

Cynthia L. “Cindy” Balderson has been named Director of ConnectRappahannock, the Web-based information and communication service for the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.

A native of the Northern Neck, she has experience in real estate and management. An active volunteer, she has served in various capacities with organizations including the Animal Welfare League, Lancaster Band Boosters, YMCA and the White Stone Church of the Nazarene.

“I am excited to be part of ConnectRappahannock and look forward to playing a part in the organizations continued growth and success,” Balderson commented.

“Cindy has a wealth of knowledge about the region and deep understanding of the communities’ needs and priorities,” said Advisory Council Chair Paul Sciacchitano. “The project, which began in 2006, is poised to grow and her business background should help with expansion and fundraising.”

As director, Balderson oversees all aspects of the program, including developing Web site content, facilitating email groups, and handling community relations.

Through ConnectRappahannock citizens, particularly those who work in the nonprofit and government sectors, can access research, data and each other through the website and email list. Resources include a searchable nonprofit and government services database, a database of volunteer opportunities, and a regional calendar designed for event planners.

ConnectRappahannock also highlights news and issues of interest to people in the region. The network serves the counties of Essex, Lancaster, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland and is part of the ConnectNetwork, based in Richmond.

ConnectRappahannock’s Advisory Council is comprised of business, academic and philanthropic leaders who share an interest in strengthening the quality of life for citizens in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. The council sets the strategic direction and ensures the sustainability of ConnectRappahannock. In addition to chair Sciacchitano, who is senior vice president and investment officer at Wells Fargo Advisors, members are: Russell Brown, senior vice president, Northern Neck State Bank; Bobbie Burton, executive director, Hull Springs Farm of Longwood University; Victor Clough, dean of college advancement, Rappahannock Community College; Karen Hart, executive director, Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library; Walt Heyer, director, Westmoreland County Museum; the Rev. Dr. Edward King, Jr., senior program officer, Jessie Ball duPont Fund; Margaret Nost, director, River Counties Community Foundation; Albert Pollard, community volunteer; Maricel Quintana-Baker, assoc. director of academic affairs and planning, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; Marion Rowe, vice-president, Bank of Essex; Craig Smith, pastor, Morattico Baptist Church; Jeffrey Szyperski, president, Chesapeake Bank.

ConnectRappahannock is housed at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw.

Visit www.connectrappahannock.org, or call (804) 824-3676 for more information, to find out how your organization can become a member, or to arrange for a ConnectRappahannock presentation for your next group meeting.