

## How You Can Help

We need your membership in Friends of Lancaster County to show your support for rational, responsible decision making which benefits the citizens of the county. The greater the FOLC membership, the louder your voice is to the county government. Both been-heres and come-heres agree that the particular blessing of Lancaster County is its small town and rural nature, with lots of farmland and open space.

The Friends of Lancaster County meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in the library in Kilmarnock. We frequently have speakers from the state or county government or conservation and environmental advocacy organizations. Developers have spoken to describe their plans. Candidates for local public office are invited to explain their views. We have had a “thank you” meeting to show appreciation to two large landowners for putting their land in a perpetual conservation easement.

# Friends of Lancaster County

P.O. Box 641  
Lancaster, VA 22503

## Our Purpose

The Friends of Lancaster County (FOLC) exists as an advocacy group to serve the citizens of the county by encouraging rational zoning, building ordinances, and land and water protection in order to maintain the small town and rural flavor of the county. The purposes of FOLC are:

- To preserve the rural character of Lancaster County by advocating and promoting responsible planning and development.
- To advocate for environmental and aesthetic enhancement to our land, waterways, and unique way of life.
- To promote public awareness of the value of responsible planning and development.
- To encourage public involvement in the county’s planning and development process and environmental activities.

## Who and What We Are

Friends of Lancaster County is an outgrowth of concern displayed by hundreds of county residents who attended a Lancaster County Planning Commission public hearing early in 2005 to voice displeasure concerning a proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD) ordinance. The proposed PUD ordinance, plus other zoning and development approved shortly prior, indicated that county officials were not always in tune with the desire of citizens for low-density growth in a rural environment. Key to our advocacy is the first purpose stated above – “To preserve the rural character of Lancaster County ...”

Since that time a steering committee of Lancaster County citizens has met regularly to promote the purposes of this advocacy organization. We are a not-for-profit 501(c)(4).

### Membership Application

- YES! I support FOLC’s purposes and want to add my voice.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- I can help FOLC in these areas:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$10 per person \$15 per family \$20 or more sustaining

Please make your check to Friends of Lancaster County, and mail to

Friends of Lancaster County  
P.O. Box 641  
Lancaster, VA 22503

President – Charles Costello Vice President – Bill Warren Secretary – Jackie Ferriter Treasurer – Marilyn Hedges  
Advisors – Jackie Brown, Barbara Dietz, Tom Smith Webmaster – Joe Urban

## What We Do

To achieve our purposes, members of FOLC attend Lancaster County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisor meetings. As often as possible, we participate in Town Council and Board of Education meetings. At the meetings, FOLC encourages responsible decision-making by government officials that benefit the citizens rather than vested interests such as developers and other special interest groups.

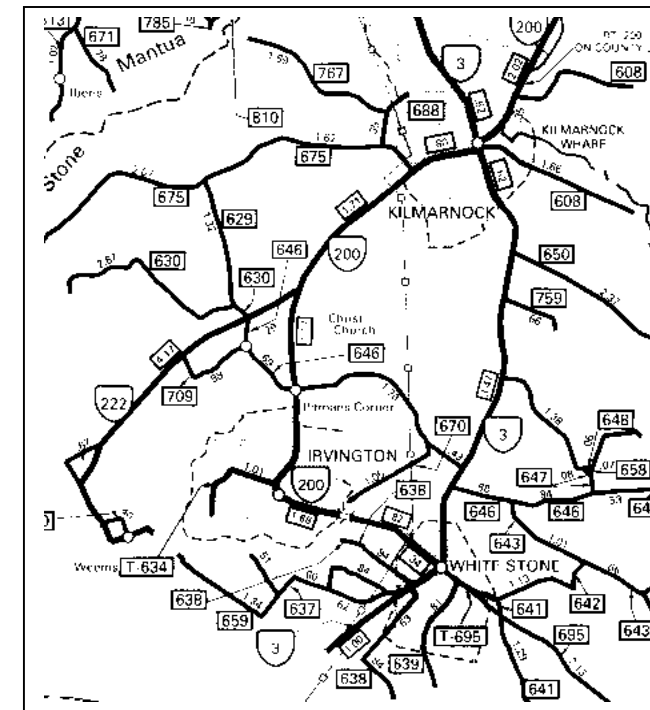
## What We Are Doing Today

Recently, FOLC has advocated, and the county has implemented, full compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Act. We have worked hard to prevent any compromise on the two-acre requirement for waterfront residences. Currently, we are putting a great deal of effort in working with officials to update the county's Comprehensive Plan. This plan will be the basis for development within the county for the next five years. There are major issues in the current draft of the plan that FOLC believes will benefit only developers and other special interests and will be detrimental to the majority of Lancaster citizens.

- **Preserving rural character.** This is our major objective. Although none of us agree on an exact definition of "rural character," we all know it when we see it. One preference is for large lots of an acre or more per house. There are various other methods to reduce impact on the land, such as concentrating housing on a small area of a large tract, leaving the majority of the tract untouched. Regardless of the method used to preserve open land, strict curbs must be in place to prevent random sprawl.
- **Sewer Lines.** FOLC played a key role in staving off a proposal for a Public Service Authority, over which citizens would have no control. Current county proposals include providing sewerage to Rappahannock-Westminster Canterbury and a major resort. While it may be admirable to provide such service to the not-for-profit R-WC, providing sewerage service on a regional basis as now proposed will create a precedent that would lead to uncontrolled development.
- **Density.** The draft plan proposes to increase housing density to six or even eight units per acre with sewerage provided. This is the density level found in tightly packed developments around larger cities, and is contrary to maintaining our rural character.
- **Affordable Housing.** For the long term it is important to develop incentives to encourage developers to provide low-cost housing for craftsmen, teachers, nurses, and other people not in high-income brackets.



Will this be Lancaster County?



The Primary Growth Area – Kilmarnock to White Stone to Irvington to Kilmarnock.

- **Primary Growth Area (PGA).** The draft Comprehensive Plan defines the PGA as the area between Kilmarnock, White Stone, and Irvington. There is discussion of including the area on Route 222 to Weems in the PGA. Planners have designated the PGA for increased density and municipal sewage service by permitting extension of sewage lines from Kilmarnock. FOLC advocates maintaining current density levels and not permitting developers to negotiate with Kilmarnock to extend sewage service on a regional basis. Otherwise, the entire PGA, of which about 35 percent is zoned for agriculture, will undergo accelerated development and its rural character will be jeopardized.

- **Silviculture.** Owners of timber can clear-cut their trees along public roads with little or no advanced notice. FOLC advocates a 30-day notice in residential areas so adjacent home owners have an opportunity to negotiate with the timber owner to leave a buffer of trees. This will mask the bare area and the unsightly slash.



Is this the view you want from your window?

Please check our web site at [www.folcva.org](http://www.folcva.org) for information of interest to citizens of Lancaster County.