

# Fluvanna

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OUR DATA SPEAKS VOLUMES

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#### GENERAL

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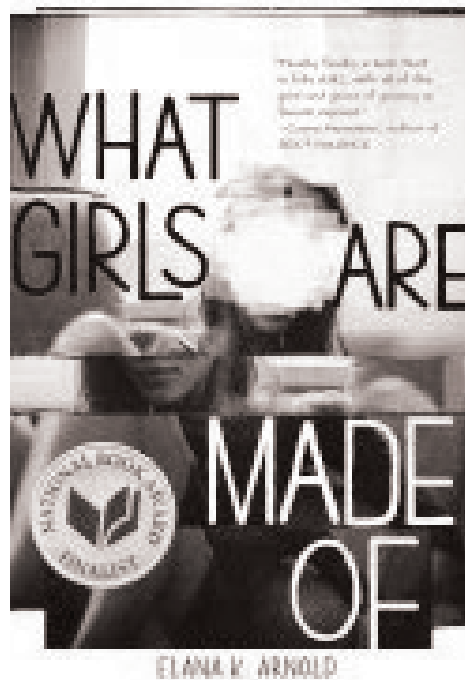


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## School book review members wrestle with content of two novels

Both referred to full committee for evaluation

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT



By chance, two of the toughest books on the Learning Resources Review Committee (LRRC) reading list fell into the final batch up for review.

Since this spring, the 10-member committee has steadily worked through a baker's dozen of young adult books

challenged last October for allegedly inappropriate content.

All 13 books reviewed to date have been approved to stay on the shelves.

The committee's meeting on Thursday night (Sept. 26) at the Fluvanna County High School Library might have been its last, with just three titles left: *What Girls Are Made Of* by Elana K. Arnold, *Dime* by E.R. Frank, and *Shine* by Lauren Myracle.

*Shine* was an easy call. All three members of the subcommittee assigned the title approved it without hesitation.

The other two gave them pause. *What Girls Are Made Of* is a coming-of-age novel following a teen girl through her first sexual relationship and its physical and emotional fallout.

"I'm on the fence about this one," said one reader.

The sex scenes in the first part of the book were not erotic, but were "very detailed," said another. While none of the readers felt that was not enough reason to remove it under the committee's guidelines, at least one felt it was best read with a trusted adult to discuss some of its themes.

Part of the issue was that the novel was recommended to Grades 8-12. Li-

brarian Shannon Taylor said she would have been "concerned" about making it available to younger readers.

With the subcommittee unsure which way to go, it was decided that the entire group should read it and vote as a full committee.

*Dime* also ended up being referred to the full committee.

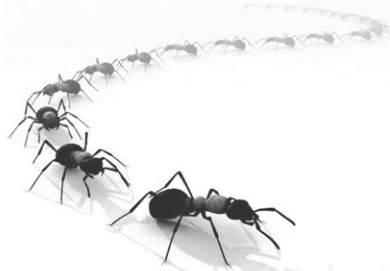
A gritty, heartbreaking novel about teenage girls caught up in a sex trafficking ring, Director of Elementary Instruction Gemma Soares said the book wasn't pornographic or even all that explicit, but the subject matter was exceptionally grim.

"I'd be comfortable if this was in one of our counselors' shelves as a resource for students," she said.

Neither book has circulated widely; *Dime* hasn't been checked out since it was acquired in 2019, and *What Girls Are Made Of* was last checked out in 2018.

To give all members time to read the books, the committee decided to hold a meeting on Nov. 14 at 5 p.m.. This pause will also give them an opportunity to refine a set of recommendations they plan to give to the School Board to guide any future book challenges.

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## We are looking for Basketball Coaches, Referees and Scorekeepers for the 2025 Youth Basketball League!

### FCPR Youth Basketball Coaches

Fluvanna County Parks and Recreation is searching for volunteer coaches for the 2025 Youth Basketball League Season! Teams will practice for one hour each week, and games will take place on Saturdays. The first games of the season will tip-off on 1/4/25 and the season will run until 3/8/25. Prior coaching experience is preferred but not required!

### FCPR Youth Basketball Referees

Fluvanna County Parks and Recreation is searching for game officials for the 2025 Youth Basketball League Season! Referees earn \$32 a game, and games are played on Saturdays from 9 AM – 5 PM based on the amount of team we have. The first games of the season will tip-off on 1/4/25 and the season will run until 3/8/25. Prior experience is preferred but not required!

### FCPR Youth Basketball Scorekeepers

Fluvanna County Parks and Recreation is searching for game staff for the 2025 Youth Basketball League Season! Scorekeepers and clock managers make \$20 a game, and games are played on Saturdays from 9 AM – 5 PM based on the amount of team we have. The first games of the season will tip-off on 1/4/25 and the season will run until 3/8/25. Prior experience is preferred but not required!

**Questions?** Contact Brendan Krett at (434) 589-2016 or [bkrett@fluvannacounty.org](mailto:bkrett@fluvannacounty.org)



In last week's story titled *Happy Face Party Celebrating 50 years* an incorrect email was listed for those wishing to volunteer for the event. The correct email is marykidd01@gmail.com.

## Letters to the Editor

### Democrats don't care about safety

Democrats have shown that they care little about the safety of Americans by their calls for defunding the police, releasing criminals back out into the public, their open border policies, and their desire to take away law abiding citizens' guns.

The Biden/Harris administration did not destroy the Chinese spy balloon that flew over many of our military installations until it crossed over our entire country. The current administration has also allowed the Chinese to purchase land adjacent to our military installations.

What has been the results of the open border policies of (Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro) Mayorkas and border czar (Vice President Kamala) Harris? There have been over 10 million people who have crossed our border illegally. The death toll from illegal drugs coming across our border have resulted in the deaths of 100,000 Americans annually.

The government has no idea where the

300,000 unaccompanied minors have gone. Are they safe, are they being mistreated, or have they ended up in the child sex trade?

There have been multiple stories of rape, murder, and other criminal activity caused by the recent migrants. Military age Chinese, Russians, and middle eastern males have crossed our border by the thousands. If only a small percentage of these men seek to cause us harm, they can cause destruction for many years to come.

Brutal Venezuelan gangs have invaded major cities such as New York City, Chicago, and Denver. They have also gone into our West Texas oil fields stealing oil and equipment.

If you believe in public safety, it is time to replace Democrat open border politicians with Republicans that will make our borders secure once again.

-Jim Darlington, Palmyra

### Bleak prospects under Trump

Against almost any other opponent, I would likely be tempted to not vote for the current vice-president. Like President Biden, she apparently cannot bring herself to even contemplate or threaten the withdrawal of lethal military aid to Israel. The carnage of thousands of innocent civilians and the utter destruction of entire neighborhoods, schools, hospitals, shelters, supplies of food, water, fuel, and medicine needs to cease. American complicity in this catastrophe is not at all conducive to world peace.

However, the bleak prospects of another disastrous Trump term and an impressive Democratic campaign may indeed help elect our first woman president and bring on a new era of hope. Unlike her opponent, Kamala Harris seems to have an actual plan that may help citizens and children of this country. Substan-

tial financial aid for small business, new homeowners, and parents can, along with other proposals, be a huge boost to the economy and society. Such plans will, of course, require a supportive Congress. To see real change, voters in this area should seriously consider re-electing Tim Kaine to the Senate and electing Gloria Witt to the House.

The energy and bold plans of the Harris-Walz ticket have the potential to seriously improve the health and lives of Virginians and all the American people. We can only hope and pray that their policies and actions can expand beyond our borders and have some positive effect on the people and communities of Gaza and Lebanon, or what will be left of them once they take office.

-Bill Davis, Palmyra

### Agree – character does matter

I read with interest the letter from Command Sergeant Major (U.S. retired) Catherine Garcia and Command Sergeant Major (U.S. retired) Rudy Garcia which summarized well the nuances of the Army's promotion and retirement system, especially as it pertains to Command Sergeant Major (U.S. retired) Tim Walz. I would like to make a few of my own observations as a retired Army colonel with over 26 years of active duty service. First, having good character is one of the traits expected of all service members. Soldiers are evaluated on their duty performance, their leadership traits and potential for success at higher ranks - their demonstrated character being an important area. Normally, those who attained the higher ranks consistently received the highest marks in this area. It should be pointed out that the ranking is a subjective one. Can someone who was consistently ranked a person of good character make decisions later that contradict their earlier behavior? Certainly. The news is replete with stories of senior enlisted and officers who acted contrary to what many would consider consistent with a person of good character. In forming my opinion, I put more weight on the opinions of those who served with a person than those

who did not. Command Sergeant Major (US retired) Walz's biggest critics are some soldiers who served with him. They opined that when the nation called, he quit. He failed to complete the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. He failed to serve for two years following completion of the academy, which he dropped out of. He failed to serve two years after the conditional promotion to Command Sergeant Major. He failed to fulfill the full six years of the enlistment he signed on Sept. 18 2001. He failed his country. He failed his state. He failed the Minnesota Army National Guard, the 1-125th Field Artillery Battalion, and his fellow soldiers. And he failed to lead by example. Shameful. Their coming forward, as what some have called whistleblowers, was at personal risk. Whether Walz's decisions were within his rights to make, I would argue that a majority of those currently serving, or who have served, believe he abandoned his troops at a time when they needed their senior leadership most. As the Battalion CSM, he could/should have deferred his personal political aspirations to lead/care for his soldiers. Put others before self. To me, that defines good character.

-Retired US Army Col. Paul Bethke, Palmyra

### Need a pathway to citizenship

One of the major issues that "we the people" are grappling with is immigration. It is a complex and difficult issue. I want to tell an immigration story that I think needs telling. It's about a person who has been living in the United States for almost two decades. From his first day in the US, this person has worked long hours in the restaurant industry. He has a family here that he supports, as well as loved ones back in his beloved country. He will tell you that he loves America. He enthusiastically has seized opportunities to earn a living, to pay taxes, and to contribute to the fabric of this country. He is a model citizen who has yet to gain that status legally. His kindness, his positive attitude, his ability to keep moving forward despite the obvious roadblocks speaks volumes about his character. He is a person who has faith in a system that all too often changes the rules for immigrants. I respect his work ethic, honor his values, and hope that we all can see that his story is one that needs a legal solution. Donald Trump torpedoed the tough border

compromise bill that bipartisan members of Congress were preparing to pass in 2024 because Trump wanted immigration to be his banner campaign issue. He makes outlandish statements that most illegal immigrants are rapists and criminals. His platform includes a mass deportation of millions of illegal immigrants, using the military. Many of these folks are our construction, restaurant, agricultural workers, and home health aides. Kamala Harris said that unauthorized border crossings are illegal and need to be prevented. She also states, "We can create an earned pathway to citizenship and secure our border." She would bring back the bipartisan border security bill and make certain it is passed. Presidential candidate Harris can provide the leadership to finally address this complex issue with Congress. It is time to have bipartisan re-working of our immigration law that provides a pathway to citizenship for hard-working folks who are legally not American citizens.

-Ed Spellman, Palmyra

### Aqua customers to receive small refunds as SCC decides rate case

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

Aqua Virginia customers will soon see a partial refund and slightly lower water bills.

The Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) ruled on the company's latest rate increase request on Sept. 12, over four months after the case was heard in Richmond.

Aqua initially requested a \$6.9 million rate increase—a 21.08 percent increase in water and a 30.88 percent increase in wastewater. For the average household using 3,000 gallons of water per month, bills were expected to climb an average of \$32 per month.

Over 2,200 customers submitted comments to the SCC. The Lake Monticello Owners' Association produced a 27-page report highlighting Aqua's many issues and failures, including repeated releases of raw sewage into the lake. With the approval of the Board of Supervisors, Fluvanna's County Attorney, Daniel Whitten, also got involved in the case.

Around the time of the hearing, Aqua reduced its request from \$6.9 million to \$5.49 million, a 20 percent decrease. The SCC approved this lower amount in its Sept. 12 ruling.

Aqua was permitted to charge customers interim rates based on the original \$6.9 million request starting in February.

Now, Aqua has 90 days to refund customers the difference between that higher rate and the new, lower rate. Most customers will see this as a credit on their monthly statements.

Among other directives, when they file for their subsequent rate increases, Aqua will also be required to report on sewage spills at Lake Monticello, including dates, spillage causes, corrective actions, the costs of remediation, and "a final DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) statement of satisfaction and compliance."

### Scottsville fire results in fatality

PRESS RELEASE

On Friday, (Sept. 27) at approximately 4:38 am, career and volunteer units from Albemarle County Fire Rescue were dispatched to a reported structure fire in the 4000 block of Jacobs Creek Drive in Scottsville.

The first fire suppression apparatus arrived on scene 20 minutes after dispatch to discover a heavily involved single-wide trailer with fire spreading to a nearby vehicle. At the time of the fire, one resident was home and suffered fatal injuries. The victim was pronounced deceased at the scene. The identification of the victim is being withheld pending

notification of next of kin.

The Albemarle County Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the cause of the fire. The fire does not appear suspicious.

Albemarle County Fire Rescue would like to remind the community to have an evacuation plan for your home in place. When you hear your smoke alarm, get out and stay out. Visit [www.Albemarle.org/SafeAtHome](http://www.Albemarle.org/SafeAtHome) for resources.



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## Chicken Head Blues Band coming to Carysbrook

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD  
CORRESPONDENT



Chicken Head Blues Band. Submitted photo

If New Orleans boogie-woogie, upbeat rhythm and blues with a smooth and mellow sound is your music style, then the Chicken Head Blues Band is the band for you. They will perform on Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. at Carysbrook Performing Arts Center.

The band formed in 1999 when Dirty Nelly's Pub in Charlottesville needed a group to perform every Thursday evening. They are a small venue band that performs in various locations in central Virginia. Five band members play everything from soul and funk to blues and fusion and some reggae.

"Good music from everywhere," said band member Aric van Brocklin. These close-knit band members have learned what it takes for a band to survive 25 years and stay connected during performances. Their cohesiveness comes from the energy and passion they share through music and performing. Van Brocklin adds what keeps them going is, "All the God-given senses and a good sense of humor. Also, a love for music and one another."

For information and tickets, visit Carysbrook.org.

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# PVCC launches fiber optics installer program

## PRESS RELEASE

Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) will offer Fiber Optics Installer Program, designed to address the increasing demand for skilled professionals in the rapidly expanding fiber optics industry. The first cohort of the program launches Oct. 15, with classes delivered at the main campus.

The program emphasizes essential applications and industry best practices and is intentionally designed to equip individuals with the expertise needed to succeed in the high-demand field of telecommunications technology.

PVCC President Jean Runyon said, "The Fiber Optics Installer Program will be delivered in our new Woodrow W. Bolick Advanced Technology and Student Success Center (The Bolick Center) that opened in August. The Bolick Center demonstrates PVCC's ongoing commitment to creating a talent pipeline to address local employers' workforce needs."

The new program offers two options for fall 2024. The program will run Oct. 15 to Dec. 17, meeting weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. A weekend option is also available, beginning Saturday, Oct. 26, and running through Dec. 21. The weekend program will meet each Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All classes are in person. The program qualifies for tuition assistance funding, meaning eligible Virginia residents could complete the program at no cost.

As high-speed internet becomes essential for businesses and households alike, the demand for qualified fiber optics in-

stallers has never been greater. "PVCC's fiber optics program offers students specialized, hands-on training in a fast-growing industry in our service region," stated PVCC Vice President of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development Leonda Keniston. "With a focus on practical skills and industry certification, the program opens doors to high-paying, in-demand careers, preparing students for immediate entry into the workforce and long-term success in an increasingly technology-focused job market," Keniston said.

PVCC is one of seven colleges in the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) to benefit from \$5 million awarded through the U.S. Department of Labor's Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. The funds are for expanding the training capacity at the colleges and preparing skilled workers. Amazon Web Services is collaborating with PVCC – as well as other VCCS institutions – in offering expertise on data center operations.

The need for skilled fiber optics installers is driven, in large part, by the proliferation of data centers around Virginia. "This program underscores our commitment to aligning with industry needs," said VCCS Chancellor David Doré. "We want to maintain a steady flow of talent that's capable and ready to keep this rapidly expanding industry moving forward."

To learn more about the program and tuition assistance funding opportunities, visit [pvcc.edu/programs/fiber-optics-installer](http://pvcc.edu/programs/fiber-optics-installer).

# The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

## ACROSS

- 1 Leaves for lunch?
- 6 Exam format
- 10 Mixed in with
- 14 Pointless
- 15 Go to the polls
- 16 Tomato type
- 17 Hopeless undertakings
- 19 Lake vessel
- 20 Furtively
- 21 Cleaning aid
- 23 Make smooth
- 24 College offerings
- 25 Raspy-voiced
- 28 Baby's headwear
- 29 Not yet known, for short
- 30 Hollywood's Hawke
- 32 Small pies
- 35 Quick note
- 37 Lingerie fabric
- 39 Tackle box item
- 40 Full of baloney
- 42 Bishop's assistant
- 44 Stage signal
- 45 Nike rival
- 47 Reached the top of one's game
- 49 Acting fitfully
- 51 Enthralled
- 52 Manet or Monet, e.g.
- 53 Pursue, as a lead
- 57 Cancel
- 58 Light up
- 60 Slender reed
- 61 Well-groomed
- 62 Jeweler's weight
- 63 Tear up
- 64 Marvin of Motown
- 65 Primary

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	

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- 2 Erelong, to a bard
- 3 Fifth out of five, say
- 4 Place for pollen
- 5 Pass away
- 6 Seed structure
- 7 Promising
- 8 Supped
- 9 Teacher's unit
- 10 Like the koala or sloth
- 11 1987 movie starring Cher
- 12 Bitmap, for one
- 13 Goes out with
- 18 Stocks and such
- 22 Fourth down option
- 24 Like a witch's hat
- 25 Webmaster's code
- 26 Outdated wedding vow word
- 27 Great respect
- 28 Hand-dyed fabric
- 31 Mayhem
- 33 Test choice
- 34 Future flower
- 36 Biased
- 38 Flamethrower fuel
- 41 Catches on
- 43 Carbon copy
- 46 Like a winter wind
- 48 Keyless, as music
- 49 Enjoy deeply
- 50 Dig deeper
- 51 Way to go
- 53 Whip
- 54 "Star Trek" speed
- 55 Bryce Canyon locale
- 56 Anti-fur org.
- 59 Grazing spot

## Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

## DOWN

- 1 Missile holder

# SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

## 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:

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

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## Community Calendar

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



FLUVANNA  
County Calendar  
11-40722  
QR Code provided by the  
Fluvanna Leadership  
Development Program

### Spirituality of aging

Grace & Glory Lutheran Church in Palmyra, is hosting a six-part series on the spirituality of aging and you are invited to participate. What you can expect: video presentations, discussions, and contemplative practices, share, question, reflect - and be surprised! All materials provided. Meetings start Wednesdays, **Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30,** and **Nov. 6** at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with light lunch served. RSVP or contact the church at [admin@graceandglory.org](mailto:admin@graceandglory.org), (434) 589-2217.

### 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.



# KNOW BEFORE YOU VOTE – PROJECT 2025

**Project 2025 threatens America with book bans, abortion restrictions, and government control over birth control and IVF. It undermines equal rights, free elections, and the separation of church and state, aiming to grab power and take away freedoms. Understanding this is crucial to mobilizing voters in November.**

## Project 2025 has FOUR MAJOR PILLARS:

- A “Playbook” to eliminate key federal agencies such as: The Department of Education, Homeland Security, and The Environmental Protection Agency and to end the independence of The Department of Justice.
- Project 2025 includes a private database of 20,000+ far right loyalists (who are required to sign a loyalty pledge to Donald Trump) ready to fill federal appointments.
- A “Presidential Administration Academy” to train future appointees on advancing Project 2025.
- A 900+ page “Mandate for Leadership” overhauling government operations under the Trump administration.

## Project 2025’s Goals:

- Eliminate reproductive rights and women’s health choices (contraception and IVF).
- Using the law to persecute LGBTQ + Americans and encourage racial discrimination.
- Mass deportations and reducing immigration with massive economic implications.
- Give unchecked power to the President with the help of the Supreme Court.
- Promote Christian Nationalism through their religious beliefs.

## Why is this IMPORTANT:

This plan eliminates the checks and balances enshrined in our Constitution. It pushes a far-right agenda without oversight, embedding extremist policies for generations. Project 2025 was created by the Heritage Foundation, an extremist right wing think tank, along with 100 co-sponsors who share Trump’s extreme conservative and white nationalist vision for America. Many former Trump advisors and officials were involved in creating the plan, drawing upon others who shaped conservative policies in the past.

## Don’t Fall for Their Tricks:

Trump is distancing himself from Project 2025 by referring to his plan as Agenda 47. Both plans lay out the same policies and ideas. No matter what the name, they are the SAME PLAN. <https://youtu.be/xbGUGba0PPY?si=hokJI716SissrLsu>

## Project 2025 Policies ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED NOW:

Recent Supreme Court decisions by Trump appointed justices are already advancing Project 2025. The conservative court majority set the stage for this authoritarian shift, allowing Project 2025 extremists to achieve their goals.

Trump vs United States – A 6-3 decision along party lines, the Supreme Court ruled Presidents, including Trump, are granted criminal immunity for official acts during their term. This significantly expands presidential powers, posing a threat to democracy.

## News Headlines – Project 2025 objectives already implemented:

USA Today: Virginia’s Glenn Youngkin vetoes a bill protecting access to contraception.

Scientific America: Study reports 64,000 pregnancies caused by rape have occurred in states with total abortion bans.

Forbes: Louisiana is the first state requiring the Ten Commandments be posted in Public Schools.

## What Can You Do?

America faces two different futures depending on who becomes President in January 2025 – an extremist authoritarian vision of America or a democratic vision of America. Project 2025 is an extremist authoritarian idea of America. Project 2025 is a real threat, and it should motivate us. When voters realize our freedoms are at stake, they can act. You can help! Talk with everyone about voting in 2024 for candidates who share a vision of America as a democracy and voting as a right.

Educate your networks about Project 2025. Talk to everyone about the importance of voting in 2024 for candidates who support our American Democracy. Fact-check the information on the Project 2025 website. If we lose our Democracy, we may never get it back!

*Families for Democracy*



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## Golf Course Area



### 3 Par Court – \$287,000

The perfect place to start! Why rent when you can own? Located in the Golf Course Area of Lake Monticello w/Fairway Golf Views! This well maintained One Level offers Vaulted Ceilings, Brick Gas log fireplace with mantel, Skylights. The kitchen has a breakfast bar, refrigerator, dishwasher, electric range, microwave and separate eating area as well. Laundry with washer & dryer that convey. Level, large lot with a storage shed, an additional workshop with electric, composite decking, gas grill convey. Fenced in back yard for your furry friends. Circular paved driveway, country front porch. Located within a short distance to the Bunker Bistro and Golf Clubhouse. Roof 6-7 Years Old.

## Close to Beach



### 896 Jefferson Drive – \$314,000

MULTI-GENERATIONAL HOME! Seasonal water views, 2 blocks to Main Beach, Pool and lake amenities. This highly sought after home features a newly renovated upper level. This 4 BD, 2 BA Rancher has 2 separate kitchens, 2 separate fireplaces, separate entrances for a family member to have a private space of their own. MAIN LEVEL TOTALLY REMODELED: New refrigerator, glass top electric stove/oven, & dishwasher. New tile entry, New flooring, hand crafted kitchen cabinets, New lights through-out. New bathroom vanity, New door hinges, doorknobs & locks, new windows throughout, wood burning fireplace. All ceilings, walls, trim, doors are freshly painted. TERRACE LEVEL: Private entry, new wood stove insert for secondary heat source. There is a large bedroom, family room, full kitchen & bathroom. Whole house exterior freshly stained, rear deck with new deck board flooring has also been stained, New front porch railings.

## The Acres



### 1 Goodman Lane – \$634,900

STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL: On a private, Acre Lot. There are so many upgrades in this home; 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 baths w/2 Primary Suites. Grand foyer, Cathedral Ceiling, Gorgeous Brazilian Cherry and Oak Flooring, Wainscoting, Crown Molding, Chair Rail, Transom Windows to French Doors in Study, Recessed Lighting, Tile Backsplash, Framed Serving Window from Kitchen to Living Room, GE Triton XL Dishwasher, LG SS. Refrigerator, w/French Doors & 2 Bottom Pull out Drawers w/Multi Air Flow w/Ice Maker. GE SS. Microwave and Convection Oven. Kraft Made Cherry Cabinets and Drawers, Pella Storm Door w/Side light and Transom, Wooden Pella Windows w/Mullion, Horizontal and Vertical on Windows, All Bedrooms have Remote Control Fans w/Lights. Mendota Fireplace, Dual Zone Heat Pumps, 2 year old Washer & Dryer, Graber Motorized Blinds, Black out Shades in all Bedrooms, Half Bath-Connections for Stackable Washer & Dryer, Basement Framed out w/electric installed, insulated Exterior Walls, Ready for Expansion.

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and Callie  
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Associate Broker  
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## Fluvanna Arts Studio tour adds artists and Touring Day

CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE FEAZEL

The third annual ARTS of Fluvanna Studio Tour will feature five new artists this year and an extra day of touring throughout the county to see them, organizers said. The free, self-guided tour will be Saturday, Oct. 19, and Sunday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The tour is an opportunity to see 26 artists in their studios, getting a behind the scenes look at their creative processes just as the fall foliage emerges. "Visitors will meet artists working with wood, hot lamp glass, metals, stained glass, oil, mosaic, printmaking, mixed media, plus pottery, jewelry and fibers, with an opportunity to buy directly from artists," said ARTS of Fluvanna Board Chair Diane Wilkin.

The artists will be in 15 locations throughout Fluvanna, including a new location at Hardware Hills Winery. A printable brochure describing the artists and providing a map to their studios, along with other information, is available at [www.Artsfluvannacounty.com](http://www.Artsfluvannacounty.com), or in local shops.

The ARTS of Fluvanna Studio Tour added a second day this year because visitors had trouble visiting all the artists they wanted to see in just one day, Wilkin said. She said the artists also like that it will give them more time to interact with visitors.

Nearly 300 people participated in the free passport program last year, which gives them a chance at a \$50 credit toward art purchases if they visit multiple locations. Organizers said an unknown number more visited artists without turning in a passport.

To advertise call: (434) 207-0223

Five of the tour sites that are inside Lake Monticello are easily accessible by outsiders, who can enter through the Main or Turkeysag gates by just telling the guards they're taking the tour. Two other sites are near the Lake, and the rest scattered throughout the rest of Fluvanna County.

The free ARTS of Fluvanna Studio Tour is sponsored by Lori Click of Re/Max, Staiger Studio, T&N Printing, Find Fluvanna, Virginia Tourism Corp., the Lake Monticello Community Foundation, Women in Business, Jen Sample of Long & Foster and Sweet Art Emporium, plus local restaurants Gia Italian, Blue 53, Wahoo BBQ and El Vaquero West.

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Free/self-guided

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**BBQ LUNCH**  
**OCT. 6, 2024**  
**12:30 til 3 P.M.**  
**TICKETS: \$15.00 per Adult**  
**\$10.00 Children 7-12**  
**FREE KIDS 6 & Under**  
**Menu: Pork BBQ, Baked Beans, Cold Slaw, Cornbread, Drinks and Desserts**  
**St's. Peter and Paul Church**  
 4309 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy.  
 Palmyra, Va.  
 Contact: Cynthia  
 434-996-6065  
 Sponsored by CHIU

**Fluco field hockey team falls to Orange County 6-0**

BY DUNCAN NIXON  
 CORRESPONDENT

Field hockey is a sport that is somewhat new at Fluvanna County High. It is like lacrosse, in number of players on the field and a purpose to fire more goals into a net than the opposition does, but with a lot less scoring. Controlling a fast-moving ball with a stick that is only flat on one side and keeping the ball on the ground is a difficult skill set. The Flucos this season under Head Coach Jennifer Payne have posted three wins already, topping non-Jefferson District opponents Northumberland High, Highland Springs High and the Steward

School. They have not had too much success in Jefferson District play.

On Sept. 26 they hosted Orange County. The Flucos and the Hornets seemed to be evenly matched in the first half. Orange scored an early goal, after only five minutes of play. The Hornets did control the ball for longer periods of time in the first half, but the Flucos with seniors Emmalynn Whyte and Ava Schwartz leading their attack were playing well. Junior goalie Savannah Peterson was tested on several occasions but was able to turn the Hornets away. The first half ended with the score Orange 1 and Fluvanna 0.

The third quarter was a disaster for the

Flucos. The Hornets were relentless in their attack and the Flucos were unable to generate scoring opportunities. Orange made it 2-0 with a goal in the first two minutes. Peterson made several good saves after that goal, but a hard shot that she had no chance of stopping made it 3-0 with 9:45 left in the quarter. Sophomore Mallory Esch showed some good ball control with her stick but the Flucos couldn't make enough successful passes to threaten. As the third quarter wound down, the Hornets scored twice more for an insurmountable 5-0 lead. Both of these goals were from point blank range and the goalie was certainly not to be faulted.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Hornets scored again and the game was ended on the mercy rule with the score 6-0. After the game, Payne noted that Orange is one of the strongest teams in the Jefferson District. She applauded Peterson for her play in goal, as she recorded a number of saves on hard shots. Payne also noted that senior midfielder Ashlyn Wolkowicz played her usual strong game.

The field hockey schedule is a heavy one, with nearly twice as many contests as the football team. On Oct. 1, the Flucos hosted Louisa County. On Oct.3, they will travel to E.C. Glass. On Oct. 8, they will play at Monticello High. On Oct. 10 they will host Charlottesville High. After that four more Jefferson District contests and the regular season is over before Nov. arrives.

Payne has a roster with ten underclassmen and a JV squad of 19 players, so the prospects for the future are promising.




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**Chicken Head Blues Band**



**October 12 at 7:00 pm**

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**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.





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**NOW \$525,000** Angus Rd, Cville



**Bev Nash** 434.981.5560

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- Half acre with fenced rear yard
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**\$345,000** 11021 Constitution Rd. Scottsville



**Patrick Burns** 434.465.4444

- This large 3 br 2 1/2 ba home sits on a private, wooded 8.5 acres consisting of 2 lots.
- House features a man cave/family room in basement with a 1 br apartment for extended family or extra income. fireplace, large deck and front porch.

**\$679,000** 13 Chatham Lane



**Jay Hurdle** 434.906.3100

- 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 1-car detached garage
- 126 feet of water frontage on quiet cove
- Spacious living room with gas log fireplace
- Lower level with family room & bathroom rough-in
- New kitchen, baths, flooring, paint, appliances, and windows

**\$574,620** 1783 Hollands Road



**Tracey McFarlane** 434.882.0067

- MOVE-IN READY! Centre Hill Estates, Bybee Area, 2.75 Acres
- Rivera Plan - 9' 1st Fl Ceilings, 2nd Fl Loft, Garage, Bonus Room
- 1st Fl Guest Bedroom, Flex Room, Formal Dining, Great Room
- Open Kitchen, Island w/ Seating, Walk-in Pantry, Mudroom
- Gorgeous & Convenient location - 4.5mi from Zion Crossroads

**\$356,200** 232 Gravel Hill Rd/Fork Union



**Deannie Tanner** 804.339.0860

- Construction is ongoing now on the Versatile Montego Plan on 2.7 Ac
- 1st Floor Vaulted Primary Suite, 3 Additional Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths
- Upgraded Siding Accents, Wide Window Trim, 10'x12' Rear Deck
- Newly Revised Kitchen Layout, 42" Wall Cabinets, Granite Countertops
- Located off Rt 6 E, 35 min from C'ville, 20 min from Zion Crossroads

**\$399,999** 68 Riva Way, Palmyra



**Kathleen Pender** 804-840-3648

- Spacious 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, Staunton
- Covered Front Porch, Front Load Garage, Upgraded Siding Accents, 10'x16' Rear Deck
- Open Kitchen w/ Granite Countertops, Island, Dining Nook, Laminate Floors
- Primary Suite w/ Paddle Fan, 5ft Fiberglass Shower & Door, Double Vanity

**\$574,620** 1847 Hollands Rd, Palmyra



**Lori Click** 434.326.7593

- Centre Hill Estates, Bybee Area on 3.9 AC
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**Lori Click** 434.326.7593



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Congratulations to Natasha and Clay on their purchase!

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Lori Click, GRI

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- \* Fluvanna Primary Care \* Fruit Hill Orchard \* James River Builders \* Luckstone \* Meade Construction
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- \* Colonial Farm Credit \* EverGRO \* GIA Italian Restaurant \* Goodson's Automotive \* Jefferson Pharmacy
- \* Legacy Market \* Snoddy's Electrical Service, Inc. \* Southern Development Homes \* Tiger Fuel
- \* Tractor Supply Co. \* Transformations Face Painting \* Voors & Kenefick, Attorneys at Law
- \* M & D Complete Lawn Care and Landscaping \* Shannon Haislip

See You Next Year...

**August 14-16, 2025**



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP

#### AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE

There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at

**Kidd's Store**

**8469 West River Road, Scottsville, VA 2459**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Duke Oil Company Inc. to develop a Corrective Action Plan to address cleanup of gasoline contamination at the site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup, please contact:

**Bob Baird, PhD**  
**Environmental Consulting, Inc.**  
**13040 Greenwood Church Road**  
**Ashland, VA 23005**

**info@callECItoday.com or (804) 798-5555**

The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Valley Regional Office of DEQ on September 26, 2024. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of DEQ, please feel free to contact Eli A. Connell at [Eli.Connell@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Eli.Connell@deq.virginia.gov) or **(540) 830-0258** after the date of the Corrective Action Plan submittal. DEQ Valley Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the proposed Correction Action Plan until October 26, 2024 and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to DEQ at the address below. DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case: PC#2024-6082.

**Department of Environmental Quality**  
**Storage Tank Program**  
**4411 Early Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801**



## PUBLIC HEARING

### Fluvanna County Board of Zoning Appeals

#### Tuesday, October 15 2024 at 7:00 pm

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2204, a public hearing will be held in the Morris Room of the Fluvanna County Administration Building, located at 132 Main Street Palmyra, VA 22963 for citizens of the County to have the opportunity to be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals on the following request:

**BZA 24:02 – Clyde Nuckols:** A request for a seventy-five (75) foot Variance to Section 22-4-3 (E) (2) of the Fluvanna County Code to allow for the reduction of the minimum front setback from one hundred (125) feet to fifty (50) feet, and a request for a thirty (30) foot Variance to Section 22-4-3 (F) of the Fluvanna County Code to allow for the reduction of the minimum side yard from fifty (50) feet to twenty (20) feet with respect to 3.4 acres of Tax Map 3, Section 30, Parcel 6. The subject property is zoned A-1, Agricultural, General, and is located in the Zion Crossroads Community Planning Area and in the Palmyra Election District. zoned A-1, Agricultural, General, and is located in the Zion Crossroads Community Planning Area and in the Palmyra Election District.

The meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals will be in person and instructions for public participation during the meeting will be made available on the Fluvanna County website: [www.fluvannacounty.org](http://www.fluvannacounty.org) Interested persons may submit written comments prior to the scheduled meeting to [planning@fluvannacounty.org](mailto:planning@fluvannacounty.org) or call 434.591.1910, between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday – Friday or visit the County Administration Building at 132 Main Street Palmyra, VA 22963.



## PUBLIC HEARING

### Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors

#### Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-1427, a Public Hearing will be held in the Fluvanna County Circuit Court, at 72 Main Street, Palmyra, VA 22963 Virginia for citizens of the County to have the opportunity to appear before and be heard by the Board of Supervisors for the following item:

**Ordinance to amend and reordain “Code of the County of Fluvanna, Virginia,” by repealing § 4-2-3 and enacting §§ 4-2-3.1 through 4-2-3.6 relating to the control of dangerous dogs, obligations following a dangerous dog finding, violation of law by the owner of a dangerous dog, and penalties for a vicious dog to conform with the Virginia Code.**

**A copy of the full text of the ordinance is available for review by the public on the County’s website and in the office of the County Administrator during regular office hours.**

All interested persons wishing to be heard are invited to attend the public hearing.



## PUBLIC HEARING

### Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors

#### October 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 15.2-1427 and 15.2-2204, a Public Hearing will be held in the Fluvanna County Circuit Court, at 72 Main Street, Palmyra, VA 22963 for citizens of the County to have the opportunity to have the opportunity to appear before and be heard by the Board of Supervisors on the following item:

**ZTA 24:04 – Ordinance to amend and reordain “Code of the County of Fluvanna, Virginia” by amending § 22-2-1, enacting §§ 22-3-1 through 22-3-5.4 and enacting §§ 22-28-1 through 22-28-25 to create a Solar Zoning District and to add supplemental regulations for utility scale solar generation facilities**

Copies of the complete text of the above ordinance is available for public review at <http://www.fluvannacounty.org/> and at the Office of the Fluvanna County Administrator during normal business hours. Questions may be directed to the Planning & Zoning Department at (434) 591-1910. Interested persons may submit written comments prior to the scheduled public hearing to [planning@fluvannacounty.org](mailto:planning@fluvannacounty.org). All interested persons wishing to be heard are invited to attend the public hearing.

### Explanation for Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Be Voted On at the November 5, 2024, Election

## PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

ARTICLE X. Taxation and Finance.

Section 6-A. Property tax exemption for certain veterans and their surviving spouses and surviving spouses of soldiers ~~killed in action~~ who died in the line of duty.

#### BALLOT QUESTION

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended so that the tax exemption that is currently available to the surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action is also available to the surviving spouses of soldiers who died in the line of duty?

#### EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS

##### Present Law

Generally, the Virginia Constitution requires that all property be taxed. It also sets out specific types of property that may be exempted from taxation. Currently, the Virginia Constitution allows the General Assembly to exempt from taxation the principal place of residence of the surviving spouse of any soldier who is determined by the U.S. Department of Defense to have been killed in action.

##### Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment would expand this current tax exemption so that it is available to all surviving spouses of soldiers who are determined by the U.S. Department of Defense to have died in the line of duty, including those who have been killed in action.

A "yes" vote would allow the surviving spouse of a soldier who died in the line of duty to claim the same real property tax exemption on their principal place of residence that is currently only available to the surviving spouses of soldiers who are killed in action.

A "no" vote will not allow such additional surviving spouses to claim the real property tax exemption.

##### FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE X  
TAXATION AND FINANCE

**Section 6-A. Property tax exemption for certain veterans and their surviving spouses and surviving spouses of soldiers ~~killed in action~~ who died in the line of duty.**

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6, the General Assembly by general law, and within the restrictions and conditions prescribed therein, shall exempt from taxation the real property, including the joint real property of husband and wife, of any veteran who has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor agency pursuant to federal law to have a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability, and who occupies the real property as his or her principal place of residence. The General Assembly shall also provide this exemption from taxation for real property owned by the surviving spouse of a veteran who was eligible for the exemption provided in this subdivision, so long as the surviving spouse does not remarry. This exemption applies to the surviving spouse's principal place of residence without any restriction on the spouse's moving to a different principal place of residence.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6, the General Assembly by general law, and within the restrictions and conditions prescribed therein, may exempt from taxation the real property of the surviving spouse of any member of the armed forces of the United States who ~~was killed in action as determined by~~ died in the line of duty with a Line of Duty determination from the United States Department of Defense, who occupies the real property as his or her principal place of residence. The exemption under this subdivision shall cease if the surviving spouse remarries and shall not be claimed thereafter. This exemption applies regardless of whether the spouse was ~~killed in action~~ determined to have died in the line of duty prior to the effective date of this subdivision, but the exemption shall not be applicable for any period of time prior to the effective date. This exemption applies to the surviving spouse's principal place of residence without any restriction on the spouse's moving to a different principal place of residence and without any requirement that the spouse reside in the Commonwealth at the time of death of the member of the armed forces.



# Stargazing in Fluvanna

BY PAT BEERS BLOCK



Welcome to this month's highlights of enjoyable evening and morning sky events!

We are now in the 2024 autumn astronomical season, a season which started on Sept. 22 during the fall equinox and ends on Dec. 21 at the time of the winter solstice. During this season, changes in the Sun/Earth/moon orientations result in less visible sunlight and more evening sky in the northern hemisphere. This can be a fun time for star gazers when celestial bodies are visible for longer periods of time each day (that is, when the weather cooperates!).

Two interesting and unique events will occur at various times in the month of October that are worth making an effort to explore and view. The first is the presence of an asteroid "mini-moon" from the beginning of October through the end of November. There is an asteroid that traveled from the Arjuna asteroid belt and became caught in the Earth's gravitational force. This resulted in the asteroid becoming a "mini-moon" that orbits the Earth much like the real moon. The asteroid, named 2024 PT5, will remain in the Earth's orbit for about two months, leave the Earth to orbit the Sun, and from there travel through the solar system. Unfortunately, it may be difficult to see this mini-moon with most sky viewing equipment (see [www.IFLScience.com/asteroid-2024-pt](http://www.IFLScience.com/asteroid-2024-pt)). Keeping tabs on its location might be possible by visiting professionally managed observatories in our area

The second exciting event this month is the presence of comet called Tsuchinshan-ATLAS, a comet that is traveling near the Sun in a retrograde direction (going in the opposite direction to planets and other celestial objects) as it travels our solar system. It is believed to have come from the Oort Cloud, an area of space that is anticipated to be just beyond our solar system. It is expected to be visible during the second and third weeks of October. It is reported that this comet might be as bright as Jupiter on Oct. 9 when it is expected to pass between the Earth and the Sun and made brighter because of surrounding dust particles (see [www.space.com/comet-tsuchinshan-atlas-matthew-dominick-iss-photo](http://www.space.com/comet-tsuchinshan-atlas-matthew-dominick-iss-photo))

Other events this month engage the moon as a key player again in our celestial calendar. Additionally, there are a significant number of planetary, and planet/star conjunction alignments as

well as the continued presence of the Orionid meteor shower that will captivate us as we gaze into the morning and evening sky to enjoy them.

As for the Orionid meteor shower, is considered a major (Class 1) shower and is anticipated to produce between 10 to 20 meteors, many of which will not be visible due to the waning (getting smaller) gibbous moon that may be brighter than the meteors (American Meteor Society ([amsmeteors.org](http://amsmeteors.org))).

We can expect to see another full moon phase this month that results in a Supermoon. Recall the term Supermoon, as described in Wikipedia (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supermoon>) applies to the moon that is closest in its orbit to Earth. The result of this close proximity of moon to Earth is the appearance of a brighter and bigger full moon. This month's Supermoon marks the third Supermoon for 2024.

Finally, for those of you who like to follow rocket launches, the website [Spacelaunchschedule.com](http://Spacelaunchschedule.com) provides great information about rockets and other space launches that occur throughout the month. One exciting item scheduled for Oct. 10 at 12:31p.m. is NASA's launch of the Europa Clipper, a probe that will travel to this moon of Jupiter for assessment of Europa's frozen ocean and other physical features of this moon.

Now that we have some insight into major events of October, let's get ready for this month's celestial excitement by getting your star gazing equipment ready, your cell phones fully charged and linked to Sky Guide, Sky View Lite, or any other star gazing applications that you find useful, and you resting in your favorite viewing spot to witness the magic of the night and early morning skies!

Fun events to view in October [extracted from Astronomy Calendar of Celestial Events 2024 - Sea and Sky ([seasky.org](http://seasky.org)); NASA's SKYCAL ([gsfc.nasa.gov/SKYCAL](http://gsfc.nasa.gov/SKYCAL)); In-The-Sky.org calendar; High-point Scientific (<https://highpointscientific.com>); [starwalk.space/en/news](http://starwalk.space/en/news); [space.com](http://space.com); and Wikipedia].

## Weeks 1 (Oct. 1-5)

The astronomical month starts on Oct. 2 when there will be an annular (meaning ring) solar eclipse. The event is known as the "Ring of Fire" eclipse because the moon is in its apogee position (far away from Earth) and doesn't

completely cover the Sun. Unfortunately, this eclipse won't be visible in Fluvanna county. But if you are traveling over the Pacific Ocean on your way to Hawaii, you will see a spectacular view of the Ring of Fire as the moon travels between the Earth and the Sun.

This date also marks the beginning of October's new moon. This phase of the moon is a a great time for stargazing since the bright side of the moon faces away from Earth and won't overshadow celestial bodies and events. Of course, clouds and other weather patterns can always hinder sky views try to be aware of weather predictions as you prepare for your stargazing experience.

On Oct. 5, the moon will be in conjunction (visually close to one another) with the planet Venus. About 1 ½ hour after sunset, Venus will be visible by looking to the upper right portion of the waxing (getting larger) moon.

## Week 2 (Oct. 6-12)

On Oct. 7, the moon will appear in front of (termed "occultation") the red star Antares, of the constellation Scorpius, producing a temporary "disappearance" of this star. On Oct. 8, the Draconid (Class III, variable) meteor shower begins. This class rarely produces more than one or two meteors per night; viewing is best during the evening.

On Oct. 10, the moon is in its first quarter and appears as a half moon with the right half of the moon illuminated by the Sun's rays. This lunar position is very conducive to viewing the sky since the moon's shine won't overpower the sky with its light.

On Oct. 12, the C/2023 A3- the Tsuchinshan-ATLAS- comet is in its perigee (closest) position and may be visible in the night sky near the Sun.

## Week 3 (Oct. 13-19)

On Oct. 14, the moon is in conjunction (visually close to one another) with Saturn, and will evolve into the occultation with Saturn. For a brief time during the occultation, Saturn will seem to disappear from the night sky.

On Oct. 16, the moon moves into its perigee position, a spacial position where the moon is closest to Earth. The lunar perigee position produces the strongest tidal force on Earth's tidal waters.

A full moon appears on Oct. 17. This full moon is known as the Hunter's moon and is the third Supermoon this year. Recall, a moon is known as a Supermoon because it appears much larger and brighter than

other lunar events. Provided the sky is devoid of clouds or precipitation, the evening sky will be delightfully illuminated with the entire face of the moon visible and smiling at us with its always friendly and inviting face.

On Oct. 18, this date marks the maximum date for the epsilon Geminid (Class II; minor) meteor shower. The average shower members can rise to 2 per hour on this date.

On Oct. 19, the moon is in conjunction with the Pleiades/Seven Sisters Cluster (also known as Messier 45) in the constellation Taurus.

## Week 4 and 5 (Oct. 20-31)

Oct. 20 marks the maximum activity for the Orionids (Class I, Major) meteor shower during which many meteors appear. It is best to view these meteors after midnight, however, with the moon still visible, viewing meteors might be difficult.

On Oct. 21, the moon and Jupiter are in conjunction and can be viewed early in the morning.

On Oct. 23, the moon will be in conjunction with the stars Castor and Pollus in the constellation Gemini; and the moon will also be in conjunction with Mars late in the evening.

The moon moves into its last quarter phase on Oct. 24. The moon will be illuminated on the left half of its surface. This date also marks the time when the moon will be in conjunction with the Beehive star cluster in the constellation Cancer.

On Oct. 29, the moon is in the apogee position, a spacial position where the moon is the farthest from Earth. The lunar apogee position reduces the moon's tidal force on Earth's tidal waters to its lowest strength.

So ends the celestial highlights for October! Enjoy exploring the October sky and hopefully finding the treasures noted above. Keep looking up to the sky this month; the sky is always changing and it can entertain you for a lifetime. As you become more familiar with planets, stars, and constellations and their locations throughout the year, you are on your way to becoming an expert astronomer who can predict where different celestial bodies might be in the morning and night sky!

Until next month, keep your eyes facing the morning and evening sky to see the wonders of our universe as we Earthlings travel through it!



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**Louisa Arts Center announces eighth annual Silver Tie Gala**

PRESS RELEASE

The Louisa Arts Center is inviting the community to its Silver Tie Gala, a premier fundraising event dedicated to supporting the arts in our region. The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 5, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Louisa Arts Center.

Guests are encouraged to don their finest attire as they step into a night of sophistication and celebration. The evening will begin with a delightful array of hors d'oeuvres and drinks, setting the stage for an unforgettable experience. Attendees will have the opportunity to bid on exclusive items during both the silent and live auctions, with all proceeds benefiting the Louisa Arts Center's programs and initiatives.

The highlight of the night will be a live performance by the legendary band The Association. Known for its timeless hits and captivating stage presence.

Tickets for the Silver Tie Gala are priced at \$100 each, which includes admission to the event, hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and entertainment.

"We are excited to host this event that combines elegance, entertainment, and a commitment to the arts," said Karen Welch, executive director of the Louisa Arts Center. "The Silver Tie Gala will be a wonderful opportunity for our supporters to enjoy a memorable night while making a meaningful impact on our programs and initiatives."

For tickets and more information, please visit [www.louisaarts.org](http://www.louisaarts.org) or contact the Louisa Arts Center at 540-962-5200.



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**EVENTS**

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:** In celebration of St. Frances' Feast Day, please bring your furry friends on Saturday, October 5th, at 3: p.m. to Grace & Glory Lutheran Church, 683 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy. (Rte 53), Palmyra, VA. Pets need to be pet and animal friendly and contained with leash or carrier. Animals in absentia for any reason - bring a photo. Small children are welcome to bring stuffed animals! Service expected to take half an hour. We hope to see you there.

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## Lake Monticello votes to end July 4 fireworks

County says it does not contemplate hosting fireworks event either

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

Lake Monticello will not be holding its annual Fourth of July fireworks starting in 2025.

The Board of Directors voted 7-0 to cancel the fireworks a month after Lake Police Chief David Wells raised serious concerns about the safety of the event. The vote took place at the end of its monthly meeting on Thursday night (Sept. 26)

In August, Wells said the association lacked the resources to adequately protect the thousands of people congregating near the Main Beach the night of

the event. He shared a list of concerns, ranging from inadequate parking to a limited security presence to the poor infrastructure that would prevent evacuating crowds in the case of an emergency. "I just don't think 15 minutes of fireworks are worth that," he said.

The association has spent weeks gaming out solutions to parking, on-site security, and changes to the Main Beach's infrastructure, and looked at adding an additional \$20,000 to the event budget.

The association also took a poll, receiving about 1,400 responses from residents. While 58 percent of respondents said they wanted the fireworks, 62 percent thought that the \$35,000 price tag was too high.

The association also received warnings from legal counsel and insurers that the measures under consideration likely would not be enough to mitigate the risks.

The directors had little choice to act now, as contracts with the fireworks company had to be signed in October to secure a show on July 2, 2025.

It was a difficult vote.

"The role of the board is not simply to reflect the desires of the residents," said Gary Sellick. "Its primary function is to maintain the financial and legal stability of the organization. It is for that reason, and that reason alone, that I will not be

voting to approve the fireworks contract this year."

"I love the Fourth of July," said Chair Larry Henson. "This is hard."

He said he would not be able to rest if people were injured – or worse – during the celebration. Nor did he see a way to fairly limit access to the Main Beach area to 500-600 people. This would limit the fireworks to those few Lake residents with lakefront property, boats, or the lucky few who could secure a spot on the beach.

While the fireworks will not be held, all other Fourth of July family events will continue. "I know we will put our heads together with the community," said Johnny Williamson. "There could be a lot of fun stuff we are already doing and continue to do, and add to it."

Jenny Richardson said it made more sense for Fluvanna County to host the event at Pleasant Grove, since they have

parking and resources to manage a large event, with the Lake picking up the tab for the fireworks.

"I really want to put the pressure on the Board of Supervisors to make this happen in the coming years because this is something that should be shared throughout Fluvanna County," she said.

However, in a statement on Monday (Sept. 30,) County Administrator Eric Dahl made it clear this is not something they are interested in taking on.

"Fluvanna County understands the difficult decision the Lake Monticello Owners Association faced when deciding the future of its annual 4th of July fireworks display," he said. "Sharing similar concerns regarding public safety, staffing, parking, and crowd control, as well as the significant traffic congestion of a major state road (Rt. 53), the County is not contemplating hosting the fireworks display."



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### Did You Know?

BY RAE ALBERTS  
CORRESPONDENT

**Correction to the Sept. 12 column:** Lake Monticello is home to five species of game fish: bluegill, largemouth bass, white perch, redear sunfish, and gizzard shad. It is only open for fishing to Lake Monticello residents who have a fishing license. For members who have a license but no boat, try Tufton Pond, also managed by the LMOA.

Lake Monticello is fed by the Rivanna River, making it a part of the James River watershed. The James River watershed, also called a drainage basin, is essentially an area of land where all flowing surface water converges to a single point. In this case, it is the James River, which starts in the Appalachians and winds 348 miles through Virginia to the Chesapeake Bay. The James River basin catches waterflow from 10,432 square miles of land, from Iron Gate all the way into the Chesapeake Bay at Hampton Roads.

The James River is also home to part of our national defense! The James River Reserve Fleet, known as a "ghost fleet," is part of the National Defense Reserve Fleet, and is the oldest fleet still in use today. It opened in 1919.

In the beginning, there were 300 ships in the James River Fleet. All 300 of these ships were put into service at the beginning of World War II, and the current reserve was opened in 1946 to store the surplus ships after the war. Some of these were reactivated for the Korean and Vietnam wars, while a few others were used in the 600-Ship Navy program.

In the 1950s, the James Reserve had over 800 ships. Many of them were WWII


Liberty and Victory ships. Some of these were used by the United States Department of Agriculture for surplus grain storage in the ships' cargo holds.

As of May 2024, however, only eight ships remain in the James River fleet.

These ships are currently mothballed, but can be used if the need arises. However, many are awaiting the scrapyards due to age and poor conditions. Some of the previous ships were used for target practice or as artificial reefs, while others became museum ships or were sold to private companies.

Right now, the Invincible, a passenger ship, is on Interim hold in the reserve, and the Flickertail State, a crane ship, is used in logistics support. Cape Ann and Cape Avinof, break bulk ships, are in training use. Four ships are currently waiting disposal: Maj. Stephen W Pless, PFC Eugene A. Obregon, Sgt. Matej Kocak, and Walter S. Diehl.

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## Lake Monticello Board Votes Against Fireworks in 2025 Due to Safety Concerns

**At the regular Board meeting on September 26, the LMOA Board of Directors (BOD) voted unanimously to discontinue the fireworks show at Lake Monticello due to safety concerns. Their decision not to enter into a contract for a 2025 fireworks display was based on recommendations from the Lake's Department of Public Safety, the General Manager and senior staff, legal counsel, the insurance carrier, and input from the Membership (through a survey and "Contact the Board").**

BOD said they considered many alternatives, which included running shuttles to the Main Beach and even asked Fluvanna County to partner with LMOA and hold fireworks at Pleasant Grove Park. This request did not get enough traction for 2025, but LMOA would like to continue the dialog with the county for 2026. All other Lake Monticello Independence Day activities will be planned and held as usual in 2025.

During an open discussion, Vice President Gary Sellick said the Board's primary function is to maintain the financial and legal stability of the Association. "It is for

this reason, and that reason alone, that I will not be voting to approve the fireworks contract this year."

"Since becoming a US citizen and moving to the lake," Director Sellick continued, "It [the 4th of July holiday] is one that I have celebrated with gusto. I work at Monticello, where every year, I see new citizens get created on the anniversary of this country's birth and Jefferson's death. I have also regularly volunteered at the event and have attended the fireworks displays, both on land and water. I know how much July 4th matters to myself and you all. Sadly, however, times have changed. The Lake is no longer fit to handle the sheer number of people who come every year to watch the fireworks display. We lack the parking infrastructure, the number of police needed for such an event, and a safe space to even watch the fireworks from without the benefit of a waterfront property or access to a watercraft."

"As of right now, as we vote on this contract, there is no viable plan that has been presented that can guarantee the safety of attendees, and by consequence, the wellbeing of the Association.

This situation will only worsen as more people move into this area, and more municipalities join the growing number that have come to the realization that the risk is not worth the reward when it comes to fireworks."

Director Sellick reiterated that BOD's decision should be based entirely on safety rather than financial reasons. "If a tragic event occurs, it is not you [residents] who will have to bear the moral and possible financial burden of knowing that it was you who ignored the warnings of the man assigned to protect Public Safety here at the lake, as well as the advice of legal counsel, to allow an event fraught with unacceptable levels of risk."

Sellick also thanked Chief Wells for having the courage to bring this situation to the board's attention, knowing the backlash he would receive by doing so. "Sometimes doing the right thing is hard," he said.

Finally, he addressed the community's survey results, "The results simply do not show a good cross-section of our community: only 10% of residents answered, and

of these, a majority of respondents (66%) have either not been to see the fireworks in the past two years, or watched from either a boat on the water or lakefront property. These people were not at the Main Beach and seen fights break out – I have - or have received intelligence about potential violence specifically orchestrated to occur during the event as David has. Our chief of police has said that the event carries excessive risk, and our legal counsel concurs. I personally will not have the jeopardized safety of our residents rest on my conscience or put LMOA at increased risk, and I would ask my fellow board members if they are willing to bear such a heavy burden."

Several Board members, including Jennifer Richardson and Larry Henson, shared that they love fireworks but cannot ignore the opinions of legal counsel and LMOA's Director of Public Safety. 18 residents attended the meeting. One homeowner, Jacie Dunkel, spoke in support of fireworks. No other homeowners signed up to speak about the topic.

The decision to discontinue fireworks passed 0-7.



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