



PRESS RELEASE

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Regional Commission to Honor Roger Welch and Charles Barrell **Regional Leadership Awards to be Presented at RRRR Annual Meeting on September 26**

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) will honor **Mr. Roger Welch**, longtime member of the Rappahannock County Board of Supervisors and RRRC, and **Mr. Charles Barrell**, Culpeper County resident and retired local attorney with the 2019 RRRC Regional Leadership Awards. The awards will be presented on Thursday, September 26th at the Regional Commission's Annual Meeting at Prince Michel Winery in Madison County. The RRRC Regional Leadership Awards honor one government leader and one citizen representative of the region for outstanding contributions to the Rappahannock-Rapidan region, and facilitation of enhanced communication, coordination, collaborative governance and planning across the region.

Mr. Roger Welch has served for the past 20 years as Wakefield District representative on the Board of Supervisors in Rappahannock County and currently serves as Chair. Mr. Welch has also served on numerous multi-jurisdictional organizations during his tenure on the Board of Supervisors, including the Rappahannock-Shenandoah-Warren Jail Board and Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission, and has actively supported innovative regional initiatives with neighboring jurisdictions on solid waste disposal and emergency communications. Mr. Welch has announced that he will not seek re-election this fall.

Mr. Charles D. 'Charlie' Barrell moved to Culpeper early in his life and has made the region his home since that time. He is a founding partner of the law firm Davies, Barrell, Will, Llewelyn, and Edwards, PLC, and is an active supporter of recreation, education, civic, and healthcare initiatives within the region. His service includes leadership roles for regional organizations including the Novant Health UVA Health System Culpeper Medical Center Board, on which he currently serves as Chair, Board of Directors of the Culpeper Wellness Foundation, Board of Directors for the Culpeper Library Foundation, and 15 years as President of the Culpeper Recreation Foundation. Mr. Barrell is an active cyclist and dedicated to recreation opportunities throughout the region.

The 2019 RRRC Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation will be held Thursday, September 26th beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Prince Michel Winery in Madison County, and will include a keynote address from Evan Feinman, the Governor's Chief Broadband Advisor. Registration for the event is \$25 through September 20th, and information can be found at <http://rrrcannualmeeting.eventbrite.com> or by calling the Regional Commission at (540) 829-7450.

About the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission serves the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock, and the towns of Culpeper, Gordonsville, Madison, Orange, Remington, The Plains, Washington, and Warrenton. The 21-member RRRC board includes elected and appointed officials appointed by each member jurisdiction. Localities with greater than 3,500 residents appoint two members to the regional commission, while localities with fewer than 3,500 residents appoint one member to the regional commission.

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission facilitates a collaborative approach to regional cooperation, and serves as a convening forum for the interaction of appointed and elected local government officials, regional stakeholders and citizen members. The Regional Commission coordinates a broad range of regional planning activities – including multi-modal and human services transportation, environmental planning, homelessness and affordable housing coordination, regional tourism, agricultural, and economic development activities. The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission is located in Culpeper, VA, and can be found online at <http://www.rrregion.org/>.