

Fluvanna

REVIEW



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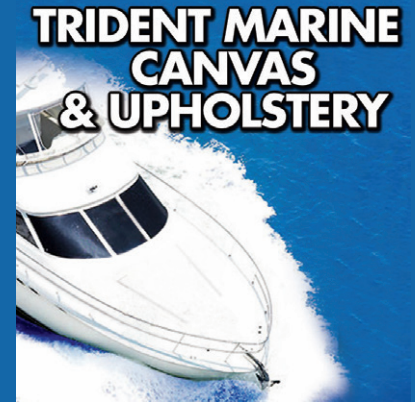
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Interested in becoming a Master Gardener?

Information sessions for Extension training are coming soon

CONTRIBUTED BY E. DIANNE CAMPBELL

Registration is open, and informational meetings are scheduled: it's time to sign up for the 2027 Fluvanna County Extension Master Gardener class. Held once a year, the training program is a 50-hour course with classes ranging from the basics of botany to the environment's needs for water quality and good conservation practices.

Information sessions are offered at the Fluvanna Public Library on Saturday, October 24, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., and Thursday, October 29, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Those considering the program will have an opportunity to get full details and meet with other Master Gardeners to discuss interests and questions.

Classes are conducted online on Thursday evenings from 6 to

9 p.m., beginning in mid-January and continuing weekly through to mid-April. Vicki Buffmire, a longtime Extension Master Gardener, moderates the course, supported by a team of Fluvanna EMG education, coordination, and technology volunteers.

Each online class is taught by university professors and highly regarded experts in specific fields. The program also offers six Saturday morning field experiences for hands-on training with recognized local experts. There are attendance and homework requirements.

After the training, student interns complete 50 hours of volunteer service by participating in activities of their choice through the Fluvanna EMG program. A mentor is assigned to work with each student through to the completion of the full training program. In subsequent years, students must complete eight hours of continuing education and 20 hours of volunteer service to maintain Extension Master Gardener certification.

The Fluvanna EMG program

is part of a nationwide network that is trained and supported through the USDA Cooperative Extension program. The research-based Master Gardener program has existed since 1973. It was designed to train interested people in the art and science of gardening so they could help their community with their gardening needs. Each chapter tailors its education to the local ecosystem.

The program costs \$200, which includes all course expenses and the course text, Virginia Cooperative Extension Gardener Handbook. Financial assistance is available. Further information and a registration form are available at the Fluvanna Master Gardener website, www.fluvannamg.org. The application deadline is November 30, but earlier applications are recommended because the class fills quickly. Details are also available by contacting Brittney Redman at 434-591-1950, or by email at bredman@vt.edu.

Correction

The cover photograph in our Oct. 1 edition accompanying the story about the Fluvanna County Volunteer EMS suspension incorrectly showed apparatus belonging to Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc.

As stated in the article, Lake Monticello is a separate organization from the Fluvanna County Volunteer Fire Department and is not affected by the suspension.

The *Fluvanna Review* apologizes for the error and the misleading association.

Fluvanna REVIEW

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Demand change, not billionaire influence

Is this what our democracy has come down to? Billionaires seeking to divide us while they “buy” a very few candidates in the very few districts that remain competitive because they have yet to be successfully gerrymandered by the two dominant political parties.

Only a few competitive districts in the entire country determine our fate. I believe that is not what our Founding Fathers envisioned for our nation 250 years ago.

We need to demand change because the lack of competition has produced the chaotic mess we are presently trying to cope with. For example, the “Peace President” who started another endless war. Because of this war, we have skyrocketing fuel and food prices that have caused global chaos.

A political candidate should not have to spend millions of dollars to have good ideas and a solid platform or plan properly presented to citizens eager to see their lives improved.

It’s time to end the non-sense of billionaires “buying” politicians to have their way while we suffer the consequences.

In this 5th District, I support Tom Perriello. He has not sold his soul to corporations that seek to profit at our expense.

- Jim Steere, Troy

Vote for common-sense Republicans

In this election, there are two candidates running for the House: Republican McGuire, a decorated Navy SEAL and business owner, and Democrat Perriello who served as George Soros’s

Executive Director of U.S. Programs from 2018-2025 and controlled his domestic fund granting. The Soros family contributed \$675 million to his failed attempt to win the nomination in the 2017 Democrat gubernatorial primary.

The Senate race candidates are: Republican Mizusawa, a highly decorated 2-star Army general who graduated first in his class at West Point, received his law degree from Harvard, and Warner, a 3-term Senate veteran. (Even though Warner initially said he would only serve two terms.)

Perriello and Warner both voted for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), while Warner also voted for the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Both Acts sound wonderful. However, both acts did not live up to their names. The ACA actually increased annual health insurance premiums by \$2,500. The IRA was a major contributor to the 25% inflation during the Biden administration. In addition, Warner was silent as 15 million unvetted illegals entered our southern border during the Biden administration. However, recently he admitted they “screwed up” at the border.

Many Democrats have called to defund the police and pack the Supreme Court. Some Democrat candidates are even calling for abolishing the Senate. A majority of Democrats have no problem with boys playing on girls’ sports teams and using the girls’ locker room. The democrat party has moved so far left that it is unrecognizable with the party twenty years ago.

Since January 2025 when Republicans gained control of the House, Senate, and Presidency, there have been many success stories. Such as: re-

duction in serious crime, initial claims for unemployment insurance are at the lowest since 1969, poverty has been reduced to the lowest level ever. In addition, drug prices will be reduced because more than 20 drug companies have agreed to give the U.S. most favored nation status. The southern border is now secure. So far over 250 billion dollars of fraud has been identified and more is expected to be uncovered as investigations continue.

If Democrats win the election, they will surely bring back high inflation, higher taxes, chaos at the southern border, crime, and inefficient government. A better choice is to vote for common-sense Republicans. They will continue to bring back high paying manufacturing jobs to the US, spend tax dollars wisely, and continue to improve health care.

-Jim Darlington, Palmyra

Vote NO on All Three Amendments

This November, Virginians will be asked to vote on three amendments to our state constitution. Each one poses serious risks to parental rights, public safety, and the integrity of our laws. I urge voters across the Commonwealth to vote NO on all three.

The first amendment, labeled as a Reproductive Health measure, is far more extreme than advertised. It removes long-standing parental involvement protections for minors, allowing a child to obtain an abortion without a parent ever being notified. This creates a dangerous loophole for abusive adults, including sexual predators, who could impregnate a minor and then hide the

abuse by steering that child toward a secret abortion. Parents would have no legal right to intervene or protect their child. No constitutional amendment should strip parents of their ability to safeguard minors in situations involving coercion or exploitation.

The second amendment rewrites marriage language by separating “sex” and “gender” as distinct legal categories. Same-sex marriage is already fully legal in Virginia and treated equally under current law. This amendment does not strengthen those protections—it introduces broad terminology that can be used far beyond the issue of marriage. Many parents worry that embedding this language in the constitution could influence school policies, weaken parental rights, or affect girls’ privacy and participation in sports. Constitutional amendments should provide clarity, not ideological rewording with unpredictable consequences.

The third amendment goes well beyond restoring voting rights to individuals who have completed felony sentences. The only requirement is to have served your incarceration. There is no

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Letters to the Editor

responsibility to re-pay your debt to society, the victim or the victim's family. It would also allow individuals who lack basic mental competency to vote—people who may not know their own name, the year, or the purpose of an election.

Before altering the constitution, Virginia needs a serious, transparent discussion about mental competency definitions, identification standards, and safeguards to prevent exploitation of vulnerable adults.

Our constitution should protect citizens, not weaken essential safeguards. For these reasons, I urge Virginians to vote NO on all three amendments.

-Ann Goodson, Scottsville

Different view on proposed abortion amendment

I am writing in response to a recent Letter to the Editor entitled, "Protect Reproductive Rights in Virginia."

The author falsely claims that a doctor's right to treat a miscarriage is compromised in states without liberal abortion laws.

Doctors HAVE always and WILL always have the right to treat miscarriages and other medical emergencies. These are not elective abortions with a primary intent of destroying the child in the womb.

Ectopic pregnancy care, no matter what state the woman lives in is always allowed. Even Planned Parenthood admits that "treating an ectopic pregnancy is not the same as

getting an abortion."

The vast majority of abortions, about 96%, are done for non-medical reasons. Risk to the mother's life or a bodily function accounts for only 0.3%. Rape and incest account for only 0.4% of abortions.

If the first proposed amendment to our state constitution passes, a woman in her third trimester will be able to terminate her pregnancy with just one doctor's approval, and that could be the abortionist. This doctor stands to profit from her procedure. Right now three doctors approve a late-term abortion, and it is done in-hospital for safety

- Catherine Heffley, Palmyra

The Fluvanna Review invites county residents to share their opinions. Letters must be under 350 words and include the writer's name and town for verification. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Publication is at the discretion of the editor and subject to available space. Submit your letters to editor@fluvannareview.com

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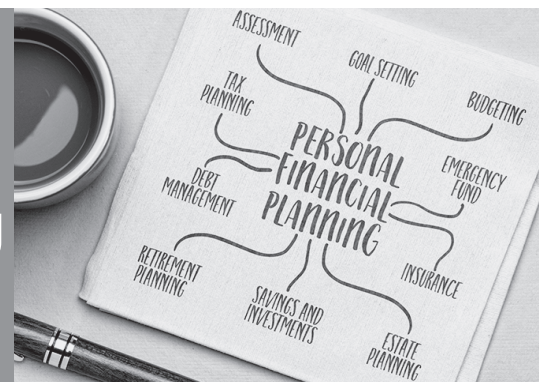
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You will get an email confirmation that your letter has been received. If you don't, contact the editor directly.

RUDY TALKS TAXES

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

Cash Flow Habits That Build Strong Businesses



Some of the most valuable cash flow strategies involve how you work with banks, vendors, customers, and your spending decisions. Here are several cash flow ideas to consider.

- **Negotiate payment terms before negotiating price.** A vendor that won't lower its price may happily extend payment terms from 30 to 60 days. Keeping cash in your business for an extra month often has more value than receiving a small discount. This is especially true if your business is seasonal and you use a line of credit to fund operations.
- **Let your vendors finance your growth.** If a supplier offers 45- or 60-day payment terms at no additional cost, don't automatically pay early. As long as you're confident you'll pay on time, you're effectively using interest-free financing while preserving cash for payroll, inventory, or marketing.
- **Spread your bank accounts around.** Maintain operating accounts at a minimum of two financial institutions. Besides protecting against outages, fraud holds, or unexpected account freezes, it gives you immediate access to additional lending relationships and makes switching banks much easier if fees or service deteriorate.
- **Keep a line of credit you don't currently need.** Ironically, banks are most willing to lend when your business is healthy and doesn't look like it needs the money. So establish a line of credit during good times and leave it unused until a genuine need arises.
- **Match financing to the life of the asset.** Don't necessarily pay cash for equipment that will generate income for the next seven years if affordable financing is

available. Preserve working capital and let the asset help pay for itself.

- **Ask customers for deposits whenever possible.** Even a 25% or 50% upfront payment dramatically improves cash flow while reducing the risk of unpaid work. This is especially valuable for custom orders and service businesses.
- **Separate your tax money immediately.** Transfer estimated payroll, sales, and income taxes into a dedicated account as soon as cash is received. Treat tax money as though it never belonged to the business in the first place.
- **Review your customer concentration every quarter.** If 40% of your cash comes from one customer, your cash flow is far riskier than it appears. Diversification is just as important for customers as it is for investments.
- **Recoup your credit card interchange.** The cost of taking credit card payments is getting out of hand. Work with customers to encourage lower cost transaction alternatives. This can save in excess of 3% of your sales! Alternatives could be cash or ach (if using a good bank for the service). Consider adding fees for credit card transactions to recoup the cost.
- **Make your banker part of your team.** Meet with your banker before you need financing. Businesses that communicate regularly often receive faster approvals and better solutions than those that only call when cash is tight.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns regarding your tax situation please feel free to call 434-442-4044 or email info@rwftaxservices.com to set up your appointment.

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Flucos bounce back, gear up for Homecoming

Fluco Football Fans,
I'm very proud of my team this past Friday. Not only bouncing back from a tough loss and yet again bouncing back from a difficult first half at Western, but also showing real growth as a team.

Our 40-13 win at Western Albemarle was a tale of two halves. They had a great game plan, and we made some mistakes that kept the game close at the break. However, our defense pitched a second-half shutout, and the offense doubled its output with four touchdowns in the 3rd and 4th quarters.

Biggest stat highlights are...

DEFENSE: Eli Stribling — 2 sacks and a TFL; Terence Baskerville — 2 INTs, a PBU, and 2.5 tackles; Caleb Ray — 9 tackles and a PBU; Dakota Drumheller — 7 tackles, a PBU, and a TDL; Dedric Cooke — 5 tackles and a PBU; Chris Moore — 2 TFLs and 5 QBPs.

OFFENSE: Jack Pace — 245 passing yards and 2 TDs; Garrett Jordan — 170 rush yards and 3 TDs; Brody Shields — 190 receiving yards and 2 TDs; Dedric Cooke — TD.

This week is a huge week for Fluvanna Football, with the Route 53 rivalry coming to town. And this is another call to action... please show up and support our boys as they host Monticello for Homecoming at 7 p.m. on Friday. They are a good team, and we need to keep the big crowds showing up each Friday! Tickets on GoFan.co.

Thanks,
Coach Pace

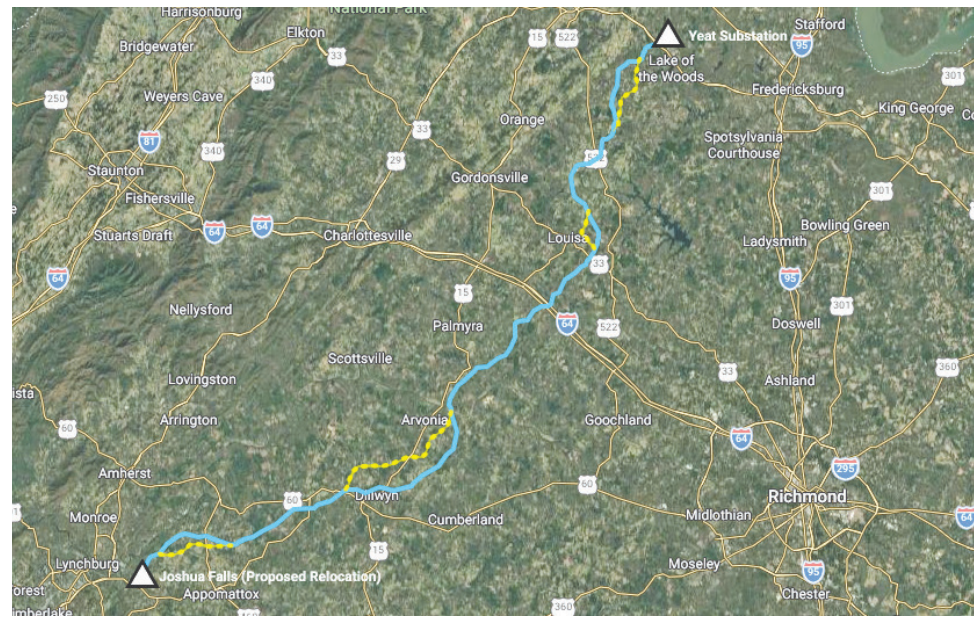
Valley Link revises Route 2; Fluvanna path apparently unchanged

BY HEATHER MICHON
EDITOR

Valley Link has revised one of its proposed transmission line routes through Central Virginia, shifting portions of Route 2 in Buckingham and Louisa counties while apparently leaving its path through Fluvanna unchanged.

The proposed Joshua Falls-to-Yeat transmission line would stretch approximately 115 miles from Campbell County to Culpeper County. The 765-kilovolt line's potential routes cross nine counties.

Maps on the Valley Link project website show a potential variation in Buckingham that shifts Route 2 northward near Allenslevel, then runs northeast through the Gold Hill area before rejoining the original proposed alignment near New Canton, south of the James River.



Louisa County posted notice of alternate potential routing on Sept. 28. The proposed variation shifts a portion of Route 2 westward, bringing it closer to the eastern outskirts of the town of Louisa before reconnecting with the existing proposed alignment.

Dominion spokesperson Craig Carper told the Virginia Mercury that the variation would avoid county-owned land west of the school campus and parallel an existing transmission line

through Louisa's technology overlay district.

No final route has been selected, and Valley Link's application to the State Corporation Commission (SCC) may come later than originally anticipated. The company's published schedule called for a filing in the third quarter of 2026, which ended Sept. 30. Opposition group Block Valley Link says its sources now expect the application in November.

Carper told the Mercury that

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routes would be finalized this fall before the company files. A November filing date remains unconfirmed. Valley Link plans to hold a virtual meeting this fall to announce its proposed route and alternatives.

It is unclear whether a later application would affect the overall project schedule, which anticipates an SCC decision in the second or third quarter of 2027 and construction from late 2028 through mid-2029.

Fluvanna has joined neighboring counties in opposing the project and has strengthened its own policies governing transmission infrastructure.

Supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution opposing Valley Link on April 1, citing potential effects on property values, agricultural land, natural and historic resources, and the county's rural character.

On Aug. 19, supervisors added policies to the county's comprehensive plan favoring existing utility corridors and calling for reduced impacts on homes, farms, natural resources and historic sites.

More recently, supervisors unanimously approved zoning rules requiring special-use permits for electrical substations, switching stations and related facilities.

The distinction is significant: the SCC determines the transmission line's route, while counties retain zoning authority over supporting facilities. The new rules give Fluvanna a means to review such facilities proposed within its borders.

County Attorney Dan Whitten told supervisors in September that Fluvanna plans to participate as a formal party in the SCC case, using outside counsel shared with other affected counties.

Residents can review and comment on potential routes through the GeoVoice mapping tool linked at vltransmission.com.

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*Zero accountability for gross negligence or medical malpractice.

No limits on anything related to reproductive freedom

Abortion at any gestational age. Minors receiving abortions without parental consent.

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to (i) protect the freedom to make personal decisions about prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion, miscarriage management, and fertility care; (ii) protect doctors, nurses, and patients from being punished for these decisions; and (iii) allow for restrictions on access to abortion during the third trimester of pregnancy except when the patient's health is at risk or the pregnancy cannot survive?"

Zero oversight with safety inspections at abortion facilities. Abortionists practicing without proper licensing and training. Abandoned or ignored malpractice claims.

Implies potential sale of IVF embryos and surrogacy without limits.

Abortion regulations are only enforced if not perceived as "restrictive" or impeding reproductive access.

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OCT 8 – 14, 2026 | FLUVANNA REVIEW | 7

DWR urges tree stand safety as hunters return to woods

FLUVANNA REVIEW STAFF



During the 2025-26 hunting season, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources recorded 13 tree stand incidents, including one fatality. In nine of those cases, they say, the victims were not connected to the tree with a fall-arrest system. Six had not taken a hunter education course. As hunters return to the woods for the 2026-27 season, the DWR urges them to inspect their equipment, wear a full-body safety harness, and stay con-

nected to the tree whenever they are off the ground. The agency recommends following the “ABCs” of tree stand safety developed by the Tree Stand Safety Awareness Foundation:

- Always inspect equipment and practice at ground level
- Buckle the harness securely
- Connect to the tree before leaving the ground
- Share the destination of each hunt with someone else.

Hunters should check stands for damage before the season and before and after each use, follow the manufacturer’s instructions, and attach stands securely to straight, healthy trees. Practicing with both the stand and the fall-arrest system at ground level can help hunters become familiar with their equipment before using it at height. When climbing or descending, hunters should maintain three points of contact and use a haul line to raise and lower equipment, keeping their hands free. Guns and bows should be unloaded before moving between the ground and the stand. Other hunters in the party should know the stand’s location. DWR also recommends leaving a paper map and an expected return time on the vehicle’s dashboard. Hunters should carry a charged cell phone, two-way radio, whistle, or other signaling device on their person, where it will remain accessible if they fall. Devices should be fully charged or supplied with fresh batteries. Rain, snow and ice require extra caution. Hunters should avoid using a stand when tired or sick, or when medications could affect their ability to use it safely. Wearing blaze orange helps other hunters spot them. “Hunting is a tradition valued by generations of Virginians, both to put food on the table and as a means of fellowship and camaraderie,” said Jimmy Mootz, DWR’s hunter education and outreach team lead. “Let’s keep those memories safe, wear a safety harness every time you hunt off the ground, and always follow the ABC’s of tree stand and saddle hunting safety.”

Find more information about hunter education courses, workshops, and mentorship opportunities is available at dwr.virginia.gov.

Fluvanna studio tour to feature over 20 artists Oct. 17–18

CONTRIBUTED BY CATHY TATRO

The fifth annual ARTS of Fluvanna Studio Tour will be Saturday, Oct. 17, and Sunday, Oct. 18. The free, self-guided tour includes 14 studios and 21 local artists. It will feature five new artists. Free copies of the tour map are available at many local businesses and from www.artsfluvanna.com. The tour is an opportunity to meet the artists in their studios and get a behind-the-scenes look at their creative processes just as the fall foliage emerges. “Visitors will meet artists working with wood, hot lamp glass, metals, stained glass, oil, mosaic, printmaking, mixed media, plus pottery, jewelry and fibers, with an opportunity to buy directly from artists,” said ARTS of Fluvanna Board Chair Diane Wilkin. The artists will be in 14 locations throughout Fluvanna, with studios open 10 a.m.–5 p.m. both days. The ARTS of Fluvanna Studio Tour is available on two days because visitors said they had trouble seeing all the artists they wanted in just one day, Wilkin said. She said the artists also enjoyed having more time to interact with visitors. Nearly 200 people used the free passport program last year, which offers a chance at a \$50 credit toward art purchases if they visit multiple locations. Organizers said an unknown number more visited artists without turning in a passport. Five of the tour sites are inside Lake Monticello but easily accessible by nonresidents, who can enter through the Main or Turkeysgate gates by just telling the guards they’re taking the tour. Some others are near the

lake, and the rest are scattered throughout the rest of Fluvanna County. The free ARTS of Fluvanna Studio Tour is sponsored by Bama Works, FindFluvanna.com, Lori Click of RE/MAX, Staiger Studio, T&N Printing, The Lake Monticello Community Foundation, Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, and Jen Sample of Long & Foster; local restaurants Gia Italian, Blue 53 and El Vaquero West; and E.W. Thomas Market.

Fluco volleyball hangs on for 3–2 win over the Albemarle Patriots

BY DUNCAN NIXON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Photo by Duncan Nixon

The Fluvanna High volleyball team, under head coach Aimee McCall, got off to a strong start at home on Sept. 29. They won the first game easily, 25–12. The Patriots came back somewhat in the second game of the best-of-three wins format. The Flucos prevailed, however, this time by a comfortable six-point margin. A 3–0 win for the Flucos looked likely. The Patriots regrouped and won the third and the fourth games in overtime, 26–24. With the match at 2–2, a fifth and deciding game is played to 15 points instead of to 25. In the deciding game, the Flucos and Patriots started evenly. The Flucos’ junior libero, Charlotte Gifford, took over the serve with the Flucos leading 6–5. The Flucos won four straight points with Gifford serving to take a five-point lead in a short game. The Patriots called a timeout, but they were done. Junior Avery Melton served the winning point for a 15–8 victory. The Flucos moved to an impressive 12–3 record.

Fluvanna

REVIEW

Great Reasons to Advertise

52 WEEKS A YEAR A total of 5,000 copies of the *Fluvanna Review* are delivered to over 90 boxes and racks at key spots such as grocery stores, banks, restaurants and offices in Fluvanna, Louisa and Albemarle counties and the city of Charlottesville.

QUESTIONS?
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In the first game, the Flucos moved to a comfortable ten-point lead at 17–7. They led by ten again at 22–12 and scored the final three points with sophomore Sydney Gentry serving for the win.

In the second game, the score stayed close early as both teams scored on their opponents' serve. At 12–12, the Flucos scored three in a row. They had a four-point lead at 18–14 and a six-point lead at 22–16. Gentry served the winning point to seal the 25–19 win.

In the third game, Albemarle jumped to an early 8–3 lead. The Flucos immediately closed the gap as sophomore Norah Ferrell recorded three consecutive service aces to make the score 8–7 for Albemarle. The Flucos managed to tie the score at 11–11, 14–14, 19–19, and 21–21. With the teams trading points, the score went to 24–24 in a win-by-two-points game. Two quick points in overtime by the Patriots ended the game.

The fourth game started with the teams trading points. Each serve earns a point, and the serving team is at a disadvantage because, if it doesn't score an ace, the defending team gets the first opportunity to set up a kill shot. The Flucos led most of the way early, but only by a point or two. The Patriots tied the game at 14–14 and 19–19. They then crept to 22–20 and 24–22 leads. Two points for the Flucos on serves by Gifford tied the score at 24–24 and sent the game into overtime. Again, it was the Patriots who scored two quick points for another 26–24 win.

After the game, McCall cited her team's resolve in coming back after losing two tough games. She also noted that sophomore Annaly Correa had a strong game at the net and explained that her team was playing a reorganized setup due to senior standout Alyssa Lewis being out of state for an academic presentation.

The Flucos played at Charlottesville on Oct. 1 and will travel to Western Albemarle on Oct. 8. They will be home on Oct. 13 and 15, hosting Louisa and Orange County.

Smokey Hollow Tattoo opens on Turkeysag Trail

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD
ARTS & CULTURE CONTRIBUTOR

Smokey Hollow Tattoo is open and welcoming customers in the Turkeysag Trail shopping center. Owners Dustin and Ginny Messer settled on Turkeysag Trail after searching for the right location to open their own shop. Dustin, the artist behind Smokey Hollow Tattoo, has more than 20 years of experience in Charlottesville's tattoo industry.

Tattooing has a long history, but in the United States it was once commonly associated with sailors, military personnel, and other distinct groups. During the 1970s and '80s, tattoo artists helped broaden its appeal, drawing on Japanese traditions and fine-art techniques. Today, tattoos are a familiar form of personal expression, often marking a loved one, a milestone, or an individual belief.

Messer enjoys the challenge of bringing a customer's vision



Smokey Hollow Tattoo Ribbon Cutting.
Photo by Fluvanna Economic Development

to life. His work spans portraits, tribal and traditional floral designs, colorful creatures, realistic depictions of Native Americans, and detailed cover-ups. He works in black and gray and in color, creating custom designs, including full sleeves.

One black-and-gray piece depicts a stairway to heaven climbing the back of a customer's neck and extending over the back of his head. Through his designs, Messer tells stories on skin. For more information, visit smokeyhollowtattoo.com.

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

- ACROSS
- 1 Yoga position
- 6 Campus mil. grp.
- 10 Firebird roof option
- 14 Chest-maker's wood
- 15 "Dedicated to the ___ Love": 1960s hit
- 16 Endings with aster and human
- 17 Delilah portrayer
- 19 Plural of Mrs.
- 20 Urban blemishes
- 21 One of the Kennedys
- 23 Cry from a crib
- 24 Big name in tortilla chips
- 26 Boot camp reply
- 28 Marriott rival
- 31 Bygone Belgian airline
- 34 Bone-dry
- 36 "C'est la ___!"
- 37 Some may rest on theirs
- 39 Listers on eBay
- 41 Schubert's "The ___-King"
- 42 Vegas lake
- 44 Shoots daggers (at)
- 45 City of India
- 47 Some action cameras
- 49 Believe strongly
- 51 Piece of wood
- 55 Switzerland, to the French
- 57 Prepare oneself
- 59 USAF rank
- 60 At least
- 62 Will-___-wisp
- 63 Persia, today
- 64 Sporty Chevy, for short
- 65 Tolkien series, briefly
- 66 Untouchable Eliot
- 67 Asks too many questions

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20									21	22				
23						24			25					
				26	27					28			29	30
31	32	33					34		35			36		
37							38		39		40			
41				42			43		44					
45			46			47		48						
		49			50						51	52	53	54
55	56						57			58				
59					60	61								
62					63					64				
65					66					67				

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DOWN

- 1 Longed (for)
- 2 "I'm outta here"
- 3 Summed up
- 4 Skeptical sort
- 5 Folk singer Guthrie
- 6 Ladies' men
- 7 The "O" in Jackie O
- 8 Artist Gerard ___ Borch
- 9 Wispy clouds
- 10 Peppermint Patty, for one
- 11 Multitasking, e.g.
- 12 Polish border river
- 13 Furtive summons
- 18 Gallery event
- 22 Shakespeare tragedy
- 25 Very, in Vichy
- 27 Combatants
- 29 Grow weary
- 30 Dick Tracy's love
- 31 Snow coaster

- 32 Swiss river
- 33 Matador's event
- 35 Feels sorry about
- 38 Hangs loose
- 40 "Toy Story" director John
- 43 Gen. MacArthur
- 46 Prynne of "The Scarlet Letter"
- 48 Primps
- 50 Red Square figure
- 52 Christine of "Evil"
- 53 "It's ___!" ("You're on!")
- 54 Actress Daly and others
- 55 Small runway craft, for short
- 56 "From all of ___ all of you"
- 58 Invitation letters
- 61 Miner's find

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Medium

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

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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Announcements



PUBLIC HEARING
Fluvanna County Planning Commission
Tuesday, October 13, 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, 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 item(s):

SUP 26-13: Fluvanna CSG 1 LLC – A Special Use Permit request in the A-1, Agricultural, General District for a 4.65-MW solar photovoltaic project (solar generation facility) on approximately 21 acres of an approximately 140.98-acre parcel identified as Tax Map 59-A-78A. The parcel is zoned A-1, Agricultural, General. The project site is located at 3295 Brema Road (Route 639) in Brema Bluff, Virginia 23022. The parcel is located in the Rural Preservation Planning Area and the Fork Union Election District.

SA 26-01: Request for determination by the Planning Commission as to whether or not the solar photovoltaic project proposed by Fluvanna CSG 1 LLC in Special Use Permit Application # SUP 26-13 is in substantial accord with the Fluvanna County Comprehensive Plan, pursuant to Code of Virginia § 15.2-2232.

ZTA 26-26: Ordinance to amend the “Code of the County of Fluvanna, Virginia,” by amending §§ 22-11-2.2, 22-12-2.2, and 22-17-5 and enacting § 22-17-24 to remove data centers as a use allowed by Special Use Permit in the Industrial, I-1 and Industrial, I-2 zoning districts, to clarify that uses which are not defined within the Zoning Code are not permitted, and to create supplemental regulations for data centers as an accessory use.

ZTA 26-27: Ordinance to amend the “Code of the County of Fluvanna, Virginia,” by amending amending §§ 22-4-2.1, 22-4-2.2, 22-5-2.1, 22-5-2.2, 22-6-2.1, 22-6-2.2, 22-7-9.1, 22-7-9.2, 22-8-2.1, 22-8-2.2, 22-9-2.1, 22-10-3, 22-13-2.1, 22-14-7, and 22-22-1 and enacting § 22-17-23 to update the terminology and regulation regarding home-based child care to match the Code of Virginia

Copies of the complete text of the above ordinances and plan are 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.



FLUVANNA COUNTY
NOVEMBER 3, 2026
GENERAL & SPECIAL ELECTIONS
WHAT'S ON MY BALLOT:

Virginia Dept. of Elections: Candidates & Referendums

SAMPLE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE
<https://www.fluvannacounty.org/registrar>

Please verify your voter registration, polling place, and VALID ID before Election Day!
<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/in-person-voting/>

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Friday, Sept. 18th thru Friday, October 30th: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday, October 12th: Closed in Observance of Columbus & Indigenous Peoples' Day
Sunday, October 18th: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 24th: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 25th: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 31st: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **FINAL DAY** to Vote Early at the Registrar's Office

Friday, October 23rd: Deadline to register to vote, change your voter registration information for this election. (5:00 p.m. in-person & 11:59 p.m. online.)

Mailed voter registration applications must be sent to the Fluvanna County Voter Registration's Office postmarked on or before the deadline.

Friday, October 23rd, 2026: Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail. Applications must be received in the Registrar's Office by 5 p.m.
Saturday, October 24th: Same-day registration begins. Same-day registrants must cast a provisional ballot.

A provisional ballot is used in U.S. elections when there are questions about a voter's eligibility on Election Day. Unlike a regular ballot, which is counted immediately, a provisional ballot is kept separate until election officials can verify the voter's eligibility. If the voter is confirmed to be eligible, the ballot is counted as a regular vote.

DROP BOX LOCATIONS: Registrar's Office during business hours and at each voting precinct on Election Day.
Tuesday, November 3rd: **ELECTION DAY - DROP BOX** "Vote by Mail" ballots must be returned to the Registrar's Office, a Polling Place Drop Box in Fluvanna County or USPS postmarked on November 3rd by 7

Polling Precinct Hours- 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Joyce W. Pace, Director of Elections & General Registrar
265 Turkeysag Trl, Suite 115, Palmyra VA 22963
TELEPHONE: 434-589-3593 • FAX: 434-589-6383

Email: jpace@fluvannacounty.org
Website: <https://www.fluvannacounty.org/registrar>



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--- OCTOBER EVENTS • FOOD • FUN ---

October 10: The Big Band, Sentimental Journey, 6 PM, Lakeside Restaurant at Ashlawn Clubhouse. Buffet dinner optional. Please note: Bunker Bistro will close at 4 PM to prepare for this event.

October 11 & 25: Brunch with JazzMo Trio, 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM, Bunker Bistro.

October 14: Open Mic Night, 6-8:30 PM, Bunker Bistro.



October 16: OKTOBERFEST! 6-8:30 PM, Bunker Bistro. Enjoy a night of German food, beer, and music! Wear your best Lederhosen & Dirndls and sing along with Matty Metcalfe and his one-man Oom-pah Band!

October 17: 6th Annual Wizards & Witches Paddle Across the Lake, 1 PM. Gather at the Main Beach shortly before 1 PM to watch your friendly neighborhood wizards, witches, and more, as they paddle across the Lake! Paddlers are encouraged to arrive at Beach 3 by 12:30 PM to participate in this charming tradition.

October 17-18: Arts of Fluvanna Studio Tour, 10 AM-5 PM. Take a self-guided tour of artists' studios throughout Fluvanna County, with 5 locations inside Lake Monticello! Pick up a "Passport" at your first stop, get it stamped at each studio and leave it at the last one you visit. If you visit at least three studios, you could win \$50.00 credit for a piece of art!

October 23: South Canal Street Band, 6-8:30 PM, Bunker Bistro Patio.



October 24: Fluvanna Women in Business Creative Escape Open Craft Workshop, 11:30 AM – 5:30 PM at Ashlawn. Bring your own craft projects, refresh your mind and fuel your artistic spirit. This free event is open to all LMOA Members.

October 25: EarthQuest Birds of Prey Program, 1 PM on the Ashlawn Clubhouse Lawn. The Wildlife Committee invites you to join EarthQuest for its always-popular Birds of Prey program, a unique live demonstration featuring an exciting variety of raptors!



October 30: YRF's Annual Bunker Pumpkin Walk, 6-7:30 PM on the Bunker Park Track. Join the Young Residents & Families Committee for an evening of jack-o'-lanterns, candy, and fun! Bring your carved pumpkins to Bunker Park just before 6 PM, place them around the track, and enjoy a stroll around to admire the jack-o'-lanterns. Costumes are highly encouraged!

October 29: EAT IT – DRINK IT - SOLVE IT Team Challenge! | 6:30 PM | Bunker Bistro. Grab your team of 6 and be the first team to eat 19 pretzel bites, 6 chicken tenders, drink 12 beers (or cider), and solve a 300-piece puzzle to win \$. Reserve your spot today by calling 434-591-0106.

October 31: Halloween at the Bunker Bistro! Music by F.O.G. | 6-8:30 PM.



Water Safety

TIP OF THE WEEK

Brought to you by the Volunteer Water Safety Team (VWST)

This is the time of year to prepare your boat for the winter. Be sure to read your boat's care guide for specific recommendations from the manufacturer. Winter temperatures at Lake Monticello can get below freezing and there are specific steps to take to prevent damage to your boat. For excellent advice on winterization visit: <https://www.boatus.com/expert-advice/how-to-diy/winterization>



Lake Health

TIP OF THE WEEK

Brought to you by the Facilities & Lake Operations Committee (FLOC)

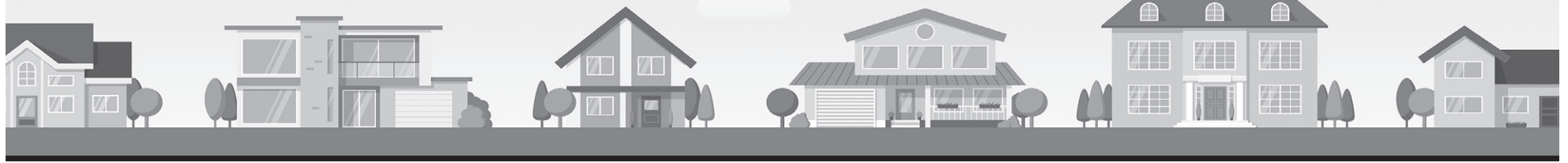
Give that energy back! Mulch your leaves instead of raking and bagging them. Use a rake or leaf blower to gather leaves into an area, then mow over them to mulch them. If your mower has a bag, you can collect the chopped leaves; otherwise, simply mulch them back into your lawn. Chopped leaves break down quickly, returning nutrients to your trees and grass throughout the fall and winter. It's an easy way to reduce the need for chemical fertilizers, which can negatively impact our streams, ponds, and Lake.



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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

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.

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Workforce training program earns another No.1 ranking for Virginia

MARKUS SCHMIDT
VIRGINIA MERCURY

Virginia’s workforce training program has earned another No. 1 national ranking as the commonwealth competes for companies looking for workers trained for specialized jobs.

Area Development, a major national trade publication, ranked Virginia first for workforce training programs in its 2026 Top States for Doing Business report. The recognition highlights the Virginia Talent Accelerator Program, which provides customized recruitment and training at no cost to qualifying companies opening or expanding operations in the commonwealth.

Since its launch in 2019, the program has supported projects representing more than 22,000 announced jobs across the state, according to Gov. Abigail Spanberger’s administration.

Virginia placed eighth overall in Area Development’s nationwide rankings and also finished fifth for innovation and research, sixth for site readiness programs and seventh for logistics and transportation infrastructure.

The workforce recognition comes after Business Facilities ranked Virginia first for customized workforce training for the fourth consecutive year this summer.

“Workforce is one of the most important factors in any company’s location decision, and Virginia continues to distinguish itself nationally,” Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade Carrie Chenery said in a statement Monday.

“The Virginia Talent Accelerator Program is a clear competitive advantage because it drives business growth by customizing talent solutions. This recognition reinforces that the commonwealth is not only attracting investment but also

preparing Virginians for the jobs those investments create.”

Created by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System, the Talent Accelerator receives funding support from the governor’s administration and the General Assembly. Its services are offered as an incentive for companies creating jobs in Virginia.

The work varies from project to project. Before training begins, the Talent Accelerator assesses a company’s recruitment processes and workforce needs. That can lead to assistance before an employee is even hired, including brief training sessions and assessments that give applicants a look at the work while allowing employers to evaluate potential hires.

Recruitment help can include digital advertising and campaigns on streaming and podcast platforms. The program’s in-house team also produces videos, websites and 3D animations to help companies recruit workers and demonstrate workplace tasks.

Once workers are hired, training can range from safety and basic skills to detailed instruction on production processes and individual jobs. Teamwork, conflict resolution and leadership training are also available.

Manufacturing projects are paired with a regional community college, while the program also works with universities, including historically Black colleges, according to VEDP.

Spanberger said Virginia’s latest rank shows the value of connecting economic development with workforce preparation.

“Virginia is building the best workforce in America, and industry is taking notice,” Spanberger said in a statement. “The Virginia Talent Accelerator Program gives businesses a powerful reason to choose the commonwealth by delivering customized training that prepares Virginians to succeed from day one.”

Area Development has



FLUVANNA

County Calendar



QR Code provided by the

Fluvanna Leadership

Development Program

Annual Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat

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Free Rural Health Clinic at Dunbar Ros-enwald School on the **1st Thursday of each month** from 2 to 5 p.m. through December. County residents can receive needed health services to address local health inequities and disparities.

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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 & Food Assistance

FLRD Community Food Pantry is located at 14455 James Madison Hwy, Palmyra VA in the School Board Administration Building. To receive food please visit our pantry on Tuesdays and Thursday from 10am to 2pm. Questions or donations, contact (434) 987-1938.

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covered corporate site selection and relocation since 1965. Its 2026 rankings are based on a survey of 50 site consultants who evaluated states across 20 categories affecting corporate location and investment decisions.

The magazine then weighted those results based on the importance of each factor in corporate site selection.

Virginia finished behind Georgia, Texas, Tennessee, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina and Alabama in the overall ranking. But it took the top spot for workforce training, ahead of Georgia and South Carolina.

VEDP President and CEO Jason El Koubi said the Talent Accelerator's value lies in build-

ing recruitment and training around an employer's particular operation rather than offering a standard package.

"Our team works directly with companies to design recruitment and training strategies that reflect their operations, culture and long-term growth plans," El Koubi said in a statement. "Area Development's recognition underscores the program's impact and the value Virginia delivers to companies creating jobs across the commonwealth."

Several companies that announced Virginia projects this year are using the program.

Avio USA plans a roughly \$500 million manufacturing facility in Hurt that is expected to create more than 1,000 jobs.

RINGANA, an Austrian skin-care and nutritional products company, announced an \$85 million U.S. headquarters, production and distribution operation in Roanoke with 435 jobs. Jabil plans a manufacturing facility in Prince George County expected to create 352 jobs.

Merck & Co. also plans to use Talent Accelerator as part of its \$3 billion expansion in Elkton. The project is expected to create 500 jobs and will serve as the company's Center of Excellence for Pharmaceutical Ingredients and Small Molecule Manufacturing.

The Spanberger administration's figure of more than 22,000 jobs reflects announced positions associated with projects supported by the

Talent Accelerator. It does not indicate how many of those jobs have been filled or how many workers have completed training through the program.

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared on the Virginia Mercury (virginiamercury.com) on October 6, 2026. It is reprinted here via Plucky Wire, a digital story-sharing network that connects independent newsrooms to expand local reporting.



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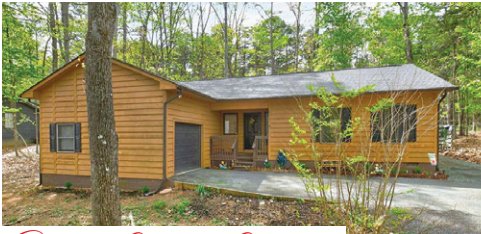
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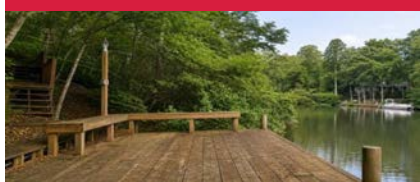


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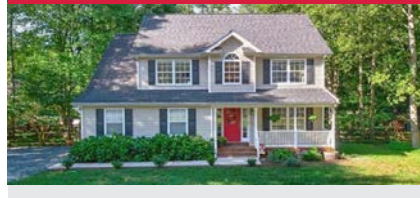


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