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Reassessment brings new values, tax questions

Rising values could affect tax bills when supervisors set rates next spring

HEATHER MICHON, EDITOR

Fluvanna County property owners will soon learn how much their homes and property have changed in value as the county prepares to mail notices for its 2027 real estate reassessment later this month.

Jason Cowan of Cowan Services, the firm conducting the reassessment, told the Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, Oct. 7, that property values have continued to rise since the 2025 reassessment, although the pace has slowed considerably compared to the period immediately following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cowan said his team had examined local property sales, market trends and federal housing data to determine how values have changed across the county.

Several methods suggested market appreciation of 7% to 10% since the previous reassessment. However, Cowan's preliminary calculations also indicated that existing assessments would need an overall adjustment of approximately 19% to bring them into line with current market values.

That does not mean every property owner will see a 19% increase. Individual assessments will vary depending on the property's location, condition, improvements, and comparable sales.

Cowan noted that, after years of favoring sellers, the local real estate market appears to be moving toward a more balanced position.

Recent data showed about six months of housing inventory, which Cowan said is generally considered the dividing line between a seller's market and a buyer's market. Appropriately priced homes continue to sell, but buyers have more choices than during the pandemic-era housing boom.

Reassessment continues on page 4.

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Letters to the Editor

What does 'common sense' really mean?

On the same day that I read Jim Darlington's letter in this week's Fluvanna Review asking me to vote for common-sense Republicans, I read in this week's Charlottesville Weekly a new report from NO Kid Hungry that 42% of Virginia families lack enough to eat, including 51% of households with children.

The Republican Party owns this crisis. They are in control of Congress and the White House. Trump's outrageous spending has reportedly added \$11 trillion to our \$40 trillion debt. Republicans in Congress have allowed this while ignoring established norms in place that could have prevented this reckless behavior. Since 1980, 50 trillion dollars has been stolen from the middle class of American taxpayers, and this has gone to the top 10% who did not need THE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL to shelter them from taxes.

Common sense tells me that when young Americans cannot afford to buy a house and food for their children, something is terribly wrong with our country. Working parents should not have to go to the food bank!

I am a Democrat. Call me a socialist, call me a communist, call me anything you need to feel better. I just want a country where children have enough to eat, a place to live, a place to go when they need health care, and a publicly funded school that will afford them an opportunity to thrive. The Big Beautiful Bill that Republicans have promised will help truly is anything but beautiful. Democrats have, in my lifetime, brought you things that you now take for granted. I've lived through the struggles for civil rights, voting rights, women's rights, gay rights, Medicare, Medicaid, and probably most importantly Social Security.

I don't know what Republicans expected when they returned to office a man who

tried to overturn the election results in 2020. A man that failed to protect his own Vice President Pence from potentially being hanged by an angry mob. A mob of misfits that he subsequently called "Patriots" and gave them full pardon for behaviors I saw with eyes that refuse to lie to me. My Democratic Party recognizes that science and medicine are valid, and the refusal to accept that results in devastating consequences. People are different, and those differences need to be respected and not be used against others. I say "let freedom ring" as we celebrate 250 years of independence. We don't need a government that tries to control us.

-Jim Steere, Troy

Looking beyond the top of the ballot

As we prepare for the upcoming November 3 election, local voters need to look past the top of the ticket and pay close attention to three critical constitutional questions at the bottom of the ballot.

Ballot Question 1 would permanently enshrine a fundamental right to reproductive freedom in Virginia's Constitution, protecting personal medical decisions from shifting political majorities.

Ballot Question 2 fixes an outdated section of our state Constitution by officially repealing the defunct ban on same-sex marriage, ensuring all legally valid marriages continue to be treated equally under the law regardless of future federal court rulings.

Finally, Ballot Question 3 fixes a broken system by automatically restoring voting rights to individuals who have fully served their time and returned to our communities, removing partisan politicians from what should be an objective process.

Constitutional amendments are incredibly difficult to reverse once enacted. They represent our core values as a Common-

wealth. I urge my neighbors to look closely at these measures and vote "Yes" on Questions 1, 2, and 3 to protect our rights, our families, and our democracy.

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

Correction

An Oct. 1 article about the suspension of EMS authority at the Fluvanna County Volunteer Fire Department incorrectly described when Jamie Baughn was appointed chief of the Palmyra Fire Company. Baughn has clarified that his appointment followed the Sept. 11 suspension. The article was not intended to suggest that Baughn was responsible for the suspension.

Reassessment continued from page 3.

Cowan said his team has also been reviewing land values, construction costs, and depreciation schedules to improve consistency across the county.

The county expects to mail reassessment notices in late October, giving property owners a chance to review their new values and request corrections if they believe their property was assessed incorrectly.

The contractor will offer online appointment scheduling, telephone hearings, and in-person meetings to make the appeals process more accessible.

Cowan said the goal is to give property owners a way to raise concerns and have their assessments reviewed. "We may disagree or agree," he said, but everyone would have the opportunity to be heard.

The reassessment itself does not determine how much property owners will pay in taxes.

Supervisors will set the county's real estate tax rate in mid-April 2027 as part of the annual budget process. Before doing so, the county must calculate and advertise an equalized tax rate that would generate approximately the same revenue from existing real estate as the previous year, excluding new construction and improvements.

Supervisors can adopt that rate or set a different one, so higher assessments don't necessarily mean proportionally higher tax bills.

In recent years, supervisors have lowered the real estate tax rate following reassessments, but not enough to completely offset rising property values.

After the 2023 reassessment, which increased countywide valuations by 12.3%, supervisors set a tax rate about 9% above the equalized rate. The 2025 reassessment brought a much larger 22.5% increase in property values, followed by a tax rate that was 8.85% above the equalized rate. Individual homeowners saw varying increases depending on how much their assessments had changed.

Whether that pattern continues in 2027 will depend on the

final reassessment figures and the budget decisions supervisors make next spring.

Property owners will receive their first tax bills based on the new assessments in early May, with payment due June 5.

Supervisors also discussed extending the appeal deadline to the county's Board of Equalization from April 18 to May 17, 2027.

County Administrator Eric Dahl explained that the later deadline would give homeowners about two weeks after receiving their spring tax bills to challenge their assessments, even though they've had access to their new property values since the fall.

Splash pad money gets a new purpose

A splash pad might be the perfect way for kids to beat the summer heat, but Fluvanna County's long-standing plans to build one at Pleasant Grove Park have always run into one big problem: not enough water.

With a permanent water supply still years away, Parks and Recreation Director Aaron Spitzer asked supervisors to redirect the \$200,000 set aside for the splash pad to projects they can tackle now.

First, replace the aging floor at Carysbrook.

The gymnasium's original wooden floor was installed in 1939 and has developed the problems that come with 87 years of continuous use: protruding nails, dead spots, and deteriorating subflooring.

The gym is used six days a week for athletic programs, recreation classes, and other activities.

Supervisors previously allocated \$50,000 to replace the floor, but roof leaks delayed the work. With the roof now largely repaired, Spitzer requested an additional \$67,400 from the unused splash pad funding to complete the project.

The replacement would include permanently marked courts for basketball, volleyball, and pickleball, eliminating some of the temporary tape currently used to mark playing areas.

The remaining \$132,600 would go toward making the new Carysbrook playground more accessi-

ble to children with disabilities.

Because the playground replaces an aging facility, it was already designed to meet accessibility standards. However, discussions with parents and members of the school division's Special Education Advisory Committee identified additional improvements that would allow more children to play together.

Spitzer proposed spending approximately \$120,977 on poured-rubber surfacing and additional inclusive playground equipment.

Unlike loose rubber mulch, the solid surface would let children using wheelchairs and other mobility devices move more easily throughout the playground.

Another \$11,623 would pay for a four-foot fence around the playground. Parents had requested fencing to help protect children who may wander away from play areas without recognizing potential dangers.

Spitzer said the goal is to make the county's playgrounds genuinely accessible, not just meet minimum legal requirements.

The department is working toward similar improvements at other county playgrounds, including Pleasant Grove Park and the Fluvanna Community Center.

Although the changes would exhaust the existing splash pad allocation, Spitzer emphasized that he has not abandoned the project. He hopes to return once the necessary water infrastructure is in place.

For now, the money would address an aging athletic facility and make a new playground more welcoming to children of all abilities.



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Rain, rising costs cut into county fair finances

FLUVANNA REVIEW STAFF

Rain, reduced sponsorships, and declining rodeo attendance cut into this year's Fluvanna County Fair finances, although organizers reported strong participation in several traditional activities.

The four-day event ran from Aug. 12-15 at Pleasant Grove Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Aaron Spitzer told the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 7 that recorded attendance was 5,305, although the actual number was probably closer to 6,000.

A severe thunderstorm with high winds and hail struck early Friday evening, forcing organizers to temporarily evacuate the fairgrounds. When conditions improved, they reopened the gates without charging admission, making an accurate attendance count impossible.

The county's portion of the

event generated approximately \$14,197 in profits. However, the volunteer Fair Board, which handles much of the entertainment and operating costs, finished about \$10,448 in the red.

Organizers said the loss of a major sponsor, reduced Beer Garden attendance, and disappointing rodeo ticket sales contributed to the shortfall. The rodeo alone cost approximately \$18,000 to stage.

Better news came from the Home Arts competition, which attracted considerably more entries than in previous years. The 4-H livestock show also continued to grow, particularly among young people raising smaller animals such as goats, sheep, rabbits and chickens.

The growing number of exhibitors prompted discussion about the eventual need for additional barn space at Pleasant Grove Park.

Despite this year's losses, fair board representatives said the organization maintains substantial financial reserves.



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Rick Wells DC

Retirement is a new chapter, not the end of the story

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD
 ARTS & CULTURE CONTRIBUTOR

For some, retirement brings freedom, fulfillment, and the opportunity to enjoy life without the demands of a career. It may be a time to care for aging parents, a spouse, or grandchildren, or to travel and pursue long-postponed interests. These activities can give the day purpose and structure.

For others, however, retirement can leave an unexpected void. Without family nearby, familiar routines disappear, travel may be beyond their financial means, and the quiet of home can become a reminder of loneliness.

Yet retirement does not need to be an empty or isolating chapter of life. With the right choices and opportunities, people can find renewed purpose, connection, and enjoyment in their later years.

The loss of built-in structure is real. Raising a family and working life give people a daily schedule, established goals, and external demands. When that disappears, building a brand-new routine from scratch can feel overwhelming.

It can also leave retirees with a void in identity and purpose. Jobs often define who people are and why they matter. Leaving the workforce can trigger a loss of relevance, making effort feel pointless.

Inertia and low motivation often result in boredom, creating a mental fog or exhaustion. Instead of starting an active project, people fall back on easy, passive habits like watching TV or scrolling on devices.

Fear or burnout are also common. Some retirees spent decades running on a "hamster wheel" and are genuinely exhausted, while others are paralyzed by the fear of failing at a new hobby or looking foolish as a beginner. Their excuse is "Been there, done that."

Others, however, use their

work experience to help in their communities, including volunteering with the LMFVR, serving on boards such as LMOA or the Fluvanna SPCA, or heading up other volunteer organizations.

Often, people use age or lack of interest as an excuse not to do anything, but one of the key benefits of staying active is mental sharpness. Regularly challenging your brain through hobbies, reading, puzzles, learning new skills, or part-time work can help maintain cognitive function.

Physical health is important. Keeping moving through walking, gardening, exercise, or sports prevents a sedentary lifestyle, lowers the risk of chronic health conditions, and supports longevity.

Social interaction is also a key component of mental and emotional health. Regular activities and volunteering can prevent the isolation and loneliness that often happen after leaving a workplace or losing daily contact with coworkers.

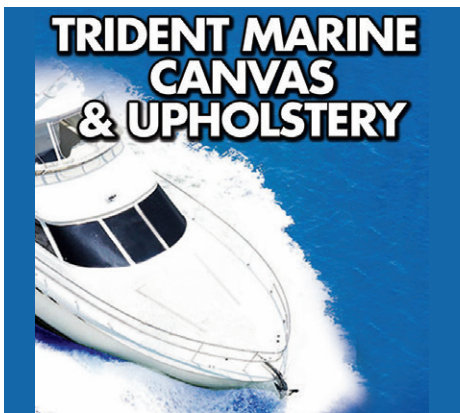
Replacing work routines with meaningful goals, creative projects, or family time gives a sense of purpose, direction, and self-esteem.

While structure is helpful, constant busyness is not the only path to a happy retirement. For some, retirement is a time to slow down, practice reflection, and rest without feeling pressured to fill every hour on a calendar. The goal is finding a personal rhythm that balances meaningful engagement with genuine relaxation. Yoga is a popular activity many take up in retirement, finding it relaxing and beneficial to physical and mental health.

Big changes like "take up painting" or "volunteer every day" can be too much. Retirement is not about recreating the working wheel; it's about another phase of life. It's about the things you're interested in and the things that were set aside because of career and family obligations.

Begin retirement with small steps. Think about doing simple tasks, such as reading ten pages of a novel without having to finish it by a certain time. An interest in reading again could lead to joining a book club.

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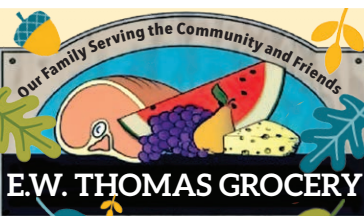


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It is about redefining activity. Activity does not have to mean a busy schedule. It can mean slow engagement, like tending a single houseplant, listening to music, or bird watching.

The houseplant could lead to gardening, having a nursery business, or joining a gardening group and beautifying the community. Listening to music can help with meditation and relaxation. Or learn to play an instrument, or pick up the instrument you set aside for a time when you could play it again, and maybe join a band.

Bird watching can include physical activity like walking, being in nature, and traveling to different places or meeting with groups who enjoy the same pastime.

Retirement is the perfect time to explore deliberate, tactile arts

that allow you to focus on the joy of creating something beautiful with your hands.

Knitting is a popular craft with young and old, bringing groups together for social interaction and making things to donate to nursing homes and hospitals or as gifts for family members. Fluvanna has three knitting groups.

A good example of someone who retired from a nursing career and is managing her own business is Linda Mayhew, an avid quilter who learned how to crochet and make diamond paintings and is now learning needlework and tapestry arts. Mayhew also took up the piano after years of not playing.

Exploring the meticulous, fabric-based pattern work of Kinusaiga (creating images from fabric scraps on foam boards) or tra-

ditional fabric weaving patterns could be a start for someone interested in these areas.

Art is another area of experimentation. Mayhew, who was also a member of the Fluvanna Art Association, wanted to learn to paint. Diving into highly engaging, detailed visual projects like collage art, Zentangle-inspired line drawings, decoupage, or learning to draw or paint helps engage the brain through composition and color.

Tactile sculpting, such as working with air-dry clay without needing a high-tech kiln setup, is another option, as is going to the next level and taking a ceramics class.

Glass artist Carol Sorber and woodworker Jim Wilkin are a couple of examples of artists in retirement who have found per-

sonal joy in their crafts. Recycling is a great way to help the environment, and upcycling small pieces of accent furniture, putting your personal touch on them, is a wonderful pastime. If you want to spend your time moving, breathing fresh air, and connecting with nature, visiting regional state parks, establishing a routine for scenic nature walks, or taking up bird watching with a pair of binoculars is a great way to feel good and stay physically fit. Join a hiking or bird watching group and make friends. Taking casual road trips, exploring local historic landmarks, or looking into camping and RV travel options like Hipcamp and Airstream can also be rewarding.

Retirement
continues on page 9.



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with 1,894 reported injuries	with 706 reported injuries

The Lake Monticello Police Department encourages drivers and pedestrians to **"Share the Road."**

As we head into the fall season, The Lake Monticello Police Department encourages drivers and pedestrians to "Share the Road." In 2025, 139 pedestrians and 15 bicyclists were killed in Virginia, with 1,894 pedestrians and 706 bicyclists reported injured. Pedestrians should keep the following safety precautions in mind when heading out on the road:

- Wear bright or reflective clothing so drivers can spot you easily.
- Carry a flashlight when walking after dark.
- Walk on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic.
- Use your eyes and ears to stay alert when you're walking.
- Cross streets at intersections when possible.
- Wait until a driver has stopped before stepping into the road.



OCTOBER EVENTS

October 17: 6th Annual Wizards & Witches Paddle Across the Lake, 1 PM, Main Beach.

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! Visit at least three studios and get your "passport" stamped for a chance to win \$50.00 credit for a piece of art!

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

October 25: EarthQuest Birds of Prey Program, 1 PM on the Ashlawn Clubhouse Lawn. Join the Wildlife Committee for this always-popular Birds of Prey program!

October 30: Young Residents & Families Committee's Annual Bunker Pumpkin Walk, 6-7:30 PM on the Bunker Park Track. Join the YRF Committee for an evening of jack-o'-lanterns, candy, and fun!

October 29: Team Challenge: **EAT IT - DRINK IT - SOLVE IT!** 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.



LAKE MONTICELLO'S Fall Festival

NOVEMBER 7 • 2 PM • ASHLAWN

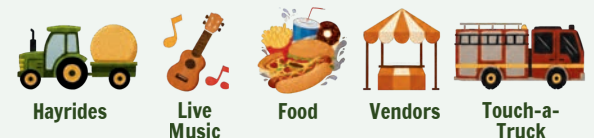
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The Crafty Ladybug
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Fluvanna Master Gardeners
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FCSS Happy Face
Christmas decor & gifts
Craft & Grow

Lake Monticello Clubs & Groups:

Wildlife Committee
Youth Golf Foundation
Beautification Corps
LMPD & LMVFR
Volunteer Water Safety Team
Fishing Club

...and so much more!



advertorial
Content: LMOA

Retirement
continued from page 7.

Local retiree Glenn Clatworthy travels frequently and finds interesting places to visit and things he never knew existed.

Active gardening, growing native flowers, or creating a small backyard vegetable garden keeps you physically active and connected to seasonal changes.

Many also go through the Master Gardener or Master Naturalist programs and help others discover the natural world or learn how to grow and maintain a successful and beautiful garden.

If you miss the social routine of a regular workplace, community engagement bridges the gap while offering immense personal satisfaction.

Helping organize archives or doing research for the Fluvanna Historical Society, or assisting with programs or the annual book sale at the Fluvanna Public Library, are ways to stay involved.

Spending a few mornings or afternoons a week walking dogs, socializing cats, or helping with fundraising, grant writing, or other related tasks can support local animal shelters, including the Fluvanna SPCA and Caring For Creatures. Walking dogs is also a great way to stay in shape and remain active.

Sharing your unique career background or life experiences through adult literacy tutoring, youth mentorship, or community center classes is a great way to continue engaging others through teaching, mentoring, and lecturing.

Many members of the Fluvanna Art Association are former art teachers, like Alyce Walcavich and Diane Wilkin, who use their skills and share techniques with fellow artists.

Community kitchens, Habitat for Humanity, and Meals on Wheels offer additional volunteer opportunities. Preparing meals at community pantries, driving neighbors to critical healthcare appointments, or helping build a house for a low-income family can keep you active and socially engaged while also making a meaningful difference to the people you are helping.

There is so much out there to do and to learn, and so many people who need help. Retirement is a time to explore these opportunities. It is not for navel-gazing.

JABA offers free Medicare counseling during open enrollment

FLUVANNA REVIEW STAFF

Medicare's annual open enrollment period begins Oct. 15 and runs through Dec. 7, giving beneficiaries an opportunity to review their coverage and make changes for the coming year.

The Jefferson Area Board on Aging (JABA) offers free, confidential counseling to help Medicare recipients compare options and choose plans that best meet their needs.

Winter Broadhurst, JABA's assistant director of communications and community engagement, said the service helps beneficiaries make informed de-

cisions about their coverage.

Last year, JABA helped more than 3,200 people review their Medicare coverage during open enrollment, saving beneficiaries a combined \$4 million in insurance and prescription drug costs.

Medicare plans can change each year—including premiums, deductibles, prescription drug coverage, and provider networks. That Medicare Advantage or Part D prescription drug plan that worked well in the past may no longer be the best option.

JABA's Insurance Counseling Program is part of the federally funded State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP). Trained, certified volunteer counselors provide unbiased information to help beneficiaries understand their options without sales pressure.

One beneficiary who has used the program for several years described the service as reassuring.

"I have taken advantage of this service for probably five years or more. It is a wonderful service that provides peace of mind. So very thankful for those who volunteer."

Another returning participant said the experience had prompted them to recommend the service to others.

"This is the second time I have been in for counseling, and I have been very happy with the result and very impressed by the counselors. I can't tell you how many people I have recommended this service to. Thank you so very much."

To request a free appointment with a Medicare counselor, call JABA's Insurance Counseling Program at 434-817-5248 to request a paper intake form, or complete the online form at www.jabacares.org/medicare-counseling.

JABA is a nonprofit Area Agency on Aging that has served older adults and caregivers in Central Virginia since 1975.



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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Not much
5 Captain's superior
10 Pestors
14 Extinct bird
15 In the loop
16 Eye flirtatiously
17 Take-charge type
18 Engrossing read
20 Senselessly
22 Rosa Salazar series
23 Bagel variety
24 Tuesdays, in Marseille
26 Unplugged
30 Clear the windshield
33 Missouri Rep. Bob _____
34 401(k) alternative
35 Notable period
36 Barn cats, often
38 Spanish hero, El _____
39 Feel ill
40 "When You Wish Upon _____"
41 Corn coverings
43 Connection
46 Pop star Grande
47 Like some fans
51 Subatomic particle
53 Smallest Great Lake
54 Common people
57 Fork feature
58 Richard of "The Agency"
59 Kind of change
60 Subj. for an M.B.A.
61 Play parts
62 Author Sinclair
63 Beach blanket?

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		

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- 2 Frontiersman Daniel
3 Notions
4 Home wrecker
5 Sappy trees
6 Hanks film, "Cast _____"
7 Navy legal dept.
8 Metallic rock
9 Football special teams player
10 Like Danes and Finns
11 Deity doubters
12 Secluded spot
13 Drought-ridden
19 Hanes product
21 Exodus
24 Kalispell's home
25 William of Apollo 8
27 Tee fabric
28 _____ the Red
29 Root beer brand
30 Letter opener
31 New York canal
32 Emotionally break down
37 Outbreak of the late 1950s
42 Software changes
44 Shaw and others
45 2017 Tony winner "Dear Evan _____"
48 Novelist Jong
49 Sheer fabric
50 "The war _____ all wars"
51 Nelly Korda's org.
52 Monthly util. bill
53 "And your point is?"
55 Alley in the comics
56 Filming site

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

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HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

Community Calendar



QR Code provided by the
Fluvanna Leadership
Development Program

Annual Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat

Come join us for an evening of Good Food and Fun! Beulah Baptist Church (1633 Kents Store Way Kents Store, VA) is holding our Annual Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat Saturday **October 31st** 5pm-7:00pm. Everything is Free! Sno-Cones, Popcorn, Trunks full of candy, and other Food and Games. Call 434-589-2245 for more info.

Central Virginia Veterans Breakfast

Central Virginia Veterans (CVV), Inc will be holding their monthly 'G.I. style' breakfast on **October 31**, 2026. Time is 8:15 AM at Wahoo BBQ & Grill, Slice Road Gate, Lake Monticello. Cost is \$12 per person (cash only please). Veterans and spouses/friends are welcome. Questions? Contact Paul Bethke (703) 965-8363.

Donations Needed

FCSS Happy Face Christmas Party 2026 will be held Sat., **Dec. 5** at Central Elementary. FCSS is collecting new toys (\$15-30) and books for children, ages infant to 13. A collecting new winter coats and PJs, sizes infant to 18. Collection boxes are set up at various locations. To volunteer or have questions, email Mary Kidd at marykidd01@gmail.com.

Free Rural Health Clinic at Dunbar Rosenwald 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.

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 & 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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143-6 Green Turtle Ln



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86 Crabapple Ln



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53 Porkchop Ct/Louisa



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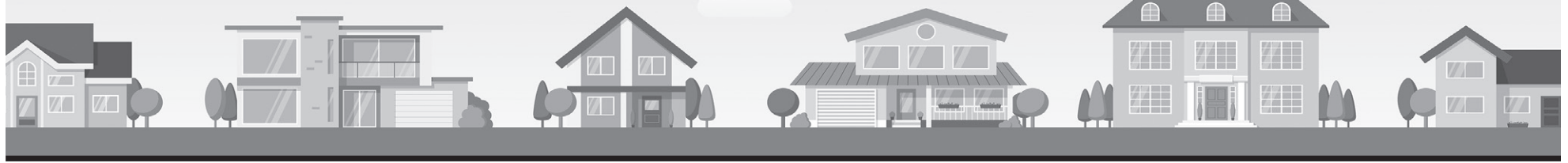


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EVENTS

BECOME AN EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER IN FLUVANNA COUNTY. Enjoy your pastime, support the environment, serve your community, and make like-minded friends. For information, registration, and in-person discussions, come to meetings on Sat 10/24, 2-3:30, or Thu 10/29, 6-7:30 at Fluvanna Public Library.

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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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. NEW CONTACT: Call Jennifer Campbell at (703) 615-2614. Email mapleroomrentals@lmvfr.org

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

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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

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.

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Recent rains bring relief, but drought concerns linger

Groundwater levels remain low across parts of Central Virginia

FLUVANNA REVIEW STAFF

Recent rainfall has brought some relief to drought-stricken Central Virginia, but groundwater levels and streamflows remain below normal in parts of the region—raising questions about how quickly the area can recover from months of dry conditions.

Fluvanna County, part of the Middle James drought evaluation region, remains under a drought warning, according to the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force's Oct. 6 report.

The report was issued just before rainfall associated with the remnants of Hurricane Isaias moved through the region over the weekend. Charlottesville and areas to the west saw rainfall totals of around 3 inches, while a gauge in Scottsville registered 1.5 inches during the period.

That additional precipitation could improve conditions, but the region still shows signs of

prolonged dryness.

According to the Oct. 6 report, precipitation in the Middle James region during the recently completed water year reached just 75.18% of normal. Streamflow was also below normal, measuring at the 17th percentile for the seven-day period ending Oct. 5.

Groundwater levels remain a particular concern.

One of the two groundwater monitoring wells used to evaluate conditions in the Middle James region, located in Buckingham County, was at just the 6.57th percentile for its historical measurements, placing it in drought warning status. The other, in Colonial Heights, was within the normal range.

The distinction between recent rainfall and groundwater recovery is important: rain can quickly improve surface soil moisture and temporarily raise stream levels, but replenishing underground water supplies often takes much longer.

Groundwater helps sustain streams and rivers during dry periods, a process known as baseflow. When groundwater levels are depleted, streamflows may remain low even after precipitation returns to more normal levels.

The task force noted that below-normal streamflows persist in several parts of Central Virginia, likely because of low groundwater and baseflow conditions.

But there are some encouraging signs.

The report found that recent precipitation had improved soil moisture across much of Virginia, although deeper soils remained unusually dry in some areas. Reservoirs used to monitor drought conditions in the Middle James region were also within their normal operating ranges.

The new rainfall comes as Virginia begins its 2027 water year, which started Oct. 1.

Unlike the calendar year, the water year runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, allowing scientists to track precipitation and water supplies through the fall and winter recharge period and into the following summer.

Virginia ended the 2026 water year with a statewide average

precipitation deficit of 9.7 inches, according to the Department of Environmental Quality.

The National Weather Service's seasonal outlook offers some reason for optimism, with above-normal precipitation favored across Virginia through the end of the year. A developing El Niño pattern could bring additional moisture in fall and winter.

Breast cancer awareness walk returns to Pleasant Grove Oct. 24

CONTRIBUTED BY
E. DIANNE CAMPBELL

Fluvanna County will recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a community event at Pleasant Grove Park on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Inspired by the first "Race for the Cure" event held in 1983, Fluvanna County's second annual Breast Cancer Walk/Hike/Run is coordinated by Cunningham United Methodist Church in conjunction with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Participants can choose from three activities: a guided nature hike led by Walter Hussey, who initiated the first event to honor his wife, Marie; a senior and youth walk led by Mallory Esch, the daughter of a breast cancer survivor; or a 5K run led by Fluvanna County High School cross-country coach Rose Brogan.

Participants will meet at the Pole Barn at 10 a.m. before setting out on their chosen activities.

Registration is available through the Team Cunningham Cares site or the church's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cunninghamumc. Donations are not required to participate but are welcome. Funds support efforts to honor survivors, assist those affected by breast cancer, and promote early detection, prevention and research toward a cure.

Last year's inaugural event honored the memory of Marie Hussey, who died of metastatic breast cancer in February 2025. Marie and Walter Hussey's life-

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long involvement in science, the environment, and education led to many enduring improvements and educational additions to Pleasant Grove Park.

Their retirement adventures are recounted in the recently published book A Natural Experience: Taking Lifelong Skills to a Fulfilling Retirement, which will be available at the Oct. 24 event.

Jordan scores five TDs as Flucos rout Monticello 34-6

BY DUNCAN NIXON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The Monticello High Mustangs came down Route 53 on Friday for the Flucos' Homecoming game. A large and enthusiastic crowd was on hand.

Both teams were 4-1, so fans expected a close battle. But the Mustang defense simply had no answer for Fluco senior running back Garrett Jordan.

The Flucos received the

opening kick-off and after one first down, Jordan burst up the middle into the open and flew past the Mustang defenders for a 57-yard touchdown run. The PAT was good, and Fluvanna led 7-0.

The Mustangs were unable to respond. They got one first down but failed to convert on a fourth-and-two. The Flucos took over at the Monticello 48-yard line.

Fluvanna faced a fourth-and-one at the Monticello 16-yard line. Senior fullback Dedric Cooke plunged two yards for the first down. Jordan then ran wide to the left and beat one tackler for his second TD. The PAT was good again, and the Flucos led 14-0, with 1:13 left in the first quarter.

The second quarter was a back-and-forth struggle, with neither team getting close to the end zone.

Late in the quarter, senior quarterback Jack Pace connected with senior wide receiver Brody Shields on a long pass, and Shields made an excellent

catch. The Flucos had the ball first-and-goal at the three-yard line.

With 59 seconds left, Jordan ran in for his third touchdown, and the Flucos took a 21-0 lead into halftime.

The third quarter was scoreless, but on the next-to-last play, Pace connected again with Shields to put the Flucos on the Mustangs' 36-yard line. On the first play of the fourth quarter, Jordan broke away again for a touchdown run. The two-point try failed, and the Flucos led 27-0 with 11:50 left.

The Mustangs then showed their only offensive burst, marching down the field on a time-consuming drive to score with 8:03 left.

The Flucos' Peter Fulk recovered an onside kick, but the Flucos went three-and-out and had to punt.

The Mustangs threatened to score again, but Fluco sophomore defensive back Terence Baskerville intercepted at the goal line. The Flucos took over at the eighteen.

On their second play, Jordan ran right and broke into the open. No one tried to catch him or cut him off because it would have been futile. Once in the open, he flies. Eighty-two yards for his fifth touchdown.

After the game, Coach Mitchell Pace lauded his offensive line, led by senior Captain Jake Heatwole, and his defensive backs led by Baskerville.

With only four games left in the regular season, the Flucos are looking strong. On Oct. 16, they play at Orange County. They then travel to Charlottesville on Oct. 23. They are home against Goochland on Oct. 30, for Senior Night.

The regular season ends on Nov. 6 at Albemarle High

Fluvanna REVIEW

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