READERS' CHOICE: Winners and finalists announced INSIDE

Farmville Herald

Honor for the past, help for the present, hope for the future

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What happens when no one files?

BY BRIAN CARLTON
The Farmville Herald

When residents of Farmville's Ward A go to cast a ballot, either in early voting or on Election Day, they'll notice something missing. Currently, there is no candidate for the Ward A seat on Farmville's town council.

Staff in the Prince Edward County registrar's office said people had, on occasion over the last month, come in to ask when the filing deadline was, but no one followed through to submit their paperwork. And so, as Greg Cole prepares to step down when his term ends in December, it raises the question of what happens next. The answer is a write-in election.

In many cases, when you think of write-ins, comical

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names come to mind. And, according to Prince Edward County Registrar Lynette Wright, the local area has seen its share of those in years past.

"Sometimes we get Santa Claus or Mickey Mouse. We've had Bugs Bunny before," Wright said.

But a write-in vote is also a chance to choose your own candidate, to name the person you want representing your precinct or, in this case, your ward. Prince Edward County had an example of this just last year. In 2021, Bruce Davis ran as a write-in candidate for the District 7 seat on the Prince Edward Board of Supervisors. In a race where 668 voters cast a ballot, his opponent won with 56.74% of the vote. The write-in vote brought in 43.26%.

If you want to run a write-in campaign, there's no paperwork to file or fees to pay. There are a few rules and recommendations involved, however.

A LETTER OF INTENT

If you plan to run as a

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HOOD HODGES

Partnership goes through changes

BY RACHEL AUSTIN
The Farmville Herald

Now that downtown is basically back to pre-pandemic times, the Farmville Downtown Partnership (FDP) is ready to get back to promoting these businesses.

The FDP has served the community for around 10 years. The partnership went through significant changes in 2020 when its director left and the COVID-19 lockdown caused a massive strain on the Main Street businesses. The partnership merged with the Farmville Area Chamber

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of Commerce in order to keep going during this time.

This year, things changed again. The board members of the FDP decided to return to how it operated before the pandemic, now that businesses are open and back to normal. The partnership's mission is to bring residents, merchants and students of Farmville together to preserve downtown's role as the center of the historic community and plan for the town's future as somewhere to live, learn, open a business and visit.

MAKING SOME CHANGES

To better fulfill this mission, the partnership decided to go through with some changes. The first change was to bring on Nancy Alexander as the executive director. She started part-time in August and now that she's moved to Farmville, she will start as full-time in October.

"They were waiting for things to calm down," said Alexander. "Now that everything has restabilized, the board decided to become more active and move forward again."

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Harris named as Campbell semifinalist

One local football player is competing for a national award this season. Hampden-Sydney fifth-year defensive tackle Michael Harris has been named a semifinalist for the 2022 William V. Campbell Trophy.

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY

Harris is one of 156 semifinalists from all divisions of the NCAA. He's one of only two from the Old Dominion Athletic Conference and one of 29 from NCAA D-III.

WHAT IS THE CAMPBELL TROPHY?

Celebrating its 33rd year, the Campbell Trophy is given to the best football scholar-athlete in the nation. It's judged based on academic success, football performance and exemplary leadership. Harris is Hampden-Sydney's third consecutive semifinalist, following Tyler Howerton in 2020 and Kaleb Smith last year.

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Hampden-Sydney defensive tackle Michael Harris reacts after a ref's call in a game earlier this season. Harris has been selected as a semifinalist for the Campbell Trophy, a national award based on performance both on the field and in the classroom.

Fair plans to continue, rain or shine

BY RACHEL AUSTIN
The Farmville Herald

On Wednesday, Hurricane Ian made landfall in Florida, bringing 155 mph winds and heavy rain. One day later, it had started moving northeast, at a rate of 9 mph. As the remnants of the storm are expected to reach Prince Edward County and the surrounding area Friday night, several events have been rescheduled or just canceled. You can visit our website for an updated list of events that have been affected by the storm.

The Five County Fair, however, isn't one of those. Residents had reached out to *The Herald* throughout the week, asking what plans were for the event, which has been going on since Tuesday. Even though Hurricane Ian will be more of a rain storm by the time he makes his way up from Florida, there was concern the storm could affect the fair as most of it is outside.

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County can avoid gold mining, officials say

BY BRIAN CARLTON
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

There are ways the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors can ban gold mining in their area. Joe Lerch outlined how that was possible Monday, Sept. 26, during the latest meeting of the state's gold mining workgroup.

The group, set up to study if Virginia needs to ban or restrict gold mining in the state, has brought in experts over the last few months to provide information on the subject. That's where Lerch comes in. He serves as director of local government policy for the Virginia Association of Counties, bringing a bachelor's degree in geology and a master's in urban and regional planning to the task.

The workgroup brought him in to help answer questions and clear up confusion, as members were under the impression that Buckingham couldn't legally ban the practice. That was the cited reason by Buckingham County supervisors as to why they put off any decision on a gold mining ordinance back in August. They were concerned about being sued by companies who purchased land and wanted to start mining.

Lerch said that wasn't entirely accurate, as there's nothing in state law saying a county or town can't issue a type of ban. It all depends on what the local zoning ordinance says.

"In (the Buckingham) zoning ordinance, you can say this is not allowed activity," Lerch told the group. "Or you could say it is allowed in (a certain) type of district, like an industrial

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