

# Fluvanna —REVIEW



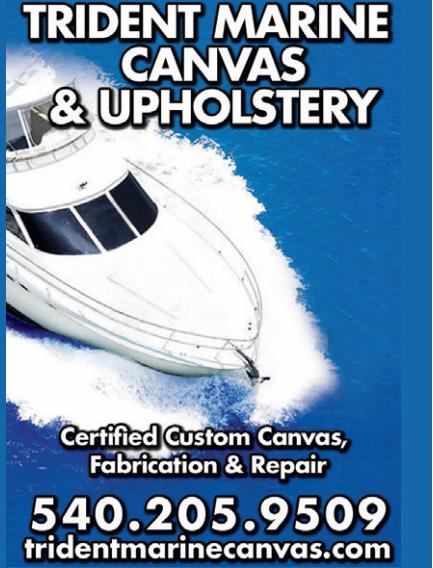
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OUR DATA SPEAKS VOLUMES

**On the cover:** Photo credit: Kathryn Bender. Cover design by Amelia McConnell.

**DEADLINE** Advertising due by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for the issue released eight days later. Submissions, letters and calendar items due by Friday at 9 a.m. for the subsequent paper. **DISPLAY AND WEB ADS** For information including rates and deadlines, call Heather Michon at 434-207-0223.

## GENERAL

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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The *Fluvanna Review* is the paper of record for Fluvanna County. Call Heather Michon 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](mailto:editor@fluvannareview.com)

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



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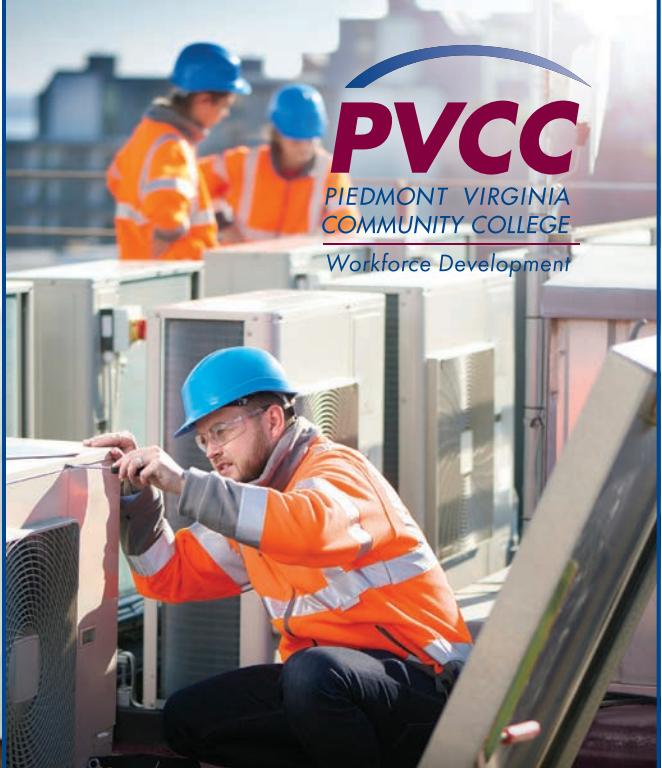
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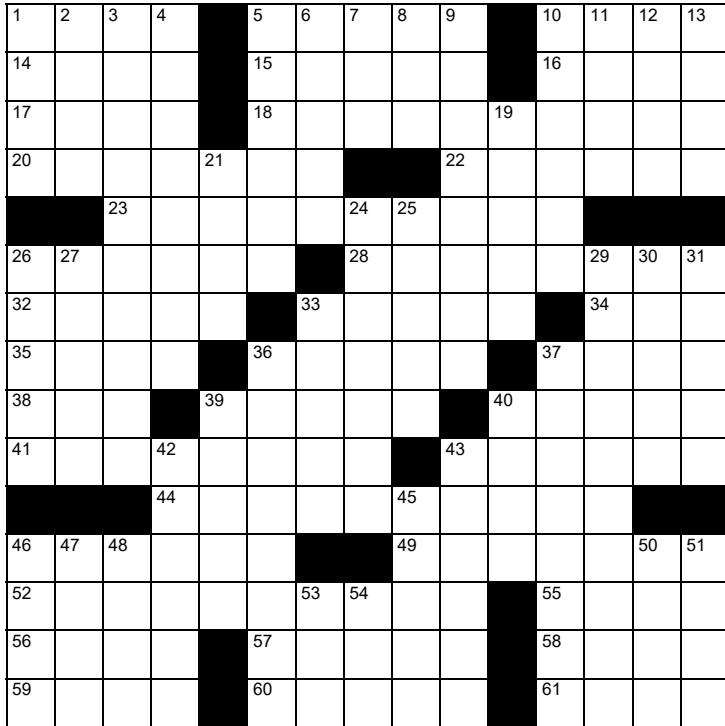
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## The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- 1 Entry permit
- 5 Ming things
- 10 Comic-strip possum
- 14 Border upon
- 15 Insect stage
- 16 "Argo" setting
- 17 Faction
- 18 Disguise
- 20 Doesn't include
- 22 Orchestral section
- 23 Recruiter's objective
- 26 Solomon's strength
- 28 In truth
- 32 Atlas enlargement
- 33 Narnia's creator
- 34 Fish delicacy
- 35 Lumber along
- 36 "Bet you can't!" taunter
- 37 Twelve Oaks neighbor
- 38 Bud holder?
- 39 \_\_\_\_\_ City: Detroit nickname
- 40 Busy places
- 41 Not localized, as a problem
- 43 Patio material
- 44 Smelly pranks
- 46 Fillion or Lane
- 49 Attributed
- 52 Thrill
- 55 Drug bust qty.
- 56 Salty drop
- 57 Emphatic refusal
- 58 Lab procedure
- 59 List anagram
- 60 Levels
- 61 Brings into play



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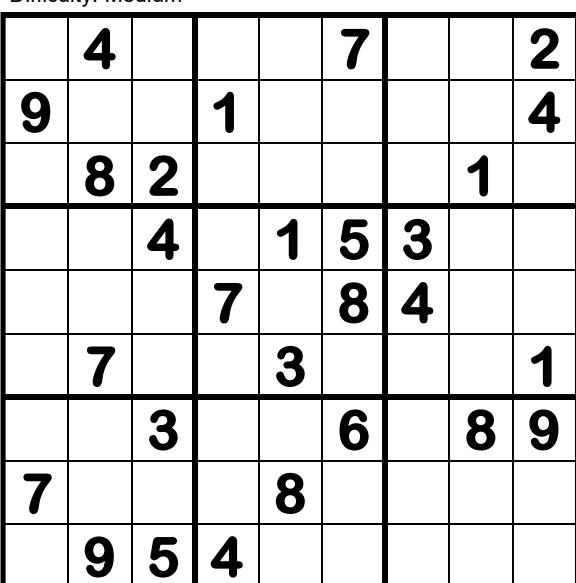
- 5 "Law & Order" extra, maybe
- 33 Classical tongue
- 36 Like some traits
- 37 Far-off place, figuratively
- 39 Nickel or steel
- 40 Rope fiber
- 42 Concert memento
- 43 Rising stars
- 45 Dog to avoid
- 46 Trawling items
- 47 Skater's jump
- 48 Bangkok native
- 50 If all \_\_\_\_\_ fails...
- 51 Specks
- 53 Camping gear chain
- 54 Caesar's hello
- 12 Smitten
- 13 Snake eyes
- 19 Parking penalties
- 21 Novel idea
- 24 Dwayne Johnson, familiarly
- 25 Yard machine
- 26 Diaper bag supply
- 27 Mosaic technique
- 29 Ludicrous distortions
- 30 Sophia of "Two Women"

### DOWN

- 1 Hyacinth holder
- 2 Mountain goat
- 3 Those who follow
- 4 Showed up for

## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

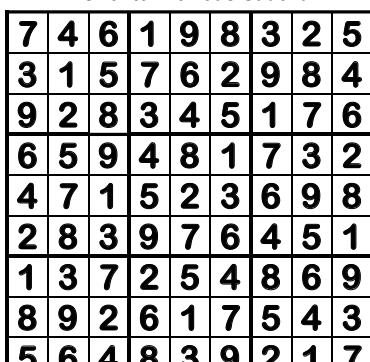


Edited by Margie E. Burke

### 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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## Vast Majority of Virginia Voters Want Term Limits on Congress, Poll by National Reform Group Finds

FLUVANNA REVIEW STAFF

A newly released survey shows three-quarters of Virginia voters want to rein in career politicians in Washington — and they want action now.

The 2026 Virginia Poll, conducted Jan. 6–8 by RMG Research for U.S. Term Limits, finds 77% of registered voters in the commonwealth support placing term limits on members of the U.S. House and Senate, with strong backing across gender and party lines.

The executive summary also shows that 75% of respondents favor having Virginia call for a constitutional amendment proposing a convention specifically to enact term limits, and 73% say they'd be more likely to support a state legislative candidate who champions term limits.

That survey was released by U.S. Term Limits, a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C., dedicated to promoting term limits for elected officials at all levels of government, with a particular focus on a constitutional amendment to cap service in Congress.

Founded in the early 1990s, U.S. Term Limits has helped pass local limits

in dozens of jurisdictions and works closely with citizens and legislators to promote a "citizen legislature" model rather than an entrenched political career model.

To achieve its ultimate goal — a constitutional amendment imposing specific term limits for members of Congress — the group encourages state lawmakers to support measures that could trigger an Article V convention. Under the U.S. Constitution, if two-thirds of states agree, a convention can be called to propose amendments without action by Congress itself.

"Virginia voters are tired of career politicians in Washington and are looking to their state legislators to take the lead on this critical reform," said USTL President Philip Blumel in the group's press release.

Support for term limits has shown similar strength nationwide in other surveys, and advocates say the issue could help shape races up and down the ballot in 2026. Critics, however, argue that limiting terms might reduce institutional expertise and shift power toward unelected staff and lobbyists.

## Obituary



Fred Buell Lewis

Fred Buell Lewis, 99, of Palmyra, passed away on January 21st, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on November 16, 1926, in Ashe County, North Carolina, the son of the late Lawrence Russell and Maude Octavia (Payne) Lewis.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 68 years, Margaret Thompson Lewis; his sister, Grace Davis; and his brother, Harold Lewis.

Fred proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II and later retired after 50 years in television sales and service. Deeply devoted to his community, he was a lifetime member of the Palmyra Volunteer Fire Department and a faithful servant of

the church, teaching Sunday school for many years at Palmyra Methodist Church before later joining Antioch Baptist Church. He loved staying connected with family and friends on Facebook and found great joy in his woodworking shop, where he created vases, clocks, and many other items, especially the more than 20,000 crosses he lovingly crafted and shared with people around the world.

Survivors include his two sons, Roy (Mary) and David (Jennifer); three daughters, Bonnie Snoddy (Hank), Jane Sharpe (Jerry), and Dorothy Kirby (John); nine grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; three sisters, Shirley Slater, Patsy Walls, and Lois Moore; a number of nieces and nephews; and very special neighbors and friends, Jeff and Molly Suling.

Fred held out his hand to anyone in need and never knew a stranger. He delighted in sharing stories and reminiscing about days gone by. Guided by his faith, he lived a life of service and kindness, leaving a legacy that will continue through his family and all who were blessed to know him.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, January 31st, at 11:00 a.m. at Antioch Baptist Church, 4422 Antioch Road, Scottsville, Virginia, followed by a celebration of his life. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Palmyra Volunteer Fire Department.

# Fluvanna officials cite Aqua Virginia rate hikes, service issues in support of bill limiting water rate cases

BY HEATHER MICHON  
EDITOR

Fluvanna County officials told state lawmakers last week that repeated rate hikes by Aqua Virginia are straining household budgets and destabilizing long-term planning, as a House subcommittee advanced legislation to limit how often private water utilities can seek rate increases.

During a Jan. 27 meeting of the Virginia House Labor and Commerce Subcommittee #3, Fluvanna County Attorney Dan Whitten and Board of Supervisors Chair Tony O'Brien testified in support of HB 422, a bill that would restrict regulated water and wastewater utilities from filing rate increase applications more than once every three years, with limited exceptions.

Aqua Virginia serves roughly 15,000 customers in Fluvanna County, representing a majority of county residents, including all of Lake Monticello and neighboring subdivisions.

He warned that frequent rate cases, combined with ongoing service problems, have placed an outsized burden on residential customers.

"The impact of the rate increase would fall disproportionately on single-family residential customers in the county," Whitten told the subcommittee.

He added that since Aqua's last rate increase was approved in September 2024, four sanitary sewer overflows have occurred in Fluvanna County, all associated with Aqua-operated systems.

Whitten said a triennial limit on rate cases would provide families with greater predictability and make it easier for residents to budget for water and sewer costs.

O'Brien echoed those concerns, noting that Aqua serves approximately 35% of households in Fluvanna County. Current bills already exceed \$200 per month for many customers, he said, and a pending rate increase request could push typical monthly bills to \$300 or more.

"When 91% of our tax revenue comes

from homeowners, from property taxes, that means the county will ultimately have to raise taxes because of decreased values," O'Brien told lawmakers. "This is not just an issue about a predatory company charging too much. It's a compounding interest that's going to ruin our county."

HB 422, sponsored by Del. Nicole Cole, would prohibit regulated water and sewer utilities from seeking rate increases more than once every three years, while allowing exceptions for extraordinary circumstances, such as compliance with federal mandates or corporate mergers.

The bill also requires the State Corporation Commission to consider realistic timelines and funding constraints when reviewing applications.

Supporters argue that the change would curb repetitive litigation costs, which are ultimately passed on to customers, while encouraging utilities to engage in longer-term financial and infrastructure planning.

Aqua Virginia did not formally oppose the bill. Company representative Chris White told the subcommittee that Aqua appreciated the sponsor's engagement and said the substitute version of the legislation provides an opportunity for continued discussion.

Aqua Virginia is seeking state approval to raise water and sewer rates by nearly 30%, arguing that the increase is needed to fund tens of millions of dollars in infrastructure upgrades and rising operating costs.

The legislation also moves forward as Essential Utilities, Aqua Virginia's parent company, is in the process of being acquired by American Water Works, the nation's largest publicly traded water utility.

The Virginia Poverty Law Center and the Virginia Association of Counties also supported the measure, though some speakers cautioned that safeguards are needed to ensure utilities can still make necessary infrastructure investments.

## Community Calendar

### 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 for proof of residency in Fluvanna. WINTER hours: open Monday: 1 pm to 6 pm, Tuesday: No food pick-up, Wednesday: 10 am to 2 pm, Thursday: 1 pm to 6 pm, Friday: 10 am to 2 pm, Saturday: Every 3rd Saturday of the Month from 10 am to 2 pm. Questions? Phone (434) 842-2521.



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The subcommittee voted 6-1 to advance HB 422, adding a reenactment clause that would require the General Assembly to approve the bill again next session before it could take effect.

For Fluvanna officials, the bill represents a rare chance to slow what they described as a cycle of escalating costs and declining service quality.

"Water is an essential service," Whitten said. "Families don't have another option."

## RUDY TALKS TAXES

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

### Ingredients of a Successful Business Partnership



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• **A conflict resolution strategy.** Conflict is bound to arise even if the fundamentals of your partnership are strong. Set up a routine for resolving conflicts. Start with a schedule for frequent communication between partners. Allow each person to discuss issues without judgment. If compromise is still difficult after a discussion, it helps to have someone who can be a neutral arbiter, such as a trusted employee or consultant.

• **A goal-setting system.** Create a system to set individual goals as well as business goals. Regularly meet together and set your goals, the steps needed to achieve them, who needs to take the next action step, and the expected date of completion.

• **An exit strategy.** It's often easier to get into business with a partner than to exit when it isn't working out. Create a buy-sell agreement at the start of your business relationship that outlines how you'll exit the business and create a fair valuation system to pay the exiting owner. Neither the selling partner nor the buying partner want to feel taken advantage of during an ownership transition.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns regarding your tax situation please feel free to call. Did you know, that we are prepared to handle your tax preparation 100% remotely? We are busy business people like you and we know how hard it can be to carve out time to drive somewhere to meet with someone. Why not have a remote meeting and then use our secure online system to enable us to serve you? Feel free to call us at 434-442-4044 or email info@rwftaxservices.com to learn more and to book your virtual or in-person appointment now!

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As a proud graduate of the Fluvanna Leadership Development Program, I know how hard our graduates work to make Fluvanna County a better place. Since they give so much of themselves, I am offering a 10% discount to all FLDP Graduates (and current class members!) and their immediate family members. This discount applies to new clients in 2026. This discount cannot be combined with any other discounts or incentives offered by Rivanna Woods Financial Tax Services. Simply reference this discount code when you set up your appointment. #1 FLDP

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Virginia passes law regarding plastic bags – what does it mean for Fluvanna?

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD  
CORRESPONDENT

If you've been shopping in Charlottesville or Richmond recently, you've heard about the new plastic bag tax.

You might even wonder if the tax will come to Fluvanna County.

For now, the answer is no.

Under a new Virginia law, local governments may opt to charge a 5-cent tax on disposable plastic bags provided at checkout by grocery stores, convenience stores, and pharmacies.

The fee is meant to cut down on plastic waste, while helping fund environmental projects and reusable bags for SNAP and WIC shoppers.

Retailers may keep 1 cent of the 5-cent fee per bag.

While some Fluvanna residents have heard about the tax, it does not apply locally. The bag fee is optional under state law and only takes effect if a city or county passes an ordinance. There has been no discussion by the Board of Supervisors on implementing a bag tax.

The bag tax is currently in effect in several nearby localities, including Richmond, Fairfax County, Arlington, Alexandria, and Charlottesville.

Locally, some retailers have already shifted away from plastic.

Goodwill no longer provides plastic bags and encourages shoppers to bring reusable ones, while Food Lion sells reusable bags at checkout.

If you're shopping in places like Richmond or Charlottesville, the best way to avoid the tax is to remember to pack that reusable bag.

**LETTERS  
TO THE  
EDITOR**



- Keep letters under 350 words.
- Refrain from personal attacks.
- No letters that have been sent to other newspapers.
- Include your name, address & phone # for verification.
- We reserve the right to edit letters.

Submit via email to: [editor@fluvannareview.com](mailto: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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Carysbrook Elementary  
Fluvanna Courthouse  
Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce  
Fluvanna School Board Office  
Campbell Tire  
Troy Post Office  
Royals of Troy  
Green Dogs Unleashed  
REMAX  
Kents Store  
Kents Store Post Office

Keswick Post Office  
Tip Top Restaurant, Pantops  
Rivanna Gear & Apparel  
Bodo's Bagels, Emmett St.  
Bus Station/Water St., C'ville  
Bus Station 3rd. St./Water St.  
Trailway Station  
UVA Hospital Bus Stop/JPJ  
C'ville Water St. Parking Garage  
Post Office  
Whiskey Jar  
Landmark Hotel  
Firefish Gallery  
Hamiltons  
Bus Station

Timberlakes  
LaTaza Restaurant,  
Belmont  
Lee Park Market Street  
Louisa Post Office  
Food Lion  
Dollar General  
Spring Creek Subdivision  
Spring Creek Dentistry  
Burger King/Exxon  
Zion Crossroads Laundry  
Zion Crossroads Store  
Burruss Store  
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Ferncliff Market, Rte. 250



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Contact – Edee@fluvannareview.com, office at 106 Crofton Plaza, Ste 1, Palmyra, VA. Office (434) 207-0221. 40 word limit. Mail Payment to P.O. Box 93, Palmyra, VA 22963. Visa, Mastercard, Discover accepted – 3% surcharge added. No online payment available. Deadline for print ads is MONDAY by NOON.

### EVENTS

**SHROVE TUESDAY:** Cunningham United Methodist Shrove Tuesday PANCAKE DINNER on February 17, 2026, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Enjoy the company of friends & Neighbors while supporting the ministries of CUMC's Men's Group. Call 336-817-9341 for more information.

**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 for more information.

**BINGO IS BACK !** at Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire & Rescue Squad, 10 Slice Road, every Friday night. Doors open at 5 p.m. First game at 6:30 p.m. Progressives, pull tabs, and a \$1000 jackpot every week! Cash only. No one under 16 allowed. All others welcome!! Join us for a fun & Friendly night out.

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**MAPLE ROOM AT LAKE MONTICELLO FIRE HOUSE:** The Maple Room is located at the LM Volunteer Fire House, 10 Slice Road, Palmyra, Va. It is the perfect location to host meetings, birthday parties, wedding receptions, anniversaries and other events in a comfortable setting. The facility can accommodate parties of 100 or more. Call Eileen Monahan at (434) 962-4656. Email: mapleroomrentals@lmvfr.org.

**FIRST VIRGINIA HOMES:** We provide Property Management services in Central Virginia Region. Also House Watch services. Call us at 434-589-3958. Look us up: www.firstvirginahomes.com

### MONTICELLO

**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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### SPECIAL NOTICES

#### MACAA FOOD PANTRY NEW HOURS:

Monday: 1 to 6 pm., Tuesday: NO food pick-up, Wednesday: 10 am to 2 pm., Thursday: 1 to 6 pm., Friday: 10 am to 2 pm., Saturday: Every 3rd. Saturday of the Month from 10 am to 2 pm. Location: 8878 James Madison Hwy., Fork Union, VA. Phone (434) 842-2521.

#### VIRGINIA DEPT. OF VETERANS

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

### WANTED

**2026 FSPCA SPONSORS:** If you would like to sponsor a Pet of the Week photo, email edee@fluvannareview.com or call (434) 207-0221 no texts accepted. The pet photos are sent to us from the Fluvanna shelter each week. The photos help find forever homes for our four legged furry friends. You may place your business, special occasion, memorial narrative, etc. at the bottom of each pet picture.

### 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) 842-2521 or email foodpantry@macaa.org.

**MEALS ON WHEELS:** Drivers needed, regular and substitute positions available – Kidds Store & Fork Union. Apply online www.mealsonwheelsfluvanna.org. or phone our volunteer, coordinator at 434.589.1685.

### FOR SALE

**ODDS & ENDS:** Medium size Frigidaire refrigerator (14.8 Cu.Ft.) \$50., Corona Kerosine Heater (6 Gal. container filled) \$30.00, Solid Oak Executive-size desk w/ locking drawer \$300.00, Antique Golf MT Target computer tracks the distance of your golf ball \$200.00. Location: 907 Bybees Church Road. Phone (434) 589-8302.

### YARD SALES/ESTATE SALES

**ESTATE SALE:** 814 Jefferson Drive, (inside LMOA) Palmyra, VA. Friday, Feb. 6, 10 – 6pm, Saturday, Feb. 7, 8-6pm, Sunday, Feb. 8, 11-4 pm. Household & Kitchen items, home & Seasonal décor, bedroom, living room and kitchen furniture, office supplies, new/used women's shoes, lots of clothing. Outdoor items: fishing poles & equipment, canoe, camping gear, shop & power tools, outdoor furniture, wood working tools, etc. EVERYTING MUST GO ! Questions? Call Daniel Muniz (540) 287-3231.

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**IN** Business

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► Monthly Luncheons & After Hours  
Location & times vary. Find our list of  
upcoming events on Facebook.  
[FluvannaWomeninBusiness.org](http://FluvannaWomeninBusiness.org)

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# Fluvanna Women IN Business

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## MARYJANE CATHERS

**Sacred Acres Alpaca Farm**

**Sacred Acres Alpaca Farm to Launch Alpaca Trailwear E-Commerce Site in February 2026**



**Sacred Acres Alpaca Farm to Launch Alpaca Trailwear E-Commerce Site in February 2026**

Set on 28 serene acres in Virginia's countryside, Sacred Acres Alpaca Farm is a quiet, working fiber farm where visitors experience the full journey of alpaca fiber—from animal care to finished goods. With its calm alpaca herd, woodland trails, and hands-on fiber education at the Fleece to Loom Studio, the farm has become a reflective destination rooted in stewardship, craftsmanship, and connection to the land.

In mid to late February 2026, Sacred Acres will expand that experience beyond the farm with the launch of a new e-commerce site featuring Alpaca Trailwear, a performance-focused collection of alpaca apparel and accessories designed for real-world use. Every item in the Trailwear line is personally field-tested by the farm's founder on the Appalachian Trail, across changing seasons, elevations, and weather conditions.

Naturally thermoregulating, moisture-wicking, lightweight, and odor-resistant, alpaca fiber performs beautifully in both warm and cold conditions. From socks and base layers to hats, glittens, and trail accessories, each piece reflects thoughtful design, lived trail experience, and sustainable fiber practices.

With the upcoming Alpaca Trailwear e-commerce launch, Sacred Acres invites hikers, outdoor enthusiasts, and comfort-seekers alike to carry the spirit of the farm into every mile ahead.

[https://www.sacredacresfarm.com](http://www.sacredacresfarm.com)

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**REALTOR** **OPPORTUNITY** **ASSET**

Now's the time to visualize your Community Garden summer crops

SUBMITTED BY E. DIANNE CAMPBELL



Flowers abound throughout the Community Garden to deter insects and attract beneficial pollinators. Master Gardener Mary Wyatt Bowers maintains walkways.

The nasty winter storm has given us plenty of time to drool over the plant and seed catalogues.

We can envision the perfectly ripe,

plump tomato, gently tugged from the stem, and savored while still warm from the sun. Or the sweet crunch of a green bean, fresh off its stem.

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The perfect mental escape from seasonal doldrums is the prospect of what can come in a Community Garden plot at Pleasant Grove Park.

And the time to make it become a reality is now.

There are 97 10' x 15' plots available for summer rental, plus one raised bed designed for gardeners with physical limitations. The price of the season's rental is \$45 until February 14, and \$50 after that.

Perimeter fencing protects from the critters that are familiar local nuisances, and members gain entry through four gates with combination locks. There is access to non-potable water and some tools, including wheelbarrows. A kiosk at the center of the garden is the place for announcements, gardening information, contact information for concerns, and an emergency first-aid kit.

Fluvanna Extension Master Gardener volunteers comprise the oversight team, which provides the gardening orientation program at the beginning

of the growing season, plus ongoing educational advice. Master Gardeners also manage the garden to ensure that all good neighbor practices are being observed by the plot members.

The registration form, guidelines, and full details of the facility are available at the Fluvanna Parks and Rec-

reation site, [www.fluvannacounty.org](http://www.fluvannacounty.org).

Plots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, but the registration form allows members to request a specific plot site, since members develop friendships over the years of gardening together and may like to continue being gardening neighbors.

The growing season isn't as far away as it seems right now, and planning for it is an easy way to preserve one's sanity.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
FLUVANNA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
P.O. Box 550, Palmyra, VA, 22963  
Case No. 26CL43

Michelle L. Palmer v. Wesley D. Walker

The object of this suit is to:  
Obtain a No-Fault divorce

It is ORDERED that Wesley D. Walker appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before  
March 26, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

1/14/2026  
DATED

  
David M. Barredo, Judge

### PUBLIC HEARING Fluvanna County Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 7:00 pm

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

**BZA 26:08 – Giacomo Cracchiolo:** A request for a one hundred (100) foot variance to section 22-4-3 (D) of the Fluvanna County Code to allow a reduction of the required lot width at setback, and for a fifty (50) foot variance to section 22-4-3 (E) (2) of the Fluvanna County Code to allow a reduction of the required front setback for the parcel identified as Tax Map 17, Section 29, Parcel 1. The subject property is zoned A-1, Agricultural, General, and is located in the Rivanna Community 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](http://www.fluvannacounty.org) Interested persons may submit written comments prior to the scheduled meeting to [planning@fluvannacounty.org](mailto:planning@fluvannacounty.org) or call 434.591.1910, between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday – Friday or visit the County Administration Building at 132 Main Street Palmyra, VA 22963.



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## From snow to 'snowcrete,' the storm that refused to just melt away

BY HEATHER MICHON  
EDITOR

Along Route 53. Photos by Lynn Stayton-Eurell

From the start, the Jan. 24–25 winter storm looked bad—although exactly how bad remained a moving target for days.

Two feet of snow, some forecasts warned. Maybe only a foot. Maybe half a foot, but with more ice.

By Saturday evening, the consensus forecast called for up to 8 inches of snow and sleet, with up to a half-inch of ice. Power outages were considered likely.

Fortunately, the worst predictions did not materialize. Most areas saw 6 to 8 inches of snow and sleet, with only a thin veneer of ice. The power grid largely held, keeping heat on for most households as bitterly cold temperatures settled in for an extended stay.

But the storm was not finished with Fluvanna County.

As the sun emerged and began melting the snow's surface, temperatures remained well below freezing, instantly turning meltwater back into ice.

The repeated thaw-and-freeze cycle compressed the snow into a dense, frozen mass that the Virginia Department of Transportation dubbed "snowcrete."

Efforts to clear roads and resume normal life soon ran aground against this wall of ice. While main roads were cleared within a day or two after the storm, secondary roads proved far more challenging.

This was especially true at Lake

Monticello, where heavy-duty pickup trucks equipped with plow rigs were unable to break through the thick ice or clear the compacted snow from the roads.

Late in the week, the homeowners' association brought in heavy farm equipment to finally break up the ice.

But many residents remained stuck with ice-covered driveways that could not be shoveled clear. Calls for assistance circulated widely on social media, as residents sought help from neighbors and contractors. The cost of clearing a frozen driveway reportedly reached \$250 or more.

As in any winter weather event, there was some fun to be had. Children had a rare chance to pull out sleds, test their strength against heavy blocks of ice, and even skate or slide across the glassy surface of frozen snow. For some households, it was a good week for binge-watching and catching up on reading.

For others, the lingering ice posed more than an inconvenience, limiting access to medical appointments or preventing them from reaching jobs they rely on for a paycheck.

Responses to the cleanup efforts were mixed. Many residents praised the plowing crews working under unprecedented conditions, while others expressed frustration that schools remained closed and that travel was still difficult in some places.

Almost ten days post-storm, most

residents were once again able to travel freely, and slightly warmer temperatures were expected to break up the remaining snow and ice.

Is this the last of the winter storms?

That remains to be seen. On Monday, Feb. 2, Punxsutawney Phil — the famously unreliable meteorological groundhog — saw his shadow, signaling six more weeks of winter.



Entering Fluvanna. Photos by Lynn Stayton-Eurell

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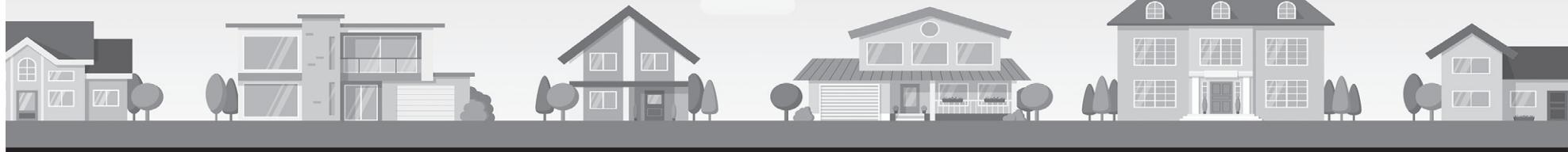
**\$484,500****228 Antioch Springs Ln, Scottsville****Sarah Drennen****434.962.1376**

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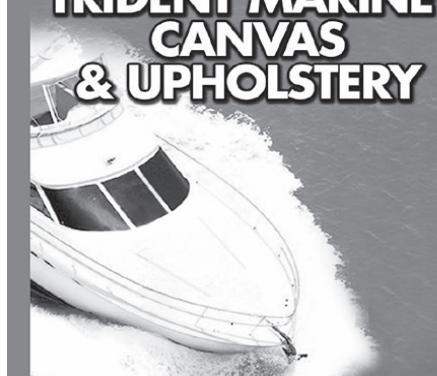
  
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## SERVICES

**DIVORCE** Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se

Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES



### PUBLIC HEARING Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to VA Code Section 15.2-2204, a public hearing will be held in the held Fluvanna County Circuit Court at 72 Main Street, Palmyra, VA 22963 for citizens of the County to have the opportunity to be heard by the Board of Supervisors on the following items:

**FY 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan** – Public review and recommendation of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 (FY2027 – FY2031) which is to be submitted in conjunction with the fiscal year 2027 (FY2027) Fluvanna County Budget. The CIP lists the major construction and acquisition efforts planned for the next five (5) fiscal years and it describes proposed methods of financing for CIP projects as is prescribed in Virginia State Code.

**ZMP 25:05 Kevin and Ashley Wright** – A request to rezone from A-1, Agricultural, General, to R-1, Residential, Limited 7 +/- acres of Tax Map 50-A-129D. The subject property is generally located on the west side of Gold Mine Road (Route 671) approximately 0.1 mile north of West River Road (Route 6). The parcel is located within Fork Union Election District and the Rural Residential Planning Area.

Copies of the complete text of the above ordinances and associated plans are available for public review at the Office of the Fluvanna County Administrator during normal business hours. Questions may be directed to the Planning & Zoning Department, at (434) 591-1910. All interested persons wishing to be heard are invited to attend the public hearing.



### PUBLIC HEARING Fluvanna County Planning Commission Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2204, a Public Hearing will be held in the Fluvanna County Circuit Court at 72 Main Street, Palmyra, Virginia 22963 for citizens of the County to have the opportunity to appear before and be heard by the Planning Commission for the following items:

**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.**

**SUP 25:06 Prater – A Special Use Permit request in the A-1, Agricultural, General District to construct a landscape materials storage and sales facility on a parcel totaling approximately 8.193 acres, Tax Map 17-A-72. The parcel is located in the Rural Residential area and the Cunningham Election District.**

**SUP 25:07 Saddle Creek Lane – A special Use Permit request in the A-1, Agricultural, General district to construct a seasonal summer camp on a parcel totaling approximately 23.71 acres, Tax Map 28-A-33G. The parcel is located in the Rural Preservation area and the Cunningham Election District.**

A copy of the complete text of the above ordinances 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.

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

**EDNA M. SMITH**  
Plaintiff,

V.

**ALL PARTIES UNKNOWN, CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT ADVERSE TO PLAINTIFF'S TITLE, OR ANY CLOUD UPON PLAINTIFF'S TITLE THERETO.**

Case No. 26CL65

#### Defendants.

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

THIS MATTER is before the Court on the Plaintiffs Motion Seeking Order of Publication. This is an action wherein Plaintiff seeks to quiet title to a property located at Tax Map 51 (A) Parcel 58, a 20.904-acre parcel of undeveloped land in Fluvanna County (the "Property").

It appearing to the Court that the Complaint in this action (i) states that there are or may be persons, whose names are unknown, interested in the subject to be divided or disposed of; (ii) briefly describes the nature of such interest; and (iii) makes such persons defendants by the general description of "parties unknown," and for good cause shown and in accordance with Va. Code §§ 8.01-316 and 8.01-317, it is hereby

ORDERED that any parties unknown claiming an interest in the Property must make a written appearance within fifty (50) days of this Order if he or she wishes to assert or protect any interest he may have in this matter, and it is furthermore

ORDERED that the Clerk shall cause copies of this Order of Publication to be posted, mailed, and transmitted to the Fluvanna Review within twenty (20) days after the entry of this Order of Publication pursuant to Va. Code § 8.01-317, and it is furthermore

ORDERED that the above paragraphs be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Fluvanna Review, and it is furthermore

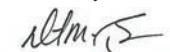
ORDERED that the Clerk shall file a certificate in the papers of this case that the requirements of Va. Code§ 8.01-317 have been complied with.

The Clerk of this Court shall post this Order at the front door of the courthouse pursuant to Va. Code § 8.01-317.

I ASKED FOR THIS:

  
Christopher Janszky, Esq. (VSB #99069)  
MichieHamlett PLLC  
310 4th St. NE, 2nd Floor • Charlottesville, VA 22902  
P: (434) 951-7285 • F: (434) 951-7245 • [cjanszky@michiehamlett.com](mailto:cjanszky@michiehamlett.com) • *Counsel for Edna M. Smith*

Entered this 22nd day of January, 2026

  
Edna M. Smith  
Circuit Court Judge



"I SEE YOU" IS OUR JOB NOW



## Stargazing in Fluvanna

BY PAT BEERS BLOCK



### Fun events to view in February

The shortness of days in the seasonal calendar is overshadowed by the celestial calendar, given the busy line up of celestial events that will occur throughout the month. Starting with a full moon on day one (1) and ending with a multi-planetary line up at the end of the month, star gazers have lots more to witness throughout this wintery month. With whirling comets, small planets preparing to be easily seen, and plenty of noteworthy planetary and lunar conjunctions (remote objects visually appear close to one another), and occultations (one body appears to cover another), there will hopefully be events this month that capture your interest and motivate you to spend time observing the night and early morning dark sky despite the chilly February weather!

Let's get ready to engage in observing these events by setting up your star gazing equipment, charging your cell phones, linking to Sky Guide, Sky View Lite, or any other star gazing applications that you find useful, and settling into your favorite viewing spot to witness the magic of the night and early morning skies!

### Weeks 1 and 2 (February 1-14)

Starting the month, on February 1 at 5pm est, we will find the moon in all of its fullness at sunset. This month's full moon is known colloquially as the Snow Moon by Native Americans (Naudowessie Dakota tribe) and early Colonist due to fact that February typically has the most snow in the

US. Other names attached to this moon include the Eagle Moon (Cree), the Bear Moon (Ojibwe), the Black Bear Moon (Tlingit), the Racoon Moon (Dakota), the Groundhog Moon (Algonquin), the Hungry Moon (Cherokee), and the Goose Moon (Haida).

The moon will also be in conjunction with the Beehive star cluster (aka Messier 44) within the constellation Cancer on this date.

On the night of February 2, the moon will be in occultation with the star Regulus within the constellation Leo. Regulus, the brightest star in this constellation, might be out shone by the moon; a lunar filter for binoculars can help reduce the moonlight so that Regulus can be seen.

On February 7, the moon will be in conjunction with the star Spica within the constellation Virgo. Spica is the brightest star within this constellation.

On February 9, the moon will be in its last quarter, illuminated on the left side of the surface that faces Earth.

Another lunar conjunction will occur on February 11 when the moon appears to pass very closely to the bright red star Antares within the constellation Scorpius. An interesting note about this red supergiant star is that it is considered the rival of Mars because of their similarity in color and brightness.

### Weeks 3 - 4 (February 15-28)

On February 17, the moon will move into its new moon phase. The new moon phase, a time when the moon will no longer be visible except as a ghostly

sphere in the sky, will find the moon within the constellation Aquarius. This moon phase gives us the opportunity to better view the night sky since there will be no moonlight to obstruct views of stars and planets.

On February 19, the moon will be in conjunction with the planets Saturn and Neptune within the constellation Pisces. Binoculars will be needed to view Neptune.

Additionally on the 19th, the planet Mercury will be positioned far away from the Sun and visible unaided by binoculars or telescopes in the evening sky within the constellation Aquarius, just above the horizon.

On February 23, the moon will be in occultation with the Pleiades star cluster (aka the Seven Sisters). The best time to observe the occultation of several Pleiades stars occurs from 10pm-12am.

A three-planet line up of Mercury, Venus, and Saturn, along with the moon at various locations nearby, will appear on the evenings of February 26 and 27.

On February 27, Jupiter will be in conjunction with the moon within the constellation Gemini. It will be easy to see Jupiter this evening because it will appear as a golden bright object.

The final event this month is the lunar conjunction with the stars Castor and Pollux within the constellation Gemini also on February 27.

### In Summary...

There is one exceptional addition to this month's star gazing events; It's the

return of the cloud comet C/2024 E1 (Wierzchos) that was discovered in March 2024 by the Polish astronomer Kacper Wierzchos. On February 17, this comet will be at its closest position to Earth this year. The comet can be found in the southwest horizon about 1 hour after sunset. A binocular or telescope will be needed to observe this comet.

So ends the highlights of this month. For additional sky events, and news about new celestial sightings, visit NASA's website for updates. And remember to keep track of the ISS movements through the downloadable ISS phone app; look for the aurora borealis flare-ups which are noted on the website with the same name; and track other space related websites noted below that provide information about rocket and satellite launches.

With the perpetual motion of planets and stars, the daily changing sky promises to entertain you for a lifetime! Until next month, keep your eyes facing the morning and evening sky to see the wonders of our universe as we Earthlings travel through it!

[information has been extracted from *Astronomy Calendar of Celestial Events 2025 - Sea and Sky* ([seasky.org](http://seasky.org)); <https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov>; <https://highpointscientific.com/astronomy-hub>; <https://amsmeteors.org/meteor-showers>; <https://starwalk.space>; <https://spacetourismguide.com>; Wikipedia; <https://SkyatNightMagazine.com>]



# LAKE VIEWS

NEWS FROM YOUR LAKE MONTICELLO NEIGHBORS



## LMOA Holds 4th of July T-Shirt Design Contest

Lake Monticello Owners' Association (LMOA) is looking for a t-shirt design to help celebrate America's 250th Birthday during its annual Independence Day celebrations. Submit designs by March 1, 2026, online or by dropping them off at Member Services (41 Ashlawn Blvd.). Designs should be patriotic in nature and represent Lake Monticello in an appropriate and respectful manner. Staff will narrow designs down to the top 5, and voting will be open to the community on March 4th. The winner will be announced on April 6, 2026 and will receive a T-shirt with their design as well as an LMOA "swag bag". The shirt and corresponding merchandise will be available for residents to purchase online starting in the spring. Please note: Participants must be 18 or older and understand that the rights to the winning design will become the property of LMOA.

## Time to Run for the Board!

The LMOA Board has scheduled the association's Annual Meeting of Members for June 27, 2026. This year, four Board positions are open, and LMOA is seeking committed Members in good standing to fill these roles. Petitions for board candidates and member proposals are now available online or at Member Services (41 Ashlawn Blvd.). Members in good standing must gather 150 signatures of support and submit their petitions by March 30, 2026. Following

signature verification, the Board will announce the certified candidates and proposals in April. Member proposals enable homeowners to suggest policy changes for a membership vote, provided they involve amendments to the Bylaws, repeal or modification of Rules and Regulations adopted by the Board, and do not conflict with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Statements of Subdivision, or applicable law. LMOA staff will once again facilitate digital signature collection. Voting will take place in the last week of May. For questions about the process, please contact Megan Fitzgerald, the Executive Assistant, at [mfitzgerald@lmoa.org](mailto:mfitzgerald@lmoa.org).

## Aqua Virginia's Rate Case

On July 30, 2025, AQUA submitted a new request for a 26.42% increase in water rates and a 29.95% increase in wastewater rates, amounting to \$7.9 million annually. When this happened in the past, opposing comments from our community resulted in Aqua Virginia not receiving the full amount requested. For example, a similar case was considered by the SCC in 2023, and the community responded by submitting more than 2,800 comments opposing the increase. If you wish to participate again, you have until April 28, 2026. Here are some steps you can take: Send your comment opposing Aqua Virginia's request to the SCC on their website: [scc.virginia.gov](http://scc.virginia.gov). It is advised to be as specific as possible and provide any supporting photos, videos, or documents you may have.

If you have reported a specific issue to Aqua Virginia, and they have not resolved it to your satisfaction, you can submit it through the relevant Virginia SCC complaint page. Comments about the rate increase are only reviewed by the hearing officer, but complaints related to service or water quality require the utility provider's response. The case number is PUR-2025-00071. The next Water Workgroup is scheduled for February 11, 10 – 11:30 AM in the Ashlawn Clubhouse Terrace Room A. This meeting is for local infrastructure upgrade updates and better communication between LMOA and our water and wastewater utility.

## Laughter Yoga with Hygeia Wellness Park

Join instructor Marge Thompson for Laughter Yoga in the Ashlawn Clubhouse Lake Room on February 21, 2026, at 2 PM. When you laugh, you burn calories and all your body systems are affected in a positive manner! No special equipment needed. Confirm your spot with Cynthia Moore at [cynhygeia145@gmail.com](mailto:cynhygeia145@gmail.com).

## Fried Chicken at The Lake

Because of the weather, RocDun has postponed Virginia Fried Chicken to February 7, 2026, at the Ashlawn Clubhouse from 5-8 PM. Enjoy an all-you-care-to-eat buffet for \$15.99 (\$10.99 kids 10 and under) featuring Virginia Fried Chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, baked beans,

collards, coleslaw, and buttermilk biscuits. A full bar will be available for purchases of beer, wine, and cocktails. There will be music by 'Mid-Life Crisis' for your listening pleasure. Be one of the first to taste this fan-favorite fried chicken recipe before they open for take-out at the Ashlawn Clubhouse the following week!

## Family Movie Matinee for Lake Residents

Join YRF on February 8, 2026, from 2-4 PM at the Ashlawn Clubhouse Lake Room. Snuggle up with your favorite blanket and join the Young Residents and Families Committee for a matinee viewing of *The Wild Robot!* Popcorn will be provided. All children must have a guardian present. Interested in helping with YRF Committee events and activities? Email [yrfcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:yrfcommittee@gmail.com) to learn how to get involved.

## Blood Drive at Ashlawn

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at the Ashlawn Clubhouse will be on February 14, 2026, from 9 AM – 2 PM. With a severe shortage happening across the Nation, blood donors are urgently needed. Share the love this Valentine's Day by giving the gift of life. To make an appointment, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-733-2767.

*The Ashlawn Clubhouse is located at 41 Ashlawn Blvd., Palmyra, VA.*

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