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Officials want to revive 1800s church

Supervisors want structure to join complex

By MATTHEW COX
of the Potomac News

BRENTSVILLE — Gladys Eanes will never forget her wedding day. The tiny country church was decorated in dahlias and ferns her mother had gathered from local gardens for the ceremony on Sept. 26, 1948.

During the past 39 years, Eanes, whose husband died in 1989, has watched as decades of neglect have slowly consumed that memory.

"It was kept up and neat and pretty then — just a little country church," said the 68-year-old Brentsville native, who lives directly across from the abandoned Brentsville Union Church on Bristow Road.

The paint is cracked and peeling, sections of trim and shutters have disappeared and the steps are barely visible under the vast network of creeping vegetation.

"It looks like it could use some tender, loving care," she said Thursday.

The late 1800s church could get just that if Prince William County officials get their way.

The Board of County Supervisors voted this week to offer to buy the church and make it a part of the historic Brentsville



In this family snapshot, Gladys Eanes' 12-year-old daughter Cindy sits on the steps of Brentsville Union Church in 1962.



renovation project consisting of the 1822 courthouse and jail that made Brentsville the center for county government until 1894.

The complex also includes a one-room schoolhouse constructed in 1928. Officials believe the schoolhouse was built on the foundation of the former county clerk's office, which was destroyed during the Civil War.

"I think it is really important, and I think it is exciting that we have a ... Board of Supervisors that can appreciate the value of this quaint church," said Prince William County Historical Commission member Jan Cunard, who also serves as the chairwoman for the Friends of the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. The group was formed to raise donations and assist in the project's renovation.

The supervisors have agreed to offer the owners, Negmeh Tayebe and Parto Hadian, their asking price of \$25,000.

The only problem is that a separate party placed a contract on the property in mid-May, an obstacle that may

Above, Gladys Eanes relaxes on her lawn across from Brentsville Union Church, which the Prince William Board of County Supervisors has offered to purchase to aid its renovation. At right, newlyweds A.V. and Gladys Eanes pose for a portrait inside the church on their wedding day — Sept. 26, 1948.

"It was kept up and neat and pretty then— just a little country church."

**Gladys Eanes
Brentsville resident**

force the county to condemn the property if a deal cannot be worked out.

"It may have to go to court," said Bob Wilson, the county's director of public works. "We always try to negotiate. If negotiations [fail], there may be reasons why it is in everybody's best interest to go to court."

Sandra M. Morris-Flynn, 56, who has lived next to the church since 1971, said she placed a contract on the prop-

erty because she wanted to see it restored.

"It is a shame to just let it sit there and fall down," she said.

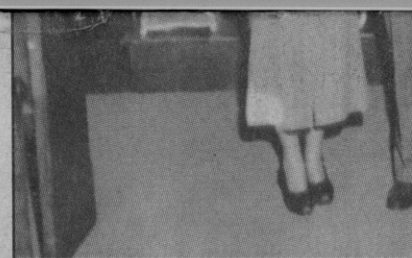
Despite agreeing with the county's intentions, she said she's unsure how the issue will be worked out since the county has not approached her about the issue.

In fact, she's not sure about the status of her own contract, which she said she submitted for another party. Morris-Flynn would not reveal the name of that person.

"I would hope the owners would realize the value of the property and agree to sell it to the county for the asking price," said Cunard, who was unable to estimate its potential value.

"It is almost impossible to put a figure on such a historic property."

The Brentsville Courthouse



The Virginia Department of Historic Resources is scheduled to evaluate the complex this month to determine how to restore it.

renovation has been supported by a \$25,000 grant from state Sen. Charles Colgan, D-Prince William, which the supervisors agreed to match as part of the fiscal 1998 budget.

An application also has been filed for \$580,000 in funding through the federal government's Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement

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Small plane crashes in Stafford

From staff and wire reports

STAFFORD — A pilot walked away from his small-engine plane Thursday evening after it came down in thick woods just short of the runway at Dogwood Airpark off U.S. 1 in central Stafford, state police said.

The 71-year-old pilot, Richard Norman Snyder of Orange, was not seriously injured in the accident Thursday night, authorities said.

Snyder reported having engine problems, State Police Sgt. Keith Hairston said.

The sputtering plane clipped the top of trees about 20 yards behind a home and flipped over.

Snyder has about 30 years' experience as a pilot, Hairston said.

The cause of the accident was under investigation.

Man, 19, may lose seat

Days after getting it, Manassas Park High grad might not get job

By **MALINDA BRENT**
 Manassas Bureau

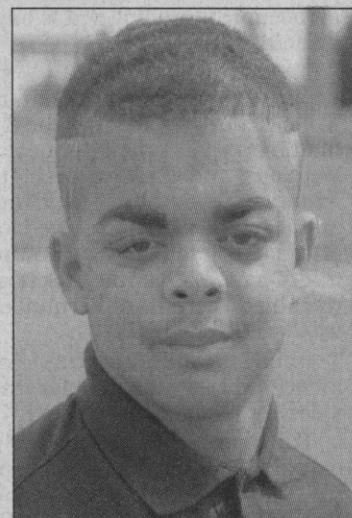
MANASSAS PARK — He has been appointed by the governing body and sworn in by the judge, but it may not be enough to get Chris Maitland a seat on the School Board.

Manassas Park officials are casting doubt over Tuesday's City Council appointment of 19-year-old Maitland.

The council appointed him by a 5-1 majority after rejecting nominee Susan Wall in a 3-2 vote.

City Attorney Jim Hoffman told council members four votes were required to make the appointment.

Initially, Wall received the required four votes. But Councilman Doug Parks changed his "yes" vote to an abstention, leaving the council favoring Wall by a 3-2 vote.



Chris Maitland appointed Tuesday to post

The council then voted 5-1 for Maitland.

"There's been a cloud cast over the process," said Councilman Bill Wren. "The first appointment may stand."

The council may have to straighten out the matter at its next meeting June 17. Or a

Regional transit chief resigns, prepares for similar job with Orlando-area agency

WOODBIDGE — Leo Auger, executive director of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission, resigned from his position Thursday night so he can fill a similar post in Orlando, Fla.

Auger, 45, will officially step down on July 18, so he can begin work as transit chief with Lynx, central Florida's regional transportation authority. Its board approved him for the job May 16.

After accepting his resignation, PRTC Chairman Alvin Bandy praised Auger for his ser-

vice. "On behalf of this entire board, we say thank you," he said.

The commission named Stephen MacIsaac to serve as its interim executive director while the agency searches for a new head. Now, MacIsaac serves as legal counsel for the organization and deputy county attorney for Prince William County.

Auger has been with PRTC nearly seven years, overseeing its growth from operating just a commuter-bus line to running a railroad and a local bus service.

—Ted Gotsch



A police officer and a Stafford County man are shown in a courtroom. One of the bullet holes a gunman left is visible on the wall.

The numbers

These lotteries were drawn Thursday, June 5:

Virginia

Midday Pick 3.....0-3-8
Midday Pick 4.....3-5-1-0
Pick 3.....1-5-6
Pick 4.....9-8-5-5

Maryland

Midday Lottery.....3-3-9
Midday Play 4.....5-3-7-3

Daily Lottery.....2-2-0
Pick 4.....4-1-1-3
Bonus 5.....13-20-31-34-39 (14)

District of Columbia

Midday Lucky Nos.....1-4-5
Midday D.C. Four.....7-3-3-7
Evening Lucky Nos.....9-1-7
Evening D.C. Four.....0-7-6-5
Q. Cash.....9-18-25-27-29-36

Correction

Dumfries native Andrew Ross Wynn was misidentified in a photo caption in Thursday's Diversions section. Wynn, who plays Mr. in "Sun-

day in the Park with George" at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., is on the right in the photograph that appeared on page D2.

Officials want to add church to complex

CHURCH From Page A1

process that will take a number of years," Cunard said.

Supervisor Ben Thompson, R-Brentsville, said creating such a "village concept" could mean a new attraction for tourists in addition to sites like the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

"I think it will do a good bit eventually for tourism," he said. "It could be a real living history project."

Carol North, who has lived two doors down from the church since 1989, also was excited about the idea of restoring the church.

North, the former paster of

the Presbyterian church's new location just down the road, said she usually doesn't support government seizures of private land but could support this exception.

"That is one of the few cases I am in favor of that process — to restore a historic building. I am all for preserving old buildings," she said, adding that she thought the church's addition to the historic complex would be an asset to the area.

"It would be nice if it could be used for church again, for weddings and things like that. I would love to be able to do little ceremonies in there."

Eanes said her husband, A.V. Eanes, would have been as "delighted" as she is over the county's plans.

"I'm 100 percent for it because I know they will take care of it," she said.

Residents evacuated, students detained

SHOOTING From Page A1

No one was injured.

Fernandez, who was taken to the Stafford County Jail, was scheduled to undergo a mental evaluation before charges were placed, Jett said. Shooting into an occupied dwelling is a felony, he said.

Neighborhood residents were kept at bay for nearly 3½ hours while deputies called in the 12 members of their Special Weapons and Tactical team to monitor the situation. Students and teachers who had stayed for after-school activities at Hampton Oaks Elementary School remained there until Fernandez was in custody.

Homes near Fernandez's residence were evacuated for the safety of residents, Jett said.

The Sheriff's Office received a call about 4:30 p.m. from people inside the Ridgewood Homes sales office in the model home, Jett said.

The four sales representatives there reported they heard two dull thuds, as if something was hitting the outside of the house, and a third that sounded like a gunshot, and then heard the bullet in the house, he said.

A man, reported to be an FBI agent, was inside the sales office signing a contract to buy the house when the bullet came