

Fluvanna

REVIEW

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Dies in Combat**

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FOUNDED IN 1979 BY LEN GARDNER

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On the cover: Stanley Hamm at his brother's grave. Photo courtesy of Gerald Harlow. Cover design by Amelia McConnell.

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GENERAL

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The *Fluvanna Review* is the paper of record for Fluvanna County. Call Rae Alberts at 434-207-0223 to place a legal ad.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be a maximum of 350 words and include the name, phone number and address of the author. The phone number and street address are for the paper's records only. We reserve the right to edit letters to the editor. Submit to editor@fluvannareview.com

WEDDINGS, PROPOSALS, ANNIVERSARIES
Call Rae Alberts at 434-207-0223.

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NEWS HOTLINE

If you see news happening, call 434-591-1000.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Spring Creek Community Yard Sale

Saturday, May 3rd
8 AM - 1 PM



Wide Range of Items

Baby and kid clothes, tools, yard equipment, furniture, pictures, bikes, and toys, hobby/collector items, decorations, computer items, sports and exercise equipment, china, silver and glass, desk, school and office supplies, rugs and carpets of all sizes, garden tools, books, dvds and more.



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The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Wagon part

5 Give lessons

10 Full of energy

14 Chowder chunk

15 Like some trigger fingers

16 Small combo

17 Top tunes listings

19 Piece next to a knight

20 1995 film, "Waiting to ____"

21 Walkman insert

23 Midterm, e.g.

25 Babel, for one

26 Window-opening rope

30 Blossom bits

33 Mouse, to an owl

34 Castle defense

36 Knotted neckwear

37 NYC rep. in "The Squad"

38 Successful show

40 Bunion's place

41 Mirrors' partner

43 Croquet area

44 Got to one's feet

45 Kind of space flight

47 Type of light

49 Audition tapes

51 Mentioned

52 Brought in

55 SWAT specialist

59 Ballet move

60 Like innovative art

62 Animal rights org.

63 "Walk Away ____" (1966 hit)

64 Robe for Caesar

65 Kind of dog

66 Closed, as curtains

67 Fancy pitcher

DOWN

1 Tooth trouble

2 Nero's 49

3 Wood strip

4 "I feel your pain" feeling

5 Humdrum

6 SFO posting

7 Aussie rockers

8 Deal from the bottom

9 Mint-family herb

10 Bourbon and Beale

11 Math student's purchase

12 Wild time

13 Oxen linkage

18 Smart-____

22 Worry beads?

24 Online menace

26 Muscle twitch

27 Coffeehouse draw

28 Inferior

29 ____ Lama

31 Relaxed

32 Mighty mount

35 Criers' places

38 Has the earmarks of

39 Disconnect

42 Skateboarder's accessory

44 Give off, as heat

46 Aged one

48 One year in a trunk

50 Make the cut?

52 View in northern Italy

53 Projector load

54 Comedian

56 Ship's forward facer

57 Periphery

58 Caboose's spot

61 Without precedent

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Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

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

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



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.

Dinner dance and raffle

Come out for a Roaring Twenties Good Time and support local charities. The seventh annual dinner dance and raffle will be held at Lake Monticello Firehouse, **April 26**, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Food by GIA's Restaurant, BYOB. Sponsored by Palmyra United Methodist Church. Call Pattie (434) 981-8963 for tickets. Space is limited.

"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.

Coles to play

Donald Coles, guitarist and banjo player, will be performing your jazz, blues, and rock favorites on Sunday, **May 4** at 3 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 43 Washington Street, Columbia. Admission is free.

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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Letter to the Editor

Democracy at risk

This week, Rep. John McGuire (VA-05) did not directly respond to questions about whether he supports impeaching Trump from office. This is upsetting and I would appreciate more foresight and leadership from my district's representative.

As a concerned citizen and voter in Fluvanna, it's obvious that Trump is leading the country into authoritarianism. His threats not to leave at the end of this term are highly credible. Despite his assertions that he would not implement Project 2025, he has in many instances essentially used it as his playbook since taking office. What some once considered hyperbole about the dangers his administration would pose -- from attacking our right

to free speech to the stability of our economy -- have become reality. He and his cabinet have already proven themselves to be unaccountable to our justice system, and have committed a multitude of crimes. If we don't impeach him now, American democracy may not survive his path of destruction.

Why should we risk that?

I encourage Rep. McGuire to publicly commit to upholding his most fundamental role - removing tyrants from office. I hope to hear he supports protecting our three branches of government and upholding his oath to serve the constitution, not the man occupying the presidency.

-Millie Fife, Palmyra

Boys lacrosse

Fluco lose to James Monroe in last six seconds of the game

Win at Highland Springs

BY DUNCAN NIXON
CORRESPONDENT

The Fluvanna County boys lacrosse team hosted The James Monroe High Yellowjackets from Fredericksburg on April 11. It was an even match-up. Unfortunately, the Monroe team was able to hold the ball at the end of the game and slowly pass it around outside as the clock ran down. They then managed to find an attacker directly in front of the goal who fired in the game winning shot with six seconds remaining.

The game did not start well for the Flucos. James Monroe led at half time 5-2. The Flucos were only able to manage one goal on their own, as the first Fluco goal was mistakenly scored by a Yellowjackets defender. The Flucos second goal was scored by junior attacker Maddox Beaulieu on an assist from junior long stick defender Henry Jeffries.

The third quarter was all Fluvanna. The Flucos scored their third goal of the game when Beaulieu dodged a defender and fired a low shot past the goalie. An assist was recorded by Sully Eckert. The Flucos scored their second goal of the quarter when Jefferies dug the ball out of scrum in front of the net and passed to junior attacker Cooper Tapscott for a close in score. James Monroe responded quickly but their good scoring attempt was thwarted by a save by junior goalie Colton Ball. As the third quarter was winding down, the Flucos tied the game on a goal by senior attacker Andrew Williams with an assist from Anthony Waguespack.

On virtually the first play of the fourth quarter, Williams stole an outlet pass by

the Yellowjackets' goalie and drove to the goal undefended for a goal to put the Flucos ahead 6-5. Three minutes later the Yellowjackets scored to tie the game at 6-6 on a nice pass to an attacker very close in. Ball had no chance to stop the shot. Another James Monroe goal followed to make it 7-6 in the Yellowjackets' favor. With only two minutes left, Tapscott cut across the front of the goal and took a nice pass from junior Jack Jeffries for the equalizing score. Unfortunately, Monroe was able to hold the ball for the rest of the final quarter by passing the ball back and forth near midfield. As the clock went under sixty seconds, the Yellowjackets moved the ball in before setting up the winning goal. It was an excellent game.

The next day, the Flucos traveled to Highland Springs High School in Henrico County and won easily. Junior attacker Joe Jones had a big game. He scored five goals and contributed an assist. Williams scored three goals and had two assists. Tapscott had two goals and an assist. Henry Jeffries had two goals and Jack Jeffries had two assists and won fifteen of seventeen face-offs.

Fluco Coach Don Wyant has a young team that is learning. His roster includes only two seniors, it has 14 juniors and two sophomores. It is early in the year, but the rest of the Flucos season is against tough Jefferson District opponents. On April 18, they host Orange County. On April 23 they travel to Goochland, then on April 29 and 30, they play Monticello High home and away. On May 2 they host Charlottesville and on May 6 they travel to Albemarle High.

PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC HEARING Fluvanna County Board of Zoning Appeals Tuesday, May 6 2025 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 requests:

BZA 25:01 – Alfonso Calderone: A request for a seventy-nine (79) foot Variance to Section 22-4-3 (C) (1) (a) of the Fluvanna County Code to allow for the reduction of the required minimum frontage from five hundred (500) feet to four hundred and twenty-one (421) feet with respect to 11.04 acres of Tax Map 47, Section A, Parcel 42. The subject property is zoned A-1, Agricultural, General, and is located in the Rural Residential Planning Area and in the Cunningham Election District.

BZA 25:02 – Stephen Pullinger: A request for a forty-six (46) foot Variance to Section 22-4-3 (D) of the Fluvanna County Code to allow for the reduction of the required minimum lot width at the minimum required setback from three hundred (300) feet to two hundred and fifty-four (254) feet with respect to 8.814 acres of Tax Map 17, Section 7, Parcel 3. The subject property is zoned A-1, Agricultural, General, and is located in the Rural Residential Planning Area and in the Cunningham 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. Interested persons may submit written comments prior to the scheduled meeting to 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.

RUDY TALKS TAXES

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



Tax Uncertainty Requires Preparedness

You will soon have to confront a higher tax bill if Congress doesn't extend many credits, deductions, and lower tax rates that are set to expire at the end of this year. Here's who should be considering ongoing tax planning sessions as this uncertainty plays out in Congress and the Executive office:

- **Your income will increase in 2025.** Maybe you are looking to move jobs or obtain a promotion. This should trigger a planning session as marginal rates currently max out at 37% at a fairly high income, but that could all change beginning in 2026.

- **You were an itemized deductions taxpayer.** A number of taxpayers may begin itemizing deductions again in 2026 if the rules expire as they are currently scheduled to. This means planning your expenses in light of this impending roll back of rules will take some thought. This is especially true if you have high state income and real estate taxes.

- **You have a large estate.** The current estate exemption (\$13.99 million in 2025 for single taxpayers, \$27.98 million for married) drops back to \$5 million in 2026. While this reset amount will be adjusted for inflation going forward, gifting money or other assets can help reduce the size of your

taxable estate while taking advantage of this historically high exemption amount.

- **You have investments.** Review your investments to be as tax efficient as possible. Municipal bonds and tax-deferred plans like 401(k)s and IRAs may also become more attractive after 2025. Also consider tax-loss harvesting strategies to offset future gains. Another idea: if your tax rate will be lower in 2025 compared to 2026, consider selling appreciated assets in 2025 at a lower tax rate, then immediately purchase the asset again. Remember that wash sales rules only apply to losses, not gains!
- **You have pass-through business income.** If you are a small business owner, assess how the loss of the Qualified Business Income deduction will affect your tax liability. Review whether you should change your entity type to minimize the loss of this deduction.

By starting to plan now, you can be ready for whatever tax environment you'll be navigating in 2025.

Give us a call at 434-442-4044 or email info@rwftaxservices.com to schedule a time to discuss your business tax situation.

265 Turksag Trail#101, Palmyra, VA 22963

Office Phone: 434-442-4044/ Fax: 804-767-1844

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Comedy at Carysbrook with *Dirty Barbie*

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD
CORRESPONDENT



Denise Stewart. Submitted photo

On April 26, at 7 p.m., Carysbrook Performing Arts Center will present *Dirty Barbie*, a one-woman show written and performed by Denise Stewart. It is a raw, spicy, hilarious expose of her personal journey through life. As Stewart uncovers her vulnerability with humor and finesse, the audience begins to see part of themselves in her performance.

Stewart's background as a theater artist, speaker, and executive coach helps her to be fearless on stage and easily express herself.

"It's all intertwined. My training and experience in theater informs my coaching and teaching, and daily life informs my comedy" she said. This past March, along with her comic partner, Mendy St. Ours, they co-produced *No Country for Funny Women* at Live Arts.

She has a BA in theater from Catawba College and an MFA in play writing from UVA. She has been a lecturer at UVA for 11 years, in the drama department for eight years, and currently at

the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy where she teaches graduate and undergraduate classes in public speaking.

"I've been a TEDx speaker and a coach for TEDx speakers, which I love—it lets me mix my theater roots with my coaching work in a meaningful way," she said. Stewart has spoken to various groups and organizations and is a professional stage actor. Her TV pilot *Adjuncts*, was a finalist for the 2017 Virginia Film Award.

She wrote and started performing *Dirty Barbie and Other Girlhood Tales* in 2010. She has many side hustles, most of them artistic and it was in 2009 at the Lee Street Theater in Salisbury, N.C that *Dirty Barbie* began to sprout.

"They reached out to ask me if I had any new work that I'd like to propose for their season. I didn't at the time, but I jumped at the chance to create something they were interested in staging," she said. "It felt like a good time to convert blog posts and stories I'd previously written about my childhood into a one-woman show. One of the stories was entitled *Dirty Barbie* and so that ended up being part of the title of the whole show. I had a successful opening run of the show." This show is a series of true stories and scenes from her life growing up in North Carolina.

The show is intended for mature audiences, combining storytelling, stand-up, and physical comedy in a 70-minute format.

"Growing up in a wild family and a small southern town certainly has defined the extremes of my comedy. I have been working on my oral history for years. For this, I wanted to shape my stories into a one-hour wild ride."

For tickets, visit carysbrook.org.

Fluvanna native turns 100

CONTRIBUTED BY LAURA STEERE



Irene Newton

A Century of Love

Celebrating one hundred years, oh what a feat!
A life so full, a soul so sweet.

Through every turn, through every mile,
She walks in faith and wears a smile.

She's lived with grace year after year

She shines so bright and spreads great cheer!

No matter the challenge, her faith always stands tall,
A servant's heart, she gives her all.

How tough and how strong she still stands,
With grit and faith at her command!

Even a broken hip could not defeat,
She rose again, back on her feet!

Mother to four, grandmother to ten,

And loving great-grandmother to eleven

Her love spans to many, many more,

Our Memaw who we all adore.

So with great joy and excitement we share today,
Irene recently celebrated her 100th birthday!

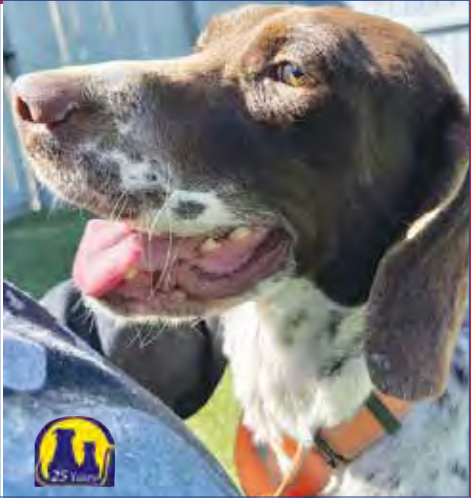
One hundred years—a gift so rare,

A life so rich, beyond compare!

Fluvanna born and raised, (go gold and blue!)
We hope you will help in celebrating her too.

THIS WEEK'S PET:
Hawk!

Meet Hawk, Hey there! I'm Hawk, a three-year-old Pointer mix. I'm super sweet but a bit shy at first, just looking for some love. I get along well with other dogs and love to play chase. If you can be patient with me, I pawmise I can be your lifelong buddy. Just give me a shot!



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LAKE VIEWS

NEWS FROM YOUR LAKE MONTICELLO NEIGHBORS

advertorial
Content: LMOA



LMOA's 2025 Pool Season is Just Around the Corner

It is hard to imagine swimming when the temperatures are this low, but the 2025 Pool Season will be here before you know it! LMOA Communications sent out some great information last week. Please make sure to take a look at lmoa.org under ANNOUNCEMENTS so you are well-prepared for a summer of pool fun at Lake Monticello.

Nicholas Canada Certifies as Official Board Candidate

LMOA is happy to share that Nicolas Canada has met all requirements of the LMOA Bylaws to become an official candidate for the 2025 Election of Directors. He is the only qualified candidate this year. His biographical statement can be found at lmoa.org under GOVERNANCE, ANNUAL MEETING. We plan to open voting in the week of May 12. The Annual Meeting will take place on June 28, 2025. Stay tuned for more details!

LMCF Approves Potential Projects at Main Beach

The Lake Monticello Community Foundation (LMCF) Board voted unanimously this week to work with LMOA to install a fun floating swim platform and a helpful mobility mat at the Main Beach. The donated items, which would be completely financed by the Foundation, cost about \$20,000. The next step is to obtain approval from the LMOA Board of Directors who will look into the pros and cons. The new projects are in

addition to the proposed pavilion, which is awaiting a final decision from the LMOA Board due to concerns raised about its approved location.

Participate in County Survey

The LMOA Community Development Committee is excited to share that Fluvanna County is working on an update to its Comprehensive Plan! The county invites you to get involved by sharing your thoughts in an online survey by May 30, 2025, at <https://tinyurl.com/FluCompPlanSurvey2025>. Thank you for being a part of this important process!

LMCF Hosts Bulk Shred Day

The annual Lake Monticello Community Foundation Bulk Shred Day is April 19 from 9 -11 AM, in the Lake Monticello Fire & Rescue parking lot. The suggested donation is \$10 per 30-lb. box. Proceeds will go to the Lake Monticello Community Foundation and Lake Monticello Fire & Rescue.

Meet the Easter Bunny

If you live at Lake Monticello, the Young Residents & Families Committee is hosting its annual Easter Bunny Meet & Greet on April 19! Join your neighbors from 2 PM – 4 PM at the Shark Tank cul-de-sac for the perfect (free) Easter photo "h-op" and lots of goodies and treats.

Functionally Fit Classes

The Tuesday Functionally Fit Class and the Wednesday Strength Class

at the Ashlawn Clubhouse will take a little break and will be back the week of May 12, 2025.

A Big Thank You from 9-year-old Lucas Dunaway!

Lucas Dunaway, a member of the Lake Monticello Golf Club, won first place in the chipping skill and second place overall at the National Drive, Chip and Putt Championship! He feels so grateful for all the support from our community. More about the event can be found on lakemonticellogolf.org.

Bulk Trash Week at Lake Monticello

Lake Monticello's trash and recycling partners at Green For Life (GFL) will conduct an annual curbside Bulk Trash Pickup from Monday, April 21, through Thursday, April 24. Residents can find their assigned service day on a map in the GM Corner or call Member Services. Residents can put their items out one day early. People love to pick up scrap metal and reusable items before GFL arrives.

GFL crews will start at 7 AM on Monday in the designated service area. If an area is not finished on its day, don't worry - the crew will start the next day to finish before moving on to the next area. Friday will be an overflow day if needed. Due to the high demand for this service each year, crews will not come back for items if the whole street has already been done.

Residents can set out standard household items like small furniture,

trash bags, leaf bags, and small metal items like toasters, small TVs, etc. All items will be taken by hand, not by machine. Keep this in mind when putting items at curbside. Limit them to a maximum weight of 50 lbs each and a length of 5 feet.

Excluded materials are computers, printers, monitors, and similar equipment, mattresses, box springs, large appliances (e.g., washers, dryers, water heaters, dishwashers, stoves, refrigerators, freezers, A/C units), and any motorized equipment, including items containing freon, rocks, concrete, dirt, tires, soil, sod, tree stumps, and any type of construction or renovation debris, including insulation, lumber, drywall, landscaping timbers, and friable asbestos, free liquids, paint or paint cans with paint in them, spray paint cans, motor oil, lead-acid/wet cell batteries, biohazardous materials, needles, and any other medical waste, combustibles, toxic and/or hazardous wastes, any material excluded from the disposal site, and all flammable products (e.g., petrol, chemicals, propane tanks) dead animals, fecal matter, or manure.

Some of these excluded items can be dropped off at Pleasant Grove Park, 1730 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy, on April 26. Car tires can be dropped off 9 - 11 AM or until the truck is full. All car tires must be off their rims, with a limit of 12 per resident. Hazardous waste collection is from 10 AM - 2 PM. Your Proof of Fluvanna County Residency is required and does not include businesses.

CVEC PRESS RELEASE



Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC) proudly announces that George Goin has renewed the es-

teemed Director Gold Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This

The Director Gold Certification signifies a deep understanding of industry challenges, strategic decision-making, and cooperative governance. Goin has been a dedicated CVEC board member since 1993, committed to ongoing education and leadership to better serve cooperative members. The leadership training has aided with his terms as treasurer and chairman of the CVEC Board, as well as chairman of Firefly Fiber BroadbandSM. Most recently, he was elected as chairman of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC), after serving as VMDAEC

Goin is a Vietnam-era veteran serving in the US Air Force from 1966 to 1972. He retired from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the U.S. Postal Service and has farmed Modesto Farms since 1974. He and his wife Claudia live outside Scottsville on Modesto Farms and Greenhouses. They have two sons and two granddaughters.





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Inaugural PVCC Day announced

PVCC PRESS RELEASE

Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) is excited to announce its inaugural PVCC Day, taking place April 17. PVCC Day invites alumni, parents, friends and the entire college community to show their support by sharing PVCC stories, wearing PVCC gear and giving back.

The theme for the 2025 celebration is “Your Moment. Your Momentum.”

“We are truly excited to celebrate PVCC Day during National Community College Month. For almost 53 years, we have been building pathways for success for those who pursue degrees

or industry credentials leading to high demand, high quality jobs,” said PVCC President Jean Runyon. “PVCC Day is an opportunity for everyone to celebrate what PVCC means to them and help us continue our momentum.”

Friends, current students, graduates, employers, and community members are encouraged to participate by sharing how PVCC is a part of their moment and momentum by posting on social media using #PVCCDay25 or visiting pvcc.edu/pvccday to learn more. Supporters can also create personalized fundraising


pages to share their stories and inspire others to give. Special incentives, including exclusive PVCC apparel, will be offered to individuals who meet certain fundraising benchmarks or make a personal donation.

“Our hope is to make PVCC Day a fun, engaging experience where everyone can show their PVCC pride,” said PVCC Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs Harry Stillerman. “What better way to support the community’s college than by sharing your story, giving back and earning

PVCC gear to show your pride year-round? Together, our generosity fuels the next generation of success.”

All gifts made during PVCC Day will support the Momentum Fund, the college’s annual fund. The Momentum Fund provides critical resources for scholarships, academic programs and the college’s greatest needs.

PVCC looks forward to partnering with the community to honor where it’s been, celebrate where it is and build momentum for the future. Be a part of the movement—Your Moment. Your Momentum.




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Fluvanna’s tax rate set at \$0.689 – for now

BY HEATHER MICHON
CORRESPONDENT

The Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors met on Wednesday (April 9) for a public hearing on the equalized real estate tax rate.

Director of Finance Tori Melton told the supervisors that the total assessed value of real property had increased by 22.5 percent in the biannual assessment. However, some individual homeowners saw increases of over 40 percent.

Unlike some other Virginia counties, Fluvanna equalizes its real estate tax rate after an assessment, shifting a value that provides the same projected revenue as the rate approved for the start of a fiscal year.

In April 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved a real estate tax rate of \$0.844 per \$100 of assessed value. The equalized rate will drop to \$0.689—at least for the next two weeks or so.

Reassessments are usually completed in the fall, but Pearson’s Appraisal Service could not finish the work until late January.

So, the equalized rate will only be in effect until supervisors approve the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budget and set the tax rate on April 23. The maximum advertised real estate rate was set at \$0.750 in March, and cannot go above that amount.

No vote was needed to approve the equalized rate; a public hearing is a legal requirement any time a reassessment increases the total property tax levied by one percent or more.

After the public hearing, the supervisors briefly discussed land use valuation.

This is a special assessment method used in Virginia to tax specific types of real estate based on their use rather than their market value. It encourages land preservation, mainly agricultural, horticultural, open space, and forested land.

Tax Rate continues on page 13.



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Patrick Burns

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Landowners received a reduced tax bill for preserving their land under approved uses. As a result, the county takes in less tax revenue than it would under market rates.

A county report from 2018 stated that 109,947.79 acres in Fluvanna were enrolled in the Land Use Taxation Program. This represented 60.92 percent of the county's total acreage.

Some residents had raised concerns about this loss of potential tax revenue, but Chair Christopher Fairchild does not see the program ending any time soon.

"There's not many things that I'll publicly say as far as how I'm going to vote before I get there, but I can't imagine there's anything in this world that would make me vote to get rid of land use," he said. "I think it's one of the great tools we have to help keep our rural community and to help keep our taxes down."

"I understand when people disagree, and we're 28,000 people with a bunch of different perspectives," he added. "But we want to make it clear to the citizens that I don't see anything coming that is going to change that, at least in the near future. Certainly not with my vote."

Buy plants, support students

CONTRIBUTED BY E. DIANNE CAMPBELL



Master Gardener Julie Apgar, right, helped customer S. G. McCormick purchase cheery annuals at last year's plant sale. Photo courtesy of E. Eianne Campbell

The Fluvanna Master Gardner's annual scholarship deadline has passed, and the result will be announced soon, but, meanwhile, plans are already well underway to support next year's award.

The Annual Plant Sale, Saturday, May 3, is Fluvanna Master Gardeners' only fund-raising activity, and it supports a wide variety of efforts to educate and involve the public with horticulture. Activities involve all age groups and are available to many organizations, with particular emphasis placed on youth involvement.

Elementary to adulthood

One group of Master Gardeners recently taught fourth graders how to grow micro-greens during Ag Day activities with Carysbrook Elementary school. Coming up are Earth Day activities with second graders at Pleasant Grove Park and first graders at Central Elementary. Throughout the summer, beginning in June, Master Gardeners will work with the Fluvanna County Public Library on Tuesday afternoon adventures exploring the lives of bees, butterflies, birds, bugs, trees, farm life, garden fairies and more.

Scholarships for 4-H Summer Camp are also supported by Master Gardeners. But the culmination of the stu-

dent-oriented activities is the \$1,000 scholarship to a Fluvanna resident who is pursuing post-secondary education in horticulture-related studies. Details of the awards event will be released soon. Application information for next year's award will be on the website.

Home gardeners find advice for planning and for problem solving at the Master Gardeners' help desk on Tuesday afternoons 2-5 p.m. at library, with assistance also available through the website. And those who have limited space or sunlight in their backyards, but want to get close to nature, head to the Community Garden at Pleasant Grove Park.

Extensive education in the horticulture of Fluvanna County's microculture is offered every year, beginning in January with the Annual Master Gardener Training Program. Full details and registration forms for the 2026 class are available through the website.

Annual Plant Sale

All of these educational opportunities, plus more, are funded through the Annual Plant Sale, scheduled Saturday, May 3, 9:30 a.m. to noon, at the Park 'n Ride parking lot at Turkeysag, across from Jefferson Pharmacy. Customers will not be allowed to enter before the official time. Rain Date is May 4, 1-3:30 p.m.

Annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, natives, and pollinator attractors will be available in abundance. In addition to plants from local respected growers, there are the results of Master Gardeners' carefully propagated seeds, cuttings and offsprings from favorite specimens, and well-rooted samples from the Butterfly Garden at Pleasant Grove Park. Prices are reasonable, and credit cards as well as checks and cash are accepted.

Further information on Fluvanna Master Gardeners' activities is available on its website, www.fluvannamg.org.

Fluvanna

REVIEW

103

VPA

Virginia Press Association

The Fluvanna Review is the winner of 103 Virginia Press Association awards for its advertising excellence and news coverage since 2010. The paper won awards in advertising design, news layout, cover illustration, infographics, photography, and multiple newswriting categories.

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Stanley Hamm at his brother's grave,



Fluvanna history **Eighty years ago – April 15, 1945 – a Fluvanna soldier dies in combat**

CONTRIBUTED BY GERALD HARLOW

When the United States began mobilizing for WWII, two of the Hamm boys from the Ferncliff and Kents Store area were pressed into service. Stanley and Linwood (“Lin”) were called to serve in the Army, and both were sent to Europe. Tech 5 Stanley Hamm of the 113th Cavalry Group (mechanized) was severely wounded in Germany, and spent months recuperating from the wound. Younger brother Lin served with G Company, 331st Infantry Regiment of the 83rd Division. The 83rd, known as the Thunderbolt or Ohio Division, was driving the Germans back across France, Belgium and Germany in the summer of 1944.

The 83rd had landed at Normandy on June 18, 1944. The first contact with the Germans occurred on June 26, 1944. From then on, the 83rd was constantly in combat. Regimental commanders in the 331st Regiment were continually being lost; at one time they lost 11 in two weeks. On July 4 the 83rd launched its first major attack, and from then on, they were constantly moving forward, losing men each day. Daily they withstood artillery, enemy bullets, and German

tanks including the dreaded Tiger tank, which was almost impossible to defend against.

That December the 83rd Division took part in the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest, fighting for ten days and nights with little or no sleep in the bitter cold of winter. On March 2, 1945 Lin distinguished himself near Brucke, Germany. Acting as a scout for his squad, PFC Hamm’s progress was halted by a machine gun firing at close range. Lin fired a white phosphorous grenade, and under the cover of the smoke, advanced and threw a hand grenade, eliminating the machine gun. For his actions Lin was awarded the Bronze Star.



Lynwood Joseph Hamm.
Photos courtesy of Gerald Harlow

On March 12, 1945 Lin wrote his mother Effie Melton Hamm: “Write and tell me how Stanley is getting along every letter that you get from him...”

The 83rd Division had crossed the Rhine on March 29, and although Nazi Germany was on the verge of collapse, the resistance was strong. On

April 11 the 83rd liberated the horrors of the Langenstein-Zwieberge concentration camp where forced laborers in the mines died at a rate of 500 per month. Sadly, on Sunday April 15, 1945, just 23 days before the surrender known as VE Day, Linwood was killed instantly by a German bullet. In a letter to the Hamm family, Venters Keen of Portland, TN, wrote

of the heartache of seeing his best friend killed, a friend that he had fought, slept, and eaten with for the past year under continuous combat. Brother Stanley was able to visit Lin’s gravesite. At the family’s request, Lin was later removed from the cemetery in Margraten, Holland and returned to Beulah Baptist Church in Kents Store to be buried near his grandparents. Linwood Joseph Hamm was awarded the Purple Heart, posthumously, and died before his promotion to sergeant came through. On the Sunday that Lin was killed, his mother Effie Melton Hamm told a family member, that one of her boys had fallen. Thousands of miles away and without any means of communication, the story would seem both improbable and impossible except for the fact that she shared it with another family member.

The expected invasion of Japan required more men and another brother, George, was given his draft notice. Luckily the war ended before he was called into active service. Stanley would return safely to his home, but the missing brother Lin, is still missed even today in the Hamm family of Fluvanna and Louisa counties.



Piedmont Area Tennis Association (PATA) in conjunction with Lake Monticello, held a Fluvanna Tennis Day for kids ages 4-12 years old on April 13. During the two-hour free event the kids were taught basics about tennis that included learning how to hold the racket, hit forehands, hit volleys, and general court awareness. PATA hopes to hold this event yearly in Fluvanna County. PATA (www.patatennis.org) is a non-profit community tennis association in central Virginia with the mission of making tennis accessible to all.

Teachers health care costs in spotlight

BY HEATHER MICHON
CORRESPONDENT

Teacher health was in the spotlight at this month’s School Board meeting on Wednesday night (April 9).

More specifically, board members wrestled with how the district pays for teacher health.

Like many districts, Fluvanna County Public Schools (FCPS) maintains a “sick bank.” Staff members who participate in the program donate one or more of their unused sick days to the bank, which can then be drawn on by those facing catastrophic illness for up to 40 days.

The system was changed in 2023 to remove a redundant program where teachers could directly donate their sick time to a colleague in need.

Part of the policy change was a 10-day waiting period between the exhaustion of their sick leave and application to the sick bank.

Before the discussion, teacher Shery Esch told board members that she had received needed support from the sick bank in 2021-2022 as she battled breast cancer. She argued that the 10-day waiting period would have imposed financial hardship on her family at a time when they could least afford it.

"Anyone accessing the sick leave bank is already facing a prolonged illness or injury," Esch told the board. "A 10-day gap in pay isn't just difficult—it's punitive."

Superintendent Peter Gretz said the question in 2023 that could be revisited is whether the 10-day waiting period could run concurrently with the final days of a teacher’s accrued paid leave or whether there had to be a 10-day period of unpaid leave before the sick

bank time could begin. "We already pay our teachers peanuts," said James Kelley (Palmyra). "Taking away said peanuts for 10 days to get what should be short-term disability coverage is insane."

There was no specific policy change on the agenda, but the board members signaled they were open to further discussion on how to help teachers facing health crises.

The same types of catastrophic diagnoses that lead people to the sick bank can also drive up health care costs for the district.

Executive Director of Finance Brenda Grasser said that some of the 10 percent increase in health care costs in the coming year was due to a surge in catastrophic cases, including one that cost almost \$1 million.

The impact of these high-dollar cases is mitigated through FCPS’s participation in the Jefferson Health Plan, a collaborative insurance pool that allows everyone to spread out their costs.

Under the plan, FCPS directly pays claims up to \$125,000, Jefferson Health Plan pays claims between \$125,000 and \$550,000, and a secondary reinsurer pays anything over \$550,000.

Board members discussed the numbers and further cost-mitigating measures like expanding wellness programs to encourage preventative care.

McConnell, Stayton-Eurell bring home VPA awards



The *Fluvanna Review* won three awards in the Virginia Press Associations’ news and advertising contest for 2024.

Editorial designer Amelia McConnell won first place for her front page designs in what the judges called a strong field of competitors. The judges said McConnell’s “entries showed a wide range of layout talent.” She also won second place in the general makeup category with the contest judges describing the paper as a “really fun publication.”

Lynn Stayton-Eurell won third place in the real estate category for her ad designs. Judges praised her timely designs, and her “good use of color.”

The *Fluvanna Review* has now won 103 VPA awards since it began entering the contest in 2010.

“I’m proud of our staff and of the newspaper,” said publisher Carlos Santos. “Amelia has a great eye for making our covers pop. She also has a talent for taking all the different parts of a paper – ads, news stories, photos, classifieds, obitu-

aries – and putting them together in a beautiful way. She’s fast at it too.”

“As for Lynn, she has been the backbone of the paper for years. She turns ads into art. She has a keen eye for how ads should draw in our readers,” Santos said.

“I think the numerous VPA awards we’ve won over the years show how diligently we work to bring the very best newspaper we can to Fluvanna County residents every week,” Santos said.

The *Fluvanna Review* competed against over two dozen other non-dailies with circulations ranging between 3,500 and 6,999. The *Fluvanna Review* prints 5,800 copies each week and circulates in Fluvanna, parts of Charlottesville, Albemarle and Louisa counties.

Each year, the Virginia Press Association awards recognize newspapers across the commonwealth for exceptional writing, photography, multimedia projects, graphics, newspaper design and advertising. Entries are judged by a panel of out-of-state journalists.

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EVENTS

DINNER DANCE: Saturday, April 26th., from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Lake Monticello Firehouse, Slice Road, Palmyra. \$30 pp. Roaring 20's theme, with food by Gia's Restaurant, BYOB. Come out and support Local charities. Call Patty for early tickets at (434) 981-8963, they sell out fast. Sponsored by Palmyra United Methodist Church.

GREEN DOGS UNLEASHED ANNUAL FUND RAISER: Saturday, April 26 & 27, GDU will hold their annual Vendor Fair and Yard Sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1171 N. Boston Road Troy, VA.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA VETERANS: holding their monthly 'G.I. style' breakfast on April 26, 2025. Time is 8:15 a.m. at Wahoo BBQ & Grill, Slice Road Gate, lake Monticello. Cost is \$12 per person (cash only please). Veterans & spouses/friends are welcome. Questions? Contact Paul Bethke (703) 965-8363.

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MONTICELLO PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT: Long and Foster office at 3661 Lake Monticello Road, Palmyra, VA. For current home rentals: contact Genevieve at (434) 589-7653 or email: MonticelloPropertiesMgt@gmail.com

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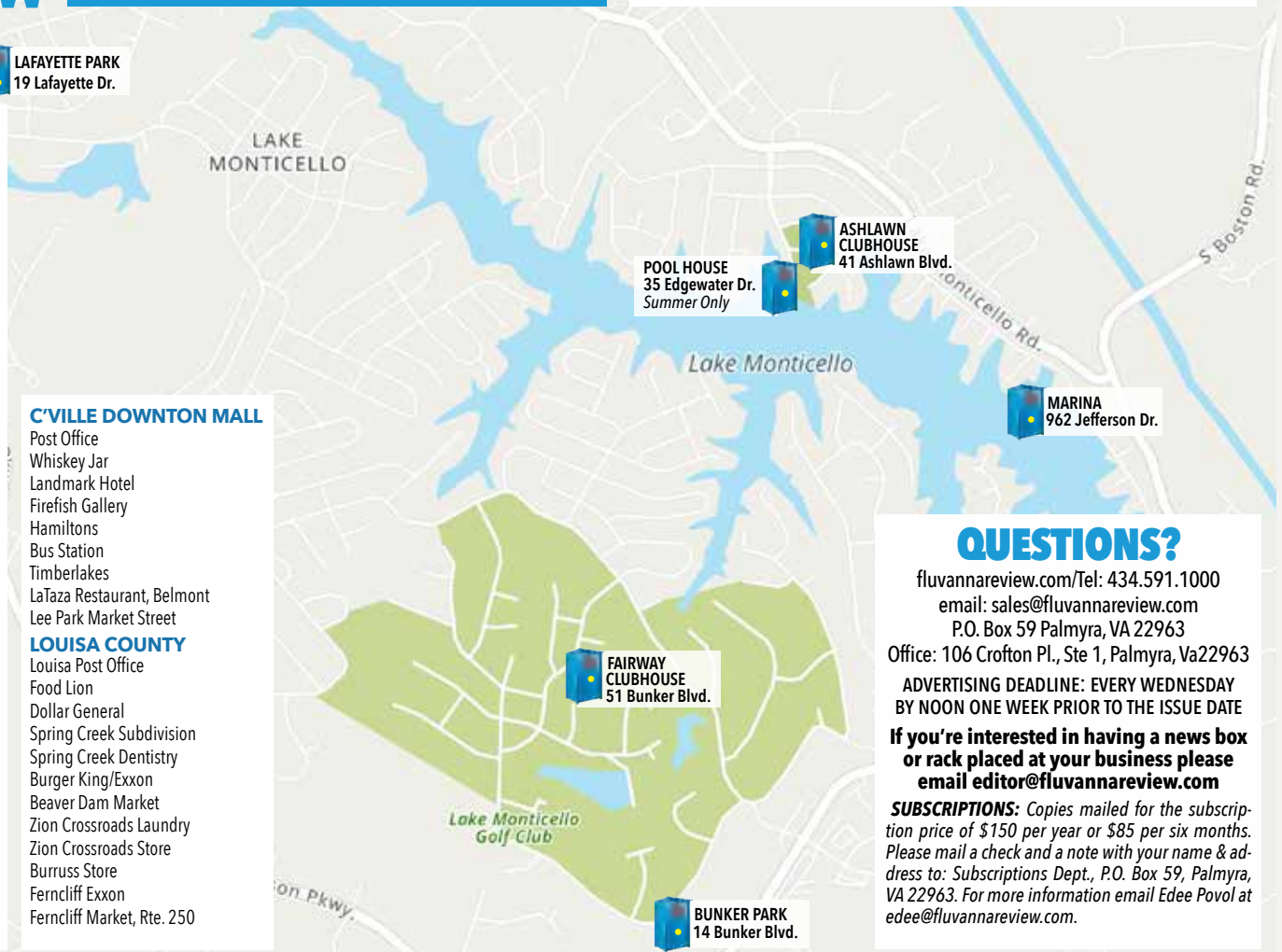
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Hurricane-impacted farmers begin recovery

VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU PRESS RELEASE

While Hurricane Helene victims' losses accumulated, so did the overwhelming support from neighbors near and far.

The Category 4 storm hit northern Florida and tore through six states on Sept. 26, 2024, catching Southwest Virginia farmers by surprise. Strong winds and a raging flood toppled trees, destroyed farm fences and swept hay supplies downriver. A Virginia Tech economic analysis said damages to Virginia agriculture may cost up to \$630 million.

Though the storm's impact was unexpected, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation leaders were somewhat prepared to respond. Development of a disaster relief fund was initiated three years ago. The Virginia Farm Relief Fund, now managed by the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture, Innovation & Rural Sustainability, grew to \$278,000 following Helene, providing assistance to almost 80 applicants.

Tangible needs were prioritized after the storm, said Wilmer Stoneman, VA FAIRS executive director.

"Fencing was the number one asset folks needed," he said. "We allocated about 30 miles worth of fence wire and gates."

That allocation complemented an ongoing T-post drive orchestrated by VFBF Young Farmers. Supplies were distributed in conjunction with Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Wire was personally delivered by VFBF field services director Logan Boyd to those unable to travel for pick-up.

"It's good to be part of an organization that will help when we can," he said. "Though, most of these folks won't tell you they need something. They are not standing there with their hands out."

Robbins Family Farms in Smyth County lost a farm truck and about 2,000 feet of fencing to floodwaters. Three rolls of woven wire fencing were donated to the farm, along with gates, posts, minerals, feed and relief funds.

"They blessed these little farmers," said Connie Robbins. "It could have

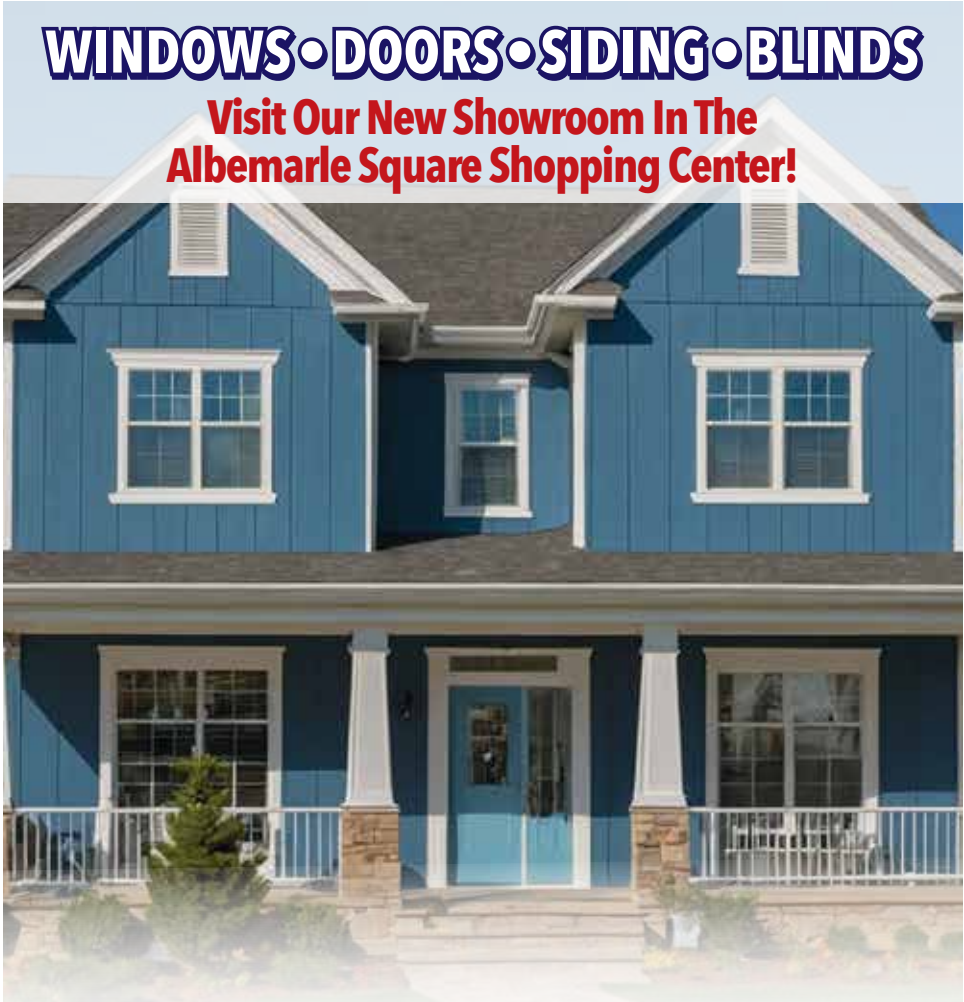
been so much worse. There are farmers around us who lost much more."

Robbins recalled surveying the damage with her youngest grandchildren, ages 9 and 11.

"The 11-year-old took my hand, and said, 'Granny, this is just stuff,'" she said. "It's you who we can never replace!"

The relief fund ballooned with contributions from 69 county Farm Bureaus. Stoneman said individuals and other state Farm Bureaus also

contributed heavily to the fund. "That's our culture," Boyd noted. "Neighbors helping neighbors, even if they're not next door." Visit vafairs.com/virginia-farm-relief-fund to learn more about the fund or contribute tax-deductible donations. See the full story in April's Virginia Farm Bureau News magazine at issuu.com/virginiafarmbureau.



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