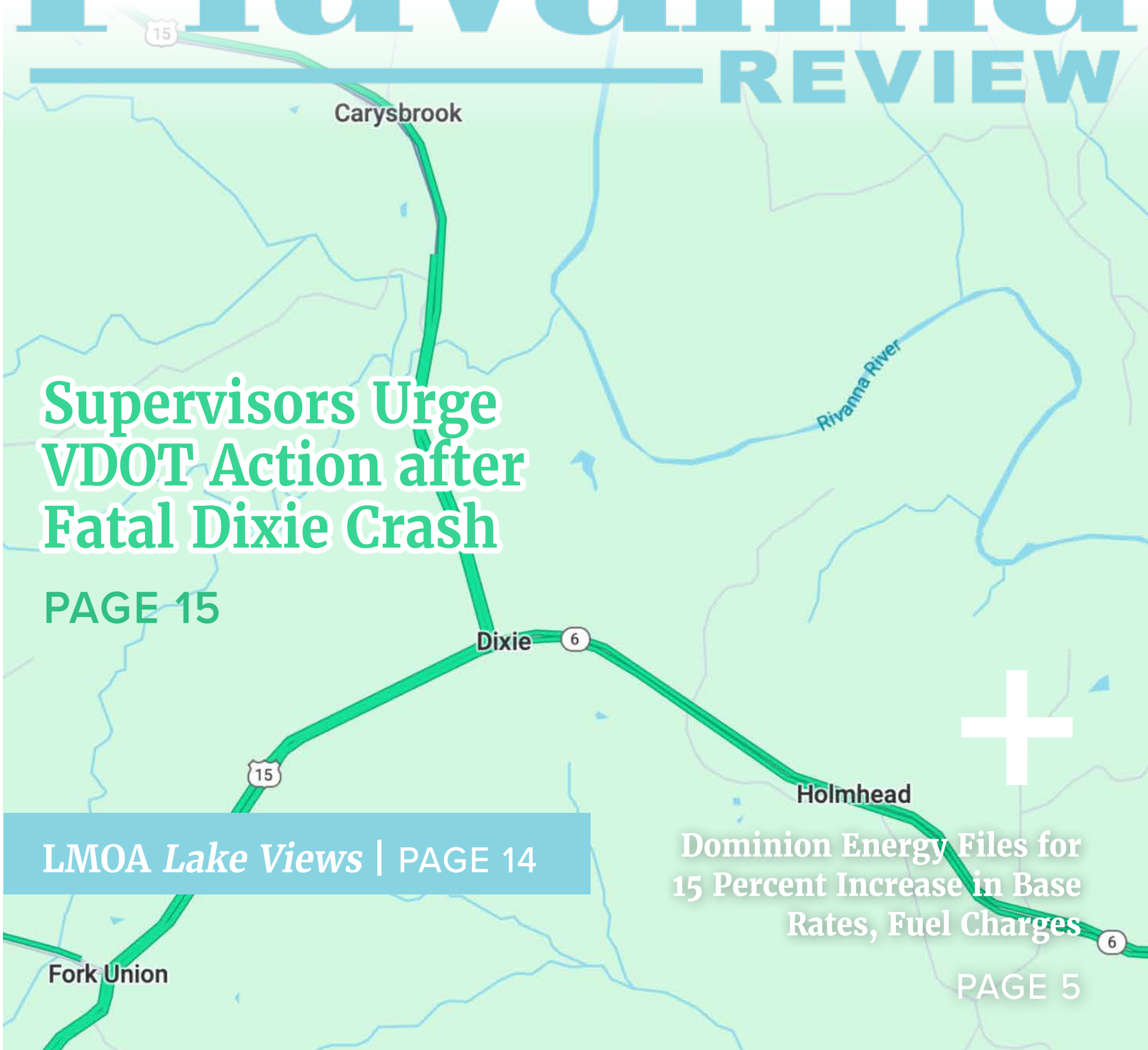


# Fluvanna

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# Join us Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025

6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service at Fluvanna Dog Park  
(please bring a chair)

## CHURCH SERVICES

8:30 am Early Worship Service

11:00 am Worship Service with Sanctuary Choir

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John 14: 19



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On the cover: Cover design by  
Amelia McConnell.

**DEADLINE** Advertising due by Wednesday at  
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## GENERAL

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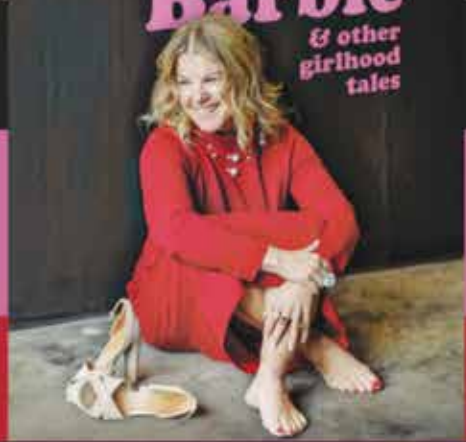
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## The Fluvanna County Arts Council Presents

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tales



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7pm

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MUSICAL JR.

MAY 10

3PM

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# The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

**ACROSS**

1 Karate move  
 5 Farm implement  
 9 Retro hairdo  
 13 Wrangler rivals  
 15 Jackie Chan's "Rush \_\_\_\_"  
 16 Within view  
 17 Construct  
 18 Leaving no will  
 20 Possible, as a plan  
 22 Audiophile's setup  
 23 Quiet  
 24 Rating unit  
 25 Fall guy  
 28 Honey bunch?  
 32 Suffers from  
 33 Outback dog  
 34 Quebec follower in the NATO alphabet  
 35 Creative pursuits  
 37 Image Awards org.  
 39 Loamy fertilizer  
 40 Hangs onto  
 42 Trail traveler  
 44 Bette Davis film, "The Great \_\_\_\_"  
 45 High nest (var.)  
 46 Without constraint  
 48 Word on a "Hello!" tag  
 50 Fastener for Rosie  
 51 1990s veep  
 54 Faux pas  
 57 Meaty tomato  
 59 Silklike fabric  
 60 Wreck site  
 61 Diarist Frank  
 62 Common sense?  
 63 Sets as a price  
 64 Wolfish look  
 65 Give a nudge to

**DOWN**

1 Sail's corner  
 2 Medal earner  
 3 Justice League enemy  
 4 Type of truck  
 5 Longtime TV host  
 6 Like Silver's rider  
 7 Ump's call  
 8 Take forcibly  
 9 Waiting place  
 10 1991 film, "Cape \_\_\_\_"  
 11 Part of A.P.R.  
 12 Cookie since 1912  
 14 Put into words  
 19 Beatles surname  
 21 Get cracking  
 24 Wall Street worker  
 25 Soda shop order  
 26 Barker's successor  
 27 Time's partner  
 29 Insignificant sort  
 30 Unearthly  
 31 Did a cobbler's job

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- 36 "Frasier" and "Maude", e.g.  
 38 Grave danger  
 41 Mail-order pioneer  
 43 Yangtze and Yellow  
 47 Pull up stakes  
 49 Tin or titanium  
 51 First word in magic  
 52 Popular jeans  
 53 Nerdy sort  
 54 Fit to be tried  
 55 Storage cylinder  
 56 Card game combo  
 58 Topeka to NYC dir.

**Answers to Previous Crossword:**

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

# SUDOKU Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Medium

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

**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:**

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

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# PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD  
 THOMAS JEFFERSON REGIONAL HOME CONSORTIUM  
 HOME-CDBG ANNUAL ACTION PLAN  
 30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD: April 14 – May 15, 2025**

The Thomas Jefferson HOME Consortium invites all interested citizens to comment on the Draft HOME-CDBG Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2025-26. The Plan describes how the participating jurisdiction intends to distribute its HOME and CDBG funds. The draft plan is available at <https://tjpd.org/public-comment-py-2025-annual-action-plan/> or by contacting Laurie Jean Talun at 434-422-4080.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission  
 Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 7pm  
 Water Street Center, 407 East Water St. Charlottesville, VA 22902

## Community Calendar



FLUVANNA  
County Calendar



QR Code provided by the Fluvanna Leadership Development Program

**Beulah Easter services**

Beulah Baptist Church (1633 Kents Store Way in Kents Store) will celebrate **Easter Sunday** with a Sunrise Service at 7 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and Worship Service at 11a.m. The Sunrise Service will be outside. For more info, call 434-589-2245.

**Ruritans meet**

The Fluvanna Ruritan Club will meet on Tuesday, **April 15**, at 6:30 p.m. at 1083 Wilmington Road, Palmyra. Topics of discussion will be National Day of Prayer and new fundraising ideas to fund projects to help Fluvanna County. For more information call (571) 208-2895 or fluvannaruritanclub@gmail.com

**Quit smoking**

Free! Support for those who want to quit tobacco and nicotine! **Every Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., March 19 - April 23.** Virtual-Zoom conferencing. Contact Scott Mein at scottmein@gmail. to receive the link to participate. Questions? Call Scott (862) 432-0490.

**"All Bark, No Bite" Comedy**

The Virginia premier of the comedy "All Bark, No Bite" will be presented by Fluvanna's Persimmon Tree Players **April 26-27** and **May 3-4** at the Victory Hall Theater in Scottsville. The show by Kara Emily Krantz about relations among neighbors features actors from Palmyra, Dillwyn; Scottsville and Charlottesville. Evening performances are April 26 and May 3 at 7:30 p.m., matinees April 27 and May 3 and 4 are at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and available at [www.persimmontreeplayers.org](http://www.persimmontreeplayers.org).

**Food Pantry**

Fluvanna MACAA / FCSS Food Pantry is located at the old Carysbrook High School. To receive food from the food pantry bring a photo ID as proof of residency in Fluvanna. Open: **Monday - Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** To donate directly to the food bank call 434.842.2521. Cash and food donations gratefully accepted.

**Food Pantry**

FLRD Community Food Pantry, located at 4321 James Madison Hwy, Fork Union, is accepting cash and food donations. The pantry is open on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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## Obituary

### James “Jim” George Scott, Jr.



including telecommunications, computer systems, cabinet and furniture making, and heavy equipment. Jim retired from Lake Monticello in 2017.

Jim loved history and spent hours researching local civil war history that he used in his novel. He also loved his sons, which led him to write a children’s book chronicling his journey as a father. When not reading or writing, Jim passed his days fishing at Lake Monticello and telling “big fish” stories.

Jim’s tenacity and bravery in his fight is known by all. The family is extremely grateful for the care and compassion he received at Martha Jefferson Hospital under the guidance of Dr. Mark Prichard from the entire staff of MJH. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that gifts be made in his honor to Martha Jefferson Hospital Foundation Cancer Care Fund or The Fluvanna County Historical Society.

“God, grant that I may fish until my dying day. And when it comes to my last cast I humbly pray, when in God’s landing net I’m peacefully asleep, that in His mercy I be judged as good enough to keep.” – Fisherman’s Prayer

A celebration of Jim’s life will be held at a later date.

Local historian and published author James “Jim” George Scott, Jr. passed away on March 30, 2025, after a more than yearlong battle with cancer, which he fought fiercely. He is survived by his wife Juanita of 46 years, sons Ken (Laura), Clay (Celine), and Cole (Alyson), his father Jim, sister Sharon, grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, friends, and his adoring cats. He is predeceased by his mother Dot and brother Al.

Jim was born on Valentine’s Day 1949 in Wilmington, Delaware. The oldest of three siblings, Jim spent his youth on the Eastern Shore before seeking opportunities across the country, including Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Maryland, finally settling in Virginia. Jim worked in many fields

## Dominion Energy files for 15 percent increase in base rates, fuel charges

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

Dominion Energy has applied to the State Corporation Commission (SCC) for a 15 percent increase in base rates, the company announced last week.

Dominion serves 2.5 million customers across Virginia, including 13,600 in Fluvanna County.

“We do not ask for this lightly, as we understand the economic pressures on our customers and the need to maintain rates that are cost-effective and a good value for them,” Dominion president Ed Blaine said in the SCC filing.

The typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours a month would see the base rate increase by \$8.51 on January 1, 2026, and an additional \$2.00 on January 1, 2027.

Dominion also requests a \$10.92 increase in its “fuel factor,” a charge covering fuel costs. That increase could begin as early as July 2025.

The company estimates the average \$140 monthly bill would climb to \$162 if the SCC approves the entire request.

Dominion officials say the increases are needed to grow the company’s

generation and distribution systems.

“Virginians are using about five percent more power every year,” company spokesman Aaron Ruby told WTVR-TV Richmond, “and so we need to make investments in the grid so that we can reliably serve our customers’ growing needs.”

Demand is expected to grow by three percent annually for the next 15 years.

This is the first formal base rate increase since 1991. Between 2007 and 2023, all rate increases have come through riders that have allowed Dominion to adjust costs.

A 2024 SCC investigation found that the riders had increased customer costs by 47.6 percent during that 16-year period.

In 2022, Dominion agreed to refund customers over \$330 million after an SCC review found the company had over-earned by \$1.1 billion between 2017 and 2020.

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## RUDY TALKS TAXES

BY RUDY GARCIA, OWNER, RIVANNA WOODS FINANCIAL / TAX SERVICES

### Ideas to Improve Your Personal Cash Flow



One of the most common reasons businesses fail is due to lack of proper cash flow. The same is often true in many households. Here’s how this concept of cash flow applies to you along with some ideas to improve it.

#### Cash flow defined

Cash flow equals cash coming in (wages, interest, Social Security benefits, etc.) and cash going out in the bills you pay and money you spend. If more is coming in than going out, you have positive cash flow. If the opposite is true, you have negative cash flow. Unfortunately, calculating and forecasting cash flow can get complicated. Some bills are due weekly, others monthly. A few larger bills may need to be paid quarterly or annually.

#### Create your cash flow snapshot

Before improving your cash flow, you need to be able to visualize it. While there are software tools to generate a statement of cash flow, you can also take a snapshot of your cash flow by creating a simple monthly spreadsheet:

- Type each month across the top of the spreadsheet with an annual total.
- Note all your revenue (cash inflows), then create a list of expenses (cash outflows) in the left-hand column.
- Enter your income and bills by month. Create a monthly subtotal of all your inflows. Do the same for your cash outflows. Then subtract the expenses from income. Positive numbers? You have positive cash flow. Negative numbers? You have negative cash flow.
- Create a cumulative total for the year under each month to see which months will need additional funds and which months will have excess funds.

#### Ideas to improve your cash flow

• **Identify your challenges.** See if you have months where more cash is going out than is coming in to your bank account. This often happens when large bills are due. If possible, try to balance these known high-expense months throughout the course of the year. Common causes are:

- Holidays
- Property tax payments
- Car and homeowners insurance
- Income tax payments
- Vacations

• **Build a reserve.** If you know there are challenging months, project how much additional cash you will need and begin to save for this during positive cash months.

• **Cut back on annuities.** See what monthly expense drivers are in your life. Can any of them be reduced? Can you live with fewer cell phone add-ons? How about cutting costs in your cable or streaming bill? Is it time for an insurance review?

• **Shop your current services.** Some of your larger bills may create an opportunity for savings. This is especially true with home, rental and car insurance.

• **Create savings habits to add to cash flow.** Consider paying a bill to yourself in your cash outflows. This saved money is a simple technique to create positive cash flow each month to build an emergency reserve.

We are happy to help you develop a cash flow management system. Please give us a call at 434-442-4044 or email [info@rwftaxservices.com](mailto:info@rwftaxservices.com) to schedule a time to discuss your personal cash flow situation.

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## From disc golf to clean laundry, FLDP projects strengthen Fluvanna

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

This year's Fluvanna Leadership Development Program (FLDP) members presented their group projects to a packed audience at Fluvanna County High School on Thursday night (April 4).

FLDP is a long-running program that introduces a yearly class to the inner workings of county government and organization. Each class also breaks into small teams to identify an area of county life that could be improved and design a project to improve it.

Class 22, which started in August 2024, tackled projects ranging from recreation to at-risk students.

In the first presentation of the night, one team shared its project to popularize the disc golf course at Pleasant Grove.

"One of our key focuses was just to expand the community's understanding, getting people introduced to it, getting people to know we have a course," said Shannon Morton.

Team members Frank Abney, a disc golf enthusiast with experience on many other courses, and John Watermolen, a GIS specialist and map-maker, worked on highlighting and mapping the course and created new literature to support players.

The team also worked with the Fluvanna County Public Library to add disc golf equipment to its "Library of Things," which the public can check out for free.

The library was also at the heart of another team's project, designed to create "more robust adult programming," said Maurice Lange.

Some of the team's ideas included funding a bookmobile, working with local churches to host expanded programming, and holding pop-up enrichment events.

Librarian Cyndi Hoffman said they were always open to new programming, but staffing was a significant roadblock. Expanding programming would require an additional staff member, and the Board of Supervisors had declined funding for more staffing for at least the past two budget cycles.

A decline in public funding led to another project to help Fluvanna's high school students take the PSATs and SATs. These standardized tests can help with admissions and financing for the 60 percent of Fluvanna students who plan to attend 2- and 4-year college programs after graduation.

For a decade, Fluvanna County Public Schools had the funding to pay the testing fees of \$56 for the SAT and \$13 for the PSAT. This removed a barrier for students who might be unable to afford

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the test themselves.

When funding ended in 2023, the number of students who took the test dropped from 565 to 241.

Team members first worked on getting the county to restore the \$26,000 in annual funding, but when that failed, they decided the solution was to "just pay for it," said Kelsey Cowger.

Rather than set up a separate non-profit, they partnered with the county parent-teacher organization. Any money collected through donations and grants can be passed to the PTO for distribution.

They set up a donation portal on zeffy.com that has already raised about \$3600 of their \$30,000 goal.

The team hopes to raise the entire \$26,000 and create a self-sustaining process to provide several years of funding.

Student needs were the driving force behind the Fluvanna Laundry Initiative, a project that can meet the needs of children who cannot access basic needs like clean clothing.

The stigma of wearing dirty clothing is a known cause of absenteeism in schools, and absenteeism raises the risk that a student will drop out of school permanently.

Team member Kim Munson shared her own story of being a homeless young mother. "This social isolation, the lifelong emotional trauma, this was my reality over 30 years ago," she said.

The group has approached the Fluvanna Rotary for \$18,000 to facilitate the purchase of four industrial washer-dryer sets that can be strategically located in the areas of highest need. They believe they would need \$25,000 for machines, space rentals, supplies, and maintenance.

Rudy Garcia, a member of FLDP's Executive Committee, said this year's projects were more means-tested than some in previous years and praised the teams for taking ownership of their initiatives.

Enrollment for Class 23 of the FLDP will begin this summer. For more information on the program, please visit <https://www.fluvannaleadership.org/>

## Spring break pauses high school sports

BY DUNCAN NIXON  
CORRESPONDENT

Due to spring break, the very full Fluvanna High Spring sports schedule was empty for the week of May 31-April 4. A summary of early season results shows that there have been some ups and downs for Fluco teams. The Fluco baseball team and the softball team both lost their season opener, but both have won three straight since. Both teams have won three games relatively easily and both scored double digits in one game.

As reported last week, the Fluco

boys soccer team has started 3-0 with 20 goals for and only one against. The Fluco girls soccer team has started 0-3, as has the girls lacrosse team. The boys lacrosse team has started 1-1-1.

The outdoor track and field team hosted the Fluvanna Invitational on March 22 and some Flucos turned in very good results at the large multi-team event. The boys had particularly good results. Garrett Jordan won the 200 meter dash and Jack Jeffries was fastest in the 800 meter run (metric half mile.) The Fluco boys 4X100 relay team also finished first. Ethan McPherson was third in the pole vault. The

girls had two top five finishers, Eliana Portman was third in the 1600 meter run (metric mile) and Charlotte Giffard finished fourth in the pole vault.



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### PLEASE NOTE

**Everything stays while supplies last, plants are subject to change**

## Freedom Drip opens; new owners for Orme

### Fluvanna Family Chiropractic welcomes new patients

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD  
CORRESPONDENT

The long-awaited opening of Freedom Drip took place at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 1. Owner Lauren Davis and her family looked on proudly as she and one of her three children cut the ribbon. Also present was Director of Economic Development Jennifer Schmack.

The store is cozy, sporting walls of dark blue with white trim, a red booth, and white chairs. It's a welcoming place to stop and chat, have a sweet treat, or get one of their many flavored lattes or

coffee. Other than her signature doughnuts, Davis offers other items, including lemon bars, cookies, bagels, and croissants, and says in the future she may offer made-to-order items such as cakes and pies.

"This has been long awaited and thank you to everybody for their support," said Davis.

The coffee shop is open daily 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the weekends and is closed on Wednesdays. For more information call (434) 960-7526.

In other news, Orme's Gym is under new ownership. Not that Chris and Jaimie

Rutherford have enough to do between their jobs and raising eight children but they believe keeping everyone fit and healthy is the focus of Orme's.

The gym will have all new fitness equipment, continued 24/7 access, and various classes, including Zumba, strength training, interval training, Silver Sneakers, and yoga. They will also have personal training for three levels; basic, elite, and competitive. Child care will also be offered two days a week.

For more information, visit [ormesgym.com](http://ormesgym.com). Fluvanna Family Chiropractic is also open at 68 Heritage Drive. Dr. Carmelo Caratozzolo is welcoming new patients. Originally from New York and New Jersey, he and his wife moved to Lake Monticello. Once a professional musician, Dr. Caratozzolo discovered chiropractic techniques when he was a professional musician with wrist pain that hindered his performance.

A chiropractor since 1994, he is certified in sports chiropractic care, helping to enhance athletic performance, and also certified in extremity adjustment, where other joints in the arms, hands, legs, and feet are the focus. This benefits the entire body not just the spine. He aligns specific areas to improve joint function, pain relief, mobility, and flexibility. He has over 30 years of experience in pediatric chiropractic techniques using gentle and effective adjustments for children. Adjustments for pregnancy and seniors are also available.

For more information, visit [fluvannachiro.com](http://fluvannachiro.com)

After the winter time blahs, spring is alive with events at area wineries. Check out the variety of social gatherings, cooking, wine-making, art exhibits, book clubs, and trivia at Cunningham Creek Winery.

Speaking of wineries, the former Thistle Gate is now Hardware Hills and is owned by Andrea and Rob Nickels. The original owners George and Leslie Cushnie sold the winery in 2021 and retired.

The Cushnies bought the land, that was once a muddy tree farm on rolling hills along the Hardware River. Together they made the commitment to create a winery. Along with Leslie's forestry background and George, the primary wine-maker and business manager, they made the winery a success. It was the first winery in Fluvanna and it became part of the Monticello Wine Trail.

Today, the Nickels continue the work of the Cushnie's legacy with live music events and other activities as well. Visit [hardwarehills.com](http://hardwarehills.com), for more information.

Groovin' at the Grove is back the second Saturday of every month with food, a beer garden, and a live band beginning on May 10, with Mama Tried. Check out the schedule at <https://www.fluvannacounty.org/parksrec/page/groovin-grove-pleasant-grove-park>

Looking for organic farm food that is local and sustainable, try Salt and Pepper Farm in Kents Store. Owners of the West End Farmer's Market, feature pasture-raised eggs, woodlot pork, whole chickens, and raw wildflower honey. For more information visit [saltandpeppercorn.com](http://saltandpeppercorn.com) or call (804)-393-9395.

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## Kids Easter Stroll at Bybee's Road Baptist Church

4989 Bybee's Church Rd., Troy, Va.  
Saturday, April 12  
from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon

Hear the Easter story, see the empty tomb, crafts & gifts to take home, fun games to play. Kids and families invited to this fun event!

### Additional Easter Services

Palm Sunday service on April 13 at 10 a.m.  
Maundy Thursday service on April 17 at 6 p.m.  
Easter Sunrise service on April 20 at 6:30 a.m. followed by breakfast and 10 a.m. service.

(434) 589-2824  
[www.bybeechurch.org](http://www.bybeechurch.org)

## THIS WEEK'S PET FUGI

### Meet Fugi-The Independent Observer with a Soft Side!

Fugi is a cat who plays by his rules—he likes attention, but only when he decides it's time. When you let him out to play, he'll keep a watchful eye on you from a safe distance, analyzing your every move like a tiny, furry detective. But once the toys come out? Game on! His curiosity takes over, and soon he's fully engaged in playtime.

As he gets to know you, Fugi will slowly close the gap, inching his way into your heart (and eventually onto your couch). Once comfortable, he'll rub up against you, reminding you that yes, you are now part of his exclusive inner circle. If you're looking for a companion who values personal space but still knows how to dish out love on his terms, Fugi is your guy!

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## Get A Jump On The Spring Market!

### New Listing



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Unparalleled main lake views in this waterfront chalet style home located at the end of a cul de sac. Enjoy spectacular sunrises and the hawks nesting in the nearby trees. 145' Waterfrontage with brand new composite dock & steps leading to dock with electricity. New stone patio as well. Enter into the open floor plan with a wall of windows to enjoy those views. Well equipped kitchen w/pantry, breakfast bar, recessed lighting, solid surface counters. First floor primary bedroom with an updated tiled bath with shower. First level laundry and guest bath. Living room features soaring ceilings w/open staircase to 2nd level, stacked stone floor to ceiling gas log fireplace w/remote. Sliding doors to wrap around composite decking. Room to spread out with the second level bedroom, full bath & bonus room or 4th bedroom. There is an additional bedroom, family room, full bath & utility room in the lower level with access to water & yard. This level features another wrap around composite deck w/storage shed & storage area. Truly the most breathtaking views of lake monticello.

### Walk to Beach



#### 49 Wildwood Drive – \$365,000

Welcome home to this fantastic One Level Ranch with a bonus room or 4th bedroom. Located around the corner to the Beach and situated on an oversized, level lot. Recent upgrades: New HVAC (2025), Skylights (2024), New Windows (2023), New slider doors (2024), Gutter & Gutter guards, Roof approx. 10 years old. Open floorplan with hardwood flooring throughout, open kitchen design w/island, pantry, granite counter tops, subway backsplash, Newer refrigerator & microwave, wood cabinets. Living room w/brick gas log, fireplace, skylights, vaulted ceilings. 2nd level leads to a huge bonus room or bedroom with a separate mini split system, attic storage area & walk in closet/office area. Attached 2 car garage with sink, newer wi-fi garage door opener and storage space. Large mudroom/laundry off of the garage. Primary bedroom w/attached bath & a private deck. Exterior recently stained. Long paved driveway with ample parking.

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## Golf

### Nine-year-old from Fluvanna finishes second in National Drive, Chip and Putt competition

BY DUNCAN NIXON  
 CORRESPONDENT

Lucas Dunaway of Troy won the Middle Atlantic Region in the National Drive, Chip and Putt competition to qualify for the national competition held on April 6 at Augusta National (home of the Masters.) Dunaway scored well in all three disciplines. He finished first for ten points in the chipping competition, and scored 7 points in drive and six points in putting for a total of 23 points, one point away from first place. Dunaway's home course is the Lake Monticello golf course where he has been coached by PGA pro Mark Marshall. Dunaway came to Marshall for coaching at the age of six.

Marshall said that six-year-olds normally do not take that well to coaching, but that he realized right away that Dunaway was a "different" student and a "great kid." Within six months, Dunaway was already entering tournaments for players of his age. Marshall accompanied his prodigy to Augusta but the rules of the competition state that once the competition begins, no coaching is allowed. So, Marshall watched nervously with the Dunaway family.

At the National Drive, Chip and Putt competition they have age groups of 7-9, 10-11, 12-13 and 14-15. Each contestant gets two chances at each discipline. Marshall explains that drives must end up in the fairway to count and the contestant with the longest qualifying drive wins the drive competition. The chip competition involves two chips from about 15-16 yards out and the competitor with two chips that have lowest combined distance to the hole wins that completion. The same is true for the putt competition, which involves two putts, one from about 15 feet and one from about 30 feet. Again, the competitor with the two putts that total closest to the hole wins that discipline.

## THIS WEEK'S PET ACORN

**Meet Acorn, (aka Dudley)** - The Lovable Lap Dog! Searching for a cuddle buddy? Look no further! Dudley is the closest thing you'll get to a shadow. He's always looking for snuggles or love from his people. He is very food motivated. Not aggressive, but very eager for food which can sometimes come across as a bit much. He does like chewing on things so highly recommend a home with lots of bones! He's the sweetest, most loving pocket pittie you'll meet. He walks great on a leash and loves taking in the scenery on sunset walks! Unless there's cows! He will thrive in the warmer months but when it's winter time, he'll only go out if he absolutely has to (and even then he may need some coaxing). You can't go wrong with this sweet, handsome, chunky boy. A solid loaf of pure love. He'll make a perfect addition to a family with older kiddos and/or a dog with lower energy. He likes to guard things so he would need a slow introduction with other dogs.

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## Virginia farmers face fallout from USDA cuts

VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU PRESS RELEASE

As hunger rates climb across the country, federal funding cuts are hitting Virginia farmers who produce food for nutrition programs.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced the cancellation of two programs that provided more than \$1 billion nationally for schools and food banks to purchase food from local farmers.

About \$600 million would have been distributed to schools and child care centers across the country this year through the Local Foods for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program. The Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program also has been cut; it previously funded food banks and other feeding programs that reach underserved communities. USDA unfroze that program's funds for current sub-grantees but cancelled the second round of funding for 2025.

Virginia has received over \$13.6 million for LFPA and LFPA Plus programs to date and will lose about \$7.6 million for LFPA 2025 and potentially \$13 million for LFS, according to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The cancellation of the local food purchase program and the local foods for schools program does not affect current sub-grantees. VDACS will fully fulfill its obligations under the existing LFPA and LFPA Plus agreements, which remain in effect through July 15.

The Southside Virginia Fruit and Vegetable Producers Association in Charlotte County has sold about \$150,000 worth of fresh fruit and vegetables to food banks statewide through the local food purchase program. Those sales have helped the group of around 22 member farmers expand their businesses and recruit more members, including young and beginning producers.

"It's helped keep our farms alive and growing," remarked Brick Goldman, SVFVPA president.

The group is cutting back on planting this spring as they scramble for replacement markets.

"It might be a tough year for us, but we just keep looking for other opportunities," Goldman added. "The sad thing is the food banks are going to lose the fresh fruit and vegetables they were really excited about getting."

The Federation of Virginia Food Banks benefits from \$250,000 in LFPA funds monthly under the current round—a valuable support system as rising food prices strain consumers and food banks alike. Traffic across the seven regional food banks and their network of 1,150 pantry partners

rose 20% on average from 2023 to 2024, and the food banks spent nearly five times more on food than in 2019, according to the federation.

About 964,000, or 1 in 9, Virginians were facing hunger in 2022—around 37% more than the year before, according to Feeding America.

"We are really dependent on any sort of initiatives that we can find like the LFPA, and we particularly are grateful when they can benefit Virginia's ag economy and local farmers," remarked Eddie Oliver, Federation of Virginia Food Banks executive director.

The federation works to strengthen partnerships with Virginia farmers through initiatives like Farms to Food Banks, which includes The Virginia Agriculture Food Assistance Program. Farmers are paid the fixed costs associated with donating excess produce.

Nearly 2 million pounds of food were sourced from 65 local agricultural partners through the Farms to Food Banks initiative last year.

"We feel like the work of the LFPA and other grants to connect local farmers with the food bank network has been a tremendous success in Virginia," Oliver noted. "We just didn't expect the rug to be pulled out from under us this quickly, and we are scrambling a little bit to replace product."

Additionally, USDA paused \$500 million in funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program, a core nutrition program that purchases U.S. commodities for emergency food providers. That program makes up about 30% of the federation's inventories.

"We're going to need a lot of support from the community, and we're hoping the state can help provide some additional support to offset the impacts of the federal cuts," Oliver added. "But we appreciate our partners in Washington and Richmond, and we're going to forge ahead as best we can."



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## EVENTS

**THE FLUVANNA RURITAN CLUB** will meet on Tuesday April 15 at 6:30 p.m. at 1083 Wilmington Road, Palmyra. Topic of discussion will be National Day of Prayer 1st. and new fundraising ideas to fund projects to help Fluvanna County. For more information (571) 208-2895 or fluvannaruritanclub@gmail.com

**ROARING TWENTIES:** Come out for a good time and support local charities. Dinner Dance & Raffle at Lake Monticello Firehouse, April 26, time: 5:30 to 8 p.m. Food by GIA'S Restaurant. BYOB. Sponsored by Palmyra United Methodist Church. Call Patty for tickets (434) 981-8963. Space is limited!

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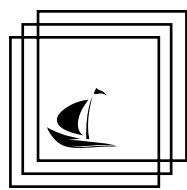
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# LAKE VIEWS

NEWS FROM YOUR LAKE MONTICELLO NEIGHBORS

advertorial  
Content: LMOA



## Spring Safety at the Lake

These tips will help everyone enjoy the outdoors this spring and summer at Lake Monticello:

### 1. Walking the Cart Path

Walking the golf course is a wonderful way to enjoy the scenery, but for everyone's safety, you may not do so during play hours. Also, please note that bicycles and skateboards are not permitted on the course. You can enjoy a stroll on the cart paths in the morning until the first tee times of the day, following the order of holes 1-9 and 10-18. In the evenings, feel free to walk starting at the designated cart due-in time, which you can find under Course Conditions on the golf app. If you are bringing your dogs along, they are welcome during walking hours as long as they are on a leash, and you must clean up after them. Enjoy your walk!

### 2. Beaches Closed to Pets

Please be aware that all beaches are off-limits to pets from April to November. Beach 2 and 5 are pet-friendly in the winter months only.

### 3. Using Electric Vehicles

Did you know that LMOA roads are classified as state highways for law enforcement purposes? As a result, only state-approved electric vehicles are allowed, and riders must adhere to all traffic regulations. For that reason, electric go-karts, golf carts, and

dirt bikes are not permitted on these roads. Low-speed vehicles (LSVs) are allowed and look like golf carts, so know the difference before you buy. If you have any questions about what is allowed, please contact the Lake Police before making a purchase. If you are planning to ride Class 3 E-bikes on Lake Monticello roads, make sure you are at least 14 years old, and don't forget to wear your helmet for safety. For those using E-scooters, you also need to be 14 or older. While helmets aren't required for E-scooter riders, we highly recommend wearing one.

### 4. Swimming After Rain

Please remember that LMOA does not recommend swimming in Lake Monticello after heavy rain. Rain washes chemicals and animal feces from yards into the Lake, and sewage can back up. Wait at least 48 hours after a storm before swimming in Lake Monticello.

### Maintenance This Season

Our Facilities & Operations Team at LMOA does a great job keeping up with routine maintenance. Sometimes, however, it makes sense to contract out larger projects. This spring, you may notice contractors completing the following jobs:

- Harbor Dredge and Dock will perform dredging operations starting on April 21, 2025.

This decision is necessary because our operator is retiring, and replacing the aging machinery is very costly. The board has approved outsourcing this project this year as a beta test. The company will be dredging in Jackson Cove (JA 1), Monroe Cove (MO 1), and Van Buren Cove (VB 1), which are the back areas of those coves.

- Fairway Flooring and Parking Lots: From April 28 to May 1, 2025, the flooring in the hall between the Proshop and the Bunker Bistro is scheduled to undergo maintenance, and seal-coating and striping of the parking lots will be done at the Fairway Clubhouse. This will affect the bistro's operating hours and parking availability during that week. The seal coating could not be completed earlier due to night temperatures. Both projects are being done simultaneously to minimize the impact on the bistro, ensuring it is only affected once.

### LMOA Job Opportunities

LMOA is hiring an Ops Tech, and there will soon be openings for seasonal positions and a custodian. Please check the CAREERS page at lmoa.org for more information or email Rebecca Mathews at rmathews@lmoa.org.

### WEEKLY WATER SAFETY TIP

Brought to you by the Volunteer Water Safety Team

Did you know...?

- Lake Monticello is NOT exempt from the VA law that requires all motorboats greater than 16 feet to have the following safety equipment on board: a Coast Guard-approved fire extinguisher, life jacket for each person, a whistle or horn, engine cut-off switch (boats manufactured after 2020), orange flag or other visual distress signal, navigation lights (red, green, and all-around white light), and a throwable life jacket.
- Boats under 16 feet are required to have the same equipment except for a fire extinguisher and throwable life jacket.
- Non-motorized boats are required to have a life jacket, whistle, and all-around white light for operating at night.

Please check your equipment to ensure it is serviceable and ready for a fun boating season.



## Open Door Christian School Honor Roll

The following Open Door Christian School students achieved Honor Roll for the fourth 6 weeks or the third 9 weeks or semester of the 2024-2025 school year. A \* denotes all A's.

Kindergarten: Serenity Berko\*, Dallas Braxton, Sarah Guthrie, Ellie McGrogan, Haisley Mundie, Lizzy Shumaker, Jacklyn Swanson; First Grade: Thomas Aldridge, Tyler Guthrie, Hannah Hensley, Ayden Lawson, Greyson Lockhart, Ari Pendleton-Smith, Alexander Ponomarev\*, Layla Whitfield; Second Grade: Annabelle Bourgeois\*, Camille Brandt, Maddox Dunn\*, Grace Ferguson\*, Kylie Harrell, Jenesis Johnson,

Carly Martin, Faith Perry\*, Silas Robbins, Presley Shifflett, Axl Pendleton-Smith, Amina Taliaferro; Third Grade: Mason Braxton\*, Asher Carroll\*, Sawyer Fleming\*, Hadleigh Henshaw, Autumn Johnson, Sofiya Ponomareva, Haley Wilcox; Fourth Grade: Grace Perry\*, Fifth Grade: Brantley Henshaw, McKinley DeRosario, Sara Wilcox; Sixth Grade: Alisa Berko, Josslyn McLaughlin; Seventh Grade: Chase Brandt\*, Holly Dunn; Eighth Grade: Eliana Berko\*, Caleb Bruce, Chris Pontano\*; Ninth Grade: Caitlyn Pontano; Twelfth Grade: Benjamin Bruce\*

## Supervisors urge VDOT action after fatal Dixie crash

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

Following a fatal collision in Dixie last month, the Board of Supervisors is asking VDOT to investigate safety improvements at one of the county's most dangerous intersections.

A March 20 collision between a pickup truck and an emergency vehicle at Rt. 15 and Rt. 6 left a Henrico man dead and four others injured.

At its meeting on Wednesday night (April 2), supervisors told VDOT representative Willie Gordon that the intersection had seen multiple accidents and near-misses in recent years.

Gordon said the department could investigate some "alternative safety mechanisms" while searching for a long-term solution to the problems. A roundabout at the intersections could be installed, but that could take up to five years.

He said there was potential to install a temporary roundabout using barriers or other systems to improve drivers' sightlines.

Along with the VDOT report, supervisors discussed real estate reassessments – not the ones just completed, but the next round coming in 2027 and 2029.

One option would be to conduct an administrative reassessment in 2027 and a full review two years later.

An administrative reassessment uses fair market values to adjust valuations. Appraisers do not visit each property or take updated photos.

These types of assessments meet all the legal requirements and can be considerably less expensive for the county, but can often result in under-valuations because they miss upgrades and improvements like new sheds or generators.

Some supervisors felt that an administrative assessment could be problematic. Widespread community anger over the most recent valuations could well be repeated in 2027. Still, as Mike Goad (Fork Union) pointed out, the county could not show resi-

dents that appraisers had physically evaluated their properties.

"I feel like that really makes it tough for us to answer for that," he said.

County Administrator Eric Dahl said they would request proposals from multiple appraisal companies and get some hard figures for both full and administrative assessments.



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