

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Engineer and former Planning Commissioner Seeks Council Seat

Danville, VA. — March 3, 2008 — Local civil engineer and business owner Fred O. Shanks, III has filed to be on the ticket for the May Council elections.

Shanks served on the City Planning Commission for the past twelve years, ending in December 2007. By City Code, he was not eligible for reappointment. During the twelve years on the Commission, he served as Chairman four years and Vice Chairman five years. In addition to hearing monthly rezoning and special exception permit cases, two very important events transpired during the period - The creation of the City's 20-Year Comprehensive Plan and re-writing of City's Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance.

“As a father of two boys in school and as a small business owner, I have a vested interest in the success of the City and region. After serving on the City Planning Commission for the past 12 years, by City Code I was ineligible to serve another term. A natural progression for me is to take this Planning Commission experience and my engineering knowledge to another platform for the betterment of our region. I feel it is my duty - and the time is right for me to contribute my knowledge and experience as a member of City Council. I hope the citizens of Danville agree and support me in this endeavor.”

With the region's recent successes in the economic development arena, Shanks believes there are three issues that will need additional focus:

1. Education - Both public schools and adult work force development.
2. Infrastructure - Both Public Works Infrastructure and Political Infrastructure.
3. Crime Prevention

He hopes to work with and support those who need assistance in these, as well as other areas of local government.

He believes the current City Council and Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors have demonstrated their keen understanding of the importance of regional cooperation. “Thanks to this new found regionalism, as well as the strong leadership of the Future of the Piedmont Foundation, local state legislators and Congressman Goode, the Dan River Region is positioning itself well for the 21st Century.”

Shanks, a Danville native and local business owner, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Following graduation,

he was employed as a civil engineer with firms in Richmond and Roanoke. He founded Shanks Associates, P.C., in Roanoke in 1987 and opened a Danville office in 1991. In 1998 his firm acquired two land surveying firms in Martinsville, Virginia.

Shanks was awarded the Surveyor of the Year award by the Virginia Association of Surveyors (VAS) in 2001. The award was based on his statewide efforts as Legislative Chairman and Past President of the Association. He has held every Chapter wide and Statewide office in the Virginia Association of Surveyors, including state President in 1999. He received the coveted VAS Certificate of Recognition in 2003.

He and his family returned to Danville in 1993. He has two sons, Fred, 17 who attends George Washington High School, and Anderson, who attends O.T. Bonnor. Shanks is a member of Ascension Lutheran Church, where he has served as Church Council president and on the Preschool Board.