

Louisa Life

August 28 - September 24, 2020 • ONE COPY FREE

Vouchers Set at \$500

Serving the Community's Dental Needs



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Next deadline: Wednesday Sept. 16, 2020

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The Louisa County Resource Council is now providing a new program for residents who need dental assistance.

Cover designed by Marilyn Ellinger

Louisa County Appoints New Fire and EMS Chief

Press Release

At its meeting on August 17, 2020, the Louisa County Board of Supervisors appointed Robert C. Dubé Chief of Louisa County's Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The County conducted an extensive search which yielded over 30 applicants for the position. Dubé will begin work in early September.

"The leadership capabilities, qualifications and experience that Robert brings to the position would be desirable in any locality, regardless of size or complexity," said Duane Adams, Mineral District Supervisor and representative on the department's Management Oversight Group. "We're tremendously fortunate to have someone with those qualities and strong ties to our community."

Dubé brings over 40 years of public service experience to the position, primarily in fire and emergency management. He most recently served as Fire Chief for the City of Alexandria and as Deputy Director for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Dubé also served as the Louisa's Chief of Fire and EMS from 2008 through 2011, and as County Administrator from 2011 through 2014. During his tenure as Louisa's Chief, he oversaw the implementation of 24/7 emergency services coverage and critical consolidation efforts within the department. His prior



Robert C. Dubé

experience also includes service as the Operations Chief for Virginia Task Force One, a multi-functional international search and rescue team.

"It's an honor to join a great team and serve this community again," said Dubé. "I'm humbled and grateful for the opportunity to work together with our Board, career staff, and volunteer personnel to continually improve our



Louisa County Fire & EMS

services to the citizens of Louisa."

A resident of Louisa County, Dubé holds an Associate's Degree in Fire Science Administration, a Bachelor's Degree in Public Safety Administration, and a Master's Degree in Executive Leadership. He began his fire service career in Loudoun County in 1974 as a volunteer and was a member of the Leesburg and Sterling Volunteer Fire Departments.

"Louisa is growing, and it's imperative that we strategically plan for the future requirements of our emergency services," said Christian Goodwin, County Administrator. "Robert's combination of knowledge and leadership experience make him uniquely qualified to ensure the success of those efforts."

Serious Shortage of Canning Supplies

There's currently a shortage of mason jars so the Mineral Farmer's Market really appreciates getting clean jars and egg cartons back. The shelves are absolutely bare. **See the short jar in the photo; the one with no top, is especially needed.**

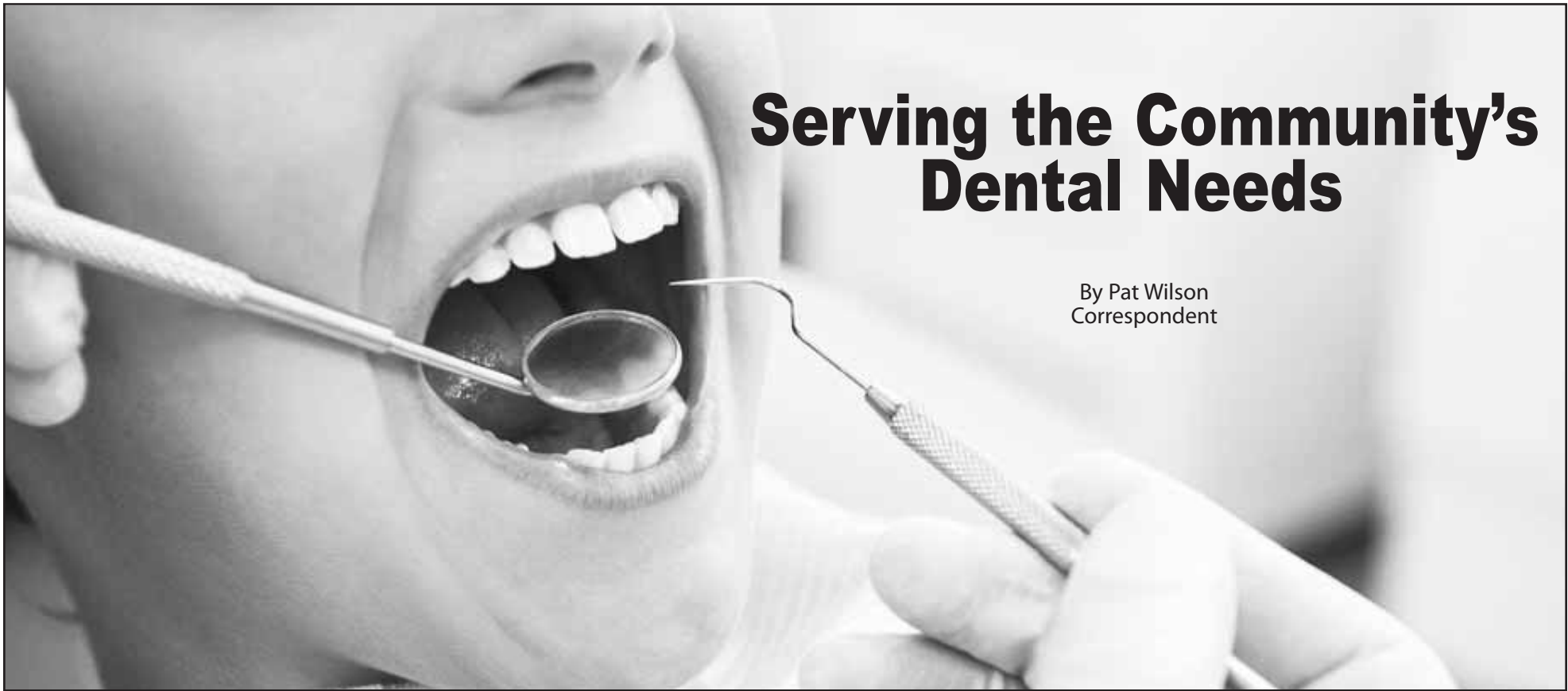
We want to thank those who have recently returned jars and egg cartons. Our vendors can continue to provide home grown canned foods to our community at the Mineral Farmer's Market. Our location is 81 Louisa Avenue, Mineral Va. **540-854-7626. Follow us on Facebook.**



One of many vendors at the Mineral Farmer's Market.



The *Lake Anna Life & Times* is an insert and is not affiliated with *Louisa Life*. The contents of *Lake Anna Life & Times* are the responsibility of its publisher.



Serving the Community's Dental Needs

By Pat Wilson
Correspondent

With government assistance and though the generosity of businesses, churches and individuals, the Louisa County Resource Council provides free supplementary food for eligible clients through various options. These on-going services are familiar to most residents, but a newer program provides dental assistance.

Vickie Southall, UVA nursing instructor, periodically brought her student interns to Louisa County as part of a rural nursing course. Follow-up discussions among the students noted the acute need for dental care which they observed while doing rou-

tine blood pressure and diabetes testing for the organization's food assistance clients. In addition, a 2018 study by the Thomas Jefferson Health District found Louisa County to have nearly twice as much need for dental care as surrounding areas.

"The nursing interns had done some background research and concluded that about 50 percent of county residents had not seen a dentist in two to three years," said retired dentist Dr. John Hodge.

See Dental Page 5

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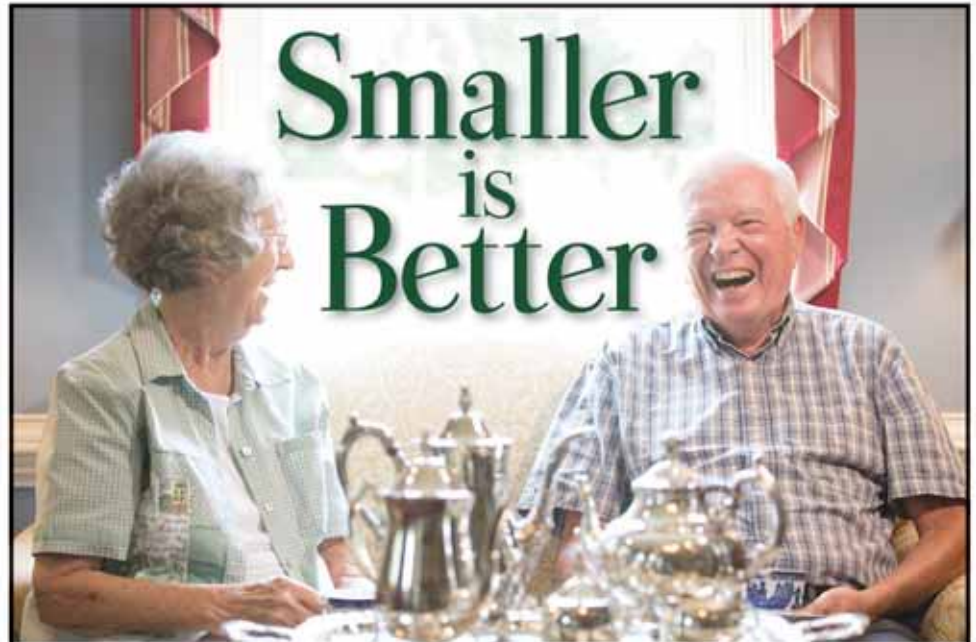
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Dental from page 3

Similarly, Cathy Portner, LCRC office manager, confirmed that numerous income-eligible clients served by the feeding programs were suffering with oral discomfort. Some expressed that the pain and swelling were so intense that their diets were limited to soft foods.

Because of the study and observations, Southall, Hodge and LCRC executive director Lloyd Runnett conferred to discuss optional solutions. In early 2019, the LCRC board decided to initiate a program to help with adult dental care, particularly emergency assistance. Donna Kirkley joined a committee with Hodge, Southall,

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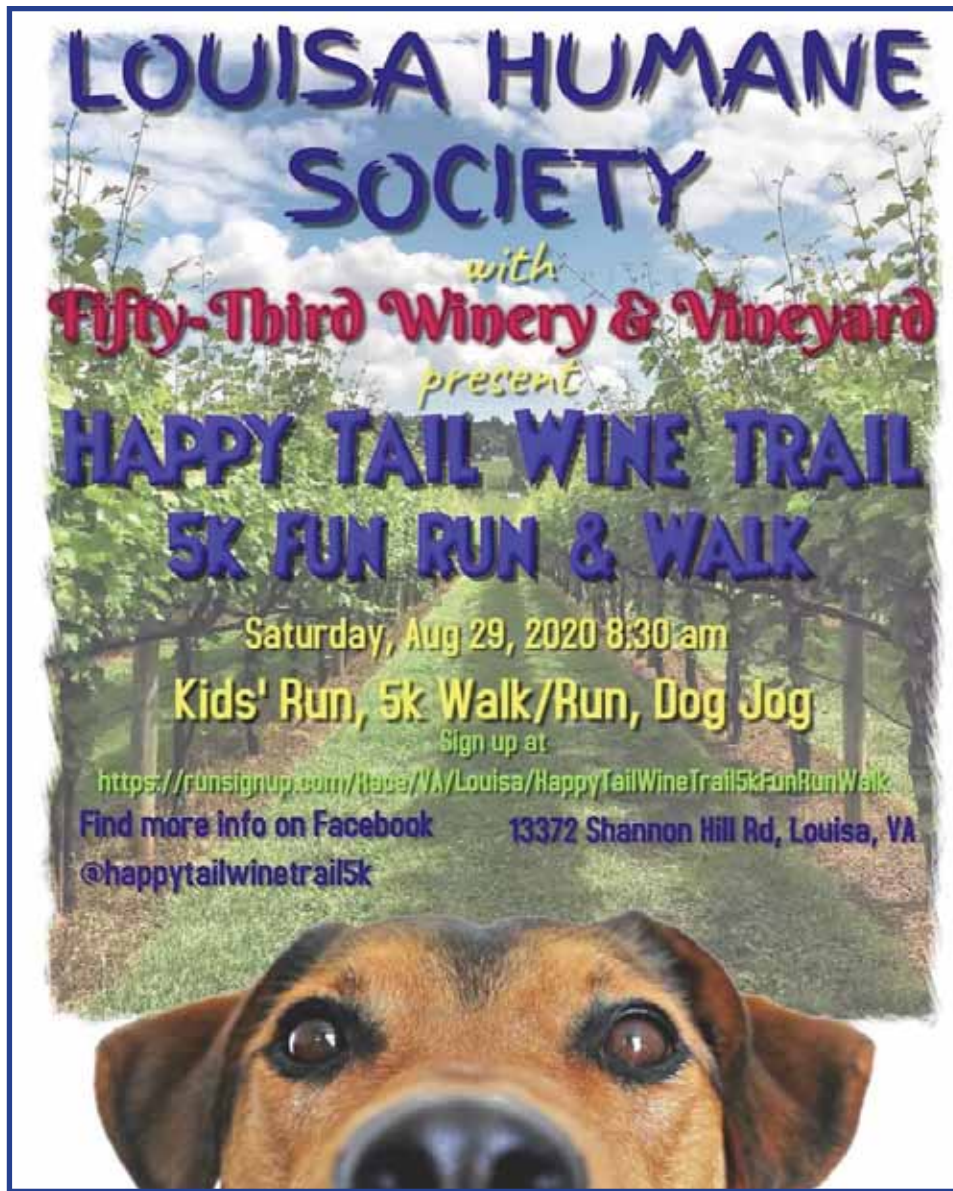
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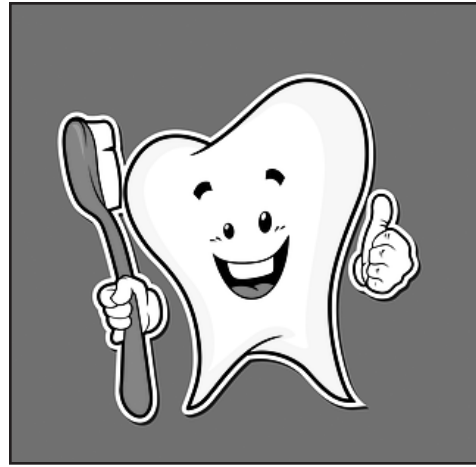
www.MineralMarket.org

Portner and Runnett to head up the project.

"I was asked to talk with dentists in the area about a voucher project," said Hodge. "Six dentists across the county agreed to sign up with us. Then, we began asking for donations and people were most generous. As the project developed that year, grants from area foundations enabled us to increase the number of people that we could help."

Qualified adult clients are eligible to receive vouchers, now set at \$500, to cover emergency assistance. The initial step is to complete an application. Along with indicating the specific dental problem, the form requires information on previous dental care, if any, and general health. Qualifying applicants must show proof of Louisa residency but do not have to be registered for food assistance. Once approved by a committee member, a voucher is issued and Portner sets up an appointment. Dentists are selected on a rotating basis, although location of the dental office in relation to the client's residence is considered. A \$25 co-pay or volunteer service at LCRC is required of voucher recipients.

"Last year we assisted 55 clients, this year we will be able to help about 10 to 15 people a month," said Portner. "Most clients require extractions or fillings which



vouchers cover. We can exceed the voucher amount if emergency cases require more extensive work, but that determination is made on a case-by-case basis."

Although the program's goal is focused on relieving pain, Hodge anticipated that additional grants and donations will permit preventative care or minor aesthetic work that might result in better employment opportunities. By mutual agreement, once the patient is referred, LCRC has no responsibility for the work done. Clients are encouraged to continue a client/dentist relationship.

Participating professionals are Dr. Darryl Pearlman (Louisa), Dr. John Andre (Louisa), Dr. Mohammed Arafa (Mineral Dental Care), Dr. Kirk Williams (Louisa Comprehensive Dental), Dr. Michael Clark (Piedmont Dental @ Lake Anna) and Dr. John Knight, Jr. (Spring Creek Dental). Hodge and Portner praise the generous support of the dentists. On several occasions, when the costs exceeded the voucher, the dentist wrote off the remainder of the invoice.

Additional information about eligibility guidelines is available at the LCRC office on Resource Lane just north of the intersection of Chalk Level Road and Davis Highway between the towns of Mineral and Louisa. Cathy Portner, office manager, can be contacted at 540-967-1510 during office hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. LCRC maintains a website, louisaresource.org and an email address, louisaresource@gmail.com.

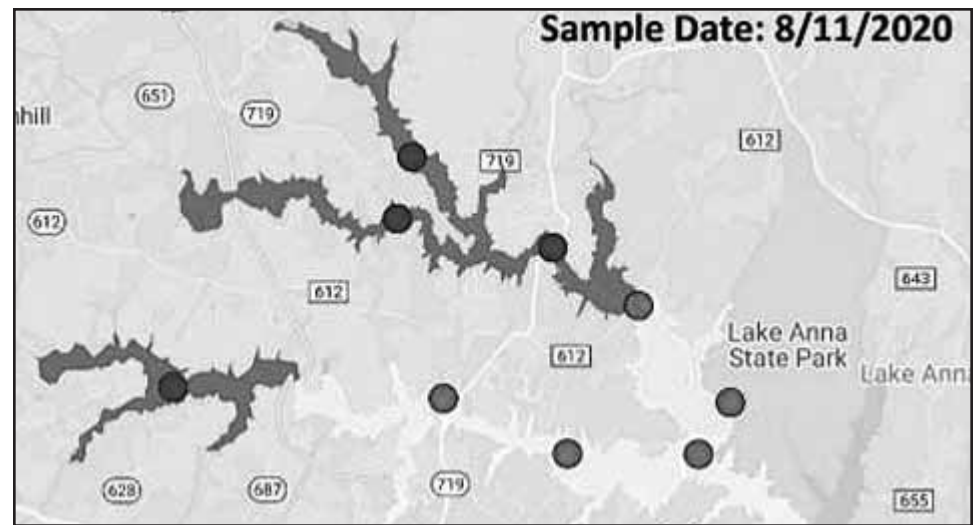


The End of Summer Jam

Hosted by Lake Anna Winery
Saturday, September 5, 2020 at 6 PM – 10 PM
 Lake Anna Winery
 5621 Courthouse Rd, Spotsylvania, VA 22551

Still trying to hold on to those hot summer nights and special lake memories? Come on over to the winery on this Saturday nite and listen to great tunes. Richmond Sensations "Spectrum" will be on hand for musical entertainment, along with food from "Fire Escape Food Truck" to satisfy your hunger needs. What a way to end the summer. The \$10 fee includes a souvenir glass and all of the memories you can take home with you. Make a reservation early so we can accommodate social distancing guidelines

Harmful Algae Bloom Advisory Issued



Press Release

Louisa County Official Website

The Middle Pamunkey Branch of Lake Anna, now in addition to the Upper Pamunkey Branch, Terry's Run, and the Upper North Anna Branch of Lake Anna in Orange, Louisa and Spotsylvania counties are experiencing a harmful algae bloom (HAB). The public is advised to avoid contact with the lake in these areas until algae concentrations return to acceptable levels. Some harmful algae, called cyanobacteria, can cause skin rash and gastrointestinal illnesses, such as upset stomach, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

The areas to avoid can be seen on an interactive map at www.SwimHealthyVA.com.

Louisa County Resource Council Is Here to Help

If you or a friend / family member are a resident of Louisa County and want to know how to receive monthly grocery assistance through the Community Cupboard or any one of our other programs, please call for a confidential appointment.

Additional information about eligibility guidelines for LCRC programs or for referral to county-provided services is available at the LCRC office just north of the intersection of Chalk Level Road and Davis Highway between the towns of Mineral and Louisa (147 Resource Lane). **Cathy Portner, office manager, can be contacted at 540-967-1510 during office hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. LCRC maintains a website, louisaresource.org, and an email address, louisaresource@gmail.com. Schedule your appointment by calling: 540-967-1510**



First Annual Coyote Fest!

Hosted by Adwela & The Uprising and Coyote Hole Ciderworks
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VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS: Do you know your Veterans Benefits? We do! Virginia Department of Veterans Services: <https://www.Virginiaforveterans.com> or <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov>. Need Help?

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