

OPINION

Chamber Talk

Politics. That's almost a four-letter word for some people. I'll admit I have thought it, especially during presidential election years. On the negative side, I don't like the political signs that pop up like weeds in a garden. (Political teams, one sign per intersection or section of road is enough. We don't need a dozen of the same sign. Less is more in this case. Thank you to those candidates who choose to have one tasteful sign strategically placed.) I am also not a fan of political advertising, especially those commercials in which one candidate just bashes the other and doesn't say anything about what they plan to do if elected. (If you are running against someone, I already assume you think you are the better candidate, so quit talking about the other guy or gal and tell me what you plan to do.) The media may shun me for saying so, but I wish that instead of spending so much money on advertising that the candidates would take that same money and try to make a dent in some of the issues about which they are campaigning.



By Christina Wells
President/CEO

Enough of the negative. Let's look at the positive side of politics and government. On a very small scale, I am involved in politics. Trust me, I never thought I would say that. I am currently serving my second term as a commissioner for my small town of Halifax, NC. I have learned A LOT during my short time in office, some good, some not so good. I was honestly not sure I would seek reelection, but I was plagued with the question, if not me, then who, because we don't exactly have people clamoring to run for office in our town of 200+ citizens. I really do enjoy doing my homework and learning and endeavoring to make the best decisions possible for the citizens of Halifax. After a long day at work and a long drive home, I rush to get supper on the table (and sometimes don't accomplish it) before the town meeting at 7 p.m., so I'm not always super excited about the meeting, which can easily last 2-3 hours. Once I get there though, I feel good about being part of working through situations, making decisions, setting goals, and planning for the future prosperity of the town that I love.

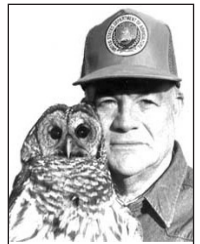
I have had the privilege of knowing T Davis for about 20 years or so, and I think he's a great guy. He's a high-way patrolman, a small business owner, a husband (God bless his dear, patient wife Monica), and a father. He has always cared deeply about his community. His caring transformed into action when he ran for Warren County commissioner, representing District 2 here at Lake Gas-

See CHAMBER, page 9

Wildlife before and after Lake Gaston (Conclusion)

The following is reprinted from April 2013.

The areas of pristine wildlife habitat that flourished for many thousands of years along the Roanoke River were destined to be radically changed. I knew her well in my young days. I hunted, fished and trapped the forests, low grounds and waters, and I knew well the ways of wild things. A confidence and peace came over me when I entered her world and left the other.



By Frank Newell

The river was like a living soul, having different moods, and I never knew what mood she was in until I came out of the woods and onto her banks. Some days she rolled on, lazy and quiet, peaceful, almost still. Other days, she was angry, her waters noisily churning around rocks out in midstream. This mood was probably caused by heavy rains far upstream in Virginia. Most of the time, the mood was in between peaceful and angry, moderate if you will.

The fish and other creatures in the water, and the deer, coons, squirrels, quail and other land creatures reacted in similar fashion to the river's moods. For instance, when the river was calm and peaceful, the fish bit good, and the land animals were easy to hunt and catch. When the river raged and swirled, the animals were wilder and spooked easily, making it harder to hunt them, and then the only fish you could catch were the gar and pike.

For all of its many and varied species of wildlife, there were two that were found in greater abundance inland than on the river. They were the foxes, red and gray, and the cottontail rabbit. I soon came to understand why the foxes preferred the gently rolling hills a few miles inland and south of the river.

Several times a year, heavy rainfall would cause the river to overflow its banks, sending floodwaters over the low grounds and through the forests. Animals such as rabbits, field mice, voles and cotton rats that inhabit, frequent or live in ground dens or nests would be drowned or forced from their homes. Animals ain't no fools, so they make their homes a right good ways from the river; therefore, the foxes live where their food supply lives.

There were many more rabbits to be found on our farm and other lands around it than on the river's lands. I thoroughly enjoyed hunting the cottontails with a pack of beagle dogs. Not many people know it, but a rabbit being chased by dogs can, and sometimes will, go into a small hollow in a tree. For most hunters, that means the rabbit is safe and the chase is over, but not for Percy and me. We knew what to do to get the rabbit out of the hollow and into our hunting coats.

There was, and still is, a type of rabbit different from the cottontail. The rabbit lives in or on the edges of swamps. Its tail, instead of being white, is gray or blue in color and was called the "blue tail" or sometimes called a "swamp rabbit." The blue tail is slightly larger and, to my way of thinking, is smarter than the regular cottontail. It can swim and usually eludes a pursuing pack of rabbit dogs by swimming across a creek. The old folks

See FRANK, page 9

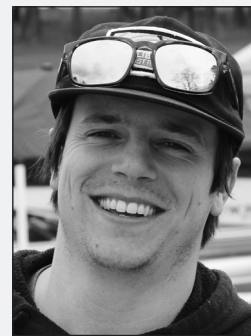
Lake Views

Q: If you could be on any TV show, what would it be?



"I would want to see how far I could get on Survivor."

—Adam Fields



"I would want to go out with Bear Grylls."

—Fields Johnson



"I would want to be on Mail Call."

—Chris Piece



"I would be Erica Kane's long lost daughter on All My Children."

—Lewis Foreman



Reader letters

Citizens urged to support rezoning appeal

It's not over. There are too many things wrong with this picture and too much at stake. After taking 30 days to figure out our strategy, a petition was filed on Feb. 28 to appeal the Jan. 29 Ebony rezoning decision intended to pave the way for Dollar General to be built in the heart of the historic Ebony community. The case number is CL20000073-00.

On behalf of all who opposed the rezoning of A-1 property to B-1 to accommodate Dollar General or any business on the B-1 list, petitioners (plaintiffs) are listed as Anne Edwards Hartley and the Prospect Cemetery Association. Our attorney leading the appeal process is John M. Janson of South Hill, Va.

The petition is designed not only to reverse the Jan. 29 rezoning decision for Ebony, but also to try and prevent future abuse of land use management and efforts to inappropriately commercialize Ebony and oth-

er similar A-1 places in the county. This rezoning act is not aligned with the county's comprehensive plan nor zoning ordinances. Zoning governance is designed to prevent exactly what has happened with the 3-2 vote. What happened?

We encourage and invite all who are opposed to add their support to the Petition to Appeal by submitting their perspective on a form called an Amicus Brief (Friend of the Court) that is very easy to do. In a nutshell, the opposed submits their support and reasons in writing and it becomes attached to the petition that was submitted.

We have posted an Amicus Brief Word document with instructions on the appeal page of the KeepEbonyCountry.org website. All anyone who wants to support the opposition has to do is edit the document and add their personal comments about why they oppose the rezoning and why the petition should be granted to reverse the decision. Sign and mail copies to four recipients.

Thank you for your stand of opposition and any support you can add to the Petition to Appeal. Please help spread the word.

ANNE EDWARDS HARTLEY
Ebony Preservation Group
Ebony, Va.

See LETTERS, page 9

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