

HAYMARKET HISTORIC DISTRICT

# Haymarket: Historical Small Town Greeted Progress

Prince William Public Library  
Manassas, Va.

VIRGINIANA FILE  
KEY PRINCIPLE

## Council Meetings Held in Same Building for Almost 200 Years

By MIKE RADIGAN 10/4/86  
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JM Staff Writers

Haymarket got its name from the days when farmers would haul hay to be sold at a train stop near the town.

The name itself invokes images of a rural American town where people mow their lawns on Saturday, go to church on Sunday and tend their shops and farms the rest of the time.

In some cases, that image still holds in Haymarket, even though most of the farms lie outside the one-mile-square town. Haymarket comes complete with a restaurant and lounge, more commonly known as Haymarket Restaurant — or Orndoff's to folks who've been there a while — where a construction worker or truck driver can wrap his lips around a cold, tall Budweiser longneck at the end of a hard day.

Orndoff's is a classic trucker restaurant.

Nearly every head turns when a stranger walks into the place.

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, there probably isn't a better place to gain a fix on how Haymarket's citizens view the commercial, residential and economic development which seems destined to overtake the area.

Interstate 66, which stopped at Gainesville two miles east of Haymarket at the beginning of this decade, has been extended just north of the town. An interchange at U.S. 15 now makes it easier for Haymarket to gain access to the rest of the world and vice versa.

About a mile east of Haymarket on Va. 55, a hotel and conference center soon will be built. And to the south, near where Old Carolina Road leaves Haymarket and empties into busy U.S. 29-211, a world-

Robert Trent Jones International — is scheduled to go in.

Six or seven miles north of the town, county residents are fighting a debris landfill a developer wants to build on rolling farmland.

A little closer to home, a 149-unit townhouse development is soon due to go before the six-member Haymarket Town Council for approval or denial.

Haymarket's planning commission, made up of just about the same people who serve on the town council, has recommended the townhouses for approval.

"It'd be too overpopulated out here if they build much more. It'll be just like Manassas in 10 years," said Wayne Dunivan, a customer at Orndoff's. "When it gets overpopulated, that's when the trouble starts."

Until recently, the overpopulation of Haymarket seemed like an unreachable mirage to Harrison Orndoff, whose father founded Orndoff's (Haymarket Restaurant) in 1957.

The Orndoff family owns 22 acres at the corner of U.S. 55 and Va. 15 where it leases space to six used-car dealerships and owns the restaurant, a trucking company and a service garage.

"Initially, I-66 hurt us, but with all the development and construction that's come along since then, business has picked up," Orndoff said. "We're starting to show a profit again. This place looked like a ghost town for a while."

Mayor Gerturde Bean, who has been a resident of Prince William County since 1947, says Haymarket residents are willing to accept progress.

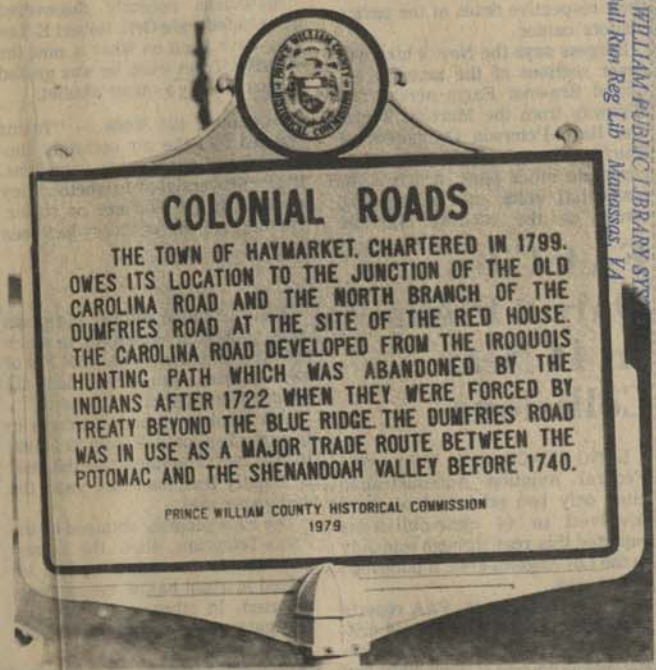
A joint planning commission and town council meeting in February



Rob Kurek—For the Journal Messenger

### St. Paul's Church

Located in downtown Haymarket, the church was used as a hospital during the Civil War. Both Confederate and Federal troops were treated there, but public sentiment compelled the medical staff to bury the



**COLONIAL ROADS**  
THE TOWN OF HAYMARKET, CHARTERED IN 1799, OWES ITS LOCATION TO THE JUNCTION OF THE OLD CAROLINA ROAD AND THE NORTH BRANCH OF THE DUMFRIES ROAD AT THE SITE OF THE RED HOUSE. THE CAROLINA ROAD DEVELOPED FROM THE IROQUOIS HUNTING PATH WHICH WAS ABANDONED BY THE INDIANS AFTER 1722 WHEN THEY WERE FORCED BY TREATY BEYOND THE BLUE RIDGE. THE DUMFRIES ROAD WAS IN USE AS A MAJOR TRADE ROUTE BETWEEN THE POTOMAC AND THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY BEFORE 1740.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
1979

Rob Kurek—For The Journal Messenger

### Haymarket Crossroads

Located in front of the town hall, the sign describes the history of Haymarket.

HISTORIC SITE FILE:  
PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY  
S11C10/bull Run Reg Lib Manassas, VA



Mike Hadigan—The Journal Messenger

produced a zoning change which allows apartments to be built in some sections of the town, Beane said. This, she added, is a first in Haymarket history.

Haymarket residents are now able to enjoy another sure sign of progress — cable television. Beane said Telesat Communications had the cable ready for hookup by the end of September, and now residents have the option of extending their viewing pleasure to the multitude of channels offered by cable.

The 300 residents of Haymarket are represented by Beane, Vice Mayor Richard Bird and five town council members. They meet the third Monday of every month and are paid by the meeting, Beane said, who added that it's simply a matter of "no show, no pay."

Haymarket town councils have been meeting in the same building for nearly 200 years. A small, two-story white-washed structure, the building was built in 1799, the same year the town was chartered. Constructed for the purpose it still serves today, the town hall houses all of the functions of the town government.

Haymarket is not without its share of businesses. Beane said there are 102 businesses registered within the town limits.

According to a historic designation sign posted seven years ago by the Prince William County Historical Commission, Haymarket was founded because of its importance as a junction for the Old Carolina Road and the north branch of the Duntries Road.

Developed from an old Iroquois hunting path, the Carolina road took on new significance when the Duntries Road became a major trade route between the Potomac River and the Shenandoah Valley before 1740.

### Some Things Never Change

The town of Haymarket, which occupies one square mile of space in the far western end of Prince William County, remains virtually untouched by the suburban building boom. Another bastion of the good ol' days is

tucked inside the doors of Haymarket Restaurant, known simply as Orndoff's to those who frequent the establishment. Harrison Orndoff, son of the founder, is pictured here.

# Greets Progress

MANASSAS, VA 25 CENTS

...wish I had that crystal ball to look into and give some idea as to the cause of the increase," said Lt. Col. C.M. Robinson, head of the state

ises

"We still have not resolved the basic flaw of this bill," Mathias said on the Senate floor.

...through September, 823 people

crease in the death toll.

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