

# Artifacts found in new Haymarket development

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Searchers in Haymarket recently found several old relics, some from the Civil War, under the dirt of a future housing development site. The finds have prompted a desire for further searches on other land slated for development.

A two-hour metal detector search of the Haymarket Station subdivision site during the evening of July 27, conducted by members of the Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association with help from Mayor David Taylor, Vice Mayor Pam Stutz, Councilman Bob Weir and family members revealed several artifacts large and small.

They ranged from Civil War bullets to an old water pump that bore the dirt-encrusted inscription of the manufacturer's name and the year "1913." Parts of a Union soldier's knapsack, the faceplate to a coal or wood-burning stove, a piece to a pocket watch and a brick bearing the name "Somerset" were also uncovered.

The Washington Street site had already been visited by bulldozers from Centex Homes, who are set to build



Donnie Biggs/News & Messenger

**Jack Taylor, left, Haymarket Mayor David Taylor and John Craig examine an artifact Thursday that was recovered from a new housing development on Washington Street in Haymarket.**

See HAYMARKET, Page A2

## POLICE BRIEFS

### Men assaulted by group on Minnieville Road

Two men — 19 and 22 years old — were beaten by several men just after midnight Friday in the 13100 block of Minnieville Road, Prince William police said Monday. They were attacked by men with whom they had spent time earlier and several others.

During the scuffle the men were kicked, punched, and hit with a baseball bat.

As they ran away someone fired a shot in their direction but no one was hit, said 1st Sgt. Kim Chinn, Prince William police spokeswoman.

Two of the assailants are described as white, between 18 and 23 years old, and about 5 feet 6 or 5 feet 7 inches tall. One has black hair and wore a gray beanie and black shirt, blue jeans and black

of him up to six times during a conflict over a merge at the intersection of Kevin Walker Drive and Va. 234, in Montclair, Prince William police said Monday.

The 5:29 p.m. collision happened Saturday when a man tried to merge in front of the truck and was forced off the road, said 1st Sgt. Kim Chinn, Prince William police spokeswoman. He sped up on the shoulder and passed the truck on the right, returning to the lane.

Driver Wayne Vincent Martyn, 53, of 9021 Centreville Road, in the Manassas area, is charged with three counts of attempted malicious wounding.

### Herndon student charged in assault near Manassas

A 20-year-old man was

## HAYMARKET

Continued from page A1

an approved 60-house development. While the surface dirt had been scraped and piled, the ground still yielded the items.

Stutz had previously received permission from Centex to conduct the search.

Despite the quantity of items found, John Craig, a board member of the Relic Hunters and a Haymarket-based lawyer, said there are probably many more items on the site.

"In some places the bulldozers went too deep, and in other places they weren't deep enough," said Craig, 41.

Town historian Sarah Turner said the artifacts were likely from a train station that existed on the land from 1910 until the 1950s. The station was also used as a post office for some time, she said.

She said the finds didn't surprise her, as the ground in and around Haymarket was

saturated with relics from its days as a highly traveled crossroads and site for several Civil War skirmishes.

She also said she'd never heard the name "Somerset" before, and said it may have been the name of an old farm or family in the area. She referred to the name of the Somerset Crossing housing development south of town.

"[The developers] must have gotten it from somewhere, because most of these developers get their names from farms or roads or families," she said. "It could have been a little farm back there."

Some local jurisdictions, including Prince William County, can require preliminary archaeological studies during rezonings, but Haymarket has no such requirement, which is something the council may consider changing, said Taylor.

"It surprises me how little we're doing compared to other jurisdictions," he said.

Taylor also said he'd like to see the Relic Hunters search other rezoned Washington

Street sites before the land is developed or redeveloped, including the Quarles property and the ground around the historic Winterham house.

Craig said his organization would likely welcome the opportunity, should landowners grant permission. "We could probably keep 20 guys busy for the next six months," he said. He also lauded the town's preservation efforts, and said other jurisdictions like Fairfax County weren't always as open and supportive of preservation.

But Turner questioned the utility of future searches, since many such searches have been conducted over the years by people looking for artifacts.

"I'm sure there are plenty of relics deep down, but on the surface I imagine almost everything has been picked up," she said.

There is a possibility that some artifacts will be used in Haymarket Museum exhibits.

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