

Editorial, April 30, 2008

By Robin Lawson, Tidewater Review Editor

Here's your sign

The bumpy motocross road has taken another frustrating turn in King William as proponents and opponents of the proposed track complain about sign usage and county officials try to rectify the disagreement.

Right now they're reviewing the county's sign ordinance, which is a part of the zoning ordinance, and requires both temporary and permanent permits for certain types of signs. If they do much more than that, though, they're wasting time and money.

The ordinance does not specifically address signs that voice an opinion over a proposal for the county. And, it shouldn't. Freedom of speech is protected in the first amendment. These citizens have a right to their opinion, and a right to voice that opinion, especially when it's on their own property.

IF the county tries to umbrella the motocross signs under its vague sign ordinance, then it best be prepared for a shower of complaints at election time if the same isn't applied to political signs, which are also advertising an opinion.

For a county that's short on manpower, and short on money, it would be best to let both sides have their say and leave the signs alone. They'll be gone when the motocross track proposal is gone.