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Public partners produce planning partnership

By RAY BETZNER
Staff Writer

WILLIAMSBURG — The Williamsburg Community Planning Partnership has not started its public forums yet, but it has already produced one benefit — the area's most influential leaders are talking to each other.

Electoral officials from Williamsburg, James City County and York County, along with the leaders of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, College of William and Mary, and Ashmun-

Bouch Inc., worked together in coming up with the partnership.

Philip B. Herr, whose Boston consulting firm helped shape the partnership's plans, said he noticed something unusual going on when the different groups got together for lunch this week.

"I was struck by how easily those people worked with one another. Given the different kinds of places they represent, it was unusual," Herr said. "I'm told that wasn't the case in the beginning."

In a sense, the partnership has already produced a product," he said. The partnership plans to meet with residents of the Williamsburg area starting in September and set their opinions on issues such as growth, traffic, improving the appearance of commercial developments, protecting the local tax base and encouraging more low- and middle-income housing.

In January, the partnership will sponsor a two-day conference on growth issues. The comments from the meetings and conference will go to a 21-member Commission on Growth. The commission will then complete the circle, making recommendations to elected officials and local leaders on what should be done to accomplish the public's desires.

Herr said individual elements of the plan have been done successfully in many other communities, but he believes the Williamsburg plan is unique. "I don't know of anyplace else where

they've done the same thing that will be done in Williamsburg," he said. The partnership, in its first public statement Wednesday, said it has discussed during the Institute for Environmental Negotiation in Charlottesville to oversee the public forums and conference. The institute is a branch of the University of Virginia's School of Architecture.

The institute often acts as a neutral third party in resolving planning disputes, said a senior associate.

York River crossing, 'Suicide Strip' get funds

RICHMOND — The state Highway and Transportation Board approved a new six-year transportation plan Thursday, along with \$343.4 million in road construction funds.

The money is for work on Virginia's interstate, primary and urban roads during the 1986-92 fiscal year. The board allocated an additional \$5.3 million for public transportation systems.

Major local projects that will be funded for the first time in 1986-92 are a new York River crossing and the widening of 20 miles of local roads on "Suicide Strip." In both cases, the money is only for preliminary engineering work.

The highway allocations were based on highway department staff recommendations made after nine hearings throughout the state to discuss projects for the department's six-year highway and transit improvement program.

The program was tentatively approved in May, but additional projects in Virginia Beach and Chesterfield County were added after two more public hearings in June. The six-year plan got final approval Thursday.

This year's highway allocations are \$122.2 million lower than last year's total of \$495.4 million.

The interstate system will receive \$281.1 million this year, down from \$323.5 million in 1985-86. The primary system will get \$21.1 million, down from \$62.2 million, and the urban system will receive \$66.2 million as opposed to \$69.9 million last year.

In the next six years, Virginia expects to spend \$2.2 billion on state and federal funds on highway and bridge construction and reconstruction, \$3.4 billion on maintenance and nearly \$211.3 million in public transit aid.

City checks responses

Continued from Page C1 how those peculiarities match up with Newport News.

Council already has specified that it is looking for someone who knows Virginia's brand of local government, has practical city manager experience with a city of at least 100,000 population, understands the language of economic development and has a good track record with community relations.

"Some clearly are not qualified," Hogg said of the 48 applications received so far. "But we've got good responses."

Most of the applications for the administrative post, many of which were received the past two or three weeks, are responses to ads placed in state

and national municipal publications and the Wall Street Journal. Some of the applications are responses to telephone calls made by some council members.

"There are some very good applicants, I can tell you," he said. "I think there's a person there that will meet our requirements."

Of the applications received so far, Hogg said about three are from women and several from minority candidates. More applications are expected before the end of the month, the deadline set for applying for the post.

Hogg said he expects about 10 candidates to make it through "the first cut."

Lankford mistrial

Continued from Page C1 to have occurred between 7 and 8 p.m.

Janus, in his final argument, described Lankford as "a sad, pathetic man. I did not get to pick Robert Redford as my defendant."

"Because he is sick doesn't mean he committed a crime, that you can use him as a scapegoat — put it on 'G'ary. The Gary Lankford of the world are the scapegoat of society," he said.

Lankford remains in the local jail on unrelated charges in Northumberland County.

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2 hurt in accident

Rescuers carry a victim of a car accident toward a helicopter Friday evening near Commander Shepherd and Magruder boulevards in Hampton.

Two men were injured when their car ran over a guard rail and down an embankment. The men, whose names and conditions were unavailable Friday night, were taken to Norfolk General Hospital. A second car was involved but no one in it was hurt.

See photo by HERB BARBER

Police log

Newport News

• Newport News police charged a 42-year-old southeast community man Wednesday with possession of heroin with intent to distribute it.

Howard Coles of the 1100 block of 16th Street was arrested near 32nd Street and Chestnut Avenue by two narcotics detectives. He allegedly had three \$20 bags of the drug, police said.

• A 25-year-old Newport News man was charged with attacking and maiming a 16-year-old boy with a knife.

Karin Hovischak of the 100 block of Captains Lane is accused of assaulting the victim with the tool July 1 near Cabell and Meade drives, cutting him

Hampton

• Three Hampton men have been charged with the rape and abduction of a 15-year-old girl about midnight Thursday.

Charged are Frederick M. Wells, 18, of the first block of

Curry

Curry took the stand to say he built all the cabinets he had contracted for and left them in the shop. The only item not completed and in storage was a unit for the Foster home, being prepared by a subcontractor.

He said he was arrested after arriving in Texas on the fraud charges from Virginia. He said he sent instructions to Burroughs afterward.

He said when he left he took a cashier's check for \$10,000 from Chesapeake National Bank to pay Yukon Lumber for the flooring. He said he didn't pay it before he went to Texas because he never received a bill.

Holliday said he found it "absolutely incredible" that Curry left without arranging for work on contracts to be completed.

Curry is in Gloucester County Jail pending sentencing in Gloucester Circuit Court on Sept. 2 and in York on Sept. 16.

Store owners cry foul in fuel trade

NEWPORT NEWS — The owners of a Lightfoot convenience store have filed suit against Exxon Corp. for allegedly selling gasoline at a retail outlet.

Exxon also claims that the law does not apply when the gasoline producers have already begun selling gasoline at a retail outlet.

Board will not meet

JAMES CITY — There will not be a joint meeting Monday of the Williamsburg-James City County School Board, the county Board of Supervisors and Williamsburg City Council to discuss a new elementary school site.

On Tuesday, the School Board members said they wanted to talk to the other two boards about potential sites for a new elementary school. The county and city will finance the school's construction and supervisors and council need to approve the project.

At the time, School Board Chairman Kenneth Smith said the joint meeting would be the fastest way to select a school site.

County Supervisors Chairman William F. Brown said that instead of the joint meeting, supervisors believe "it would be better to leave it up to the subcommittee." The subcommittee was created by the supervisors in June and is made up of two representatives each from the three boards.

"It would be a more expeditious route to resolve the problem and a better use of everyone's time," Brown said.

Supervisors will get a progress report at their regular board meeting Monday afternoon.

Sunken boat not found

Coast Guard rescue vessels searched the York River for about three hours again Friday in response to a citizens band radio report late Thursday that a man jumped out of a sinking boat near Coleman Bridge.

No evidence of a sunken vessel, debris or oil slick was found, and the search was called off about 9 a.m., said Petty Officer Rick Barrett of the Coast Guard rescue center in Portsmouth. He said the Coast Guard cannot consider the call a hoax, however, unless it is proven.

Barrett said the search, which went from 11:17 p.m. Thursday to about 3 a.m. Friday and resumed at dawn, would not be resumed unless additional information is received.

He said anyone who monitored the radio reports, or who might have seen the sinking boat Thursday night, should call 988-2501.

There have been no reports of missing boaters in the area, he said Friday.

Stray dog sought

NEWPORT NEWS — The Health Department is searching for a medium-sized, brown and tan dog that bit a woman near the Adult Book Store on Warwick Boulevard on July 11.

If the dog is not located, the woman may have to receive antitoxin shots. Anyone with knowledge of the animal should call 368-7340 or 365-1399.

Crime Line

York Crime Line is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to arrest or indictment in connection with burglaries and thefts at Four's Store on Buchanan Drive and Oak Tree Road.

In the most recent crime there, three young men were seen running from the store about 3 a.m. July 9.

The back door of the store had been pried open. The other two burglaries and thefts at the store occurred at night in June.

In each case, small amounts of cash, food and cigarettes were taken.

Anyone with information on these crimes, or the three young men seen running from the store early July 9, is asked to call the county Sheriff's Department at 808-7264.

Callers never have to give their names, or testify in court, to receive a Crime Line reward.

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