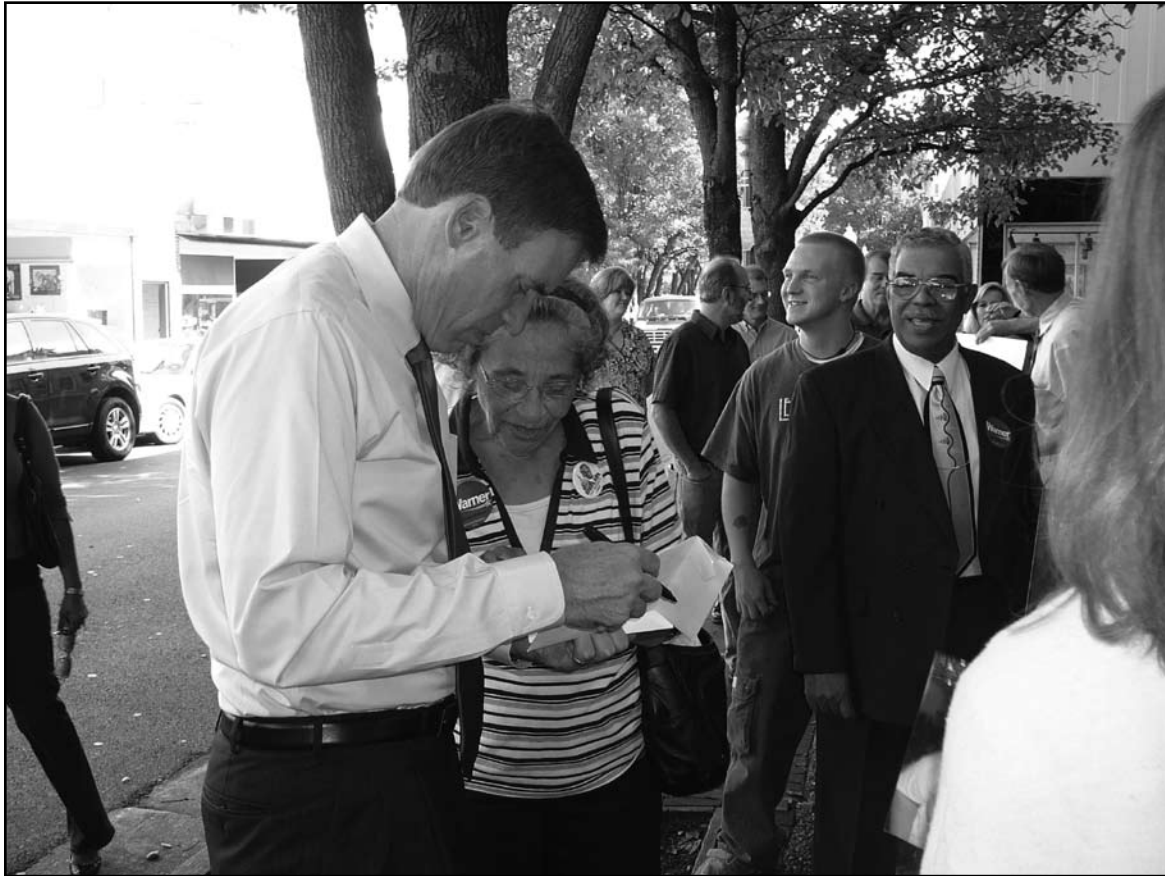


“We ought to have people up there who check there D’s and R’s at the door and put the country’s interest first. And I think that was the record I had as governor, I think that’s why these folks are coming out and supporting me in this campaign.” – Virginia US Senate candidate Mark Warner

Election ‘08

With big lead Warner heads into Republican territory

Potts leads crossover endorsements of Democrat Mark Warner



US Senate candidate and former Virginia Governor Mark Warner signs autographs as he arrives for lunchtime campaign stop on East Main Street Oct. 10.

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

Sporting what is thought to be an insurmountable 30-odd point lead over the man he succeeded as governor of Virginia, the afternoon of Oct. 10, former Governor Mark Warner made campaign pit stops in Front Royal and Winchester on the way to a press conference and fundraising reception at the Handley Drive home of former 27th District Republican State Senator Russ Potts in Winchester.

Three days earlier Potts, often

a Republican maverick in recent years, endorsed Democrat Warner in his race against former Republican Governor Jim Gilmore, who also headed the National Republican Committee for nearly a year.

Prior to his remarks to a crowd approaching 100 gathered at Front Royal’s East Main Street Daily Grind shortly after noon, we asked Warner about Potts’ cross Party line endorsement and whether voters should look beyond traditional partisan political labels in this election year.

“Absolutely – when I was gov-

ernor I was proud of what we got done in Virginia. And the only way we got things done was by actually having Democrats and Republicans work together. I’m proud of later today being endorsed by not only Senator Potts, but maybe a dozen former or current Republican elected officials. Because when we look at the financial meltdown in Washington, when we look at the energy crisis, when we look at this challenging economy – we don’t have the luxury of the kind of old-fashioned partisan blame game.

“We ought to have people up

there who check there D’s and R’s at the door and put the country’s interest first. And I think that was the record I had as governor, I think that’s why these folks are coming out and supporting me in this campaign.”

“I succeeded my opponent and I think that’s one reason I have so much Republican support. Because candidly, my opponent was somebody who was a hardcore partisan, [and] couldn’t even pass a budget even though the legislature was 2 to 1 in favor of his own Party. And then at the end of the day he left Virginia in the fiscal ditch. So, I’ve got some experience cleaning up financial messes,” Warner said of his own political experience.

Economic turmoil

That said, we asked Warner who’s to blame for the current economic turmoil on Wall Street and beyond.

“More people should have sounded an alarm earlier on both sides. But the fact is you can’t walk away from the fact the economic policies of the last few years have been driven by the White House and there have been too many people asleep at the switch – on Wall Street where everybody was looking at the next quarter profits and nobody was looking at the value of the institutions and the risks they were taking; in Washington where the regulators weren’t doing their job in terms of studying the rules of the road. And now, we the taxpayers are basically inheriting the mess. The challenge on a going forward basis is how do we make sure we

get these credit markets open?”

Warner said that while Wall Street is getting the headlines as the world economy crashes, it is the impact of the credit markets on Main Streets just like Front Royal’s that the success or failure of governmental attempts to correct the situation must be judged.

“If you’re a small business and even if you’ve got good credit, if your credit lines fold you may not be able to make payroll; or if you want to send your kid off to college and can’t get a student loan; or somebody wants to buy a car and can’t get a car loan – so we need to get these credit markets open and we need to make sure as we go forward on whatever Congress and the Administrations are going to do, that we’ve got people [in control] that can actually read a balance sheet.”

Warner then pointed out he spent 20 years in business and finance before entering the political sphere to become Virginia’s governor. “So I want to get up there [in Washington] and make sure that somebody is looking after the interests of the taxpayers on how some of these dollars are spent.”

Warner said regardless of the outcome of the election, tightening times are on the horizon.

“If I was going to advise Senator Obama if he gets elected – the first thing he needs to do is how he can come in and cut some federal spending. We need time to tighten our belts.

“The first thing we had to do was cut spending,” Warner pointed out of his tenure as governor. “And in fact I probably made ev-

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Election '08

“When Barack Obama gets into the White House we’ll actually have a president in office who believes in science.” – Mark Warner on dueling executive perspectives



Democratic U.S. Senate hopeful Mark Warner greets an enthusiastic supporter in Front Royal.

ery Virginian mad when we shut down the Department of Motor Vehicles one day a week but we had to because we had tough budget times. You’ve got to show

some spending restraint first. There are areas around health care, around infrastructure for example, around roads and rail where we need additional invest-

ment. But let’s show that we can start by cutting some spending.

“Whoever goes in [to the White House] next we’re going to have a big mess to clean up,” Warner

observed. “And I’ll close where I started – it’s got to start with a willingness to take good ideas from both sides. I spent 20 years in business and I could not imagine having a business where you only took ideas from half your employees. And that seems to be the way Washington looks at issues. But my idea is if an idea works it doesn’t matter if it’s got a D or an R next to it.”

Science and solutions?

Speaking in support of not only his candidacy to replace retiring U.S. Senator John Warner, but also Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama, Warner chastised Republican President

George W. Bush and his Party for failing to trust in what Warner termed “this nation’s greatest asset” – the resiliency and initiative of its people – during times of crisis.

Warner told the Front Royal lunchtime crowd of about 90 that, that failure was most apparent in the Bush Administration’s inability to encourage and stimulate historic American ingenuity in the realms of business and science to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

“When Barack Obama gets into the White House we’ll actually have a president in office who believes in science,” Warner told the crowd packed inside the East Main Street Daily Grind.

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County explores solar and geo-thermal energy sources

Numbers on proposal to power, heat & cool the WCGC due Oct. 28

By Roger Bianchini
Warren County Report

With traditional energy costs a wildcard prone to radical pricing fluctuations – usually ending up on the high side – Warren County is exploring other options. Those options include a three-pronged attack involving energy conservation, solar power and geo-thermal heating and cooling techniques. At an Oct. 7 Warren County Board of Supervisors work session, Deputy County Administrator Richard Magnifico introduced representatives of Lantz Construction, Comfort Designs and Advanced Integrated Mechanical Specialists (AIMS), three Winchester companies that are developing a plan to bring alternative energy sources to the county.

As Magnifico explained, the goal is to bring energy independence and therefore reduced energy

costs to Warren County. The first step in achieving that goal is developing a plan to bring these alternative energy sources to the Warren County Government Center. The board was told up front costs are \$2,800 to complete a preliminary report on methods and costs of a combined solar/geo-thermal plan for the WCGC to be presented to the board on Oct. 28. That initial funding is coming out of the county’s existing operational budget.

The board consensus seemed to be that \$2,800 for more detailed information on up front costs versus annual savings and the logistics of implementation of the plan was a worthwhile investment. However, proceeding beyond that point would be largely dependent on a detailed financial analysis of annual energy savings versus the cost of the project.

Among the numbers presented at the board work session was a

\$34,726 annual energy bill for the government center last year. Magnifico told the board that a past alternative energy project he had been involved with at a school in another jurisdiction had recovered \$30,000 in energy saving in the first year alone. Max Clatterbuck of Lantz and Scott Harper of AIMS said a detailed cost analysis of the project would be part of the Oct. 28 presentation. It was noted during the work session that a combination of solar and geo-thermal technology would provide the greater savings than utilizing just one of the technologies. As Clatterbuck and Harper pointed out – when energy costs are up, cost recovery is more rapid.

Should the county decide to proceed with the project the initial solar units could be installed by May 2009. Engineering drawings to proceed toward that implementation would put another

\$3,200 into the project.

That not all were taking the proposal to install solar units on the WCGC roof by next spring seriously may have been reflected in Linda Glavis comment, “Are we going to put a windmill up there too?”

County Administrator Doug Stanley’s reply that, “everything is on the table – or perhaps on the roof – at this point,” brought laughter.

Solar units convert sunlight into energy. Geo-thermal technology disbursts natural heat accumulated in the ground through a conventional duct system as a heating tool in winter and removes hot air from a building and redistributes it into the ground during hot weather.

The project summary presented to the supervisors on Oct. 7 stated that typically the significant up-front cost of installing a geo-thermal system, primarily in the

drilling of multiple wells to feed the system, were recouped within seven years. Magnifico said the plan, if adopted beyond the WCGC experiment, would only involve buildings the county was planning to maintain or build and maintain for long-term use as part of its 20-year building plan. Tony Carter questioned whether the town permitted well drilling within its boundaries. Staff surmised it was possible with a permit and promised to inquire of the necessary procedures with town staff.

Whether it’s all just a pipe (in the ground) dream or the first step in putting the county at the forefront of a movement to create future energy independence from traditional corporate utility monopolies remains to be seen. Tune in next time to see what kind of numbers are crunched on both sides of the equation at the Oct. 28 meeting.