

# Rappahannock Views

Newsletter of the Rappahannock County Conservation Alliance

Volume 1, Issue 2

November 1999

## RCCA to Promote Easements

The RCCA Board of Directors has voted to give high priority to expanding the use of voluntarily donated conservation-easements for protection of Rappahannock's landscape and related agricultural and natural-resource values. RCCA will do this by adding its support to educational and organizing efforts already under way by the Piedmont Environmental Council, Virginia Outdoors

Foundation, and Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Primarily, RCCA will work through its directors and other activists to bring the conservation-easement message to neighborhoods and communities throughout the county.

Two easement donations during October 1999 brought protection to an

additional 853 acres in Rappahannock County. As we go to press, the overall figure stands at 8,835 acres—6.4% of all privately owned land. Today, most easement-protected properties are located in the northern half of the county; RCCA will seek to make the program countywide.

Anyone wishing to learn more about conservation easements should call Bob Dennis at 540-364-2569.

## LOUDOUN REVOLTS AGAINST SPRAWL

According to *The Washington Post*, Loudoun County's population has grown by 67% during the 1990s, bringing an average 12,000 new residents per year into the county.

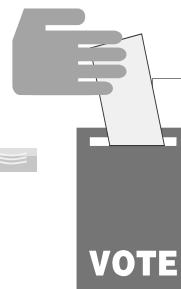
*"They [voters] sent a very clear signal this evening that they want change."*

Voters to Stop Sprawl (VSS) made their mark in recent Virginia elections by helping to sweep the elections and

seat a slate of eight antisprawl candidates as county supervisors, including Board Chair Scott York, who walked away with 65% of the votes. York was described by the media as a "Republican slow-growth advocate."

"They [voters] sent a very clear signal this evening that they want change," said York. VSS spokesman Joe Maio said, "It is so overwhelming that it is not just a local result. It is a national result. There is only one way to say it. This is what people want." The term "slow development" was

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### RCCA Elects Board

The RCCA recently elected its Board of Directors and officers. Serving initial terms of one year are the following:

- 👤 Bayard Catron, President
- 👤 Gary Light, Vice President
- 👤 Douglas Ginsburg, Secretary/Treasurer
- 👤 Gerald Ochs, Executive Director
- 👤 Board members Don Audette, Bob Dennis, Brooke Fletcher, Hal Hunter, Cliff Miller, Chris Parrish, Hildy Teegen, and Mitzie Young

# Ballot Initiatives Positive for Preservation



Balloting around the country in the November elections gave some positive indicators to propreservation and antisprawl forces, as shown in the following sampling of results.

## Arizona

Glendale voters decided the following initiatives relating to open space, preservation, and transportation issues:

- Proposition 1 – \$18.2 million for cultural facility and preservation of historic properties. *Passed.* Yes: 62%; No: 38%.
- Proposition 7 – \$57.2 for parks and recreation. *Passed.* Yes: 71%; No: 29%.
- Proposition 10 – \$53.7 million for preservation of open space and trails. *Passed.* Yes: 68%; No: 32%.
- Proposition 11 – \$6.9 million for transit-service improvement.

*Passed.* Yes: 72%; No: 28%.

## Colorado

- Adams County: 0.2 cent sales -tax increase for open-space preservation. *Passed.* Yes: 62%; No: 38%.
- Boulder County, Issue 1A: Extension of open-space and use tax. *Passed.* Yes: 69.2%; No: 30.8%.
- Brighton (Adams County), Question 2A: Reallocation of existing sales tax for open-space preservation and parks and recreation. *Passed.* Yes: 65.83%; No: 34.17%.
- Erie, Issue 2A: Open-space preservation and trail improvement. *Passed.* Yes: 59.3%; No: 40.7%.
- Lafayette, Question 2A: Increase in the legacy tax for open-space preservation. *Passed.* Yes: 64.1%; No: 35.9%.
- Louisville, Question 2A: Proposal to exceed limitations set for TABOR (Tax Payers Bill of Rights) for transportation and open-space enhancements. *Passed.* Yes: 76.6%; No 23.4%.
- Larimer County, Issue 100: Extension of an existing 0.25 cent sales tax for open-space

preservation and recreation areas. *Passed.* Yes: 59.69%; No: 40.31%.

## Maine

Maine voters decided two issues related to open space and historic preservation: *Passed.* Yes: 69%; No: 29%.

- Question 9: Reduction of property taxes on property maintained for historic preservation. *Passed.* Yes: 54%; No: 46%.

## Maryland

Baltimore voters decided on several bond issues related to community revitalization and historic preservation:

- Question A – Authorization for a \$13 million community-development loan. *Passed.* Yes: 83%; No: 16%.
- Question D – \$2 million for recreation and parks renovation, including redevelopment of historic Druid Hill Conservatory and its gardens and renovation of historic Patterson Park boat-lake. *Passed.* Yes: 90%; No: 9%.



Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, Maryland

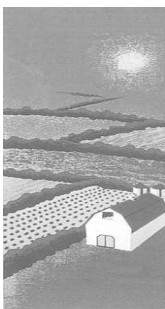
🏡 Question I—\$500,000 Maryland Historical Society Loan. *Passed.* Yes: 76%; No: 23%.

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### New Jersey

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🏡 Edgewater municipal elections: Borough imposition of an annual tax-levy at the rate of \$0.03 per \$100 of assessed value to acquire the Grand Cove Marina for preservation and recreational purposes. *Passed.* Yes: 594 votes; No: 511 votes.



4Berlin Township: Authorization of open-space trust-funds to raise money to buy, develop, or maintain land for recreation, farming, or conservation. *Passed.*

🏡 Gloucester County, Franklin Township: Authorization of open-space trust-funds to raise money to buy, develop, or maintain land for recreation, farming, or conservation. *Passed.*

🏡 Logan Township: Authorization for open-space trust-funds to raise money to buy, develop, or maintain land for recreation, farming, or

conservation. *Passed.*  
🏡 Burlington County, Bordentown: Authorization for open-space trust-funds to raise money to buy, develop, or maintain land for recreation, farming, or conservation. *Passed.*  
🏡 Westampton: Authorization for open-space trust-funds to raise money to buy, develop, or maintain land for recreation, farming, or conservation. *Passed.*

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### Pennsylvania

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🏡 Chester County, East Marlborough: Increase in real-estate taxes of \$20 per \$100,000 of assessed value to buy open space. *Passed.*

🏡 West Vincent: Increase in real-estate taxes of \$56 per \$100,000 of assessed value to buy open space. *Failed.*

🏡 Willistown: Increase of one-eighth of 1 percent earned-income tax for open space. *Passed.*

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### Virginia

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🏡 Fairfax County: Funding of bonds totaling \$297 million to address school overcrowding. *Passed.* Yes: 77%; No: 23%.



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used in the media reports about this remarkable election sweep. To get the support of the VSS, candidates had to commit to seeking state authority to limit local development until schools, roads, and other infrastructure can accommodate such growth. VSS also pushed for the power to levy impact fees on developers, to strictly enforce county zoning laws, and to improve the public's participation in land-use

decision-making. The VSS candidates apparently took a pledge not to accept developer donations to their campaigns.

## Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 20

The Virginia Conservation Network will hold its 1999 Virginia Environmental Assembly in Richmond. The program features speakers, panel discussions, and educational exhibits on issues ranging from air pollution to transportation to "smart growth" to wetland and open space protection. Invited speakers include John Paul Woodley, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources; Jerry McCarthy, Executive Director of the Virginia Environmental Endowment; and Joanna Underwood, president of INFORM national environmental research and education organization.

*Location:* Omni Hotel, James Center 2, 12<sup>th</sup> and Cary Street, Richmond, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., \$15 registration only, \$25 registration and lunch.

DECEMBER 5

Land Trust of Virginia cosponsors (with Citizens for Fauquier County, Piedmont Environmental Council, and the Goose Creek Association) a presentation by Robert Whitescarver, Technical Director, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP is an important new state program that aims to provide financial incentives to farmers who assist in stream protection and water conservation. Mr. Whitescarver will explain how the program works and who is eligible.

# RCCA members

## *Personal Information*

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

## *Areas of Interest*

I am interested in volunteering for the following activities/areas :

## *Membership/Donation*

I would like to become a member and will send annual dues of \$25:

I would like to pledge/send a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to pledge the following noncash contribution:

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