



School system, county dedicate wetlands

Charles County Public Schools staff and students, along with members of the Board of Education and county government, dedicated two wetland projects during the April 16 ribbon-cutting ceremonies held on the campuses of Arthur Middleton and Dr. Gustavus Brown elementary schools.



Brown vice principal Deborah Brown, left, and Principal Marvin Jones, center, receive an appreciation certificate from Charles County Commissioners Gary Hodge, right, and Edith Patterson, far right, during a wetlands dedication ceremony held April 16.

The first ceremony was held at Middleton, where more than 600 county students participated in planting 13,500 plants to create a 12-acre wetland habitat. The planting at Middleton took place over a two-day period in May 2007 and involved students from Middleton, as well as students from Milton M. Somers Middle School.

Middleton Principal Greg Miller invited students, staff and officials in attendance to participate in the ribbon cutting. Lyle Laverty, the assistant secretary of the United States Department of Interior – Fish, Wildlife and Parks division, also congratulated the school for its contributions to the water

restoration of the Carrington community and for providing students with a place to learn about the environment.

The second ceremony was held at Brown, where more than 600 county students participated in planting 16,300 plants to create a 30-acre wetland habitat. The planting at Brown took place

in October 2007 and involved students from the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, Brown, Thomas Stone High School and Piccowaxen Middle School.

Brown Principal Marvin Jones invited students, staff and officials to participate in a ribbon cutting. Rebecca Bell, the facilitator of gifted and talented education for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), presented the school system with a proclamation from Gov. Martin O'Malley, highlighting the importance of the wetlands projects and proclaiming April as Environmental Education month.

Six county math, science teachers recognized by SMECO

Six Charles County Public Schools teachers were honored this month by Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) for their accomplishments in the area of mathematics and science.

Honored as Outstanding Mathematics Teachers of the Year were: Christine Kernozek of T. C. Martin Elementary School; April O'Leary of Thomas Stone High School; and LuAnn Stout of General Smallwood Middle School.

Honored as Outstanding Science Teachers of the Year were: Rebecca Conrad of Westlake High School; Michael Ficalora of Piccowaxen Middle School; and Jason Walent of Milton M. Somers Middle School.

They were chosen for their outstanding performance in the areas of creativity, rapport with students, enthusiasm for teaching, professionalism and innovative teaching methods in the classroom.

Resignation deadline

The deadline for resignation requests from probationary non-tenured employees is Thursday, May 1. The deadline for resignation requests for tenured employees is July 15.

All forms must be submitted to Human Resources by the listed dates. Second-year teachers who have received a satisfactory performance evaluation and been renewed for the 2008-09 school year, are considered as tenured.

Resignations received after the deadlines could result in summer salary forfeiture and/or certificate suspension. Call Human Resources, 301-934-7255, for more information.

DelaCruz to be honored

Sue Delacruz, principal of Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, will be honored with a Human Spirit award at an April 30 ceremony. A committee of Southern Maryland leaders collaborated to present these awards to community members who assist others in need and help save the lives of others.

DelaCruz will receive a Human Spirit award for her efforts in saving the life of a woman and child on Dec. 22, 2006, when the woman's vehicle swerved off of the road and into a St. Charles lake.

The committee is composed of leaders from Southern Maryland newspapers, the College of Southern Maryland, Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland and the United Way.



Notebook

Teachers are appreciated

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4 - 10. National Teacher Appreciation Day is Tuesday, May 6.

Tax Shelter plan update

The TSA committee and advisors are in the process of finalizing the selection of a 403(b) vendor based on the bid responses.

The contract and all documents should be complete mid-May. An announcement will be made shortly thereafter and conversion will start in June.

Post awards grants

Two Charles County Public Schools were recently recognized by the *Washington Post* as grant recipients in the Grants in Education and Grants in the Arts programs.

Denise Pratt, a music teacher at J.C. Parks Elementary School, and Kathy Hettel, a Reading Recovery teacher at Mary H. Matula Elementary School, were awarded funds, averaging \$400 each, to support innovative and creative ideas in their classrooms. They were recognized by the Post in an April 22 ceremony.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees recognized at the April 11 Board meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Anita Richardson, a Reading Recovery teacher at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School; Carrie Lamb, fifth-grade teacher at J.C. Parks Elementary School; Tracy McMullen, a first-grade teacher elementary school at Indian Head Elementary School; and Irene Brewster, an instructional specialist at Theodore G. Davis Middle School.



Martin teachers lose hair over MSA's

Fifth-grade T.C. Martin Elementary School teachers Donna McPherson, right, and Erica Dean, left, lost a little hair on April 10 over the Maryland School Assessments (MSA). McPherson promised her students they could cut her hair if all 106 fifth-graders attended school during MSA testing. Dean joined McPherson and 16 students were chosen randomly to snip away at the teachers' hair. The teachers set limits by rubber banding sections of their hair. The students cut off several inches of Dean's hair and nearly 10 inches of McPherson's hair.

County science teachers named teacher liaisons

Five Charles County Public Schools teachers were recently selected as Space Foundation Teacher Liaisons with the 2008 Flight of Teacher liaison program through the Colorado Springs-based Space Foundation.

Charles Newcomb of Westlake High School; Sandra Hamke of Henry E. Lackey High School; Christopher Rooney of Thomas Stone High School; Aparna Joshi of Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; and Sue Gray, acting specialist in science for Charles

County Public Schools, were named liaisons for the 2008-09 school year.

The teachers are five of 69 teachers from across the country selected to participate in the program, which is in its fifth year, for actively promoting space and science education in the classroom and the community. They were selected by a panel consisting of industry experts, former teacher liaisons, military members and Space Foundation representatives.

Board agenda -- May 13, 2008

The Board of Education has released its agenda for the May 13 meeting, which begins at 12 p.m. in executive session. The public portion of the meeting begins at 1 p.m., student recognition is at 4:30 p.m., and Public Forum starts at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

• North Point High School JROTC unit

Superintendent's update

Reports of officers/boards/committees

• Correspondence/board member updates

• Education Association of Charles County

• Student board member update

• Deputy superintendent's update

• Information item: CIP update

• Information item: APFO, school numbers and recommendations

• Report item: Schematics for additions/renovations for Brown, Indian Head, Middleton

and Turner elementary schools

• Report item: Educational facilities master plan

• Information item: Curriculum update

• Report item: 2009-2010 calendar

• Report Item: Out-of-county tuition rates

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

• New business

• Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

• Employees

• Students

• Resolution: *Washington Post* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

• Minutes

• Personnel

• Superintendent's FY09 budget

• Textbooks

Adjournment

Davis Middle School makes it official in formal dedication ceremony

Staff, students and community members celebrated the opening of Theodore G. Davis Middle School in a formal ceremony held Friday, April 11, at the school.

The ceremony included student musical performances, speeches, presentations by elected officials, comments by the Davis family, information about the school time capsule and a traditional key passing.

Davis Middle School opened on August 27, 2007. It is 128,000-square feet, and was designed as a two-story building. The \$26.3 million cost of the school was funded by the Charles County Commissioners and the state of Maryland. Wendell Martin is the first principal of the school. The school is located off Davis Road and houses more than 1,000 students. It is the last of three schools to be built on the Waldorf site which also contains North Point High School and William A. Diggs Elementary School.

The school was named after Theodore G. Davis, who was a Charles County Public Schools teacher. He began his career at a one-room school in Doncaster in 1926 and transferred to Nanjemoy High School when it opened in the early 1930s. Mr. Davis taught English, mathematics, civics and American history.



Pictured, from left, are Board of Education Chairman Col. Donald M. Wade and Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond, along with Theodore G. Davis Middle School Principal Wendell Martin, Davis sixth-grade mathematics teacher Ben Kohlhorst and Davis sixth-grader Mikaela Jarrett. Martin holds the ceremonial key passed during the ceremony to mark the formal dedication of Charles County's eighth middle school.



Former students of Theodore G. Davis, community and Charles County Board of Education members celebrate the school's dedication in a formal ceremony held April 12 at the school. Pictured, from left, back row are: former students of Mr. Davis, Arthur Willett, former Del. Samuel "Buddy" Linton, former school Board member Norman Saunders, and Saunders' wife, Nancy. Pictured, from left, front row are: Board of Education members Pamela Pedersen and Maura Cook, and community member Arthur Lanuitti. The school was named after Davis, who was a former educator in Charles County.



Top photo: Davis middle school eighth-grade choral director Heidi Mickey, left, directs students during a performance. Bottom photo: John Bailey, of Scheibel Construction, left, Steve Haggis of CCPS supporting services division and Pat Foerster, Gov. Martin O'Malley's education policy adviser, both center, and David Lever, executive director of the Interagency Committee of Public School Construction, participated in the key passing ceremony.

Personnel

Apply for positions at www.ccboe.com/hur, or in writing to the personnel office. Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job openings

Secretary to the Principal – Maurice J. McDonough High School, 12-month position. Apply by April 28.

Network Engineer II – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by April 30.

Systems Analyst II – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by April 30.

Secretary – Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 11-month position. Apply by May 5.

Secretary – Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 10.5-month position. Apply by May 5.

Building Service Manager – Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by May 8.

Media Instructional Assistant – Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by May 6.

Pupil Personnel Worker – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by May 1.

Mathematics Teacher – Mattawoman and John Hanson middle schools; 10-month positions.

Science Teacher – Milton M. Somers Middle School; 10-month position.

Music Teacher – Milton M. Somers Middle School; 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher for Science – La Plata High School; 10-month position.

Art Teacher – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position.

Music Teacher – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position.

Library and Media Specialist – Henry E. Lackey High School; 10-month position.

Speech Language Pathologists – Openings at all age levels; 10-month positions

IEP Facilitator – Openings at all age levels; 11-month positions.

ESOL Teacher – Openings at all age levels.

Music teacher – Opening at all elementary schools; 10-month positions.

Charles County Public Schools is seeking teacher candidates who meet the certification requirements established by the MSDE for the following subject areas:

- Spanish, for future openings
- Mathematics, high school level

Staff notes

Insurance and enrollment rates

Open enrollment for health insurance will be May 1-16. New biweekly rates are:

	Family	Individual
HMO	\$133.00	\$46.00
PPN	\$204.50	\$73.50
Comp	\$220.50	\$78.50

New rates are effective July 1 and will be reflected on the July 4 paycheck. Employees who want to enroll for hospitalization must log on to the Benelogic website at www.ccboe.benelogic.com to sign up for the plan they want. Only HMO and PPN plans are available for new enrollment. The comprehensive plan was closed to open enrollment in 2003. Comparison information on the two plans is available on the Benelogic site. Contact Heather Huff, hhuff@ccboe.com, with questions.

Graduate summer course listings

Summer schedules for McDaniel College, Bowie State University and Gratz College & Regional Training Center are available on the school system website at www.ccboe.com/staffdev/courses/index.cfm. Contact the college or university to register. A schedule of all courses will be published in the May 9 issues of *School News*.

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The mission of Charles County Public Schools is to provide an opportunity for all school-aged children to receive an academically challenging, quality education that builds character, equips for leadership, and prepares for life, in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.