


# Fluvanna

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## REVIEW



 FLUVANNA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Day Care  
Center Opening

**PAGE 8**

Local Jazz Singer  
Talks About Music  
and Life

**PAGE 14**

**School to  
Start Aug. 17  
with Hybrid  
Schedule**

**PAGE 4**





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## Letter to the Editor

### Simple decision

From watching politics and actions for the last three and half years, it appears the Democrat's platform includes the following in my opinion: intolerance, Antifa, violent protests, mobs, flag burning, destroying historical statues, erasing history, harassing dinner patrons, gun control the law abiding, government healthcare, paying for other's college, character assassination, cancel culture, socialism, equal outcome, false narratives, bias by omission, tax increases, open borders, lawlessness, abolish ICE, defund police, autonomous cities, sanctuary cities, destroy economy for green initiatives, dismantle the U.S. economy and political system, and illegals voting. Notice how all the above issues are about power, control, winning by any means, and spending your money versus, American first policies, tax payers keeping their money, jobs, constitutional judges, and eliminating all the corrupt individuals from previous administration in numerous government agencies. Seriously, a pretty simple decision in November. Come on Virginians.

-Eric Parlet, Palmyra



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PUBLISHER & EDITOR **CARLOS SANTOS**  
434-591-1000 / editor@fluvannareview.com

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR **JUDI PRICE**  
434-207-0223 / sales@fluvannareview.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE **GREG DORAZIO**  
540-872-8099 / valleyadteam@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS MANAGER **EDEE POVOL**  
434-591-1000 / edee@fluvannareview.com

ADVERTISING DESIGNER **LYNN STAYTON-EURELL**  
sales@fluvannareview.com

EDITORIAL DESIGNER **AMELIA MCCONNELL**  
amelia@fluvannareview.com

DESIGNER **MARILYN ELLINGER**

REPORTERS **RUTHANN CARR,**  
**PAGE GIFFORD, HEATHER MICHON,**  
**DUNCAN NIXON AND MADELINE OTTEN**

Mailing Address  
**P.O. Box 59**  
**Palmyra, VA 22963**

Physical Address  
**Crofton Plaza Building 106, Suite 1**  
**434-591-1000**

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OUR DATA SPEAKS VOLUMES

#### GENERAL

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## Hinkley 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ♥ July 22, 2020

### **Mel and Joan (Harrington) Hinkley of Palmyra, VA are celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary!**

They were married July 22, 1955 at the Broadway Methodist Church in Orlando, FL. Mel originally of W. Gardiner, ME and Joan Hinkley, originally of Orlando, FL met through a mutual friend while Mel was stationed at Pinecastle Air Force Base. Residents of Bowie, MD for 30 years, they now reside in Palmyra, VA. Mel was a member of Civitan Club and Masonic Lodge of Bowie, MD, served two tours in Vietnam, retired from the U.S. Air Force in January 1970, retired from the FCC in 1997, and served as Master of the Clearwater Lodge No. 127 in 2002. Joan retired from USDA in 2000. Mel is a superb wood crafter and Joan is an award-winning quilter. Their four beloved children are Wade (Ruth), Brian (Deceased), and Amy Hinkley, and Susan (Gary) Fitzgerald. They also have eight cherished grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Joan's raising four children with Mel's overseas tours may have tested their marriage during the times when she had to wait for the delivery of a reel-to-reel tape to listen to his voice and for them to communicate. Regardless they have never wavered from the depth of their love and adoration for each other. They bring love, kindness, compassion, humor, joy and laughter to their family, friends and community.

**God bless them and congratulations on a joyous, fun-filled life!**

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## School Board meeting held July 8

### School to Start Aug. 17 with hybrid schedule

BY RUTHANN CARR  
 CORRESPONDENT

Students who decide to attend school in person will be there two days per week.

That's the plan Fluvanna School Superintendent Chuck Winkler presented to the School Board Wednesday (July 8).

Winkler said it is the best he can do to serve the learning and safety needs of Fluvanna children.

School will start Aug. 17 with students grouped alphabetically attending (A-K) Mondays and Thursdays, (L-Z) Tuesdays and Fridays.

"We can't open all days to all students until we're in Phase 4," Winkler said.

All students will learn from home on Wednesdays while the schools are deep cleaned.

Winkler said 27 percent of parents who answered a survey said they intended to keep their children at home and do total virtual learning. That amounts to about 800 students.

Another survey will go out this week. Parents who choose virtual learning will be asked to make a nine-week commitment to that choice, Winkler said.

Having students attend two days per week allows for physical distancing on buses and in classrooms. Students must wear a mask when in enclosed spaces where the recommended six-foot distance can't be maintained.

Winkler said students from the same family can sit together on the bus, but otherwise, students will be spread out. The newest recommendation is to maintain a three-foot distance on buses.

Schools will have disposable masks for students and are working on getting reusable cloth ones for each student.

Teachers will be provided a reusable cloth mask or a clear face shield depending on their particular need, Winkler said.

He hopes to provide in-school childcare for teachers who need it.

Winkler hasn't decided yet if the teachers will have to pay for the care.

Andrew Pullen (Columbia) said teachers may get free childcare but "we're telling our parents, 'oh well.'"

Winkler said providing childcare for approximately 160 teachers' children would free up spots in community child care.

"But at their (parents') cost," Pullen said. "You see what I'm getting at."

Winkler said providing childcare for teachers means they won't be paying the teacher's FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) on top of paying a substitute

teacher to take their place in the classroom.

"We'll save money by using bus drivers and recess assistants (for childcare) who are contracted for a certain number of hours they won't be working because of having Wednesday off. But we're still exploring if we charge and what that would be," Winkler said.

All students will be given a Chrome book and thumb drive for work at home. Parents must provide the Internet.

The school will be setting up Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the county for those who can't get service at home.

Winkler said he has to supply the state with a back-to-school plan that includes a blueprint for teaching virtually if there is a COVID-19 outbreak and schools must be shut down.

All students will have their temperature checked before entering the school building and parents will be asked to assess their children each morning before sending them to school.

Winkler said the school will provide parents with information on how to assess for the illness.

If a student has a fever when their temperature is taken at school, they will go to a quarantine area and their parents will be notified.

Winkler didn't yet have specifics on what will happen if a teacher or student tests positive for COVID-19, who will do the test, how notification will be done and what type of quarantine will take place.

He said it's likely the health department will be responsible for testing and notification.

James Kelley (Palmyra) asked if the school had the authority to decide to close a classroom and have it go to online instruction.

"Have we defined what triggers the alarm bell? I'm hopeful that's part of the mitigation plan," he said. Winkler said he was looking for guidance on that.

Kelley asked if all the information will be written down so parents can see it.

Winkler said the instructional plan will be submitted on July 27, but the health plan isn't due until Aug. 14.

"But we won't wait until then. The two go hand-in-hand. We will get all of it into parent's hands as soon as possible," Winkler said.

Brenda Gilliam, executive director of finance and instruction, reported the schools would likely end fiscal year 2020 with a \$1 million surplus. The



money will be returned to the county.

The meeting was transmitted live via Google Meet and Facebook so the community could attend virtually. However there was technical difficulty and the first few minutes of the Facebook Live feed weren't recorded.

During that time, one man came in person to make a public comment. He said his name was Brian McPherson. He had on a mask when he entered the building, but lowered it when he spoke.

"I'm not wearing a mask because I'm not afraid. This virus doesn't scare me," he said.

McPherson said he worked for Spotsylvania fire and rescue and regularly

dealt with sick patients.

"When you say 'I'm worried, I'm scared.' It's a slap in my face. I work 24-hour shifts. In six months I haven't taken any kids in (ambulance transport to the hospital). It's time we stopped being scared. We need to get back to normal...Don't be so scared to die that you forget to live."

After McPherson sat down and did not put his mask back on, Kelley asked him to do so.

Other citizens called in to comment, one asking Winkler to reconsider the Aug. 17 start date in favor of waiting

School Board, *continues page 6.*



## Fluvanna Business Corner

### Fuvanna Chamber Spotlight: Change Is Of The Essence

Rudy Garcia-Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce,  
Drs. Douglas and Victoria Weiss - Weiss Eyes,  
Sarah Ackenbom- Camp Friendship

This week we will be spotlighting two of our Fluvanna County Chamber Members who have embraced change as a catalyst to revitalize and refocus their businesses during the time of COVID. Our hope is that you will be as inspired as we were to hear these stories.

Our first business highlight is Weiss Eyes. Drs Douglas and Victoria Weiss explain the changes they have had to make to better serve their clients and look out for their employees. Our second member highlight is Camp Friendship. Director Sarah Ackenbom share what they have done to revamp their offerings and try to deal with the many restrictions on their industry.

#### Weiss Eyes - Locally serving Fluvanna's Eyecare needs for 21 years!

These past few months have been an interesting and challenging ride for all of us. As a small business, one problem we never really considered was a pandemic! We were closed for the first 2 months of the pandemic per CDC advice due to the close proximity we work with our patients.

Even though we were officially closed, we had one staff member at a time working in the office throughout the pandemic in order to help take care of our patients. We initiated curbside pick-up and/or mailing of eyeglasses and contact lenses and are still providing this service. We were also to leverage technology and renew prescriptions of medications and also refill eyeglasses prescriptions Electronic Health Record. We started and continue to offer telehealth & telemedicine for any patients who prefer to wait to come into the office.

Safety is our paramount concern. To help keep our staff and our patients as healthy as possible we have taken many new safety measures in our office. We are all wearing and using proper PPE; masks, face shields, gloves, scrubs. All visits are now by appointment. Our patients are also required to wear a mask, have their temperature and answer the proper COVID 19 questions before being seen. To minimize time together, we are also having patients answer their health history questions before arriving on the Patient Health Record.

Additionally, we have replaced all of our cloth chairs with easily cleanable plastic chairs & covered all wood with plastic cleanable coverings. (So attractive!!) We also have outfitted all areas where staff and patients talk with plastic sneeze & cough guards. We have various disinfectant sprays for cleaning our surfaces. We

are cleaning after each patient as well as every 2 hours. (Rappahannock Cellars helped us get hand sanitizer from their distillery.)

In the exam rooms we installed plastic guards on equipment that we are able to and we also purchased some new pieces of equipment to help us maintain some safer distances during the exam. So, while much has changed, we are still here and still serving Fluvanna County. We hope to see or "see" you soon! Drs. Vicki & Doug Weiss

#### Camp Friendship - 50 Years of Serving Fluvanna County and the World

This year for the first time we had to cancel our award-winning summer camp due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We had to come up with a different way to offer families the opportunity to enjoy our beautiful grounds in a different, socially distant way.

This year, to make up for the inability to hold our traditional camp experiences, we decided to offer our cabins for rent to individual families. Since we are nestled on over 500 acres skirting the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Camp Friendship is a world unto itself—a place where time seems to pass more slowly, causing you to wonder what decade you're in. Guests aren't just renting cabins at Camp Friendship. They're immersing themselves in an outdoor experience - a private place to get away.

We also opened up some of our outdoor campy activities such as canoeing, kayaking, swimming in our lake, river tubing, fishing, biking, tennis, hiking and horseback riding to our guests. Riding lessons, trail rides, sunset hayrides and tennis lessons are available to local folks as well. Typically, during the summer we are filled with resident campers so these activities are not available to the public. Now families can come enjoy what our summer campers experience each year.

Our hope is that with these changes we can offer something of value to families needing a respite from their routine, continue to keep our employees working and be ready for when things return to a somewhat more normal situation. Who knows, we may be able to offer this again in the future! Sarah Ackenbom, Director, Camp Friendship

Take time to say thank you to your local businesses. They are here to serve you and they are trying to make do in really stressful times. They would appreciate a call to say you appreciate them. Rudy Garcia, President Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce.

#### CONTACTS

Curtis Putnam, Chair  
Economic Development Authority  
edafluvanna@gmail.com

Bryan Rothamel  
Economic Development Coordinator  
brothamel@fluvannacounty.org  
434-591-1910

Ruthann Carr, Office Manager  
Chamber of Commerce  
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BY RUDY GARCIA, OWNER, RIVANNA WOODS FINANCIAL / TAX SERVICES

### Extended Filing Season Ends and 2020 Estimated Taxes Due!

Now is the time to make your estimated tax payment(s)

You may not realize it but today is July 16<sup>th</sup>. That means if you haven't filed your 2019 Taxes yet, you are now OFFICIALLY Late! The other thing you may not realize is that 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly estimated payments were also due yesterday on July 15<sup>th</sup>! If you have not already done so, now is the time to review your tax situation and make an estimated quarterly tax payment using Form 1040-ES.

#### Due Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020

You are required to pay, or withhold from your paycheck, at least 90 percent of your 2020 tax obligation or 100 percent of your 2019 tax obligation.\* A quick look at last year's tax return and a projection of this year's obligation can help determine if a payment is necessary. Here are some other things to consider:

- **You may need to account for six months!** Due to the pandemic, the 1st quarter estimated payment deadline was extended to July 15 along with the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter due date. So your payment may need to account for six months of estimated taxes!

- **Account for unemployment compensation income.** If you receive unemployment compensation income, you need to review your income tax withholdings and potential tax obligation. This may require you to pay estimated taxes on or before July 15.

- **Avoid an underpayment penalty.** If you do not have proper tax withholdings during the year, you could be subject to an underpayment penalty.

- **W-2 withholdings have special treatment.** A W-2 withholding payment can be made at any time during

the year and be treated as if it was made throughout the year. If you do not have enough money to pay your required estimated quarterly payment now, you may be able to adjust your W-2 withholdings to make up the difference.

- **Self-employed workers need to account for FICA taxes.** Remember to account for your Social Security and Medicare taxes as well. Creating and funding a savings account for this purpose can help avoid the cash flow hit each quarter when you pay your estimated taxes.

- **Don't forget state obligations.** With the exception of a few states, you are often required to make an estimated state tax payment at the same time you make a federal estimated tax payment. Consider conducting a review of your state obligations to ensure you meet these quarterly estimated tax payments as well.

\* If your income is over \$150,000 (\$75,000 if married filing separate), you must pay 110 percent of last year's tax obligation to be safe from an underpayment penalty.

Here at RWF Tax Services, we want to thank you for allowing us to serve you in these very stressful and often confusing times. We worked hard to accommodate your needs while still ensuring all prescribed safety and proper social distancing were followed. We will continue to offer our virtual service for the future as it was very well received. For now, please stay safe and remember the 2019 Tax Filing Season may officially be over, but we are still here for any late filings, amended returns or tax planning needs for the 2020 tax year. Thanks again for your business! Rudy and Catherine Garcia



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School Board, from page 5.

until after Labor Day and one asked them to remember they are not battling each other, "it's us versus COVID-19." Another asked the board to think about teachers and what they're risking.

All this took place just hours after President Donald Trump urged schools to fully reopen saying he "may cut off funding if not open."

After those comments, Pullen called for a point of order and chastised Kelley for "talking down" to McPherson.

"We're not better than them. We work for them. What just happened was unacceptable," Pullen said.

Kelley said he wasn't reacting to his comments.

"I'm actually thankful for it," Kelley began.

"I understand. I understand," Pullen said, interrupting. "But us talking down to people in the chairs is unacceptable"

Kelley continued, "I asked him if he would put his mask back on in the room because our policy and our notice on the board is masks will be required to be worn in the room at all times..."

Pullen said the board received an email from the chair saying that wouldn't be enforced.

"So I'd say if there's an issue call the sheriff and ask him to enforce it and move on, but we don't holler at people

that are sitting in the seats. We respect them and their beliefs," Pullen said.

Kelley began again.

"I asked the gentleman to put his mask back on...I appreciated his comments. I'm thankful for them. They provide sometimes differing, sometimes not differing perspectives from my own, but I what I said was I suspect he was comfortable not wearing a mask but to respect the public health and the public good it would be better if he to put the mask on," Kelley said. "I'm not sure what your point is because in my opinion nothing about what I asked was disrespectful or talking down to him."

Pullen said, "Well that's a point of contention, but we'll move on."

## School board meeting held June 30

One thing is clear: There are no easy answers.

On a called school board meeting Tuesday, (June 30) Fluvanna School Superintendent Chuck Winkler laid out his plan for re-opening schools.

First, it looks like an Aug. 3 start is off the table.

Winkler said now he's looking at Aug. 17, but it could be after Labor Day.

Nearly 3,000 responded to a community survey sent out by the schools.

They weighed in on preferred type of instruction (assuming not all students would be on campus every day), available transportation, and their barriers to remote learning.

With that input and physical distancing guideline set by the governor, Virginia Department of Health and the Centers for Disease control, Winkler's plan is:

- Students attend in-person classes two days a week
- One group (students with last names beginning A-K) attending Monday and Thursday; the other attending Tuesday and Friday.
- Wednesday schools are deep cleaned
- Each student assigned a Chrome book and thumb drive
- During off days students will work on assignments
- All teachers wear masks
- Where physical distancing can't be adhered to in an enclosed space – such as common areas and buses, students must wear masks

Perhaps anticipating push back, Winkler said: "My statement is 'You're going to get on the school bus, you're going to wear a mask.' That's my statement for the start of the year."

Andrew Pullen (Columbia) said, "Isn't that something for the board to decide?"

"No," Winkler said, "That is not something the board will decide."

Pullen said his daughter will not wear a mask.

"So, you're telling me she can't ride the school bus?"

"That is correct," Winkler said.

Pullen asked about children who have health conditions.

Winkler said he researched that, and he plans on getting the reason in writing.

"The transportation piece is an option," he said. "Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right."

He later said if the school had to make an accommodation of providing car transport, they'll make that decision when it comes up.

The conversation continued with Pullen wondering how schools can enforce mask wearing.

"You can't make a kid stop picking their nose. How are you going to make them wear a mask? Pullen said.

Winkler suggested the student will get a warning. And if still not compliant, principals will have to determine what the consequence will be.

James Kelley (Palmyra) said it's a matter of public health.

"We fundamentally have a responsibility to ensure the safety, health and well-being of our students," Kelley said.

"Even if masks aren't ideal, fundamentally it's our responsibility to make sure our kids are safe at school and masks are a part of that equation...we are legally responsible for the safety of our kids."



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Pullen questioned relying on the legal advice of school lawyers.

"I don't understand how our lawyers, who have historically given us bad advice, they're expressing to you what you can and can't do, while other school districts would say otherwise," Pullen said. "Why are we so very far apart from other school districts? We're focused on the counties around us but there are other school districts that are pushing back. I don't understand why their lawyers are saying this and their lawyers are saying that. These are guidelines. They are not legislation. They are not laws. They are not enforceable." Winker said the school districts Pullen referred to are in Southwest Virginia. "And up until last week, they had very few cases."

Pullen countered, "If not for our nursing home, we've had very few cases. On tenth of one percent of the population of Fluvanna. I'm just saying other school districts are coming up with different answers. Giles County. They're literally looking at lawsuits to push back."

Winkler said lawsuits may be inevitable. "There will be lawsuits no matter what. I'm hoping to keep Fluvanna out of lawsuits, but more importantly I'm hoping to keep my students, our students and staff safe," he said. "Someone is going to get sick. Some child K-12 is going to get sick in the Commonwealth. I pray it doesn't happen in Fluvanna."

Pullen said, "No children at this point in Fluvanna has had it (Covid 19)."

"I understand that," Winker said. "We've been out of school."

Pullen said according to information from the Thomas Jefferson Health District no child in Fluvanna has contracted the disease.

Kelley said TJHD records show 4.3 percent of Covid-19 cases in the district have occurred in the 0-9 age category. The TJHD encompasses Charlottesville and Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson counties.

The discussion continued with Pullen citing several reports recommending students go back to school.

"I'm just saying we're basing everything

on something that may happen. There are so many may's."

Winkler said every decision made brings up more questions. But he said they needed to keep something in mind.

"Our job is not to eliminate risk, but to mitigate risk – to our staff and our students," he said. "We have to submit a mitigation plan."

Each member of the board at the end of the meeting expressed support for the work Winkler did and for the plan.

Except Pullen.

"I'm supportive of you; I'm not supportive of the plan, obviously," he said. "I agree with the superintendent in southwest Virginia. I may be on the losing end of this...what we're literally being fed is fear. We're not seeing it in children. It's not fair for someone else to tell Fluvanna how to re-open. There is so much confusion...it's very politically charged, rather than following data and science."

Winker said, "I don't know if I could live with myself if we lost a child to this."

To which Pullen replied, "(They're) more likely to get into a car accident on the way to school."

Winkler presented the plan again at the July 8 meeting.

The Fluvanna SPCA will be closed to the public until further notice. We are trying to do our part to help cut down on the spread of COVID-19, and with our animals' and employees' best interests in mind we are trying to reduce foot traffic to help keep our employees healthy. The animals at the shelter will continue to receive wonderful care just as they normally do, so no need to worry. If you are interested in adopting or if you would like to drop off donations during this time that we are closed to the public, you can make an appointment to do so by contacting our shelter manager: [manager@fspca.org](mailto:manager@fspca.org) We appreciate your understanding and support during this difficult time for everyone, and we will be sure to keep you updated as soon as we will be open again to the public.

**THIS WEEK'S PET IS DANDELION! APPROX 2 YRS.**

Dandelion is currently awaiting spay, but she can be fostered until adopted for now. She just finished nursing her little ones and is ready for her forever home. Dandelion is as sweet as they get.

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## Day care center opening

BY RUTHANN CARR  
CORRESPONDENT

It was a lovely day to welcome one of Fluvanna's newest businesses: the Learning Ladder Academy.

A number of supporters gathered Thursday (July 9) at the new day care at 3739 Lake Monticello Road for a ribbon-cutting/ open house to help owner Pandora Trent celebrate.

"This has been a dream come true," Trent said as she held the giant scissors before cutting the scarlet ribbon. "I want to thank everyone for coming. My mom (Geneva Trent) has been my greatest cheerleader, always telling me 'You can do it. You can do it.' So I'm dedicating this to her."

Trent gave tours of her new space, which can hold 32.

The academy, she said, takes children from infants to 15-year-olds of all skills and needs level.

Trent has a heart for special needs children and already has plans to expand to another building for just those students.

The academy doesn't have a one price fits all fee schedule. Tuition ranges from \$100-\$330 weekly, per child, according the website. Tuitions may be higher or lower, depending on the family's needs and circumstances, it states.

The Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce welcomed Learning Ladder Academy to the business community.

"It's always great to add another small, woman-owned minority business," Rudy Garcia said.

Fluvanna Economic Development Coordinator Bryan Rothamel said it was good to welcome a new child-care center to Fluvanna.

"I'm realizing more and more how important childcare is to the community," he said.

Earlier in the day, Trent, Garcia and Rothamel, along with owners of other Fluvanna day care centers and private schools, met virtually to discuss how their service will fit into the public schools re-opening plans.

Don Stribling, executive director of human resources/student services/ operations, chaired the meeting put together by Garcia.

As it stood at the time of the meeting, Stribling said the public school plans to re-open Aug. 17 with a "hybrid model." Students with last names beginning with A through K will attend school Mondays and Tuesdays; L through Z, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Wednesday will be a home learning day for all, Stribling said.

"That is hopefully a structure of learning created by each individual family," Stribling said. "But that doesn't necessarily mean spending 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of a computer."

Stribling asked each of the people on the call to fill in a spread sheet about their school or day care center with contact information, and any special notes that could help parents know about their services.

"We want to get information from you about what opportunities are available in our community for child-care. We will get this sent out to all parents," he said.

Stribling told the group FCPS will provide all its students with a Chrome book and thumb drive.

"Just one-on-one, if one of my children was at your facility and you were offering to help them with work, I sure would let them take it to your facility," Stribling said. "We can make all of these things learning opportunities."

He said in the first survey sent out to 3400 parents, 27 percent of them (about 800 students) said they would choose full virtual learning.

FCPS is sending out a second survey this week.

They are asking parents who choose full virtual learning over the hybrid schedule, to commit to nine weeks.

Stribling predicted they will know much more about how well they've contained any spread of the novel coronavirus after the first semester of school.

Ideally the goal is to evaluate every four weeks and bring as many children as possible back to at least four days a week of at school instruction.

Director of Fluvanna County Social Services Kim Mabe said with both her and her husband working full time they are considering enrolling their child in private school.

"My concern is with all these kids whose parents can't afford the supplemental cost (of childcare or private school); many parents will leave their kids with inadequate care."

When asked about the availability of childcare subsidies, Mabe had bad news.

"We don't have any more subsidy funds," she said. "New ones (applying for a subsidy) go on a wait list and have to wait for someone to get off the list."

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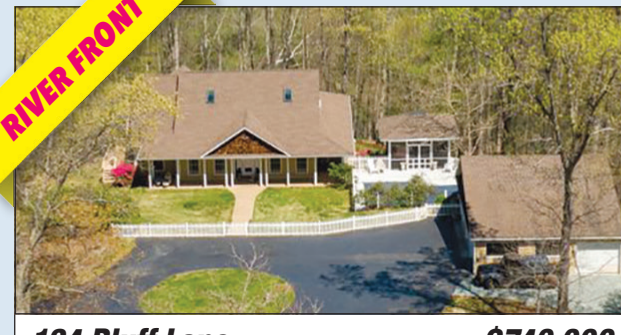
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The Fluvanna SPCA will be closed to the public until further notice. We are trying to do our part to help cut down on the spread of COVID-19, and with our animals' and employees' best interests in mind we are trying to reduce foot traffic to help keep our employees healthy. The animals at the shelter will continue to receive wonderful care just as they normally do, so no need to worry. If you are interested in adopting or if you would like to drop off donations during this time that we are closed to the public, you can make an appointment to do so by contacting our shelter manager: [manager@fspca.org](mailto:manager@fspca.org). We appreciate your understanding and support during this difficult time for everyone, and we will be sure to keep you updated as soon as we will be open again to the public.

**THIS WEEK'S PET IS DOMINIK - APPROX 1-2 YRS** 



Dominik is a sweet, big boy looking for his forever home. He is currently awaiting neuter, but can be fostered to adopt until then.

If you are interested in meeting Dom, please call the shelter to make an appointment.

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**Rotary schedules second food drive**

PRESS RELEASE

Fluvanna Rotary will again help the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank deal with the high demand for food for the needy due to the economic impact of the pandemic. Rotary is organizing its second Lake Monticello food drive for Thursday, July 23, said organizer Betsy Gunnels.

The first Rotary food drive April 23 netted more than 7,000 pounds of donated food, which helped the food bank meet the needs of area residents, organizers said. They're hoping for a similar amount of contributions this time.

Residents are asked to donate canned goods and non-perishable items. Donations should be placed by the mailbox

between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Volunteers will pick them up, sort the donations and deliver them to the food bank.

"Blue Ridge Area Food Bank notified us that due to continued demand for food their stocks are running low, and asked us if we could help again," Gunnels said. "We're glad to do so."

"Fluvanna Rotary has been serving our community since its inception in 2006," said Rotary Past President Rudy Garcia. "Many organizations know that when they need help to call us. Our relationship with MACAA (operator of the food bank) is one of our oldest. They asked for help and this is one way for us to do that."

**Fluvanna Faces: Erika Mitchell**

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD  
CORRESPONDENT

**Where do you live?**

"Lake Monticello."

**How long have you lived in Fluvanna County? What brought you here?**

"Five years ago, my mother, my sister's family and I decided we wanted to live closer to each other, but I lived in a very remote location in the mountains and they lived in a very congested area near the shore. We needed some place where we could be close to nature and convenience and not feel like outsiders. We moved all three households to Lake Monticello. We have great neighbors and have met wonderful people from all over the county. Every year gets better and we are so glad we are close enough to support each other during our current difficult times.

**What did you want to be when you were growing up?**

"A teacher or a shop owner or an interior designer but I wish I had wanted to be a pilot because now I realize that would've been awesome too."

**What was your very first job?**

"I was a sales clerk in a candy shop! This is funny because...I own Sweet Arts Emporium."

**What do you do for a living?**

"I own and operate Sweet Art Emporium in Palmyra, an art and candy shop.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

"I like to paint. Everything. Pictures, walls, houses, decks, furniture. Once I've worn myself out painting, I like to read."

**What is one food that you could never live without?**

"Chocolate, cookies, pie...oh wait you said one.

**What is one you can never bring yourself to eat?**

"I can't eat mammals. Blech."

**What are your three favorite movies?**

"That's really tough. Made in Heaven, Ladyhawk and Love, Actually were the first to come to mind. I guess I really want to believe that Love will always win."

**Tell us about a way you have changed over the years.**

"My father died young (ish.) He was just about 3 years from taking early retirement and following his dream of building a log cabin. I used to think it was important to do everything you wanted right away. I was in such a rush to accomplish all my goals before I turned 47, just in case I didn't get more time than he did. I turned 47 this year. I don't have many regrets but I no longer believe it is possible to live without unfulfilled intentions. What would we have to look forward to if we finished early?"

**When you are having a bad day, what do you do to make yourself feel better?**

"I set myself a simple cleaning task. I take pleasure in checking off to-do lists and cleaning or organizing something small will frequently take my mind off what was bothering me. I also just rediscovered how much fun puzzles can be. Probably for the exact same reason!"

**What quote or saying do you connect with most?**

"Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light." - Dumbledore, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban". This quote gives me hope and reminds me that we often have some power to exert over our circumstances, even when we are despairing. Though, I would really appreciate it if I didn't have to keep putting that one to the test."

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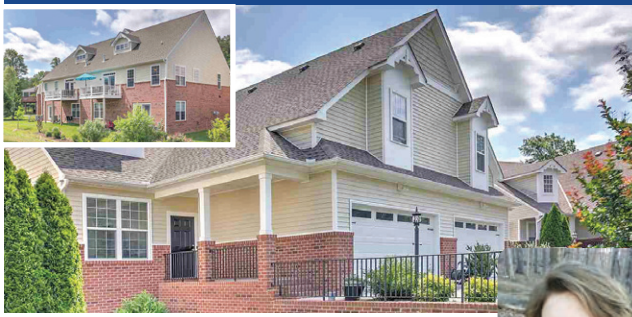


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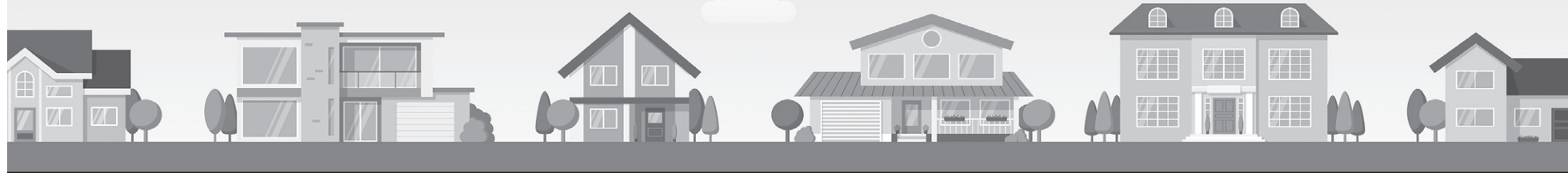


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# Local jazz singer talks about music and life

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD  
CORRESPONDENT



Since she was four Clare Donahue knew she wanted to sing and would often harmonize with television commercials. But it was "Lady Sings the Blues" Billie Holiday that influenced her the most. Holiday's "Strange Fruit" was recently resurrected to illustrate the current climate in today's society. Holiday's songs were always haunting ballads fraught with pain and loneliness, something that Clare said she understood.

"I felt like I was no longer alone in this world. Someone else was in great pain and she turned it into something beautiful. If I hadn't found Billie, things could have been very bad for me," she said and added that Doris Day was also a favorite. They were the two singers that vocally had the same strong but mellow style that Clare admired and adopted herself.

Born in the early '60s to depression-era parents in Brooklyn, N.Y. Clare is the youngest of three children. Her parents were hard-working people that gave Donahue everything she needed though voice lessons were something she would have to pay for on her own.

"Developing my voice and becoming a professional, without formal schooling, is one of the things I am most proud of. I think, like most of the skills in the arts, it is an endurance game, as long as you love it, who is counting the hours or the cost." She adds that music saved her life.

At 19, she began her music career as a background singer for a rock band in New York and worked at Warner. She had several groups and artistic projects in New York yet getting them off the ground would require networking and a better understanding of the music business.

She eventually landed a job working for Chubby Checker's manager, Tony DeLauro.

She learned about music management and national touring. She then worked for Doug Breitbart, Esq., calling him a brilliant and ethical man in a very "shady" industry.

"Working with him, the staff, and the artists on that roster was life-changing. From that experience, I went on to form Donahue Management and was one of a handful of female managers in the music industry in New York. She was 25.

"Some very important lessons came very early. I met people who were millionaires and famous and I saw very clearly how neither of those things brings happiness. I was never after money or fame. My childhood was filled with too much pain and trauma. Happiness, I wanted happiness."

As did her parents. "I think my mother wanted to be independent and saw education as something in which she may have had more options." Like many men of his generation, her father became an alcoholic. "My father had many unfulfilled dreams and dreamed of what could have been with a drink in his hand. I vowed that that would never be me, either one of those things. I am a fiercely independent person who most people in my life would describe as kind but very courageous. I was intent on giving every dream its chance in my life, no matter the cost. I saw firsthand the cost of not doing so. People handle regret differently, some better, some worse."

After a near-fatal car crash and a three-month hospitalization, Donahue questioned her life choices and examined her destiny. She decided to get out of what she called the ego-based business of popular music and engage in something worthwhile.

She attended the University of Bridgeport and got her Master's degree. She then taught elementary school for twelve years, something that was rewarding for her. But it didn't take long for the music to rise within her, calling her with its alluring rhythms and she

returned to the music industry, but this time, she says older and a tad wiser. She sang torch songs and jazz, fulfilling the destiny she had always dreamed of.

Thirty years ago, an artist friend gave her Julia Cameron's book, *The*

Artist's Way. Cameron discusses how to bypass the barriers to an artist's potential success and why artists sabotage themselves. It was a turning point for Donahue who recognized that artist's fear failure which stems from low self-esteem and comes from lack of encouragement. She also adds that fear and money play a role in artists putting themselves on the line.

"The Artist's Way is a great answer to that. Every person needs support to be successful. No one does anything alone. We are all inspired by people, teachers, mentors, nature, other artists, etc.," she said. "Julia's work taught me that I always need to find inspiration and encouragement for myself. That age and money are false barriers, there are always people breaking through them. To nurture my artist, to be playful and to just generate work, don't judge it. Every song you sing or painting you paint should not be weighed and measured against the finest in the field. It is an original work that's good enough."

For a New Yorker living in the south was an adjustment, migrating to different areas, from Florida to Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama, where she felt she could afford to live and work mainly on writing and recording a jazz CD.

"It would take an entire book to express what it was like for a woman born and raised in New York to find herself living five miles from Alabama. First, I felt like I had gone back 50 years in time," she said. "Secondly, it is a lonely feeling "being the other." There were days I would pay \$10 for a good bagel or real Italian food. More soberly, I could write a thesis on the rural/urban divide in this country while watching a man from Queens, N.Y. run for president and win both

the rural vote as well as the Bible Belt. Once again, I came face to face with: we are conditioned to dismiss, whatever we don't understand."

After living in the rural South, she vowed never to live in a city again. She came to Fluvanna and Lake Monticello when a friend needed help

"Country folks are the best folks in the world. I am a better musician but more importantly a better human being because of my time in the deep South," she said. "I always had good manners but thought humility meant meekness. I would have never survived New York or thrived in music being meek. New York is the most competitive music scene perhaps in the world. But I learned humility from their patience with me and their good example. I am forever in their debt."

She was seeking out musicians to reform her quintet and performed several times with the Randy Johnston and Sentimental Journey Orchestra/Big Band. She was all set for a benefit performance with The Flashbacks when the virus hit. COVID- 9 has left her unemployed like many in the performing arts.

"I have very little fear and don't worry about money much at all. I have always had what I needed and then some. I am fortunate. I find that the simpler my life is the most creative I am. After all, I have more creative space," she said. "More is a deadly disease. Greed has become rampant and it is a soul killer for sure. We live in the most beautiful place with nature and wonderful hiking trails. We can still leave our doors unlocked here and people still wave hello. Simple things like that are worth everything to me."



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# Tournament goes down to the last hole

BY DUNCAN NIXON  
CORRESPONDENT



Elizabeth Tucci won the tournament. Photo by Duncan Nixon

On the 18<sup>th</sup> hole of the second round, rising high school junior Elizabeth Tucci of New Market, Maryland, needed a par to tie and a birdie to win in the Peggy Kirk Bell Commonwealth Classic. She calmly sank her birdie putt. She recorded a one under par 71 for her second round to a score of even par 144 for two rounds over a very challenging 5,800 yard layout at the Lake Monticello golf course. Her birdie putt on the par five eighteenth hole gave her the win. Tucci's winning score of 73-71 was one stroke better than the score of Victoria Kim of West Chester Pa. who is also a rising in junior in high school. Kim shot 73 on Saturday and even par 72 on Sunday.

The young women competing in this tournament have to be really, really good golfers. In order to play in the Bell National Division of the Peggy Kirk Bell tournament, young women 12-19 in age must have an average score of under 80.

Fortunately, this year the PKB Commonwealth Tournament enjoyed decent weather, as the temperatures

and humidity were slightly higher than ideal, but were tolerable, and there was no rain. The Lake Monticello course was in excellent condition. This two-day tournament has two divisions, the Bell National Division and the Futures Division. Both divisions are for young women in the 12-19 age group, but the Bell National players have the lower handicaps and are generally players who are hoping to secure college golf scholarships.

Finishing third with a two round score 146 was rising high school senior Isabel Bae of Bristow Va. She led after one round with 71, but finished on Sunday with a very credible 75 for a two-round total of two over par.

Fourth place went to Sarah Lydic, from Ocean City, Delaware, of the high school class of 2024, who shot 76 on Saturday and rebounded with 73 on Sunday for a two-round score of 149. Fifth place was captured by Anphi Le, Class of 2022, out of Frederick, Maryland. She shot back to back 75's for a 150.

In addition to the Bell National Commonwealth Classic, the PKB organization also held a Futures Division competition at the Lake Monticello golf course this weekend. This competition is for young women who not yet quite good enough to compete at the upper level of PKB competition. This group of young women competed over a slightly shorter course (5,093 v 5,800 yards) However two young golfers were able to record very impressive 71 scores over this shorter course on Saturday.

The Lake Monticello course is hoping to continue to host the Peggy Kirk Bell Commonwealth classic in the future, but the Commonwealth Classic was played and University of Virginia's Birdwood course in the past, and that course has now reopened after a significant redesign.

## SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

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### 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:

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

## The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- 1 Down in the dumps
- 5 Acted like
- 9 Loses color
- 14 Litter's littlest
- 15 Quaker's "you"
- 16 Say "y'all," say
- 17 Math computation
- 18 Youngster
- 19 Firing place
- 20 Many May babies
- 22 Wrongdoing
- 24 Olympic lake in NY
- 26 \_\_\_-Atlantic
- 27 Small night bird
- 29 Materials for Renoir
- 34 Like some music
- 36 Web developer's concern
- 37 Kind of sign
- 38 Playfully shy
- 39 Acrobat's attire
- 42 Phone's ABC
- 43 Anagram for "ruse"
- 45 Caesar's hello
- 46 Perfume sampler
- 48 Superfluous
- 51 Ball VIP
- 52 \_\_\_ no evil
- 53 Figure out
- 55 Field laborer of old
- 59 Maine capital
- 62 Color of honey
- 63 Right on the map?
- 65 Diving bird
- 66 Get a whiff of
- 67 Smart-\_\_\_
- 68 Surrounded by
- 69 Astronaut Ride
- 70 Kin's partner
- 71 Count (on)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
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66						67					68			
69						70					71			

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- 2 Fishing item
- 3 Out of work
- 4 Amazon, e.g.
- 5 Room at the top?
- 6 Prefix with "therapy"
- 7 Comics shriek
- 8 Consider to be
- 9 Iran, once
- 10 Finder of a magic lamp
- 11 Place to wait
- 12 Result of honing
- 13 Farmer's purchase
- 21 Birth-related
- 23 BMW, e.g.
- 25 Swell, as the abdomen
- 27 Come to pass
- 28 Which person's?
- 30 Shepherd's locale
- 31 Annoying
- 32 Spa handout
- 33 Siesta sound
- 35 Hard to lift
- 40 In vitro items
- 41 Fix, as software
- 44 Monroe's co-star in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"
- 47 Worldly
- 49 Almost
- 50 Child's china
- 54 Like Rembrandt
- 55 Mountain route
- 56 Austen heroine
- 57 Son of Adam
- 58 Boat-building wood
- 60 Work hard
- 61 Opie's dad
- 64 Frazier foe

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

The Fluvanna SPCA will be closed to the public until further notice. We are trying to do our part to help cut down on the spread of COVID-19, and with our animals' and employees' best interests in mind we are trying to reduce foot traffic to help keep our employees healthy. The animals at the shelter will continue to receive wonderful care just as they normally do, so no need to worry. If you are interested in adopting or if you would like to drop off donations during this time that we are closed to the public, you can make an appointment to do so by contacting our shelter manager: [manager@fspca.org](mailto:manager@fspca.org). We appreciate your understanding and support during this difficult time for everyone, and we will be sure to keep you updated as soon as we will be open again to the public.



### THIS WEEK'S PET IS: STAR

Star was surrendered to the shelter due to the family not being able to care for her any longer. The family stated that she is good with children and other dogs. Star will need to be in a home without cats. Star has lived all her life outdoors, and has never been inside a home, so she is not housebroken. Star is very sweet, but very scared right now and will need some time to come around. She has never been walked on the leash until now. Once the leash is put on her, she immediately goes to the ground. If you have another dog and would like to meet with Star, please call the shelter to make an appointment for a meet and greet with your dog. Star is current on all vaccinations.

Fluvanna SPCA Troy, VA • 434 591-0123 • [www.fspca.org](http://www.fspca.org)

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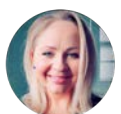
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  - Coveted Golf Course Area
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Jen.Sample@longandfoster.com



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Patricia.Arndt@LongandFoster.com



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