

Getting ? to Know...



At construction site of Potomac High School, June 1979.

By Leya Perrine

In a day and age where relocating from one desired locale to another is a sign of a prosperous lifestyle, Dumfries District Supervisor Maureen Caddigan proves that staying put doesn't mean staying stuck. Mrs. Caddigan has lived in Montclair for the past 36 years, and has made a well-known practice of contributing to her community, and not just keeping current, but staying ahead of the curve.

Mrs. Caddigan and her family came to Montclair in 1974. She was a military wife, volunteer and a flourishing stay-at-home mom – when opportunity knocked unexpectedly. At the time, Montclair was a small enclave with roughly 40 families. The only elementary school was Washington-Reid Elementary. As time passed and the community grew, it was apparent Montclair needed its own elementary school. Enter Mrs. Caddigan.

She was appointed to chair the Montclair Schools Committee by the first president of the MPOA Pat Mulaney. The Committee called a meeting to discuss overcrowding, and parents were upset over the situation. They really needed a new school located in Montclair, and it appeared another local area was to receive funding for a school over the fledgling community

with seemingly no clout. Along with fellow resident and friend Ginny Kyser, Mrs. Caddigan learned that after a long deliberation lasting till 3 a.m., the PWC School Board voted to create a new school in Montclair—thus Pattie Elementary School was born. It was a real coup, and a new career was born for Mrs. Caddigan.

Over the years, Mrs. Caddigan has earned the nickname of “Builder of Schools,” and her tireless efforts have contributed to the educational well-being of countless families and students in our area. In particular, she helped to get Potomac High School constructed in 1979, after years of Montclair’s high schoolers either being bused to Osbourn Park High School in Manassas, or to Gar-Field High School in Woodbridge. The busing took a toll on the community’s families, and Mrs. Caddigan helped ensure Montclairions would have a high school they could call their own.

Mrs. Caddigan served on the PWC School Board from 1984-1991 where she participated in the construction of Montclair and Henderson Elementary Schools, Saunders Middle School, and Hylton High School. She is a self-proclaimed lover of teachers and has fought to improve salaries.

When her daughter Michelle became a teacher in the school district in 1991, Mrs. Caddigan stepped down from her position in tears. However, fate again took her to another role – Dumfries District Supervisor. In 1991, the position became vacant when then Supervisor Ed King ran for Senate. Mrs. Caddigan ran for Supervisor in 1991 and won, and took office in 1992. She has been in the position ever since.

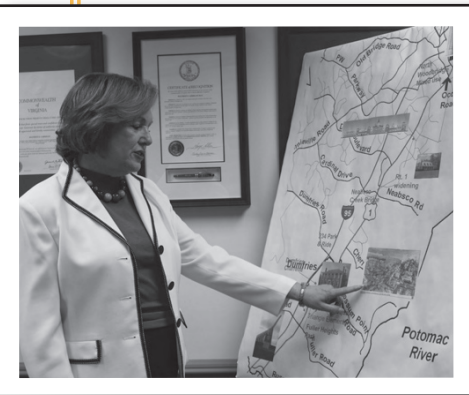
As Supervisor, Mrs. Caddigan negotiated successfully to construct the Marine Corps Heritage Museum in Triangle across from Quantico, when all signs and plans pointed to another location in Prince William County. Sound familiar? She convinced Gen. Christmas and others that a museum would drive people to the base, and 135 acres from Locust Shade Park was donated by Prince William County as the future site for the now stunning museum.

When asked what motivates her to do such impressive things for her community, Mrs. Caddigan matter of factly says she’s a “follow-through person.” She has also spearheaded the revitalization of Triangle, with plans for a six-lane circle in front of the base, and a village-like feel akin to Occoquan.

Mrs. Caddigan’s imprint is all around, from widened roadways, landscaped medians and walking paths throughout the district, to beautiful parks, schools, museums and a soon-to-be revitalized Dumfries. In keeping with her can-do manner and years of successes, Mrs. Caddigan says, “A lot of good has happened, and we continue to strive.”



Dumfries District Supervisor Maureen Caddigan



Pointing out the numerous plans in the works for Dumfries.



With Ginny Kyser at groundbreaking for Pattie Elementary School, July 1977.