

Organization will work to see county prosper

Up until this point, most of our attention has been focused on stopping the development of the proposed motocross raceway in Aylett, Virginia. 1,000 people have already signed our petition. They come from all over the county. Our goal is 2,000 signatures. We've already posted 300 signs throughout the County and plan to post at least another 200. And, hundreds of citizens have called or written to their Planning Commissioners and Board of Supervisors. Many have also expressed their concerns at the meetings of the Board of Supervisors.

We know our Commissioners and Supervisors are extremely busy and currently have a number of critically important issues before as they pointed out in the referenced article that appeared in the Tidewater Review. Several have asked us to give them a little breathing space, so they will have the time and energy to thoughtfully and thoroughly examine each issue. Since the raceway developers are currently revising their proposal, we have decided to call a temporary moratorium on our active and vocal participation during their meetings. We will continue to attend the meetings and to monitor the progress of the revised proposal. However, for the immediate future, we will focus our time and energy on gathering and reporting facts pertaining to motocross needed by our elected and appointed county officials in order to support them in making informed and better decisions.

I am writing to thank all of the people who attended our community information meeting on Thursday night. We were pleased to announce the formation of a new nonprofit organization, Citizens for King William County. The purposes of this nonprofit are

- to promote the preservation and maintenance of the historic character and integrity of the county;
- to provide a forum for input and discussion of matters of interest and concern to the residents and to encourage their active participation in such matters;
- to disseminate information concerning issues affecting or pertaining to the quality of life to residents; and
- to promote a sense of community among the diversity of residents of King William County.

As an organization we want to address other issues in addition to motocross that will strengthen our community and improve the overall quality of life for our citizens. For example, Steve Puckett, Emergency Services Coordinator, told those who attended our meeting that the County's emergency services are struggling to keep up with the needs of the community. The population is increasing rapidly while the number of volunteers is declining. The system is really stressed and they need our help. They need more volunteers. They need more resources. They need our support. The Citizens for King William County will work with Mr. Puckett to help him get the resources he needs to provide the level and quality of services we all expect.

During the month of March, our members will be volunteering for the County's Spring Cleanup campaign. They will be picking up litter along their own roads as well as in real problem areas. We have bags, grabbers, and vests. If you would like to join us, please call 769-9089. In April, the Citizens for King William County will be one of the financial sponsors of the annual Spring Fest. We'll have a booth where people can pick up buttons, t-shirts, and learn more about why we are opposing the development of the motocross raceway. Our volunteers will also help park cars, distribute programs, and remove litter.

King William County is a wonderful place to live. Let's work together to help it continue to grow and prosper.

Sincerely,

Dr. Judith K. Gwathmey