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TOWN OF TAPPAHANNOCK

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Fleet Dillard
Kenneth A. Gillis
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Anita J. Latane

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TAPPAHANNOCK PROPERTY ACQUISITION

The Town of Tappahannock and St. Margaret's School are pleased to announce they have reached an agreement regarding the proposed transfer of two St Margaret's properties. These consist of the athletic field fronting on Virginia Street, known as Gilchrist field, together with the adjacent property containing three tennis courts and the former residence of Ernest Gaines. Mr. Gaines was a prominent businessman and trustee of First Baptist Church, Tappahannock. Historically, the tennis courts were constructed with the gift from the late Dennis Sheehan.

Cathy Sgroi, Headmistress of St. Margaret's School and Eric Pollitt, Town Manager of Tappahannock, were both pleased the parties could reach an agreement. Ms. Sgroi stated, "Transferring these properties to the town will allow for St. Margaret's students and town residents alike to share their love for the outdoors in this open space." Mr. Pollitt, on behalf of the Town, said he was pleased by Council's proactive approach in taking steps towards providing and improving green space for public use. The school and the town have had varying discussions through the years about the possible transfer of the land.

Mayor Roy Gladding stated, "We are excited to work with Main Street on developing this property for green space and park usage. The citizens of town have been wanting a park for a while and we are giving them what they want." Creating a space for fun family gatherings and recreation is one of Council's top priorities, especially for new Council members Fleet Dillard and Kay Carlton. Long-time Council member Anita Latane is excited for the property's potential to have events which will bring the community together. Troy Balderson has served on Town Council since 2004 and expressed he wants to see this property help Tappahannock become a destination for families.

Considering Tappahannock's Main Street program earning the designated community status, Beth Sharpe the Main Street Executive Director commented "We are thrilled to be involved in the planning, design, and execution of such an impactful project. This property will provide an excellent area for the people to enjoy outdoor activities." Mavora Donoghue the President of Main Street said

“Tappahannock Main Street is thrilled Town Council has committed to acquiring this property in the heart of Tappahannock’s Main Street District. We think this is going to be an incredible asset to the community as a green space and public park, and we are excited to be a part of redesigning the space for the benefit of the Tappahannock Community.”

An anticipated closing date is set for September 1, 2021. Please contact Mayor Gladding if you have further questions.