed by a panel of state emergency service agencies. The Fire-EMS Chief is empowered as the senior decision maker with the authority and responsibility for all administrative, financial and operational function of the Department in close consultation with the various fire and EMS leaders of the volunteer companies/squads in the County.



"I very much appreciate being given the opportunity to become the first Fire-EMS Chief for Caroline County. I am grateful for the overwhelming support and confidence of the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrator," commented Layman. "I am honored to accept this position, and look forward to working together with both career and volunteer staff. It will be my goal to ensure that we work together to build upon the organizational foundation already established, while focusing on the future emergency services needs of the community."

## Moser Promoted to Chief Deputy

Major C. Scott Moser has been promoted to Chief Deputy by Sheriff A. A. "Tony" Lipka. Moser, a 21-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office, has served as 3rd in command since Sheriff Lipka took office on January 1, 2004.

During his tenure with the Caroline County Sheriff's Office, he has served as a jailor, deputy, corporal, investigator, sergeant, lieutenant and captain prior to his promotion to major on January 6, 2008. Major Moser is a five time winner of the Sheriff's Office Good Conduct Award.



Irene Gray of the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office receives the University of Virginia Master Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue certification from Delegate Albert Pollard of the Virginia General Assembly. Pollard is joined by Commissioner of the Revenue Sharon Carter and the Board of Supervisors.

Gray, who is currently the Land Use/Elderly Relief Administrator, has over 30 years of service with Caroline County.



Boy Scout Patrick Tucker of Ladysmith Troop 1421 receives a resolution of appreciation from the Board of Supervisors for his Eagle Scout project to improve the appearance of the Caroline County Recreational Park behind Caroline High School.

Tucker constructed containers for the trash barrels in the park from wood composite boards made mostly from recycled milk jugs to prevent the barrels from tipping over and spilling garbage. He is pictured above with the Board of Supervisors and Recreation Director Donnell-Howard (far right).

## Community News

### First Lady Visits Caroline

A visit from First Lady Michelle Obama to the Town of Bowling Green on July 27 left many County citizens abuzz with excitement. Mrs. Obama, who was in town to help dedicate the new Caroline Family Practice community health center, also met privately with the clinic staff and a group of young doctors and dentists to discuss the National Health Service Corps prior to the ribbon-cutting. The federal loan and scholarship program helps pay tuition for doctors in exchange for service in medically underserved areas.

Many local officials, including Vice-Chairman Maxie Rozell, Port Royal District Supervisor Bobby Popowicz, Bowling Green District Supervisor Jeff Sili and Mattaponi District Supervisor Floyd Thomas were on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. In her remarks, Obama touted the importance of the Bowling Green clinic, which is located in the old Safeway building on West Broadus Avenue. The clinic is a community health center and received \$1.3 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("Stimulus") funds for renovation costs. The First Lady emphasized the importance of community clinics in promoting wellness in addition to treating sickness. "That's the mission of this community center and health centers like it across the country that serve 17 million of our fellow citizens - not just to make diagnoses and hand out prescriptions, but to understand why people are getting sick in the first place, and how they can get healthy and stay healthy in the future".



The event produced a large crowd of interested onlookers. Many left disappointed by a Secret Service decision to move the ribbon cutting ceremony indoors, preventing the public from seeing the First Lady in person.

Click here for a full copy of the Mrs. Obama's remarks.

### Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling visits Cafe' on Main Street

The fare at the Café on Main Street in Bowling Green on August 18 featured delicious homemade meals and a chat with Bill Bolling. The Lieutenant Governor was in town to discuss education, federal loan programs and other economic issues with local business leaders and interested guests.

During his remarks Bolling commented that small town meetings were always "very worthwhile" because "you learn a lot". He also indicated that the Bowling Green audience provided some of the best discussion he has heard on the topic of education.

Bolling, a Republican, will seek re-election against Democrat Jody Wagner in November.

At right, the Lieutenant Governor greets Todd Tinder of Tinder's Jewelry as Bowling Green District Supervisor Jeff Sili and Dale Ballew of Big Kids Sports (second from left) look on.



### Congressman Wittman Appears Before Board



The August 25, 2009 Board of Supervisors meeting featured what may have been an unprecedented appearance of a sitting member of the United States House of Representatives. Congressman Rob Wittman, whose 1st District includes portions of Caroline County, spoke to the Board about HUB zones, Fort A.P. Hill issues, including efforts to upgrade the designation of the fort from a small to medium garrison, federal per diem rates and rail funding for the County.

### November 3, 2009 Election

On November 3 2009 there will be an election for:

- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- Attorney General and
- Members of the House of Delegates.



Those that live and vote in the **Madison District** will also have their **School Board** position on the ballot.

#### Voting Precincts

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 101 - Bowling Green       | BG Town Hall                |
| 201 - Madison             | Ladysmith Elementary School |
| 301 - Port Royal          | Port Royal Fire Department  |
| 302 - Chilesburg          | Rehoboth Methodist Church   |
| 303 - Woodford            | Upper Fire Dept             |
| 401 - Reedy Church        | Dawn Progressive Center     |
| 402 - Penola              | Caroline High School        |
| 501-01 - Mattaponi 01     | Caroline High School        |
| 501-07 - Mattaponi 07     | Caroline High School        |
| CAP -                     |                             |
| Central Absentee Precinct | 212 N. Main St              |

# I-95 Water Tank Gets All America City Logo



The I-95 water tower at the former VDOT rest stop has been freshly emblazoned with the All America City shield announcing Caroline County as a 2009 winner. Tanks at the Community Services Center, Caroline High School and Carmel Church will soon follow to get the word out that Caroline County is a great place to live, work and play.

Fifty street signs are also being prepared for major thoroughfares throughout the County to enhance AAC visibility. Soon the All America City symbol will appear on stickers for display on County vehicles, bumper stickers available to the public and at local businesses. T-shirts, caps, pins and holiday ornaments with the AAC seal are being sold at the State Fair, festivals and fairs, and the County visitor center in Carmel Church.

On June 19, Caroline County was named one of 10 winners of the prestigious All-America City Award by the National Civic League. Caroline was the only locality in Virginia to win the award and the only county to receive recognition. The honor was achieved following two years of hard work that saw disappointment in 2008 turn to exhilaration in 2009 when word was received at the awards competition in Tampa, Florida.



The competition for the award began 60 years ago. It 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

For more information about the Award and to the team behind the successful application, please visit [www.visitcaroline.com/carolineaaca.html](http://www.visitcaroline.com/carolineaaca.html).

## Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October				1 Virginia State Fair in Caroline	2 Virginia State Fair in Caroline	3 Virginia State Fair in Caroline • Rappahannock Council on Domestic Violence 1st Annual Golf Tournament
4 Virginia State Fair in Caroline	5 Economic Development Team Meeting at the Visitors Center		7	8	9	10 Special Olympics
11	12	13 Board of Supervisors Meeting	14	15	16	17 20th Annual Bowling Green Harvest Festival
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Board of Supervisors Meeting	28	29	30	31 Halloween • Agricultural Fair Fun Festival • Frog Level Festival and Parade

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Economic Development Team Meeting at the Visitors Center	3	4	5	6	7 Annual Rabies Clinic
8	9	10	11	12 Board of Supervisors Meeting - Thursday	13	14 Annual Rabies Clinic
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Board of Supervisors Meeting	25	26	27	28
29	30	November				

### Special Notes - October:

- 17th - Bowling Green Harvest Festival
- 31st - Agricultural Fair Fun Festival
- 31st - Frog Level Festival and Parade



### Special Notes - November:

- 7th - Annual Rabies Clinic, New Location: Community Services Center

- 14th - Annual Rabies Clinic, New Location: Community Services Center



## *Economic Development & Tourism*

# Caroline County Creates Technology Zones

At its August 25 meeting, the Caroline County Board of Supervisors passed an enacting resolution providing the County with an active Technology Zone Ordinance able to apply substantial incentives for recruiting technology based industries.

Technology Zone incentives do not draw on existing County revenue but allow the Board of Supervisors, with advice from staff, to rebate taxes for businesses that meet specific guidelines that define them as technology companies.

The County may create Technology Zones based on Virginia statutes that define the scope and limits of the program. Special zones for allowing communities in Virginia to provide incentives are strictly confined to firms with high technology investments and cannot be applied to other types of businesses.

Caroline's Technology Zones are an overlay of existing land use designations and neither rezone a property to a new definition nor affect real estate taxes. The technology designation merely defines an area where incentives may be applied for technology firms. Caroline County appears to have the largest area of technology zones of any community in Virginia according to sources at the Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

Potentially, the incentives are able to apply for the legal maximum of ten years and can be applied to various taxes affecting businesses that influence their determination in choosing the community for their facility.

Recent creation of Technology Zones in neighboring counties as well as across Virginia and in other states made Caroline's traditionally low taxes less compelling as an attraction to new business investment than previously. Caroline's Technology Zone Ordinance more than levels the playing field in costs to technology firms seeking new research or production sites.

The Department of Economic Development & Tourism will implement marketing based on the Technology Zone Ordinance. The ordinance originated in the County Economic Development Committee headed by Port Royal District Supervisor Bobby Popowicz.



## Gloria's Café Open for Business

Gloria's Café (the old Dyson's Store), located in Dawn near the corner of Rts. 30 and 301, is positioned to reap the State Fair of Virginia traffic. The Café is one of several new small business openings in Caroline in 2009, showing that the local economy can still grow even in the midst of the international economic slump.

Among the small businesses investing in Caroline so far in 2009 have been People's Income Tax; Hands of Faith; Feedlot Restaurant; Caroline Reality; HCC Personal Care; and soon, Control Technologies and Wisdom Ride, Inc., private transportation service.

The surge in small business growth in Caroline is a hopeful sign of economic life in a difficult marketplace. Even when firms employ three or four workers, the cumulative effect is job growth and a decline in the Caroline unemployment rate, which was 8.4% in July. Resulting sales and real estate taxes also serve to ease the pressure on the County budget and help to fund needed services.

Small business growth has been steady. Larger investments are anticipated opening in Caroline later in the year.

Gloria's Café is operated by Tom and Gloria Bareford. They have renewed their successful restaurant formula previously used to operate Kountry Korner in Carmel Church. The Café is already enjoying crowds of loyal customers from their previous business.

Gloria's Café is also the first business venture to start in Dawn, due in part to the location of the State Fair of Virginia in Caroline. The Rt. 301/30 location of the Café has additional space for rent.

Gloria's Café will be listed in the new Tourism Guide being published by the Department of Economic Development & Tourism and expected out in Autumn. Gloria's Café's serves breakfast, lunch and dinner: Tuesday through Saturday 7 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sunday 7 a.m. – 3 p.m., closed Monday.

## Caroline County Day of Caring 2009

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

Projects were submitted to non profit organizations such as the Department of Social Services and Rappahannock Area on Aging. Volunteers were matched with the projects of their choice and throughout the day painted, landscaped, cleaned and did other tasks as needed, assisting residents in the community with things that under different circumstances may not have been accomplished.

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.

# A Day At The Fair

