

# The Capital

## South County

### Crandell Cove talks bearing some fruit

By E.B. FURGURSON III, Staff Writer

Even as they await a decision by the county Board of Appeals, supporters and opponents of a senior housing project in Churchton may settle their differences on their own.

It would come two months after a public meeting on the proposed 32-unit Crandell Cove at which members of South Arundel Citizens for Responsible Development said they would forgo further appeals if the developer would make some concessions.

At the time, Tom Heath, board member for Crandell Cove Inc., said, "We have no intention to delay getting together" to discuss possible common ground.

But not much had happened since - until now.

Crandell Cove attorney Sager Williams said he met with the board of Crandell Cove last week and presented an idea by attorney Thomas Deming, who represents SACReD in the matter, to use an independent facilitator. Now the Crandell Cove board wants to meet face-to-face with SACReD members.

"We agree on some of the points Mr. Deming outlined," Mr. Williams said. Those include:

Having emergency call buttons in units.

Having an "able-bodied" person on duty 24 hours a day.

Offering a dinner option in addition to breakfast and lunch, but only if served in the residential unit.

Offering housekeeping.

Providing transportation to pharmacies, doctors and the like.

Crandell Cove is also amenable to possible storm-water treatment changes and installing a rain garden where possible, providing it's allowed to make the changes without having to seek new permits.

Phyllis Taylor, daughter of John and Jewell Crandell, who donated the 25 acres off Franklin Manor Road for the project, told the gathering at the Deale Fire Hall that some of those points would be included in the plan submitted to the county.

Other issues, like providing some assisted-living units, and more health care options, are more problematic.

"That is all very good," SACReD President Amanda Spake said of the apparent

agreement on some issues. "But what is needed is assisted living. We need to do that. We don't need luxury living spaces."

Prices for the senior housing units haven't been determined.

SACReD has opposed the plan since it was first proposed four years ago on environmental grounds, but hasn't had much success there.

"The community is giving up a lot, and we should get some guarantee that our seniors will get services and the environment will be protected," SACReD board member Mike Shay said.

On the same day as the Deale meeting, the Board of Appeals denied opponents' appeal of Crandell Cove's county-issued grading permit.

The outstanding case before that body is whether the county's administrative hearing officer acted within the law when he granted Crandell Cove an extension on the special exceptions and variances it received in 2003. Opponents argued that the deadline for the extension had passed.

Attorneys for both sides have submitted written final arguments in the case and a decision might not come until at least October, Mr. Williams predicted.

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