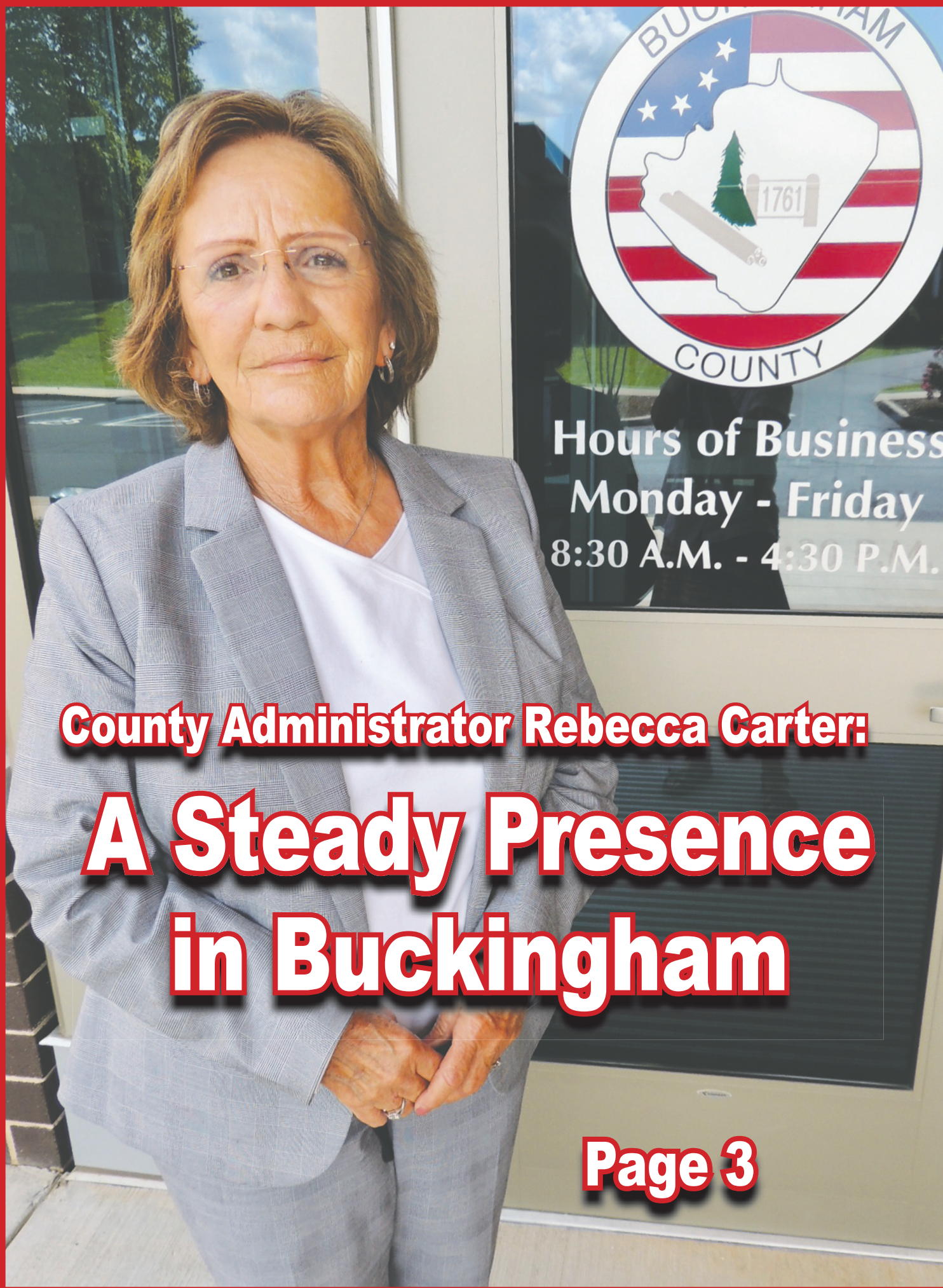


Buckingham

Beacon

October 9–November 5, 2020

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County Administrator Rebecca Carter:

A Steady Presence in Buckingham

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Rebecca Carter has been county administrator since 1995 and worked for various Buckingham County administrators before that. She has seen many changes take place and works diligently to make sure that her office and staff work cooperatively with the Board to do the best for the citizens of the county. Photo by Sue Miles

Cover designed by Marilyn Ellinger

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Publisher
C.M. Santos
valleyeditor1@gmail.com

Office Manager
Edee Povol
edee@fluvannareview.com
Classified Line Advertising
(434) 207-0221

Advertising Director
Judi Price
judi.valleypublishing@gmail.com

Graphic Designer
Marilyn Ellinger

Writers
Martha Louis
Sue Miles

Joanne Yeck
Contributors
Town of Dillwyn

E-mail:
valleyeditor1@gmail.com

Mailing address: P.O. Box 59,
Palmyra, VA 22963
Office location: 106 Crofton
Plaza, Suite 1, Palmyra VA 22963.
Phone: (434) 591-1000
Fax: (434) 589-1704

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returned. Please keep Calendar submissions to fifty words or less, Letters to the Editor to 300 words or less and feature stories to 500 words or less. Mail submissions to: *The Buckingham Beacon*, P.O. Box 59, Palmyra, VA 22963 to the attention of applicable section, (Letters to the Editor, Community Calendar, etc.), or Email valleyeditor1@gmail.com

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New Library to Open Monday October 19th

Exciting News! The new library will be open to the public Monday, Oct. 19! The book drop will remain open to the public at the old library until the new library opens. If you check out items, you can keep them until the new library opens. From Oct. 1st until we re-open, we will not be checking out books in Buckingham.

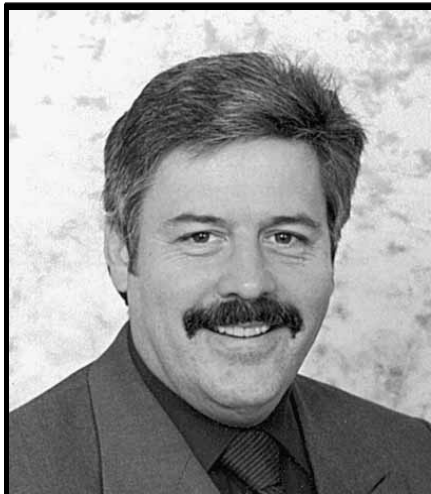
But if you are in the Farmville area, you can utilize the library services there. We are excited to share your new space and offerings with you at 16266 North James Madison Hwy, Dillwyn. Our new location is near the intersection on Routes 15 and 20 across from FasMart.

www.cvrl.net

Facebook: @centralvirginiaregionallibrary

Farmville Library - 1303 W. 3rd St., Farmville • 434-392-3924

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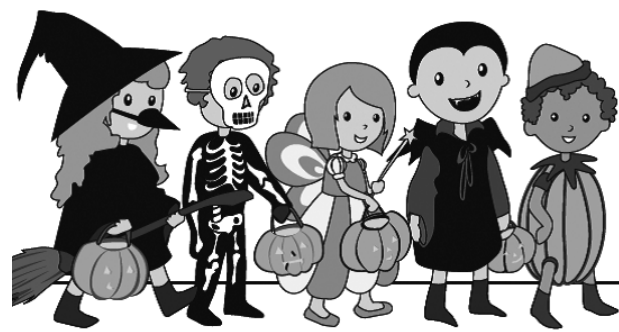


Sallie A. Mowbray Memorial Unveiled

Contributed by Martha Louis

The Sallie A Mowbray memorial was unveiled Sept. 23 at the annual Historic Buckingham meeting at The Historic Village. Larry Davis, HBI Board member, read the dedication. Sallie Mowbray gave of her time and efforts so freely to not only HBI, but to everything else "Buckingham." She was a one of a kind. Sallie, who died in February, served as HBI treasurer and vice president. The slate and the brick work were both donated with love by Hunts Creek Slate and by Larry Haskins, brick mason. The Historic Village is open Saturday and Sunday from 1:00-4:00pm. (Left to right: Alan Atkinson, Elliott Atkinson and HBI Board member Larry Davis. Seated: Nora Atkinson.)

Town of Dillwyn Halloween Trick or Treat Cancelled



In keeping with the CDC's recommendations, please note that the Town of Dillwyn and the Buckingham Chamber of Commerce are canceling the Annual Trick or Treat Activity held on Main Street.

Rebecca Carter – A Steady Presence in Buckingham

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

Most working people get up every morning with an anticipated list of tasks to accomplish. It's basically what life's all about in a working day. But, consider this list of issues to address; zoning regulations, solid waste, water supply systems, road repair, building projects, noise ordinances, public utilities, finance and budgets, economic development, emergency services, constant calls from the public with various questions and inquiries, and last but not least, COVID-19 and a pandemic. That, along with directing and supervising the day-to-day operations of all county departments and offices, under the governance of the Board of Supervisors. That is basically the typical working day of Buckingham's County Administrator, Rebecca "Becky" Simpson Carter.



Carter began as an Administrative Assistant to Buckingham's County Administrator in 1986. Photo courtesy of Rebecca Carter

When Carter lists off the names of the supervisors she's worked for it will take many readers down memory lane (see list at end of article). And, it basically demonstrates that elected political officials may come and go but a well-respected and efficient administrator can remain for years; in Carter's case, 34 years.

"I started work with the county in September, 1986," said Carter. "I was Administrative Assistant, Assistant County Administrator, interim County Administrator many times and then County Administrator." And based upon the years in service, it would appear that the lady is right where she belongs.

Carter, who is originally from Alleghany County, was one of seven children. "My father was a conductor with the C & O Railroad and my mother was a stay at home mom," said Carter.

Ever industrious, Carter's first job while in high school was at the local Dairy Freeze. "I will never forget when I rushed home to tell mom and dad," she said. "My father got upset. He said that once you start working you will work for the rest of your life. I saw my parents struggle and wanted to help all I could. I am heading toward age 69. Bringing up this memory sure makes me think about that."

Carter arrived in Buckingham County when her husband Wayne, who worked for the CSX Railroad, was transferred to the area in 1986. Hired in September of 1986, Carter worked under Administrators Arthur Lane, Lewis Teeple, David Moorman and Johnny Roak. In 1990, she was promoted to Administrative Assistant and Assistant County Administrator. Over several years, Carter would serve as interim until finally she was promoted to County Administrator in 1995.

As administrator to the various offices that are part of the county services, while also serving the members of the Board of Supervisors, Carter's days are never dull. "A typical day involves a multitude of phone calls, answering questions, meetings and putting out fires. Real work has to be done during the evenings or early mornings as that is when I have time to focus on them," said Carter. Such meetings

See Becky page 4

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Buckingham County

General Election

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

President/Vice President

U.S. Senate

**U.S. House of Representatives, 5th District
Virginia Constitutional Amendments (2)**

AN ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE

**Please verify ID requirements, your voter registration & polling place before Election Day at
www.elections.virginia.gov
POLLS are OPEN 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

Tuesday, October 13, 2020: Last day to register to vote or change your voter registration information for this upcoming election.

In-Person Absentee Voting/Early Voting

September 18- October 31, 2020

**Buckingham County Elections Office- Basement Level
13360 W James Anderson Hwy, Buckingham, VA
23921 (NO EXCUSE REQUIRED)**

Monday- Friday In-Person Voting

8:30am- 4:30pm

Saturday In-Person Voting

October 24, 2020: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

October 31, 2020: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Saturday, October 31, 2020: Last day to vote an in-person absentee ballot at the Buckingham County Elections Office.

If you have requested a ballot by mail and wish to vote in-person instead, please bring your ballot with you

Absentee Voting is Also Available by Mail

Friday, October 23, 2020: Last day to request an absentee ballot to vote by mail. Applications must be received in the Buckingham Elections Office by 5 pm.

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 - Election Day: ALL voted absentee ballots must be returned to the Buckingham Elections Office by 7 pm or postmarked on or before November 3, 2020 and received by noon November 6th to be counted.

For questions contact:

Lindsey G. Taylor, Director of Elections

P.O. Box 222, Buckingham, VA 23921

PHONE: 434-969-4304

FAX: 434-969-2060

Email: Elections@buckinghamcounty.virginia.gov

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Becky from page 3

include regional monthly meetings outside of the county and office committee meetings. "Our office committee meetings include finance, solid waste, public utilities, and personnel, whenever needed. There are also other committees appointed by the board such as rescue squad or noise control. Seems like there's always a committee meeting," said Carter.

Over the past 34 years Carter has taken her job to heart. "I probably take my job too personally, but I just do. So often I feel personally responsible when things do not go as they should, when most times it is beyond my con-

trol." Working for so many different board members over the years, Carter is reflective about the running of the county. "It is also difficult to see board members faced with situations, such as now, in the middle of a pandemic, of having to find money to operate the rescue squad and try to have as little additional financial impact on the taxpayers. Keeping the county financially strong is sometimes difficult."

And, of course, there's been many changes. "The county has grown so much and we have so many more programs and so much progress has been made," said Carter. "We now have regional programs and committees in which we participate. Our total budget

has grown from about \$20 million to about \$56 million. Our real estate rate was 48 cents, now it's 52 cents. Personal property in 1995 was \$3.30; now it's \$4.05."

Carter also noted other changes. "We now have an Emergency Management Department, an Information Technology Department, and last but certainly not least we have the Zoning Department. We have a solid waste department that we did not have when I started. We have a finance department now. Our educational appropriation of local money has gone from about \$2.8 million to \$7.3 million operations and \$2.2 million debt payments. We have had increased reassessment values but we have also had a lot of natural growth, thus increasing our real estate tax base."

The citizens of Buckingham obviously have a say in the running of the county. "We do not get a lot of complaints," said Carter. "Some complain about dogs barking, we get complaints about the roads, and some complain about our website not being user-friendly," she said. "We respond by trying to take care of their complaints and fix the problems, if possible. Some take more time than others but most are taken care of fairly soon. I believe board members get more complaints than our office does."

With all the changes and growth, Carter has always been a steady presence as the county has changed and grown. One of the projects that she is most proud of is being involved in is the updating of public utilities (water and sewer) to the intersection of highways 15 and 20, which has allowed development in that area. "It was a great achievement in that it took coordination between the town of Dillwyn and the county along with working with interested developers," she said. "Once Food Lion got there it brought in many other businesses, including the Dollar General and Family Dollar, McDonalds and the Cameron Station complex."

Carter also said that the hotel project investors are still committed to investing in the county. "It's still coming but there are still some negotiations between the lender and loaner. And, of course, COVID has slowed everything down. I truly enjoy when projects and issues come together for the good of the county, when I can help people."

When Carter is not working, spending time with her family is priority. "I like to sit on my porch and drink coffee and also to spend time with my four grandchildren. I bought a new fishing pole and want to start fishing again. It's my time to reflect and recharge."

Although Carter's children, grandchildren and family give her great happiness there is a special person that is always on her mind; her daughter, Joanna, who died in February 2011. "My job has been a blessing to not only provide income but for also keeping my mind busy. I chose to continue to work

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OCTOBER 18

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Fall Annuals

Perennials

Shrubs & Trees

Arrangements

Pumpkins & Gourds

and stay busy as my way of dealing with grief." Carter also sees her daughter as an inspiration. "Joanna was always so proud of me and my work. When she died, I initially wanted to stay in bed and didn't want to work. I've been thinking more seriously about retirement but certainly don't want to leave in the middle of a pandemic. Work has been a big part of my life."

Carter believes that it's important for Buckingham citizens to know that her office and the Board work hard to do their best for the citizens of the county. "You have to look straight down the middle and respect all people's views," she said. "We cannot always please everyone, that is for sure. But our decisions are not political and are not made based on particular political party views."

Board of Supervisor Chairman and James River District Supervisor, Harry Bryant, spoke highly of Carter's role in the county. "Becky has been an extremely dedicated employee for many years. Becky has an excellent work ethic, we hope she will stay with us for quite some time because anyone coming in after her would have HUGE shoes to fill. We are well satisfied with the wonderful job she does, always grateful." Stale River District Supervisor Joe Chambers also has praise for Carter. "Becky has been doing a great job for

See Becky page 6

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years. I was fortunate to be on the Board when she was hired. Becky is a person of integrity, honesty, and always has the best interest of the citizens at the forefront of all decisions.”

Buckingham has been fortunate to have such a dedicated and experienced administrator serving its citizens for over three decades of growth, change, and progress. As a rule, County

Administrators come and go based upon the whims and desires of the Board of Supervisors. Carter has endured and remains diligent in doing good works for the citizens of Buckingham.

Just for fun we asked Carter to name all of the supervisors she's served. Here's a walk down memory

lane for those who've been around during her tenure.

“It's been a long time so I'm not positive these are in exact order: Tom Hall, Frank Bryant, Edward LeSueur, Bobby Bryan, Blinky Jones, Monroe Snoddy, Roy Loving, Freddie Palmore, Fillmer Hevener Jr., Mary Palmore, Marie Hill, Mike Davis, Robert Samuels, John Kitchen, Jessie Woodson-Johnson, Joe

Scruggs, Joe Chambers, Danny Allen, Bill Talbert, Brian Bates, Danny LeSueur, Donnie Bryan, Cassandra Stish, Harry Bryant, John Staton, Don Matthews, Morgan Dunnavant, Jordan Miles. I am sure these are not in order, but all of these names brought back a lot of years of memories. Hope I have not missed any.

Buckingham County News Briefs



Lelia Steinruck celebrates her 100th birthday

Everyone loves a parade. That being said, there was a very special parade in September to honor Lelia Pauline “Polly” Gough Steinruck, who turned 100 on September 6th. Polly is one of 16 children (11 survived to adulthood) born to Robert “Pop” Gough and Catherine Inez Garrett Gough. Her grandfather, who lived to the age of 92, fought in the Civil War. Married to Earl Steinruck in 1946, Polly had six boys and lived in her home until the age of 97. After attending Longwood College, she taught for seven years. According to her family, Polly loves to read, knows the Bible “inside-out”, taught Sunday School for 40 years and has a church building named after her. She is known by her 14 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren for her scrumptious chocolate pies, savory spoonbread, and delicious cornbread. Polly's drive-by parade saw 25 cars and over 60 family and friends wish her a happy 100th birthday.- Sue Miles

Forward 2020 assists in voting

As the 2020 election rapidly approaches, many groups are working hard to encourage Buckingham and citizens of surrounding counties to vote. Set up in the parking lot of Reid's Grocery, the non-partisan group, Forward 2020, is shown assisting people with voter registration and restoring voting rights. The group also informs potential voters about early in-person voting and the process of Voting-By-Mail/Absentee Voting. Registered voters in Virginia can vote in-person from September 18th to October 31st. Buckingham County residents can vote early at the Registrar's office across from the County Administration Bldg, Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm. The Registrar's office will also be open for early voting on Saturday, October 24th and 31st. For additional information, call the Buckingham County Registrar's office at 434-969-4034. McCarthy Gause (left), Kelly Chambers (middle) and Jessica Handy (right) are shown helping potential voter Clay Bowe. – Sue Miles



Sentara Closing

By Sue A. Miles - photo by S. Miles September 2020

Citizens in Buckingham County were notified in early September that Sentara's Buckingham Family Medicine office in Dillwyn will close. A well-respected medical facility, Buckingham Family Medicine, which originally began by Dr. Irving Epperson as a local health facility, has provided thousands of Buckingham citizens with much needed and convenient health service. Local leaders are working with concerned citizens to try to keep the health facility. Sandra Moss is shown speaking to Elizabeth Holmes of Channel 29 in Charlottesville, while Board of Supervisor member, Jordan Miles waits his turn to encourage Sentara to remain in the county. Along with a petition that has gathered well over a 1,000 signatures, the Chamber hosted a community march in late September to show their support for the facility. Since that announcement, Sentara Martha Jefferson Medical Group announced plans to extend the planned closure of Sentara Buckingham Family Medicine. Sentara Buckingham Family Medicine will now continue operating through December 23, 2020. In the New Year, Dr. Richard Muller, the lead physician at Sentara Buckingham Family Medicine, will continue seeing patients on a part-time basis at Sentara Spring Creek Family Medicine.

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EVENT

HOPE IS EXTENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE: We are all vulnerable to some degree to the COVID-19 virus. Staying safe requires vigilance and common sense and role modeling by us all. Wear a mask, keep social distancing, and wash your hands frequently.

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SPECIAL NOTICES

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ATTENTION VETERANS & DEPENDENTS: Do you know your Veterans Benefits? We do! Virginia Department of Veterans Services, <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov>. or (434) 295-2782. Need Help? Call 1(800) 827-

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CORRECTIONS OFFICER

If you are looking for a good secure career and you are willing and able to take on serious responsibilities, opportunities for employment and advancement are available at Buckingham Correctional Center, a Commonwealth of Virginia State Agency.

Duties: Corrections Officers contribute to the agency's public safety mission by providing for the safety and security of the public, staff, and offenders by ensuring effective and safe custody and control along with compliance with policy and procedure. This is successfully accomplished through the use of evidence based practices and principles that enhance effective communication strategies and role modeling as part of collaborative multi-disciplinary teams addressing offender needs. Officers provide security over adult offenders at the institution and while in transport; supervise the daily activities of offenders while observing and recording their behavior and movement to ensure their safe and secure confinement. They interact with the visitors, staff, offenders and public to maintain orderly and secure operations.

Minimum Qualifications: High School Diploma or a GED equivalent. Valid Driver's License. Demonstrated ability to read and comprehend workplace policies and procedures and to prepare workplace reports and documentation. Ability to lawfully possess a firearm in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Preferred Qualifications: Stable employment history. Military or related criminal justice experience. Coursework at a community college, college or university. Prefer individuals at least 21 years old (a waiver may be provided by the Unit Head for individuals 18-20 years old) Spanish speaking applicants are encouraged to apply.

Training, uniforms and equipment are provided at no cost to you. The state offers a competitive compensation package, i.e., salary, healthcare, retirement, life insurance, short and long term disability. Please refer to ad on below website for the mandatory training requirements that must be completed.

Corrections Officer- Salary Range: \$33,394- \$36,394

Applications for this position must be submitted through the <https://virginiajobs.peopleadmin.com> website. Paper, email, or fax applications WELL NOT be accepted. Consideration for an interview will be based solely on the information provided on the online application submitted. Please refer to your RMS account for the status of your application and this position.

Drug Test, TB test and Physical Required with Contingent offer of employment
EOE



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