

# Fluvanna REVIEW



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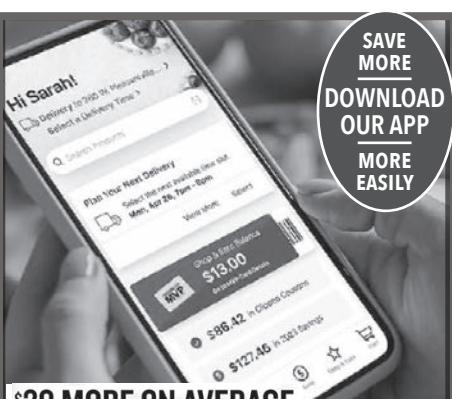


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If you see news happening, call 434-591-1000.

#### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Letter from the Editor

This week's edition marks the beginning of a new chapter for the *Fluvanna Review*.

As of this issue, I step into the role of editor and publisher, following more than a decade of stewardship by Carlos Santos. I'm grateful for the trust he placed in me and for the strong foundation he has left behind.

I am not new to these parts.

Fluvanna County has been home for more than 20 years. I joined the *Fluvanna Review* in 2017, covering county government, schools, courts, growth, and the sometimes complex questions facing our community.

Over the past nine years, I've attended hundreds of public meetings, engaged with local newsmakers, and listened to residents with sharply different views.

That work will continue.

My goal is simple: to ensure the *Fluvanna Review* remains a reliable source of local news at a time when community journalism matters more than ever.

That means fair reporting, careful sourcing, and a commitment to covering the full range of issues shaping life in Fluvanna County. Our role is not to advocate for a particular viewpoint, but to provide clear, well-sourced information that helps readers understand local issues and make informed decisions.

It also means making local news more accessible.

Today, people engage with information in different ways. While we intend to remain primarily a print publication, we also want to meet readers where they are — whether that's in print, on social media, or through a more straightforward, functional website.

Local journalism isn't only about conflict. It's about people, schools, businesses, civic groups, and the everyday moments that bind a community together. We will continue to expand our coverage to inform, explain, and reflect the place where we all live.

Thank you for reading, for supporting local journalism, and for holding us accountable. I look forward to continuing this work together.

*Heather Michon*

— Heather Michon, Editor & Publisher

## THIS WEEK'S PET: Dawn

**Meet Dawn!** Dawn is a beautiful, sensitive girl who is still learning that humans can be kind and safe. She came to us very unsure of people, and while she's still nervous, she's been making small but meaningful steps forward with patience and gentle handling. Dawn blossoms in calm, predictable environments and would thrive with someone who understands that trust takes time. Once she feels comfortable, her soft eyes and quiet sweetness start to shine through, and those little moments of bravery feel incredibly rewarding. Dawn loves other dogs, and she is very playful. **She's looking for a patient, loving home that can offer her stability, understanding, and the space she needs to continue building confidence.** If you have a big heart for shy dogs and want to help a special girl discover what love feels like, Dawn may be the perfect match.



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# From Grannies to Gen Z: Local Knitting Groups Stitch Together Community

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD  
CORRESPONDENT

Knitting is no longer just for grandmas rocking in their chairs.

Both knitting and crocheting have gone mainstream and become popular cultural pastimes for all ages.

Knitting's resurgence is due to a combination of factors, including the search for hobbies during the pandemic, a strong pushback against fast fashion toward sustainable, slow living, and the mental health benefits, mindfulness, and stress relief.

The power of social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram is making them trendy, accessible, and community-driven for younger generations seeking unique, personalized styles.

Needlework, including cross-stitch, petit point, and crewel work, is also making a comeback.

Fluvanna County boasts at least three groups devoted to knitting and crocheting.

Hugs began meeting at Cuppa Joe's several years ago on Monday afternoons, starting with a few women from the Palmyra Methodist Church. After the pandemic, it grew to include other local knitters, including some men.

All of them meet at Cuppa Joe's,

where they have coffee and socialize while knitting, crocheting, or doing needlework.

Hannah Reed, owner of Cuppa Joe's, an avid knitter herself, often chats with them about their latest creations.

Reed is frequently seen working on everything from sweaters, hats, scarves, socks, even mittens. There is nothing she can't knit—or, at least, nothing she won't try to knit.

During some breaks at the coffee shop when things quiet down, and Reed feels less rushed, she will knit.

"This is the most peaceful moment all day," she says as her fingers rapidly and effortlessly make stitches. "It's cathartic and helps to practice patience. It is the epitome of slow fashion."

Ginny McLaughlin, a member of all three knitting groups at Cuppa Joe's, is lightning-fast with a crochet hook.

"I crochet because it's a creative outlet and I love making things, especially gifts. My Mom taught me to crochet when I was around seven years old. It was something I could do with her, and lots of female relatives usually did when we gathered for holidays. Crocheting and other handicrafts like embroidery are nostalgic and a way to keep in touch with fond memories," she said. "The repetitive motion is meditative, doesn't calm my

mind completely, but it helps."

Linda Mayhew learned to crochet later in life but learned crewelwork in her twenties.

"I like the design, the texture. It gives my brain something to do, and it's relaxing and addictive."

Research supports the benefits of knitting and other needle arts, offering significant mental, emotional, and cognitive benefits.

They act as a meditative practice that lowers stress, anxiety, and depression by engaging the hands in rhythmic, repetitive motions that calm the nervous system and build new neural pathways. These crafts boost mood, improve focus, enhance hand-eye coordination, provide a sense of accomplishment, and may even help reduce chronic pain and slow cognitive decline, making them powerful tools for well-being.

It also has social and creative benefits. For groups that meet regularly, friendships have formed, fostering belonging and connection. Some are beginners and have come to learn, becoming productive and accomplishing projects. Finishing projects provides tangible results, fosters pride and self-esteem, offers an outlet for self-expression, and creates meaningful gifts for others.

For anyone interested in the groups,

Hugs meets every Monday afternoon from 3-5 pm; the Tuesday group meets 1-3 pm; and the evening group meets every Wednesday evening from 6-8 pm, except on the third Wednesday.

They are hard to miss: large groups of neighbors chatting and knitting.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- Keep letters under 350 words.
- Refrain from personal attacks.

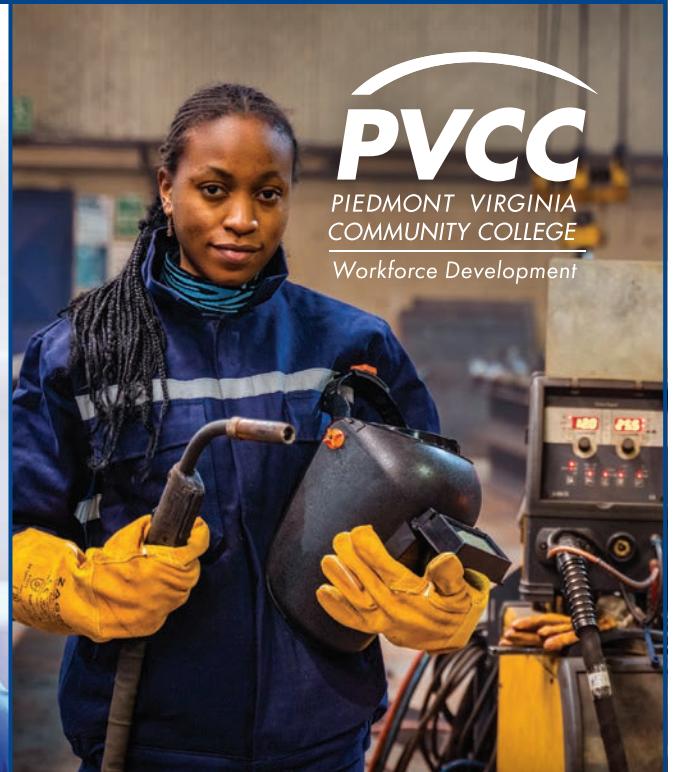
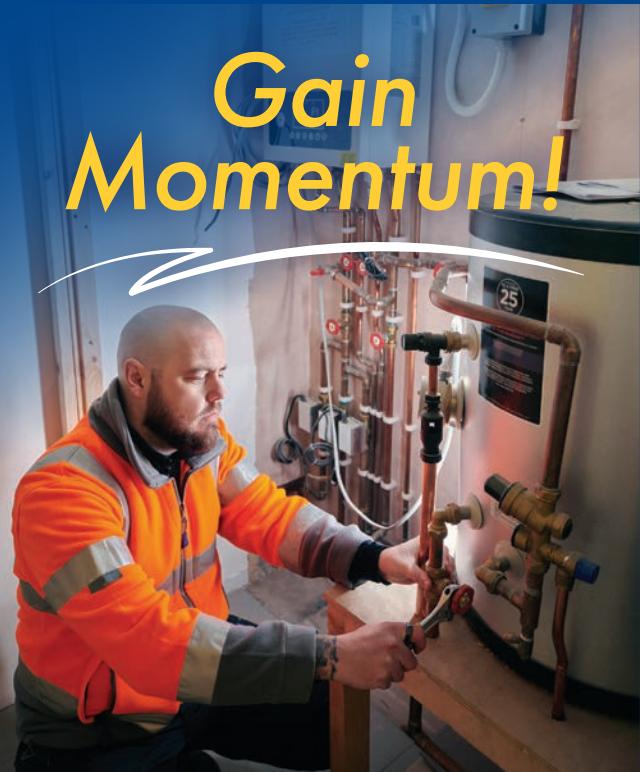
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- Include your name, address & phone # for verification.

- We reserve the right to edit letters.

Submit via email to: editor@fluvannareview.com or mail to: Fluvanna Review, P.O. Box 93, Palmyra, VA 22963

You will get an email confirmation that your letter has been received. If you don't, contact the editor directly.

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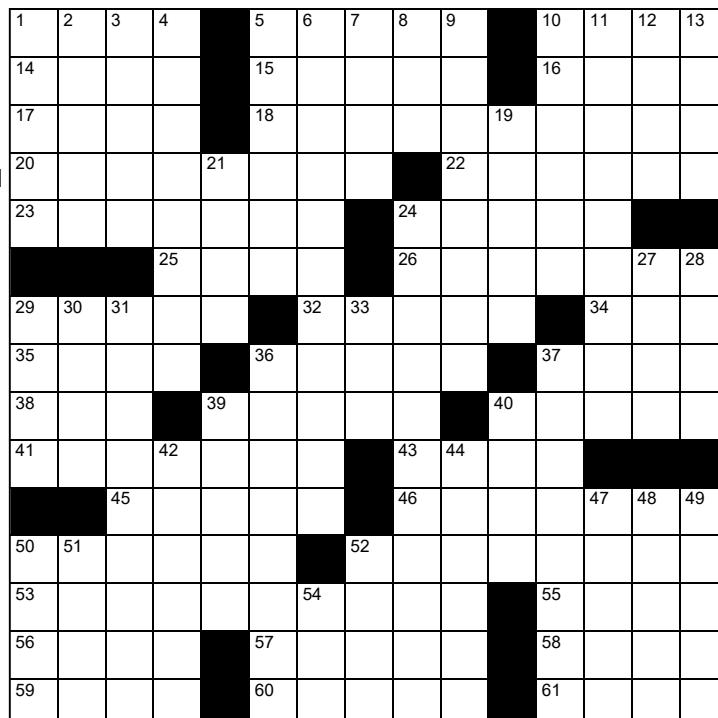
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## The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

1 For fear that  
5 Henhouse  
sounds  
10 Long narrative  
14 Jazzy Fitzgerald  
15 The "A" in "CAT  
scan"  
16 Farm machine  
17 Presidential  
office  
18 Fancy flower  
pot  
20 Cartier offering  
22 Ran smoothly  
23 Exasperating  
24 Comic strip  
sound  
25 Icy coating  
26 Some bank  
workers  
29 Starter for  
007's car?  
32 Chicago team  
34 Cowboys QB  
Prescott  
35 Tub foot,  
sometimes  
36 Young salmon  
37 Quartet member  
38 Evil spell  
39 Pocket breads  
40 "Twilight" writer  
Stephenie  
41 Large building  
43 Ski lift type  
45 Clinton cat name  
46 Shortages in  
containers  
50 Kids series,  
"PAW \_\_\_\_"  
52 Marital infidelity  
53 Precision  
55 Prive to  
56 Dial follower  
57 Students take  
them  
58 Estimator's  
phrase  
59 Partner of odds  
60 Disgusting,  
slangily  
61 Must-have



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### DOWN

1 "Madam Secretary" actress  
2 Baby eel  
3 Give in a rope  
4 "The View", e.g.  
5 Kind of party  
6 Makes worse  
7 Dublin's home  
8 Paw part  
9 Bedroom pair  
10 Perfect pass  
11 In a watchful  
way  
12 Horror film  
staple  
13 Wowed  
19 Cancels  
21 "Crazy" bird  
24 Like an Oscars  
gala  
27 Word with birth  
or interest  
28 Heath Bar  
alternative  
29 Dull pain  
30 Winter ride  
31 Airport area

33 Period of time  
36 Preparing, as  
kimchi  
37 Lawn improve-  
ment process  
39 Lace edging  
40 Shopping mecca  
42 Troops  
44 Like B.B. King's  
music

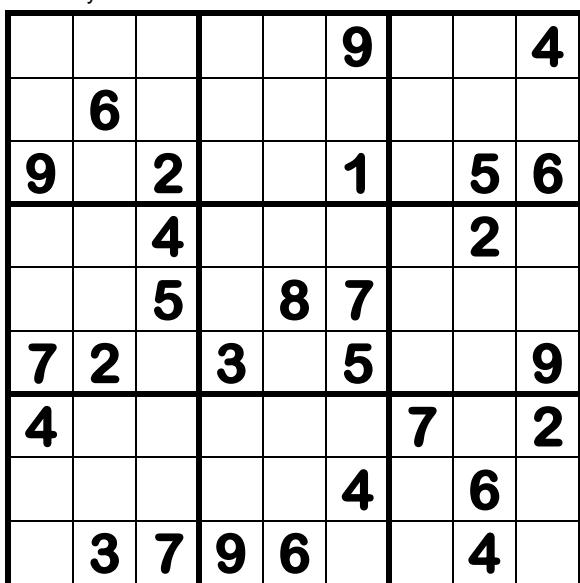
47 Horror or sci-fi,  
e.g.  
48 Notched, as a  
leaf  
49 Bishops' body  
50 Ribisi series,  
"Sneaky \_\_\_\_"  
51 Nerve fiber  
52 Insurable item  
54 Rocky peak

### Answers to Previous Crossword:



## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

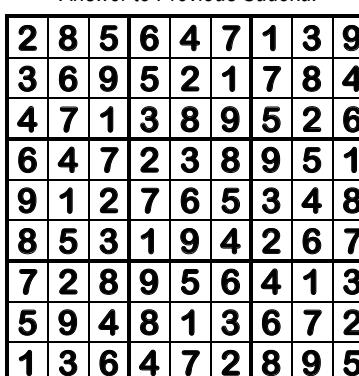


Edited by Margie E. Burke

### HOW TO SOLVE:

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

### Answer to Previous Sudoku:



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## Letters to the Editor

### Unanswered Questions

There are too many unanswered questions and too little transparency regarding construction of a second Tenaska plant. Evidence continues to emerge about the potential health dangers to the people of Fluvanna and surrounding counties, our land and water. But even smaller aspects of this process are cause for concern. Initially, there wasn't a required traffic study. Then the BOS offered to fund one. After questions about this \$60,000 taxpayer expense were raised, the company agreed to put up (who knows how much money) for a study. Now, Tenaska markets this payment like it wasn't compelled to do it!

When the Fluvanna Area News came out in early December there was a section about Tenaska. It stated in part, "Additional Environmental Information About Expedition can be found here" with a link directing the reader to Expedition talking points. That strikes me as more promotional than informational. Where was the well-researched data on the environmental impact that challenges and contradicts these points which concerned locals and community groups have supplied?

I enjoyed shopping at the Pleasant Grove Arts in the Park, but was mystified to learn I couldn't get one of the "No Tenaska" yard signs a vendor had to offer. A county employee had told the vendor these signs couldn't be distributed. It makes me wonder if someone decided that material on display from other vendors wasn't allowed, would there have been more of an outcry. What if Christmas ornaments were banned or woodwork that mentioned prayer or God because they were religious in nature? I'm also puzzled as to why this free speech prohibition was discussed in closed session by our Board of Supervisors rather than out in the open.

To my mind there are serious reasons to oppose this plant but these examples of ways the county government seems to be pushing this construction make me wonder what else is happening behind closed doors. Please join me in learning more about this project (<https://www.fluvannahorizonsalliance.org/>) and share your opinion with your elected officials, neighbors and friends.

- Millie Fife, Palmyra, VA

## At the Crossroads

safety risks on unsuitable infrastructure.

Fluvanna County stands at a crossroads with Tenaska's proposed Expedition Generating Station in our rural Agricultural district. Exporting power primarily to Northern Virginia data centers via the PJM grid, this project delivers no meaningful benefits to our residents while threatening irreversible damage to our health, environment, economy, and way of life.

The question posed with the plant's approval is, do we want Fluvanna to be Virginia's industrial park? Approval of the special permits sets a precedence for more of this.

To buy support, Tenaska's "Good Neighbor Fund" offering \$30,000 total for adjacent homes, \$20,000 within one mile, and \$10,000 within two miles over four years, is insulting. It fails to offset 7-10% property value losses or \$275 million in projected regional health costs by 2040. In contrast, Northern Virginia landowners receive \$300,000-\$900,000 per acre for data centers.

Tenaska's own projections state construction would inundate rural roads with 800-900 vehicles daily for four years, generating congestion, dust, pavement destruction, and

The existing plant's unresolved low-frequency noise will be tripled; water demands (10-11 million gallons daily) threaten drought vulnerable ecosystems and return heated effluent into our water system. Emissions (NOx, VOCs, PM2.5 at 143 tons/year, formaldehyde, methane) would exacerbate Fluvanna's increasing health issues.

Weak economic claims, 19 local jobs, ~\$8.2 million per year in tax revenue once operational, are offset by costs caused by Tenaska. Tenaska's excess 375 acres risk data center rezoning and eminent domain across our properties. Approval invites lawsuits against the county for violating several state and federal laws, further sapping our resources to protect outside interests.

Approval sets a dangerous precedent for further industrialization, tell the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors on January 13, 2026 to deny these permits and protect our community.

- Greg G. Schmidt, Scottsville, VA

## New Fluvanna Business Alliance launches

Group aims to connect more than 700 local businesses, consultants, and contractors

FLUVANNA REVIEW STAFF

A new organization aimed at supporting and connecting local entrepreneurs and business owners has launched in Fluvanna County, reflecting the county's increasingly diverse and business-driven economy.

The Fluvanna Business Alliance was formed to provide networking opportunities, resources, and advocacy for

local business owners, consultants, and independent contractors.

Organizers say the group is intended to strengthen connections among businesses while helping them navigate shared challenges, from workforce issues to growth and visibility.

The launch comes as Fluvanna continues to see strong participation in self-em-

ployment and small business activity.

According to U.S. Census data, 11.8% of Fluvanna County residents are self-employed, a rate higher than many rural localities.

The county is home to an estimated 736 registered businesses, in addition to hundreds of consultants, freelancers, and independent contractors working across fields ranging from construction and real estate to professional services and creative work.

That mix creates opportunities but can also lead to a sense of isolation for business owners who often work independently or outside traditional commercial corridors.

The Alliance is holding an inaugural "mixer" at Wahoo BBQ on Jan 31 from 2 pm to 4 pm.

More information about the Fluvanna Business Alliance, including upcoming events, will be released in the coming weeks.

## Letters to the Editor

### Sycamore Square

As homeowners in Sycamore Square, we are writing to bring attention to a recent decision by our HOA Board to grant an easement across the trailhead/open space area off Lexie Lane (Lot 118).

Many residents were surprised to learn of this action after the fact and are concerned that it occurred without adequate notice, homeowner input, or a clear vote of the full Board. We believe decisions that affect designated open space and the character of our neighborhood warrant transparency and community discussion.

To that end, homeowners are circulating a petition requesting that the Board hold a special meeting to hear

resident concerns and reconsider the easement. Our goal is not confrontation, but communication and accountability in matters that impact the entire community.

Sycamore Square homeowners who wish to learn more or participate may sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/SSeasement25>. Those who would like to receive updates may email [sycamoresquarematters@gmail.com](mailto:sycamoresquarematters@gmail.com).

We encourage respectful dialogue and thoughtful consideration of how decisions affecting shared spaces are made.

Concerned Sycamore Square Homeowners  
- Susan Mead, Palmyra VA

## Community Calendar



QR Code provided by the Fluvanna Leadership Development Program

### FCHS study and scheduling information

FCHS programs of study and student scheduling information night will be held **Jan. 14** at 6 p.m. in the FCHS auditorium so residents can learn more about the student scheduling and course request process, high school academic programs of study, diploma types and requirements, and special programs like Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and Career & Technical Education (CTE) classes. Q&A session at the end! Please enter through the doors at the rear/northern side of the cafeteria.

### Fluvanna Flutterwheels Open House

Fluvanna Flutterwheels Square Dance Club's open house at the Fluvanna County High School will be held on Mondays, from 7 to 9 p.m. on **Jan. 19 and Jan. 26**. Casual dress. Great exercise. Great Fun. Questions? Call Janice @ (434) 286-2585 or Warren @ (434) 981-1747. We are on Facebook.

### Cash, food accepted

Fluvanna Leaders for Race & Diversity (FLRD) is located at 14455 James Madison Highway in Palmyra. It is open on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It accepts cash and food donations. (434) 987-1938.

### 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.

## RUDY TALKS TAXES

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

### Frugality vs. Free-Spending: Finding Your Financial Sweet Spot

Money has a way of testing balance. Lean too far toward penny-pinching and life feels tight and restricted. Tip the other way into carefree spending and it's easy to lose financial footing. Here are some practical tips to help find a healthy balance.

#### Two lenses for seeing money

Most of us have a mix of both frugality and spendthrift habits, but knowing what each one looks like makes it easier to spot where they show up in spending habits.

- **Frugality** is about being intentional with your money. A frugal person budgets, prioritizes spending on what matters, and looks for ways to stretch a dollar without sacrificing value.

- **A spendthrift**, on the other hand, tends to spend freely, often without a plan. This can lead to splurging or buying on impulse, or prioritizing short-term enjoyment over long-term financial stability.

#### Counterpoint to frugality: Why it's ok to spend money

Being frugal doesn't mean you never spend. In fact, spending wisely within a budget is part of living well. It keeps life balanced, enjoyable, and sustainable. Here's why:

- **Budgeting allows for enjoyment.** A budget isn't just about bills and savings. It should also include money to freely spend, whether it's for dining out, hobbies, or travel. Planning for enjoyment makes it guilt-free.

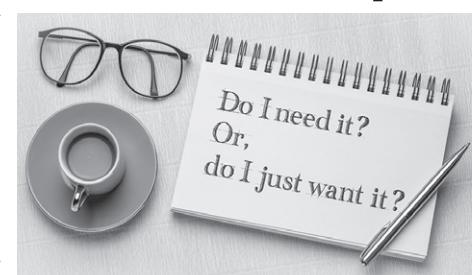
- **Quality can save money in the long run.** Sometimes spending more upfront, such as on a durable appliance, a reliable car, or quality shoes, is actually more frugal than constantly replacing cheaper alternatives.

- **Experiences enrich your life.** Memories with family and friends, or investments in self-growth like education, often outweigh the temporary satisfaction of holding onto every dollar.

#### Signs you're leaning too spendthrift

Overspending can creep up without you realizing it. Here are a few signs that you might be too spendthrift:

- You catch yourself making spur-of-the-moment purchases instead of following a spending plan.
- You carry a credit card balance from month to month.
- Your checking account feels like a mystery ride, swinging from full to empty and leaving



you wondering where the money went.

- You tend to chase the fun stuff first, wants over needs, splurges over basics.
- You make a good income, yet your savings account never seems to grow.

#### Finding the sweet spot

It is possible to find a balance. Here's some ideas to keep your financial footing:

- **Create a values-based budget.** Identify what matters most to you (travel, fitness, education, family time) and allocate money toward those things without letting extras derail your goals.

- **Use the 50/30/20 rule.** Spend 50% of your income on needs, 30% on wants, and 20% on savings & investing. This helps control overspending while leaving room for fun.

- **Think before spending.** Before making a major purchase, wait at least 48 hours. Ask yourself: Does this align with my priorities, or is it just impulse?

- **Think in seasons, not seconds.** Frugality is planting seeds for tomorrow, while spendthrift habits can leave the soil barren.

Remember, at the end of the day, money is just a tool. Use it wisely, and it can help you build a life that feels secure and rewarding. As promised, we are pleased to announce that Brian Franke will be joining the team this year. This will provide us with additional capacity to better serve all of you in the community! Please send Brian a welcome email to [brian@rwftaxservices.com](mailto:brian@rwftaxservices.com)!

Also, don't forget that the EARLY BIRD gets scheduled first! Please call 434-442-4044 and book your appointment now for February! Don't wait until you get all of your documents in, we can get you a place in line now! Don't forget to mention our EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT when you call or email [info@rwftaxservices.com](mailto:info@rwftaxservices.com).

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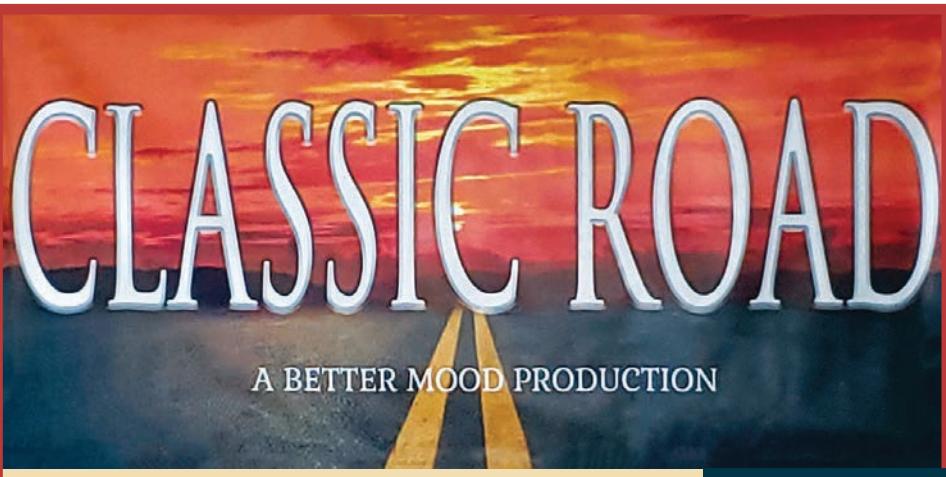
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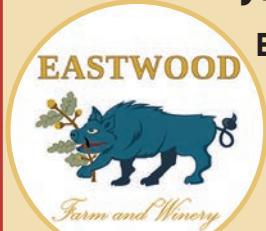
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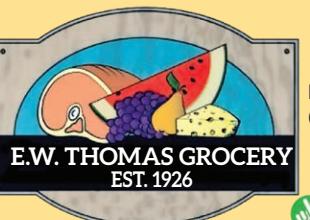
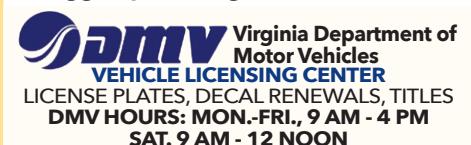
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Fluco boys outlasted by Lancers from Amherst 56-55

BY DUNCAN NIXON  
CORRESPONDENT



Photo by Duncan Nixon.

It was a ragged and chaotic game, filled with turnovers, blocked shots, and steals. The Lancers employed a full-court press for the entire game, and sometimes it forced turnovers, but on other occasions it led to easy Fluco baskets, as is often the case with full-court presses.

It is not often that a review of the score sheet leads to a conclusion that the game was decided in the first quarter. This may have been one of those rare occasions. The Lancers won the first quarter 14-7. The Flucos

outscored the Lancers by six over the second, third, and fourth quarters combined.

The game started with Amherst scoring the first four points. The Flucos came back to tie the score on two nice passes by Fluco sophomore Gunner Marks for easy lay-ins. The Lancers then ran off seven straight points for an 11-4 lead. The Flucos had trouble making up that lead, but eventually they did.

The Flucos won the second quarter 14-13, so the Lancers led by six at the half. In the quarter, six Flucos scored, but no one had more than one basket. Marks and sophomore Kayron Douglas each had three-point baskets,

The Flucos solved the Lancer's press a little better in the third quarter and came back to tie the score at 40-40 after three. Junior Shawn Smith and junior Isaiah Thompson led the way in the quarter with six and five points, respectively. Both had three-point baskets in the quarter.

The fourth quarter started with baskets by Fluco junior Antwon Carter and senior Andre Key. The Lancers responded with six in a row to take a two-point lead. As time was running down, Thompson sank a three-point shot to give the Flucos their last lead at 51-50 with just over a minute remaining. With the game on the line late in the final quarter the team that makes its free throws usually wins. In this game, both teams made their clutch free throws, but the Lancers were six for six and the Flucos four for four. Smith and Douglas were both two for two, but it was not enough.

The Flucos had balanced scoring in the game. Thompson had ten, Carter and Marks had nine, and Smith had eight.

The Fluco boys played at Heritage High on Jan. 5 and at Western Albemarle on Jan. 6. They host Goochland County on Jan. 9 and travel to Charlottesville High on Jan. 13.

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## EVENTS

**CALENDAR FUNDRAISER:** Fluvanna Co Ruritan Club is selling 2026 calendars for \$10.00, a great holiday gift! The sales are going to find our scholarships and community service projects. Please support our students and young athletes with your purchase(s). Contact Sandy Turner (571) 208-2895 or email [FluvannaRuritanClub@gmail.com](mailto:FluvannaRuritanClub@gmail.com) for more information.

**BINGO !!** at Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire & Rescue, 10 Slice Road, every Friday. Doors open at 5 p.m. First game at 6:30 p.m. Cash only. No one under 16 allowed. All others welcome! Come join in some fun! CLOSING November 28 to December 26, 2025. We'll see you again on January 2, 2026!

**FLUVANNA FLUTTERWHEELS SQUARE DANCE CLUB:** Open House Dates> Mondays, from 7 to 9 p.m. on January 19th. and January 26th., 2026. Casual Dress. Great Exercise — Great Fun — Nice Friendly People! Location: Fluvanna County High School, 1918 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy., Palmyra, VA. Questions? Call Janice @ (434) 286-2585 or Warren @ (434) 981-1747. We are on Facebook.

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**VOLUNTEERS FOR MACAA FOOD PANTRY:** We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help support MACAA's work in the Fluvanna community. Tasks: food pickups, sorting donations, stocking, packing boxes, checking in visitors, and other minor tasks. Volunteer hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., M-F. No prior experience needed — training will be provided. Call (434) 987-9887 or email [foodpantry@macaa.org](mailto:foodpantry@macaa.org).

**MEALS ON WHEELS:** Drivers needed, regular and substitute positions available — Kidds Store & Fork Union. Apply online [www.mealsonwheelsfluvanna.org](http://www.mealsonwheelsfluvanna.org). or phone our volunteer coordinator at 434.589.1685.

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## YARD SALES

**INDOOR YARD SALE** : Come to Wilmington Club, 1083 Wilmington Road, on Saturday, January 10th., 2026 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Don't miss out on tons of household items, holiday décor, tools, outdoor items and furniture. There will be something for every one! Call 540.287.3231 with any questions.



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## New year, new Virginia laws

BY HEATHER MICHON  
CORRESPONDENT

The stroke of midnight on Jan. 1 ushered in not just a new year, but a series of new laws affecting workers, families, consumers, and children across Virginia.

Among the most significant changes are increases to the minimum wage and unemployment benefits, new consumer privacy rules, and additional protections for children and families.

### Minimum wage and unemployment benefits

Virginia's minimum wage increased by 36 cents to \$12.77 per hour on Jan. 1.

The new rate places Virginia roughly in the middle among states. Minimum wages nationwide currently range from \$17.50 per hour in Washington, D.C., to \$5.15 per hour in Wyoming. Many states continue to use the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

Democrats in the Virginia General Assembly have signaled interest in further increases, including proposals that would raise the state minimum wage to \$13.75 in 2027 and \$15 in 2028.

Virginia also increased its weekly unemployment benefit by \$52, raising the base rate for payments to eligible residents who are temporarily out of

work. Lawmakers said the adjustment is intended to better reflect current wage levels, marking the first increase to the benefit in a decade.

### New phone opt-out protections

Virginians who are tired of receiving unwanted text solicitations now have stronger protections under the Virginia Telephone Privacy Protection Act.

The law allows consumers to opt out of future marketing texts by replying "STOP" or "UNSUBSCRIBE." Once a recipient opts out, telephone solicitors must remove that number from their contact lists.

Under the law, companies must honor opt-out requests for 10 years, during which they may not send additional solicitation texts.

### Protections for babies and young children

A new law aimed at reducing infants' exposure to toxic heavy metals took effect Jan. 1 with the passage of the Baby Food Protection Act.

The law requires baby food manufactured in Virginia to contain lower levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, and arsenic than the Food and Drug Administration's minimum thresholds.

According to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, manufacturers must conduct

monthly testing of baby food products. Companies may also be required to make test results publicly available, including through QR codes or other scannable methods on product packaging.

### Health screening protections

A new law taking effect Jan. 1 prohibits health insurers from charging patients additional out-of-pocket costs for certain cancer screenings.

Under the law, insurers may not impose extra charges for breast cancer screening exams, including mammograms, MRIs, and ultrasounds.

Prostate cancer screenings are also covered, including blood tests and rectal exams, protecting patients from additional charges for those services.

Lawmakers said the changes are intended to remove financial barriers to early detection and encourage routine preventive care.

### Online protections for children under 16

An amendment to the Virginia Consumer Protection Act places new limits on how social media platforms interact with users under age 16, intending to strengthen privacy protections and reduce harmful online exposure.

Under the law, certain social media platforms must obtain verifiable parental consent before collecting or

processing personal data from users under 16. The measure also restricts features designed to encourage prolonged screen time for minors.

Supporters say the changes address growing concerns about youth mental health and online safety, while critics have raised questions about enforcement and implementation.



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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

FLUVANNA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

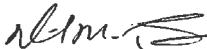
72 Main St., Palmyra, VA, 22963

Professional Foreclosure Corporation of Virginia v. Gail E Desandis  
Case No. 25CL1005

The object of this suit is to:

Interplead surplus funds resulting from a foreclosure sale of the property located at 461 Mechunk Creek Drive, Troy VA 22974, pending judicial determination of the lawful distribution of said funds.

It is ORDERED that The Unknown Heirs of Gail E Desandis appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before February 12, 2026 at 9:00 AM.



12/3/2025  
DATED  
David M. Barredo, Judge

### VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF FLUVANNA

COUNTY OF FLUVANNA, VIRGINIA,  
a Political Subdivision of  
the Commonwealth of Virginia,  
Complainant,

V.  
LENORE Y. BRYANT, ET AL  
Respondent(s).

Case No.: CL25-735

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Fluvanna, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Fluvanna, Virginia, described as follows:

Tax Map No. 30-A-60A  
Account No. 30791

All that certain lot, piece, or parcel of real property, together with any improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto belonging, lying and being situate in the Fork Union Magisterial District of the County of Fluvanna, State of Virginia, containing one-half (1/2) acre, more or less, just off Route 15 and adjoining the Rosa Carter store and property on the west and lands now or formerly of Lena Carter and Allen Carter on the north, east and south.

And being the same real property conveyed to Leeroye Carter from Lena Carter and Allen Carter, husband and wife, by Deed dated May 19, 1961 and recorded June 2, 1961 among the records of the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Fluvanna County, Virginia in Deed Book 59 at Page 186.

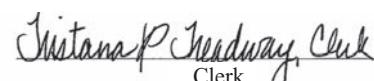
This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described.

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: Leeroye Carter a/k/a Leroy Lee Carter unknown; Diane Y. Carter, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Leroy Carter Jr., whose last known address is unknown; Nation Wide Investors, Inc. d/b/a Waters Homes, whose last known address is unknown; T. Dix Sutton, Trustee, whose last known address is unknown; Linwood E. Toombs, Trustee, whose last known is unknown; and that any officers, any trustees in dissolution, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby

ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before January 30, 2026 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Fluvanna, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.



Entered on the 3rd day of December, 2025



I Ask For This:  
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)  
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)  
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)  
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)  
Paul L. LaBarre, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)  
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)  
Seth R. Konopasek, Esq. (VSB No. 97065)  
Garrett W. Patton, Esq. (VSB No. 98345)  
Michelle W. Clayton, Esq. (VSB No. 81365)  
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Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800  
Phone: (804) 864-0080  
Facsimile: (804) 545-2377  
TACS No.: 1082263



### PUBLIC HEARING

Fluvanna County Planning Commission  
Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2204, a Public Hearing will be held at Carysbrook Performing Arts Center, 8880 James Madison Highway, Fork Union, VA 23055, for citizens of the County to have the opportunity to appear before and be heard by the Planning Commission on the following item(s):

**SUP 25:05 Memory Lane Property, LLC – A Special Use Permit request in the I-1, Industrial, Limited District to construct a solid waste material recovery facility on four parcels totaling approximately 13.868 acres: Tax Map 4-26-2; 4-A-18A; 4-A-19; and 4-A-20. The parcels are located in the Zion Crossroads Community Planning Area and the Palmyra Election District.**

A copy of the complete text of the above plan and ordinance is available for public review at <https://www.fluvannacounty.org/> and at the Office of the Fluvanna County Administrator during normal business hours. Questions may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department, at (434) 591-1910. All interested persons wishing to be heard are invited to attend the public hearing.

## Notice of Public Sale

January 29, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

### Local Storage Fluvanna

Notice is hereby given that LocalStorage Fluvanna will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to Virginia Self Storage Act § 55.1-2900 through § 55.1-2906). The sale will take place at the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. The sale will be conducted on <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (AU005857) on behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as general household items unless otherwise noted.

LocalStorage Fluvanna, 21 Burns Plaza, Palmyra, VA 22963, will list storage units on the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com> until sold or disposed of on January 29, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

Unit: #058 William Johannes, #802 Nicholas Weeks, #811 Les Barnett, #C012 William Hoff, #EA05 Laura Shipp, #EA34 Selena Gilmore, #ED08 Elizabeth Roberts, #ED18 Linda Gonzalez, #RC13 Terrance Minor

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Peggy.Shanklin@lnf.com



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- Fenced Yard

Gunnels Group 434-361-4987  
Maggie@GunnelsGroup.com

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12 Whippoorwill Lake Monticello \$425,000

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Patricia.Arndt@LNF.com

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