

Note: This is the first of a series on issues and views by Kathy Swinehart Middlesex Supervisor for the Harmony Village District.

Kathy Swinehart

Supervisor

What to know about Kathy Swinehart's experience and background



As you read this I hope you will see that my work and volunteer efforts have given me a good understanding of the hopes of the people of the Harmony Village area of Middlesex County. **As your supervisor I try to bring the skills of listening** to others, educating myself on the issue, and planning for action to every aspect of the job.

I have been active in a number of local organizations during the past 18 years and had the pleasure of working with people from all walks of life in our county.

Through my experience as a board member of Keep Middlesex Beautiful Anti-Litter Committee, and Arts in the Middle, Inc., as well as volunteer work with the Oyster Festival Education Day, Master Gardeners, and Habitat for Humanity, I have met and worked with people from all walks of life and parts of our county. Whether it is picking up litter, organizing parking, shepherding students, building gardens, or using a hammer, I enjoy being involved in events that bring people together.

My 10-year-experience as a school principal gave me an understanding of running a small business. As chief school administrator I **managed a budget of over \$1 million**, negotiated contracts with professionals and vendors, recruited, hired and supervised a staff of 50 people.

In Middlesex I have worked as a tutor and substitute teacher in the elementary and high schools. Having visited dozens of schools in Virginia and elsewhere to evaluate or train teachers, I can say it is a great pleasure to visit Middlesex schools and observe innovation and dedication to learning. I have a good understanding of the law and policy governing education in Virginia and know how to get things done with scarce resources.

Throughout my undergraduate work at University of Mary Washington as well into my post graduate education, I worked to make ends meet learning valuable skills along the way. I have been a waitress, a legal assistant at a small firm and a teacher while going to school and raising two children.

My husband, Len, and I have had our home in Middlesex since 2000.