

April 12, 2023

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Please accept this letter of interest and enclosed resume for consideration for the open South River seat on the Augusta County Board of Supervisors. I have previously represented the citizens of this district, in this position, and would be honored to be able to do so again.

For over 30 years I have worked, organized events, participated in clubs and organizations, supported our schools and served those in the South River District. I bring a strong business background to this position, and experience in local government through service on the Board of Supervisors, the Augusta County Planning Commission and the Augusta County Service Authority.

Currently I serve as Chairman of the Augusta County Planning Commission. I was appointed to this position in 2020 and represent the South River District. Through the Planning Commission I have gained a more in-depth understanding of the County's comprehensive plan, and appreciate the connection and value of long term planning, and growth & development. It has also allowed me to keep up to date with activities and projects that have been occurring, not only in the South River District, but throughout the County.

Prior to the Planning Commission, I was a member of the Board of Supervisors, again representing the citizens of the South River District. I was appointed to the position at the passing of Dave Beyeler, and then successfully ran for re-election twice. While on the Board I served several years as vice-chairman and one year as chairman.

Board activities included budgeting, economic development efforts (locally & regionally), tourism initiatives, workforce development programs, public safety, affordable housing efforts, working with our public schools, the courthouse referendum and more. I also served on a number of local and regional committees and boards.

While on the Board of Supervisors also I represented my district on the Augusta County Service Authority Board. Again, this experience gave me the opportunity to serve rate payers in South River, as well as throughout the County. Time on the Service Authority allowed me to see the needs of the citizens with a broader lens. Through this position I better understood the connectivity between different County Offices and was more effective when coordinating projects between them.

Other experience that I would bring to the Board is a strong background in business management. I owned/operated the Stuarts Draft 7-Eleven franchise for 17 years before retiring. During this time I took a failing business and turned it into a profitable operation. For it to be successful, it was necessary to be skilled at writing business plans, balancing budgets, marketing and advertising, managing people and focusing on the importance of public relations, and understanding the value of my staff and customers. Also, as a local small business owner, I was very involved in the community.

In reviewing my resume you will note other management positions that required these skills as well as proficiency in, contract oversight, establishing operational systems, accounting, reading & understanding construction plans, and so much more. I have also worked in a public school system and developed programing for both high school and adult learners, and have taught classes in both areas.

In addition to an extensive background in public service, business management and education, and experience as a small business owner, I have a great appreciation for our agricultural community. I grew up on a beef cattle farm in Rockingham County. My family also raised sheep, and they owned and operated J.O Stickley & Son, a farm equipment dealership, for over 70 years. I have spent a large part of my life surrounded by the challenges and opportunities that this industry faces.

Giving back to my community, and serving others, has always been important to me. Some of the activities that I am currently involved in include being an associate member of the Stuarts Draft Ruritan Club, Co-Coordinator of the Stuarts Draft Christmas Parade, and I serve on the Augusta County Circuit Court Clerk's Advisory Committee. I am a longtime staff volunteer with the Office of Delegate Chris Runion, and I attend Calvary United Methodist Church in Stuarts Draft.

Again, upon review of my resume you will see a wide variety of other activities that I have been involved with during my many years in my community. These range from leadership in scouting, to membership in other civic organizations, to working with our local rescue squad auxiliary, to organizing local festivals and events, and more.

In closing, I would like to say that as a citizen of the South River District it would be important to me to have a person appointed to the interim position who had the experience necessary to be of service from day one... someone who knows and understands the issues, someone who is familiar with government services and processes, someone who has business and management experience, and someone who has been actively engaged in the community.

I have previously served on the Board of Supervisors, representing this district. I have served on the Service Authority and I currently serve on the Planning Commission. I understand local government and would hit the ground running. I bring a strong and diverse background in business management and education. For many, many years I have been actively involved in my community through clubs and organizations, and through working with our local schools and organizing large festivals and events. And I owned and operated a small business that served as a local hub of activity within my District.

It would be my honor to once again work with the citizens of the South River District on initiatives that will help, or improve their quality of life, and that will reflect the interests and values of our community. I am excited to have the opportunity and am hopeful that I will once again be able to represent the South River District!

Thank you for your consideration.


Carolyn Bragg

Carolyn S. Bragg

113 Arrowhead Ln, Stuarts Draft, VA 24477 * (540) 256-3342 * cbragg03@comcast.net

OBJECTIVE:

I seek to fill the interim position on the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, representing the citizens of the South River District.

EDUCATION:

- Earned a BBA with an emphasis on Hotel/Restaurant Management from James Madison University in 1989
- Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership/Candidate Training Program (2019)

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE:

- Franchise/small business owner of the Stuarts Draft 7-Eleven
 - Successfully operated the business in the Stuarts Draft area for 17 years
 - Experience in marketing, budgeting, inventory management, loss control, employee management, customer relations.
 - Was very involved in the community
- Area Manager for Southland Corporation
 - Responsible for the successful operation of 12-15 convenience stores
 - Duties included budgeting, market plan implementation, sales growth, product analysis, contract oversight, employee management, customer relations
- Conference Center Manager for Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA
 - Responsible for the operation of a 100 acre, non-profit Presbyterian conference center
 - Duties included overseeing the overall operation including lodging, building and grounds, food service, reservations, advertising and marketing, and staffing
- Assistant Manager and management team for a 160 room Quality Inn and a 150 room Holiday Inn in Myrtle Beach, SC
 - Was involved with the hotel planning from groundbreaking through opening.
 - Responsible for setting up hotel operating systems, hiring & training staff, advertising, marketing, accounting duties, customer service and other general operational duties.
 - Was involved in the organization and opening of new hotel facility

EDUCATION/TRAINING WORK EXPERIENCE:

- Hospitality Management Coordinator for Rockingham County Schools
 - Developed and taught a hospitality management class for area high school students
 - Wrote program curriculum that was approved by the State of Virginia
 - Program was used as a model for similar programs throughout VA and WVA.
 - Earned Vocational Education Certification
- Adult Training and Development Coordinator for Dayton Learning Center, Dayton, VA
 - Evaluated and determined training needs of local businesses and industries
 - Developed, administered, hired instructors and taught adult training classes.
 - Responsible for the advertising and marketing of adult training programs

PUBLIC SERVICE:

- Augusta County Planning Commission
 - Chairman (currently)
 - Vice Chairman (2022)
- Augusta County Board of Supervisors (2014-2019)
 - Represented the South River District which included approximately 10,300 citizens.
 - Served 3 years vice-chairman and was selected as Chairman 2016
 - Worked with economic development efforts (local and regional), regional tourism initiatives, workforce development programs, legislative agendas, affordable housing efforts, and more
 - Experienced in working with local government (county & cities), with Augusta County Public Schools, as well as our local elected legislative representatives.
 - Represented Augusta County on multiple local and regional Boards, to include the Shenandoah Valley Partnership and the Career Works/ Workforce Development Board.
- Augusta County Service Authority Board (2014-2019)
 - Vice-chairman two years
 - Represented the citizens of the South River on a 7 member board that oversees the operation of the water and sewer functions in the County

ACTIVITIES:

- Member of Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church
- Stuarts Draft Christmas Parade Co-Coordinator
- Associate Member of the Stuarts Draft Ruritan Club
- Augusta County Circuit Court Clerk's Advisory Committee
- Volunteer with the Office of Delegate Chris Runion
- Previously:
 - Stuarts Draft Rescue Squad Auxiliary
 - SD Business Association (Officer)
 - SD Lions Club (Officer)
 - SD Crime Prevention Council (Officer)
 - Board of Directors for the Sweet Dreams Festival (8 years)
 - Middle School Parents Association (President)
 - Cub Master and Den Leader for Cub Scout Pack 349
 - Board of Directors for the Blue Ridge Soap Box Derby
 - Was a Rotary International Exchange Student/France

HONORS:

- Resolution for outstanding community service from the Virginia General Assembly
- Outstanding Service Award from the Sweet Dreams Committee 2004 & 2012
- Outstanding Service in the Public Schools in 2011 (The Whole Village Award)
- Citizen of the Year by the Stuarts Draft Ruritan Club in 2009
- Community Hero Award from Stuarts Draft Middle School, 2016
- Honorary member of the Stuarts Draft Rescue Squad

References available upon request