FLUVANNAREVIEW.COM

# School Board Votes to Require Masking for all Students

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Cover: Cover design by Amelia McConnell.

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

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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### School board implements a universal mask mandate

BY HEATHER MICHON CORRESPONDENT

Just two days before the start of the new school year, the Fluvanna County School Board voted to implement a universal mask mandate for all students, staff, and teachers, reversing their July 22 vote to make mask-wearing optional.

Only three members of the board --Chair Perrie Johnson (Fork Union District), James Kelley (Palmyra District), and Shirley Stewart (Rivanna District) -- were present for the special meeting, which was held at 10 a.m. on Monday (Aug. 9). All three voted in favor of the mandate. Andrew Pullen (Columbia District) and Charles Rittenhouse (Cunningham District) were unable to attend.

The decision to hold a special meeting was driven by a nationwide surge in COVID cases, which has caused the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to revise its recommendations for infection prevention in U.S. schools.

Virginia Senate Bill 1303, signed into law by Governor Ralph Northam in late March, requires Virginia school districts to follow CDC guidelines where practicable. The updated guidelines calling for universal masking in U.S. schools were issued on Thursday, Aug. 5.

### Letters to the editor

### Development at Marina Point

I am opposed to the zoning text amendment requested by Marina Point which will permit up to 5.5 residential units per acre by right in R-4 zoning. This amendment, being considered by the Board of Supervisors, represents a 90 percent increase in density without any requirement for open space and, though it is county-wide, it currently only applies to Marina Point.

Marina Point built 15 units; the maximum permitted. The county attorney told the Planning Commission that Marina Point unsuccessfully sought permission to build additional units years ago. For Marina Point to add more units, this text amendment must be approved.

The proposed Marina Point townhouses will have 3,830 square feet over three levels, including an unfinished basement, and two car garage. They are not what is envisioned by the conclusions of the Planning Commission staff report: affordable housing, first floor living to which current homeowners can transition, or lower square footage units yielding more affordable energy bills.

The Fluvanna County Comprehensive Plan emphasizes maintaining "rural character" which existing Marina Point properties have because of the open space surrounding them. Taking away open space does not fit within rural character.

The Community Development director presented excerpts from a study not yet adopted as support for the amendment. Not mentioned was this study appears to favor R-3 and PUD (density of 16 or more units per acre based on proportion of affordable housing units), not R-4, for increased density.

A Marina Point representative stated that LMOA supports the concept of its plan. LMOA has not expressed an opinion since the directors have not voted on that plan.

A better way to proceed: 1) determine if any increase in density is appropriate; 2) determine which zone is best suited for it; 3) revise the Comprehensive Plan; 4) make applicable changes to zoning based on the Comprehensive Plan.

I urge Fluvanna County residents to question how this amendment could affect properties outside of Lake Monticello and voice their opposition to it by sending comments to dmiles@ fluvannacounty.org or making comments in person at the hearing on Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. at the county library. -Tom Diggs, Palmyra

## Support all students

In the Aug 5-11 *Fluvanna Review*, the Rev. Karen Mann wrote in her editorial that the trans and queer youth in our community "heard what they already feared - that this community hates them" concerning the July Fluvanna School Board meeting. I attended the meeting and understand why Rev. Mann felt that.

There are about 27,000 residents in Fluvanna County. Only about 50 – 75 attended that meeting. I believe that those who spoke against transgender identification being a reality and spoke against allowing transgender students to choose the bathroom of their gender identity, do not represent most of our community – who do not hate transgender or queer community members. All the people that I call friends and family in Fluvanna are not against LGBTQ community members.

At the meeting, I spoke against the bathroom choice option for transgender students. I did so without taking time to find out the current practices of Fluvanna schools. There is no excuse for that. I apologize for my actions. I apologize if I have made any LGBTQ person feel unwelcome. I would rather support all students than negate any.

Based on my error, I contacted Principal Margo Bruce who is wise and cares for all students. Ms. Bruce stated that she and administrators work with students and parents to create an inclusive, fair, kind envi-ronment and consider individual needs. What I and others at that meeting should have done before we spoke was talk to the actual students and administrators to find out what is done in schools. By not doing so, we probably created unnecessary divisions and hurt students, whom we should nurture and support.

You do not need my approval or support to be your authentic self – but I want you to know I see your humanity and will honor it.

-Jessica Jackson, Palmyra

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### Dissent

At least 30 people were in attendance for the meeting, with the overwhelming majority there to speak out against universal masking.

Parents with younger children raised concerns about their children being able to learn to read and speak without being able to see their teachers' lips or learn how to read social cues on half-covered faces. Others said they didn't believe masks worked and could instead damage their children's physical and emotional health.

Samantha Oliff said her three-year-old suffered from allergies and that a doctor had said he could not wear a mask and cited a host of other arguments against masks, which she said were largely ineffective at preventing COVID. "So what you're doing is negatively impacting my threeyear-old because it makes you feel better," she said. "And I am not okay with that."

Several parents said if universal masking was required, they'd pull their children out of school and either home-school or send them to a mask-free private school.

While many said they appreciated the board and knew it was a tough issue, others promised that they would campaign against any school board member who voted for universal masking. "You'll see me in November, if not before," said one speaker.

A handful of commenters supported masking.

Sarah Sweet said she had taught summer school late last year and run a summer camp over the summer, and in her experience, "kids and masks today, it's like putting on their socks and shoes." She said she had been losing sleep over the idea of sending her small child to school if masks were only optional "because kids are getting sick now, you see it on the news."

"If you don't think there are enough, maybe we should require the kids to wear medical-grade masks. That's what it sounds like some of you are saying," said English teacher Jennifer Elliott.

She said she believed that kids needed to be back in the classrooms, and they needed to be masked. "I can still look at my kids' eyes and know how they're feeling," she said.

### **Special circumstances**

Several speakers criticized the board for calling a special meeting for mid-morning on a workday, when many people would not be able to attend -- including two board members who were known to be against universal mask-wearing.

Johnson explained in her opening comments that school boards have leeway to call special meetings on short notice under special circumstances, and "our counsel has told us that this qualifies as special circumstances." With school starting Wednesday morning, "if we make a change, we [need to] make it before the first day of school to avoid confusion" for



Wednesday evening meeting to give the

missing members a chance to weigh in

The issue before the board was how to

Superintendent Peter Gretz said that

the school system's attorneys and its in-

surers felt they had to follow the recom-

interpret the new CDC recommendations

in light of Senate bill 1303.

and cast a vote.

Vote

students and parents. optional masking at the July 22 meeting, She said that Monday at 10 a.m. was the first day and time at least three members could meet to form a quorum and added that the vote would be taken again at the

"I will follow the law. I will not pick and choose when I'm going to respect the process."

Both Johnson and Stewart joined Kelley in voting in favor of universal masking, with the rule staying in force until the CDC changed its recommendation.

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## **Heir of William Burton** Payne fights for land

**BY RUTHANN CARR** CORRESPONDENT

She just wants her family's land.

Ruth Anderson Wilcox's sister died in 2019. That sister did a lot of research into their Fluvanna ancestor William Burton Payne, a former slave of the Wills family.

Upon emancipation, Payne bought 100-plus acres of land north of Palmyra on Rt. 15. That land became known as Paynetown, one

of several free black communities that grew up in the late 1800s, said Tricia Johnson, director of the Fluvanna Historical Society

Over the years, Payne's land was divided and subdivided among heirs.

Some still live on their parcel.

Wilcox said while she was changing the address on a piece of land owned by her recently deceased grandmother, Judy Anderson, to her own address, she found two other tracts: 19A-43 and 19A-45

"Something told me to click on some of the adjoining parcels," Wilcox said. "One (19A-45) said it was owned by Burton Payne and heirs thereof. The other (19A-43) was owned by Callie Payne and Sylvia Martin."

Wilcox said Callie (who died in 1968) is her great-grandmother and Sylvia (who died in 1996) is Callie's granddaughter.

Wilcox said she contacted FluvannaTreasurer Linda Lenherr about the land. Lenherr referred Wilcox to Attorney Anthony Paone, who manages land sales for unpaid Fluvanna propertv taxes.

On Friday, (Aug. 6) Paone asked the court to add Wilcox as a named heir and party to the case. Judge Richard Moore agreed to have Wilcox added.

Wilcox was not physically present but attend-



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ed the hearing via phone.

Paone first filed the case regarding the parcel owned by Callie Payne for unpaid taxes on April 25, 2016, records show.

On June 24, 2019, the case was discontinued/ purged by the courts due to lack of activity.

Wilcox said about one year later (June 2020) is when she reached out Lenherr and Paone to identify herself as an heir and asking about the land.

On June 24, 2020, Paone made a motion to reopen the case.

Wilcox said Paone sent information about the unpaid taxes to an address for Callie Payne and Sylvia Martin - 15154 James Madison Highway that Wilcox said she told Paone no one lived.

Online court records show two pieces of returned mail on July 14, 2020.

Wilcox said she called Lenherr at least 20 times and produced several emails she sent Lenherr over the past year trying to find out more about the case and trying to resolve it.

During her research, Wilcox said she found a 2006 Code of Virginia § 58.1-3341 - Liens for taxes delinquent 20 years or more released; lands purchased by the Commonwealth; pending suits.

She said because of that statute, the taxes which are more than 20 years past due, should be forgiven.

After the hearing Friday, Paone, who wouldn't talk about the Payne case directly, outlined the procedure for identifying action on land to sell for unpaid taxes.

He said Lenherr sends him a list of properties with over two years of unpaid taxes.

"There is only so much time to spend on these, so we look for ones that may be really overboard," he said.

The 8-acre, 19A-43 parcel shows \$12,938 due, Wilcox said.

Some land may be too hard to sell because of where it is or the topography or other factors, Paone said. Lawyers are required to do their "due diligence" in trying to collect taxes and find heirs, he said, which entails sending notices. Depending on where they are in the process, they may take out an ad in a local paper calling for heirs, he said.

It's uncertain if ads were run for the Payne property.

During the hearing, when Wilcox brought up the statute about taxes 20 years overdue being forgiven,, Judge Moore told her after her name is added to the case, she and any other heirs to the property can decide if they want to hire a lawyer to argue the case.

"You're not obliged to hire a lawyer," Moore said.

The judge said now that Wilcox is part of the case, she will be served and will have to file a written response. Both sides can also ask for discovery - findings pertinent to the case.

The case will be set for further hearings.

Now that the case is in court, any attorney fees will be added to the back taxes

The bottom line, Paone said, is "If Linda (Lenherr) doesn't collect back taxes, she's not doing her job."



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## Flucos take third in Bockman Invitational Golf -Donnelly shoots 67

BY DUNCAN NIXON CORRESPONDENT



Top ten finishers. Killian Donnelly at far left.

The Fluvanna County High School golf season is underway, even though the stu-

dents are not yet back in school. On Aug. 5, the Fluco golf team under Coach Bryan Searcy hosted the George Bockman Memorial Tournament at the Lake Monticello golf course.

There were nine high schools participating and 51 golfers; both male and female teed off in the tournament. Fluco junior Killian Donnelly posted the best score with a very impressive five under par 67. Playing from the white, men's tees the Lake Monticello course measures a serious 6,296 yards and it is tight and tree lined with a decent amount of water. For high school athletes it is quite a test. A 67 by a rising junior is very, very good. Donnelly

Flucos take third continues page 13.



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3361 Lake Monticello Road,

Lake Monticello, VA 22963

**REAL ESTATE** 

### SUDOKU Difficulty: Medium 2 6 7 9 8 8 1 5 3 5 7 3 1 2 4 8

## Edited by Margie E. Burke

### **HOW TO SOLVE:**

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

Answers to Last Week's Sudek

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:								
9	1	4	8	3	2	6	5	7
2	3	7	5	4	6	1	9	8
8	5	6	9	7	1	3	2	4
1	4	2	7	6	8	5	3	9
3	7	9	4	1	5	2	8	6
5	6	8	3	2	9	7	4	1
7	2	5	1	9	4	8	6	3
4	8	1	6	5	3	9	7	2
6	9	3	2	8	7	4	1	5

8

4

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9

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sea

- 30 Office neckwear

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### EVENT

SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION: Grace & Glory Lutheran Church is collecting for local students classroom needs A bin will be located outside the church door for school supplies drop-off during the next two weeks and/or we invite you to join us on Sunday mornings at the 9:30 a.m. church service, 683 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy, Palmyra (near the library). ALL general school supplies are welcome! Donations of boxes of tissues, hand sanitizers and masks would be appreciated too. School starts August 11th

JD DICKINSON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT and SILENT AUCTION : Sunday, September 19, at Lake Monticello Golf Club. Proceeds support Scholarships & Community efforts. \$75 per person, with 1 p.m. Shotgun Start. Four person Captain's Choice - \$300 per team includes dinner. Register/Sponsor: jdmenorialgolf. eventbrite.com or Facebook: @jdmemorialfoundation, or Email: jdmemorialfoundation@gmail.com

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### HELP WANTED

COMMUNUITY OUTREACH & ADOPTION COORDINATOR: Fluvanna County animal sanctuary seeking an individual to work with potential adopters, phone calls/emails, assisting visitors, help with fundraising and general admin. tasks. Candidate must have excellent written/ verbal communication skills and office experience with knowledge of Microsoft Office needed. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday, Email resume: SanctuaryCFC@ gmail.com. Questions? Call 434 842-2404

PART-TIME: Front office person for scheduling and overall office /clinical staff support. Medical/EHR experience with computer/electronic health records is very helpful. 20-24 hours per wk., plus occasional 'fill-in'. Great opportunity to work w/your community's eyecare provider. EOE. Email resume : Reception@weisseyes.com, or fax: 434-591-0111.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC-OPPORTUNITY: Beaver Dam Baptist Church of Troy, VA, is seeking a part-time MUSIC DIRECTOR.

MAJOR EVENT! SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE MULTI-PROPERTY ACCELERATED SALE! Property Portfolio Includes Lakefront, Commercial and Residential Properties 12 Individual Residential Lots Will Sell at or Above \$5,000 | Great Development and Investment Opportunities | Bid Online Wednesday, August 26 | SVN Motleys Commercial | 877-MOTLEYS | www.MOTLEYS.com VA16

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ANIMAL CARE/FLUVANNA COUNTY: Position currently open for dedicated lover of animals. Caring For Creatures animal sanctuary seeking help with animal care. Candidates must be reliable, follow directions and possess a quality work ethic. Must have own transportation. Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., 4 weekdays & 1 weekend day. Weekend days –only - position also available, same hours. Starting pay \$9/hrly. Call (434) 842-2404 to make an appt. to complete application.



support for Sunday morning worship services.

The part-time position includes playing prelude music, up to 3 congressional hymns, and other occasional special music as appropriate for the regular worship service. The position reports to the Pastor on hymn selection. Knowledge of contemporary and traditional Christian music, as well as a passion for the Lord, is required. Byrd Chapel is blessed with both a piano and organ, so organ is a plus but not required. The part-time position pays weekly and there is the opportunity to expand the position to include choir director, special events, and other enrichment programs.

For salary and other details, please contact faih neilmclaughlin@vaumc.org 434-589-2142 (church office)



Fork Union Military Academy is seeking the following positions. Benefits include a retirement plan, health, dental, life insurance and meals provided depending on the shift. The Academy is a Christian male boarding and day school that attracts students from more than 30 states and 15 foreign countries. The Academy offers our students a college preparatory curriculum in a military-style environment.

Admissions Counselor
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For more information and how to apply: https://www.forkunion.com/employment-opportunities

4744 James Madison Hwy. Fork Union, Virginia 23055

## PUBLIC NOTICES



## **PUBLIC HEARING** Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Pursuant to VA Code Section 15.2-2204, a public hearing will be held at the Fluvanna County Library, located at 214 Commons Boulevard in Palmyra, Virginia for citizens of the County to have the opportunity to be heard by the Board of Supervisors on the following request:

ZTA 21:03 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22 ZON-ING OF THE FLUVANNA COUNTY CODE BY THE ADDITION OF A USES PERMITTED BY RIGHT USE UNDER 22-8-2.1 IN THE R-4 ZONING DISTRICT: MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS, WITH A DEN-SITY UP TO 5.5 DWELLING UNITS PER ACRE, PROVIDED THE PROPERTY IS WITHIN AN AREA SUBJECTED TO A COMMON PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT AND SUCH PROPERTY IS SERVED BY A CENTRAL WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM.

Interested persons may submit any written comments with their full name and property address prior to the scheduled meeting to dmiles@fluvannacounty.org and any questions may be directed to Douglas Miles, Community Development Director at 434-591-1910, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, M-F.

Kents Store, VA Is seeking a part-time music leader to provide Flucos take third from page 8.



A putt rolls toward the pin on #18. Photos by Duncan Nixon

shot 32 on the front nine with birdies on #2, #3, #4 and #8. On the back he shot 35, with birdies on #12 and #13 and his lone bogie on #17. Charlottesville's top player was only one stroke behind Donnelly, but most high school competitors shoot in the 80s or 90s, with a number of competitors coming in in triple figures.

This was a team event and each school may enter up to six competitors, with the best four scores counting toward the team's score. Depth is important under this format, and Western Albemarle had the necessary depth. They had five golfers in the top ten in the tournament, posting a team score of 307. Rockbridge High finished second with a score of 356, nudging out the Flucos by a mere two strokes, or a single ball in the water by one of the Fluco's four best scorers.

The Fluco fielded a fairly young team in this event that included two juniors and

three sophomores. Their number two finisher was junior Cohen Purviance who shot a 91. Number three for the Flucos was Kessler Potter, a young women, who shot 99. The fourth best score for the Flucos was posted by sophomore Noah Jones with a 101. The female athletes played from the red tees, over a course of 5,051 yards, but they still had to deal with the same woods and water as the male competitors.

The golf team continued its front-loaded season on Aug. 9 competing in the season opening Jefferson District tournament. On Aug. 11 they were away for a three-school match with Monticello and Charlottesville. On Aug. 12 they will play at Louisa. Then they host two three team events. On Aug.17 Goochland and Staunton High will visit the Lake Monticello course, and on Aug. 19 Monticello and Nelson County will be on hand.

The Bockman Memorial tournament is named in memory of George Bockman, who was an outstanding golfer at the Lake Monticello course and a huge contributor to Fluvanna County High School athletics. He coached girls' softball, was an assistant to the golf coach, and he was a scorekeeper and timekeeper for Fluco sports events at the football stadium. In addition, he built the dugouts and press boxes for the baseball and softball fields at the then new high school.

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

### VIRGINIA: VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF FLUVANNA IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF FLUVANNA **ROBERT S. DODSON,** In re the Estate of Adele Wells Plaintiff, DIANA MUSE, Case No. CL21000381-00 v. Petitioner and Civil Action No. CL21000184-00 Administrator NANNIE VOWENS, also known as NANNIE VOWEN, also known as ATTENTION: HEIRS OF ADELE WELLS, NANNIE VOWELS, address unknown, Including the following Heirs whose addresses are unknown to the Petitioner and and if she be deceased, HER HEIRS, those Heirs whose names and addresses are unknown to the Petitioner: **DEVISEES, ASSIGNS AND** DONNA JACKSON HOWARD SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, WHO **KEVIN WELLS ARE MADE PARTIES HERETO AS BARBARA JEAN BANKS PARTIES UNKNOWN**, TINA JACKSON Defendants DAVID WELLS **ORDER OF PUBLICATION ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Petitioner Diana Muse filed a Petition for Real Estate Powers as Administrator The object of this suit is to quiet title to a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being of Adele Wells' estate. Petitioner seeks the power to sell real estate property owned in the Fork Union Magisterial District of Fluvanna County, Virginia, containing 6.0 acres, more solely by Adele Wells at the time of her death and distribute the proceeds among her heirs. The real estate for which Petitioner is seeking the power to sell is identified or less, located off of State Route 642, being more particularly described as Fluvanna County as tax map number 4 A 50 of vacant land located on Paynes Mill Road in Fluvanna Tax Map Parcel No. 59-A-47, and being the property devised to Nannie Vowels, also known County, Virginia and tax map number 4 A 50A of vacant land located on Paynes Mill as Nannie Vowen, by will of Frederick Wood dated May 17, 1911 and spread in the Clerk's Road in Fluvanna County, Virginia. Office of the Circuit Court of Fluvanna County, Virginia in Will Book 2 at Page 107. Petitioner has identified as many of the heirs as of Adele Wells as possible, but And it appearing from an affidavit filed according to law that there are or may be petitioner was unable to find addresses for the heirs named above and there were at least three heirs who were great nephews of the deceased whose names and adpersons interested in the subject to be disposed of, to-wit, Nannie Vowens, also known as dresses could not be found. Nannie Vowen, also known as Nannie Vowels, whose last known address is unknown, and There will be a hearing on October 8, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the Circuit Court if she be deceased, then her heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest, and all for the County of Fluvanna in Palmyra, Virginia 22963, at which time counsel for Petiparties interested in her estate, all of whom are unknown, it is therefore tioner will as the Court to grant her Petition for Real Estate Powers. ORDERED that Defendant Nannie Vowens, also known as Nannie Vowen, also known Notice is hereby given to the heirs of Adele Wells, and to the individuals speas Nannie Vowels, and if she be deceased, her heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in cifically named above, pursuant to Va. Code 8.01-316 (A) (1)(b) and (A)(2), that you should appear at that time to be heard and protect your interests. interest, and all parties interested in her estate, appear before this Court in its courtroom Accordingly, the Court ORDERS that this Order be published in the Fluvanna on October 8, 2021 at 3:45 PM and do what is necessary to protect their interests herein. Review, a newspaper of general circulation in Fluvanna County, once each week for four consecutive weeks, and that it is posted on the front door of the courthouse of Enter: Claude V Worrell II this Court. Judge Entered this 30th day of July, 2021 Date: July 21, 2021 Richard E. Moore Judge I Ask For This: I ask for this: Ralph E. Main, Jr., p.q. Lelia Winget-Hernandez, VSB No. 46183 VSB # 13320 Commonwealth Life & Legacy Counsel, a Winget-Hernandez, P.C. Company Dygert, Wright, Hobbs & Hernandez, PLC 5570 Richmond Road 415 Fourth Street, N.E. Troy, Virginia 22974 Charlottesville, Virginia 22902 434-589-2958- phone Telephone: 434-979-5515

1-866-576-4002- facsimile

lelia@winget-hernandez.com

434-295-7785

Facsimile:

### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

### H.U.G.S. meeting

Hands United by God's Spirit (H.U.G.S) has begun meeting again at Cuppa Joe's coffee shop near CVS/traffic light (off of Rt. 618) every Monday from 3 to 4 p.m. Members knit or crochet shawls and blankets for those in need or are ill and need a warm hug. Interested participants can be taught to knit/crochet. All are welcome!

### Monthly hike

Bring the family and enjoy a Virginia Master Naturalist-led Monthly Hike on the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. Due to COVID restrictions, we will meet outside, masks required. Please register in advance: Eric Armentrout at 434-842-3150 or email earmentrout@fluvannacounty. org or go online at Programs (recdesk. com) or just come and sign up!!

### Vaccination forum

Fluvanna County NAACP sponsored COVID-19 and children's vaccination forum. Panelists: Dr. Taison Bell and Dr. Denise Bonds. Thursday, **Aug. 19 at 7 p.m.** over Zoom. Zoom link to be provided.

### Golf for Life Tournament

Lake Monticello Ladies Golf Association's Golf for Life Tournament (Captain's choice format for lady golfers of all abilities) will be held **Aug. 31** in memory of Kathryn Hunter, Gunilla Moore, Cheryl Baressi and Joanne Harris. All proceeds go to the Marty Whitlow Ovarian Cancer Research Fund at the University of Virginia Cancer Center. To participate or donate, please contact the Lake Monticello Pro Shop at 434-589-3075 for contact information.



BY PAGE H. GIFFORD

CORRESPONDENT

Local artist draws inspiration from nature

Joanne Braniff. Submitted photos

Like many artists who begin their artistic journey with a pencil at a young age, Joanne Braniff was no different. And as soon as she was able to hold a pencil she began drawing.

"My first validation came from a sixth-grade teacher who asked me to draw the Statue of Liberty for a bulletin board - yes, I am older than CAD and PowerPoint," Braniff said. "She gave me the confidence to think one day I could learn to paint."

When Braniff was in her late 50s, she took beginner watercolor classes from Lassie Corbet, a northern Virginia artist, and a semester of oil painting lessons at the Baltimore Academy of Art.



Braniff says her favorite mediums are watercolors and feels they are made for achieving a delicate and dream-like character in a painting. She likes the ability to create simple backgrounds with floral art.

Oils are the other medium she paints with but says they are more challenging. This is a surprise since most artists view it the opposite way and find watercolor more challenging to control. But strangely enough, Braniff admits it is the scent of the oil she loves and the richness of the paint. Most of her fellow oil painters would agree on the richness of the medium.

"I enjoy painting Plein air with oils, especially when I can revisit a location several times.

**Dr. Paige Perriello** 

Pediatrician with Pediatric

Associates of Charlottesville and

member of the Virginia Chapter

of the American Academy of

Pediatrics.

However, a three-year stay in California allowed me the opportunity to see a more intense kind of light, and some of my favorite landscapes were painted there in watercolor."

Since her introduction to watercolor and oil painting, she has learned from trial and error.

"My errors are usually my best paintings," she said. "Another very valuable learning experience for me has been observing and sharing with members of the two art groups." Braniff is a current member of the Fluvanna Art Association and also paints with a group at Lake Monticello.

She said she is unlike artists who view the act of painting as a method of "expressing their creativity".

"I have always seen the creation of art as a challenge, an opportunity to learn a new skill or solve a puzzle. And on those occasions when the puzzle pieces fall together, you get to create something beautiful."

Her favorite subject, she says, because it flows better, is flowers.

"I am often overwhelmed by the beauty of the natural world and I get more excited by flowers than just about anything! I love trying to capture their delicacy and translucence in what I call their "portraits."

Braniff's watercolors are soft and airy and soothing to the onlooker. Her oils are soft yet vibrant and both exhibit a tranquility and a solitude that immerses the viewer in peacefulness.

"Most of us have our method of banishing negativity and depression. I go outside for a walk. Before long something lovely captures my attention and immediately I plan how I would paint it. I believe the solitude you see in my painting is more of an expression of my awe for the color and quiet beauty of our surroundings. We have been given more than we have been denied."

## Join Us for a Virtual Health Forum The COVID-19 Vaccine and Children August 19th at 7 PM



### Dr. Taison Bell

Assistant professor of medicine in the divisions of Infectious Diseases and International Health and Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at UVA; Director of the medical intensive care unit; and Director of the UVA Summer Medical Leadership Program.





Dr. Denise Bonds Internal Medicine Specialist and Director of the Blue Ridge Health District.

## **Don't miss this important discussion!**

Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/i/84158423105?pwd=V0lZTDE4eExqK3B3UHVHTUE3SlVhdz09 Copy & paste Zoom link address into your browser and click enter. **Meeting ID:** 841 5842 3105 **Passcode:** 392485 **Dial in telephone number:** 301 715 8592, Washington DC Fluvanna **NAACP Website:** fluvannacountynaacp.com **Questions for the forum can be submitted to:** hudsonblt@yahoo.com *Zoom link and virtual meeting will be established at 6:30 PM. This forum is free and open to the public.* 





Some have failed on emergency calls

## Fluvanna supervisors discuss outdated rescue equipment

BY HEATHER MICHON CORRESPONDENT

County rescue squads are operating with cardiac monitors and automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) that are themselves on life support. All have reached end-of-life, and some have failed on recent emergency calls.

The replacement cost for all units is \$358,262, well above the \$200,000 earmarked for new equipment in the FY21 budget. To cover the funding gap, Purchasing Officer Cyndi Toler reguested board approval to withdraw \$159,000 out of a \$190,000 fund originally set aside for a new ambulance.

Fire & Rescue officials felt that "cardiac monitors and AEDs are much more critical than that ambulance," said Toler.

John Lye, chief of Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire & Rescue's water rescue unit, sent a letter to supervisors the previous week arguing that the purchase could fall under funding available under the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA.

Under the bill passed by Congress this spring, Fluvanna County will eventually receive \$5.6 million in ARPA funding for post-COVID relief. Over \$2 million is currently available for qualified expenditures.

County Administrator Eric Dahl said he and Lye "don't see eye to eye" on whether cardiac monitors and AEDs fall under ARPA's admittedly confusing definitions of what qualifies as COVID-related expenditures.

Lye said he would argue that APRA was designed in part to fund public health measures and that "rescue squads, and maintaining the rescue squads and their ability to respond for patients, is probably the main public health area in the county."

He noted that the Town of Scottsville had just announced they were going to use ARPA funding to build a new office for the Department of Motor Vehicles, which indicates to him that the law may have a generous interpretation of "public health."

Dahl said his reading of the ARPA laws led him to feel that cardiac equipment would not qualify. In his view, this purchase didn't enhance the county's public health response as the law intended, but only replaced equipment that had reached end-of-life -- something the county would have to do even if COVID had never happened.

Supervisors Tony O'Brien (Rivanna) and Donald Weaver (Cunningham) asked Dahl if there were penalties if they used ARPA money and the purchase was later disqualified.

Dahl indicated there was no particular penalty; the county would just have to pay the money back to the federal government somewhere down the line.

Chair Mike Sheridan (Columbia) voiced concern about withdrawing funds earmarked for the new ambulance.

Another option would be to take the \$159,000 from the General Fund and leave the ambulance money intact, but the idea didn't seem to gain traction among board members.

Supervisor Weaver then suggested deferring a decision by a couple of weeks before making a final decision, prompting an immediate response from county staff. With cardiac units already having failed in the field, they felt the decision needed to be made quickly to get the purchasing process in motion.

After further discussion, the motion to move the funds from the ambulance fund to the equipment fund passed 4-1, with Sheridan voting no. He joined the majority in a motion to approve the purchase of the equipment, which passed 5-0.

FUMA WASTEWATER

ARPA came up again in a motion to approve a contract with Dewberry Engineering to conduct a study of Fork Union Military Academy's (FUMA's) wastewater treatment system.

The survey is designed to give the county a better understanding of the system's current condition and any upgrades or improvements it might need.

Dahl said there have been some discussions about the county taking over the system from FUMA, and a technical report would show them what's there, what's not there, and what might need to be done with the system before any agreements are made.

"We don't want to be given a problem," he said.

The system is believed to have a design capacity of 60,000 gallons per day and may be able to handle much more. FUMA may currently only be using about 25,000 gallons per day. If there is spare capacity, at some point in the future, the county could tie the FUMA treatment plant into a wider Fork Union Sanitary District system.

Unlike the cardiac equipment, wastewater treatment plants fall squarely under APRA funding. The report will take about two months to complete at a cost of \$39,870.

The motion passed 5-0.

The next meeting of the board will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 18 at 7pm at the Fluvanna County Public Library.

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 em-ployees 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 sup-port 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: WIZZIE 4 MONTHS



Wizzie came to us as a stray frightened and looking for places to hide. Slowly but surely she has come around and is learning to trust us more and more everyday. If you are interested in meeting Wizzie, please call the shelter for additional information. 434-591-0123. She is spayed, microchipped, and up to date on

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