Two planning commissioners step down

By David Holtzman

The Dec. 10 meeting of the Louisa County Planning Commission will be the last for two members, Jack Speer (Cuckoo district) and Bill Martin (Jackson district).

Speer has served a combined 20 years on the commission, while Martin has been a member for eight years. Louisa County Board of Supervisor Willie Gentry (Cuckoo district) said he has not decided yet on a successor to Speer. R.T. Williams Jr., who will replace Dan Byers as Jackson District supervisor on Jan. 1, will nominate a citizen to succeed Martin.

As a commissioner, Speer said he has always tried to prioritize preserving the county’s rural character, which he said is the number one priority of the county’s comprehensive plan.

“I hope bringing more water and sewer will work to residents’ advantage,” he said. “It’ll take a lot of effort to make sure it’s done right. What’s done with water and sewer will really impact the future of the county.”

In his last meeting, Speer will have a chance to vote on an issue that he said has long bothered him — planned unit developments (PUDs). The commission will consider whether to require public water and sewer for this zoning district in the future.

“I’ve never been a supporter of PUDs because I don’t think we’re adequately staffed to handle such an intensive level of planning,” he said.

In addition to his time on the commission, Speer has served on the board of the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and was a founder of the Louisa County Library Foundation.

“Jack’s the kind of person who will go on-site to look at a potential development,” Gentry said. “He uses the comprehensive plan as a guideline, which someone’s got to do, otherwise you might just ignore it.”

Martin is active in various groups around Lake Anna, including the Lake Anna Rescue Squad, the Lake Anna Civic Association, and the Lake Anna Advisory Committee.

“The Lake Anna issues interested me most,” he said.

Byers said that was why he asked Martin to
serve on the commission.

"I was familiar with the rural area of the Jackson district, so I wanted to get someone from the lake area," he said. "He knew the folks at the lake so he had a good sense of where the county needed to go."