

Town of Kilmarnock

Mayor – Dr. Curtis H. Smith

VICE MAYOR - PAUL S. JONES
COUNCIL MEMBER-RANDY MOUBRAY
COUNCIL MEMBER-REBECCA TEBBS NUNN
COUNCIL MEMBER-BARBARA ROBERTSON
COUNCIL MEMBER- JOHN A. SMITH
COUNCIL MEMBER- HOWARD R. STRAUGHAN



TOWN MANAGER-TOM SAUNDERS
TOWN ATTORNEY - PAUL C. STAMM, JR.
TOWN PLANNER - MARSHALL SEBRA
TOWN CLERK -JACQUELINE BLENCOWE
TOWN TREASURER - JUDY G. STEVENS
POLICE CHIEF - MICHAEL S. BEDELL

Contact: Tom Saunders
Tel. 804 435-1552 x 26
Cell 804 577-3770
tsaunders@kilmarnockva.com

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KILMARNOCK MAYOR PRAISES POLICE AS 'TRUE PROFESSIONALS'

Says Town Can Begin To Heal From The Upset Of Recent Attacks, Now That Assailant Has Been Arrested

Kilmarnock Mayor Curtis Smith praised his town's small police force today as word quickly spread of the arrest of the prime suspect in the recent assaults that had frightened local citizens. "Mike Bedell and his officers had a lot of help from (Lancaster County) Sheriff Crockett and his investigators, as well as every other jurisdiction around here, but I want our citizens to know that it was Kilmarnock Police officers who first identified the suspect and got him on everyone's radar. Our officers are true professionals. We're lucky to have them and everyone in Kilmarnock ought to be proud of them."

Donald Vaughan, 19, was arrested in Baltimore over the weekend in connection with a violent assault on a young woman in the Canton section of that city. Vaughan, who has been living on Fleets Bay Road just south of Kilmarnock for the last few months, had a criminal record as a juvenile in Maryland before moving to Virginia recently to live with his mother. Kilmarnock police, with support from other area police departments, had kept Vaughan under surveillance since the attack on December 2 and were awaiting the results of laboratory analysis of evidence before making an arrest. Vaughan was given permission by his parole officer last week to go to Baltimore for the holidays.

Kilmarnock Police Chief Mike Bedell says lab results could be available by the end of the month, but even without it he is certain the person who committed the crimes in Kilmarnock is behind bars. Bedell credits Lancaster County Investigator Joan Kent for a "masterful job" interviewing Vaughan in a Baltimore lockup Monday night, eliciting information from the suspect that "couldn't have come from anyone but the perpetrator," he said. Bedell echoed Mayor Smith's praise of his officers and the other jurisdictions that contributed so many hours to the search for the assailant. "We had officers from all over the area working undercover to monitor our streets and to look for this guy. The cooperation we got from everyone, especially the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, was just phenomenal. I couldn't have asked for more."

Smith said that Kilmarnock's Town Council share his high regard for the town's police department. "They were quick to approve a reward fund for information in this case and many

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of them made sizeable personal pledges to the fund," he said. Smith also praised Lancaster County Administrator Bill Pennell and Delegate Albert Pollard for their support and assistance during the investigation.

Mayor Smith says he has asked Town Manager Tom Saunders to organize a community information session as soon as possible to highlight lessons learned from the three weeks of fear. "We're going to have members of our Police force there and some home security professionals and some counselors," Smith said. "It will take a while for the people of Kilmarnock to get over the shock of these crimes and I think a gathering of this kind will help. But I also want them to learn from this and to not be lulled into a feeling of false security. I want them to stay safe. There are so many things we can do as citizens to improve our own personal security."

Saunders said he hopes to be able to post details of the meeting on the town's website (www.kilmarnockva.com) soon. "We're already working on it and it will be sometime in early January, possibly as soon as the 5th," he said. "We'll get the word out as soon as we get a firm date, place and time."

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