

Fluvanna

REVIEW



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FOUNDED IN 1979 BY **LEN GARDNER**

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VPA Virginia Press
Association



OUR DATA SPEAKS VOLUMES

GENERAL

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Cover: Cover photo and design by Amelia McConnell.

Letters to the Editor

Trump's foreign policy deserves accolades

I was pleased to notice President Trump's list of accomplishments cited in the Sept. 17 *Fluvanna Review*. It's quite simple; despite the many obstacles created by the Democrat Party and the political Washington D.C. establishment our president gets things done. An example of this is the recent Middle East peace accord brokered by the Trump Administration and inked on Sept. 15 between the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Israel. This is good news and deserves accolades. Negotiations with other Arab Gulf States to normalize relations with Israel piggybacking on this accord are on track. President Trump's leadership in the pursuit of peace has resulted in foreign policy successes unlike the Obama/Biden Administration which failed miserably to make progress in the volatile Middle-East. Because of this and President Trump's many accomplishments he gets my vote.

-Alex Lushpinsky, Palmyra

The reality of Trump's presidency

The reality of the Trump presidency:

- His almost daily rhetoric and tweets encouraging violence on our streets – hardly the voice of law and order.
- His refusal to condemn the George Floyd killing and so many other cases of unwarranted police shootings of minorities. His attitude is just further proof that he wants to appeal to his brand of white Americans.
- His dependence on white fear for his survival. He stirs the cauldron of us-vs-them, of disunity, of racism.
- His appointment of unqualified people to important positions. Further, eight of his most trusted confidants and advisors have been convicted of felonies.
- His withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accords. The rest of the world is aghast that the government of the United States ignores climate science.

- His continued promotion of fossil fuels and denigration of alternatives.
 - His detention of Latino refugees fleeing war and violence. Families with children are incarcerated and separated – even to this day!
 - Trump's attempted nullification of DACA and deportation of the dreamers. These are not actions for which our nation can be proud.
 - Trump's show of incompetency and lack of leadership in the COVID -19 pandemic. He repeatedly lied regarding its severity and offered misinformation regarding how to contain it.
 - My personal take on the Trump years is this: The overall aura of the man reminds me of a comic book superhero who shifts his shape and becomes whatever he thinks will bolster his wavering support. Reality TV has not been sufficient training for the job of the presidency. The more his distressful record closes around him, the wilder his lies and vitriol. "Democrats want to destroy America," he spouts. Meanwhile his ads with videos of "American" violence were shot in Barcelona. He has federal law enforcement use tear gas to part a peaceful crowd so he can use a church for a photo-op. If voters can't see through such a transparent charlatan, maybe democracy is more than we deserve. Maybe we don't even want democracy, but would rather have a world-class, chest-thumping autocrat instead.
- George Coussoulos, Lake Monticello

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. 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.



Fluvanna SPCA Troy, VA
434 591-0123 • www.fspca.org

THIS WEEK'S PET: TRIPP APPROX 1 YR.

Is a friendly boy, but is scared of death of being held. He loves his toys especially the ones that make noise. He also loves the one that are circled with a ball in the middle, he just goes crazy over this. He lets you rub him and when you stop he will try to grab your hands with his claws to pull you back to him. The slightest movement scares him, so you need to be patient with him. When he gets comfortable with you he will lick your hand like a dog. He will need a family that can take their time with him, so he can slowly trust you and gain confidence in his new surrounding. He has done very well at the foster home and has gained his trust in them and will cry for their attention when he wants it. The foster stated that he will even let the husband rub him now. (GO TRIP) He is doing very well and coming out more and more. He is current on all shots, micro-chipped and neutered. Currently he is in a foster home, so if you are interested, we can set up a time for you to meet him.

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- Kitchenware
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- Bookcases
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9:00 AM- 3:00 PM**
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
12:00 – 4:00 PM**

*Masks and social distancing appreciated.
Bring ad to Main Gate for admittance.*

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- School Supplies
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- Books...Books...
- Tools Galore
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- Dinnerware
- All Utensils
- Party Goods

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- Garage Contents
 - Boathouse
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S A L E

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SOLD IN 2020
20 SHORTWOOD CIRCLE
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SOLD IN 2020
15 WHIPPOORWILL LANE
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SOLD IN 2020
64 WILDWOOD DRIVE
\$605,000

WATERFRONT LIVING AT ITS BEST

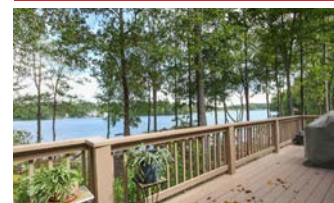
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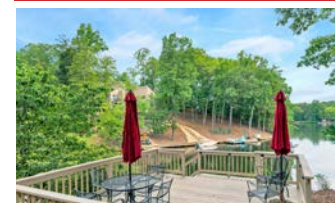
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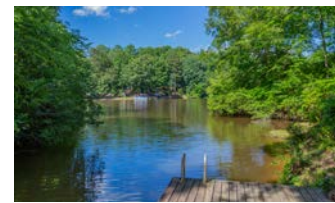
SOLD IN 2020
25 WHIPPOORWILL LANE
\$695,000



SOLD IN 2020
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\$695,000



SOLD IN 2020
6 SWAN COURT
\$434,000



SOLD IN 2020
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Special Guest
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Rich Anderson, RPV Chair
John Crump, GOA
Kathy McNichol, VCDL

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2nd Prize: Savage 6.5 Creedmore

3rd Prize: \$75 Cabelas Gift Card

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY AQUA VIRGINIA, INC., FOR A GENERAL INCREASE IN RATES AND FOR AUTHORITY TO REVISE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE CASE NO. PUR-2020-00106

- Aqua Virginia Inc. ("Aqua") has applied for approval of a general increase in rates.
- Aqua requests a total annual increase in revenue requirement of about \$1.7 million per year.
- A Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hear the case on April 20, 2021.
- Further information about this case is available on the State Corporation Commission's website at: <https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information>.

On July 30, 2020, Aqua Virginia, Inc. ("Aqua" or "Company"), filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an application pursuant to Chapter 10 of Title 56 (§ 56-232 et seq.) of the Code of Virginia ("Code") requesting authority to increase its rates and charges and to revise other terms and conditions applicable to its water and wastewater service ("Application").

As noted by the Company, Aqua comprises 168 water and 9 wastewater systems in 37 counties across the Commonwealth. Per Aqua, the Company serves approximately 33,000 customers, 97% of which are residential ratepayers; only a small portion of the remaining 3% of Aqua's customers are governmental.

Aqua indicates that the proposed rates and charges are designed to increase the Company's annual rate base revenue by approximately \$1,732,585 per year to produce an increase in water revenues of \$1,475,615 and an increase in wastewater revenues of \$256,970. The requested increases constitute a 10.8% increase in water revenues and a 3.4% increase in wastewater revenues, for a combined increase of 8.2%.

Aqua states that the requested increase in annual base rate revenue reflects its costs and revenues for the twelve-month Test Year ended March 31, 2020. The Company has proposed as appropriate for ratemaking purposes, a capital structure consisting of 50.42% long-term debt, 1.08% short-term debt and 48.49% common equity and an authorized return on equity capital of 11.20%.

Aqua has also included in its Application a request for its recorded COVID-19-related expenses in the amount of \$153,913, presently booked as a regulatory asset for accounting purposes. Aqua requests a three-year normalization of the COVID-19-related costs, which represent costs incurred from April 1, 2020 and projected through December 31, 2020. The Company's Application also includes pro forma adjustments for Aqua's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Surcharge ("WWISC") revenue requirement. Per Aqua, the Company's WWISC Rider has, accordingly, been reset to zero. As further basis for its requested increase to its rates and charges, the Company cites operational efficiency improvements, water and wastewater system capital investments and cost of capital treatment for information technology assets.

Through its Application, Aqua also seeks to further combine its water and wastewater groups towards the uniform consolidated rates for water and sewer service required by Virginia law. The Company proposes reducing the current three water rate groups (W1, W2, W3) to two (W1 and W2), and establishing new rate groups WO and SO for certain water and sewer systems whose rates are significantly below those of current Rate Groups W1 and S1. Non-consolidated systems whose current rates are similar to those of current Rate Groups have been assigned to those current groups whose rates they most closely match. The Company states that this proposal continues to reduce the differences between the rate groups and implements movement toward uniform water and wastewater rates while adhering to the goals of gradualism and the avoidance/minimization of rate shock in utility rate increases. Details concerning these proposed rate group changes are provided in the Company's Schedules 42 and 43 attached to the Application.

Finally, the Company has also requested certain changes to its tariff. These changes include: (1) An additional voluntary service connection fee of \$750 for a customer receiving both water and wastewater service from the Company for measuring irrigation/outdoor water usage; (2) elimination of sewer volumetric allowances for portable handheld irrigation deduction meters; and (3) changes to grinder pump installation and maintenance, and additional changes discussed in greater detail in the Company's Schedule 41 attached to the Application.

The details of these and other proposals are set forth in the Company's Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Application, testimony and supporting exhibits for the details of these proposals.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company's Application and supporting documents and may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Application and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things, suspends the Company's proposed rates for the maximum period allowed by law, given the COVID-19 pandemic, and permits the Company to place its proposed rates, charges, and terms and conditions of service into effect on an interim basis, subject to refund, effective January 27, 2021.

The Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing scheduled a public hearing at 10 a.m. on April 20, 2021, to receive the testimony of public witnesses and the evidence of the Company, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff. Further details on the hearing will be provided by subsequent Commission Order or Hearing Examiner's Ruling.

The Commission has taken judicial notice of the ongoing public health emergency related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, and the declarations of emergency issued at both the state and federal levels. In accordance therewith, all pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter should be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, Copies and format, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"). Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, Confidential information, of the Rules of Practice. For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, Filing and service, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission has directed that service on parties and the Commission's Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Please refer to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for further instructions concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

Interested persons may download unofficial copies of the Application from the Commission's website: <https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information>. Copies of these documents also may be obtained, at no charge, by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: John K. Byrum, Jr., Esquire, Woods Rogers PLC, 901 East Byrd Street, Suite 1550, Richmond, Virginia, 23219, jbyrum@woodsrogers.com.

On or before April 1, 2021, any interested person may file written comments on the Application with the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, do Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, or <https://scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments>. Compact discs or any other form of electronic storage medium may not be filed with the comments. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00106.

Any person or entity may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing a notice of participation on or before November 13, 2020. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of a notice of participation shall be filed with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. A copy of the notice of participation shall be sent to counsel for Aqua at the address set forth above. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80, Participation as a respondent, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent shall be represented by counsel as required by Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, Counsel, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00106. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before February 12, 2021, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, and serve on the Commission's Staff, the Company, and all other respondents, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case, and each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of such testimony and exhibits shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Commission at the address above. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, Filing and service, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, Prepared testimony and exhibits. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR 2020-00106.

All documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, Copies and format, of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

The Company's Application, the Commission's Rules of Practice, and the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment may be viewed at: <https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information>.

The rates proposed for water and wastewater service in this Application are as follows:

WATER SERVICE RATE SCHEDULE BY GROUP – Water 0 (WO), Water 1 (W1), and Water 2 (W2)

METERED ACCOUNTS: Metered connections shall be charged the monthly base facility charge plus the gallonage charge for all gallons used as set forth below:

Base Facilities Charge Water Group 0: (Residential and Non-residential) - No bill will be rendered for less than the minimum charge set forth below:

Monthly Water Base Facility Charge - Water Group 0 (WO)

Meter Size	WO	Gallons Included in Allowance
Less than 1"	\$25.30	3,000
1"	\$63.25	7,500
1½"	\$126.50	15,000
2"	\$202.40	24,000
3"	\$404.80	48,000
4"	\$632.50	75,000
6"	\$1,265.00	150,000

Gallonage Charge: (Residential and Non-residential) Per 1,000 gallons used over allowance listed above:

WO

\$6.05

Base Facilities Charge Water Group 1 and Water Group 2: (Residential and Non-residential) - No bill will be rendered for less than the minimum charge set forth below:

Monthly Water Base Facility Charge - Water Group 1 (W1) and Water Group 2 (W2)

Meter Size	W1	W2
Less than 1"	\$18.81	\$18.81
1"	\$42.74	\$42.74
1½"	\$85.48	\$85.48
2"	\$136.77	\$136.77
3"	\$273.55	\$273.55
4"	\$427.42	\$427.42
6"	\$854.84	\$854.84

Gallonage Charge: (Residential and Non-residential) Per 1,000 gallons used for all meter sizes by Water Group:

W1

\$6.45

W2

\$8.07

Powhatan Irrigation \$3.87

UNMETERED ACCOUNTS Unmetered connections shall be charged as set forth below:

Flat Rate (Unmetered) Water Service

	WO	W1	W2
Residential	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Non-residential	\$104.00	\$104.00	\$104.00

PRIVATE FIRE SERVICE FEES: The monthly fee charged for each private fire service connection and/or private fire hydrant shall be as follows:

Connection Size Monthly Minimum Charge

1 inch	\$ 9.13
1½ inch	\$ 18.26
2 inch	\$ 29.21
3 inch	\$ 58.42
4 inch	\$ 91.29
6 inch	\$182.58

WASTEWATER SERVICE RATE SCHEDULE BY GROUP – Sewer 0 (SO), Sewer 1 (S1), & Sewer 2 (S2)

METERED ACCOUNTS: Metered connections shall be charged the monthly base facility charge plus the gallonage charge for all gallons used as set forth below:

Base Facility Charge: (Residential and Non-residential) No bill will be rendered for less than the minimum charges set forth below:

Monthly Wastewater Base Facility Charge - Sewer Group 0 (SO)

Meter Size	SO	Gallons Included in Allowance
Residential Any Size	\$48.00	3,000

Gallonage Charge: (Residential) Per 1,000 gallons used over allowance listed above:

SO

\$12.47

Non-Residential	Gallons Included in Allowance
Meter Size	SO

<1"	\$48.00	3,000
1"	\$120.00	7,500
1½"	\$240.00	15,000
2"	\$384.00	24,000
3"	\$768.00	48,000
4"	\$1,200.00	75,000
6"	\$2,400.00	150,000

Gallonage Charge: (Non-residential) Per 1,000 gallons used over allowance listed above:

SO

\$14.96

Monthly Wastewater Base Facility Charge Sewer Group 1 (S1) and Sewer Group 2 (S2)

Meter Size	S1	S2
Residential Any Size	\$33.38	\$33.38

Non-Residential	Gallons Included in Allowance	
<1"	\$33.38	\$33.38
1"	\$75.87	\$75.87
1½"	\$151.74	\$151.74
2"	\$242.78	\$242.78
3"	\$485.55	\$485.55
4"	\$758.68	\$758.68
6"	\$1,517.36	\$1,517.36

Gallonage Charge: (Residential and Non-residential)

S1

\$13.38

S2

\$15.74

Residential \$13.38 \$15.74 Monthly residential usage charges are limited to 6,000 gallons
Non-Residential \$16.06 \$18.89

UNMETERED ACCOUNTS Unmetered connections shall be charged as set forth below:

Flat Rate (Unmetered) Service:

	SO	S1	S2
Residential	\$85.58	\$85.58	\$85.58
Non-residential	\$277.01	\$277.01	\$277.01

Margaret "Peggy" May Verrilli



In only 63 years, Peggy lived a full life. Peggy brought fun and levity with her to every situation and was filled with strength in all she did. Her life was spent adventuring with her family and fulfilling her passion of caring for children.

She is survived by her two children, Edward Verrilli and Gretchen Verrilli Clark; her son-in-law, Craig Clark; her granddaughter, Vera Clark; her siblings, Alex VonderBecke, Polly Jensen, Joseph VonderBecke and Pamela Holloman; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Kevin Verrilli; and her parents, Alex Frederick VonderBecke and Pauline Phyllis VonderBecke.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020 at Sheridan Funeral Home, 4626 Cedar Lane Road, Kents Store, VA 23084, where all are welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in her honor to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Margaret "Peggy" May Verrilli, 63, of Fork Union, VA, passed away on Sept. 14, 2020. She was a beloved mother, sister and friend. Her loved ones will be comforted by their many memories with her filled with laughter and joy.

State police investigating fatal crash

PRESS RELEASE

Virginia State Police Trooper J.C. Workman is investigating a two-vehicle crash in Fluvanna County. The crash occurred Sept. 14 at 8:40 p.m. on Rt. 250, less than a mile east of Diamond Road.

A 2000 Honda CBR 600 motorcycle was traveling west on Rt. 250. As it was attempting to pass a westbound vehicle, it struck an east-

bound 2013 Kia Optima head-on. The crash occurred in a no-passing zone.

The motorcyclist, Corey L. Tinder, 22, of Charlottesville, died at the scene. He was wearing a helmet.

The driver of the Kia, a 45-year-old woman from Arvon, in Buckingham County was not injured in the crash. She was wearing a seat belt.

Penalty reduced for late tax bill payments

BY HEATHER MICHON
CORRESPONDENT

The Fluvanna Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an ordinance change at their regular meeting on Wednesday night (Sept. 16) to reduce the penalties for the late payment of biannual property taxes.

Late payment of tax bills has previously come with a 25 percent penalty on the outstanding balance. The new ordinance drops the rate to 10 percent or \$10, whichever is larger.

"I'm getting a lot of calls from taxpayers who don't have jobs and don't have money right now," said Treasurer Linda Lenherr, "so taking this down to 10 percent would really help to show people that the county's out there trying to work for the people."

Supervisor Mozell Booker (Fork Union) questioned why it was necessary to charge any kind of penalty. Chair Mike Sheridan (Columbia) and Supervisor Tony O'Brien (Rivanna) said it served as an incentive to pay. O'Brien added that the reduction brought Fluvanna more in line with the rates charged by surrounding counties.

County Administrator Eric Dahl said any impact on revenue was expected to be minimal.

Sheriff's office vehicles

The Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office currently doesn't have a transport vehicle that can safely carry multiple people under social distancing rules.

Major David Wells told supervisors that if they had to arrest more than one person at a time, "you'd have to use a separate deputy car for each arrestee." A transport van outfitted with dividers to keep people separated from each other

during transport would cost about \$66,700.

They're also hoping to purchase 20 new one-piece plastic molded seats with reversed seatbelts. Wells said that deputies have to reach all the way into the vehicle compartment and over the arrestee to fasten the seatbelt, which heightens their potential exposure to COVID-19. The vinyl seating is also difficult to sanitize. The new seats, which would cost about \$24,500, are easier to clean and have seatbelts that deputies could fasten with minimal contact with passengers.

Finally, they would like \$41,000 for a spare vehicle. Wells explained that if a vehicle had to be taken out of service for sanitation due to COVID-19 exposure, there is currently no backup.

All these purchases could be funded out of the CARES Act, which is specifically designated for expenses related to the pandemic. No decisions were made at the meeting, but all five supervisors signaled their support.

Burn building

The latest round of bids on a new "burn building" for Fluvanna County firefighters came back at over \$985,000.

The county has received a grant for \$480,000 to fund the project and had hoped to keep the county's expenditure to a maximum of \$400,000. There would also be additional costs for connecting to water and electric, inspections, and contingencies.

Dahl said it might be worthwhile to make some modifications to the proposal and send it out for another round of bids, although he doesn't believe it would bring the costs significantly lower. He also said the supervisors had the option to simply drop the plan and return the grant.

A suggestion by Dahl that each of the county's four fire departments might be able to chip in \$25,000 each from their discretionary funds did not receive much support from the chiefs attending the meeting via Zoom. Kent's Store Fire Chief Andrew Pullen argued that those funds, allocated by the state each year, were for the equipment needs of their own departments.

Lake Monticello Chief Richie Constantino said that Harrisonburg spent about \$650,000 on a prefabricated burn building and wondered if that might work under the specifications of the current grant.

After some discussion, the supervisors recommended that the county put out a new call for bids, and check into other options before abandoning the project.

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Ballot boxes available to vote early

PRESS RELEASE

The Fluvanna County Office of Elections and Voter Registration has announced the placement of ballot drop boxes to aid early, no-excuse voting.

Ballot drop boxes will be available at the registrar's office during in-person, early voting and at each precinct on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 6 a.m.-7: p.m. In person, early voting began Sept. 18 at the registrar's office, 265 Turkeysag Trail, Suite 115, for the Nov. 3 General and Special Elections.

- Regular Hours:
 - Monday through Friday, until Friday, Oct. 30, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Additional Hours:
 - Wednesday, Oct. 21 and Oct. 28 from 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
 - Saturday, Oct. 24, and Saturday, Oct. 31, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- The registrar's office will be closed Oct. 12 in observance of Columbus Day.
- Important Dates:
 - Tuesday, Oct. 13: Last day to register to vote or change your voter registration information for

this election. Mailed voter registration applications must be sent to the Fluvanna County Voter Registration's Office postmarked on or before the deadline.

- Friday, Oct. 23: Last day to request a "Vote by Mail" ballot. Applications must be received in the Fluvanna County Voter Registration Office by 5 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Nov. 3: Election Day. All absentee voted ballots must be returned to the Fluvanna County Voter Registration Office by 7 p.m. (Virginia time) to be counted. Request a "Vote by Mail" ballot online at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>
- The Office of Elections and Voter Registration previously announced its relocation to the Jefferson Centre Shopping Center at 265 Turkeysag Trail, Suite, 115. Face coverings are encouraged both at the registrar's office and on Election Day and physical distancing standards are in place. Questions may be directed to Mrs. Joyce Pace, Director of Elections and Voter Registration, at jpace@fluvannacounty.org or 434-589-3593.

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. 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.

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Letter to the Editor

Sign vandalism

In the Sept. 17 – 23 *Fluvanna Review* letter to the editor, Mr. Greg Sclater reported that two Trump signs were vandalized at Crofton Plaza of which he is part owner and hosts a number of local businesses. He further stated: "If you are not sure how to vote this November, then just look around you at the differences between the two parties."

This comment implies, without proof, that the vandalism was done by a member or members of the Democratic Party, and then tries to score political points on such baseless accusations. Contrast these accusations with the response from Ms. Su Wolff, Fluvanna Democrat and president of the Lefty Lunch Ladies, who indicated that Democratic signs were also vandalized. Ms. Wolf calls out the vandalism without seeking to score political points. Rather, she calls on everyone in our community to work to respect each other's political viewpoints and property.

The contrast in these messages offers a strong statement to voters. Absolutely look to the differences between the two parties, as Mr. Sclater suggests. Notice a Democratic spokesperson who calls for respect, while an individual representing another party issues baseless and divisive attacks, in the same manner that the leader of his party does.

For individuals who may be unsure how to vote this November, I also call on you to look to the issues. Today, with over 200,000 lives lost to a preventable illness, record unemployment, huge debt, social unrest, and a devastating climate crisis, we have a president who offers no leadership and seeks to divide rather than unite us. Our current leader acts as an autocrat, undermining our very democracy.

Yes, undecided voters, look to the differences between the two parties as you decide how to cast your votes in November. The differences are clear. Too much is at stake. We must vote for leaders who seek to lead and to unite rather than score political points.

-Joseph L. Creasy, Palmyra



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From a sweater to alpacas, one farmer's journey

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD
CORRESPONDENT



MaryJane Cathers and alpaca. Submitted photo.

MaryJane Cathers was shopping in a women's consignment boutique in the fall of 1993, looking for a warm sweater when she picked up a blue pullover. She recalls stroking it, feeling the soft, wispy fibers beneath her fingers, and that it was weighted like a wool sweater yet felt like silk lingerie. Checking the label it was Nordstrom, 100 percent alpaca. The sweater cost six dollars.

"There was no turning back. I was hooked on alpaca fiber. It never occurred to me at the time that someday I would be tending a herd of these wonderful creatures," she said.

She developed her passion for alpaca fiber and began to look for it whenever I was starting a new knitting project. The passion for alpacas came 20 years later.

"People ask, 'What's so special about alpaca?' It starts with being hypoallergenic because it has no lanolin. It's lighter in weight than sheep's wool, and warmer because the hair is hollow and trap air," she said. "It's highly water repellent and fire resistant. I use alpaca shoe inserts in my boots when I'm working outdoors in the winter. They keep my feet warm, regardless of the coldness of the ground or the weather."

The inspiration began in 1982 when Cathers and her husband purchased 28 acres of open land in Fluvanna County. They had planned to move to Fluvanna after they both retired in the late '90s, with the idea that they would farm some of the 28 acres.

"Life has a way of changing the best-laid plans. My husband was diagnosed with dementia in 2004. By 2010 those plans were shelved as he re-

gressed, and I moved further into being primary caregiver." By the end of 2013 they moved from Northern Virginia to Fluvanna County. Her husband passed away two years later.

A year before her husband died, Cathers was visiting the Alpaca Boutique in Gordonsville, and saw an ad for a two-day seminar at a nearby alpaca farm titled *Everything You Need to Know to Raise Alpacas*. She attended the seminar, and after doing a bit more research purchased their first four alpacas, two males and two pregnant females. The alpacas were boarded for the first three years while getting the farm infrastructure in place. In June 2017, Cathers's 14 alpacas finally arrived at their new home.

Last Halloween, one more alpaca was born, bringing the herd number to 15. Making up the herd are eight males and seven females. Her gelded male is a fiber-only animal the other six males are breeding age. The youngest male is 10 months old and will not be breeding for another two years.

Cathers calls her farm Sacred Acres at Wildwood. Her late husband named the farm for the section of Fluvanna County (Wildwood Farm subdivision). It was originally a 158-acre farm, subdivided into housing lots in the early '80s.

"I searched for several months for a name that would show my commitment to living a spiritual life - that's always a work in progress - as well as honor my husband's original name for our farm. The name works for me because I feel called to

Farmer's journey, *continues page 10.*



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be living this life, raising alpacas, and inviting the public to visit this little piece of paradise in the middle of Fluvanna County."

Five acres, of the 28 acres are open pastures, farm buildings, and the house. The remaining 23 acres are wooded and have numerous named trails through them where visitors can walk in the quiet green serenity of the farm's woods and along Ballenger Creek which is their eastern boundary.

"They can also bring a lunch with them to eat at one of our three picnic areas. Some visitors have called this a "magical place," and it is - a set-apart place to come and enjoy and relax."

Shearing, happens around March-April each year, and Cathers bags up the prime fiber, which comes from the back and sides of the alpaca, and takes it to Shenandoah Fiber Mill in Fairfield to be processed into yarn and roving. Roving, a long and narrow bundle of fiber, is usually used to spin woolen yarn. The shorter, coarser fleece can be used for filling, felting, shoe inserts, or dryer balls.

They regularly do demonstration of processing raw fleece by skirting (removing hay, dirt, grasses), washing, drying, and carding (getting fibers to all run in the same direction) as part of family tours. For anyone interested in learning the crafting from the raw fiber to the finished product, there are fiber workshops, including spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting, needle felting and wet and dry felting and a weekly needlework group (knitting and crocheting at any experience level).

Cathers, like many contemporary farmers, are conscious of the scarce resources and delicate balance in the current environment and seeks to farm in a way that preserves the land for future generations. She explains that there are advantages to owning an alpaca farm.

Alpacas, part of the camelid family which includes the Asian camel and the llama, originate from South America and are bred from the wild Vicuna which is now a rare and protected species. They have two padded toes with toenails, not hooves, which means they have low environmental impact on the land. Alpacas are grazing animals. When grazing on grass, they cut the grass using a figure-eight motion with their mouth. They do not pull the grass out of the ground.

One unique feature of alpacas is their "community dung piles," unlike most farm animals, they do not drop manure all around the pastures and paddocks.

"They pick one or two places and all the alpacas in that area use the same dung pile, making cleanup a bit easier."

Land management is important, not only for maintaining the herd but for the environment as well. They practice rotational grazing and seeding and re-seeding pastures with orchard grass

to improve quality of forage materials for the animals. She maintains the herd size to no more than seven animals per acre, which limits their future herd size to 25-30 animals since there are only five acres of open land for pasture use. She also adds that they keep farm refuse and activities far from open streams to avoid pollution and use only non-toxic and organic formulas when herbicides or pesticides are needed. This is only a fraction of what it takes for Cathers to manage a sustainable farm.

For Cathers, it was a life choice and a second career and she sees a future for farms like hers. But she wants those considering such a venture to understand that it isn't about showing, stud fees or a profit margin on fleece, it's about a passion for farming and a love and a dedication to the animals she cares for and the resulting product.

"It's not a get-rich-quick way of life where you can raise the alpaca, show it, get a good ribbon for the alpaca, and sell the animal based on that ribbon. On our farm we raise the alpacas for their fiber, their gentle nature, and their minimal impact on the environment. We make breeding choices based on temperament, fiber quality, body configuration, and positive genetic traits," she said.

She says from the standpoint of making a profit, Alpaca fiber is only the beginning.

"As on many farms today, diversification is necessary to at least reach a break-even point financially. Our diversification takes the form of having the property open to the public, by appointment as we reopen under the new COVID standards."

To meet state and local COVID safety requirements, everyone above age two is required to wear a properly worn face mask while visiting the farm. At the entry point there is a hand-washing station where visitors need to wash their hands. There are also shoe-sanitizing pads that each person will need to stand on to clean the bottom of their shoes (a safeguard for the alpacas).

"We recommend wearing sturdy footwear since the ground can be uneven in places. If you plan to be in the wooded areas, you might consider bringing bug repellent; all the rain we've had recently has been a boon for the bug population."

Tours include meeting and hand feeding the animals and walking the alpacas on a lead. The farm is open to the public for tours as is the farm store, by appointment only. Call (434) 589-2488 to schedule a visit. Tour times are Friday, Sunday and Monday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

They will also be open for the annual National Alpaca Farm Days, a free event, on Sept. 26-27, 2020. No tours or alpaca walking will be done during the event, but visitors will be able to meet and feed the alpacas. Look out for Farm Days on their Facebook page, *Sacred Acres Farm at Wildwood*, and for more information, visit their website at www.sacredacresfarm.com.

Amidst the pandemic

Adopt a Fluco campaign offers extra care

BY MADELINE OTTEN
CORRESPONDENT

Fluvanna County students are now logging online for virtual class. This Fluvanna County Public Schools (FCPS) virtual learning model is different from the emergency remote learning that was implemented back in March when the pandemic made its first impact on education and learning. With this model, students have gone back to traditional grades, attendance is taken, and students were given new schedules, which were mailed on Aug. 24.

Teachers and students started their virtual learning on Sept. 8, and now the community is ready to help Flucos prepare for the new and altered school year. With this model, students will go back to traditional grades, attendance will be taken, and they will also be given new schedules, which were mailed on August 24.

In addition to new schedules, Fluvanna County High School (FCHS) released a diagram to determine when students are to collect their Chromebooks and textbooks on Sept. 1 - 3. With teachers and students preparing for virtual learning to start on Sept. 8, the community is ready to help Flucos prepare for the new and altered school year.

One way two teachers are hoping to make a difference and spread some tender love and care to students, specifically seniors, is through the Adopt a Fluco Campaign. Tara Tapscott and Maria L. Graff crafted an idea to help support the members of the 2021 graduating class of Fluvanna County High School (FCHS) since the school year is off to a difficult start. Their goal for this campaign is to connect every student of the FCHS class of 2021 - who has been nominated by someone - with an "adopter." The adopter can be a relative, local resident, teacher, or anyone who wishes to participate.

"A few of us in the school system are trying to make a few things happen for the benefit of our students," said Graff. "We started Adopt a Fluco so members of the community can adopt a senior at the high school and give them some extra TLC during what is likely to be an odd year."

The nomination process can be made on the Adopt a Fluco Facebook page or via email to Tapscott (ttapscott@apps.fluco.org) or Graff (ttapscott@apps.fluco.org). For

the Facebook page, the campaign invites the parents/guardians of seniors to post pictures of their senior with a description of their interest. Adopters will then message the parent/guardian for further information about the senior. As for email, parents/guardians can email information about their senior and can expect an email from the selected adopter.

After a student is nominated and placed with someone who has stepped up to volunteer as an adopter, the adopter will connect with the person who nominated the senior and then the fun can begin. Ideally, the goal is for the adopter to reach out to the senior at least once a month, which can be done many ways such as with a card, notes, care package, gift cards, etc. Tapscott and Graff as well as other community members want to support FCHS's seniors during their final year of school.

In addition to Adopt a Fluco, Julie Haislip-Barret is working on getting tutoring and spaces for children who need both resources. There is also work on obtaining more "little libraries" around the community. There are currently four in Fluvanna: two that were installed by the Rotary Club of Fluvanna County: one near St. Joseph's Church in Columbia, and the other near Sal's restaurant on Rt. 15 in Fork Union. The other two are at the "Fort Thomas Library at Graythorn Farm" on Main Street in Palmyra and at the top of Jill Tartagliano's driveway.

Even though the school year is off to a peculiar start, the Adopt a Fluco campaign hopes to make this year easier for the seniors of FCHS. Since this is the first campaign of its kind in the area, if it performs well and education is still done by virtual learning, there could be potential for the Adopt a Fluco campaign to expand to other grades. For now, the community is coming together to help ease this year on its senior Flucos as well as all of its students and insure that with change, the community is here to help make the best of its current situation.

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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. 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 SHAW - 10 MONTHS

Shaw came to us from a hoarding situation scared of people and would not allow people to handle him. After many months of earning his trust, Shaw has shown much improvement and will now allow us to rub him and sometimes pick him up. He very much enjoys to be petted. With a little more time in the right home we know that he will flourish even more. He is current on all his age appropriate vaccines, micro-chipped and neutered. If you would like to meet Shaw, please call the shelter to schedule an appointment.



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COVID in Fluvanna prison

“This is a runaway train”

BY HEATHER MICHON
CORRESPONDENT

At least 115 inmates and 10 staff members at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women (FCCW) have tested positive for COVID-19 since early September, and two are currently hospitalized.

Shannon Ellis, a lawyer with the Legal Aid Justice Center, learned about the spread of the virus in the first week of September. According to her clients at FCCW, the outbreak was discovered when at least one of the inmates who worked in food service became symptomatic.

Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC) spokesperson Lisa Kinney said two inmates were initially found to be symptomatic. Both were food workers and both were housed in the same unit. Once the entire housing unit was screened, 39 of 234 were found to be positive. Ellis said the positive cases were placed under quarantine in a cordoned-off section of the housing unit.

At least a week passed between the discovery of the two symptomatic cases and the mass testing of all 953 inmates. Kinney said the tests were conducted on Sept. 14-15, and the results were released later in the week.

The cumulative number of COVID infections at FCCW since the start of the pandemic is now 166. There have been no fatal-

ities to date.

Advocates for prisoners housed at FCCW have been dreading a potential surge in cases since the virus emerged earlier this year.

Prison populations are always at a high risk for viral spread, but the women at Fluvanna are uniquely vulnerable. “It’s the facility where Virginia sends its sickest female prisoners,” said Ellis.

Adding to the risk, FCCW has a poor track record of caring for the women in its facility. In recent years, several prisoners have brought and won federal lawsuits against VDOC, successfully arguing that medical mismanagement and neglect violated their constitutional protections against cruel and unusual punishment.

In 2019, Federal Judge Norman K. Moon found that the prison had violated previous court orders to provide basic medical services and adequate staffing, leading to the deaths of at least a dozen inmates since 2014.

Ellis said her clients described the current conditions within the facility as “pretty awful,” with all inmates on lockdown and unable to even go outside for exercise. “It’s an incredibly stressful and incredibly dangerous situation that they’re in.”

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Understaffing in the medical unit is a longstanding problem at the facility, and Ellis has heard that the turnover in nursing staff has been high in recent months. One of her clients has told her that “it seems like every morning [at sick call], there’s a new face.”

Kinney said that FCCW is following the protocols for sanitation and all inmates and staff are required to wear personal protective equipment, including N95 masks, at all times. “Virginia Correctional Enterprises manufactures both utility face masks and cleaning supplies approved by the EPA for use in combating the coronavirus,” she said, “so there is no shortage of either in the facilities.”

“We continue to work hand-in-hand with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

and our university hospital partners, and to follow corrections guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),” she added. “When there is an outbreak our medical folks are on the phone with VDH every day, and Fluvanna works closely with UVA.”

Ellis said that now that there has been a major outbreak, VDOC and the state need to do more -- from reducing the prison population through early and provisional release, to moving people around to allow for more single occupancy cells.

“Once it started, this is a runaway train, and it’s really likely to be devastating,” she said. “The state needs to do everything it can to treat and protect these women.”

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SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

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:

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

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Lauren of fashion
- 6 Tread-bare
- 10 "Tip" or "rip" finish
- 14 Honda's luxury line
- 15 Not home
- 16 Steak preference
- 17 Gene carrier
- 19 Singer Campbell
- 20 Castle part
- 21 Loathsome
- 22 Scouted for a heist
- 23 Roll call calls
- 25 Go on and on
- 27 One with a hand out
- 30 Sword fight
- 31 Chic getaway
- 34 "Fringe" co-creator J.J.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20						21					22			
				23	24			25	26					
27	28	29					30				31	32	33	
34							35				36			
37						38	39				40			
41				42					43	44				
45				46					47					
		48	49					50						
51	52					53	54				55	56	57	58
59						60					61			
62						63					64			
65						66					67			

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- 35 Not taboo
- 37 Gravy dish
- 38 ___-panky
- 40 McNally partner
- 41 Letter holder
- 43 Like "Glee" music
- 45 Caustic substance
- 46 Blunder follower
- 47 Pint-sized
- 48 Mental condition
- 50 Angler's hope
- 51 Ryan's "Paper Moon" co-star
- 53 Arkin or Alda
- 55 Young yak
- 59 Shakespeare's stream
- 60 Hobo's ride
- 62 Kind of wolf
- 63 Monthly budget item
- 64 It comes from the heart
- 65 Washstand vessel
- 66 Bookie's quote

- 67 Do a host's job
- DOWN**
- 1 Billiards need
- 2 Masseur's target
- 3 Tackle box item
- 4 Breed plants
- 5 Lunch meat
- 6 Rationale
- 7 Military no-show
- 8 Defeated incumbent
- 9 Salon service
- 10 Church fixture
- 11 Sprinter's infraction
- 12 Complimentary
- 13 Mail away
- 18 Go beyond, as a target
- 22 Porter who wrote "Night and Day"
- 24 Holiday veggie
- 26 Earth-friendly activity
- 27 Biblical tower
- 28 Dark wood

- 29 Cemetery sight
- 30 "Homeland" actress
- 32 Kind of code
- 33 Throw for a loop
- 36 Guardian
- 39 Popped up
- 42 Rich soil
- 44 Big success
- 49 Radio knob
- 50 Entices
- 51 Something to spin
- 52 Acknowledge
- 54 Extend credit
- 56 "Race" anagram
- 57 Overdue
- 58 Campus house
- 60 To and ___
- 61 Old witch

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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



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EVENT

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Lake Monticello Golf course crowns its champions

BY DUNCAN NIXON
CORRESPONDENT

On the weekend of Aug. 29 and 30, the Lake Monticello Club Championships were contested over the challenging Lake Monticello golf course. The women played from the regular red lady's tees. The Club Champion for 2020 is Sarah Johnson who finished two rounds with an 81 and 82 for a total of 163.

In the open men's competition, the winner was Matt Hafer for the second year in a row. He shot 72 and 77 for a five over par 149. This result was one stroke better than the 150 carded by Fluco sophomore Killian Donnelly.

The senior (age 55 and over) men's championship was won by Mike Hanson. He shot 82 in both rounds. Bob Lamb also finished with a total of 164, shooting 80 and 84. However, Hanson won the resulting play-off on the second hole. This championship was contested from the relatively new orange tees. The orange tees are aligned with the white tees on some holes and with the gold tees on other holes.

The Lake Monticello course also holds a super seniors club championship for players 70 and over. The super senior club champion for 2020 is Jim Darlington, who shot back to back rounds of 80 playing from the gold tees.

In other news from the Lake Monticello golf course, the Gray Foxes senior men are continuing their weekly competitions. In the nine-hole competition, which is played on Friday mornings, the most recent result had Cole Hanner posting the low gross in the A flight, with a score of 38. In the A flight, the low net was recorded

by Steve Wormington with a 35. In the B flight, the low gross was a 45 posted by Rich Surdi, while Joe Clark posted the low net, with a 37. The A flight is for golfers with a nine-hole handicap of 10 and below. The B flight is for players with a nine-hole handicap of 11 and above.

In the yearlong ringers competition, nine-hole coordinator Dan Foley said that in the low gross competition the co-leaders are Ned Long and Cole Hanner at 36. Steve Wormington and Joe Clark are right behind at 37. The low net leader is Steve Wormington with 24. Close behind are Dan Henry and Joe Clark at 25.

The Gray Foxes eighteen holers play on Thursday. In their most recent competition, the low gross score in the A flight was a 78 posted by John Alluisi. The low net in the A flight was recorded by Cole Hanner with a 72. In the B flight, the low gross was recorded by Bill Scanlon, who shot an 83. The low net was recorded by Paul Schmidt with a 70. In the C flight, the low gross was 95 by Joel Dwyer, while the low net was a 75, recorded by Ben Stoppe and Steve Wormington. All of the top finishers each week win store credits for the purchase of merchandise at the pro shop.

In the ringers competition for the eighteen-hole players, the current leaders, with two rounds to go, are John Alluisi in the gross with 65 and John Stenz and Steve Wormington in the net with 50. Close behind Alluisi are Mike Hanson and Larry Cormier at 66. Phil Scott is closest to Stenz and Wormington in the net, but

is pretty far back at 55. Dan Atkinson is the eighteen hole coordinator.

In women's golf at the Lake, the eighteen-hole women's group and the nine-hole women's group are both playing every Tuesday morning. Neither group is conducting the type of competitions the men are playing. Both women's groups are looking to welcome new players. Lorraine Bergstresser is coordinating the eighteen-hole women's group and Helen Gromm is heading up the nine-hole women's group.



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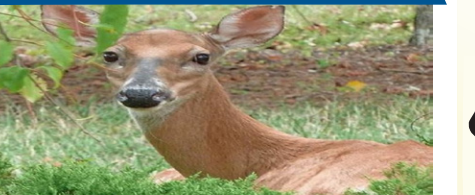
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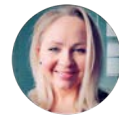


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