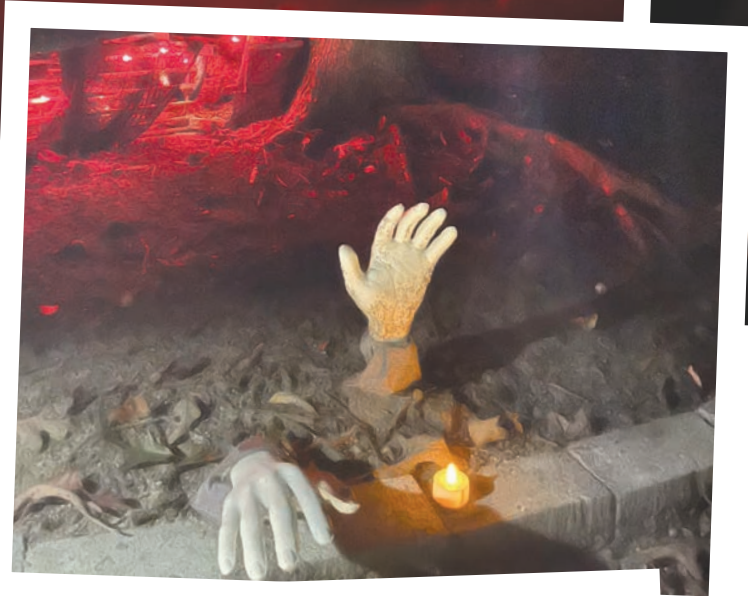


# Fluvanna

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## REVIEW



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**On the cover:** Halloween at Hilldale Homestead.  
Submitted photos. Cover design by Amelia McConnell.

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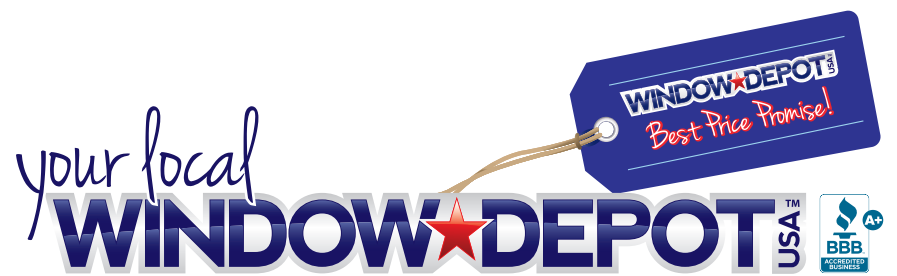
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## Fluco volleyball tops Wilson Memorial 3-0

BY DUNCAN NIXON  
CORRESPONDENT



Elizabeth Garrett serving.  
Photos by Duncan Nixon

The Fluco volleyball team turned in an outstanding performance on Sept. 10, beating Fishersville's Wilson Memorial Green Hornets in three games. Wilson had previously beaten Fluvanna 3-2, but on this night the Flucos were dominant.

In the first game, the Flucos jumped to a 12-6 lead behind the strong net play of juniors Molly McCall and Elizabeth Garrett. However, the Green Hornets responded with a run of eight points to take the lead. Behind the devastating kill shots of McCall, the Flucos came back to take control and outscored Wilson by 13-7 for a 25-21 win.

The second game started with Garrett serving two aces. The Green Hornets responded, gaining their only lead of the game at 5-4. The Flucos scored four

straight points, including a service ace by senior Jillian Davis. The Flucos continued to increase their lead as sophomore Alyssa Lewis served two aces. Another ace by Davis took the Flucos to a lead of 19-12. A seven point lead is not easy to overcome, and Wilson was not able to come back. A kill shot by junior Mariah Quinn made score 24-14. The Flucos won the final point for an easy 25-14 win.

The third game of the match was a back and forth contest with ties at 9-9, 10-10 and 11-11. An ace by Davis gave the Flucos a 16-13 lead and a kill shot by McCall and an ace by senior Olivia Martin made it 18-15. McCall served an ace to up the Fluco lead to four at 20-16. The game ended on a kill shot by McCall, with the same score as the first game 25-21.

McCall, who reportedly has signed to play Division 1 volleyball, recorded a very impressive 17 kill shots in this three-game match. Seventeen kill shots would be an achievement in a five-game match. Garrett led the team in assists with 15 and Martin pitched in with ten assists. Davis consistently leads the team in digs and did so again with 23.

After the match, Coach Christi Harlowe-Garrett commented on the hard work of Garrett and junior starter Kaiya Wrigley. The Flucos upped their record to 6-2, a 75 winning percentage.

Volleyball teams generally play twice a week. The Flucos traveled to Mills-Godwin on Sept. 12 and to Charlottesville on Sept. 17. They will be back home on Sept. 19, hosting Albemarle High. On Sept. 24 they travel to Western Albemarle and on Sept. 26, they host Orange County.

## Palmyra supervisor gives update on development

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

Palmyra Supervisor Timothy Hodge updated Village Oaks residents on a variety of county issues on Tuesday night (Sept. 10).

Hodge joined the Board of Supervisors in January. The last nine months have been busy ones.

Fluvanna's long time legal counsel Fred Payne "believed ordinances were for lawyers, not for ordinary people," Hodge said. "I believe they should be simple and understandable by everybody."

Under the new county attorney, Daniel Whitten, the supervisors were working to update language and close loopholes in existing ordinances, along with approving new ones.

Hodge, along with Rivanna Supervisor Tony O'Brien and Planning Commissioners

Loretta Johnson-Morgan and Kathleen Kilpatrick, had spent the last several weeks creating a new set of ordinances regarding solar farm development in the county.

"Nobody's happy," he said. "So you know you've found the middle of the road when both sides are complaining at the same time."

Something that should make county residents happy? The ability to pay their county tax bills with something other than cash and checks.

After many years of waiting, that moment is coming soon.

"I've actually physically seen the card readers in the county offices," he said. "So, there will be a time very shortly where you'll be able to pay your bill with credit cards or debit cards."

Because this is a real estate assessment year, Hodge urged residents to keep an

## Letters to the Editor

### No fun for you

In ten years I have never attended the Independence Day fireworks at Lake Monticello. No crowds or explosions for me. Dog and I wait at the house while the wife, kids and grandkids enjoy the show after we all spend the day on the beach along with LM owners and guests. I transport them to and back home. This year, I didn't appreciate one bit that July 4th was moved to July 6th to appease, whoever. Sacrilege.

Notwithstanding, the de-funding, de-meaning, re-imagining, handcuffing and loss of legal indemnity of local police nationwide, including the Lake Monticello Police Department, has given criminals and assorted miscreants a pass while the law-abiding are lectured and told no fun for you. The safety and security you're paying a premium for is no more. Maybe you should drive 700 family cars out the

gates where you're bound to find trouble at an alternative fireworks display, if any. Exact opposite of reason for a gated community. Especially, Lake Monticello gates and police. Blessed those LMFD for stepping in. I agree they should have access to the Lake.

Next year, how about arranging some of that dues increase to fund overtime for two county sheriff's deputies from 4 p.m. to midnight on July 4, 2025. Overtime might be non taxable by then. Here's one that'll make you faint. There's a county militia around that just love the flag, love their kids and the Fourth of July. Ask them nice if they'd like to swim in our lake that day.

Thank you, Shaun Pharrell for your inspirational letter.

-Rich Mullin, Lake Monticello

### Education concerns

As the mom of two smart and beautiful little girls, I'm concerned about their education. I believe we need well-funded schools that give our teachers the resources and support to provide all of our children with a quality education. I'm deeply concerned about the prospect of Donald Trump being elected and implementing the proposals detailed in the Project 2025 document from The Heritage Foundation. This plan has many concerning elements, including the elimination of teacher unions, restrictions on teaching controversial subjects, changes to teacher certification requirements, and the removal of free meal programs. However, I think Fluvanna will most gravely be impacted by three areas.

1. They plan to dismantle the Department of Education, leaving no federal oversight or protections. They will instead favor privatization of public schools, so that only the ultra-wealthy can afford a good education. This will

also be a concern for minority students, or students with disabilities as these schools may not always be equipped to meet their needs or may not prioritize their inclusion.

2. They plan to eliminate Head Start which provides early education and essential therapies to so many children before kindergarten.

3. They also plan to eliminate Title 1 which provides vital federal funding to schools with high percentages of low-income students. Our county relies on these funds and this change will lead to a significant decrease in resources, negatively affecting our school's ability to serve our students

I urge you to vote for Harris/Walz, Kaine, and Witt. They all support the Department of Education and want to ensure our teachers and schools are protected and funded as we move forward.

-Jennifer Kingrea, Palmyra

## Community Calendar

Community calendar items must be under 50 words and will run only once a month.



### Beulah homecoming

Beulah Baptist Church in Kents Store (1633 Kents Store Way) will hold its Homecoming celebration **Sept. 22**. Worship service begins at 11 a.m., with lunch immediately following.

### G.I. style breakfast

Central Virginia Veterans will be holding their monthly 'G.I. style' breakfast on **Sept. 28** at 8:15 a.m. at Wahoo BBQ & Grill, Slice Road Gate, Lake Monticello. Cost - \$12 per person (cash only please). Veterans and spouses/friends are welcome. Questions? Contact Paul Bethke (703) 965-8363.

### Music Series

St. John's Episcopal Church, Columbia will wrap up this year's music series with a performance by the Sleepy Hollow Bluegrass Band on **Oct. 6** at 3 p.m. Admission is free.

### Farmers market

The Farmers Market is back! **Every Sunday**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., outside of ACE Hardware Store at 101 Crofton Plaza, in Palmyra. Live music, food trucks, vendors. Email [fluvannacountyfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:fluvannacountyfarmersmarket@gmail.com) or contact Peggy Shanklin at 434-962-2762.

### Food Bank

Fluvanna MACAA Food Bank is located in the old Carysbrook High School. To get food from the food pantry bring a photo ID as proof of Fluvanna residency. Open: **Monday through Friday**, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. To donate directly to the food bank call 434-842-2521 to find out which foods are most needed. Cash and food donations gratefully accepted.

eye out for a letter from the assessor in the coming weeks – and to act quickly if the final number seemed too high.

"It's really important that you pay attention to that letter because there's a two- to four-week period when you can dispute it with the assessor himself," he explained.

He spoke from experience: in a previous assessment, his property had been valued at \$80,000 more than neighbors in comparable homes. Hodge pointed out the discrepancy to the assessor, and the evaluation was eventually adjusted to align it with other properties.

Multiple new businesses are on the horizon. The Wawa at Zion Crossroads will begin construction in the coming months, and a locally-owned gas station near Tractor Supply is working its way through the permitting process.

At Colonial Circle, the first of some 300 homes and townhouses are already under construction, and the first residents will be moving into the Cove at Monticello apartments in the next few weeks. Along with housing, the development will include a convenience store and other commercial space.

VDOT will begin a major project at the intersection of Rt. 618 and Rt. 600 in late 2026, and it is expected to take 9-10 months to complete. Rt. 600 will be blocked to traffic between the Riverside Gate and Rt. 618 as crews install new turn lanes and improve sightlines.

"My suggestion was, why don't we try three stop signs?" Hodge said. "Three stop signs don't cost seven million dollars. And they said three stop signs will make it more dangerous."

No discussion of local issues would be

complete without mentioning Aqua.

Hodge said the county had been active in combating Aqua's rate hike proposal this past year. While they could not convince the State Corporation Commission to deny the rate increase completely, the pressure from Fluvanna and other counties in its service area put enough pressure on the company that Aqua eventually agreed to a smaller increase. "A small win," he said, "if you can call it a win."

There's not much the county can do about the smell from the sewage treatment plant on Rt. 600, but Hodge encouraged residents to let Aqua know how they felt about it.

"The best thing we can do as customers is every time you drive by and smell it, log it, and complain," he said. "You get enough complaints, they'll talk about it."

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## Community gathers at annual 9/11 remembrance

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

About 75 community members gathered for the annual 9/11 remembrance at the Lake Monticello firehouse on Wednesday evening.

Chief Richie Constantino said the perfect blue skies reminded him of the weather on that day in 2001, where 2,977 people lost their lives in a terrorist attack on New York and Washington.

He said the "passion for remembrance has faded" as the years have passed.

But, he reminded the audience, 9/11 continues to deserve commemoration – and continues to cost lives.

The collapse of the World Trade Center's twin towers created an environmental catastrophe, exposing tens of thousands to toxic dust and fumes. This has left many of those who worked on the recovery and cleanup efforts suffering from cancers, respiratory diseases, and other serious illnesses.

The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) WTC Health Program monitors almost 130,000 people who lived or worked in the disaster area in 2001. As of December 2023, it has recorded 6,781 deaths attributable to exposure to the site.

Earlier this month, New York City offi-

cials reported that 360 firefighters and first responders have died of 9/11-related illnesses – more than the 343 killed on the day of the disaster.

The emotional impact of that day also remains sharp.

A community member who was working in law enforcement in New York on the day of the disaster told the audience: "None of those firemen I know came home that night ... They never came home. And I can tell you to this very day when I hear a fire engine or see an airplane, my brain goes back to that day."

This was the 20th year LMFD has gathered to remember the day. In 2003, the department established a small Memorial Garden to commemorate the fallen, and in 2011, it was awarded a four-foot section of girder from the World Trade Center site.

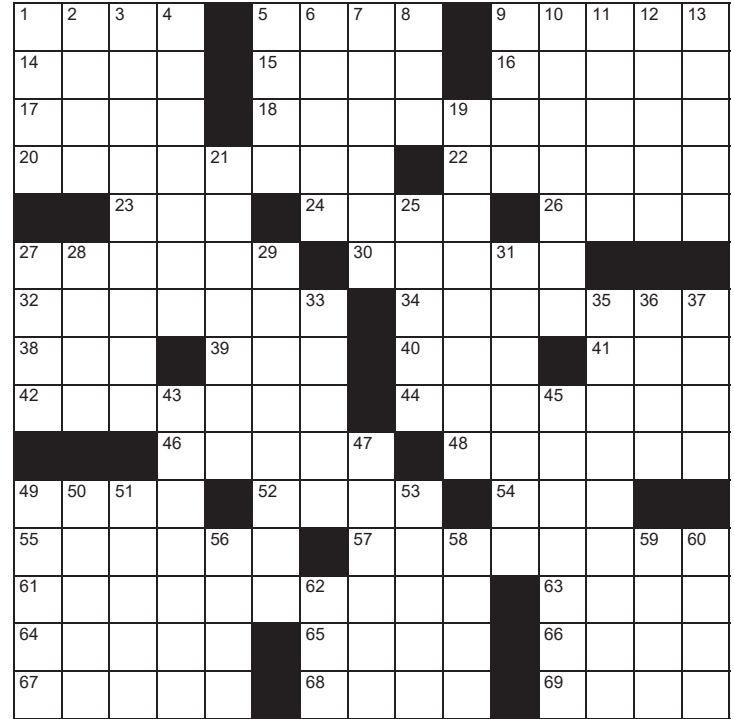
The memorial also honors two Fluvanna firefighters killed in an accident while on duty in 1989 and US Navy Seaman Dakota Rigsby, a former LMFD volunteer killed while serving on the U.S.S. Fitzgerald in 2017.

## The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- 1 Dropped, as in the polls
- 5 This-and-that dish
- 9 Country singer Hill
- 14 Tie up
- 15 Obsessed with
- 16 Listlessness
- 17 Telltale sign
- 18 Photo's focal point
- 20 Section of Manhattan
- 22 Salad follower
- 23 A Kardashian
- 24 Devours
- 26 Towel inscription
- 27 Beer after a shot
- 30 London length
- 32 Slithering danger
- 34 Childishly silly
- 38 Valuable rock
- 39 Leaching product
- 40 Not online, to a texter
- 41 \_\_\_ & Bradstreet
- 42 Symbol on the "5" key
- 44 Low-traffic street
- 46 Scents
- 48 Undercover ops
- 49 Go yachting
- 52 Heist haul
- 54 Superlative suffix
- 55 "Happy Days" malt shop owner
- 57 Prep period
- 61 Brooklyn's locale
- 63 Caustic chemical
- 64 Set right
- 65 Like cupcakes, usually
- 66 Vampire's weapon
- 67 Challenges
- 68 Nov. honorees



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### 69 Bug out

### DOWN

- 1 Tart plum
- 2 Mongolian monk
- 3 Michelle Kwan, e.g.
- 4 Doc Holliday was one, briefly
- 5 Stereo system
- 6 Positive pole
- 7 View on Hulu, say
- 8 Tiller's tool
- 9 Maidenhair, e.g.
- 10 Bar request
- 11 Harden
- 12 Radio feature
- 13 Tannery inventory
- 19 Silent signals
- 21 Got a whiff of
- 25 Lukewarm
- 27 Trim, as a photo
- 28 Tortoise racer
- 29 Debbie or Ryan
- 31 Like siblings
- 33 Back-in-style style

### 35 Exactly alike

- 36 Breathing apparatus?
- 37 They may be loose or split
- 43 Atomizer scent
- 45 Spinning wheel attachment
- 47 Comfort
- 49 Caesar, for one

### 50 Bakery output

- 51 Word with ear or peace
- 53 Dogma
- 56 Pot covers
- 58 Tosses in
- 59 Fielder's cry
- 60 Place for a fringe
- 62 Roman 54

### Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

## SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Medium

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

### 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.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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## Planning Commission recommends approval of solar ordinance but suggests changes

Ordinance moves to the Board of Supervisors for public hearings

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

The Planning Commission held a lengthy public hearing on Tuesday night (Sept. 10) on a proposed ordinance that would dramatically impact solar farm development in Fluvanna County.

The word of the night was “setbacks.” The key recommendations under discussion came from the Solar Ordinance Review Committee, made up of Planning Commissioners Lorretta Johnson-Morgan and Kathleen Kilpatrick and Supervisors Tony O’Brien and Tim Hodge.

The ordinance would create a county-wide solar district called S-1. Land currently zoned as A-1 (Agricultural) would have to be rezoned as S-1 before development could proceed.

Within S-1 zoned properties, small-scale solar generation facilities would be allowed as a by-right use, but utility-scale solar facilities – those generating two megawatts or more – would need a Special Use Permit and would face a long list of requirements for siting, construction, screening and fencing, management, and decommissioning.

The committee recommended no more than 500 acres for any single utility-scale solar farm and capped the total amount

of county acreage open for utility-scale solar at three percent, or around 5,400 acres. The ordinance would also limit development to no more than one percent of acreage per electoral district.

But it was the mandatory setbacks, the distances from nearby properties and features, that brought home how restrictive the ordinance could be to those seeking to build utility-scale solar fields:

- 375 feet from adjacent property lines
- 500 feet from nearby dwellings
- 500 feet from major roadways
- 500 feet from ponds and perennial streams
- 1,000 feet from the James, Rivanna, and Hardware rivers

During the public hearing, Skyler Zunk of Energy Right Virginia praised the county for its work, but warned of unintended consequences.

“We did some back-of-the-envelope calculations, and a 375-foot setback on a 50-acre parcel would leave less than 25 percent of that land developable for a project,” he said. “If you have a 100-acre parcel with a 375-foot setback, 40 percent of that land would be usable, and that’s if there’s no streams.”

Henry Kingery of CEP Solar noted that a stream running down the middle of a property would exclude the equivalent of three football fields from development. “It’s not usable property,” he said.

During the commissioners’ deliberations, Kathleen Kilpatrick (Fork Union), who had sat on the review committee with Lorretta Johnson-Morgan (Columbia), said that some of the setbacks were arguably too wide.

She said she appreciated the public input, “but at the same time we need to be guided, particularly about the streams and ponds issue, by the science that backs up in pretty significant ways how deep a riparian buffer should be to protect that resource from sedimentation, runoff, and to provide filtering—natural filters—and ensure water quality.”

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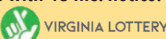






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recommends a 100-foot buffer from ponds and streams, and county ordinances have buffers of between 50-100 feet. This means “we’re going five times what four states signed on to as an adequate riparian buffer. That concerns me.”

Johnson-Morgan said she had reached out to members of the community and they were adamant about the buffers to protect their ponds and streams.

“I’d like to see the science. I’m hearing it, but I haven’t really seen it. If science is out there, it should be made available to us. Then we should know where to go find it, so I don’t have to sit there and search, search, search,” she said.

Commissioners deliberated for over an hour on various aspects of the ordinance proposal before agreeing to approve it – with some recommendations.

With the Planning Commission approval, the ordinance package will go on to the Board of Supervisors for another public hearing and vote, likely within the next two months.

Because the supervisors can make their

own changes to the ordinance, commissioners requested that they revisit and potentially modify the setbacks before a final vote.

Along with developers and energy experts, the commissioners also heard from many Fluvanna residents, many of whom praised them for their protection of Fluvanna County’s rural character.

“We have a beautiful county,” said Nadine Armstrong, “and I would like to continue to see it stay that way. I know we have to continue to make new advances to improve the county, but I think we have to do it cautiously, in order to make sure that we’re protecting what makes this county special.”

“There are 95 counties in Virginia,” said Kat Campbell. “So if the people in here who aren’t from here don’t like the guidelines that y’all set, there’s 94 others you can go to.”

## Haunting Halloween fun at Hildale Homestead

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD  
CORRESPONDENT



Leslie Berner. Submitted photos

Every year Leslie Berner hosts The Halloween Hangout each weekend throughout October and Halloween night. Berner says she has been doing this for three years and the community feedback has been what has kept the project going. But Berner wants to get the word out to more people who can enjoy the fun-filled ghoulish displays and games set up on her 200-year-old 26-acre farm.

Fall is a favorite time of year for many people, particularly after a long hot

summer. It has usually been Christmas that has gotten all the attention with decorations and lights and all-out fanfare but Halloween is fast becoming the next best thing, rivaling Christmas.

“Fall is my favorite time of year. I love all the fall colors, the pumpkins, the sweaters.

Halloween continues on page 9.

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Halloween from page 7.

I have tried very hard to incorporate all the wonderful things about fall into our decorations throughout our venue for the families to enjoy," said Berner.

Berner doesn't consider herself a planner or an architect of an idea but someone who dives in and begins creating to see what emerges.

"I decide where I want the various parts of our venue to go, and start digging. It took me a year to dig all the tree roots out by hand to form the paths, and then I just started decorating and making props. Everything you see in our venue was done by me, no hired help, no staff or crew to assist me." All the artwork visitors see throughout the property was done by Berner, including the signs on the streets.

She draws her inspiration from numerous sources, including the internet and other Halloween venues. She mentions some of her favorite displays, including the Kid Zone with a lighted spider playground she built, a Selfie Station with costumes for dress-up, Candy Dice, and other play activities and games for the whole family. The Halloween Hangout features a Haunted Forest that they rate a 5 on the scary factor scale of 1-10. The Enchanted Hay Ride is a 30-minute ride pulled by a tractor that runs through the woods and past ten lighted displays, each with a different theme centered around fall/Halloween. She added that the ride was not scary but fun for the whole family. They provide blankets and music along the way.

"We also change these displays each year, so this year they are all new. We have our Forest of Frames for fun picture taking, and our Sunflower Fort for a little extra fun. We have a Fortune Teller reading palms in a 200-plus-year-old historic corn crib, with mystical lights and props in it, this one is probably my favorite," she said. "We also have a huge, beautiful field for all to enjoy, with cornhole and other fun activities to do and play. Lastly, this year we are also adding a community bonfire area where you can buy bags of s'mores for just \$3 each." She prides herself on using as many natural elements of the existing property in the displays and activities for the kids, rather than using store-bought props and devices.

Even with her partner of eight years and four dogs, she does everything herself. While building the venue, Berner underwent two complete reconstructive foot surgeries.

"It has been challenging at times to keep going. Often, I am hopping around on one leg, trying to put up displays and this is no joke." Her dedication is obvious but the joy of seeing the community engaged and having fun is worth the work.

She said the inspiration comes from the children.

"The kids. I love kids but was only able to bear one of my own, and he is grown, married, and out on his own. I wanted to do something for the community as a whole, whereby kids could come with their parents and have fun without cell phones and other electronic devices," she said. "The first year we were open I watched these kids run and play for hours, not once stopping to check

their phones, and that was amazing. One little girl from the UVA hospital told me on her way out that "this was the best day of her whole life" That inspired me to keep doing it."

The first year it opened, they had a special day dedicated to the immuno-compromised children at the UVA Children's Hospital. They provided free tickets to those children who could come out on a special day when everyone was masked. They also gave free tickets to their families and caregivers, the nurses, and staff at the hospital. They did this for the first two years, working to give the children a day they could enjoy, including making goodie bags for them. Unfortunately, for all her effort no one knew about this community event.

We have also been working with the folks at Green Dogs Unleashed, whereby they bring their training dogs and trainers out for a day of fall fun/training at our facility. They have been here the past two years and are planning to come again this fall."

This year Danny's Bar and Grill from Lake Monticello will be at the Halloween Hangout every weekend to provide burgers, fries, and more for food, and S&M Photography will be onsite every Saturday for family fall picture taking. They will also have an offsite vendor coming to provide Halloween-themed cheesecakes for purchase.

Tickets are ten dollars but all the revenue goes back into the creation and maintenance of the venue each fall season. In addition to reducing the ticket prices to just \$10 this year, they have also given out \$5,000

worth of free tickets to the community, including the police department, the fire and rescue departments, the local grocery store employees, schools, and even people on the street who have shown random acts of kindness.

"My goal is to continue doing this for the community but we need the help of our community to keep it going. If we can't get some help from the community, this may be our last year in business." Donations of cash to purchase things such as batteries, etc. are always welcomed, she adds but we will also gladly accept any used Halloween/Fall props that would be donated elsewhere. Things they need include outdoor extension cords, batteries in all sizes, battery-powered candles, and Halloween/fall decorations.

Given her recent foot surgeries, she admits she is slightly behind on the decorating this year so she could use help on the weekend of Sept. 28 and 29 from noon to 5 p.m. for those who would like to come out and volunteer to help put displays together. If anyone can donate any of these items or assist in decorating, contact Leslie Berner at 434-249-1822.

"Don't forget that just coming out once we are open also helps, so many thanks to all who have come out previously and supported us in these efforts."

The Halloween Hangout will be open every weekend throughout October and Halloween night with the following hours: Fridays from 4-9, Saturdays from 2-9, and Sundays from 2-8 with hours for Halloween night from 5-9.

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**New Listing**



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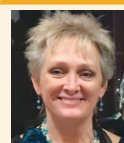
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## Controversial donation dominates school board meeting

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

Fluvanna County Public School Superintendent Peter Gretz's contract was renewed for a new four-year term at the School Board meeting on Wednesday (Sept. 11).

"We don't agree on everything, Dr. Gretz, but we all collectively agree on extending your contract," said James Kelley (Palmyra).

It was a moment of unanimity in a meeting overshadowed by controversy stemming from the donation of a basket of clothing and stickers from Fork Union-based Red Arrow TV to the Central Elementary Fall Festival fundraiser.

Red Arrow TV produces hunting shows featuring Kip Campbell, who also owns Red Arrow Weapons.

A group of parents objected to a school accepting a donation from a company affiliated with weapons, particularly in light of the most recent school shooting in Georgia.

Further complicating the issue, Fork Union School Board representative Danny Reed works for the company in question. According to his LinkedIn page, he has been marketing director and brand development director for Red Arrow since 2015.

In a Facebook video posted on Sept. 5, he described himself as an independent contractor to Red Arrow Weapons. "I actu-

ally work for a company named Shotfish Productions," he said. "Y'all get your facts straight."

Campbell founded Shotfish Productions in 2005. In online searches, the company shares an address in Fork Union with Red Arrow TV and Red Arrow Weapons.

In the same video, Reed said "keyboard warriors" online were using "wizardry and manipulation" to launch a personal attack on him through his employer.

"There are folks in this community, a very, very small percentage of folks in this county, who thrive on chaos and confusion," he said.

Chair Andrew Pullen posted his own video the same day supporting Reed. In it, he argued that Red Arrow TV has donated for years without complaints and that this was nothing more than a discontented group "playing politics" and exploiting the tragedy in Georgia.

This was the atmosphere going into the meeting on Wednesday.

There were a large number of Red Arrow supporters in the audience, along with a slightly smaller group of opponents. A deputy stood in the hallway outside the auditorium, although Capt. Aaron Hurd of the Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office confirmed there was no specific threat.

"We are not a gun company. Red Arrow TV is a company that promotes hunting, fishing, trapping, and conservation and getting people involved in the outdoors," said Kip Campbell during public comments. "That's what our TV show, our national TV show, that's what it's all about."

"I think that one side is trying to silence the other side," he continued. "So it's more of an authoritarian-type move. If you have these certain values and beliefs, we want to silence your voice."

For Georgianna Joslin, a vocal critic of the donation, the attempts to silence debate were coming not from parents, but from key members of the board.

"What we are trying to do here is to look after the kids, that's all. Whether you agree with us or not, whether you think our concerns are valid or not, we feel they are, and we feel they need to be heard and addressed by the people that we address them to," she said. "We do not deserve to have an elected official publicly call us out as an embarrassment and to be told that our behavior is abhorrent and disgusting because we have a belief that differs from his."

At one point in the meeting, Kelley quizzed Dr. Gretz on the district's policies on potentially controversial donations.

Gretz said their legal counsel had advised using existing policies as a framework to "evaluate the content in a way that maintains some level of control over what comes in, but still respects equal access and First Amendment issues related to an open event like [the Fall Festival]."

After a few minutes of discussion

between Kelley and Gretz, Pullen cut it short and said it was time to move on to the rest of the agenda.

Members heard updates on Abrams Academy's renovation plans, next year's budget schedule, the capital improvement plan, and damage caused by vultures roosting on Central Elementary's roof.

Gretz noted that a group of vultures at rest is referred to as a "committee" of vultures.

The final 20 minutes of the meeting again focused on Red Arrow.

As members had their opportunity to make comments at the meeting's end, Kelley said that "I think we need to treat one another with empathy and respect. Start from a place of best intent and ensure that nobody's safety is threatened."

"I do also think that my line of inquiry was rushed during this board meeting," he added. "You all may not agree with my line of questioning as it relates to policies, but I would not interrupt or try to push along a conversation just because I felt uncomfortable or didn't like what I was hearing."

Pullen interrupted, saying "you served as chair, you understand Robert's Rules of Order. We can set a timeline for debate in the future if you'd like. You can have three minutes, and the other side can have three minutes, and we can wrap it all up after that, or we can let it go until it seems like it's not going anywhere, and it's becoming disruptive."

In his comments, Reed noted that he had only received two emails on the controversy in recent weeks. "We can't just jump right into social media and the court of public opinion without even asking a question to a School Board member first."

Pullen essentially agreed with the premise that there were two sides to the debate – and left no question on which side he supported.

He described his relationship with the Campbells and others as close to him as family, "a family that has been in our community for generations."

"We're going to defend them whether I'm on School Board or not," he said. "I'm going to say something if you attack them."

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Questions? Call (434) 207-0221. **Fee for the new year 2023 is \$10 for 40 word limit and .25 cents per word over limit.** Payment may be mailed: P.O.Box 59, Palmyra, Va 22963 or Visa, Mastercard, Discover accepted. Deadline for print ads is MONDAY BY NOON.

**EVENTS**

**HUGE YARD AND BAKE SALE EXTRAVAGANZA:** Come to the Lake Monticello Firehouse building on Slice Road, Palmyra, VA 22963, Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Home décor, toys, crafts and Holiday items, Jewelry, Tools and much more. BAKE goods offered. Lots of bargains! Sponsored by Palmyra United Methodist Church. Proceeds for local Charity's.

**FLU CO AMERICAN LEGION POST 2003:** is having their annual Golf Tournament on MONDAY, September 30, 2024 at the Lake Monticello Golf Course. Signup forms available at the golf Club House or at www.alpost2003.org, under Special Events. Proceeds used to support Veterans and Youth Programs.

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**VIRGINIA DEPT. OF VETERANS SERVICES:** Need Help? Attention Veterans and Dependents! Visit us at the Fluvanna Community Center, 5725 James Madison Highway > by appointment only. Call Jeannette Flint at (434) 529-6431 to schedule your appointment. www.dvs.virginia.gov

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**2024 FSPCA SPONSORS NEEDED:** Our local animal shelter sends us photos of pets every week that are waiting for adoption. The PET photo speaks volumes ! Your sponsorship can help to find forever homes for a furry four-legged friend. Place your business name, phone number or special message/memorial under the photo. Let animal lovers know you care . Call Edee @ (434) 207-0221 or email: edee@fluvannareview.com with questions/requests. Thank you.

**ESTATE/YARD SALES**

**ESTATE SALE:** Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 1400 Rivanna Woods Drive, Fork Union, VA from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Furniture, Hand Tools, housewares, handmade quilts, sporting goods, fishing rods/reels, extension ladder, CocaCola Memorabilia/drink machines, Schwinn & Ross bicycles, lighting. Antiques, and much more.

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# Fluvanna County Arts Council Presents

## Chicken Head Blues Band



October 12 at 7:00 pm

Experience Charlottesville's premier New Orleans boogie-woogie, upbeat rhythm and blues band, **Chickenhead Blues Band**. These talented musicians deliver classic blues with a funky twist, creating a musical experience you won't want to miss.

## Raised/Razed



November 23 at 3:00 pm

Join us for a screening of the documentary *Raised/Razed*. The award-winning film tells the story of the Vinegar Hill community through interviews, historical records, maps, and photographs. For 100 years, Vinegar Hill thrived as the center of business, education, religious, and cultural life until—like hundreds of Black communities across America—it was destroyed. A discussion with the filmmakers will follow the screening.

8880 James Madison Hwy  
Fork Union, VA



\$10 tickets are available online at [www.carysbrook.org](http://www.carysbrook.org).  
\$15 cash sales at the door.

# THIS IS WHAT A SOLAR PROJECT LOOKS LIKE

Solar projects can and should be hidden from view to respect neighbors and passersby. This photo shows the direct view of a solar farm that is setback 200ft from a property line and roadway with a preserved vegetative buffer.

**CLEAN ENERGY THE RIGHT WAY**

[EnergyRightUS.org/fluvanna](http://EnergyRightUS.org/fluvanna)





# LAKE VIEWS

NEWS FROM YOUR LAKE MONTICELLO NEIGHBORS

advertorial  
Content: LMOA



## Bunker Bistro Expands Service With Takeout

The feedback about the quality of Bunker Bistro's food and service has been nothing but positive. Jacie Dunkel and Sam Rochester, the owners of RocDun Hospitality LLC (Bunker Bistro), are doing a great job serving the community and want to expand with a To-Go Service. Here's what to expect:

- Order Monday - Saturday from 2-6 PM, Sundays 12-5 PM
- Pick up hot between 4 - 7 PM or ready to reheat anytime from 2 - 7 PM
- **Orders can be picked up at the Ashlawn Clubhouse at 41 Ashlawn Blvd.**

Entrees cost \$25 per two servings and include baked mac & cheese, vegetable or meat lasagna, cottage pie, chicken pot pie, chicken cordon bleu, fried chicken, and salmon filet. Sides are \$3-\$5 and include mashed potatoes, au gratin potatoes, baked potato, polenta, buttered linguine, rice pilaf, garlic bread, rolls, broccoli, green beans, honey-glazed carrots, and salads.

**To order, visit [bunkerbistro.com](http://bunkerbistro.com) and click the "Order Online" button. Pickup is at 41 Ashlawn Blvd.**

## Board Surveys Homeowners About Fireworks Show

At the Regular Board Meeting on August 22, 2024, LMOA's Director of Public Safety, Chief Wells, reported having observed serious hazards during the fireworks shows of July 2, 2023, and July 6, 2024. The LMOA Board of Directors is considering Chief Wells' plea to eliminate the fireworks show or significantly increase security during the event. The Board is not considering canceling the other Independence Day festivities. Before making a decision about fireworks, the Directors would like to hear from LMOA Homeowners, so they have sent out an online survey that takes five minutes to fill out. The survey was sent by email on September 13, 2024, and will close on September 23. The survey can only be taken once on the same device. If multiple household members want to fill in the survey, they must use different devices. There is also an iPad at the Ashlawn Clubhouse Help Desk that can be used to fill out the survey. Homeowners should check their email or visit the Help Desk for the link.

## Lake Beautification Corps Needs Helping Hands

The Lake Monticello Beautification Corps (LMBC) is welcoming volunteers to help in their continued effort to keep up and improve the landscaping of LMOA's public areas.

They plant everything from flowers to trees and maintain the areas for everyone's enjoyment. They have regular landscaping work parties on most Mondays, starting at 9 AM. No special skills or tools are required. You can just show up ready to lend a helping hand. Please contact Alan Aldag at [alana@outlook.com](mailto:alana@outlook.com) for more information. The next two scheduled projects are:  
Sept. 23: Main Gate (857 Jefferson Drive)  
Sept. 30: Ashlawn and Main Beach (41 Ashlawn Blvd.)

## LMBC Welcomes Holiday Home Tour Participants

The Lake Monticello Beautification Corps (LMBC) will also continue one of the Lake's most beloved traditions, the Holiday Home Tour and Art Raffle! This year, it will take place on December 14. They are looking for one or two more homeowners to open their decorated homes to the public in support of this celebration. If you are proud of your holiday decorating skills and want to share them with the community, please contact Alan Aldag at [alana@outlook.com](mailto:alana@outlook.com). You can also email him if you have general questions about LMBC.

## Birds of Prey Return to the Ashlawn Clubhouse

EarthQuest is coming back to the Lake on September 29! Get up close and personal with hawks, falcons,

vultures, and owls while learning about these fascinating and beautiful birds! The event is sponsored by the Wildlife Committee and starts at 2 PM on the Ashlawn Clubhouse lawn (41 Ashlawn Blvd.). Bring your own chair unless it rains; in that case, the event will move indoors.

## Water Workgroup Hopes to Wipe Out Wipes & Grease

At the last Water Workgroup meeting on September 11, 2024, Aqua Virginia's staff informed LMOA attendees that the next bill would contain information about properly disposing of grease and wipes. Their staff said that grease and wipes (even "flushable" ones) are the number one reason for sewage backups and pump and grinder failures at Lake Monticello. "Both should never end up in the system," Jay Divers shared. "Instead, they need to be thrown away in the trash." Earlier this year, Aqua Virginia developed a webpage specifically for Lake Monticello: [aquawater.com/lake-monticello.php](http://aquawater.com/lake-monticello.php). It contains lots of useful information about water quality, contacting their customer service, outages, and how to keep unwanted contaminants out of our Lake. LMOA urges all residents to read through the site and keep the address handy. It can also be accessed on the public side of [lmoa.org](http://lmoa.org) under About Us, Utility Partners. Utility Partners.

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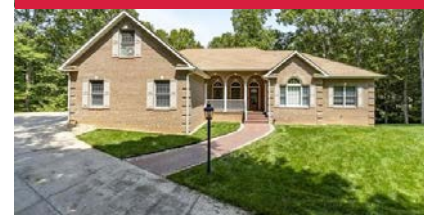


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