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GRANT WRITING & GRANT ADMINISTRATION

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IN THIS ISSUE

**TODD MEREDITH: HOME-
GROWN MANAGER OF
TOWN OF PEARIS BURG**

**H&P CELEBRATES 45TH
ANNIVERSARY IN 2018**

**FEATURED EMPLOYEE:
ED CARTON
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT**

**CITY OF LYNCHBURG'S
CITY MARKET**



Todd Meredith: Homegrown Town Manager

By Su Clauson-Wicker

Pearisburg Town Manager Todd Meredith has only been on the job 11 months but he knows the Giles County town inside out. He can tell you which two U.S. Presidents fought here in the Civil War - Rutherford Hayes and William McKinley - as well as the location of the town's sinkholes and the best spots for smallmouth bass fishing.

He knows the history of the town park, how long it takes to hike up Angels Rest, and all about the legendary rivalry between Pearisburg and Narrows High Schools. He knows why Pearisburg could be called the "Little Star City" and can point out the loca-

tion of the hillside star that lights up during the Christmas season.

Meredith has lived in or around Pearisburg all his life - 38 years. A Pembroke native, Meredith graduated from high school in Pearisburg, taught in county schools, and fishes the nearby New River with his sons.

"I love Pearisburg and Giles County," Meredith says, "I feel privileged to be able to work for the public good in this town that I love. This is a place where people

"I feel privileged to be able to work for the public good in this town that I love."

really care about their neighbors and the community."

Meredith, who holds a Master's in public administration and is working on a doctorate, took the reins at Pearisburg in January, after teaching social studies for 11 years. He's currently immersed in two major projects: Hurt & Proffitt plays a part in both.

Shortly after Meredith came on board, the USDA's Rural Development Office approved a \$1.5 million low-interest loan allowing Pearisburg to improve its water system operations. Pearisburg will replace over 6,000 feet of sewer line, some of it 70-80 years old, Meredith says. In addition, the existing chlorine disinfection system will

be replaced with ultraviolet disinfection technology. H&P did the inflow and infiltration studies.

Meredith is also working with Virginia Tech's Community Design Assistance Center on plans to redesign the town recreational park, including ball fields, bleachers, and the town pool. H&P did the cost estimates. Grants and community donations will help pay for the project, Meredith says. "We had only one ball field," Meredith said. "The Design Assistance Center came up with plans for two baseball fields, a possible splash pool, and improvements to the tennis

courts. With this facility we could host Dixie League tournaments, which would benefit town businesses."

In his spare time, Meredith cheers for his sons, ages 15 and 10, at athletic events and takes them fishing and hiking. He also enjoys reading about collaborative government and citizen input, a possible topic for his Virginia Tech Ph.D. dissertation. "I've always been very interested in inclusion and collaborative decision-making," he says.



Todd Meredith and son

H&P To Celebrate 45 Years in Business



Charlie Hurt & Erskine Proffitt joined forces in 1973 to form Hurt & Proffitt, an engineering and land surveying firm. The name of the company has remained throughout the years honoring the two gentlemen, even though there have been numerous chuckles over the name. But the values of the company have remained constant throughout the years. Employees have always been steadfast on integrity, honesty, responsiveness, trust and more.

In 2018, H&P will celebrate 45 years in business. It has grown from a small firm of 2 in 1973 to over 130 employees to date.

In December of last year, H&P acquired Anderson & Associates in Blacksburg, Virginia, growing the firm to 133 employees. Anderson & Associates had been in business for over 40 years so the merging of the two firms brought a wealth of institutional knowledge and a broad range of experience.

H&P operates six departments including civil engineering, surveying, land development, environmental, geotechnical engineering, construction testing & inspection and cultural resources. They have recently expanded their transportation engineering services, GIS services and within the last year has started offering grant writing and grant administration. In that year, Sharon Carney, H&P's grant writer, has obtained over \$1 million in grants for clients. "I know the funding sources and I know how to get the money for clients," Carney states.

(Continued on page 8)

Employee Focus: Ed Carton, Golf Course Architect

Ed Carton has over 30 years in the business of designing golf courses and golf developments. He started his career learning his trade from one of the best, Tom Fazio. He has also worked with some of the legends of golf, Sam Snead, Pete Dye, Raymond Floyd and other notable golf figures.

His personal success follows suit, having been directly involved in the design of over 17 golf courses selected by Golf Digest on their "Best New Golf Course" list. In September 2015, Golf Digest recognized Carton for his work at Spring Creek Golf Course in Louisa County, Virginia. Golf Digest wrote "With its sprawling bent-grass fairways and greens framed by a dense forest of hardwoods and massive sculpted bunkers, the course looks like a Tom Fazio design, for good reason. Designer Ed Carton learned the business working for Fazio, but he achieved Spring Creek at a fraction of a Fazio budget."



A golf course is a very complex thing; concerns and operational budgets, maintenance, cost and golf course playability.

The speed of play and other factors make it a very specific field requiring someone with full knowledge of golf course operations. Carton understands the uniqueness of facilities in the fields of golf course architecture, drainage requirements, irrigation needs, environmental and archaeology resources and impacts along with the operation and maintenance.

With Hurt & Proffitt's 44 years of engineering experience and Carton's 30 years of golf design, H&P created a golf division with a team that will take a comprehensive approach to designing a golf course, knowing that all of these various operations work together to make a successful and great golf facility.

Carton's main goal is to see that the golf courses he designs will be enjoyable and playable for all golfers and yet challenging enough for the more advanced or professional golfer. He designs courses that are easily read, that is, when you stand on the tee you can see all of the options and hazards presented to you with no "blind" spots. The end results are 18 memorable golf holes and golfers who feel as if they played exceptionally well", says Carton.

No matter what size the budget or how small the task, Carton creates all designs as an art form and strives to make his courses a masterpiece that will stand the test of time and equipment. Carton states "With

a team approach, we will work with our client to create a golf course to meet the playing, financial and development demand that will enhance the environment and inspire golfers".

Ron Whitten of Golf Digest wrote "Ed Carton learned his craft well." Some of Carton's designs are featured in Golf Advisor's Top 100 golf courses from 2012-2017, <https://www.golfadvisor.com/articles/top-100-courses-first-five-years-16549.htm#slide-article-67847>.



Ed Carton, H&P's Golf Course Architect

H&P offers design and engineering services including:

- Site Review
- Golf Course Planning
- Master Planning
- Golf Course Design
- Specifications
- Construction Observation
- Surveying
- Geotechnical
- Environmental Permitting
- Civil Engineering
- Grading
- Materials Testing

H&P also provides restoration work on golf courses. "We can utilize our golf expertise and engineering technology to restore a course to its original glory, all while updating the course technology and retaining the original design, character and beauty," states Carton.

With the recent boost in the economy,

many courses are taking this as a good time to invest in their facilities, many which have suffered due to the past recession. Much of the differed maintenance can be resolved by applying easy solutions. Don't be fooled into spending tons of money on renovations that are not necessary. Carton has worked with many golf course facilities finding ways to increase the aesthetics, playability, and ease of maintenance while working within a client's maintenance budget. "If you are considering making any updates or just want a fresh look, H&P can help no matter how small or large the budget. We can restore a course's full potential through our quality design, innovative high-tech services and creativity," Carton said.

Ed and his wife, Rachel, have been married for 27 years and have three sons; Wesley (23), Matthew (21), Jacob (14) and Eric (29 and adopted). They are both

involved in their local communities. Ed was a Cub Scout pack leader for many years and recently started an alternative scouting group, Young Men of Valor. The group is based off of the life of King David, the author of many of the Psalms and was called a "man after God's own heart." The goal of the group is to raise-up young men to serve their community that are compassionate, but courageous and strong, and be ultimately humble and intelligent leaders for generations to come.

In addition, Ed serves on the Town of Amherst's Board of Zoning Appeals and Rachel is on the Town Council and is the Executive Assistant to the County Attorney.

Ed and Rachel enjoy the outdoors, deep sea fishing, biking and spending time at the beach.



Hole #14 - Poplar Grove, Amherst, Virginia

Project Profile: Lynchburg Community Market Repairs



Pre-Construction (Deck is the concrete on the left)



During Construction where deck has been opened

Proper planning is always a key to a great project. The City of Lynchburg experienced this with the replacement of the deck of their downtown Community Market. The deck was built in the 1930's and had once been used by the National Guard to house military vehicles. Throughout the years it had also been used as an underground firing range. Aboveground, it was most recently used by the Community Market for parking and had been a place for downtown community events, with bands, dancing and street vendors. Many had no idea they were standing on a weakened deck.

The deck was about 130 feet in length and 60 feet wide and joined with at-grade parking and the Community Market Build-

ing. The condition of the deck was to the point where City public events ceased and the weight limit was restricted to 3 tons. The deck itself was only 3.5" thick and the concrete was delaminating from the reinforcement, dropping through the vacant space, 16 feet below. Further challenging was an adjoining structure of private renovated lofts where the building had a basement below the 16 foot garage area.

H&P was on the team that was selected by the City of Lynchburg, led by Wendel's Ron Reekes. As part of the corrective measures, Wendel sought what the future would be for the Community Market space. The team worked with the farmer's market and the City stakeholders to develop a Master Plan as a future guideline when City

funds become available.

The first phase, however, was to immediately replace the deck. The plan incorporated some key features shown in the Master Plan, including new traffic circulation and an open air space from the floor below to the skies above. This was in line with the original agreement by the City that required lighting for the lower level apartment units. The open space replaced the skylights that had been built (and leaked) within the deck.

H&P assisted with the geotechnical investigation, field survey and the civil site design. Wendel was instrumental in the structural design which included a new retaining wall system that allowed for the 16 foot drop to be filled in with suitable

fill materials. The design of the wall also dropped another 16 feet below grade to ensure the new loads would avoid influencing the private apartment lofts that abuted the former deck.

H&P tested several sample borrow sources to assist the City with the most economical option for backfill material while also maintaining the required friction factors for the tie backs.

After many years of making repairs, the City took the plans to bid in January 2017. The timing of the plans and Notice to Proceed could not have come at a more fortunate time. As the last snow melted

from the winter of 2017, and the contractor mobilized their forces, the deck had to be closed from the public. A hole had developed in the deck where the weight of the snow fell in on the garage floor below. The deck was not going to stand much longer.

H&P assisted the contractor, Jamerson Lewis based in Lynchburg, VA, with surveying to monitor any potential movement of the adjoining structures, as well as staking the future walls, curbing and storm water features. They also assisted the City with materials testing and special inspections to include earthwork, foundations, cast-in-place concrete, shoring, retaining wall

anchors, base stone and pavements.

The project was completed in October 2017 and essentially, the site looks similar to what it was before construction. However, the effort that was made by the City, the design team, and the contractor was extensive and no doubt was done in the nick of time.

This project saved lives of those using the deck.

H&P will continued to work with Wendel and the City of Lynchburg to improve the Farmer's Market as defined in the long-range Master Plan.

Completed Upgrades to the City Market in Downtown Lynchburg



(continued from page 3)

With the addition of Carney, H&P's grant writing and economic development services have been taken to a whole new level. Sharon's broad knowledge acquired during her nearly 50 year career includes financing options, community revitalization through the use of grants, and the development of master planning, which brings forth a wealth of information to H&P's clients for their investment projects.

"Every municipality and economic development organization constantly faces unique challenges and opportunities as they seek to harness their full potential. Each project and each community faces very different challenges, thus the

solutions to their difficulties are unique to their particular needs. It is the goal of H&P to provide creative and holistic solutions for each client's economic development endeavor," Carney said.

H&P now provides clients with creative, flexible recommendations that leverage their assets and opportunities to increase their likelihood of economic growth and prosperity. This inclusive approach, especially for small, rural communities, will provide access to essential regional, state, and federal agencies and financing resources. As a result, these smaller municipalities will have an opportunity to revitalize their communities and enrich the health and wealth of their citizens.



Sharon Carney, Grant Specialist

New Projects

H&P has recently been awarded the following projects and look forward to working with these municipalities and agencies over the next year:

Town of Christiansburg

Roanoke Street & Arbor Street Sidewalk Projects

Carroll County Public Service Authority

Term Engineering Contract

City of Galax

Transportation Term Contract

Town of Vinton

Glade Creek Greenway Project

Patrick County Economic Development

Commercial Lot Project

Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

Waterfront Facilities Project



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