

# Fauquier Times-Democrat

Celebrating Now 250 Remarkable Years of Fauquier County History, 1759-2009

## Marshall residents to view Main Street renovations

By DON DEL ROSSO  
Times-Democrat Staff Writer

Marshall merchants and residents will get a chance in a couple of weeks to comment on proposed improvements to the village's Main Street.

"This is a first round of design ideas for everybody to take a look at and give feedback," Fauquier supervisor Peter Schwartz (Marshall District) said.

The Marshall Business and Residents' Association (MBRA) will hold the meeting at 7 p.m. on Sept. 22 in the Marshall Community Center.

While Marshall residents and Main Street property owners "are the principal audience, we welcome anyone who wants to come" to the two-hour meeting, Schwartz said.

It will focus on improvements between Rectortown/Winchester roads and Frost Street.

Fauquier has received about \$1.7 million in federal money through the state for phase one and two improve-

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ments, which call for burying utility lines and new sidewalks, curbs, gutters, street trees, benches and crosswalks.

More detailed design work must be

done for the balance of planned Main Street upgrades.

"We're hoping" the \$1.7 million "will be enough" to cover construction costs for the first two phases, Schwartz said. "The big question will be what Dominion [Virginia Power] charges us for undergrounding the power lines."

MBRA President John Suter said Dominion put the cost at about \$1 million.

"That sucks up a big portion of the \$1.7 million" construction budget, Suter said. "So we've got some negotiating [to do] with the power company."

The project's consulting team knew the Dominion bill would be large, Schwartz said.

But the power company's projected cost "was a very, very preliminary estimate, before any design was done," the Marshall supervisor said. "I would expect Dominion's number to come



Times-Democrat file photo

**COMING SOON:** Main Street in Marshall will get a face lift in spring of 2011 as the first two phases of a renovation project unfold.

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down as we get into the details."

After design plans for phases one and two are finalized, the project will be advertised for construction bids, Schwartz said.

"If things go really well, and they never do," he said, laughing, "I would expect us to see this put out for bids in spring 2011."

That means work could begin next summer, with "four of five months of play," Schwartz said.

And, "I think, give or take, it's probably a nine-month construction project," said the retired commercial real estate developer and investor.

He emphasized that a construction schedule will be prepared to minimize disruption to merchants and customers.

"We're going to work really hard so the construction is done in a way that it doesn't put Main Street businesses out of business," he said.

The improvements will be a welcomed boost, Suter said.

"Marshall has kind of been neglected, or whatever," the MBRA president said. "And it's time to make it look nice (and) draw in more business, draw in more people."

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