



The Queen Anne's Chronicle

CELEBRATING QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

INFORMING THE CITIZENS

ELECTION SEASON: COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES SPEAK TO THE ISSUES

Consistent with our mission of "Informing the Citizens", the Chronicle gave the fifteen candidates for County Commissioner an opportunity to state their positions on five high-visibility issues relating to land use and County finances. We imposed strict word limits on the answers and are printing the answers, **unedited, exactly as they were submitted**. Only two of the candidates did not submit answers.

We have grouped the answers according to the Commissioner seat that the candidates are seeking. On this page we begin the answers of the two candidates for the At-large seat.

SUZANNE HOGAN (D), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER AT-LARGE

Comp Plan. During your term in office as a Commissioner, would you either seek to change the 2010 Comprehensive Plan or support development inconsistent with it?

The Comprehensive Plan is a vital roadmap for leaders to follow in protecting and sustaining the county's rural character. Over 800 local citizens contributed to the plan, I will not seek to change it, nor support development inconsistent with it.

APFO. Would you seek to change the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which can delay new development projects if they add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion?

As Chair of the Committee to Protect QAC Great Schools, I fought to keep the APFO strong to avoid crowded classrooms and jammed roadways.



Sixty percent of voters agreed with me the APFO should stay as it is without changes.

Four Seasons. Do you believe the Maryland Board of Public Works should grant a wetlands license enabling the Four Seasons development, as presently configured, to proceed?

continued on Page 2

That seat will be decided in the general election in the fall, as neither of these candidates faces opposition in her/his primary.

On the next six pages we print the answers of the candidates for the Districts 1 - 4 seats. In three of these districts (1, 3, 4), the seat will be decided in the primary election, as the primary winner from those districts has no opponent from the other party in the fall.

Readers are reminded that the four districts are candidate residency districts only: in the primaries and in the general, **voters get to vote for the candidates for all five of the seats.**

JIM MORAN (R), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER AT-LARGE

Comp Plan. During your term in office as a Commissioner, would you either seek to change the 2010 Comprehensive Plan or support development inconsistent with it?

Inconsistent development would be illegal under various statutes. Prior to the State mandated update, I would seek to change the Comp Plan only if a compelling benefit to our community could be demonstrated that had broad based support.

APFO. Would you seek to change the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which can delay new development projects if they add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion?

The APFO is far more complicated than the questions suggests, but I don't think it is the County Commissioner's place to initiate any changes to the



APFO.

Four Seasons. Do you believe the Maryland Board of Public Works should grant a wetlands license enabling the Four Seasons development, as presently configured, to proceed?

This again is a more complicated issue than the question suggests,

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VOTING IN THE JUNE PRIMARY

Deadline to register or change party - Tuesday, June 3, 2014, 9 p.m.

For information, go to www.qacelections.com, call 410.758.0832, or visit QAC Board of Elections, 132 N. Commerce St., Centreville

Early voting - Thursday, June 12, through Thursday, June 19, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

You can vote at either the Kramer Center in Centreville or the Kent Island Library

Primary Election Day - Tuesday, June 24, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

All registered voters will be mailed a specimen ballot indicating their polling place for voting on Primary Election Day

Deadline for absentee ballot by mail - Board must receive by 8 p.m., June 24

Unaffiliated, Green, Libertarian - You can vote for Board of Education candidates

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AT-LARGE, CONTINUED

SUZANNE HOGAN (D),
continued from Page 1

I've testified before the Maryland Board of Public Works in opposition to Four Seasons receiving a wetlands license. As configured, it represents a significant public safety and welfare threat for current residents and should not be allowed to proceed.

SKI Sewer. *What is your take on the balance of benefits and costs of the current proposal to extend sewer service to 1500 existing homes and 650 vacant (consolidated) lots on southern Kent Island?*

I've reviewed the financial worksheets on the SKI sewer project and have grave concerns about the cost assumptions and how it will be paid for. Even as public hearings proceed, it's unclear that county cost projections match the realities of

available State grants and loans. If they've gotten it wrong, all county taxpayers could be paying the bill. Until there's more clarity on how costs will be paid, it's too early to weigh the benefits.

Budget Surpluses. *What is your position on the County's budget surpluses for the past three years and how do you think they should be used?*

It's inexcusable that while residents have suffered through cuts to services such as the dump, senior centers, public safety, and the school budget, the county has run up over \$17 million in surpluses. The procedure of sweeping end of fiscal year surpluses into county funds for undefined purposes, without taxpayer input, must stop. The 'fund balance policy' put in place in 2012 should be amended to give taxpayers a voice in how it's spent.

JIM MORAN (R),
continued from Page 1

but my answer would have to be yes. Four Seasons has received approval for every facet of the project including the Critical Area Commission.

SKI Sewer. *What is your take on the balance of benefits and costs of the current proposal to extend sewer service to 1500 existing homes and 650 vacant (consolidated) lots on southern Kent Island?*

The health risk to citizens is real according to; County's chief Health Officer, Director of Environmental Health, Md Department of Environment, ect... Public sewer is the only viable answer. The environmental issues are real as well. The 650 infill lots will be paying a benefit premium

which will guarantee existing homeowners that their cost will stay capped at 100.00 a month. Any other course is irresponsible, self-serving, and dangerous.

Budget Surpluses. *What is your position on the County's budget surpluses for the past three years and how do you think they should be used?*

I was not part of the last three budget sessions, and have just started working on my first one with the county. I will say that those surpluses helped fully fund our rainy day fund, 8 million, which was non-existent three years ago, and just this year allowed us to fund additional needs at Stevensville Middle School. Not to mention the county is no longer on the "Negative Watch List" according to Moody's.

DISTRICT 1

PAUL COMFORT (R), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1



community facilities. The next plan will be developed in 2016. Until then absent an appeal, state law requires development be consistent with this plan.

APFO. *Would you seek to change the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which can delay new development projects if they add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion?*

The purpose of the county Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance in Chapter 28 of the county code is to ensure that public facilities needed to support new development meet the level of service standards established therein. I conceptually support the APFO.

Four Seasons. *Do you believe the Maryland Board of Public Works should grant a wetlands license enabling the Four Seasons development, as presently configured, to proceed?*

Any development proposed for QAC should not overburden our infrastructure nor cause significant negative impact on our natural resources and it should benefit our existing citizens.

SKI Sewer. *What is your take on the balance of benefits and costs of the current proposal to extend sewer service to 1500 existing homes and 650 vacant (consolidated) lots on southern Kent Island?*

The County Health Department and MDE tell us that southern Kent Island has a documented public health and water quality problem due to failing septic systems discharging septic effluent into groundwater, where there are already poor soils and a high groundwater table. The current Commissioners have proposed a STEP system. I want further investigation regarding the scope of need, cost, funding,

total build out and protecting the property rights of our citizens.

Budget Surpluses. *What is your position on the County's budget surpluses for the past three years and how do you think they should be used?*

The County just reported a large surplus from last fiscal year mostly due to higher than expected income tax distributions from the state. The Commissioners should evaluate reducing property taxes, paying down public debt and ensuring our infrastructure is properly maintained (especially county roads).

Revenue projections need to be closer to reality to afford the Commissioners all options for operating expenses/tax reductions rather than be left with only capital options with fund balance.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

Meet the candidates, hear their opinions, ask them questions.

Tuesday, May 20 at 7 p.m. - Forum for Republican candidates for County Commissioner (Democratic candidates for County Commissioner are not challenged in the Primary). QAC Board of Education, Chesterfield Ave., Centreville. Sponsored by the QAC League of Women Voters.

Thursday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m. - Forum for Republican candidates for State Senate (Democratic candidate is unchallenged in the Primary.) and at 7:15 - Forum for Republican

candidates for the State House of Delegates (Democratic candidates are unchallenged in the Primary.) QAC Board of Education, Chesterfield Ave., Centreville. Sponsored by the Kent and Queen Anne's County Leagues of Women Voters.

Wednesday, June 4 at 7 p.m. - Meet and Greet candidates for Sheriff, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Judge of the Orphans Court, Register of Wills, Board of Education, Republican and Democratic Central Committees. Church Hill Elementary School, Church Hill. Sponsored by the Chester Harbor Property Owner's Association.

Thursday, June 5 at 7 p.m. - Queen Anne's County Commissioners Candidate Forum on the Environment. Christ Church, Route 8, Stevensville. Sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

DISTRICT 1, CONTINUED



Comp Plan. During your term in office as a Commissioner, would you either seek

GENE LEGG (R), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

to change the 2010 Comprehensive Plan or support development inconsistent with it?

I feel it is important to follow the Comprehensive Plan.

APFO. Would you seek to change the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which can delay new development projects if they add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion?

I would agree to follow the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance.

Four Seasons. Do you believe the Maryland Board of Public Works should grant a wetlands license enabling the

Four Seasons development, as presently configured, to proceed?

This is currently in the States hands, the county will have to make a decision once the wetlands license is decided and the plans are submitted.

SKI Sewer. What is your take on the balance of benefits and costs of the current proposal to extend sewer service to 1500 existing homes and 650 vacant (consolidated) lots on southern Kent Island?

My take on SKI sewer is that State funding is required to proceed and then to make a decision on the vacant lots,

figure out the total costs of project, and further more decide on whether to install sewer lines. The only way the County will get the required State funding is if the State admits there is a problem.

Budget Surpluses. What is your position on the County's budget surpluses for the past three years and how do you think they should be used?

We need to look at the most pressing needs of the County. The surplus should only be used for the needs not the wants. If possible, some form of tax cut for the citizens or pay down the debt.



Comp Plan. During your term in office as a Commissioner, would you either seek to change the 2010 Comprehensive Plan or support development inconsistent with it?

As a District 1 citizen, I don't feel that the comprehensive plan brings

JACK WILSON (R), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

much to the table for our district in terms of growth. I'll rely on those I represent to guide the ship for future changes in the plan.

APFO. Would you seek to change the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which can delay new development projects if they add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion?

I am a firm believer in building communities the way you build a house. This starts with a strong foundation including infrastructure, jobs and amenities. This strong footer will lead to well established and functional communities for all citizens.

Four Seasons. Do you believe the Maryland Board of Public Works should

grant a wetlands license enabling the Four Seasons development, as presently configured, to proceed?

Again as a representative of District 1, the Four Seasons community affects citizens in a different District. I would not try to institute my thoughts and opinions on something that doesn't directly affect the people I represent.

SKI Sewer. What is your take on the balance of benefits and costs of the current proposal to extend sewer service to 1500 existing homes and 650 vacant (consolidated) lots on southern Kent Island?

This is a District 4 issue, not that the monetary side does not affect the whole county, specifically that tax dollars from the remaining districts NOT affected by

this issue will be used to resolve it, but as far as the logistics, interruptions and inconveniences caused by the extension, it will fall directly on the District 4 Citizens in the affected area to decide.

Budget Surpluses. What is your position on the County's budget surpluses for the past three years and how do you think they should be used?

Budget surplus should be divided among the districts to take care of the pressing issues within each district. Since the districts vary in population, diversity and size, each one has its own particular needs that surplus could certainly help. For instance, District 1 could use some TLC on some of our older roads and utilities.

COACH BILLICK AND WIFE KIM LEAD 3RD ANNUAL TWO RIVERS BIKE RIDE

After two years as 100-mile riders in the Two Rivers Bike Ride, former Ravens Head Coach Brian Billick and his wife Kim have stepped up to leadership roles as the honorary co-chairs for the third annual Ride. The Ride, set for June 28, 2014, raises money in support of the Wye River Upper School (WRUS) and the Corsica River Conservancy (CRC).

Says Coach Billlick: "We've enjoyed participating in this event and believe in the good work of Wye River Upper School. We can't think of a better way to support our community, while having fun and encouraging others to maintain healthy life-styles."

The Billicks have strong company on the Ride's leadership team. It includes Larry Blount, cycling enthusiast and CRC member; avid cyclist Myron Richardson, WRUS Treasurer and CRC co-founder; and WRUS sophomores Meredith Dean and Kasey Lipsey.

The Ride has 15-, 45-, 65- and 100- mile routes, with rest stops and safety/support vehicles along the way. Last year's Ride attracted 300 riders to the start line in Centreville from all over Maryland as well as from DC, Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey. The riders travel scenic routes along wide-shouldered QAC back roads, with views of the Corsica and Chester Rivers.

WRUS, a college preparatory school for students with learning differences, will open this fall in its new home in the Centreville Armory. CRC is working to re-store the Corsica to the point where it can be removed from the Clean Water Act list of impaired rivers and streams.

To register for the Ride, visit www.tworiversbikeride.org or call 410-827-5822.



From left - Larry Blount, Kasey Lipsey, Brian Billick, Meredith Dean, Kim Billick, Myron Richardson

DISTRICT 2



FRED McNEIL (D), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

“consistent with and not contradictory to” the local county Comprehensive Plan. The citizens of this community have spoken on this issue and I support the Comprehensive Plan.

APFO. *Would you seek to change the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which can delay new development projects if they add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion?*

The citizens of Queen Anne's County have clearly stated that in supporting the current APFO that any new development projects that add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion should be delayed and reevaluated. I agree with this 100%.

Four Seasons. *Do you believe the*

Maryland Board of Public Works should grant a wetlands license enabling the Four Seasons development, as presently configured, to proceed?

The Four Seasons project is a PR and environmental disaster. The project should be scaled down, built in stages (150 homes per stage) and evaluated at the end of each stage for environmental, infrastructure and community impact.

SKI Sewer. *What is your take on the balance of benefits and costs of the current proposal to extend sewer service to 1500 existing homes and 650 vacant (consolidated) lots on southern Kent Island?*

Issue #1 is the health and safety of citizens who now own existing homes

and face a public health crisis. The Federal, State and “Local” government must address this problem NOW! Issue #2 is the protection of the Chesapeake Bay and how this issue is effecting our treasured Chesapeake Bay and surrounding environment.

Budget Surpluses. *What is your position on the County's budget surpluses for the past three years and how do you think they should be used?*

Our budget surpluses need to be used to address 1) under funded BOE budget, 2) under funded Public Safety Services, 3) under funded services for senior citizens, 4) under funded Economic Development efforts.....

Comp Plan. *During your term in office as a Commissioner, would you either seek to change the 2010 Comprehensive Plan or support development inconsistent with it?*

The State of Maryland is very clear that any new development must be



TIM McCLUSKEY (R), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

decisions consistent with Centreville's award-winning plan, and know the benefits of following its thoughtfully-developed guidance.

APFO. *Would you seek to change the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which can delay new development projects if they add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion?*

I would not seek to change the County's APFO ordinance. I want to serve as County Commissioner to help Queen Anne's County avoid school over-crowding and traffic congestion.

Four Seasons. *Do you believe the Maryland Board of Public Works should grant a wetlands license enabling the Four Seasons development, as presently configured, to proceed?*

If the Board determines that the

license application complies with current requirements, then yes. Although I personally disagree with the intensity of the development, the County signed a binding contract 12 years ago, which has been upheld by the courts.

SKI Sewer. *What is your take on the balance of benefits and costs of the current proposal to extend sewer service to 1500 existing homes and 650 vacant (consolidated) lots on southern Kent Island?*

The public health benefits outweigh the costs if the project is well managed, which I will certainly ensure. Since the 1970s, the Health Department has identified the risks of these failing septic systems. In 2010, MDE found that this “is a current existing issue that cannot be ignored by the public health and environment agencies.” If

the county and state keep the cost below \$100/month, the costs will be worth resolving this important health issue.

Budget Surpluses. *What is your position on the County's budget surpluses for the past three years and how do you think they should be used?*

The surplus should be kept as reserves with a portion available for key infrastructure investments. In Centreville, thanks to our fiscal prudence in retaining solid reserves, we have been able to lower taxes and maintain a strong financial position. I hope to do the same in the County. If budget surpluses are carefully saved or invested, waste trimmed from budgets, and infrastructure maintained, the county will continue to prosper in the long term.

Comp Plan. *During your term in office as a Commissioner, would you either seek to change the 2010 Comprehensive Plan or support development inconsistent with it?*

I would not seek to change nor support development inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan. For 7 years I have helped make policy and land-use

PLANNING COMMISSION

• March Meeting

The Commission gave concept plan approval to the conversion of a commercial building, on a two-acre parcel at Shamrock Road and Route 18 in the Chester Village Center, into a 43-unit “workforce” apartment building. Planning Commissioner Reiss expressed concern over displacement of the commercial tenants in the building and the “eyesore” that the proposed facade would present to Main Street.

On the first point, the developer testified that commercial development was at a “saturation point” on Kent Island and that there were “plenty of vacancies” available for the commercial tenants to relocate to. In response to Commissioner's Reiss's second point concerning the ugly appearance of the building, the Commission limited its approval of the architectural design to a finding that the proposed

design constituted no more than “preliminary conceptual compliance” with the zoning standards.

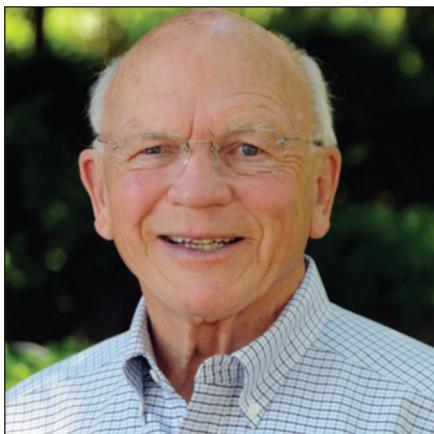
• April Meeting

The Commissioners addressed the problem of political signs being unlawfully posted on public property and rights of way, sometimes with the result that safety issues result from obstruction of sight lines at intersections.

Most of the meeting was devoted to an education session led by Principal Planner Spinelli on the subject of text and map amendments to the zoning code, followed by a history of comprehensive planning that included extensive interventions by Counsel Drummond critical of policies and actions of State “central planners”.

Toward the close of the session (QACTV 152:46), the Commissioners opened the subject of amending the 2010 Comprehensive Plan before its required updating in 2020.

DISTRICT 2, CONTINUED



BOB SIMMONS (R), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

from 5 to 7 which unfortunately added an additional 1,266 lots in our AG & Country Side.

APFO. *Would you seek to change the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which can delay new development projects if they add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion?*

I voted against changes which would have weakened the APFO during my term and will continue to do so. An example was the attempt to change the definition of an overcrowded school from 100% capacity to 130%.

Four Seasons. *Do you believe the Maryland Board of Public Works should grant a wetlands license enabling the Four Seasons development, as presently configured, to proceed?*

I don't believe that Four Seasons

is the best use of this property. I voted against the agreement that would have cost the County \$2.1 million for an Ecopark and relieve the developer of several obligations in the original DRRA.

SKI Sewer. *What is your take on the balance of benefits and costs of the current proposal to extend sewer service to 1500 existing homes and 650 vacant (consolidated) lots on southern Kent Island?*

Rather than waiting for a court to order the County to run sewer to the failing septic systems on southern Kent Island, I instead saw the wisdom in supporting the S.T.E.P. system also known as option "F". This option provides an affordable way to transport waste water from existing septic systems to a central processing plant instead of polluting the groundwater.

The majority of the costs would be borne by developers, speculators and grants.

Budget Surpluses. *What is your position on the County's budget surpluses for the past three years and how do you think they should be used?*

I am proud of efforts made by County staff and the suggestions of citizens which made the surpluses possible. We were fortunate that the decline in reassessments and the economic conditions during that period were not as bad as predicted. Services were mostly restored and surpluses were used to reduce borrowing for capital expenditures. If the economy and housing prices have stabilized, it may be time to consider a reduction in the property tax rate.

Comp Plan. *During your term in office as a Commissioner, would you either seek to change the 2010 Comprehensive Plan or support development inconsistent with it?*

I will continue to protect agriculture and prevent sprawl. I voted against legislation to increase the number of lots in a minor subdivision



STEVE WILSON (R), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

modification was good government. But generically, no. (Repeat "no" to word number limit.)

APFO. *Would you seek to change the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which can delay new development projects if they add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion?*

No development requiring catch-up with infrastructure. This results in higher taxes and service inefficiencies. Current APFO doesn't cover the actual cost of much development. This leads to mathematical certainty of higher taxes, with more traffic and impairment of public well-being.

Four Seasons. *Do you believe the Maryland Board of Public Works should grant a wetlands license enabling the Four Seasons development, as presently*

configured, to proceed?

I cannot answer what BPW should do, only what I would do. Keep agreements. This wasn't a good one. I would not make it now, and don't think it's advantageous to the County, though it's unwholesome to break agreements.

SKI Sewer. *What is your take on the balance of benefits and costs of the current proposal to extend sewer service to 1500 existing homes and 650 vacant (consolidated) lots on southern Kent Island?*

Whatever the benefits, they are overcome by the cost and inefficiency of the current Simmons Plan. It should not be built now. The health issues lack urgency. The environmental benefits are swamped by impact of hundreds of new development houses. With this, more than 3000 houses are scheduled

for Kent island. I discourage this unwise plan to raise taxes and debt.

Budget Surpluses. *What is your position on the County's budget surpluses for the past three years and how do you think they should be used?*

The budget surplus is an accounting chimera. There is probably no surplus, but misallocation of capital. The roads are not paved; also, unfathomable salary, unaccounted sewer plant expense, and other deficit issues need to be acknowledged. The "surplus" arises from financial ineptitude. Only accounting accuracy and good management can reveal where we stand. After determining municipal necessities, excess should be returned to public.

Comp Plan. *During your term in office as a Commissioner, would you either seek to change the 2010 Comprehensive Plan or support development inconsistent with it?*

Fundamentally, No. But since I am unaware of all its labyrinthine twists and turns, or their application in real time, the hour might come when

MAY: GLORY

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. . .
And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs. . .

— G. M. Hopkins

JUNE: FAITH

If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain;
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.

— Emily Dickinson

*A Calendar
Of Verses*

DISTRICT 3



ROBERT BUCKEY (R), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

without substantial input from our residents and my strict undivided attention.

APFO. *Would you seek to change the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which can delay new development projects if they add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion?*

This was created to prevent development that exceeds the facilities and infrastructure capacities. In order to be successful, there must be adequate facilities to support balanced growth so QAC can thrive. There is no reason why this cannot be accomplished.

Four Seasons. *Do you believe the Maryland Board of Public Works should grant a wetlands license enabling the Four Seasons development, as presently*

configured, to proceed?

The decision to build the Four Seasons development has already been made. Although, I do feel the Four Seasons project could deliver a large tax base with minimal impact on our school system. But I'll listen to all sides.

SKI Sewer. *What is your take on the balance of benefits and costs of the current proposal to extend sewer service to 1500 existing homes and 650 vacant (consolidated) lots on southern Kent Island?*

I believe we need to carefully review these plans. I am not certain that a big spending solution is the answer to this problem. There are clearly some failing septic systems and we should look at how we address those failing systems. Finally, I believe a project of this magnitude must be

thoroughly vetted with proper input from taxpayers and the people who are going to be impacted by this decision.

Budget Surpluses. *What is your position on the County's budget surpluses for the past three years and how do you think they should be used?*

The County budget should be divided between capital and consumption accounts like successful businesses do. If we used this approach we would have shown an ongoing surplus in our county budget.

Nevertheless, whether to spend it or give it back to individuals in the form of tax reductions is a real issue. It managed correctly the budget surplus can open the door for both lower taxes and county services.

Comp Plan. *During your term in office as a Commissioner, would you either seek to change the 2010 Comprehensive Plan or support development inconsistent with it?*

I am committed to the Comp Plan and the way it was developed, by the citizens of Queen Anne's County. I would be opposed to changing it



PHIL DUMENIL (R), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

last couple years that trumps our Comp Plan, I believe we need to revisit it.

APFO. *Would you seek to change the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which can delay new development projects if they add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion?*

I would not change the APFO as it is right now. I believe the levels of service work. Since the inception of APFO in Queen Anne's in 2001 the BOE has maintained class room sizes at an average of 22.

Four Seasons. *Do you believe the Maryland Board of Public Works should grant a wetlands license enabling the Four Seasons development, as presently*

I believe in the current scope of the project, it is more than manageable. I believe the DRRA is fair and has minimized the project size, and given the county some nice perks.

SKI Sewer. *What is your take on the balance of benefits and costs of the current proposal to extend sewer service to 1500 existing homes and 650 vacant (consolidated) lots on southern Kent Island?*

Despite what some folks that live down Rt 8 think, we do have a large problem down there with high water tables, which are causing septic systems to fail, leaving us with raw sewage seeping into our ground water, and then into our Bay. with the installation

of the Step system we can hit 40% of our Nitrogen reduction for our WIP goals.

Budget Surpluses. *What is your position on the County's budget surpluses for the past three years and how do you think they should be used?*

I believe we should protect our coffers, what monies we have that can be spent we should look at Capital Improvements. One I believe we need more of are ball fields for our children to play on for all recreation activities they are already over crowded with more teams going year round. There are large amounts of revenue that can be brought in with sports tournaments being held here in Queen Anne's county.

Comp Plan. *During your term in office as a Commissioner, would you either seek to change the 2010 Comprehensive Plan or support development inconsistent with it?*

There has been some legislation that has come our of Annapolis over the

LARRY LAUTERBACH (R), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 *No answers submitted.*

COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

Here are selected items summarized from approved minutes and QACTV coverage of the County Commissioners' meetings.

February 25, 2014. The Commissioners:
• Held for further review, Commissioner Olds opposed, a resolution introduced by him on

request to raise the salary of Orphans' Court judges from \$6,150 to \$10,000 annually.

• Approved emergency repairs to the Old Sudlersville Middle School Building in the amount of \$52,290.

• Appointed, in the absence of any applicants to fill a vacancy created by resignation, alternate

member Mary Roby to serve as a full member of the Ethics Commission.

• Received the Homeowner Survey - Final Report (now posted on the County website) on extending public sewer to residences and lots in SKI.

March 11, 2014. The Commissioners:

• Received, and held pending further information, a report on preliminary engineering for the SKI Sewer Project.

• Approved a \$148K contract with the County's "dedicated in-house transportation consultant for over 10-years" to produce a Kent Island Transportation Plan evaluating transportation needs and improvements from the Bay Bridge through Kent Narrows.

• Received from Warden Cooke an update on the Detention Center, including factors resulting in recidivism rates of 50-70% and rising costs

continued on Page 7

DISTRICT 4

MARK ANDERSON (R), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4



Comp Plan. *During your term in office as a Commissioner, would you either seek to change the 2010 Comprehensive Plan or*

support development inconsistent with it?

The Comp Plan is a citizen developed road map for future development and green space. There would have to be a very good reason to alter it, and then only after extensive public input.

APFO. *Would you seek to change the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which can delay new development projects if they add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion?*

The APFO needs to include condos and apartments as well as commercial activity.

Four Seasons. *Do you believe the Maryland Board of Public Works should*

grant a wetlands license enabling the Four Seasons development, as presently configured, to proceed?

There are additional phases to this project; the developer will find me actively reflecting the citizens' opinion on how this development shall proceed.

SKI Sewer. *What is your take on the balance of benefits and costs of the current proposal to extend sewer service to 1500 existing homes and 650 vacant (consolidated) lots on southern Kent Island?*

I do not think there is any need to rush this new system into being. Not a single case of disease nor any shell

fish bans have been sourced to alleged failing systems. The debt added to other projects is very troubling and the cost will force fixed income citizens to sell out.

Budget Surpluses. *What is your position on the County's budget surpluses for the past three years and how do you think they should be used?*

First the citizens ought to have a say in the excess taxes they are being charged on where it should be used, or returned. Slicking this windfall through without public comment or even discussion is not only just wrong, but contrary to how local government should operate.

JOANN WILKERSON (R), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4



Comp Plan. *During your term in office as a Commissioner, would you either seek to change the 2010 Comprehensive Plan or support development inconsistent with it?*

I will promote good growth in the allocated areas that allow for it and adhere to the Comprehensive Plan

by using sound planning and impact fees that are within the guidelines and zoning.

APFO. *Would you seek to change the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, which can delay new development projects if they add to school over-crowding or traffic congestion?*

The county voted on this through a referendum process and as a commissioner I will stand by the current APFO. If an opportunity should arise to for change, I would seek council with the county to perhaps revisit it.

Four Seasons. *Do you believe the Maryland Board of Public Works should grant a wetlands license enabling the Four Seasons development, as presently configured, to proceed?*

I am in favor for housing for our seniors but would like to see the size scaled down. The newly revised plan is to have no impact to wetlands. Overall it will provide needed revenue for schools and public safety.

SKI Sewer. *What is your take on the balance of benefits and costs of the current proposal to extend sewer service to 1500 existing homes and 650 vacant (consolidated) lots on southern Kent Island?*

My concern is the citizens costs and overdevelopment. I understand the state has responded to funding it through the Bay Restoration Fund. This will take it off the county's potential budget. If they do not fund it, I would not support burdening the taxpayers with the costs and would seek other options.

Lot consolidation and managing the amount of homes is extremely important we do not want to open the floodgates to overdevelopment.

Budget Surpluses. *What is your position on the County's budget surpluses for the past three years and how do you think they should be used?*

Having a surplus and healthy reserves (rainy day fund) is a good thing and important for lean times and emergencies. I believe large surpluses can be used for paying down debt and any projects we have on the books. Ultimately commissioners are the keeper of the "people's money" and with strong fiscal budgeting and controlled spending we can allow for healthy surpluses and can keep are taxes lower.

DAVE OLDS (R), CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 *No response.*

Commissioners' Meetings, *continued from Page 6*

associated with an increased inmate population in an aging facility.

- Received from Director Cohoon an update on the Planning and Zoning Department, including reports that:

- there was a 20% increase in development review applications in 2013 over 2012, with the upswing continuing into 2014;

- the State Septics Bill has barred major residential development from the 94% of the County that is agricultural; and

- 60-70% of the proposed ordinances

coming before the County Commissioners relate to Planning and Zoning.

March 25, 2014. The Commissioners:

- Agreed, Commissioner Olds opposed, to establish a Special Fund of up to \$4 million, created out of annual budget surpluses, for certain unanticipated projects, initiatives and other one-time expenses.

- Rezoned, Commissioner Dunmyer abstaining, two portions of the Ellendale development close to the Bay Bridge Airport to allow more options for commercial development.

- Reviewed, upon presentation by Finance

Director Seeman, the County Administrator's proposed Budget for Fiscal 2015, projecting revenues of \$118.9 million and leaving the property tax rate at the current level of \$0.8471 per \$100 of assessed value.

April 8, 2014. The Commissioners:

- Reaffirmed policy requiring private roads to be converted to public roads for the county to upgrade/repair them.

- Endorsed application for grant from State to extend Cross Island Connector trail from Kent Narrows to Long Point Park near Holly's.

- Received, and authorized for posting on the County website, Resolution 14-07 and related

documents establishing a methodology for assessing the Economic Benefit Premium on SKI vacant lots that will become buildable with the proposed sewer line.

April 22, 2014. The Commissioners:

- Approved, Commissioner Olds opposed, a motion by Commissioner Simmons to ensure that when the SKI sewer project is voted on by the Commissioners, the three items that are the subject of the May 1 hearing (namely, the project itself, the lot consolidation, and the Economic Benefit Premium) will be voted on as a package, so that either all are passed or all are rejected.

SPRINGTIME ARRIVALS



Common Yellowthroat

Credit – US Fish & Wildlife

BY JANE SCOTT

No creature celebrates spring like a bird. Every morning, we are awakened by a dawn chorus of male birds loudly defending their nesting territories. Week by week the music swells, as our resident robins, cardinals and mockingbirds are joined by caroling thrushes, orioles and tanagers, many of whom have flown northward for thousands of miles under cover of darkness.

By mid-April the first returning warblers are joining their voices to the predawn choir. The arrival of the spring warblers is a major event in the lives of birders, who rise well before the sun to celebrate their passage.

Warblers

Warblers have been called the butterflies of the bird world. They are quick nervous little birds, many of which feed near the tops of trees, a habit that I, for one, find extremely frustrating. Nor do most of them warble, but utter high buzzy trills that take a practiced ear to differentiate. Some also have more than one song, further complicating the issue.

Many of these colorful little birds will be here but a week or so before moving on to more northern nesting grounds. At least one, however, may have spent the winter. The yellow-rumped (I still call it the myrtle warbler) is the only warbler able to digest the waxy coating on the berries of bayberry and wax myrtle, a talent that allows it to winter far to the north of most of its fellows. This year, two of my friends reported seeing a myrtle warbler at their suet in March; an unusual event to say the least.

Myrtle warblers do not nest in Queen Anne's county; they will soon be moving on to northern New England and Canada. However, some migrant warblers do spend the summer here, including the common yellowthroat, that perky little yellow bird with the conspicuous black mask. It flies in from points south to build a low nest of coarse grasses. The canary-like yellow warbler will also stay, choosing a dense hedgerow or thicket to build its soft nest of grasses and milkweed floss. Both of these birds particularly like our wet meadows and marshes.

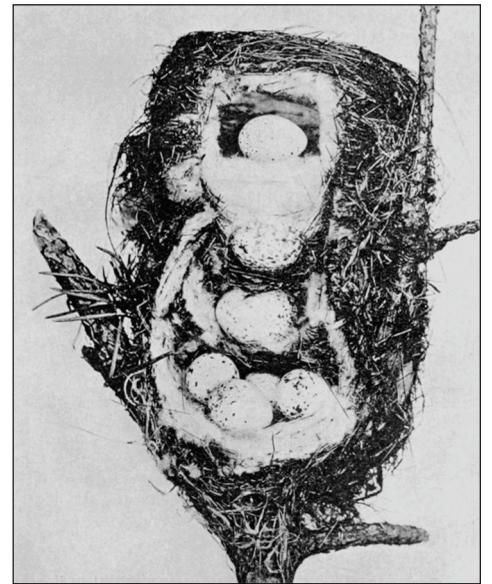
Yellow warblers are a frequent target of the parasitic cowbird, but they have developed an interesting coping strategy. If one finds a cowbird egg in its nest, it will simply bury it under a new layer of material, and lay another clutch on top. Sometimes this results in a nest several stories high!

That “golden bird of wooded swamps”, the brilliant yellow Prothonotary warbler, is another summer resident. I will always remember coming upon one while canoeing on the upper Nanticoke some years ago. It was like a drop of bright sunlight in the forest gloom. Prothonotary warblers are one of the few warblers that nest in tree holes.

Two that will stay to nest in the deep woods are the black and white warbler and the ovenbird. The black and white warbler is known for its habit of creeping up and down tree trunks and along branches, looking for insects under the bark.

Ovenbirds

The ovenbird is a shy brown bird, with an orange crown and pink legs, that builds a domelike nest of leaves on the woods floor, so cleverly concealed that it is virtually invisible from above. Few people ever actually see an ovenbird, but its loud call of “Teacher, teacher, teacher!” is a familiar sound in Queen Anne's woods. (Actually, I have been hearing ovenbirds for years, but never realized they were warblers!)



Yellow warbler four-story nest (1910)



Ovenbird

Photo credit – Dick Daniels

The Queen Anne's Chronicle

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Queen Anne's Conservation Association

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Unfortunately, ovenbirds are also a frequent prey of cowbirds, but without the yellow warbler's clever coping strategy. Traditionally, such woodland birds were rarely preyed upon; cowbirds are a species of open fields and thickets that seldom penetrated the deep woods. Yet our tendency to spare only islands of trees surrounded by farm fields has now made it easier for cowbirds to find forest birds, like the ovenbird, that have no evolutionary defenses. Unfortunately, many will try to raise the intruder to the detriment of their own nestlings.

May is arguably the very best month in the year for birding, and this year, despite our cold, fickle spring, the warblers seem to be arriving pretty much on schedule.

It's time to get outside and look for them!

Jane Scott, a writer and illustrator, is the author of Between Ocean and Bay: A Natural History of Delmarva (Centreville, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1991), and Field and Forest, A Guide to Native Landscapes for Gardeners and Naturalist (Blackburn Press, 2002), as well as other works. She traces her roots in Delaware back to the 1730's and now lives on the Eastern Shore.

