

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 25, 2002
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Anthony Conyers, Jr., Manager of Community Services
SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation – Edward T. Overton, Jr.

Edward T. Overton, Jr., Unit Director of the James City County Virginia Cooperative Extension Office, has announced his retirement effective July 1. Mr. Overton is only the fourth County agent in the 95 years that Virginia Cooperative Extension has operated in James City County.

Mr. Overton has served Virginia Cooperative Extension for 31 years, 22 of those years in James City County. In his position, he has been charged with developing, implementing, and evaluating educational programs that address priority concerns, needs, and issues.

During his tenure, Mr. Overton has worked with the County farmers to maintain a profitable and sustainable agricultural industry. His efforts have resulted in higher yields, better management of costs of production, higher quality and safer farm products, improved marketing skills, and agricultural diversification. Mr. Overton helped found the James City Growers Cooperative Marketing Association.

In addition, Mr. Overton developed and implemented programs to protect water quality and enhance water conversation. His efforts have resulted in practice changes that used fertilizer and pesticide products more effectively and reduced negative effects of nutrients and pesticides on the environment. The Turf Love Urban Nutrient Management Educational Program and the Weather Based Integrated Pest Management Advisory Programs are two model initiatives that Mr. Overton developed to protect water quality.

Mr. Overton has also recruited, trained, and managed volunteers to provide a vast amount of services to the community. Examples include 4-H, the Extension Leadership Council, the County Fair, and Master Gardeners. The Master Gardeners alone have volunteered 130,000 hours since their inception to helping Extension provide educational programs and services to more than 90,000 clientele over the past 19 years.

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the resolution of appreciation.

Anthony Conyers, Jr.

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Attachment