

A FIX FOR THE REEKY CREEK?

Potential solution arises for odor near Mount Trashmore

By Stacy Parker
Staff writer

VIRGINIA BEACH — Windsor Woods residents who have been dealing with a unpleasant smell coming from the creek behind their houses may soon get some relief.

Del. Michael Feggans, who represents the district, is working on a plan for environmental nonprofit organizations to fund the installation of an aerator in Thalia Creek. He hopes it will improve the water quality, which could alleviate the stench.

An aerator increases oxygen levels in water, breaking down organic muck and reducing algae growth. He and resident John Kirby

visited the end of the creek along the 500-block of Water Oak Road on Friday to discuss the potential solution.

Mosquitos circled their legs, and as the breeze picked up, a sulfur-like smell

Kirby first noticed the odor from the creek behind his house several years ago.

“You can’t even sit in your home some days,” he said. “It burns your eyes, your throat.”

“You can’t even sit in your home some days. (The smell) burns your eyes, your throat.”

— John Kirby, Windsor Woods resident

emanated from the still, mucky, greenish-colored water between two rows of houses.

“Down here is where a lot of residents were complaining about the smell,” said Feggans, as he stepped through the brush to stand along the water’s edge.

Del. Kelly Convirs-Fowler alerted Feggans about the stink issue last month after residents contacted news media. Their concerns, along with lawmakers’ outreach, initiated an investigation by the Virginia

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The foul-smelling body of water has been creating quite a stink near Mount Trashmore Park. BILLY SCHUERMAN/STAFF

The Virginian-Pilot

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Judge Eileen Olds' sorority sisters share stories about the early life of the retired Chesapeake judge during a ceremony naming the courtyard at Chesapeake's courthouse complex after her. STEPHEN M. KATZ/STAFF PHOTOS

Verdict: ‘Judge Auntie’ transformed the bench

Retired jurist who broke racial barriers feted with courtyard park in Chesapeake

By Eliza Noe
Staff Writer

CHESAPEAKE — For decades, she has been “Your Honor,” but for many in Hampton Roads and beyond, Eileen Olds is “Judge Auntie.”

Olds, an iconic figure in the Hampton Roads legal system, was the first woman and first Black person to serve as a judge in the First Judicial District in Chesapeake. On Thursday, the city cemented her legacy at the Chesapeake Municipal Center. The large park at the center of the city’s court buildings has taken her name: Judge Eileen Olds Courtyard Park.

About 200 people gathered for the dedication ceremony — including city leaders, members of Congress, judges, law enforce-



The grounds near Chesapeake’s courthouse complex are now named “Judge Eileen Olds Courtyard Park.”

ment officials and faith leaders. Dozens of court staff, family, friends, neighbors and members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. also were there to support the occasion. The open space has been equipped with a large clock tower, seating areas, gardens and a large statue spelling “Love.” While working with the city on its design, Olds said she is excited to see the community gatherings that are to come.

“I smile when I think about the number of proposals and weddings that can take place in front of the ‘Love’ sign,” Olds said. “I think of parents who may have had to bring a small child to court exasperated, and then walks out of one of these buildings and gets a breath of fresh

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COVID vaccines can be elusive

Walgreens, CVS seek prescriptions for the new shot in Virginia

By Gavin Stone
Staff writer

Virginians looking to get the updated COVID-19 vaccine may have to go through their doctor or get a prescription rather than go to through major pharmacies as uncertainty with federal guidelines persists.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s current guidance only references the 2024-25 coronavirus vaccine formulation, not the 2025-26 version, according to the Virginia Department of Health, though manufacturers have begun shipping the new vaccine. The New York Times reported last week that Virginia is among 13 states in which CVS is requiring a prescription for a vaccine and among 16 states in which Walgreens requires one.

It’s unclear why the two are requiring prescriptions in the commonwealth. A VDH spokesperson did not respond to an emailed question.

The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is expected to vote on the new COVID vaccine during a meeting Sept. 18-19 and, if approved, pharmacists will then be able to administer the vaccine, according to the health department.

“Individuals who received the 2024-2025 COVID-19 formulation should consult with their healthcare provider or pharmacist to determine if and when they should receive

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A center from the old guard

Ryan Joyce, a rare seventh-year senior, marshals ODU’s veteran offensive line. Sports

Scare in Hampton

Kecoughtan High School is evacuated, but a pair of threats are later quelled. Page 2

Name change

Trump signs order to rename the Defense Department as the Department of War. Nation & World, Page 8

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Details on the back of news



Activist derails senator’s intel visit

Warner lashes out after Loomer spurs defense agency’s act

By Julian E. Barnes,
Robert Draper
and Robert Jimison
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Only members of congressional committees have broad access to the country’s secretive spy agencies, allowing them to determine if they operate efficiently, effectively and legally.

But this week, the Pentagon canceled a classified visit to a military spy agency by the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee after far-right conspiracy theorist Laura Loomer complained.

The Trump administration has been steadily eroding the power of Congress, chipping away at its ability to set spending priorities and ignoring its role in authorizing military force. Restrictions on oversight now appear to be an emerging front in the administration’s efforts to enhance executive authority.

Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the top Democrat on the committee and a long-serving member of the panel, had planned to visit the Virginia headquarters of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency this week. But Pentagon officials told his office Tuesday that the visit was canceled and imposed new requirements on congressional visits to military intelligence facilities.

The Trump administration has blocked access to Immigration

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Sen. Mark Warner, seen March 25, wanted to visit the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. ERIC LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES