

# Fluvanna

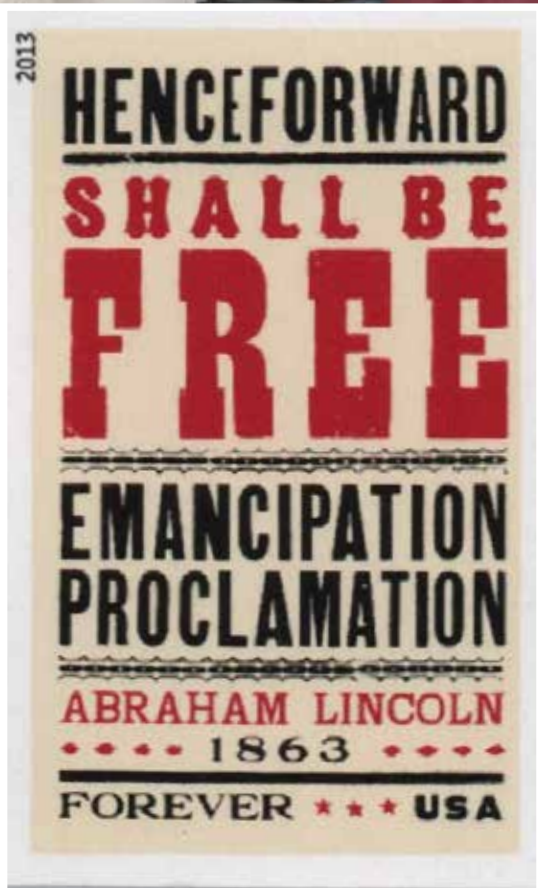
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## REVIEW



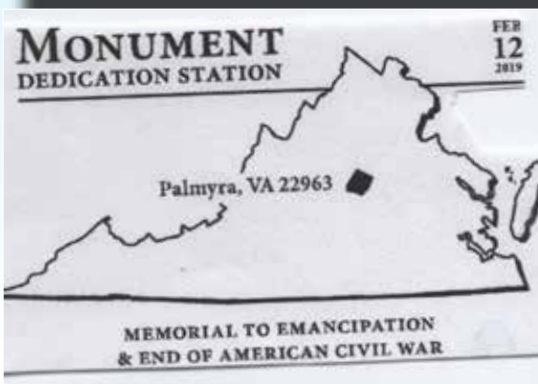
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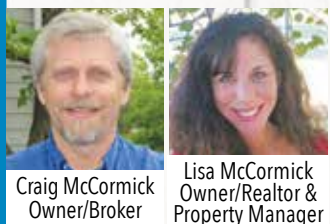


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The *Fluvanna Review* is published weekly by Valley Publishing Corp. and covers Fluvanna exclusively. It is printed on Tuesday afternoons. One copy is free. Additional copies are \$1 each payable in advance to the publisher.

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Copies will be mailed for the subscription price of \$140 per year or \$75 per six months. Please mail a check and a note with your name and address to: Subscriptions Dept., P.O. Box 59, Palmyra, VA 22963. For more information email Edee Povol at edee@fluvannareview.com.

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The *Fluvanna Review* is the paper of record for Fluvanna County. Call Judi Price at 434-207-0223 to place a legal ad.

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**DEADLINE** Advertising due by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for the issue released eight days later. Submissions, letters and calendar items due by Friday at 9 a.m. for the subsequent paper.

**DISPLAY AND WEB ADS** For information including rates and deadlines, call Judi Price at 434-207-0223.



### PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Submit your best Fluvanna photo to editor@fluvannareview.com

For a second year, Dominion Energy has allowed Carysbrook Elementary students the opportunity to learn through music about someone great in black history. The Virginia Opera performed *The Roland Hayes Story: A Lifetime in Song*, portraying the life of Roland Hayes, an African American lyric tenor and composer born in Georgia and raised and educated in Tennessee.

Pictured: Johanna Kvan (pianist), Symone Harcum (soprano), Dezmond Trent (third grade), Sarah Perkinson (Dominion Energy), Amyahi Grooms (third grade), Lola Smith (third grade), Steven Myles (tenor), and Cheyanne Short (third grade). Submitted by Tamika Carter.

**Cover:** Photo of the Fluco swim and dive team courtesy of Martha Fairbanks and Elizabeth Pellicane. Postmark imagery courtesy of David Bearr. Cover design by Amelia McConnell.

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# Supervisors advertise 94.9-cent tax rate

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

The Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors voted Wednesday night (Feb. 27) to advertise a maximum real estate tax rate of 94.9 cents per \$100.

At the Feb. 6 meeting, County Administrator Steve Nichols proposed a rate of 92.3 cents per \$100 for fiscal year 2020 (FY20), which starts July 1. The current equalized rate is 89.3 cents.

Under state law, supervisors must advertise a maximum tax rate ahead of a potential increase, although they can set the tax rate below the maximum.

"As in all years, we recommend strongly that you not use a number that's too small, because otherwise you have to start the clock all over again," Nichols said. "Set a number higher than you expect to end up with to cushion in case something changes between now and the day you adopt the budget."

He encouraged them to look at setting the maximum "no lower than 94.5 or 94.9" to give themselves some flexibility.

After some discussion of outstanding budget issues, the consensus seemed to build for a maximum of 94.9 cents.

Supervisor Tony O'Brien argued that there were priority items in the budget that needed to be addressed. "This is a very tight budget, and we're just advertising the rate," he said.

"I'm not going up that high," Supervisor Don Weaver said.

O'Brien made the motion, which was seconded by Supervisor Mozell Booker.

Weaver voted no.

With Supervisor Trish Eager not in attendance, Chair Mike Sheridan was the deciding vote.

After a long pause, he said, "If that's the absolute maximum...chair votes aye."

The information will be published in the *Fluvanna Review* beginning March 7. It will be several weeks before a final rate is decided.

"This is just the maximum it can be," Sheridan said. "It is not the tax rate."

## Budget presentations

Supervisors spent the first half of the session listening to budget presentations from the county registrar's office, social services, cooperative extension, the public library, fire and rescue, and the SPCA.

While the SPCA isn't technically a department, as Fluvanna's designated public animal shelter, it does receive financial support from the county.

Putting together the county's \$80 million budget is, in some ways, not unlike deciding on a household budget. Can that vehicle last another year? Does that roof really need to be replaced? Will spending some money now end up saving more money in the future?

Social Services Director Kim Mabe asked for support in hiring a full-time family services specialist to focus on her department's growing caseload of foster children.

In 2015, the county had just five children in foster placements. Currently, they have

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20 children in care.

"We are in desperate need of foster homes," she said.

Because of the shortage of local homes, half of Fluvanna's foster children are placed outside the county, which causes more stress for the kids by removing them from familiar surroundings and increases the workload for her small staff.

The state requires caseworkers to check on their foster placements on a regular basis. Between the increase in the number of cases they have to handle and the distances they have to cover to make distant home visits, Mabe said her staff is overworked and at risk of burnout.

An experienced specialist could spearhead the recruitment of foster families in Fluvanna, as well as training and monitoring.

The new position would cost about \$57,000 for pay and benefits, but with federal matching funds, the county would have to come up with around \$38,000.

Since using outside placement agencies can cost between \$23,000 and \$47,000 per child, a foster care coordinator could end up saving money over time by reducing dependence on out-of-county homes.

The funding of that position, along with dozens of other requests and recommendations, will be decided on by the board in the coming weeks. The final vote on the FY20 budget is scheduled for April 17.

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Fresh Pork Shoulder Picnics.....99¢ lb.  
Smithfield Baby Back Pork Ribs \$3.29 lb.  
Tyson Family Pack Boneless Chicken Breasts \$1.99 lb.  
Perdue Oven Stuffer Roasters.. \$1.29 lb.

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Boars Head Smoked Turkey ..... \$7.49 lb.  
Boars Head Muenster Cheese.. \$4.99 lb.  
Homemade Pasta Salad.....\$4.99 lb.  
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Hidden Valley Ranch Pasta Salad 2 flavors 2/\$4  
Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing 24 oz. \$3.99  
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Hunts Manwich Sauce 16 oz. ....99¢

### DAIRY & FROZEN

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Dannon Fruit on the Bottom Yogurt 6 ct. .39¢  
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Grade A Large Eggs Dozen .....99¢  
Turkey Hill Ice Cream 48 oz. .... 2/\$5  
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## TAX TIPS

BY RUDY GARCIA, RIVANNA WOODS FINANCIAL / TAX SERVICES

### Private Agencies Now Collecting for IRS

In a recent announcement, the IRS notified all taxpayers that outside collection of past-due tax bills was now in effect. This is a direct result of Congressional action requiring the IRS to turn over to outside companies billions in uncollected taxes it is no longer pursuing. This will impact all of us. Here is what you need to know.

**Turn up your scam alert.** Rest assured the tax-related identity theft epidemic is going to hit a new high as scam artists now will try to impersonate collection agencies. Never pay a collection agency directly for any tax owed. If you do not think you owe money to the IRS, ask for help.

**Only four agencies have been authorized.** Only four collection agencies have been authorized to collect unpaid taxes for the IRS. They are:

- ConServe, of Fairport, New York
- Pioneer, of Horseheads, New York
- Performant, of Pleasanton, California
- CBE Group, of Cedar Falls, Iowa

**You will receive written notice... twice.** Before an outside agency calls you, the IRS will send two written notices to you and your repre-

sentative about the transfer of the bill to an outside collection agency. Without these notices, you must assume any contact with a collection agency saying they represent the IRS is a scam.

**No payment to the agency.** These collection agencies may **not** receive direct payment. You will be asked to use the IRS online payment system or to send your payment into the IRS. Payment is to be made to the U.S. Treasury and not to the collection agency.

If a collection agency representative asks you to remit directly to them, immediately contact the IRS fraud hotline.

If you have any questions regarding your situation, don't hesitate to call or email us. Let us help take the complications out of filing your taxes!

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## Fluvanna Business Corner

### Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce Growing Every Business – FEBRUARY UPDATE

Rudy Garcia, President, Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce

Your Chamber has been busy in February! We started the month off with a Breakfast at the Lakeside where Sheriff Eric Hess and CPT Von Hill rolled out their three new Community Initiatives. Over 30 Chamber Members and guests attended. Then on February 9th, we held Ribbon Cuttings at Golden Fish and Sweet Art Emporium. It was a great success with lots of new things to see and eat!

On February 13th Chamber Members and Guests attended our Monfalcone & Garris PC Lunch and Learn. This quarter's topic was a Business Roundtable. Local business owners, Lelia Winget-Hernandez-co-owner of Commonwealth Life and Legacy Counsel, Tim Reese- founder of Bella Terra Landscapes, Gabe Anderson- owner of Community Ripple, Charlotte Broxton-owner of The Golden Fish Art and Play Studio, Rob Jones-co-owner of Centridian and Tracey William-co-owner of Jefferson Pharmacy graciously gave time and knowledge to help "Educate" business owners.

They covered topics ranging from the business climate in Fluvanna County, why they chose Fluvanna County, their biggest learning moment and many, many more.

Our final event in February kicked off on February 25rd when five of our Chamber Member Restaurants: Local Eats, Blue 53, The Pub at Lake Monticello, Sal's Italian Restaurant and the Lakeside Restaurant joined our Spring Fluvanna Restau-

rant Week! This is an opportunity to enjoy a great meal and support Fluvanna Meals On-Wheels and the Fluvanna Chamber Bill Hughes Memorial Scholarship Fund.

On March 5th we had the 2nd in our "Meet the Constitutional Officers Breakfast Series". March's Constitutional Officer was Commissioner of Revenue Mel Sheridan. This month's event was held at The Pub at Lake Monticello. We will give you an update on that in our March Chamber Round-up. April's speaker will be Commonwealth Attorney Jeff Haislip on April 9th. Call to register or find out more.

Our mission this year is to Become a Place Where Businesses Want to "Connect". To reach that goal, we are planning a number of opportunities for our members and not-yet members to gather together and get to know each other better. On March 14th we will have a Business After-hours at Canine Concierge and Equine. This will start at 5:30 pm and is a great opportunity to learn what owner Mary Marks has to offer your pups and to meet with other Chamber Members and guests. Register online at [www.fluvanna-chamber.org](http://www.fluvanna-chamber.org)

We are here to serve all businesses in the County. Give us a call to find out how you can become a part of the Fluvanna County Chamber of Commerce. We'd love to have you help us in our Mission to Promote, Educate and Connect!

### CONTACTS

Scott Marshall, Chair  
Economic Development Authority  
[edafluvanna@gmail.com](mailto:edafluvanna@gmail.com)  
Economic Development Coordinator  
434-591-1910

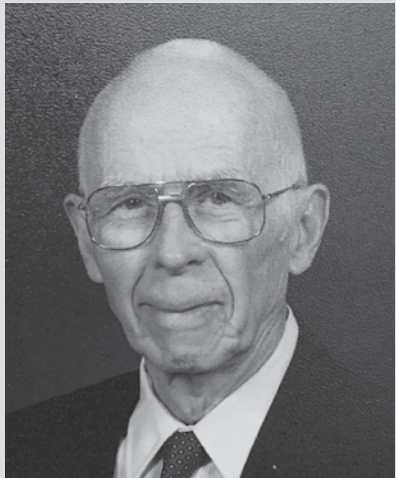
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## Obituary

### James Robert "Bob" Hamm



James Robert "Bob" Hamm, a longtime resident of Lake Monticello, died Feb. 17, 2019, in senior living in Boulder, Colo. He was 98 years old.

Bob had worked at Westinghouse Electric Co. in Pittsburgh, Kansas City and Philadelphia for more than 40 years. He and his wife Marian "Toddie" Hamm moved to Lake Monticello in 1985. Bob served on the property owners' board, helped launch Fluvanna County's recycling program and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.

Bob and Toddie left Lake Monticello for Wichita, Kan., in 2002.

A memorial service will be held at the First Congregational Church of Boulder May 4, 2019, starting at 11 a.m. He will be buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Humboldt at a later date.

# General Assembly expands revenge porn law to include fake nudes

BY CAITLIN MORRIS  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

The Virginia General Assembly passed a bill to expand revenge porn laws to include realistic fake images.

In 2014 Virginia outlawed the dissemination of explicit photos or videos without the consent of the person seen in the images. The images may have been originally shared in agreement between both parties, but in cases of revenge porn, they are posted online by people seeking to embarrass the victim.

"They put them on a website with the intent to coerce, harass or maliciously hurt those folks," said Del. Marcus B. Simon (D-Fairfax).

Simon introduced HB 2678 to protect victims of an emerging trend known as "deepfakes." These realistically fabricated images and videos are becoming more common as modern software develops and social media creates easier access to images.

"These days you don't even need to actually have photos like that – of the person, in your possession... All you have to have are pictures of their face," Simon said. "You can use artificial intelligence to wrap that on the body."

Roughly 10 million Americans have been threatened with or become victims of revenge porn. Women are twice as likely to be threatened by men, according to a 2016 study by the Data and Society Research Institute.

"The non-consensual dissemination of intimate photos or videos is not just humiliating for victims, but it can also carry significant emotional, psychological and even financial repercussions," Simon said.

In a 2015 study from the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative, 51 percent of victims of revenge porn indicated that they had considered committing suicide, and 39

percent said the crime affected their career and professional lives. Ninety percent of victims are women.

Revenge porn laws now exist in 41 states and Washington, D.C., but according to Simon's team, HB 2678 is "one of the first of its kind in the country."

The bill adds language to existing law that includes protection for victims when their image is used in the creation, adaptation or modification of a video or picture. Violators of the law could be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor, which carries a sentence of up to a year in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

"Deepfakes are yet another malicious tool used to harass and terrorize individuals, who are most often women," Simon said.

If signed by the governor, the "deepfake" cyber harassment bill will go into effect July 1.

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# Safe driving advocates lament defeat of “hands free” legislation

BY KATJA TIMM  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Traffic safety advocates are upset by the surprise defeat of legislation that would have prohibited motorists in Virginia from holding their cellphones while driving.

They said the legislation – HB 1811 and SB 1341, which died as the General Assembly adjourned Sunday (Feb. 24) – would have helped prevent accidents caused by distracted driving.

“We’re very disappointed,” said Janet Brooking, executive director of DRIVE SMART Virginia, a nonprofit group that promotes traffic safety. “We had been working very hard to make sure the bills advanced.”

For much of the legislative session, the bills appeared headed toward passage.

The House and Senate had each passed slightly different versions of HB 1811,

sponsored by Del. Chris Collins (R-Fredrick), and SB 1341, sponsored by Sen. Richard Stuart (R-King George).

One version said: “It is unlawful for any person, while driving a moving motor vehicle on the highways in the Commonwealth, to hold a handheld personal communications device.”

Another version said it would be unlawful for a driver “to hold in his hand a handheld personal communications device.”

Looking back, Brooking said amending the bill allowed opponents to sabotage the legislation.

“It’s not about the language of the amendment,” she said. “It’s about what happens to bills like this. The amendment was thrown in there to strategically put the bill in harm’s way.”

When a conference committee of House members and senators convened to resolve the matter the day before the session ended, the legislation was changed significantly. The committee recommended that drivers still be allowed to talk on their cellphones – they just couldn’t “view, read, or enter data.”

The conference committee’s report then was rejected in the House – and so the legislation died.

As a result, the current law, adopted in 2009, remains unchanged: It is illegal to text and send emails while driving, but not to use phone apps such as Snapchat, Facebook or Instagram, or to talk on the phone.

Brooking said she believes that fatalities and accidents would decrease if Virginia had stronger laws to stop driving distractions. That has happened in other states that have implemented “hands free” driving laws.

In mid-2018, the governor of Georgia signed the “Hands-Free Georgia Act,” which is almost identical to the original versions of the legislation proposed this year in the Virginia General Assembly. The act made it illegal for Georgia motorists to hold a handheld telecommunications device while driving.

Since the law took effect, traffic fatalities have dropped 14 percent in Georgia, according to the Glenda Mitchell Law Firm of Cartersville, Ga.

Brooking sees a silver lining in the defeat of the “hands free” bills at the Virginia Capitol. The legislation received widespread media coverage and raised awareness about the problem of drivers using cellphones.

“The press that we got on this bill was unparalleled,” Brooking said. “Through this process, we have educated and raised visibility towards the subject of distracted driving.”

Education and legal changes will be necessary to adequately address the problem, Brooking said. She said safe driving advocates will not give up pushing for stronger laws during the General Assembly’s next session.

“People are still being killed in our roadways,” Brooking said. “We can’t just walk away from this; people are dying.”

## Obituary

### Frances C. Sadler



Frances C. Sadler, 93, died Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, at Martha Jefferson Hospital. She was the beloved wife of the late Harold Sadler. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Sadie (Godfrey) Pepper, she had lived in Lake Monticello, Va., for seven years, previously, a longtime resident of Cranston, R.I. She was a bookkeeper for Providence Shipyard for five years and for Martin Dittelman for 20 years, retiring in 1994. Frances was a graduate of URI, Class of '75. She was a founding member of Temple Sinai and past president of its Sisterhood. Frances was a past PTA president of Stadium School and past president of Temple Beth-El Garden Club. She was a life member of Hadassah, Brandeis, Council of Jewish Women and RI Jewish Historical Society, and also a member of numerous book and history groups in Lake Monticello. Frances was an Ikenobo Master teacher.

Frances was the devoted mother of Carl Sadler (Betsy Smith Sadler) of Stuart's Draft, Va., Philip Sadler (Gerri Bernstein) of Cambridge, Mass., Alan Sadler (Colleen Dirsmith) of Chicago, Ill., and Shirley Stewart (Alan) of Lake Monticello, Va. She was the dear sister of the late Arnold “Arnie” Pepper and Sanford “Babe” Pepper, and the loving grandmother of Max, Casey, Ozzie, Benjamin, Samuel, Daniel, Courtney, Derek and Morgan. She was the cherished great-grandmother of Noah, Ari, Isaiah, Henry, Eleanor and Sigmund.

Funeral services were held in Rhode Island. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to Sadler Family Scholarship Fund, c/o URI Foundation, PO Box 1700, Kingston, R.I. 02881, or the charity of your choice. Shiva will be private. For online condolences, please visit ShalomMemorialChapel.com.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Potluck

Salem United Methodist Church will hold a community potluck Saturday, **March 9** beginning at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcomed to join in an evening of fun and fellowship.

### Monthly meals

Fork Union Baptist Church will hold a meal for anyone in the community on the second Saturday of each month. This month, on **March 9** from 6-7 p.m., the meal will be spaghetti, and donations will be taken to support missions. Reservations are not necessary; just come.

### Bands and brew

Slate Creek Bands and Brews will take place **March 16** from noon to 5 p.m., featuring live music from Michelle Nixon and Slate River Unplugged, and Bobby Baine Music. There will be vendors, children’s activities, food available to purchase, local and domestic beer, local cider and wine, and nonalcoholic drinks. All beer sales benefit CJ Thumbs Up Foundation. Tickets: [www.alvisfarmsatslatecreek.com](http://www.alvisfarmsatslatecreek.com).

### Usher anniversary

New Fork Baptist Church Usher Ministry will hold the third Ushers’ Anniversary **March 17** at 3 p.m. Matthew 25 of Charlottesville will be in concert. Come and join the celebration. For questions contact Mary Jones at 434-962-5705 or Barbara Cary at 434-842-3095.

### Vegetable growing class

Join Fluvanna Master Gardeners for a free class on vegetable growing for beginners on Saturday, **March 23** at the Fluvanna County Community Garden at Pleasant Grove from 9-11 a.m. Observe or participate hands-on with the planting. Bring a chair, gloves and a hand shovel. Visit [www.fluvanamg.org](http://www.fluvanamg.org) for more information.

### Meals on Wheels auction

Fluvanna Meals on Wheels will hold a quilt auction at Cunningham Creek Winery Saturday, **March 30** from 6:30-9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door, and include a glass of wine and appetizers. For more information, please call 434-589-1685 or email [fluvannamealsonwheels@embarqmail.com](mailto:fluvannamealsonwheels@embarqmail.com).



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We're extremely excited to be a part of this year's Virginia Festival of the Book, and you're invited to join in the fun, as they present **Locavores Unite: Your Guides to Eating and Drinking Locally**. You'll hear from local authors Renee Brooks Catacalos (*The Chesapeake Table*), Marijean Oldham (*100 Things to Do in Charlottesville Before You Die*), and Lee Graves (*Virginia Beer*). They'll be discussing their books, as well as the benefits of eating locally and the best places to eat and drink. If you enjoy eating and drinking or even if you just like to have fun locally, then this is one Third Thursday you can't afford to miss. Bon Appetit!

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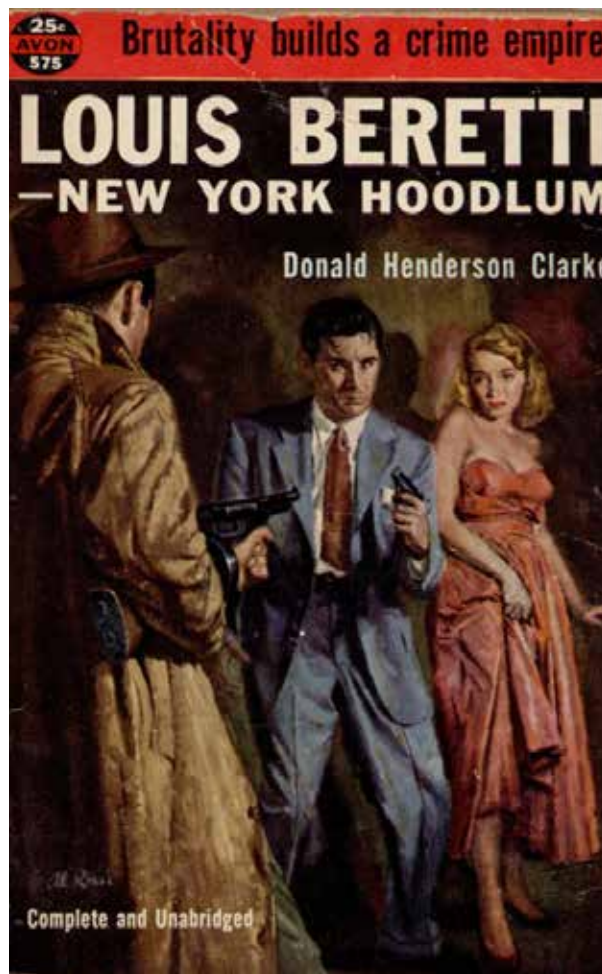
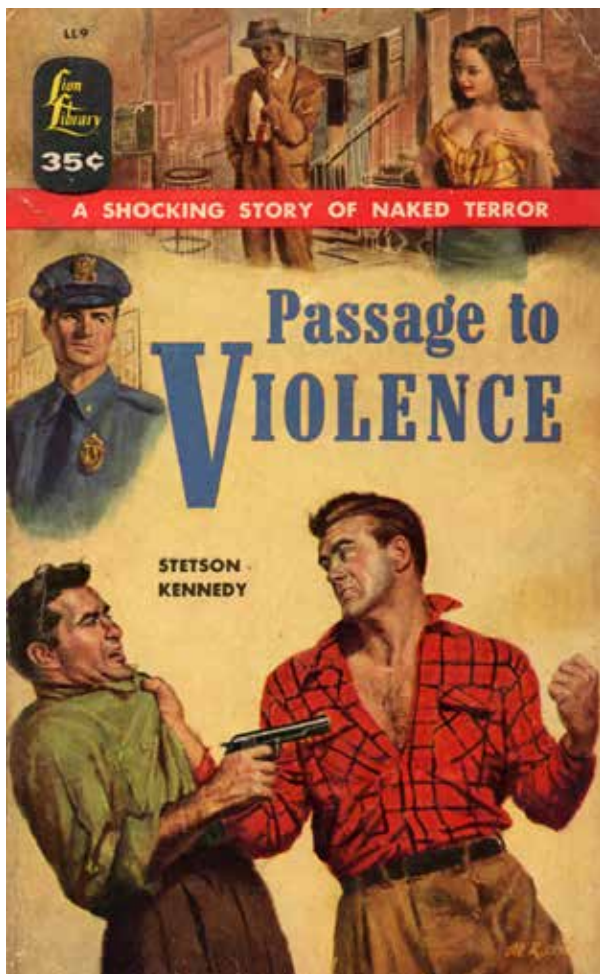


## WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED IN ALBEMARLE, FLUVANNA, LOUISA AND MORE!



# Reflections on the work of an artist

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD  
CORRESPONDENT



Left: Al Rossi created covers for pulp fiction novels.  
Above: Al Rossi's self portrait at the piano at age 17.  
Images courtesy of Martha Rossi.

Those familiar with graphic art and illustration may have come across an artist famous for his racy and sensual covers for pulp fiction magazines and paperback bodice rippers during the '50s and '60s. The work of former Lake Monticello resident Al Rossi featured coarse-grained men and seductive yet vulnerable women.

"It paid the bills," said his wife, Martha Rossi.

She was close to 30 and a dental hygienist when one of her patients fixed her up with a young artist living in her attic. She and Al Rossi embarked on a journey together, living a modest but comfortable life with their two children.

Al Rossi was the product of a long line of musicians; no one is quite sure how visual art came into his life. His grandfather, Giuseppe Rossi, was a professor of music in Italy and came to America with his musical band. Al Rossi grew up in the Bronx in a large old house, where he would draw and paint. His father taught piano and Al Rossi learned to play.

In a bio he wrote and illustrated as one of his projects for art school, he said that his father's perseverance and carefully planned lessons were something he struggled with. He continued with lessons to uphold his father's reputation as a teacher and a musician. By 17 he had become an accomplished pianist.

After the war, he joined a jazz band and traveled prior to entering art school.

"I didn't understand jazz but I'd thought I'd give it a try," said Al Rossi. "To my amazement and later happiness I found myself enjoying the music more and more. I found delight in a new form of musical expression. It is possible to understand both classical music and jazz and to appreciate both."

Long before he embarked on a career in art, Al Rossi dreamed of becoming an aeronautical engineer. Martha Rossi pointed out the original models he had made, hanging from the ceiling of a spare room. Her husband had described the time that went into his creations, the meticulous calculations and the significant effort.

He did attend Fordham with the expectation of an engineering degree, but when World War II interrupted his plans, he put his life on hold until the war was over. Though war is never a pleasant experience, Al Rossi maintained a positive perspective and said he was glad to have traveled to other places he might never have seen. He also met an Austrian girl named Kitty, who liked to dance and may have had other interests.

"I think she figured she would be a war bride," said Martha Rossi.

Not too long after Al Rossi returned to the States, he was accepted at the prestigious Pratt Institute in 1950, and later studied at the Arts Student League with

Howard Trafton.

After graduating from Pratt, Al Rossi worked for Bantam Press and others as an illustrator of paperback and adventure magazine covers in a genre referred to as pulp fiction. Pulp fiction encompassed hardboiled crime novels, popular during the '40s and '50s and known for their graphic violence and strong dialogue.

"Many friends and neighbors posed for Al and he used reference photos as well in his work," said his wife.

Looking at these covers nowadays evokes a sense of gender-specific roles with tantalizing and naughty glossy comic book colors. The women's movement changed perceptions and pulp fiction eventually went out of style when its audience no longer demanded it.

Al Rossi also combined his interests in art and engineering by designing and illustrating toys for Ideal, Matchbox, and LNJ during his 40-year career. He even sculpted some of the cars he collected over the years, including his beloved MG. The sculpture is masterfully crafted right down to the wire rim spokes in the wheels.

In 1989 Al Rossi retired and he and his wife settled in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, snug in the woods where he embarked on the third and final journey of his life, painting serene landscapes and figures in oils, watercolors and pastels. He

had always harbored the desire to paint, and enjoyed that he was finally free to create without outside input or deadlines.

His landscapes of New England and Nova Scotia, places which he and Martha Rossi often visited, were a stark departure from his earlier work. His work reflected a lone fisherman in a stream of muted, calming watercolor, or the soft strokes and colors of a small harbor scene or a quiet landscape.

Al Rossi contracted leukemia prior to their move to Lake Monticello, but he continued painting towns, farms, rolling pastures, wooded areas, streams and ponds: the things that gave him artistic purpose and peace.

After a long bout with leukemia, Al Rossi died in 2004. He received many art awards, and his work is in business and private collections; Martha Rossi has very few left. But her memories of her husband and his work remain, and her face lights up when she thinks of him.

Al Rossi summed it up best after he began studying at Pratt Institute.

"After three months of fussing with clay rectangles and life classes I found the career I wanted to follow," he said. "I knew then as I know now that this was the profession I had been seeking. I'd like nothing better than to spend the rest of my life engaged in painting and the like." And he did.



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# Vernatter pins down the wins

BY BLAKE BERRY  
FCHS JOURNALISM PROGRAM



Wrestler Ethan Vernatter stands between his parents, Felipa and Billy Vernatter.

Quite a lot is expected out of student athletes throughout high school, but especially in their senior year. Applying to colleges, completing final classes needed to graduate, and succeeding in their sports are some of the many challenges they have to balance. Those who manage these priorities well become some of the

school's most impressive students.

One such person is senior Ethan Vernatter, who participates in wrestling, lacrosse, and cross country, as well as a variety of advanced classes.

Vernatter has been in wrestling and lacrosse since sixth grade, and started to run cross country in his junior year. "I wasn't very

into sports. I was actually pretty out of shape, so it started as a way to get into shape, and then grew from there," Vernatter said.

Motivation is a key factor in any person's work, and without a doubt plays a role in the tasks of students and athletes alike. Vernatter finds his motivation through his sports performances: "I want other people to look at me, whether it be at a wrestling tournament or at school, and know that I'm good at what I do."

Vernatter believes that, as both a team member and a leader, his knowledge of sports and his years of experience studying them differentiates him from others. "I've put a lot of time and effort into making sure I understand my sports to the best of my ability," he said.

One of the things Vernatter is most proud of in his sports career is that he arguably has the most pins in a Fluvanna wrestling season, and that is just from this past year.

Outside of sports, Vernatter has taken a variety of classes in preparation for college and a career, including pre-calculus and journalism. He is a reporter for the Fluco Beat, the school's student website, a member of the Beta Club, and was selected to participate in last summer's American Legion Boys State. When he isn't competing or studying, Vernatter likes to hang out with his friends and relax.

Because of his efforts in his sports career, Vernatter was recently selected by CBS 19 as a student athlete of the week, an honor that only one other FCHS athlete, senior Christina Walker, has received this year.

Although Vernatter's experience with high school wrestling and cross country is done, his lacrosse season has only just begun. Vernatter plans to go on to college, but is undecided thus far, although he is considering a major in history and political science, and a minor in education.

# Strong season predicted for Fluco baseball

BY TOBY SHERMAN  
FCHS JOURNALISM PROGRAM

Heading into the 2019 season, the Fluvanna varsity baseball team appears to be as strong as ever based on their athlete line up. Losing only three seniors from last year, the team will remain relatively the same as it was in 2018 when it had a record of 15-7.

The 2019 team is highlighted by depth, a strong batting lineup, and a determination to win. Along with past success comes a level of expectation that can be hard to live up to, but the coaches and players believe that they are more than capable of a successful season.

Meanwhile, the coaching staff will remain the same as last year, consisting of head coach Joel Gray, assistant coach Stacy Berringer, and assistant coach Chris Critzer. "We're going to have to have a little bit of luck, but in all phases of the game, we should be strong," said Gray.

Last year, the Flucos made it all the way to the semifinal of the VHSL Class 3 Boys' Baseball State Championship. Gray is hoping to lead the varsity team to another positive year after winning the Region 3C Coach of the Year in 2018. "Our motto this year is going to be 136.2, because it's 136.2 miles from the door-

step of Fluvanna County High School to the stadium in Salem where we can win the state championship," said Gray.

Student leaders on the team will include senior Jacob Critzer, senior Ryan Groome, and juniors Cameron Shields, Andrew Ward and Kevin Ward. "I look forward to getting out there with the boys again. It's my last ride and we're going to make the most of it," said Groome.

The Ward brothers, who are identical twins, will be at the forefront of the pitching staff and will combine to pitch a bulk of the innings this season. Last season, as a sophomore, Kevin Ward pitched a no-hitter against Charlottesville and combined for a no-hitter against Monticello. Andrew Ward underwent Tommy John's surgery in 2017 and was sidelined from pitching for most of his sophomore year. However, he appears to have recovered well and is now fully healthy, topping out at 89 mph off the mound.

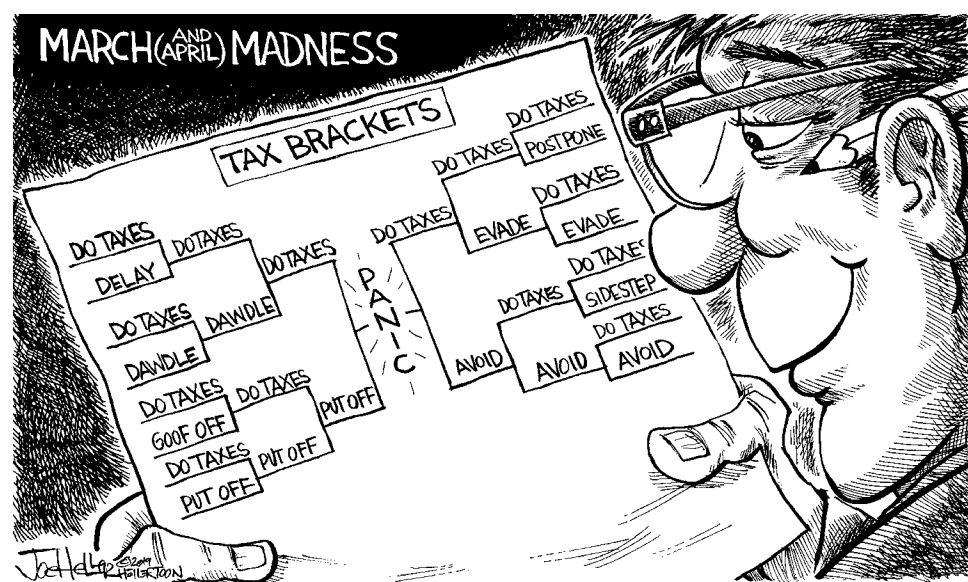
The team has set its sights high for the year, and hopes to prove the saying "defense wins championships" to be correct. "We have proven that we can play great defense and

we have a strong pitching staff," said Gray. The Flucos had a .964 fielding percentage last season, making only 23 errors on 636 total chances. The team also posted an outstanding 2.35 ERA (earned run average) and a total of 135 strikeouts.

Not only do the Flucos have talent across the field, but they are armed with an explosive arsenal of hitters. Senior Ryan Groome

led the team last year with a batting average of .400, a .964 OPS (on base plus slugging), and a .520 slugging percentage. Fellow senior Jacob Critzer also performed well last year, hitting .323, with a .949 OPS and a home run to top it off.

The Flucos will be away at Madison on March 7 for their first scrimmage of the year.





# Top athletes honored at winter banquet

BY DUNCAN NIXON  
CORRESPONDENT



Members of the Fluco wrestling team pose with certificates.  
Photo courtesy of Jordan Divine and Elizabeth Pellicane.

The Flying Fluco winter sports banquet was delayed a couple times due to bad weather and a girls' basketball play-off game. The banquet was held Monday (Feb. 25). Athletic Director Scott Morris was the emcee, and he led off with thanks to all the volunteers, coaches and spouses as he always does.

The first to speak at this banquet was girls' basketball coach Chad White. He reported that his squad had a strong season and was one win away from qualifying to play in the State tournament. Four of his players received Jefferson District honors. Nevaeh Ivory made first team All-District. Jules Shepherd and Khamare Steppe were second team All-District and Mya Wright was honorable mention.

At the region level, Ivory was again selected to the first team, Shepherd was second team and Steppe was honorable mention. All of these athletes are underclassmen, so White will have a strong team again next year.

Boys' basketball coach Jason Davis reported that his squad made it to the Region tournament, and that several of his players received Jefferson District and Region honors. Freshman Kobe Edmonds and sophomore John Boy Rittenhouse were honored at the District level. These two and senior Drew Pace were honored at the Region level.

Girls' indoor track coach Rose Brogan reported that her squad had a very successful season. The team finished third at the Region meet and a host of athletes won All-Region honors, while three individual athletes and one relay team gained All-State honors. Emily Smeds, a top distance runner, was All-State in both the 1,600 and the 3,200 (one mile and two miles). In the pole vault Amina Wilson

was second and Ashlee Pieno was third, so both were All-State. The 4X800 relay team finished third and made All-State. This team consisted of Smeds, Emily Beckman, Hattie Lintecum and Kieri Hart.

The Fluco girls finished third at the Region meet. Their only Region champion was Amina Wilson in pole vault. All-Region honors were won by Kaitlin Bower in the 55-meter dash and the long jump, Hart in the 55-meter, Beckman in the 1,600 and the 3,200, and Pieno in pole vault. All-Region honors also went to three relay teams consisting of Kieri Hart, Shea Hart, Bower, Tallon Solga, Skylar Solga, Lintecum, Smeds, Summer Craig and Anja Vernatter.

The boys' indoor team also did very well at the Region meet. Coach Steve Szarmach's squad finished second. They also went on to take ninth place at the State meet. All-State honors were garnered by Christian Holland in the long jump and the triple jump, Ledric Reid in the 55-meter hurdles,

Eli Hartzog in the shot put, Ethan Yancy in the pole vault, and Colby Martin in the triple jump. The 4X200 relay team was also All-State. It consisted of Jared Newman, Cameron Holland, Martin and Dante Eddings.

At the Region meet, the boys had one first place: Eddings won the 55-meter dash. Eddings was also All-Region in the long jump. All-Region honors also went to Yancey in the pole vault, Eric White in the 500-meter, Reid in the 55 hurdles, Hartzog in the shot put, Christian Holland in the triple jump and the long jump, Cameron Holland in the triple jump, and finally Martin in three events: the 55 dash and the long and triple jumps.

Swim coach Feda Morton reported that boys' and girls' swim teams broke 16 school records this season. Abigail Fuller set school records in the 50 free, the 100 free and the 200 free. Spanish exchange student Maialen Sudupe broke school records in the 200 IM, the 500 free, and the 100 backstroke. Abigayle Harlow broke the school record in the 100 breaststroke. Two relay teams set school records. The 200 free relay team won at the State meet. The team consisted of Sudupe, Fuller, Harlow and Emma DiFazio. The 200 medley relay team also won at the State meet. It consisted of Sudupe, Fuller, Harlow and Ally Lounsbury.

A bunch of boys' records also fell this season. Hunter Strickland led the way by establishing new records in the 100 free, the 200 free and the 200 IM. Gus Jones set a school record in the 100 breaststroke. Three boys' relay teams established new school records. The swimmers on these teams were Jones, Hunter Strickland, Owen Strickland, Jack Kershner, and Connor Bridge.

Wrestling coach Michael Gore reported that his young team had a good season, with six wrestlers making All-District: Jariq Henson, Wyatt Dillon, Mason Justus, Tyler Stoy, Dakota Mundy and Ethan Vernatter, who finished in second place in the Jefferson District. Vernatter and Shawn Metcalf finished third and fourth at the Region meet to achieve All-Region honors.

On the academic competition side, ACE Coach Luke Divine reported that his team finished the season with an 8-6 record. He noted that team was led by senior captain Bayley Leyshon, high scorer Liam Bridge and Jared Newman.

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# Birds alight

Birds brought a splash of color to Fluvanna during the dull winter months. Local residents caught these birds hungry, aloof, or confused about where to fly next.

Clockwise: A woodpecker looks for food at Pleasant Grove; photo by Monique Drumheller. A bald eagle perches at the point of Madison Cove in Lake Monticello; photo by Bob Lamb. An eastern bluebird keeps warm in freezing temperatures; photo by Patricia Soule. An eastern bluebird out at Pleasant Grove waits for his wife to give him directions; photo by Stan Kaslusky. An American eagle perches in a Lake Monticello backyard; by Joann and George Oss.





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## PUBLIC HEARING

### Fluvanna County Board of Zoning Appeals Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2204, a public hearing will be held in the Morris Room of the County Administration Building located at 132 Main St. in Palmyra, Virginia for citizens of the County to have the opportunity to appear before and be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals for the following items:

**BZA 19:01 – Todd and Casey Robinson:** A request for a variance to Fluvanna County Code Sec.22-4-3(E) of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the reduction of the minimum front setback required along a public road, from 125 feet to 80 feet and, for the purpose of constructing an attached garage to their existing home and bringing the existing home into compliance with the front yard setback requirements for Tax Map 19, Section 13, Parcel 16.

Copies of the complete text of the above ordinances and associated plans are available for public review at the Office of the Fluvanna County Administrator during normal business hours. The public is invited to attend these hearings at which persons affected may appear and present their views. Questions or comments may be directed to Planning & Community Development Department, at (434) 591-1910.



## PUBLIC HEARING

### Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2204, a public hearing will be held in the Circuit Court Room at the Fluvanna County Courts Building in Palmyra, Virginia for citizens of the County to have the opportunity to appear before and be heard by the Board of Supervisors for the following items:

**SUP 19:01 National Communication Towers** – A request for a special use permit to construct a 199' Self-Support Tower, with respect to 12.7 acres of Tax Map 39, Section A, Parcel 29. The property is located off of West River Rd. (State Route 6), approximately 0.6 miles northeast of the intersection with Rockfish Run Rd. (State Route 683). The parcel is zoned A-1 Agricultural, General and located within the Rural Preservation Planning Area and the Fork Union Election District.

**SUP 19:02 Amy and Stephen Beyer** – A request for a special use permit to convert an existing building into a "low-volume medical clinic" with respect to 3.81 acres of Tax Map 29, Section A, Parcel 89. The property is located off of Thomas Jefferson Pkwy. (State Route 53), approximately 500 feet west of the intersection with Stage Coach Hills Rd (State Route 1010). The parcel is zoned A-1 Agricultural, General and located within the Rural Residential Planning Area and the Fork Union Election District.

Copies of the complete text of the above ordinances and associated plans are available for public review at the Office of the Fluvanna County Administrator during normal business hours. The public is invited to attend these hearings at which persons affected may appear and present their views. Questions or comments may be directed to Planning & Community Development Department, at (434) 591-1910.



## NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE INCREASE FLUVANNA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Per Virginia Code Section 58.1-3321, notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors of Fluvanna County proposes to increase property tax levies.

- (1) **Assessment Increase:** Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 3.36% percent.
- (2) **Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment:** The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above would be \$0.893 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate".
- (3) **Effective Rate Increase:** The County of Fluvanna proposes to adopt a tax rate of \$0.949 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be \$0.056 per \$100 or 6.27 percent. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase".

Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.

- (4) **Proposed Total Budget Increase:** Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of Fluvanna County will exceed last year's by 4.55 percent 1.

A public hearing on the proposed tax rate and increase above will be held on Wednesday, April 10 th , 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Circuit Court Room, Fluvanna Courts Building, Palmyra, Virginia. Anyone needing additional information or special assistance/accommodation due to a disability in order to attend the hearing should contact the County Administrator's office, at (434) 591-1910, not later than 5 p.m. on April 3, 2019.

<sup>1</sup>The total budget increase is based on all revenues received by the General Fund of Fluvanna County.



## PUBLIC HEARING

### Fluvanna County Planning Commission Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2204, a public hearing will be held in the Circuit Court Room at the Fluvanna County Courts Building in Palmyra, Virginia for citizens of the County to have the opportunity to appear before and be heard by the Planning Commission for the following items:

**ZMP 18:01 Steven L. & Codie C. Peters / Colonial Circle** – A request to rezone, from A-1 Agricultural, General and B-1 Business, General to R-3, Residential Planned Community, 61.95 acres of Tax Map 8, Section A, Parcel A14A. The property is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Thomas Jefferson Parkway (Route 53) and Lake Monticello Road (State Route 618). The property is within the Rivanna Community Planning Area and the Palmyra Election District.

**SUP 18:05 Steven L. & Codie C. Peters / Colonial Circle Density** – A request to increase density above 2.9 dwelling units per acre with respect to 61.95 acres of Tax Map 8, Section A, Parcel A14A. The property is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Thomas Jefferson Parkway (Route 53) and Lake Monticello Road (State Route 618). The property is within the Rivanna Community Planning Area and the Palmyra Election District.

**SUP 19:01 National Communication Towers** – A request for a special use permit to construct a 199' Self-Support Tower, with respect to 12.7 acres of Tax Map 39, Section A, Parcel 29. The property is located off of West River Rd. (State Route 6), approximately 0.6 miles northeast of the intersection with Rockfish Run Rd. (State Route 683). The parcel is zoned A-1 Agricultural, General and located within the Rural Preservation Planning Area and the Fork Union Election District.

**SUP 19:02 Amy and Stephen Beyer** – A request for a special use permit to convert an existing building into a "low-volume medical clinic" with respect to 3.81 acres of Tax Map 29, Section A, Parcel 89. The property is located off of Thomas Jefferson Pkwy. (State Route 53), approximately 500 feet west of the intersection with Stage Coach Hills Rd (State Route 1010). The parcel is zoned A-1 Agricultural, General and located within the Rural Residential Planning Area and the Fork Union Election District.

Copies of the complete text of the above ordinances and associated plans are available for public review at the Office of the Fluvanna County Administrator during normal business hours. The public is invited to attend these hearings at which persons affected may appear and present their views. Questions or comments may be directed to Planning & Community Development Department, at (434) 591-1910.



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REVIEW

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Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.



## NATURE OF INCIDENT / TOTAL

911 HANGUP	10
911 MISDIAL	4
911 OPEN LINE	3
ANIMAL CONTROL CALLBACK	7
ADULT WELFARE/PUB SAFETY CHK	3
AGGRESSIVE ANIMAL	1
ANIMAL CARCASS	1
ANIMAL WELFARE	2
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	9
BE ON LOOKOUT	10
CHILD WELFARE/ABUSE/ENDNGMNT	3
CIVIL INFORMATION REQUEST	2
CIVIL PAPER RECEIVED	6
CIVIL PAPER SERVICE	82
COMMERCIAL BURG ALARM	7
COURTESY TRANSPORT	1
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY	5
DISABLED VEHICLE	4
DISTURBANCE	4
ECOTDO CALL	2
FINGERPRINTS	7
FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION	16
FRAUD	3
GUN PERMIT RECEIVED	7
HARASSMENT PHONE/OTHER	2
HOLD-UP ALARM	1
VCIN CHECK	1
INCLEMENT WEATHER LOG	1
LARCENY/THEFT	4
PHONE CALL RETURN	45
LIVESTOCK CALL	1
LOST ANIMAL	1
MAGISTRATE WALK-IN	3
MENTAL WELFARE CALL NO INJURY	1
MVC W/ENTRAPMENT OR INTO STRUC	1
MVC WITH INJ OR UNKNOWN INJ	2
MVC WITH NO INJURY	1
DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS	1
NUISANCE DOMESTIC ANIMAL	2
OTHER LAW CALL	8
PEDESTRIAN IN ROAD/INTOX PEDES	1
PRISONER TRANSPORT	7
LAW PUBLIC SERVICE	1
REPOSSESSION	2
RESIDENTAL BURGLAR ALARM	2
ROAD NAME SIGN DOWN	2
SELECT PATROL	35
SEXUAL-RELATED OFFENSES	1
SHOTS HEARD	1
SICK CALL	1
STRAY CAT	1
STRAY DOG	10
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/PERSON	11
DIRECT TRAFFIC/FUNERAL TRAFFIC	22
TRAFFIC HAZARD	2
TRAFFIC STOP	65
TRESPASSING/HUNTING TRESPASS	1
VCIN QUERY RUN	2
WARRANT RECEIVED	8
OUT SERVING WARRANT	17

**TOTAL INCIDENTS 466**

## CRASHES

MVC NO INJURY	02:40:27	02/23/19
370 BLK SHORES RD		
MVC INJURY/UNK	14:33:52	02/25/19
INTERSTATE 64		
MVC ENTRAP/BLD	07:35:54	02/26/19
BETHEL CHURCH RD & JAMES MADISON HWY		
MVC INJURY/UNK	09:32:33	02/27/19
KINGS WAY & UNION MILLS RD		

**TOTAL CRASHES 4**

## ARRESTS

<b>FEB. 22 AT 10:19 P.M.</b>
HOME ADDRESS: PALMYRA
UNDERAGE PURCHASE/POSSESSION
<b>FEB. 22 AT 10:34 P.M.</b>
HOME ADDRESS: PALMYRA
MANUFACTURING/SELLING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
<b>FEB. 23 AT 1:52 P.M.</b>
HOME ADDRESS: PALMYRA
NO OFFENSE SPECIFIED
<b>FEB. 23 AT 5:44 P.M.</b>
HOME ADDRESS: NOT SPECIFIED
DUI/DUID
<b>FEB. 26 AT 12:48 P.M.</b>
HOME ADDRESS: PALMYRA
FAILURE TO APPEAR
<b>FEB. 26 AT 11:33 P.M.</b>
HOME ADDRESS: PALMYRA
MANUFACTURING/SELLING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
<b>FEB. 27 AT 9:17 P.M.</b>
HOME ADDRESS: SCOTTSVILLE
ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A FAMILY MEMBER
<b>FEB. 28 AT 11:02 A.M.</b>
HOME ADDRESS: DILLWYN
THREE COUNTS OF MANUFACTURING/SELLING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
<b>FEB. 28 AT 3:28 P.M.</b>
HOME ADDRESS: PALMYRA
DUI/DUID
<b>FEB. 28 AT 10:09 P.M.</b>
HOME ADDRESS: FORK UNION
DUI/DUID, POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA, DRIVING WITH A SUSPENDED/REVOKED LICENSE

**TOTAL ARRESTS 10**

# SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

9		1					5	
			2					
6	4							3
		4				1		
	8			7				
				8		6		
1				9				2
				5	2		8	4
		9			3		1	

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

## HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

8	6	1	3	7	4	9	5	2
5	3	7	9	1	2	4	6	8
2	9	4	8	5	6	1	7	3
1	4	5	2	6	8	7	3	9
9	2	8	1	3	7	5	4	6
3	7	6	5	4	9	8	2	1
7	5	2	6	8	1	3	9	4
4	8	9	7	2	3	6	1	5
6	1	3	4	9	5	2	8	7

## The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- Use the guillotine on
- Wreak havoc on
- What some doors do
- Like evening gowns
- Jubilance
- German white wine
- That \_\_\_ then...
- Sheets for small bed
- PC linkup
- Endure
- Slippery swimmers
- Cowboy's buddy
- Be nomadic
- Canadian tribe
- Slight trace
- Like a teen idol
- Changed sides
- Straight, at the bar
- Chute opener?
- Blasted
- Like some jokes or jobs
- Watered silk
- Sharon of "Dreamgirls"
- Urban haze
- Pint-sized
- Part of DOA
- Auctioneer's word
- Before, in verse
- Early timekeeper
- Mai \_\_\_
- Hold the minority opinion
- Mollify
- Core
- Spark plug, e.g.
- Like some discussions
- Specially trained groups

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13									14					15
16									17					
18				19			20					21		
22			23			24					25			
26					27					28				
29				30			31		32					
33						34		35						
36	37	38					39		40			41	42	43
44						45		46			47			
48					49					50				
51				52					53			54		
55			56					57			58			
59								60						
61								62						

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- |                    |                                  |                       |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Slippery         | 37 Provide with food             | 49 Conical-cap wearer |
| 3 All the rage     | 38 Skilled delicacy              | 50 Adrenal or thyroid |
| 4 A-list           | 39 Sales prospect                | 52 Email folder       |
| 5 Swear to         | 41 Copy                          | 53 Aquatic plant      |
| 6 Naysayer         | 42 Gives to Goodwill, say        | 56 Coral or Caspian   |
| 7 Dream time       | 43 More custardlike              | 58 Dupont, in DC      |
| 8 Medicinal plants | 46 Acid used in nylon production |                       |

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

S	T	E	P		S	L	I	T		M	A	S	S			
T	U	T	O	R		P	A	T	H		O	B	I	T		
U	N	C	L	E		A	S	S	O	C	I	A	T	E		
B	E	H	E	M	O	T	H		R	U	S	S	I	A		
					C	O	D	E		P	O	R	T	E	N	D
T	O	W	A	R	D		B	R	U	T	E					
S	K	I	T	S		S	L	A	G		N	A	P	E		
A	R	K		E	M	P	A	T	H	Y		B	U	S		
R	A	I	L		E	A	S	T		U	S	U	R	P		
					O	P	A	R	T		F	L	A	T	L	Y
R	E	D	W	I	N	E		B	E	E	N					
E	Y	E	L	E	T		F	I	E	L	D	D	A	Y		
A	R	M	A	D	I	L	L	O		O	B	A	M	A		
L	I	O	N		M	A	A	M		G	A	M	E	R		
M	E	N	D		E	D	G	E		R	E	N	D			



# USPS issues Palmyra postmark honoring monument dedication

PRESS RELEASE

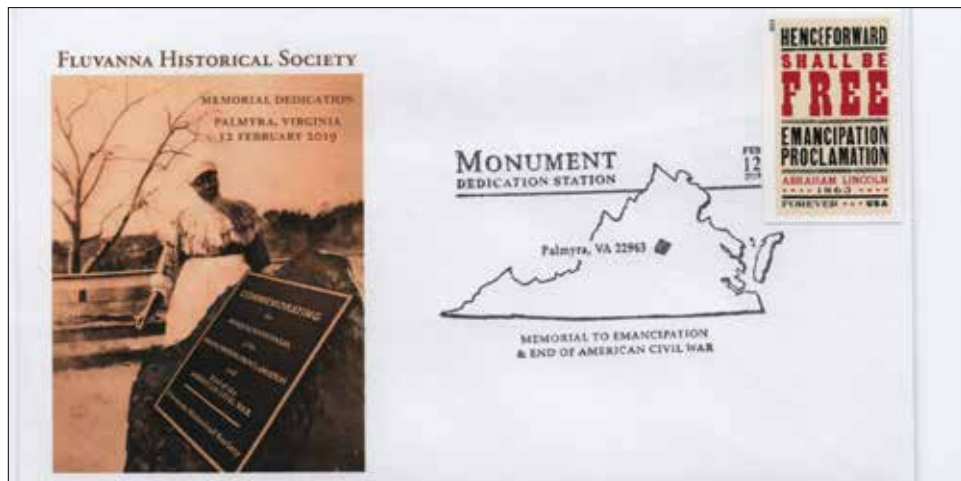


Photo courtesy of David Berr.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) issued a pictorial postmark Feb. 12 at the dedication of Fluvanna’s memorial to the Emancipation Proclamation and the end of the Civil War.

Palmyra’s postmaster, Guy M. Brice, coordinated with the Fluvanna Historical Society to offer the postmark. It first became available at a temporary philatelic station set up for the event and staffed by Brice and postal

employee Roberta Brown.

The special hand stamp remains available through April 18 at the Palmyra post office and through mail-back service pursuant to guidelines found on the USPS website.

Palmyra’s pictorial postmark is pictured above affixed to a cachet available from the historical society.

“We were very grateful to David Berr and Guy Brice for collaborating to make this pos-

sible,” said Tricia Johnson, Fluvanna Historical Society director. “The special postal cancellation helped make the dedication of the new memorial even more exciting. People who attended were very pleased to be able to take home a special memento of the day.”

Cachets are available for purchase at the Fluvanna Historical Society. For more infor-

mation about the cachets and postal cancellation, call 434-589-7910 or email fluvanna-history@gmail.com.

Nearly 23 years ago the USPS issued a postmark to celebrate Fluvanna’s provision of the first rural delivery service in Virginia.

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# Three Flucos win geography bee

PRESS RELEASE



During the month of January, Fluco students were buzzing with excitement over the annual National Geographic Bee competition.

The competition, which is now in its 31st year, was held in grades four through eight to determine each school champion. School champions then took a qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society, to determine eligibility to participate in the State Geographic Bee.

The following students were named

school champions for Fluvanna County Public Schools: Fourth grader Zander Childers won first place for Carysbrook Elementary, Fifth grader Andrew Jamison took first place for Fluvanna Middle School, and Autumn Moore won for Fluvanna County High School.

Left: Carysbrook winners were Zander Childers, Christian Johnson and Maddie Jamison. Top left: Middle school winners were Andrew Jamison, Riley Graziano and Hunter Cooper. Above: High school winners were Jackson Kinsella, Autumn Moore and Walker Lam.

# Fourth grader takes first place in spelling bee

PRESS RELEASE



Seventh grader Zachary Butler was the runner up. Fourth grader Claire Bomberger took first place.

The Fluvanna Middle School library hosted the annual division level spelling bee Jan. 17.


Fifteen students, grades 3-8, participated in the division spelling bee this year. Fourth grade student Claire Bomberger took first place for the second year in a row, followed by Zachary Butler, grade 7, as runner up.

These students will go on to represent Fluvanna County in the Regional Scripps Spelling Bee, sponsored by The Daily Progress, to be held at Albemarle High School on March 9. The winner of the spelling bee at Albemarle High School will be invited to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

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# Get to know Cyndi Hoffman, library director

BY MADELINE OTTEN  
CORRESPONDENT



Some people might remember that the Fluvanna County Library used to be located on the first floor of the Carysbrook Performing Arts Center before it moved to 214 Commons Boulevard in Palmyra. While the transition might be fuzzy, library director Cyndi Hoffman remembers everything about that day.

In moving locations, Hoffman and her team faced one of their biggest challenges. But with help from the community and staff pulling together to help move everything from the old building to the current one, things only got better from there.

"People helped by checking out extra books so they wouldn't have to be moved, county staff moved furniture, library staff and volunteers helped label carts with books and then came to the new library and helped reshelve all of the books," said Hoffman. "This could not have worked without everyone pulling together and helping out. I am very lucky to continue to work with a great team and have the support of great co-workers and volunteers."

Hoffman started working for the Fluvanna County Public Library in June 2008. Over 10 years later, she continues her first role within the county as library director.

Hoffman grew up in upstate New York and lived on a dairy farm. While living on a farm fostered the love she has for animals, living in a small town sparked her interest in libraries. One of her earliest memories is attending story time at her hometown library with her mom and brother.

Later in life, Hoffman attended State University of New York (SUNY) Oswego and earned her degree in both Russian and international comparative politics with a minor in French. She then continued her education, doing her graduate work at the University of Buffalo for a master's in library and information science.

But her job in Fluvanna was not her first time working for a library.

"I have spent over 20 years working in libraries around the United States, working my way up and learning as I went. I have worked in big cities, rural areas, some locations that were struggling economically and some that were well-funded, small libraries and big libraries," said Hoffman. "All of that experience – the wide variety of people and diverse cultures – was my favorite part of working in public libraries. You learn just as much from the people you interact with as the research and books you read."

Before moving to Fluvanna, Hoffman worked as a young adult and reference librarian in Texas. There she interacted with mostly teens, including teens in juvenile detention centers. She also worked as a high school librarian in Bergen, N.Y., a reference librarian and assistant department head in Kingston, N.C., and finally as the head of adult and young adult services in New City, N.Y.

Hoffman was drawn to Fluvanna by the rural area that was nevertheless close to activities and opportunities.

"That and my family asked me to stay within a day's drive of them, and rural central Virginia was perfect. I moved here for this position and have lived here since," said Hoffman.

As library director, Hoffman spends her days doing administrative work, cataloging new movies and books, ordering books, movies, and eBooks, researching programs or new ideas for the library, and more. If she is in the building, she can be found at the computer desk, which allows her to interact with the community and tackle work on the computer. On the other hand, when she is outside of the building, she attends meetings around the state and webinars on the computer to implement new ideas for the local community.

New ideas like pop-up libraries are becoming more popular within communities. Hoffman wants to reach outside of the physical library building and hold pop-up library events in locations around the county.

"Transportation is an issue in Fluvanna and I realize that some individuals and families have a hard time getting to the library – we would like to bring our programs to them," said Hoffman. "We are slowly working on this and will continue to look for other opportunities to expand this goal as staffing permits."

Every year during the summer Hoffman holds a huge summer reading program with performers, reading goals, workshops and activities. Almost all of the staff and volunteers participate in the planning, which takes months. Last year the theme was "libraries rock," and this year's theme is "a universe of

stories" to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the landing on the moon.

For this year's program, the Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners will work with the library staff. There will be activities related to Star Wars, robotics, Lego parties, astronaut training, and tons of reading. The Friends of the Library sponsors everything, which allows this program to be free to the public.

Throughout the more than 20 years that Hoffman has worked in libraries, she has seen them evolve as technology continues to advance. Fluvanna's library offers not only eBooks and audiobooks, but it also has Rosetta Stone. Rosetta Stone offers 30 languages to learn or a universal class, which has over 500 classes for the community to take.

However, public libraries all across the United States struggle with staying relevant and vital to their communities.

"I feel that a library should be the heart of the community and it should constantly change to meet the needs of a changing population. It never hurts to try new things and experiment – if something doesn't work, let it go and move on," said Hoffman. "The fast pace of changing technology and how people use the library is part of this. Technology and e-services are popular and constantly growing and changing the aspect of today's library."

Here in Fluvanna, the library has become a part of the community. The library evolved from a quiet public space to a place similar to a community center that offers more than just books. Fluvanna library offers free programs, books, movies and television shows, magazines, music, eBooks, streaming and more.

"We have something for almost everyone and everything is free," Hoffman said. "The Friends of the Library support a wide variety of free programs like Lego builder party, preschool story time, Friday movies on the first and third Friday of every month, summer and

winter reading programs, and more."

While trying to stay relevant and keeping up with technology can be challenging, one of the most rewarding things about working at Fluvanna's library for Hoffman is reaching individuals and having an impact on their lives. For Hoffman, this could be finding the perfect book for a child reluctant about reading, or even offering computer help by editing a job-hunter's résumé.

Eventually, Hoffman would love to expand the library to another location within the county. This could mean an actual branch in another area of the county to provide better access, or it could be a wi-fi hot spot kiosk location.

"It is like a Red Box, but for library materials and internet access for downloading eBooks and online database research," said Hoffman.

In her free time, Hoffman enjoys spending her down time quietly. When she is not reading, she enjoys baking and cooking, especially when it comes to trying new recipes and experimenting with foods. Other times she gathers with friends for a homemade meal.

"I like to plan out my weekend reading so I can stay up all night and read a great book. I enjoy a good romantic suspense or thriller, but also enjoy military history," said Hoffman.

Hoffman is also a big believer in constantly learning. Currently she is working on crochet, but usually gets interrupted by a good book. She is also debating which language she would like to try next.

Hoffman has a big extended family. Her parents and brother live in upstate New York and her other brother works for John Deere. She has two nieces, two nephews and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Her dad's side of the family holds a huge family reunion every July 4 on Keuka Lake in New York and an annual cookie bake weekend in December.

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Morace@sprintmail.com



**Fluvanna Meals on Wheels**  
**Quilt Auction**  
at Cunningham Creek Winery  
3304 Ruritan Lake Rd, Palmyra, VA

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**Saturday, March 30th - 6:30-9 PM**

**Tickets \$20 in advance \$25 at door**  
**Quilt Auction, Silent Auction & Quilt Raffle**

For more information, please contact us at (434) 589-1685 or  
[fluvannamealsonwheels@embarqmail.com](mailto:fluvannamealsonwheels@embarqmail.com)

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