

Fluvanna

REVIEW

*Happy
Thanksgiving
to All*

From the Fluvanna Review

**Fluvanna Readies
for Christmas**

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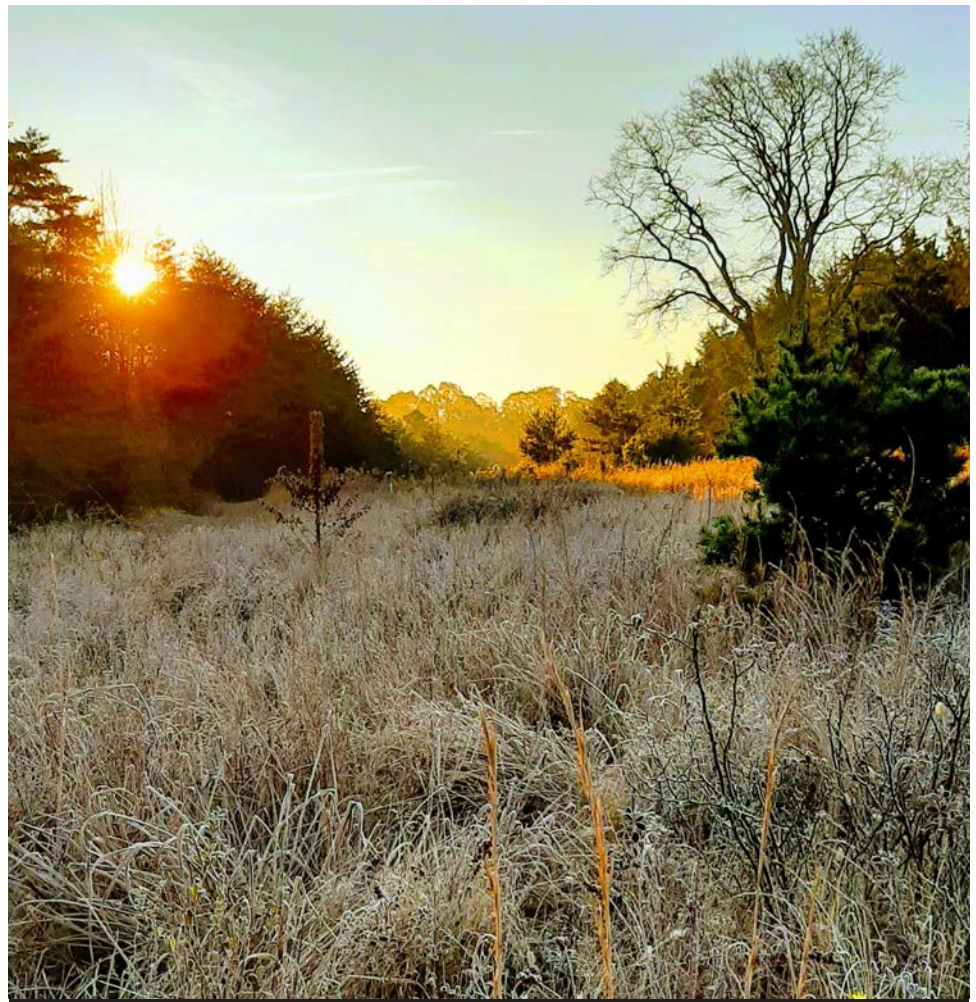


PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Quail Meadow, Pleasant Grove Park. Photo by Darren Ball.

Cover: Cover design by Amelia McConnell.

FLUVANNA TOY LIFT

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Learning about deer in Fluvanna County

BY HEATHER MICHON
CORRESPONDENT



If you live in Fluvanna County, you can't avoid deer. In our fields, by our roadsides, in our yards, they are everywhere—a hazard for drivers, a nuisance for gardeners, a challenge for hunters, a delight for nature-watchers.

But for all their ubiquity, most of us know very little about our ungulate neighbors. To that end, the Lake Monticello Homeowners Association's Wildlife Committee invited Mike Dye, a biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) to share some key facts about the whitetail deer.

For residents of Lake Monticello, deer are a perennial flashpoint, with some calling for the herd to be culled and others arguing that we should live and let live.

Dye made it clear from the outset that he wasn't going to take a position on that issue. "So hopefully, you're not gonna be too disappointed," he joked.

Compared to other parts of the

state, the deer population in Fluvanna County is "in the lower tier of the moderate population. So it's not an extremely abundant population, but it's not an extremely low population either." According to VDGIF data, Fluvanna's herd has remained extremely stable over the past 25 years.

Dye said Virginia ranks 12th in the nation for vehicle/deer collisions. According to State Farm, Virginia drivers, 1 in every 74 drivers will hit a deer in any given year. Not long ago, he pointed out, the state was in the top ten for collisions, "we are seeing some progress on that front."

Part of that he credits to the state's wildlife management plan. Deer fencing programs along the interstates are also showing promise; VDOT officials announced recently that a fencing initiative in the Crozet area of I-64 have reduced wildlife collisions 98% since they were installed in 2017.

The fall and early winter is the prime

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time for collisions, in part because of their breeding cycle. "If you think about a hormone-driven 17-year-old boy running around, that's exactly what we're dealing with on the road right now," he said. "They don't think about what they're doing. They're running out in front of cars, they're running into cars. They're trying to find as many females as they possibly can, in hopes of trying to breed as many as they possibly can."

Dye also focused on the health of the herd. "You see a lot of things on the news about deer 'zombie diseases' and scary headlines to get you to click on the articles, and make you really scared to go outside because there are zombies here out there."

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was first seen in the Virginia herd in 2009 in Frederick County, near the West Virginia border. Since then, there have been about 68 cases identified, all but one of which were found in that border region.

Although always fatal to deer, it's not clear if CWD is transmissible to humans. Dye encouraged people to keep on the lookout for deer who seemed to be behaving abnormally, particularly if they seem to be walking unsteadily or drooling. "Not," he implored, "if it's just a deer standing on your porch eating hostas or whatever you have."

Lyme disease is another concern. You don't contract Lyme from deer, but from the ticks that hitch a ride on them. "It's something to definitely be concerned about and take precautions with, but don't be so quick to blame just the deer."

He said there have been a few research projects where they have seen a reduction in tick densities when they reduced deer populations. A couple of studies seem to show reduced infection rates. But the connection isn't entirely clear. "Maybe it's not just the deer population reduction, maybe it's people are becoming

more aware of the issue and taking more precautions," he said. "There's a lot of conflicting information on that."

Acorns are a major part of a deer's fall diet, and when the acorn crop is scarce, Dye said it is not uncommon to see an uptick in mortality rates in the winter. So far, this year looks to be a poor acorn year.

Still, Dye encouraged people not to ignore state laws and LMOA rules and feed deer over the winter. People are well-intentioned when they put out corn or other foods, but deer digestive systems are sensitive, and it takes them time to adapt to new foods. Throwing their gut bacteria out of balance makes it difficult for them to process their normal diets, robbing them of nutrients at a time when they need them the most.

"It creates a lot more issues than it solves."

If you would like to learn more about deer, visit <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/deer/>

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Fluvanna Business Corner

Find Holiday Fun in Fluvanna

Ruthann Carr, Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce
 "Promoting, Educating and Connecting the Fluvanna Business Community"

It's official. You can no longer whine that "there's nothing to do in Fluvanna" for the holidays. From businesses to frequent events to attend and tips on thriving during the busy season, there is MUCH TO DO IN FLUVANNA!

It starts with "Small Business Saturday," Nov. 30. Since 2010, the Saturday after Thanksgiving is set aside to support small businesses by encouraging people to get out and shop at their local neighborhood stores. And we have SO MANY - wineries, restaurants, gift shops, grocers, treat shops and spas. Want a complete list? Go to www.fluvannachamber.org or www.fluvannacounty.org/ced/business-directory Show your local businesses some love. You'll enjoy wonderful wine, food and can pick up one-of-a-kind gifts. And let's face it, what's better than spending a day shopping locally and eating something other than turkey dinner leftovers?

Be sure to come to the Dec. 3 Chamber Networking Breakfast at The Pub at Lake Monticello. Cynthia Moore, owner of Hygeia Health, will tell us about "Thriving Through the Holidays." Don't we all just want to enjoy the next six weeks? Find out how by registering for the breakfast on the Chamber Website or Facebook page.

On December 4th, make sure you participate in "Giving Tuesday" by supporting our non-profit Chamber Members: Habitat for Humanity, Meals On Wheel, Fluvanna Arts Council Jefferson Area CHIP, Fluvanna SPCA, or the Rotary Foundation of

Fluvanna County. All these members do a fantastic job in serving our community and they can always use your help both in financial and time contributions.

Lake Monticello is throwing open its door, literally, the following weekend with its Holiday Home Tour (Dec. 7) and inaugural Festival of Trees (Dec. 6 & 7.) The events are open to the public and promise fun for everyone. For more information and to buy tickets to the Holiday Home Tour contact Helen Schoene: helenschoene@gmail.com. To read all about the Festival of the Trees, go to www.fluvannacounty.org/community/page/lake-monticello-festival

On Dec. 13, 14, 15 you'll find many ways to enjoy the season in Fluvanna with the first-ever "It's a Wonderful Life, Fluvanna" Holiday Celebration. It starts Friday night with Tree Lighting at Pleasant Grove, continues Saturday with business open houses from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., a Holiday Performance at Carysbrook Performing Arts at 2 p.m. and wraps up with a Historic Celebration of Christmas in the Village of Palmyra on Sunday from 2 - 5 p.m. Look for flyers advertising these events in your child's school backpack, FAN mail, the Chamber and County websites and around town.

Our Dec. 12 issue of the Fluvanna Business Corner will be devoted to information on "it's a Wonderful Life, Fluvanna" Holiday Celebration. Smile, we're in the season. Hope your Thanksgiving is blessed and that none of you overeat!

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 434-591-1910

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Sheriff's office raises \$1,600 for MACAA

BY HEATHER MICHON
CORRESPONDENT



Capt. David Wells' promised unicorn run. Photo by Heather Michon.

If you happened to be in Palmyra on Tuesday afternoon (Nov. 19), you weren't seeing things: there was indeed a man dressed as a unicorn running through the village.

Capt. David Wells of the Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office decided to add

some inducement to potential donors for the staff's annual No Shave November fundraiser. He promised that if they raised over \$750, he would not only forgo his normal shave for the month, he'd run around town wearing an inflatable unicorn costume.

"I thought I would be safe," he said in an email, "because in the past, we raised around \$300."

Instead, they raised \$1,680.

The sheriff's office staff donated \$830, with another \$750 coming from Tenaska Power Generation in Scottsville.

Before his run on Tuesday, Wells and Sheriff Eric Hess delivered the check to the Monticello Area Community Action Agency (MACAA) Fluvanna Outreach Center at Carysbrook.

Then Wells made good on his promise, jogging in front of the Sheriff's Office and later through Palmyra village. He planned to do the same at the Tenaska plant on Thursday. He said there were plenty of cameras

there to capture the moment.

Law enforcement is challenging and often stressful work; Wells said it was good to do something that just made people smile, especially in service of a good cause.

It certainly got people's attention.

"I thought maybe I was hallucinating," said *Fluvanna Review* correspondent and Chamber of Commerce office manager Ruthann Carr, who saw Wells run by the office window.

If you'd like to donate to MACAA, you can contact the Fluvanna Outreach Center at 434-842-2521 or stop by their office at 8878 James Madison Hwy in Fork Union. You can also donate online at macaa.org/donate

Letters to the Editor

Thanks to rescuers

On my way home Halloween night from Staunton, a little before 11 p.m., I hit a tree that was across the road on Rt. 53, above the "S-curves." My car was totaled, but I was, luckily, relatively unscathed. I want to thank and commend all the people who helped that night.

I am so grateful to everyone and amazed by how quickly and kindly everyone responded to this. First, there was a wonderful gentleman whom, I believe, lives in Lake Monticello and is former military who drove up behind me, stopped and came to see if I was okay. He then allowed me to sit in his car while we waited for the fire department and rescue squad to come. He told me his name, and I am embarrassed to say I do not remember it other than it began with "D." I hope you read this and recognize yourself

and know I am grateful and thank you profusely for your kindness.

There were others who stopped on the other side of the tree and came forward to see if anyone was in the car. Thank you all.

The 911 operator from Palmyra was wonderful, as was the East Keswick Fire Department and Rescue Squad, which arrived first and were on my side of the tree. They were professional, efficient, and very kind. Thank you all. A Fluvanna fire department truck also arrived on the other side -- I did not see which one -- and immediately began working on clearing the tree from the road. The Albemarle County Officer Davis who interviewed me was patient and kind.

While this event was unpleasant for me, I am both inspired and grateful to have received such immediate and kind treatment throughout the whole experience.

-Julie Noggle, Cunnigham

A Response

I am writing in response to the article titled "Details of Lake Monticello killing emerge at bond hearing," published in your newspaper on Nov. 21. After reading this article through, I found it interesting how the family of Benjamin Camp, the accused shooter of Jason J. Farren, spoke of how he is an "honest, authentic individual." They speak so highly of someone who is charged with killing another individual, which was expressed as self-defense. It is interesting how they perceive him as a good person even though the decision he made, whether it be for self-defense or not. Additionally, it was interesting how the father of Joshua Bentham-Ball

stated that he would do whatever the court ordered if they let him out on bail, when he is charged with invading another's home with what was perceived as a weapon. Both individual's families in this case seem to be fighting for their loved ones. It as well was interesting to read that the judge essentially based the results off of their past, saying that Bentham-Ball has a past record which plays a role in this situation and how it is unfortunate that this is occurring for Camp as he does not have a past record. It is unfortunate that this is occurring in our community, but I do hope both parties are able to move in a positive direction and that our community can continue to feel safe.

-Regards, Bridget Bossong, Palmyra

Family Matters



Welcome to The Lodge at Old Trail

The Lodge at Old Trail is a senior living community located in Old Trail Village in Crozet just west of Charlottesville. At The Lodge we're a family. Residents, family members, friends and staff are all a part of it. If you'd like your parents living close by, then it's time they moved into The Lodge. Everything they need is right here. Give us a call today because at The Lodge at Old Trail your family matters.

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Obituary

Minnie Lee May McGehee



Minnie Lee May McGehee passed away November 21, 2019. She follows her parents: James Franklin May, Sr. and Sarah Jennie Garner May, her siblings Mary Frances Blodgett, Sarah Josephine Marshall, James Franklin May, Jr. and Samuel Stanley May and her husband Henry Corr McGehee. She is survived by her brother John H. May: his wife Mary Beth May; her children: Betty McGehee, Doris Edmund McGehee, William Overton McGehee, his wife Theresa Carroll, granddaughters Mary Garner McGehee and Eva Jane McGehee and four generations of nephews and nieces.

Minnie Lee was born on a farm at Carysbrook, February 22, 1924. She attended Judy Creek School and Fluvanna County High School. She earned an associate degree in business at Madison College in Harrisonburg.

She married U. S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd-Class Henry C. McGehee in March 1945. Their first home was in Franklin, VA. They came home to Fluvanna County in 1946 and joined Palmyra Methodist Church, where she taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and led the MYF at various times. She taught typing and shorthand at FCHS in 1946.

Minnie Lee was appointed to be the first county-wide voting registrar for Fluvanna. After Virginia eliminated the poll tax in 1966, she had the privilege of registering many people who would vote for the first time. She worked part-time for Fluvanna County Social Services in the 1940s, 1970s and 1980s. In her last tenure there, she was a Medicaid eligibility worker.

Minnie Lee began writing about Fluvanna in feature articles during the 1960s, while a news correspondent for the *The Daily Progress* in Charlottesville.

She was a founding member of Fluvanna Historical Society and helped create the Old Stone Jail Museum. Over a period of 57 years, she researched and wrote 35 publications for the Fluvanna

Historical Society and edited many others. She particularly enjoyed collaborating with her friends David W. C. Berr and the late Ellen Miyagawa.

While a board member of the Virginia Canals and Navigations Society and active in the James River Batteau Festival, she compiled and edited a collection titled *River Boat Echoes: Batteaux in Virginia*.

In 2003 Minnie Lee wrote *Mr. Jefferson's River: the Rivanna*, using years of research which she and her friend Dr. William E. Trout, III had done together on the river's mills and navigation system.

In order to protect the natural beauty of the Rivanna and its well-preserved system of stone navigation locks, Minnie Lee contacted landowners along the river, appeared before the Virginia General Assembly and successfully petitioned to designate the Rivanna as the Commonwealth's first Scenic River.

Henry and Minnie Lee enjoyed canoeing on the Rivanna and James Rivers and taking walks in the woods searching for wildflowers, old house sites, and forgotten cemeteries.

An avid gardener, Minnie Lee enjoyed visiting English gardens when she traveled to the UK. In recent years she concentrated on writing, enjoying her flower garden, reading and visiting with her granddaughters.

The family is especially grateful to Jack Bruce, Larry Bruce, Dr. Randolph Lanford and Rose Scott.

The family will receive visitors at Palmyra United Methodist Church 6:00 to 8:30 on Friday, November 29. A graveside service will be held at Beulah Baptist Church Cemetery, 1633 Kents Store Way, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 30. A reception will follow at the Wilmington Club, 1083 Wilmington Road.

In lieu of flowers, Minnie Lee would be pleased if donations were made in her memory to the Fluvanna Historical Society or the Palmyra Volunteer Fire Department.

Happy & Healthy Holidays to All Our Patients
Dr. Douglas Weiss & Dr. Victoria Mohar Weiss
OPTOMETRISTS

Be sure to use your flex spending dollars by **12/31/2019**. Come in before 12/31/2019 before your New Year deductible has to be met!

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Byrd Chapel UMC

Byrd Chapel UMC will be preparing for the season of Advent as it celebrates the Hanging of the Greens Worship Service on **Dec. 1**. The worship service will be at 11 a.m. Byrd Chapel is located at 5371 Venable Road (Route 601) Kents Store. For further information call 434-589-2142.

Happy Face Party

Fluvanna Christian Service Society is collecting toys and food for their annual Happy Face Party. Collection boxes are located at the Fluvanna County Library, Spectrum Fitness Center, Monticello Country Reality, both LMOA Clubhouses and many local churches. Volunteers are also needed for party set-up on Friday, **Dec. 6** and the day of the party **Dec. 7**. Call Mary Kidd 434-589-0910 to volunteer or with any questions.

Community Singers concert

Fluvanna Community Singers Christmas Concert will be held Friday evening, **Dec. 6** at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, **Dec. 7** at 3 p.m. at the Carysbrook Performing Arts Center, Rt. 15, Palmyra. The 65 Voice chorus will present "Let's Have a Christmas Celebration." The Concert is free-a gift to the people of Fluvanna County. Questions? Call Frank Saurman (434) 589-3456.

Beautification Corps fundraiser

Lake Monticello Beautification Corps major fundraiser is back! From 12 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, **Dec. 7**, come visit five delightfully decorated homes for the holidays. Tickets are only \$10 and will have the house addresses listed. Some homes have water views and each home is unique. Lots of raffle prizes. Tickets available now! Questions? Call Nancy (434) 589-3720 or email: nhqpainter@comcast.net

Byrd Chapel UMC Christmas Potluck

Byrd Chapel UMC will hold its Pot Luck Christmas Dinner on **Dec. 12** at 5 p.m. Children's program to follow. Byrd Chapel UMC is located at 5371 Venable Road (Rt. 601), Kents Store. If any questions please call 434-589-2142.

Fluvanna SPCA holds fundraising drive

The Fluvanna SPCA is kicking off its 12 Strays of Christmas fundraiser with an evening of good company and fun at the annual 12 Strays Soiree. The event will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Cunningham Creek Winery in Palmyra. Each ticket includes a complimentary glass of wine, hors-d'oeuvres catered by Troy Market, and 3 door prize tickets, as well as access to raffle items and a 50/50 Raffle. Tickets are \$25 and are available in advance at the Fluvanna SPCA, through their Facebook page, or at Happy Tails Pet Supply in Palmyra. A limited number of tickets will also be available at the door. All proceeds will go directly to the lifesaving work of the Fluvanna SPCA.

State Police urge motorists to drive smart during holiday season

Buckle up, phone down – Don't drive intoxicated

PRESS RELEASE



As Virginians take to the roads this Thanksgiving to celebrate the holiday with family and friends, Virginia State Police is urging motorists to put down their phones and buckle up so everyone makes it safely to the holiday table.

With the onset of the 2019 winter holiday season, state police is proud to support the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Highway Safety Office and AAA Mid-Atlantic with its new traffic safety campaign aimed at heightening awareness of the deadly dangers of distracted driving. Earlier this month, Virginia State Police Superintendent, Col. Gary T. Settle, and Trooper-Trainees of the 131st Basic Academy Session signed a banner to pledge their support to the "Don't Drive Intoxicated. Don't Drive Intoxicated" campaign and its life-saving messaging.

"The choices you make as a vehicle driver impact not only you and your passengers, but everyone else you happen to be sharing the road with at that given moment," said Settle. "Avoid distractions, ensure everyone in your vehicle is buckled up, comply with speed limits and never drive drunk. If we drive like every car is filled with our friends and family, we can make sure there are no empty chairs at the Thanksgiving table this year."

To further prevent traffic deaths and injuries during the Thanksgiving holiday, the Virginia State Police

will once again be participating in Operation C.A.R.E., an acronym for the Crash Awareness and Reduction Effort. As part of the state-sponsored, national program, state police will be increasing its visibility and traffic enforcement efforts during the five-day statistical counting period, Nov. 27, 2019 through Dec. 1, 2019.

The 2018 Thanksgiving Holiday C.A.R.E. initiative resulted in troopers citing 599 individuals who failed to obey the law and buckle up, as well as issuing 199 citations for child safety seat violations on Virginia's highways statewide. In addition, state police cited 7,629 speeders and 2,192 reckless drivers. A total of 102 drunken drivers were taken off Virginia's roadways and arrested by state troopers.

There were 12 traffic fatalities during the 2018 five-day Thanksgiving statistical counting period and 14 traffic fatalities during the same period in 2017.

With increased patrols, Virginia State Police also reminds drivers of Virginia's "Move Over" law, which requires motorists to move over when approaching an emergency vehicle stopped alongside the road. If unable to move over, drivers are required to cautiously pass the emergency vehicle. The law also applies to workers in vehicles equipped with amber lights.

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SPORTS

Flying Fluco basketball teams will feature veteran line-ups

BY DUNCAN NIXON
CORRESPONDENT

The leaves are mostly down, the days are getting shorter, and The Flying Fluco winter sports season is about to begin. Longtime girls' basketball Coach Chad White and first year boys' basketball Coach Heath Bralley both expect to play up-tempo basketball this year.

Coach White has a strong contingent of seniors returning from a squad that was one win from qualifying for the State tournament in 2019. All-purpose guard Nevaeh Ivory was first team all-District in 2019 and first team all-Region in 2019. She returns for her senior year with her extremely hard driving style. Coach White said that he thinks she is "even stronger" this year. Also returning is senior point guard Jules Shephard who was all-District second team and all-Region second team last season. Mya Wright, a wing player, is the third returning senior who started all of last year. She was all-District honorable mention in 2019.

Coach White notes that Emma Russ, a sophomore, will move into the post position this season. Also contributing will be returnees, junior post player Khyariah Davis-Heinrich and wing player NeVaeh Bishop. Senior guard Maggie Wentz will continue to contribute with outside shooting and Coach White is expecting a good contribution from newcomer Abby Seal, who is another guard.

The girls' team is expected to play Coach White's signature pressure defense and patient offence when the fast break is not available. Last season Ivory, Shephard and Wright were especially effective in handling the ball carefully and with a minimum of turnovers.

Coach White notes that the Flucos do play a tough Jefferson District schedule, but the teams that the Flucos most need to beat if they are going to return to post-season play are the other Class 3 teams in the Jefferson District: Monticello, Western Albemarle and , new this year, Charlottesville.

The boys' hoop squad was not as successful as the girl's team in 2019,

but Coach Bralley, who was the assistant coach in 2019, has virtually everybody back from 2019. Last season lead guard Kobe Edmonds was only a freshman, but his hard driving and outside shooting made him a Jefferson District honoree despite his youth. Edmonds, the quarterback on the Fluco football team, will no doubt continue to display his substantial athletic ability on the court for Coach Bralley. The Fluco football roster listed Edmonds as 5-10. Also returning is outside shooting forward John Ritzenhouse. He is a junior and he too received Jefferson District honors in 2019. In addition to Edmonds, also moving over from the football program are forecourt players and seniors Malachi Hill and Elijah Bullock. They were listed in the football program at 6-2 and 6-4 respectively.

A tough nosed Emory Davis and Keyshawn Fisher, a speedster, are senior guards this year and are expected to continue to contribute at both ends of the floor. Moving up from last year's JV team is guard Bobby Gardner. Adding height to the roster is newcomer Daniel Campbell, who Coach Bralley noted is "about 6-5." Another newcomer who will contribute up front is 6-2 freshman Jaden Ferguson who also comes over from football and has garnered a lot of attention for his track prowess. Others to look for are: Ford DeVault, Keontae Hearn, Chris Wittle and Jamal Opie.

Coach Bralley advises that he expects to play a fast-paced style, utilizing some pressure defense while sharing the ball on offense. He believes his team is talented with a lot of potential.

Both squads open their season on Dec. 3 against Spotsylvania. The boys will be at home and the girls on the road. On Dec. 5 both teams take on Goochland County. This time the boys are away and the girls are at home. On Dec. 10 & 11 the boys host William Monroe and Goochland. On Dec 7, the girls host Madison and then travel to William Monroe on Dec. 10 and to Goochland on Dec. 11.



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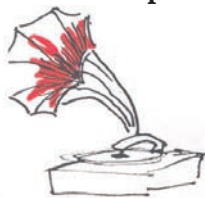
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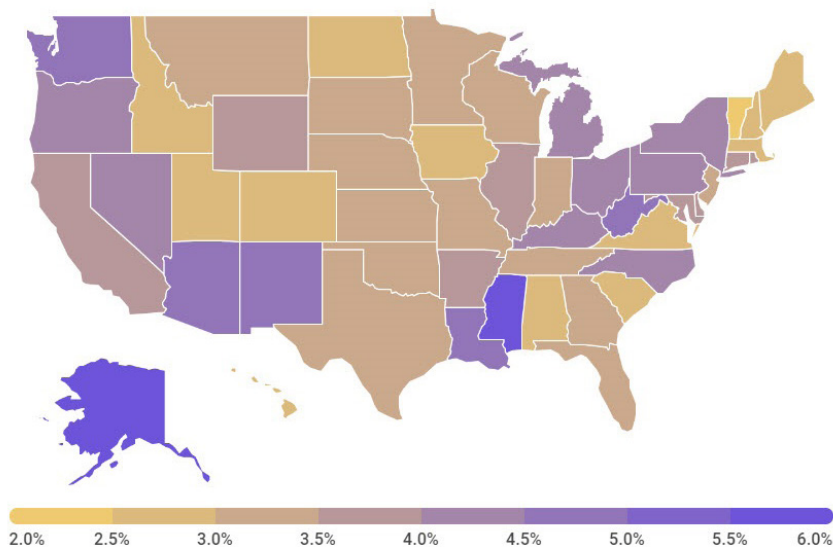


Virginia's unemployment rate drops to 2.6%

BY YAHYA ALZHRANY
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Unemployment rates for October

Virginia's unemployment rate last month was 2.6%. Only three states had a lower rate.



Map by Yahya Alzahrany of VCU Capital News Service | Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

RICHMOND — Virginia had the fourth-lowest unemployment rate in the United States last month, officials announced Tuesday.

The commonwealth's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped from 2.7% in September to 2.6% in October, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Virginia's jobless rate continues to be much lower than the national average of 3.6%.

Only three states had an unemployment rate in October lower than Virginia's: Vermont (at 2.2%) and North Dakota and Utah (both at 2.5%).

Virginia was tied with Colorado, Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina with a jobless rate of 2.6%.

The state with the highest unemployment rate last month was Alaska at 6.2%, followed by Mississippi (5.5%) and the District of Columbia (5.4%).

Gov. Ralph Northam said more people are working in Virginia than ever before. He said October was the 16th consecutive month that the commonwealth's labor force had expanded.

"Virginia's economy is headed in the right direction," Northam said in a statement issued during an economic development mission in the Middle East. "The competition for talent is on, because low unemployment gives workers more options about where to work."

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Competition can also help boost wages. On Wednesday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said the average weekly wage in Virginia had risen 3.7%, to \$1,113, between the second quarter of 2018 and the second quarter of 2019. Nationally, wages increased 3.8%, to \$1,095, during that period.

"Next month, we will put forward a budget that continues investing in workforce development to ensure long-term, shared economic growth in our Commonwealth," Northam said. "We want Virginia to be the best state to work in and the best place to run a business."

Virginia's unemployment rate has been dropping:

In October 2018, it was 2.8% — tied for the seventh lowest in the U.S.

In September of this year, the rate was 2.7% — tied for the fifth lowest.

"It is very satisfying whenever the Commonwealth's unemployment rate drops, as it has been doing consistently throughout 2019," Brian Ball, Virginia's secretary of commerce and trade, said in a statement.

"Virginia's highly trained and skilled workforce makes us a natural fit for top employers. We will continue to recruit those businesses that create productive job opportunities for Virginians."

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Theater group remembers Thelma Stowell

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD
CORRESPONDENT



Cast of *Rumors*.

Since its beginning, Thelma Stowell was at the forefront of local theater and one of the founders of the Persimmon Tree Players. Stowell was nothing less than enthusiastic and dedicated when it came to designing and sewing costumes and performing on stage. Members recalled that in the past few years, even into her 90s, she would stay up until one in the morning sewing costumes.

"As others have said, she certainly was a talented seamstress," said Warren Johnson, former PTP President. For Johnson's first appearance with PTP as the narrator of "Oklahoma," the only musical PTP did, Stowell had decked him out in complete splendor in an authentic Elizabethan costume.

Performing was always her passion, from sharing the stage with the PTP members to appearing in Langume Productions and tap dancing with the Silver Steppers. One thing that could be said about Thelma Stowell, she loved the limelight. The stage was her refuge for self-expression.

Tom Green has many memories, including Thelma's amazing lemon bars she would bring to cast parties. He recalls a time when he worked with her on Langden Mason's "Don't Get Me Started," playing a grandmother who wanted to renew her driver's license against the better judgment of her family.

"Most memorable and poignant is that I will always remember her grandmother character in "Don't Get Me

Started," in the driver's license scene," said Green. "She told me once during rehearsals that she was nervous about remembering her lines, but that part so captured her spirit. She wouldn't be deterred, passed the test, and then told her reluctant and surprised grandson to take it away, that she had only done it to prove that she could. Her character, like Thelma, was indefatigable."

Rick Bayless also had memories of working with Thelma.

"Thelma had amazing comedic talent. She could say anything and get a laugh. I remember in Langden Mason's hilarious comedy "Pinching Petunias," we all managed a laugh or two, but Thelma got one of the biggest by simply emerging from her trailer house and observing, 'It seems like a lot happened while I was looking for my lemon bars.' George Gaige and Ann Small played the main characters, but Thelma stole the show."

She was a scene-stealer and did it again when playing Cookie in Neil Simon's "Rumors" with PTP. After Cookie puts her back out, she would come out onstage and crawl along the floor. She got laughs every night.

"Thelma did so love to dance. We had to be careful with every play she did for PTP because inevitably she would try to work in a dance routine," said Johnson.

Carol Carper said, "We all just sort of hoped she would go on forever but I trust that she is doing what she loved best---dancing with her husband

on some dance floor in the other world." Ken Smith also envisioned her tapping her way through the Golden Gates.

The one memory that stood out in George Gaige's mind was one that explained who Stowell was and her determination and commitment. Her dedication was limitless, and nothing would prevent her from finishing the task she had set for herself nor would she ever let anyone down if they depended on her.

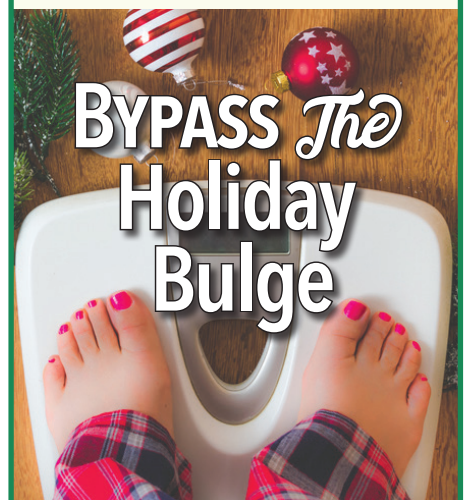
A few years ago, while rehearsing a play for the PTP, she fell and dislocated her shoulder and was taken to the hospital. Gaige drove to the hospital and waited with her until she was discharged at 4:30 a.m. and then drove her home. She insisted that he return in one hour to pick her up and take her to the airport for an 8:30 am flight from Charlottesville to Boston, where she was scheduled to tap dance at her 70th high school reunion.

"She was in a sling and intended to drag her carry-on with one arm through the airport and on to Boston. She was absolutely planning to do this and when I told her it was not happening she was mad at me for about three hours but finally conceded a few days later that I was right."

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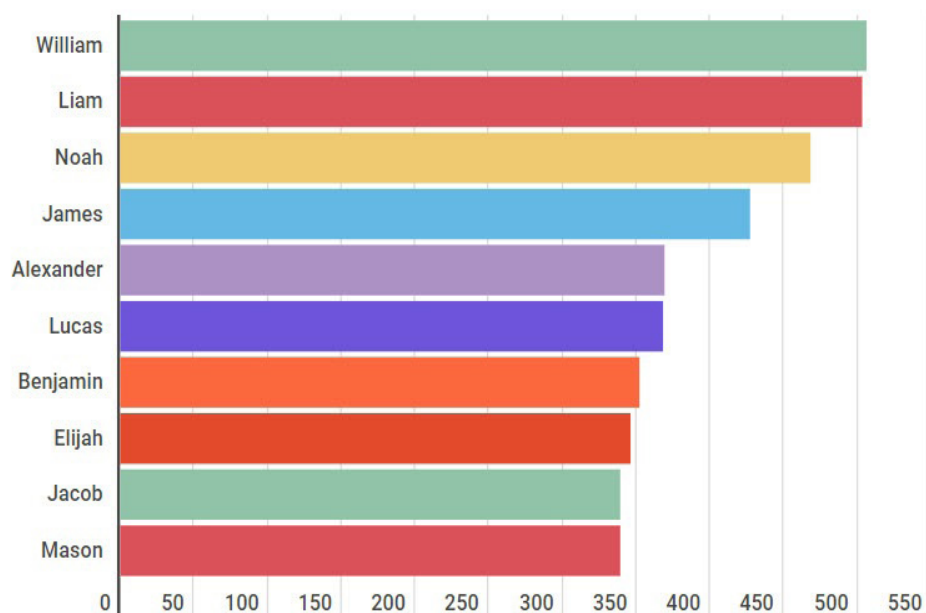
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Baby names reflect demographic shifts

BY ERICA MOKUN
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

10 most popular boys' names

Last year, 506 boys born in Virginia were named William – the most common name for male babies.



Graphics by Erica Mokun of [VCU Capital News Service](#) | Data from the [Social Security Administration](#)

Bye-bye, Betty. You were one of the most popular names for girls in Virginia when Betty Grable ruled the silver screen in the 1930s. But last year, you didn't even register a "boop" on the Social Security Administration's list of common baby names in the commonwealth.

Mateo, on the other hand, has seen a meteoric rise. First appearing on the SSA's list 20 years ago, it was the 46th most popular name for boys born in Virginia in 2018 — ahead of Robert, Jonathan and Adam.

Mateo, the Spanish form of Matthew, has emerged in Virginia as the state's Latino population has grown. Last year, 179 boys born in the state were named Mateo.

The most common names for male babies in Virginia last year were William, Liam and Noah. The most common names for girls were Ava, Olivia and Emma. The SSA's data, based on applications for Social Security cards, shows how names can rise and fall in popularity based on cultural and demographic trends.

"We see many more Spanish names rising through the charts in the U.S. as the Spanish-speaking population

grows and people become more comfortable with diversity and interested in using names from their own culture," said Pamela Redmond, an expert on the subject.

Redmond is co-founder and CEO of Nameberry, which describes itself as the internet's "largest and most complete resource devoted to baby names."

Baby names reflect what is fashionable as well as society's appreciation for diversity.

"Baby names are completely barometers of who we are and what we like in a culture, ranging from our ethnic identity to our feelings about education and class to what we are watching on TV," Redmond said.

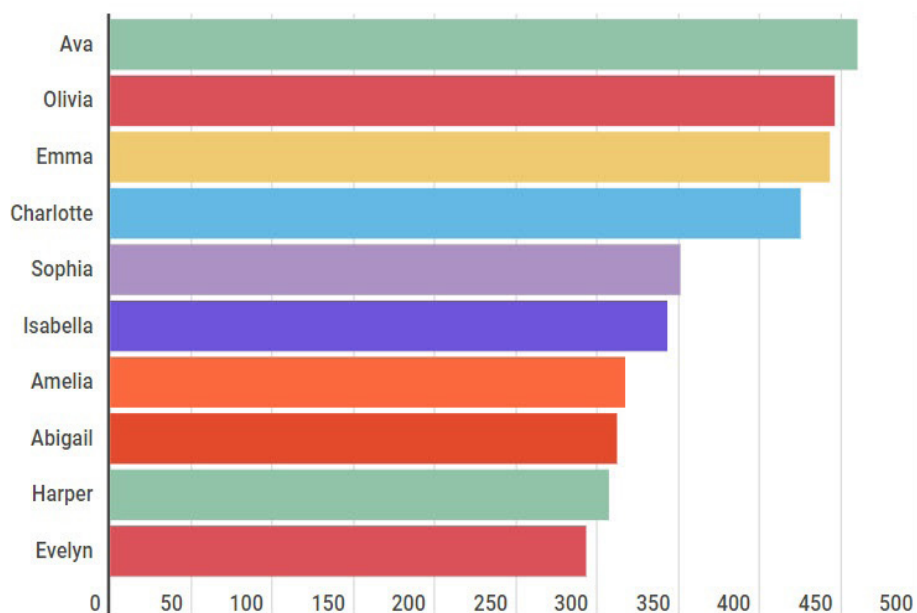
The Social Security Administration annually tracks the names given to boys and girls in each state and has posted online data going back to 1910.

Some names stand the test of time. For boys, for example, James has been a top-10 name every year in Virginia; it was No. 4 in 2018.

Other names can fall out of favor as the decades pass. For instance, Shirley was the most common name for girls

10 most popular girls' names

In 2018, 460 girls born in Virginia were named Ava – the most common name for female babies.



born in Virginia in 1936. But last year, it was given to fewer than five babies in the state — the threshold for being included in the SSA's database.

Some names can suddenly surface and quickly soar in popularity. That is what happened with Liam. It first appeared on the SSA's list for Virginia in 1985, ranking No. 138 with just five births. But by 2012, Liam was the third most common name for boys born in the commonwealth — and it took first place in 2017.

The data also shows what Virginia has in common with other states. Last year, for example, Ava was the No. 1 girls' name in 10 other states, from Mississippi to Ohio, as well as in Washington, D.C.

According to the SSA database, parents today are drawing from a wider range of names than Virginians had in the past.

In 1910, parents having a girl chose from fewer than 300 names. By the 1950s, the SSA's annual list had about 600 girls' names. And in recent years, the number of girls' names has hovered around 1,400.

For boys, the choices have been more limited: fewer than 200 differ-

ent names in 1910, about 500 in the 1950s and fewer than 1,200 today.

Richmond resident Maya Slater, who is expecting her first child, has turned to resources like the SSA and Nameberry to find names that will stand out.

"I chose the name Raelynn for my child because I really wanted a unique name that I did not want all my friends to have," Slater said. "So I downloaded an app, did some research on the name and went with it."

Raelynn is relatively uncommon in Virginia. Last year, 88 girls born in the state received that name — so it ranked No. 72.

Redmond, who has written "Beyond Jennifer & Jason" and other books on the subject, noted that names can fall out of favor and then make a comeback. So don't rule Betty out, she said.

"It's getting just vintage enough to make a comeback, but we may not see it till the next generation," Redmond said. "Names usually take four generations or 100 years to come back."



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Fluvanna celebrates the holiday season – 2019 edition

BY MADELINE OTTEN
CORRESPONDENT

As fall festivities have come to an end, leaves have fallen, and the weather grows colder, the holiday season is already here. Houses throughout Fluvanna County are decorated in holiday lights to spread holiday cheer, radio stations have switched into holiday mode for listeners to sing-a-long to their favorite tunes, and stores are prepped and ready for Black Friday and end of the year sales. The county is setting itself up for the holidays as well with multiple events happening throughout December. Be sure to check out at least one of these events to help get into the mood of the holiday season.

To start off the holiday cheer and kick off December, the Lake Monticello Fire Department will host cookies, crafts, and cocoa with Santa from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 1. This event is free.

On Dec. 6, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., the Lauterbach Chiropractic near the Turkeysag Trail/Gate Plaza will host Fluvanna's annual Toy Lift. They will be collecting new unwrapped toys

as well as bikes and cash donations. And, do not miss Santa and his elves who will make an appearance and share some hot cocoa and cookies with guests.

The Lake Monticello Owner Association is hosting their Festival of Trees on Dec. 6 and 7. Storytellers will be reading holiday stories throughout the two days. Fluvanna County High School's (FCHS) principal Margo Bruce will make an appearance as a reader on Dec. 6 at 11 a.m. In addition to holiday readers, Santa Claus and Ms. Claus and other activities will be present to help the community get into the holiday spirit.

Also happening on Dec. 6 and 7 is the Fluvanna Community Singers Christmas concert at the Carysbrook Performing Arts Center. Old and new songs of the season can be heard in the performance under director Scott David, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and 3 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is free with an appreciated donation to the Fluvanna Food Pantry.

Cunningham Creek Wintery (CCW)

has a couple of events to spread holiday cheer. On Dec. 7 Santa will visit CCW from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Visitors are asked to please bring their own camera and perishable donations for the Monticello Area Community Action Agency (MACAA).

MACAA serves the City of Charlottesville along with surrounding counties such as Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa, and Nelson. Its mission is "to improve the lives of people with low income by helping them become self-reliant, thereby enhancing the economic vitality and well-being of the community."

On the following day, Dec. 8, CCW will host their canine Christmas cheer. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with pet photographer Theresa White, who will be taking holiday photos of guests and their furry friends. Three to six photos will be posted on Shutterfly and all that is asked is a donation of \$5 or more for the Fluvanna's SPCA jar.

Fast-forward to the next weekend, on Dec. 13 starting at 6 p.m., Pleasant Grove will host its annual holiday open house with light refreshments, Santa tree lighting, and crafts for all ages. Admission is one non-perishable food item. This event will be held outside, so please dressing accordingly to the weather.

The following day, Dec. 14, there will be holiday performances from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Carysbrook Performing Art Center. Those wanting to celebrate will also receive a free 4x6 photo with Santa at this event. Admission to the event is a canned good donation or non-perishable food item to benefit the MACAA.

CCW's last holiday event will also take place on Dec. 14 from 6:30 – 9

p.m. to celebrate the FSPCA's 30th anniversary of the non-profit. The 12 Strays Soiree will have guests enjoying wine, tasty hors d'oeuvres catered by Troy Market, music, door prizes, raffles, and the company of other animal friendly guests. There is a limit of 120 people so be sure to stop by the FSPCA or Happy Tails in Palmyra to buy your ticket in person. Tickets are also available online along with more information at the FSPCA's website.

Join Santa again on Dec. 15 at Kents Store Firehouse from 2 to 5 p.m. for cookie decorating, crafts, hot chocolate, and hot apple cider. On the same day, Empowered Players presents Frozen Jr at 3 p.m. at the Carysbrook Performing Arts Center. The audience will join Anna, Elsa, Olaf and more as the characters take on the journey along with featured songs from the movie. Admissions costs \$5 and there will not be advance sales.

There will even be an event on Dec. 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fluvanna Community Center for their Active Adult Center Members. Visitors aged 55 and over are welcomed to sign up. The event will host a nice holiday lunch, draw for raffle prizes, and give local preschoolers a special day with a visit from Santa Claus.

Last but not least, on the third weekend in December, the Fluvanna Historical Society will host its Village of Christmas held in the village of Palmyra. The village will be lit with Christmas lights, have reenactors, food, beverages, and a tree lighting for all of those to come. This event is also outside for those needing to dress for the weather.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that per Virginia Self Storage Act 55-419 Fluvanna Self Storage will sell at public auction, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property contained in 8 storage units located at 21 Burns Plaza, Palmyra, VA 22963, phone 434-589-2222. The auctions will end between 10AM-1PM on 12/4/2019. See www.storefss.com/auction. The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. All bids are online only. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. The defaulted tenant has the legal right to cure the account thus cancelling the auction up until the cash payment is received from the winning bidder.

NOTICE

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The above establishment is applying to the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for wine and beer license to have alcoholic beverages on premises as part of Day Spa package(s). Note: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objection should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.



PUBLIC HEARING Fluvanna County Planning Commission Tuesday, December 10, 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 Fluvanna County Administration 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 item:

FY 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan – Review and recommendation for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for fiscal years 2021 through 2025 (FY2021 – FY2025) which is to be submitted in conjunction with the Fluvanna County Budget for fiscal year 2021 (FY2021). The CIP lists major construction and acquisition efforts planned for the next five (5) fiscal years and describes proposed methods of financing for each project.

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 the hearing at which persons affected may appear and present their views. Questions or comments may be directed to the Planning and Community Development Department, at (434) 591-1910.



FLUVANNA COUNTY TAXPAYERS 2nd HALF 2019 TAXES DUE: Dec. 5, 2019

Fluvanna County Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills for the 2nd half of 2019 have been mailed. The **due date is December 5, 2019**. Payments received after the due date (December 5, 2019) will incur a penalty. There is no grace period for late payment and/or failure to receive a bill does not constitute relief of payment of taxes or penalty. All mail must be postmarked by December 5. If you have not received your Real and/or Personal Property **tax bill** and you know that you own land and/or have a vehicle, you need to contact the Fluvanna County Treasurer's Office immediately at (434) 591-1945.

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday 8:00 am- 4:30 pm
Extended Hours: Saturday, November 30, 2019 8:00 am – 12 noon
Deadline: Thursday, December 5, 8:00 am -7:00 pm

Report suspicious activity to Dominion Energy and local authorities

PRESS RELEASE

Dominion Energy is offering tips during Utility Scam Awareness Week to help customers recognize the signs of utility imposters in time for the holiday season.

"The holidays can be stressful, and scammers often target customers during this busy time of year," said Corynne Arnett, vice president - Customer Service, Dominion Energy. "Dominion Energy will never make threatening phone calls, demand you pay over the phone or ask you to pay with prepaid cards."

Recognize the red flags of utility scamming activity:

- While robocall scams can be relatively easy to spot, effective scammers continue to make personal phone calls. Some scam-

mers may employ scare tactics, while others will try to gain your trust by sounding friendly and sympathetic.

- Many utility scammers try to instill fear and a sense of urgency by threatening immediate service disconnection if you don't provide payment information over the phone or agree to pay your energy bill with a prepaid debit or gift card. Dominion Energy does not make calls requesting immediate payment or require customers to pay with prepaid cards of any kind.
- Some utility impostors may falsify their caller ID to appear they are using a local number or even Dominion Energy's cus-

tomers service number. When in doubt, hang up and call the number located on your energy bill.

- Don't let anyone into your home unless you have a previously scheduled appointment or have called about an issue. Always check for proper identification before letting personnel in. Additionally, utility workers won't ask you to pay an energy bill in person.
- What to do if you think you have received a scam phone call:
 - Don't provide any identifying information such as your social security, credit or debit card numbers.
 - Hang up. Customers can always verify their account balance and

payment due date by signing into their dominionenergy.com account or calling 1-866-DOM-HELP (1-866-366-4357).

- Report suspicious calls, texts and email to Dominion Energy and local authorities.

For more information about how to recognize scams or what to do if you think you've been a victim of a scam, visit <https://www.dominionenergy.com/scams>.

NATURE OF INCIDENT / TOTAL

CRASHES

911 HANG UP	6
911 MISDIAL	8
ANIMAL CONTROL CALLBACK	9
ADULT WELFARE/PUB SAFETY CHK	1
ANIMAL BITE	1
ANIMAL WELFARE	6
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	2
ASSAULT W/ NO INJURY	2
ASSAULT WITH A WEAPON	1
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE RECEIVED	2
BE ON LOOKOUT	10
BURGLARY PAST OCCURRENCE	1
SHERIFF'S OFFICE CELL CHECK	1
CHOKING	1
CIVIL INFORMATION REQUEST	1
CIVIL PAPER RECEIVED	5
CIVIL PAPER SERVICE	38
COMMERCIAL BURG ALARM	4
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY	1
DISABLED VEHICLE	12
PAST DISTURBANCE	1
DISTURBANCE	3
DRUG TAKE BACK	1
FALL GREATER THAN STANDING	1
FINGERPRINTS	7
FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION	7
FRAUD	4
GUN PERMIT RECEIVED	3
VCIN CHECK	1
LACERATION	2
LARCENY/THEFT	1
PHONE CALL RETURN	56
LIVESTOCK CALL	3
LOST ANIMAL	1
MAGISTRATE WALK IN	2
MENTAL WELFARE CALL NO INJURY	1
MISSING JUVENILE	2
MVC W/ENTRAPMENT OR INTO STRUC	1
MVC WITH INJ OR UNKNOWN INJ	1
MVC WITH NO INJURY	4
MVC W/ ANIMAL	8
MVC W/ FLUIDS DOWN W/ NO INJ	1
OTHER LAW CALL	12
OVERDOSE	1
PRISONER TRANSPORT	4
PROJECT LIFESAVER RELATED CALL	2
LAW PUBLIC SERVICE	1
RADIO TOWER SITE LOG	1
REPOSSESSION	1
RESIDENTIAL BURGLAR ALARM	5
SELECT PATROL	41
SEXUAL RELATED OFFENSES	1
SHOTS HEARD	1
SICK CALL	1
SMOKE ODOR INVEST INSIDE	1
STRAY DOG	4
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY / PERSON	19
DIRECT TRAFFIC/FUNERAL TRAFFIC	22
TRAFFIC HAZARD	5
TRAFFIC STOP	47
TRESPASSING/HUNTING TRESPASS	1
UNRESPONSIVE	2
VCIN QUERY RUN	1
VEHICLE FIRE	1
WARRANT CHECK IN/OUT	2
WARRANT RECEIVED	3
OUT SERVING WARRANT	9

TOTAL INCIDENTS 411

MVC NO INJURY	08:06:50 11/21/19
1120 BLK WEST BOTTOM RD	
MVC W/ ANIMAL	19:50:36 11/20/19
220 BLK PANORAMA CT	
MVC W/ FLUIDS	15:57:07 11/20/19
3850 BLK EAST RIVER RD	
MVC W/ ANIMAL	19:41:19 11/19/19
2600 SCLATERS FORD RD	
MVC W/ ANIMAL	17:35:02 11/19/19
3570 BLK ROLLING RD S	
MVC INJURY/UNK	17:12:41 11/18/19
2450 BLK UNION MILLS RD	
MVC NO INJURY	08:16:55 11/18/19
3110 BLK EAST RIVER RD	
MVC W/ ANIMAL	06:23:12 11/18/19
13020 BLK JAMES MADISON HWY	
MVC W/ ANIMAL	17:26:42 11/17/19
1000 INTERSTATE 64;MM 131	
MVC W/ ANIMAL	18:39:52 11/16/19
1600 KENTS STORE WAY; 1600 BLK	
MVC NO INJURY	03:16:41 11/16/19
MONISH DR & THOMAS JEFFERSON PKWY	
MVC NO INJURY	00:33:58 11/16/19
3900 BLK EAST RIVER RD	
MVC W/ ANIMAL	21:51:39 11/15/19
30 BLK CLIFTWOOD RD	
MVC W/ ANIMAL	18:57:32 11/15/19
19280 BLK JAMES MADISON HWY	
MVC ENTRAP/BLD	18:19:48 11/15/19
13850 BLK JAMES MADISON HWY	

TOTAL CRASHES 15

ARRESTS

ARREST DATE: 14:09:24 11/20/19
ADDRESS: BREMO BLUFF
CONTEMPT OF COURT
ARREST DATE: 10:51:48 11/15/19
ADDRESS: CHARLOTTESVILLE
MANUFACTURING/SELLING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
ARREST DATE: 01:51:56 11/17/19
ADDRESS: TROY
RELATED CHARGES: POSSESS SCHED I OR II, DUI 2ND.
ARREST DATE: 13:59:45 11/20/19
ADDRESS: BREMO BLUFF
NO CRIME ENTERED
ARREST DATE: 14:02:00 11/19/19
ADDRESS: SCOTTSVILLE
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH BOND CONDITIONS
ARREST DATE: 14:57:34 11/16/19
ADDRESS: RICHMOND
13:38:00 11/16/19 SPEEDING-55 ZONE
13:38:00 11/16/19 DRIVE SUSP/REVOKED
13:38:00 11/16/19 CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON, POSS OF MARIJUANA
ARREST DATE: 18:02:02 11/20/19
ADDRESS: SCOTTSVILLE
DUI 2ND OFF W/IN 5-10YRS
ASSAULT AND BATTERY
DRIVING AFTER FOREITURE LICENS
ARREST DATE: 10:25:00 11/18/19
ADDRESS: SCOTTSVILLE
ASSAULT BATTERY FAMILY MEMBER
DELAY ELECTRONIC MESSAGE

TOTAL ARRESTS 8

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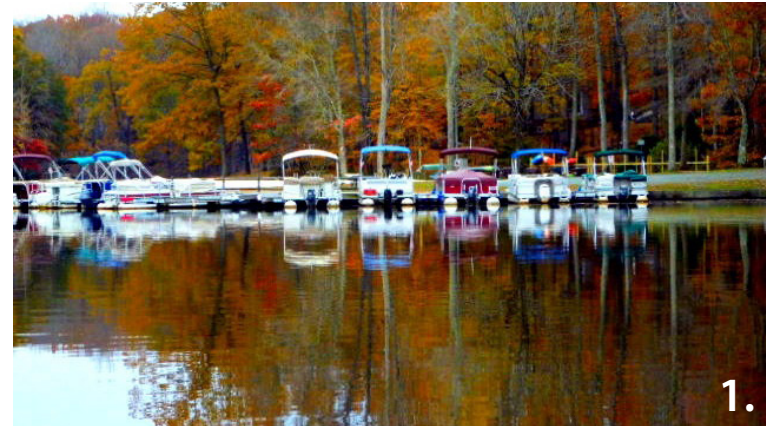
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PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

1. Lake Monticello's Beach 3. Photo by Kay Diggs.
2. Fall colors at Lake Monticello. Photo by Monique Drumheller.
3. A Fallstreak Hole seen in the sky today (Saturday, Nov. 9). Photo by Sandra Parish.
4. A hummingbird frozen in flight. Photo by Eileen Kelly.
5. Praying mantis preying at my hummingbird feeder in Lake Monticello. Photo by Kay Diggs.
6. Sunset at the lake. Photo by Sandra Parrish.
7. Another chilly night in Fluvanna. Photo by Sandra Parrish.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

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History on the agenda at BOS

BY HEATHER MICHON
CORRESPONDENT

History was on the agenda at the regular meeting of the Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday night (Nov. 20).

The meeting kicked off with a salute to Fluvanna County veterans. County Administrator Eric Dahl read a proclamation recognizing the "service and sacrifice" made by service members throughout the county's history. Veterans of each branch, including Supervisor Donald Weaver (Cunningham) and Supervisor Mozell Booker (Fork Union), stood to be recognized.

During the first round of public comments, former Supervisor Len Gardner recounted some of his experiences as a young Navy signalman stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Gardner was on the deck of the USS Reid that morning and saw Japanese planes coming in over the mountains ringing the harbor. As one headed towards his position, he watched it glide down and drop something. "Oh, it was a big explosion," he said. "And that was my introduction to World War II."

Now 97, Gardner said he could re-

member seeing elderly Civil War veterans march in Memorial Day parades in his hometown during his childhood. He went on to survive four years of combat in the Pacific theater.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fluvanna County Historical Society president Marvin Moss asked the county to forgive \$20,000 in payments due over the next four years.

The proposed payments stemmed from the financing arrangements around the construction of the Farm Heritage Museum, which opened at Pleasant Grove earlier this year.

Moss presented a report outlining the contributions the historical society has made around the county in recent years, citing not only the Farm Heritage Museum but the establishment of the Emancipation Proclamation Monument, the restoration of the Pleasant Grove House and its summer kitchen, along with other initiatives.

The historical society is the largest membership organization in Fluvanna County and has been very successful in

raising funds through grants and donations. Such public-private partnerships were rare, said Moss, and had been instrumental in "transforming Palmyra in many ways," generally without requiring major funding from the county. In contrast to other local nonprofits, Moss noted the historical society receives only \$550 in guaranteed county funding each fiscal year.

The \$5,000 installments due to the county over the next four years would eat a percentage of their annual budget and prevent some projects from going forward. "We're not going to go broke, paying this amount of money, but it certainly doesn't help us in our own finances," he said.

Supervisor Weaver said he knew the historical society "does a super, super job," but was clearly not in favor of them pulling out of a payment agreement. He was echoed by Supervisor Trish Eager (Palmyra), who praised Moss's work and the society's achievements, but added that "we were under the impression this was a loan, and I see this as a default."

Supervisors Booker and Tony O'Brian

(Rivanna) were more favorably inclined to approve Moss's request.

After considerable discussion, Chair Mike Sheridan (Columbia) cast the tie-breaking vote. The motion to forgive the payments passed 3-2, with Weaver and Eager voting no.

OTHER ITEMS

The Board approved a small change in the county code to bring it into compliance with the state's administrative code. The new language explicitly authorizes existing fire companies to provide EMS services.

Supervisors also approved a supplemental appropriation of about \$22,000 to fund a Water Distribution System Optimization Study for the Zion Crossroads water and sewer project. The study, which will be conducted by Dewberry Associates, will define how much water has to be in the system to keep it from becoming stagnant.

Dahl told the supervisors that the water project was still on track to become fully operational by October 2020.

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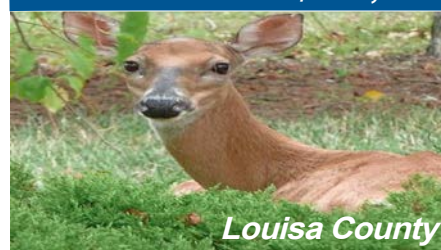
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