

# Saratoga Hunt deal heading to closure

Board wants developer  
to pay for archaeologist  
after proffer violations

By LILLIAN KAFKA

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Prince William County's Historical Commission wants a developer to foot the bill for a county archaeologist as part of a proffer violation settlement agreement, said a county attorney.

A resolution approved by the Historical Commission also suggests that the Board of County Supervisors require the developer to subject itself to strict archeological standards as it clears more land off Minnieville Road.

Home builder Richmond American Homes of Virginia offered \$200,000 as part of a negotiated settlement agree-

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## Shooting

HISTORIC SITE FILE: Bel Air  
PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
RELIC/Built-Born Reg Lib Manassas, VA  
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under the law.  
 days after the restaurant  
 married couple were  
 their dogs about 3 p.m. in  
 addition to pistols on  
 Perez said, both the man  
 were carrying an extra  
 of ammunition.  
 er spoke with them and  
 ed they were members of  
 league and were aware of  
 shop incident. Perez said  
 took no further action.  
 felter said businesses  
 refuse to serve armed  
 unless they had first  
 sign prohibiting guns in  
 lishment.  
 William police have had  
 ints of people carrying  
 public, said Detective  
 gan, Prince William  
 kesman.  
 es City police have not  
 mplaints either, said John  
 Manassas police chief.  
 ave said the gun owners  
 been celebrating a law  
 effect July 1. The statute  
 locality from enacting  
 tion on gun ownership,  
 storage or purchase.  
 s, for example, had an  
 prohibiting open carry.  
 valid, Van Cleave said.

requesting parent volunteers and

"The whole mood here is so much better now," said

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# SARATOGA HUNT

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ment for clearing trees in protected areas, among other proffer violations.

Proffers are promises that developers make when land is rezoned. They can promise money for schools, roads or parks. In the case of Saratoga Hunt, Richmond American promised acres of land for a park and to hunt for historically valuable sites.

Proffers, once approved by the county, become law.

Richmond American and co-developer Washington Homes presented an executive summary of its proposed settlement agreement, which has not yet been considered for approval by county officials.

Supervisor Marty E. Nohe, R-Coles, said he's collected about 20 written comments on the proposed settlement and has heard about a dozen more comments over the phone.

"I have received a lot of comments," said Nohe, in whose district Saratoga Hunt lies. "Some people who would like to have some sort of handout before they give out some response."

The Lake Ridge Occoquan Coles Civic Association, which has commented on the Saratoga Hunt case since it came before the county four years ago, has asked for tougher reparations.

The association asks that Richmond American pay \$1.2 million for "the exceedingly large number of violations of proffers, codes and policies ... [that have] been unbelievably

egregious," according to a letter written by LOCCA members to Nohe.

When Richmond American presented its proposed agreement on June 30, its attorney gave a slide show with information, but did not disseminate written details.

William Freyvogel, Richmond American's attorney, and Angela Lemmon-Horan, assistant county attorney, have been negotiating the agreement for months and refuse to release what the developer has submitted to the county for review.

Nohe said he's trying to obtain a written description of the proposed agreement so people who want to make comments can do so with more details.

Nohe's comment deadline has passed, but he'll informally extend it to those who want something in writing before they opine on the settlement.

County supervisors must approve the proposed settlement agreement before it's effective.

Because the information was presented orally, Nohe said people expressed concern that they did not remember or interpret the agreement completely.

"Different interpretations of information lead to different conclusions," Nohe said. "When it's presented to the board it's important for the board to understand the complete scope of the issue."

Responses have "run the whole gamut" of viewpoints, Nohe said.

"I would like to, by the beginning of next week, have something in writing for people to look at," Nohe said.

The Historical Commission resolution, approved without any nays on Tuesday, asks

that Richmond American fund an archaeologist to work for the county for three years.

It also asks that future site clearing at Saratoga Hunt, which was formerly part of the Bel Air plantation, be examined by archaeologists who dig pits with shovels instead of ones walking closely next to bulldozers to examine the dirt, said Lemmon-Horan.

Any found artifacts should be turned over to the commission and the developer should post historical markers on the property and at a cemetery there, according to the resolution.

There are no tombstones at the cemetery, where two bodies were found.

Some historians say the bodies could be those of slaves who worked at the plantation, one of the oldest homesteads in Prince William County.

Richmond American and Washington Homes have proposed giving the county \$100,000 for historic preservation and another \$100,000 for education or recreation.

It also suggested that it spruce up the cemetery with stone retaining walls and an iron fence with a gate.

The developer followed site plans last year that were approved by the county's former planning director.

Those plans were in violation of proffers approved by supervisors in 2000 and 1998.

LOCCA members Earl Cunard, Jack Kooyoomjian and Thomas Burrell asked that after the settlement agreement is resolved that the county undertake a formal review of its development process.

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Keith Walker contributed

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	2-8-6-3
	2-30-8-12-10

booy: the Navy has acknowledged