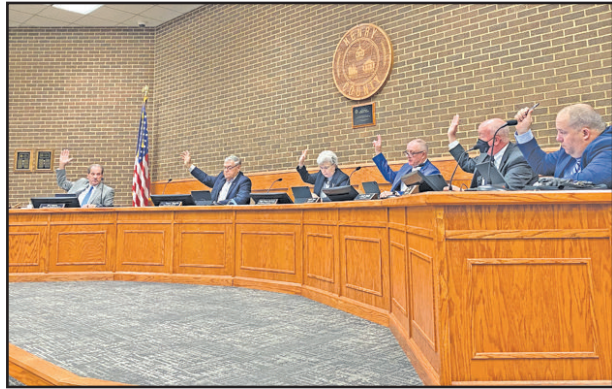


## HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, October 30, 2021

(USPS-6)

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The Henry County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve a \$2 per hour raise for the county's deputies and public safety personnel. From left: Blackberry District Supervisor Jim Adams, Reed Creek District Supervisor Tommy Slaughter, Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Buchanan, Collinsville District Supervisor Joe Bryant, Iriswood District Supervisor David Martin, and Ridgeway District Supervisor Ryan Zehr.

## Supervisors approve raises for deputies, set public hearing date on reversion

**Callie Hietala and Taylor Boyd**  
Staff writers

The Henry County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously voted to temporarily fund raises of \$2 per hour for the county's law enforcement officers and public safety personnel, from January 1-June 30, 2022.

The pay increase will be in the form of per-hour hazardous duty bonus, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The supplements will increase deputy pay by \$4,160 annually.

This solution will allow the county to increase compensation for emergency services and law enforcement without taking money from the fund balance, while giving the board time to consider an ongoing escalation of compensation in the upcoming budget year.

Should they elect to do so, it will come with a price tag of just over \$1,170,000 which County Administrator Tim Hall said would be the equivalent of a 3.9 cent real estate tax increase to county residents.

ARPA funds cannot be used for a sustained pay raise.

At a meeting last month, Henry County Sheriff Lane Perry requested a 10 percent raise for sworn officers with two or more years of service, with a \$5,000 cap, and an increase in the starting salary for new deputies.

His requests came on the heels of double-digit staff losses suffered by the department which, Perry said, was due in large part to deputies taking higher paying positions either in the private sector or in neighboring localities.

With the approved pay hike, the starting sal-

ary for a deputy in Henry County will be \$43,160, which is higher than most surrounding localities (Danville-\$34,375;

Martinsville Police Department-\$37,581; Pittsylvania County-\$38,040; Patrick County-\$38,890; Franklin County-\$39,900; Roanoke-\$42,000; and Danville Police Department-\$45,330).

"Our men and women do a tremendous job," Perry told the board, adding later that his department was grateful for their action.

The supervisors also heard from County Attorney George Lyle and attorney Jeremy Carroll, who is representing the county on the issue of reversion. The two provided an update on the process, including the findings of the Commission on Local Government (CLG) and its recommendations on the Voluntary Settlement Agreement (VSA) as well as fielding questions about possible paths forward.

Both localities are required to hold another public hearing on the topic and then vote to approve or reject an ordinance to adopt the agreement.

Carroll said if the board did not approve the ordinance, city and county would fall back to litigating the issue and would lose the benefit of their negotiated agreements, including the 10-year annexation moratorium and revenue sharing agreement.

"In the end," he said, "reversion will still occur."

Lyle cautioned against refusing to approve the agreement, particular-

See **Reversion** page 2

## Easing the pressures among keystones in Craighead's bid



In her bid for the 9th District seat in the Virginia House of Delegates, Bridgette Craighead wants to ease stressors, pressures if elected Tuesday.

**Callie Hietala**  
Staff writer

Bridgette Craighead has lived through struggle and hardship, and she wants to help ease the stressors and pressures of the people of the 9th District should voters elect her as their delegate on November 2. She is running against Republican nominee Wren Williams for the post.

Through her own experiences, Craighead said she has seen firsthand how some of the district's biggest challeng-

es — housing, childcare, access to transportation, and lack of broadband (particularly during the pandemic) — can affect families like hers.

As a single mother and small business owner in Franklin County, "I am in the heart of the struggle," she said. "At one time I didn't have a car. I either had to walk or rely on other people."

While on the campaign trail, Craighead, 31, said she has spoken with others in the district who are facing or have faced similar issues. She does not want those indi-

See **Craighead**, page 5

## Williams details plans ahead of Nov. 2 election



Patrick County native Wren Williams hopes to tackle several issues if successful in his bid as the Republican candidate for Virginia's 9th District seat in the House of Delegates.

**Taylor Boyd**  
Staff writer

In his bid for Virginia's 9th District seat in the House of Representatives, Wren Williams said the biggest issue facing the district and the state is the curriculum in school divisions.

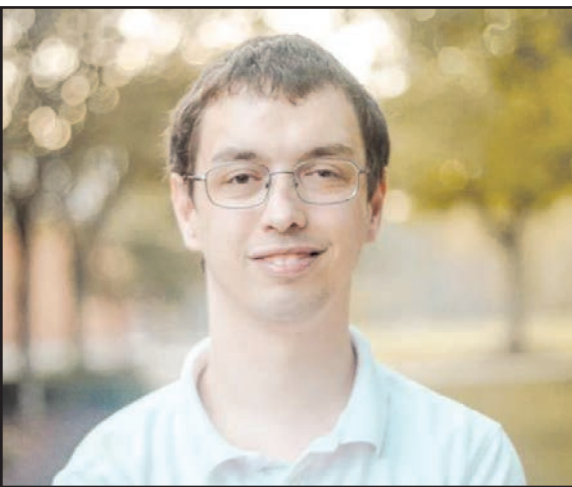
He said he believes "It's the indoctrination of our students and the progressive left's attempt to force Critical Race Theory (CRT) throughout the state."

Williams said he would like to see CRT banned so teachers can focus on teaching economics, English, and other subjects that will help students in the future.

"There's only a limited amount of time, and our teachers only have a limited amount of resources, and to be teaching them this superfluous stuff instead of the critical basic needs that they need, we're wasting time with un-American indoctrination of Marxism curriculum,"

See **Williams**, page 5

## Trevillian hopes to oust Adams in 16th District race



Democrat Chance Trevillian, 31, of Martinsville, is challenging incumbent Del. Les Adams, R-Danville, for seeking the 16th District seat in the House of Delegates.

**Taylor Boyd**  
Staff writer

Martinsville native Chance Trevillian, a Democrat, is challenging incumbent Del. Les Adams for Virginia's 16th District seat in the House of Delegates.

Trevillian, 31, said the public education system is one of the most important challenge facing the state. "I know that Virginia's teachers rank pretty low in teacher pay in the country unfortunately. I think we're 32nd, according to one ranking I've seen. That needs to be raised higher," he said.

Trevillian's campaign has also been endorsed by the Virginia Education Association (VEA), and while he currently does not have any funding proposals in mind, he said he would work with fellow Democrats who have already been in office to find funding opportunities.

"Unfortunately, I haven't had the chance to properly find any funding programs," he said.

In addition to the issues facing the state's public education, Trevillian said the lack of union rights is a major challenge.

"I believe expanding

See **Trevillian**, page 5

## Adams seeks reelection to House of Delegates



Incumbent Del. Leslie "Les" Adams, R-Chatham, is seeking reelection as Virginia's 16th District House of Delegates representative.

**Taylor Boyd**  
Staff writer

Incumbent Del. Leslie "Les" Adams, R-Chatham, is seeking reelection as Virginia's 16th District House of Delegates representative against Martinsville native Chance Trevillian, a Democrat.

Adams, who has served in this position since 2014, said the biggest challenge facing the state and the district is the need to improve the economic climate to provide good jobs and support the growth of small businesses.

"Agricultural development is central to that con-

cern, as is quality education for our students and the advancement of our region overall," he said.

If reelected, Adams, 47, said he will continue to legislate in a manner that will allow Virginia to return to its status as the best state to do business in, while also ensuring regional interests like agriculture and small business development are protected.

"The low taxes and mostly sensible regulations that characterized Virginia's governance when Republicans held the majority in the General Assembly have helped to enhance the increase of

See **Adams**, page 5



County Attorney George Lyle (left) and attorney Jeremy Carroll updated the supervisors on the reversion process. The county scheduled a public hearing on reversion at 6 p.m. on Nov. 23.

# Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2

Voters will head to the polls on Tuesday, November 2 to cast a ballot in state and local races.

All polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sample ballots, with

the names of the candidates, and polling places are printed in this newspaper.

State offices on ballot include Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and

House of Delegates

Local offices vary by locality.

The last day of in-person early voting at a local voter registrar's office is Saturday, October 30, at 5 p.m.

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UPDATES





# IRISWOOD DISTRICT, Stories by Callie Heitala

## Dillard to 're-vision' county in race for Iriswood seat



**Name:** Garrett Dillard  
**Age:** 50  
**Occupation:** educator in the Henry County Public School system  
**Education:** Laurel Park High School, undergraduate degree at Radford University, master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
**Family:** wife, LaTonda; 3 children, Caleb, Ciara, and Cadance  
**Hobbies:** writing (has written a book of poetry), community activism

Garrett Dillard wants to bring people together in Henry County, whether it's creating a citizen group to help combat drugs and violence in the county or bringing elected officials and local leaders to the table to find middle ground during the reversion process.

Dillard is one of four candidates seeking the Iriswood District seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors. Eric Phillips, Billy "Dean" White, and Eric Bowling also are vying for the post.

Reversion tops Dillard's list of issues facing Henry County. No matter the decision issued by the three-judge panel, he sees the process as an opportunity to "look at how we do things and what we can do to make our community better."

When a final decision is reached, he would advocate for open, honest conversations between city and county officials and caution against any decisions that might be considered "punitive to one group or another."

Dillard also wants to see more high-quality, high-paying jobs brought to the area, "jobs that people are going to be enthused about," and that require skilled labor. If elected, he plans to work with local schools and community colleges to ensure that county residents have adequate training to successfully apply for those jobs.

"We have to be more aggressive and proactive in dealing with drugs and violence," Dillard said, adding that those issues have been deterrents for businesses considering locating to the area in the past. "The thought is that people are not going to pass the drug test or have enough workers to fill positions."

Again, Dillard hopes to bring people together to help tackle the issue—in this case, law enforcement, Piedmont Community Services, the court system, as well as those who have been affected by drugs and violence, in the hopes that, by opening a dialogue between these various groups, change may be wrought. "For a person like me, it's not about

See Dillard, page 3

## Bowling advocates sensible solutions for Henry County



**Name:** Eric Bowling  
**Age:** 32  
**Education:** Laurel Park and Magna Vista high schools, business degree and general studies degree in arts and sciences from Patrick & Henry Community College  
**Occupation:** customer service for local furniture manufacturer  
**Family:** wife, Valerie, is a teacher at Henry County Public Schools; mother is retired from local furniture industry; father retired teacher at P&HCC  
**Hobbies:** huge NASCAR fan, self-described financial junkie, and a big cheerleader for Henry County

Eric Bowling has a plan for Henry County.

As one of four candidates for the hotly-contested Iriswood District seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors, Bowling wants to encourage more economic development in the county and has a five-point plan on how to get started.

First, he wants to see improved access to running water, especially fire hydrants, in every area of the community. While it may seem like a small issue, Bowling said this seemingly small measure could have a huge impact.

"Not only is it a public safety issue, it lowers your home insurance as well as the barrier for people to build houses." Lack of access to water, he said, also could be a hindrance to attracting new business to the area.

The Public Service Authority's budget is separate from that of Henry County, Bowling said.

"It's a self-sustaining group," he said, but is hopeful the organization has discretionary funds from the monthly fees it collects from customers to put towards the project.

"If not, then it's something we can definitely look at with the county," he said. "I'm all for looking at things outside the box."

Bowling is looking at ways large and small he can help the fiscal state of Henry County.

"I've said, and I've issued a challenge to my opponents as well, that I will not take county health insurance. Things like that, if I can try to make a difference where I can to save taxpayers money I'll try to do that," he said.

Second on Bowling's list is the expansion of the Blue Ridge Airport, including adding new hangars and increasing its footprint.

"Primland uses it, the (Martinsville) Speedway uses it, we bring in all kinds of people on corporate jets and if they can't land because there's not enough space, then they're going to go to Greensboro, Danville,

See Bowling, page 3

## Phillips touts business acumen, political connections in bid for Iriswood seat



**Name:** Eric Phillips  
**Age:** 45  
**Occupation:** Entrepreneur  
**Education:** some Henry County Public Schools, high school in Roanoke, Virginia Western Community College, Patrick & Henry Community College, and Lee University  
**Family:** wife, Rebecca; two sons, Brandon and Tanner; daughter Lexi  
**Hobbies:** four-wheeling, golf, member of Mount Olivet Ruritan Club, attends Mercy Crossing Church

Eric Phillips hopes to use his business, budget, and political expertise to guide Henry County through the process of reversion which is, he said, the biggest challenge currently faced by the county.

Phillips is one of four candidates running for the Iriswood district seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors. Eric Bowling, Garrett Dillard, and Billy "Dean" White also are seeking the post.

Phillips said he entered the race because he believes he is uniquely qualified to help lead the county through the reversion process which, though he is against it, he believes is inevitable at this point.

Reversion is the reason he entered the race and "is the number one challenge facing the county because it presents a number of secondary challenges," Phillips said.

The challenges include a potential tax increase for county residents to help pay for costs related to reversion (everything from the transfer and care of the city's inmates to the transition of city data and documents to an increase in those the county would be required to provide basic services to) as well as future annexation, which could take away tax revenues from the county and, again, lead to a double town and county tax for residents of the annexed areas, he said.

"I am a business owner, I have a lot of large budget experience, I've been in executive management of Fortune 500 companies. It's what I'm good at, it's what I know. The only reason I'm running is because, of the four" candidates, "I am the most qualified person to help the county throughout that process to do as little harm and have as little impact on our citizens as possible.

As Phillips sees it, the only two ways to pay for reversion are cutting services or raising taxes. He hopes to help mitigate any negative effects to county resi-

See Phillips, page 3

## White promises to be voice of the people in Iriswood District race



**Name:** Billy "Dean" White  
**Age:** 53  
**Occupation:** pastor at Kearfott Memorial Baptist Church  
**Education:** GED, trade school, welding certification, 2 years of seminary online  
**Family:** wife, Donna, of 35 years; 3 daughters; 12 grand- and step-grandchildren  
**Hobbies:** service work, including a summer moving ministry and a winter wood ministry helping those in need

"I just feel like I want to serve people and help people," said Billy "Dean" White when explaining why he entered the race to become supervisor for the Iriswood district.

Reversion, funding for law enforcement and public safety, and education are the three main issues White sees facing the county right now and hopes to address each of them if he is successful.

Garrett Dillard, Eric Phillips, and Eric Bowling are also in contention for the post.

"I feel like the reversion process wasn't handled correctly," White said. "I think the schools should have been involved in it."

He hopes that, between now and the Commission on Local Government's (CLG) recommended date of reversion on July 1, 2023, the schools will become more involved in the process.

"Education is key," he said, particularly in combating crime and violence in the county. "The crime rate in this county is through the roof. If we can educate kids and not incarcerate kids, we can stop that."

Paying law enforcement officers competitive salaries also is a key to keeping crime rates low. Though he has not yet identified a source to fund deputy pay raises and is adamant that he does not want to increase taxes, White said that although he will face a learning curve if elected, he will work quickly to identify available funding options.

To help offset some expenses, White would like to institute a policy wherein, if a deputy is hired and trained at the expense of the county, they must reimburse the county for money spent on their training if they choose to leave the department before two years on the job.

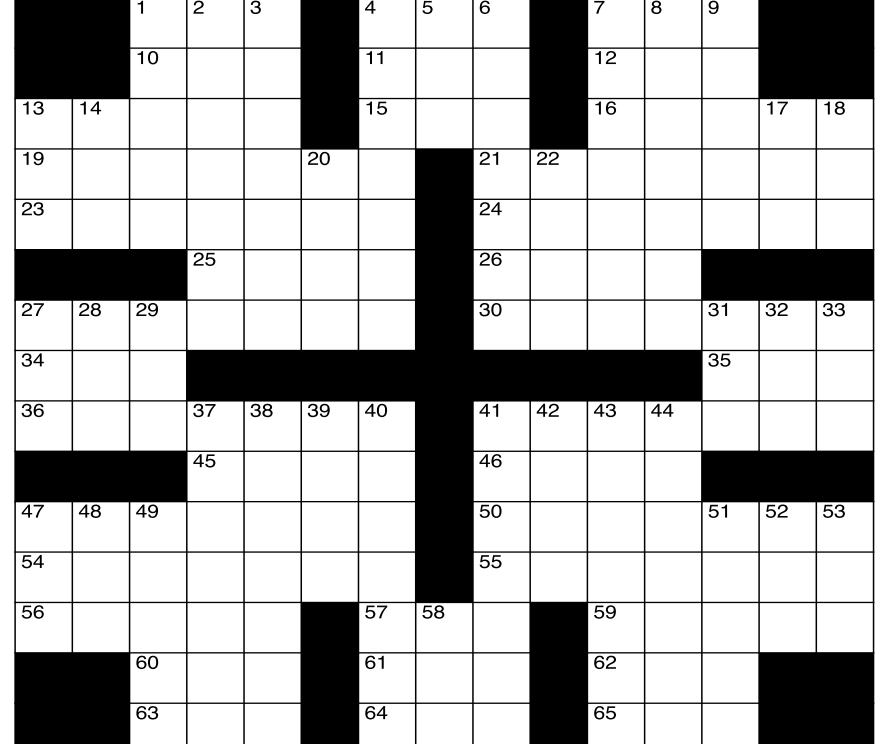
White said he has a good relationship with Sheriff Lane Perry and suspects he and Perry could have productive conversations about the needs of law enforcement.

No matter what he may be working on if elected supervisor, he wants residents to be aware and involved.

"Transparency for me is everything," White said, adding that community residents who know him already know he is an open book. "I'm out in the community

See White, page 4

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- |                                 |                                     |  |                                       |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>CLUES ACROSS</b>             | 36. Popular cocktail                | <b>CLUES DOWN</b>                                | 31. A way to save money               |
| 1. Pouch                        | 41. Dish detergent brand            | 1. Cavalry-sword                                 | 32. Boy or young man                  |
| 4. Cooling device               | 45. Waxed finish                    | 2. Gland above the kidneys                       | 33. Midway between northeast and east |
| 7. Corporate exec (abbr.)       | 46. Kyrgyzstan mountain range       | 3. Hat   | 37. Egg-laying mammal                 |
| 10. Antidiuretic hormone        | 47. A place to get clean            | 4. Predict                                       | 38. Salt of citric acid               |
| 11. South American plant        | 50. Able to be rescued              | 5. A team's best pitcher                         | 39. Barbary sheep                     |
| 12. Adult female bird           | 54. Large, open grassland           | 6. Countries                                     | 40. Actress <u>de</u> Mornay          |
| 13. Type of snake               | 55. Expressions for humorous effect | 7. Substitutions                                 | 41. Gambling hotspots                 |
| 15. Soak in water               | 56. Hindu goddess                   | 8. Peruses again                                 | 42. Wing-shaped                       |
| 16. Emerge                      | 57. Beverage container              | 9. Popular food                                  | 43. Basked in                         |
| 19. Church tower                | 59. Long narrow hilltop             | 13. Reciprocal of a sine                         | 44. Poison                            |
| 21. Having solidified from lava | 60. Sir (abbr.)                     | 14. Of or relating to the ears                   | 47. Beats per minute                  |
| 23. Eye parts                   | 61. Data executive                  | 17. <u>juris</u> : Independent                   | 48. Macaws                            |
| 24. Natural                     | 62. Doctor of Education             | 18. Keyboard key                                 | 49. Military vehicles                 |
| 25. Swiss river                 | 63. Car mechanics group             | 20. Fat from a pig                               | 51. Elderly woman                     |
| 26. Require to live             | 64. Autonomic nervous system        | 22. AC manufacturer                              | 52. Body part                         |
| 27. Obstruct                    | 65. "The Partridge Family" actress  | 27. Organization of N. and S. American countries | 53. Midway between east and southeast |
| 30. Immobile                    |                                     | 28. 22nd star of a constellation                 | 58. Forearm nerve (abbr.)             |
| 34. Expression of satisfaction  |                                     | 29. Scoundrel                                    |                                       |
| 35. Moved quickly               |                                     |  |                                       |

## Reversion

from page 1

ly because, without it, Martinsville could potentially begin annexing territory as soon as two years after it becomes a town rather than the currently-negotiated 10.

"We will be better prepared to fight annexation in 10 years than in 2 years," he said.

Later, the board approved the county's legislative agenda for 2022, which includes several measures to mitigate the financial impact of reversion on the county, such as a one-time funding request of \$4 million "for capital improvements to the courthouse to accommodate more courtrooms, larger clerk's offices and additional judge's chambers."

The county also will seek an additional \$1 million to help with other one-time capital improvements to county facilities, and request that the state funding reimbursement available for the construction of a new jail be made available for capital improvements, double bunking, "and other renovations necessitated by the housing of the former city's inmates."

The supervisors voted hold the county's public hearing on reversion during their 6 p.m. meeting on November 23.

In other matters, the board:

\* Heard from County Treasurer Scott Grindstaff who reported that as of September 30, the county has collected 94.6 percent of person property taxes and 95.86 percent of real estate taxes.

\*Heard an update from Mark Heath, president and CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp.

\*Designated Reed Creek District Supervisor Tommy Slaughter as voting representative for the 2021 Virginia Association of Counties Annual Meeting. Hall will serve as the alternate.

\* Approved an additional appropriation of \$235,061 to the Henry County Public Schools' nutrition budget for the fresh fruit and vegetable program for the elementary schools.

\*Voted 2-3 against a motion made by Iriswood District Supervisor David Martin, and seconded by Ryan Zehr, of the Ridgeway District, to provide a \$2,000 hazard duty stipend for employees of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and the General District Court.

Later in the meeting, Juvenile Court employee Anita Gravely questioned

the decision.

"I wish each of you could spend one day in the Henry County Juvenile Court. It is a tiresome, it is a gruesome and thankless job. We left the meeting earlier today in shock. We felt worthless, we felt dejected, and as if no one cared," she said.

\*Heard from Lisa Price-Hughes, resident engineer of Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), about local highway projects.

\*Approved a right-of-way transfer to facilitate the addition of DuPont Road into the VDOT secondary road system.

\*Approved the rezoning application R-20-07 for JRS Realty Partners, LLC.

\*Heard from Eric Phillips, of Iriswood, who thanked the board for its urgency in funding pay raises for law enforcement. Phillips said he did not mean to imply that the board did not support public safety at the last supervisors meeting.

\*Heard from Andrew Palmer, of Collinsville, who echoed similar sentiments. Palmer also apologized to the board if any of his comments during the last supervisors meeting were offensive.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(Event information/calendar items must be received by 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the desired publication date. Email to [newsreporter@theenterprise.net](mailto:newsreporter@theenterprise.net))

## Saturday, Oct. 30

Henry County Parks & Recreation's annual Halloween Hayride at Jack Dalton Park, 6 to 8 p.m. The hayrides around the park will get spookier and spookier as the evening goes on. Trunk-or-Treating will also be offered in the parking lot of the park.

Fort Trial Baptist Church (170 Oak Level Road, Stanleystown) will host Trunk of Treats from 2-4 p.m. The event will include candy, games, food, and giveaways for the whole family.

## Friday, Nov. 5

C-PEG and Martinsville UpTown are hosting First Fridays November 5, and December 3 from 4-8 p.m. at the Uptown Martinsville Farmer's Market. Join in as many of your favorite Oktoberfest vendors sell products the First Friday events, with arts, crafts, food, and more.

## Friday, Nov. 5 and Saturday, Nov. 6

Fido's Finds and Kitties Collectibles at 119 East Main Street in Uptown Martinsville will hold a BIG BASEMENT SALE on Friday, November 5 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Saturday, November 6 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thousands of items will be at bargain basement prices and proceeds go to

the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA. For more information, contact Fido's Finds at (276) 656-1101 or the SPCA at (276) 638-7297.

## Saturday, Nov. 6

Horsepasture Christian Church is hosting a spaghetti dinner from 4:30-7 p.m.

Fieldale Recreation Center Yard Sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a fund raiser for the recreation center. Items for sale include furniture, blankets and miscellaneous items. All books are 25-cents each.

## Thursday, Nov. 11

The 73rd annual Veterans Day Service will be held at 11 a.m. at the HJDB Event Center in Bassett. Awards will be presented for Veteran of the Year and Outstanding Veteran. The event is free and open to the public.

Patrick & Henry Community College will present a Lunch & Learn via Zoom entitled "WOW with Public Speaking." Participants will learn and practice methods of successful public speaking. Pre-registration is required. To learn more or to register, visit [ph.augusoft.net](http://ph.augusoft.net) or call (276) 656-0260.

Piedmont Arts will host a one-man play, "Brown v. Board of Education: Over 50 Years Later." In 1952, the Supreme Court heard a number of school segregation cases, including Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. It ruled unanimously in 1954 that segregation

was unconstitutional, overthrowing Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), which set the "separate but equal" precedent. In this one-man play, Mike Wiley recounts the effects of the decision on the families who participated in the original court case, the impact of the ruling on school systems at the time and the challenges still being made today. A reception begins at 6:30 p.m., the performance will begin at 7. Tickets are available at Piedmont Arts and [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org).

## Friday, Nov. 12

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at Hillcrest Baptist Church (18075 AL Philpott Highway) in Ridgeway from 1-6 p.m. To sign up for a donation appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

## Saturday, Nov. 13

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at County Line Christian Church (12711 Chatham Road) in Axton from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. To sign up for a donation appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

The Disability Rights and Resource Center will hold its Annual Meeting, which is open to the public, at the Virginia Museum of Natural History, 21 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, at 9:30 a.m. in the Distance Learning Classroom.

## Sunday, Nov. 14

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will celebrate its 25th anniversary

with "Silver Anniversary of a Silver Lining" at 3 p.m. at the M-HC Heritage Center and Museum. Phillip Stone will be the speaker and proclamations will be presented by the City of Martinsville and Henry County. The program will include music, cake, and a few surprises.

Thursday, Nov. 18 and Saturday, Nov. 20

Piedmont Arts hosts Painting with Karen Conner from 1-4 p.m. Instructor Karen Conner will lead students in creating a unique painting. The class is appropriate for ages 12 and up. Cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Advance registration is required. To register, visit [PiedmontArts.org](http://PiedmontArts.org) or call (276) 632-3221.

## ONGOING

Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Parsons Buchanan and the Salvation Army are hosting the 26th annual Coat Drive for Kids. Anyone wishing to donate a new or gently used coat can drop them off at Hollywood Cinema, the Salvation Army, or at One-Hour Martinizing on Rives Road, or call Debra at (276) 358-1463. The deadline for donations is November 30.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library offers free one-day passes to the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Henry County YMCA with your library card. The passes are good for one day and exclude special events. There is a wait period before you can check out the pass again. For more details and exclusions, visit [brll.lib.va.us](http://brll.lib.va.us).

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at its headquarters (1903 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville.) Doors open at 5:30 and games begin at 7. Proceeds support community service awards, scholarships, and other community efforts.

MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness offers no contact Medicaid application assistance for eligible Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. Including Children's Medicaid/FAMIS, Pregnancy Medicaid and Adult Health Care -19 to 64 years old. Questions can be answered, and applications completed by phone. In-person application assistance is available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays at The Community Storehouse. Call or text Ann Walker 276 732-0509 to see if you qualify.

The Henry County Adult Learning Center offers free in-house and online classes to help prepare for college, career, or earn your high school equivalency or GED. Classes can help improve your digital literacy, job skills, English language skills, and earning potential. Contact the Center for Community Learning (15 Primary School Road, Collinsville) at (276) 647-9585.

The Martinsville Farmers' Market is open every Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. through November 20. Shop with SNAP/EBT and receive up to \$20 in free fruits and vegetables each week. To shop market vendors online, visit [martinsvilleuptown.com](http://martinsvilleuptown.com).

## Dillard

from page 2

having the right answers, it's about asking the right questions to the right people, and I would see that as my role as a member of the Board of Supervisors," Dillard said.

"No matter the issue, he believes "if a community makes it a priority, we'll find the right solutions."

Dillard said his time as

a basketball coach helped him understand the value and importance of openness and transparency, both of which he promises would carry over.

"If you work, if you pay taxes, if you live in Henry County, you're invested, you deserve to know everything that I know, that the board knows" that it is allowed

to share, as soon as it is allowed to share it. "We shouldn't make any decisions that we have to hide behind," he said.

More important than making the decisions is hearing the reactions of residents.

"We know our perspective, but we don't know how our decision affects other folks. As we

hear from more people, if we keep hearing the same concern or complaint, then we need to investigate the validity of that," Dillard said.

Likewise, if the board receives continued positive response on an action taken, it can be taken as a sign that it is headed in the right direction.

"We don't make deci-

sions for us, we make decisions for Henry County, and we have to make the best decisions for Henry County," he said.

To help get feedback and engagement from residents, Dillard would hold several board meetings each year in various districts, as well as explore the possibility

of streaming the meetings live via Facebook, as the county school board does.

Love for community, Dillard said, sets the county apart from other localities and he sees possibility in that.

"When you have passion for the community, you can do some great things," he said.

## Bowling

from page 2

Roanoke" and spend their time and money in other communities, Bowling said.

The third issue he wants to tackle is roads.

"I would abandon the proposed (Martinsville) Southern Connector project" which would run to the west side of U.S. 220 that the county is currently prioritizing, Bowling said, adding that he believes the planned I-73 corridor, once completed, would serve the same purpose as the connector.

"I don't think we need to spend money and take peoples' property when we've got a proposed interstate coming through," he said. "Let's focus solely on I-73, get that through the legislative agenda and potentially secure some federal dollars and get southern Virginia moving with that."

"The fourth thing is to prioritize building a new hotel in south-

ern Henry County," Bowling said. The new construction would provide a new lodging option for visitors to the Martinsville Speedway as well as enable the Smith River Sports Complex to attract more tournaments "because some of those tournaments have a requirement on the quality or number of hotel rooms nearby."

Lastly, Bowling said, he would keep taxes low.

"We need to enable residents and business of all kinds to locate here and be happy and raise a family," he said.

Reversion is the most important challenge he sees facing the community.

"If elected, I would proactively look at ways to work with the city prior to any potential deadline to see if there are any ways we could work together" before reversion takes effect, he said.

Bowling is a big believer in hearing directly from the public during the political process. During his campaign, he has been going door to door.

"I enjoy that," he said, "I get to meet different people and get a snapshot of their backgrounds. That's part of (the political process), engaging the voters, engaging the residents to find out what's on their mind. If you're not out there, you don't know."

He created a page for his campaign, which he plans to retain if he wins the election.

"To my knowledge, no other current supervisor has a public Facebook page," he said of the page he plans to use to communicate with constituents and to help share news about community events.

The candidate said one of the county's biggest strengths is the

kindness and positivity of its residents.

"It's like they're family almost," he said. "Of the hundreds of doors I've knocked on, only one person has been negative."

Bowling said that can be beneficial to the county, and noted that quality would ultimately lead to greater political transparency.

"It seems to me that the county, the local government, seems to get into these gimmicks of trying to provide certain things or build certain things because they want to portray a certain image," Bowling said.

He believes the county needs to get back to the basics and try to explore initiatives that will improve the community rather than simply drawing more revenue. He noted Martinsville's MINet internet service as an example of what he sees as a gimmick—a revenue source

for the city, but not that beneficial to the community it serves.

Bowling thinks his educational background, business degree, and "strong aptitude for fiscal responsibility" set him apart from other candidates, all of whom, he said seem to think there will be a need for a tax increase going into next year to help deal with the cost of reversion.

"We need to minimize if not eliminate that need, if possible," he said, and cited his willingness to continue listening to residents.

"I'm not going to just go to the meeting once a month and then disappear. I'm going to be on social media multiple times a week and going to all the community events, the fairs, the gatherings, everything like that," he said. "I'll do everything I can to lower our taxes while looking for ways to improve efficiencies in our local government."

## Phillips

from page 2

dents by lobbying representatives in Richmond for state funds to help cover the county's costs.

Since the Commission on Local Government (CLG) report found that Martinsville's reversion to a town is in the best interests of the Commonwealth, Phillips feels that the state should help pay for the process. As chairman of the Martinsville-Henry County Republican party, he feels he already has the connections to successfully lobby for funding, though he hopes the current supervisors have already begun the process.

While he sees a difficult road ahead with reversion, Phillips thinks the county has done well with its finances and economic development, which he said was a multi-pronged achieve-

ment involving several entities working together.

He applauded the county's AA bond rating, and the cash reserves it has built up, though he said some of that was only achieved due to an influx of federal COVID money.

Additionally, Phillips said he is passionate about citizen involvement and transparency in local government.

"This whole (reversion) process has been too much done behind closed doors. I don't feel like it's been nearly transparent enough," he said.

If elected, Phillips would schedule monthly or, at least, quarterly interviews with each local media outlet to discuss upcoming issues on the supervisors' agenda, let the public know what's going on currently, and

help clarify any issues.

He also advocates for a change in the way the supervisor meetings are conducted. Phillips said he takes issue with the way the current supervisors seemingly discuss and decide how to handle issues behind closed doors rather than in public. He alleged that everything, including which supervisor will make a particular motion, is decided before the public meeting begins.

"I think the public has a right to hear how the decisions are made, not just the final decision," Phillips said.

He added that he prefers supervisors respond to public comments, rather than listening. Not receiving a response dis-incentivizes residents to comment. Phillips said he also would sup-

port several meetings each year devoted to supervisors responding to questions, comments, and issues brought up by the public.

He added that he has done his due diligence and is ready to hit the ground running on day one, should he be elected. Not only has he already discussed issues with current supervisors and delegates, but he believes he is politically savvy enough to know how to get the best deal for Henry County.

"I think I'm the most qualified and the most experienced person running for the Iriswood seat and my only reason for running is I want to help make Henry County the best place, to live, work, and raise a family in all of Southside and Southwest Virginia."



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## OPINION

## Where have all the workers gone?

By this point, I'm sure you've seen one of the signs.

Maybe you've gone to a fast food place and seen a sign on the drive-thru speaker announcing that the restaurant is closed for the day due to lack of staff. Maybe you've been to one of your favorite restaurants and discovered that the hours have been reduced — they're closing early on Sundays, for example, or they're no longer open on Mondays because they're short-staffed.

So where have all the employees gone?

A vocal contingent would have you believe that they're all sitting at home, collecting their inflated unemployment checks and watching reruns of *Mama's Family*, cackling evilly at the thought of all the poor saps who are still showing up to work.

Of course, all the added federal unemployment benefits from the CARES Act expired in early September, but that's beside the main point of this article. There's another major factor at play here, and it's one that not enough people are talking about.

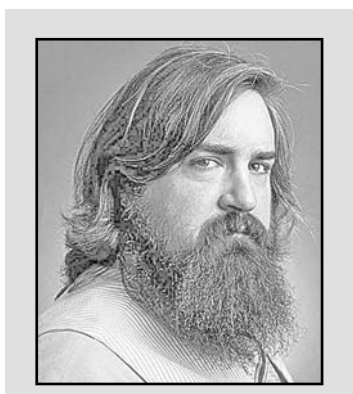
COVID has pushed a large number of people out of the workforce, and it's not because they don't want to work.

To state the obvious, a lot of these people are no longer with us. As of this writing, the COVID death toll in the U.S. is 738,000 and growing. Many of these people, especially at the beginning of the pandemic, were older folks who had already retired. However, since the rise of the Delta variant, COVID is claiming people — overwhelmingly the unvaccinated — from all age groups, many of whom were business owners or members of the workforce.

Of course, tens of millions of people have beaten COVID — there have been about 45.5 million cases, so about 44.8 million have survived the disease. However, there's also the issue of "long COVID," the poor folks who survive the disease but have lingering symptoms that last for months. Many of these people are able to go back to work, but a percentage of them have to take a much longer break, and some will never go back to work at all.

How many people suffer from long COVID? Estimates range from half of them to a quarter of them. We'll go with the lower figure and say a quarter.

That's 11.2 million people suffering extended symp-



By Ben R. Williams

toms from COVID.

Then there are the folks who never caught COVID but still left the workforce because of it. Statistics show that more than three million Americans took early retirement due to the pandemic. This has disproportionately affected the healthcare industry, as the horrific stress of dealing with an ongoing pandemic and death on an unheard of scale has caused them to throw in the towel.

Then, of course, there are the roughly 1.8 million women who dropped out of the workforce during the pandemic, largely due to childcare reasons. With schools and daycares shuttered and no other support infra-

structure available, many women had no choice but to drop out of the workforce to take care of their children. Some are beginning to return to their jobs, but the number of women entering the workforce has been stagnant for about two decades now, so it remains to be seen how many will simply find another way to make ends meet.

When we add these numbers together, we're left with 16.7 million people. Many of these folks (COVID fatalities and long COVID sufferers) may not have been in the workforce to begin with. But if you subtract 16.7 million people from a country with a population of about 330 million, it begins to explain why you may not always be able to get a cheeseburger after 6 p.m.

So what's the solution?

The other day, a buddy of mine who lives in Roanoke posted a picture on Facebook. It was a photo he had taken outside of a fast food restaurant of a banner reading, "Full time starts at \$19/hr." He commented that he was considering changing careers and slinging chicken sandwiches.

Higher starting wages for entry-level employees isn't socialism; it's capitalism through and through, a simple case of

supply and demand. The supply of workers has gone down, demand has gone up, and corporations are beginning to realize that if they want to keep their doors open, they're going to have to pay employees enough to make it worth their while.

When wages go up for fast food employees, it doesn't mean that wages are going to stay the same for everyone else. It's going to create a ripple effect throughout the employment landscape. Corporations and industries across the country are going to be forced to pay their employees more if they want to keep them. And considering that wages in this country have been stagnant since the 1970s, it's about time.

Will the cost of your cheeseburger go up? Yeah, probably, but it's been going up every year regardless of whether or not there's a labor shortage; it's due to a combination of inflation and corporate greed.

But now fast food companies are dramatically raising their starting pay overnight, and it's not like they're struggling to make ends meet all of a sudden. They always could have paid their employees more.

The difference is, now they have to.

## A Historic Failure at the Border

Morgan Griffith  
9th District U.S. Rep.

Joe Biden recently presided over a historic achievement, but unfortunately not an achievement worth celebrating.

According to the Washington Post, more illegal immigrants were arrested along the U.S.-Mexico border in fiscal year 2021 than ever before recorded. More than 1.7 million migrants were encountered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The numbers are astounding but not surprising. When the top officials in the Federal Government, including those responsible for border security, seek

to dismantle enforcement at the border and implement policies like "catch and release," of course more people will seek to enter the country illegally.

Upon taking office, the Biden Administration quickly sought to end policies that worked to restrict illegal entry into the United States. It immediately stopped construction of the border wall, even if doing so led to absurd outcomes like the portions of wall with open gates that I witnessed at the border earlier this year. It undid agreements with Central American countries, which sent illegal immigrants seeking asylum to those countries instead of

ours. It stopped the Remain in Mexico policy, which required asylum seekers to wait in that country while the asylum claims moved forward.

As a result, we witness surging numbers of illegal immigrants, straining the capacity of our Border Patrol to intercept and detain them.

In August alone, 208,887 illegal immigrants were apprehended. That number was 317 percent higher than in the same month last year. That month was the second straight with more than 200,000 apprehensions.

Further, there are not necessarily consequences for breaking our laws thanks to the Biden Administration's "catch and release" policies. Illegal immigrants are most often released after apprehension and told to appear for a hearing in the future, sometimes years later. Predictably, many do not show up.

Because our Border Patrol agents are dealing with the tens of thousands who submit to arrest volun-

tarily in order to be caught and released, the really bad actors involved in human trafficking, drug smuggling, or crossing the border again after being deported for committing crimes find it easier to infiltrate the country.

In an insult to law-abiding American citizens, the Biden Administration does not even require COVID-19 testing for illegal immigrants before they are released into our country. This stands in sharp contrast to the vaccine mandates it intends to impose on Americans and the requirements that legal travelers show proof of vaccination. This double standard is an injustice to the people the Biden Administration is obligated to serve, as well as a threat to the health of the migrants themselves and the communities into which they are released.

Not only people are crossing the border illegally. So is contraband such as fentanyl, the dangerous synthetic opioid contributing to our country's drug abuse crisis, of which more than

6,000 pounds were seized at the border since February. Methamphetamine and other illegal drugs crossing the border continue to be a problem as well.

More is likely to come. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has warned that October might bring 350,000 to 400,000 border apprehensions. One of the reasons why that extraordinary number might be reached is that the Biden Administration continues to mull ending Title 42 restrictions. They allow for quicker deportation of illegal immigrants due to the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus. Ending the use of Title 42 while other coronavirus restrictions continue would be yet another example of this Administration treating illegal immigrants better than American citizens.

On his own, President Biden is unlikely to change his position at the border, but other factors may force his hand. Courts recently blocked the Administration's termination of the Remain

in Mexico policy, requiring it to be reinstated.

This same policy could be codified into federal law by H.R. 1259, the REMAIN in Mexico Act. I cosponsored this legislation, introduced by Congressman Matt Rosendale (R-MT), and signed a discharge petition calling for it to be brought to the floor of the House of Representatives.

Americans deserve an immigration system that provides security at our borders and admits migrants according to our laws in an orderly way. Almost every action taken by the Biden Administration since it assumed office has undermined this ideal. Predictably, the results are crisis and confusion, demanding that the President and the Department of Homeland Security reverse course.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, my Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671 or via email at [www.morgangriffith.house.gov](mailto:www.morgangriffith.house.gov).

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Pro Reynolds

Ray Reynolds wants to expand trade education in Henry County Public Schools — a desire that is commendable. Currently Henry County's Career Academy offers courses in Cosmetology, Agriculture and Veterinary Science, Cybersecurity, and HVAC & Industrial Maintenance. Students taking these courses "leave high school with not only a high school diploma, but with one or more industry certifications and the skills to either enter the workforce or continue specializing building their skills into a professional career" according to the Career Academy website. These students are career ready when they graduate

## White

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a lot."

He recalled when one or more supervisors would come to local churches, Ruritan clubs, and other gathering places in the community to meet with residents and hear concerns. He said much of that went away with COVID, but he would like to see it come back. In fact, White said he only recently learned supervisor meetings were again open to the public.

In listening to the people during his campaign, White learned that the county, particularly areas in his district, needs some basic infrastructure improvements including roads, water/

sewer, and broadband access. Some

children in the district, he said, had issues participating in virtual learning at the height of the pandemic because of poor internet service.

Across the county, White sees a healthy job market, though that, too, has its downside.

"We need to get the local workforce into existing businesses," he said, before the county brings in more outside industry, which he worries will not be able to find enough qualified people to hire.

He also advocates for more vocational training to help create a stron-

ger workforce. Why not give high school students a chance to train for the trades while in high school? This is what Rey Reynolds wants for our students. He cares that they are career ready, and while the location of expanded offerings will be determined by the entire school board, his plans to increase career courses will improve the lives of Henry County and Martinsville students.

Vote for Ray Reynolds in the 2021 election. Your vote will be a vote of increased opportunity for Henry County and Martinsville students which will result in a better economy for all citizens.

*Dorothy M. Carter,  
MFA, NBCT, Collinsville*

If elected, White said he would be a hands-on, visible supervisor.

"You won't just see me at the meetings," he said, but also out in the community helping and participating where and when he can. He also would be a true voice for his constituents should he be chosen to represent them.

"You need a common person to reach common people," he said, and added that "you need a common person to reach the common people," and "I'll be for the people, elected from the people."



# Craighead

from page 1

vidual stories lumped together into a single statistic. Rather, “I’m thinking about each individual person’s struggle. I want to get to know each individual person and see what they need” and how she can help.

Broadly, Craighead has heard from voters that taxation is an issue they would like to see addressed. She shared a story she heard from one voter who told the candidate she must pay taxes on a car that is broken down on her property, an expense that she cannot afford as she is already struggling to make ends meet.

Craighead wants to ease pressures like these, things that make life in the district more difficult, particularly for those who are already struggling financially. If she can relieve some of the pressures of everyday life, Craighead believes those living in the district can realize their full potential.

Though she has big plans if elected, Craighead is the first to admit she will have a great deal

to learn about the inner workings of government to begin to enact any of the changes she envisions.

“I don’t know what I can do once I get this job. I’m going to learn that. I’m going to do whatever I need to do to help people, and I know I’m going to learn all those things,” she said.

That includes learning where funding might come from to help pay for some of her initiatives.

“I know there’s funding out there, we’ve just got to find out where it is and that’s my job, to find out,” Craighead said.

If she can’t find the money to solve the problems she wants solved in the budget, Craighead said she and her team will work to raise funds.

“As long as we have a willing attitude to do something about changing peoples’ lives, I really feel like money shouldn’t be an obstacle,” she said.

Just because she will be working to help make life a little bit easier for her district doesn’t

mean Craighead is promising a life of leisure.

“By no means do I want to make Virginians lazy. I want people to get up, get out, get a job, get a hobby, get a business if they want to . . . because if you work and set goals, you get motivated, you get healthy, and that’s what the region needs,” she said.

She also believes the region needs more inclusivity. Growing up in the area, Craighead said she never felt like she had a voice or equal access to opportunities. If elected, she would work to expand those opportunities in all sectors - from jobs to entertainment, to ensure there truly is something for everyone.

Part of that plan includes ensuring that everyone who wants to be heard has an opportunity to do so. “Transparency and truthfulness have been some of the major platforms of my campaign since the beginning,” she said.

Craighead wants to hold COVID-friendly town halls,

virtual meetings, and other gatherings as well as send out questionnaires to her constituents, all with the goal of giving everyone an opportunity to be heard.

“Usually, when I have talked to a politician, it’s never seemed truthful or genuine,” Craighead said, adding that she would like to change the tone of those dialogues.

She also promises to be accessible and responsive to the residents of her district.

“I want to include you,” she said. “I’m here for you.”

An open mind is what sets Craighead apart in the race for delegate, she said.

“I’m coming from a place of wanting to create unity and operate out of love. I don’t care about anybody’s political views, race, or gender, I am coming from an open heart and an open mind,” Craighead said.

She emphasized that she wants to hear from individuals and see what she can do to help make life just a little easier.

“I’m not going to sit here and tell you what I’m going to do, I need to know what you need me to do,” Craighead said, adding that she hopes her positivity will resonate with voters when they cast a ballot. “We have to have an open and positive mind and lead out of love, being selfless, being considerate of each other’s feelings, showing compassion and empathy, and sympathy too,” she said.

If elected, “as delegate, I promise to be accessible, accountable, and responsive,” Craighead said. “Being the voice you can depend on and using my voice to speak up when something is wrong.”

Craighead is the owner of El3ven11 Beauty Lounge in Rocky Mount. She attended Franklin County Public Schools and high school in Roanoke. She also has some training in trade school.

She has a 5-year-old son named Bronsyn, and lists painting, crystals and cheetah print among her hobbies.

# Williams

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he said.

Williams, 32, became the Republican candidate after defeating incumbent Charles Poindexter, R-Glade Hill, earlier this year in the GOP primary. He is being challenged for the seat by Bridgette Craighead, a Democrat.

He has previously stated that if he wins the November contest, one of the first bills he is interested in introducing and passing is a bill to ban CRT from being taught in schools. He believes that also would save money, because some school divisions are hiring consultants to train teachers how to teach the theory in the classrooms.

“Eliminating that field completely from our public education system is only going to provide savings and provide more opportunities for more vital and more important career and education opportunities for our students,” he said.

Williams sees the state’s economic development and business prosperity as a double-edged sword.

He said years ago, the Commonwealth was one of the number one states for businesses, employers, and economic development.

“We have that same opportunity, we have not lost that opportunity because we still have the same resources, we’re still in the same location, we still have the same workforce that is talented. So, we have the opportunity,” he said.

However, Williams said he believes the state is currently hurting its businesses with policies like the discussion of eliminating the right to work.

“That is causing employers who are looking at Virginia to think about going to other states, and we’re losing them to other states who are not interested in eliminating right to work,” he said.

The push for an increased minimum wage of \$15 an hour is another issue that is hurting the state’s economic capabilities.

“That’s not being taken in a regional approach, so it is crushing our small busi-

nesses that are outside of Virginia’s golden crescent,” he said of the area stretches from Northern Virginia to Hampton Roads.

Williams said these factors are causing the state to become less palpable and advantageous for businesses. He believes that if a change is not made, Virginia will become a state that is not favorable for business and could lose its large corporations and manufactures to other states with policies that support businesses and economic development.

Williams believes the 9th District excels at quality of life, community, and neighborly engagement.

“We have excellent tourism, we have excellent people here and a very good quality of life,” he said, and added the downside is that the district lacks infrastructure, particularly a healthcare option for Patrick County.

“If you’re seeking economic development, and a company is looking at your community versus another, and they know their employees can’t

even get to an emergency room, they’re going to choose a locality with an emergency room to save on their insurance costs,” he said.

The district also needs to continue investing in broadband and focus on growing the housing market, he said.

“Right now, there’s a lack of housing, and the only way for more people to move here is if there are places to live,” he said, adding “the only way for this area to grow is for the population to grow.”

Williams believes his extensive experience in local and state government and policies will gain the support of the voters. He has completed numerous organizational trainings related to policy and effective leadership.

He also grew up as a leader in his community. Williams is an Eagle Scout; he has served as chairman of the Patrick County Republican Unit and is a member of the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Board.

“All these things have given me ample experi-

ence to be able to properly represent and zealously advocate for my district as I do every day in the courtroom as a lawyer for my constituents. They will be my clients when I go to Richmond. I want to be ferociously negotiating for them at the table when I get there,” he said.

Williams plans to be open and transparent. All his contact information is available online, and appointments may be made at his law office on Main Street in Stuart.

“I anticipate being readily available and open to going to meetings and community association gatherings and things like that. You will see me out and about,” he said.

Williams also plans to hold office hours and town halls throughout the district to hear from constituents directly about information and issues they believe need to be brought to Richmond.

Another goal is to make state government and the General Assembly more accessible to the public.

“Even as a private citizen who is heavily engaged in politics, party politics, and campaigns, in that General Assembly time, it’s sort of hard to see and understand what’s going on in Richmond,” he said.

Williams is committed to sharing what is happening in Richmond and his thoughts on the issues. He also plans to continue to use his website and Facebook page to deliver information.

A native of Patrick County, Williams is the president of Schneider & Williams, P.C. in Stuart, and works there as an attorney. He has a Bachelor of Arts in English from Hampton-Sydney College and received his JD and MBA from Stanford University.

He and his wife, Britt Schneider Williams, have been married since 2015. In his spare time, Williams enjoys working on his farm, and playing with his cows, horses, and dogs, but his true interests are in politics and trying to make his community better through political strategy.

# Trevillian

from page 1

union rights would be a definite thing that we could improve on in Virginia,” he said, but did not explain how he would address that issue.

Virginia is excelling at voting rights, Trevillian said. “We’re now one of the more friendly and accessible states to vote in. It’s definitely a huge boost to the area, with a month to a month-and-a-half of early voting. It’s just excellent.”

In the 16th district, Trevillian said residents have excelled at persevering throughout the pandemic.

“I’m really proud of our district for fighting through and doing what we can to work where we can and stay safe where we can,” he said, adding jokingly that “my district has excelled at managing to stay sane for the past year-and-

a-half.”

The downside is there is a lack of community activism.

“I want to get more people involved, I want to get more people activated, and improve advocacy in the area,” he said.

Trevillian said the desire to get more people involved in politics is one of the main reasons he decided to run for the district seat.

“If they see their delegate regularly trying to reach out to them, speaking with them, conversing with them, and hearing their needs, it would motivate people to get more involved in the political process,” he said, and added that he would have an open-door policy for constituents and is open to holding regular town halls throughout the district.

Trevillian also wants to work to

dispel the notion that every politician is corrupt and restore faith in politicians. He believes being as transparent as possible will help in this endeavor.

“One of the popular sentiments among people is that the system’s all full of crooks and all of that unfortunate rhetoric. I’m running to show that there are people who generally want to help improve our communities and positively improve people’s lives,” he said.

In addition to wanting to improve public education and expand union rights, Trevillian wants to continue the minimum wage raise fight and assist in Medicaid expansion.

“We need to continue to see the wages rise instead of staying stagnant,” he said, adding that he also is interested in fighting

against climate change.

“I know that there’s a pipeline being proposed for the area, I think it’s the Mountain Valley Pipeline. We don’t need any more pipelines here in Virginia. We need to hold the progress and work towards decommissioning the current pipelines so we can get to a clean slate” and then expand green energy jobs in the area, he said.

Trevillian said he would also represent those in the disability community, because he primarily uses a wheelchair to get around.

“I know the struggles working with a disability can involve and can show people that anyone can run for office; that you don’t need to be a fancy lawyer or have a doctorate degree or anything fancy, and if you want to make a

difference in your area, you can run and get more people engaged. I just want to be that positive influence,” he said.

Trevillian currently works as a switch board operator at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC). He graduated from Magna Vista High School in 2009 and obtained an associate degree in liberal arts from Danville Community College. He also worked on his teaching degree in elementary education at Longwood University.

Trevillian currently lives with his mother, two dogs, and one cat, and is close to his uncles. In his spare time, he enjoys listening to music, particularly Pink Floyd, playing video games, being around his friends, and taking bubble baths.

# Adams

from page 1

jobs and improved economy here in Southside, are top priorities for my service,” he said.

He also believes policies affecting the strength of families and family conservation is another key issue that needs to be addressed.

“I will stand against proposals to weaken parental influence, limit faith-based initiatives, or disincentivize traditional marriage,” he said, adding that he will advocate and advance policies that encourage fatherhood and build respectable consensus.

He believes the need to further address the country-wide addiction crisis and the rising crime rates is another matter that requires significant attention. He said that he will “concurrently oppose

policies that incentivize addiction and vice.”

Adams also intends to continue pressing for a greater share of state funding for regional schools beyond what is provided in the local composite index.

“I also will seek to maintain and further develop initiatives to expand broadband internet service here, including programs to promote the availability of broadband capacity to unserved areas by electric and power utilities,” he added.

Adams said representing the views and best interests of 16th District residents is the primary objective of his service in the General Assembly.

“Therefore, citizen involvement is at the heart of every decision made for

each vote and action taken,” he said, adding constituents are invited to share their opinions with him on the various social media platforms he has created and made available.

Adams also holds transparency as a key part of his role, and noted that is why he has kept a legislative office in the district for his entire tenure.

He provides weekly updates during legislative session, and has them sent to the local media for publication. Residents also may subscribe to the emailed updates.

“I also provide links at the website to the legislature and a special session link where all votes and arguments can be witnessed live or by recording,” he said.

Since being elected, Adams said he has been effective in passing bills into law, including several proposals written from ideas brought to him by constituents and small businesses, despite the governor being a Democrat during his entire tenure.

“Nevertheless, I have succeeded in improving the law across numerous sectors, including measures to help protect religious liberty, benefit small businesses, strengthen regional agriculture, and provide taxpayer relief,” he said.

Adams graduated from Liberty University and received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Richmond School of Law. He served as the Danville

Circuit Court before joining the Pittsylvania County Commonwealth’s Attorney Office in 2002.

He entered the private practice of law in 2011 with the purchase of Adams and Fisk, PLC, and returned to Pittsylvania County Commonwealth’s Attorney Office in 2020 as a Senior Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney.

Adams has served as President of the Pittsylvania County Bar Association, Circuit Representative for the Young Lawyers Conference of the Virginia State Bar, and sits on the House Courts of Justice Committee as a citizen-legislator.

Adams’s wife, Melanie, is a pharmacist, and the

couple have two sons – Roger and Grant.

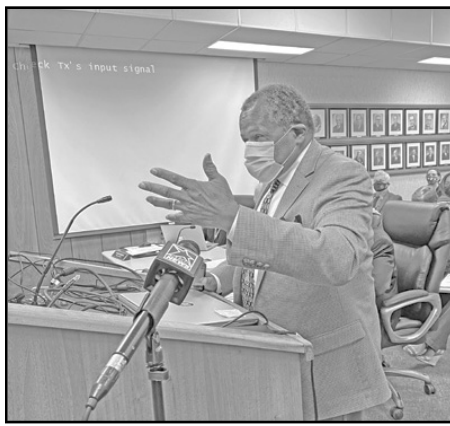
In his spare time, Adams serves as deacon at the Chatham Baptist Church and is an active member of the Chatham Rotary Club. He also enjoys playing sports, attending college games with his sons, and reading about history.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS									
S	A	C	F	A	N	C	R	O	
A	D	H	O	C	A	N	H	E	N
C	O	B	R	A	R	E	T	A	R
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S	A	E	A	N	S	D	E	Y	

# Residents show support of schools at public hearing on reversion



Council member Tammy Pearson made a motion to delay the second reading of an ordinance adopting the agreement to gather more public input. The motion died for lack of a second.



The Rev. Tyler Millner asked for clarifications on several issues, including who would initiate a funding request from the Harvest Foundation for a school study to assist with the combining of city and county school buildings and students.



A crowd of about 50 people gathered in city council chambers for the public hearing on reversion. Eight people spoke.



Martinsville City Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley enumerated some of the accomplishments of the school system during city council's public hearing on reversion. Under the current terms of the city's agreement with the county, Martinsville's school system will cease to exist upon the effective date of reversion.

**Callie Hietala**  
Staff writer

During the required public hearing on reversion Tuesday, eight residents addressed Martinsville City Council members from among crowd of around 50 spectators.

The audience largely consisted of city school staff, instructors, school board members, with a number wearing red and white Martinsville Bulldogs shirts. Of those who spoke, none expressed support for reversion. Some stated their disappointment in the perceived secrecy of the process, others pointed out the successes of the city's school system, which would be dissolved upon the effective date of reversion.

Noting some of the achievements of the city school division, Martinsville Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley said the city's student body was 79 percent minority and 72 percent economically disadvantaged "yet it achieves and has been established among the best schools in the state." He said that any reversion plan moving forward should include the boards of both school divisions and concluded by quoting Martin Luther King, Jr., saying, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

J.C. Richardson expressed concern about remaining ambiguity over consolidation of the schools, and shared a lesson he learned early in life.

"It's never enough for a Christian to do the right thing, it must also be done the right way. What I heard (during the CLG's public hearing on reversion) and what I have heard since is this: the method that you chose to pursue reversion was one that many felt was not the right way. It was way too exclusive and way too private," Richardson said, and questioned whether the public hearing would even be happening if the city wasn't mandated to hold it.

"Since the citizens have pretty much been left out of this life-changing historic process, we can only ask what is the method going to be" as reversion moves forward, he said.

Greg Hackenberg, an educator, said "we have the best schools around." As a parent, he said he has seen his children grow during at Clearview Early Childhood Center. Studies show the lasting positive impacts of early childhood education.

"The biggest impact is on minorities, those who come from underserved neighborhoods, and English language learners," he said.

As the hearing concluded, Mayor Kathy Lawson said the comments would be written and posted on the city's website. "The council will consider any responses in our next meeting," she said.

Council member Tammy Pearson said that terms of the Voluntary

Settlement Agreement still can be changed. She also added that city and county officials have 180 days from the time the Commission on Local Government issued its report in which to hold a first and second reading and vote on whether or not to adopt an ordinance that would set in motion the judicial process for approving the agreement. Currently, council has scheduled a first reading for its rescheduled meeting on Thursday, November 4, and a second reading during its regular meeting on November 9.

Pearson urged council members to reschedule the second reading 160 days after the release of the CLG report and, in the interim, gather more public input on the document. Her formal motion to reschedule died for lack of a second.

In other matters, the council:

- \* Approved a resolution to participate in the proposed settlement of opioid-related claims against McKesson, Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen, and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, and directing City Attorney Eric Monday and/or the city's outside counsel to execute the documents necessary to effectuate the city's participation in the settlements.

- \* Approved the Pine Hall Road Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Project Program Design.

\* Heard a summary of the city's quarterly finance report through September 30. Revenues received through the first quarter of FY22 were \$13,940,019, higher than the anticipated \$13,000,088, due in part to an increase in local sales and use taxes as well as meals taxes. First quarter expenses were lower than anticipated, at \$17,626,410. Revenues from utility funds were also higher than expected, at \$8,354,595 while expenses were slightly lower at \$9,292,665. Available cash-on-hand for all city funds was \$23,589,638, an increase of \$8,952,500 over the same period last year, which included American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding.

\* Approved minutes from the September 28 meeting and the consent agenda.

\* Heard an update from Commissioner of Revenue Ruth Easley on 2021 Vehicle Value Assessment as it relates to the recently-mailed personal property taxes. Assessments were higher than they were last year because of an increase in both new and used car values since 2020.

## OBITUARIES

### Elva Turner Wilshire

Elva Turner Wilshire, 91, of Dunn, N.C., passed away on Monday, October 18, 2021, at Betsy Johnson Hospital. She was born on October 25, 1929, in Patrick County, VA to the late Grenville "Conway" Turner and Dovie Morrison Turner. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of thirty-six years, Paul Frederick Wilshire.



Brilla, Sharon Wilshire-Eshelmen, Debra Wilshire Blankenship; grandchildren, Jerri Lynn, Greg, Corey, Ryland, Joshua, Larisa, Jeremiah, Lucas, Logan, Justin, and Summer; great-grandchildren, Nathan, Emily, Peyton, Lauren, Ryder, Lavender, Elijah, Abigail, Emerson, Jackson, Claire, Lillian, and Maya.

A graveside service was held October 25, 2021, at Roselawn Burial Park. Minister Lee Ashley officiated. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Wilshire family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

### Mr. Benjamin Dean "Ben" Hylton

Mr. Benjamin Dean "Ben" Hylton, age 48 of Bassett, passed away Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born in Henry County on September 22, 1973. Ben was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Elsie and Wreathie Belcher Hylton; and maternal grandparents, Kyle and Ida Haynes Foley.



Figsboro, VA, and Connor Hylton of the home; two grandchildren Weston and Lainey Hylton; his parents, Clayton and Ella Sue Foley Hylton of Stuart, VA; one sister, Becky Hylton Cockram and husband, Tony of Bassett, VA; one brother, Tim Hylton and wife, Sherry of Collinsville, VA; numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Ben was a warm, generous, caring, and kind-hearted man to everyone he knew. He was a loving husband, father, papa, brother, and son and loved his family deeply.

Surviving is his loving wife Leah Metz Hylton of the home; three sons, Benjamin Tyler Hylton and wife, Ashley of Bassett, VA, Logan Hylton and wife, Chelsea of

The funeral was held Saturday, October 23, 2021, at Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Stuart, with Pastor Tim Hylton officiating. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday at the funeral home. Burial was private. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

### Dorothy Branham Craiger

Dorothy Branham Craiger, 75, of Bassett, VA passed away on Wednesday, October 20, 2021. She was born on November 28, 1946, to the late Arlen Branham and Vertie Ramey Branham. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Craiger, and brother, Junior Branham.



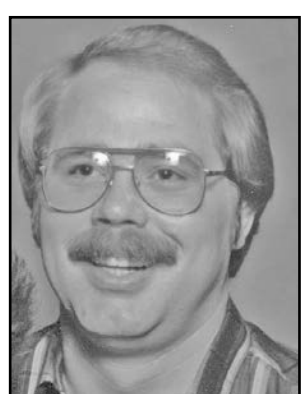
Jimmy Branham, Lige Branham, Ray Branham, Arlen Branham, and Roy Branham; grandchildren, Harold Richards, Laura Richards, Jeremy Atkins, Brittany Atkins, and Joseph Craiger; and great-grandchildren, Kaley Richards, Anna Bell Russell, Lewi Atkins, and Samantha Newberry.

A funeral was held Friday, October 22, 2021, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel. Pastor Donnie Pickett officiated. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Craiger family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

### Jack Ernest Lynch

Jack Ernest Lynch, 67, of Axton, VA passed away on Thursday, October 21, 2021, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born on September 27, 1954, in Martinsville, VA to the late Lloyd Lynch and Ruby Gilley Lynch. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his sisters, Brenda Kay Keffer and Shelby Jean Lynch.



Eden, NC; sisters, Virginia "Jenny" Surber (Houston) of Martinsville, VA, Linda Faye Thacker of Florida, Barbara "Bobbie" Lynch Shrader (Hollis) of Fieldale, VA, and Sylvia Lynch Giffin (Michael); sister-in-law, Lisa Ann Turner of Martinsville, VA. Also surviving are eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Lynch loved to hunt & fish, he loved NASCAR & The Washington (Redskins) football team. He loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Yvonne Lynch of the home; sons, John Kevin Lynch (Melissa) of Bassett, VA, Richard "Ricky" Dale Lynch of Ridgeway, VA, and Jason Lee Lynch of

A funeral was held on Wednesday, Oct 27, 2021, at Norris Funeral Services, with Pastor Peyton Gilbert officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Lynch family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Lynch family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

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### Lois Rigney Pulliam

Lois Rigney Pulliam, 71, of Axton, VA passed away on Monday, October 25, 2021, at Sovah Health of Martinsville. She was born on December 15, 1949, in Pittsylvania County, VA to the late Georgia Shelton Rigney and Russell William Rigney.



Stuart, VA, and her grandchildren, Robert Agee, Taylor Boothe, and Heather Boothe.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Aaron Pulliam of the home, daughter, Melissa Pulliam Boothe of Axton, VA, brother, Darrell Rigney of

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 2 p.m. in Roselawn Burial Park. The family is accepting friends and family at the home.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Pulliam family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Pulliam family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).



# Polling places and locations in Henry County

The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 2. Polling places for Henry County voters are listed below:

**Blackberry**  
Bassett #2 Bassett  
Rescue Squad Training Center, 1946 Riverside Drive, Bassett

**Gunville** Bassett  
Ruritan Building, 277 Philpott Dam Road, Bassett;

Scott's Tanyard Sanville Elementary School, 19 Sanville School Road, Bassett.

**Horsepasture**  
Fieldale Rangeley  
Ruritan Building, 134 Calloway Drive, Fieldale;

Horsepasture #1  
Horsepasture Fire Station Recreational Bldg., 17787 A.L. Philpott Hwy., Ridgeway;

Horsepasture #2  
Horsepasture Ruritan Bldg., 16209 A.L. Philpott Hwy., Martinsville;

Spencer Spencer  
Ruritan Bldg. (Lower Level), 150 George Taylor Road, Spencer;

**Iriswood**  
Axton Axton  
Elementary School, 1500 A.L. Philpott Hwy., Axton;

Irisburg  
Freedom Baptist Church, 790 Irisburg Road, Axton;

Mt. Olivet Mt.  
Olivet Ruritan Bldg., 400 Ward Road, Martinsville;

Mountain Valley Mtn.  
Valley Leatherwood Club, 2485 North fork Road, Martinsville.

**Collinsville**  
Collinsville #1 F-C  
Middle School (Entrance B) Left Side, 645 Miles Road, Collinsville;

Daniels Creek F-C  
Middle School (Entrance A) Right Side, 645 Miles

**November 2, 2021 Sample Ballot – Henry County, VA**

Commonwealth of Virginia  
**Sample Ballot**  
County of Henry  
General Election  
Tuesday, November 2, 2021

**Instructions:**  
To vote for a candidate, use a black ball point pen to fill in the oval next to the name.  
If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask for another ballot.  
If you make marks besides filling the oval, your vote may not count.

<p><b>Governor - Vote for only one</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Glenn A. Youngkin - R <input type="checkbox"/> Terry R. McAuliffe - D <input type="checkbox"/> Princess L. Blanding - LP	<p><b>Member Board of Supervisors* Iriswood District - Vote for only one</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Eric J. Phillips <input type="checkbox"/> Garrett L. Dillard <input type="checkbox"/> Billy Dean White <input type="checkbox"/> Eric W. Bowling
<p><b>Lieutenant Governor Vote for only one</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Winsome E. Sears - R <input type="checkbox"/> Hala S. Ayala - D	<p><b>Member School Board* Iriswood District - Vote for only one</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Benjamin E. Gravelly
<p><b>Attorney General - Vote for only one</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Jason S. Miyares - R <input type="checkbox"/> Mark R. Herring - D	<p><b>Member Board of Supervisors* Collinsville District - Vote for only one</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Joseph A. "Joe" Bryant <input type="checkbox"/> Andrew C. Palmer
<p><b>Member House of Delegates 9th District* Vote for only one</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Wren Williams - R <input type="checkbox"/> Bridgette N. Craighead - D	<p><b>Member School Board* Collinsville District - Vote for only one</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth A. Durden <input type="checkbox"/> Ray P. Reynolds Jr.
<p><b>Member House of Delegates 14th District* Vote for only one</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> D. W. "Danny" Marshall III - R <input type="checkbox"/> S. M. "Rhett" Deitz - D	<p><b>Member Board of Supervisors* Blackberry District - Vote for only one</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Jimmie L. "Jim" Adams
<p><b>Member House of Delegates 16th District* Vote for only one</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Les R. Adams - R <input type="checkbox"/> Chance B. Trevillian - D	<p><b>Member School Board* Blackberry District - Vote for only one</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas E. Aufer

\* The District in which you live or vote will determine the candidates that will be on your Official Ballot

Authorized by  
**The Henry County Electoral Board**  
3300 Kings Mountain Road Rm 103  
Martinsville, VA 24112  
276-634-4698

Road, Collinsville; #2  
Collinsville Primary School, 15 Primary Road, Collinsville;

Mountain View VFW Building, 2327 Old Chatham Road, Martinsville.

**Reed Creek**  
Bassett #1 Bassett  
Fire Station, 3735 Fairystone Park Hwy., Bassett;

Figsboro Figsboro  
School, 340 Ridgedale Drive, Martinsville;

Stanleytown  
Stanleytown Elementary School, 74 Edgewood Drive, Stanleytown;

Oak Level Oak  
Road, Collinsville;

Level Ruritan Bldg., 7668 Oak Level Road, Bassett;

Dyers Store Dyers  
Store Fire Department, 3230 Chatham Road, Martinsville.

**Ridgeway**  
Fontaine Rich  
Acres Elementary School, 400 Rich Acres School Road, Martinsville;

Hillcrest Rich  
Acres Fire Station, 1766 Joseph Martin Hwy., Martinsville;

Ridgeway #1  
Ridgeway Library, 900 Vista View Lane, Ridgeway;

Ridgeway #2  
Ridgeway Baptist Church (Social Hall), 15 Church St., Ridgeway.

# Polling places in Martinsville

Martinsville voters visit the polls in six precincts:

- Albert Harris School  
710 Smith Street
- Martinsville City Schools Administrative Offices  
746 Indian Trail
- Martinsville City Housing Office  
605 Fourth Street
- Martinsville High School  
351 Commonwealth Boulevard
- Martinsville Middle School  
30 Cleveland Avenue
- Virginia Museum of Natural History  
21 Starling Avenue

All polling places in the city are accessible to the handicapped.

**Commonwealth of Virginia Sample Ballot**  
City of Martinsville  
General Election  
Tuesday, November 2, 2021

**Instructions:**  
To vote for a candidate, use a black ballpoint pen to fill in the oval next to the name.  
To vote for a candidate who is not on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the "Write-in" line and print that person's name clearly on the line.  
If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election official for another ballot. Do not make marks other than filling the oval.

<p><b>Governor</b> Vote for only one</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Glenn A. Youngkin - R <input type="checkbox"/> Terry R. McAuliffe - D <input type="checkbox"/> Princess L. Blanding - LP Write-in	<p><b>Commonwealth's Attorney</b> Vote for only one</p> <input type="checkbox"/> G. Andrew Hall Write-in
<p><b>Lieutenant Governor</b> Vote for only one</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Winsome E. Sears - R <input type="checkbox"/> Hala S. Ayala - D Write-in	<p><b>Sheriff</b> Vote for only one</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Steve M. Draper Write-in
<p><b>Attorney General</b> Vote for only one</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Jason S. Miyares - R <input type="checkbox"/> Mark R. Herring - D Write-in	<p><b>Commissioner of Revenue</b> Vote for only one</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth L. Easley Write-in
<p><b>Member House of Delegates 16th District</b> Vote for only one</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Les R. Adams - R <input type="checkbox"/> Chance B. Trevillian - D Write-in	<p><b>Treasurer</b> Vote for only one</p> <input type="checkbox"/> C. L. "Cindy" Dickerson Write-in

Authorized by the Electoral Board of the City of Martinsville  
33 West Church St., Room 112 • Martinsville, VA 24112  
The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, jurisdiction, election name used for this ballot must comply with the requirements of either federal or state law as appropriate. For more requirements, call 224-7-800 or see the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-426-6900.

Top 01 Seq:0001 S21/01 Ballot Style # 001

# Library hosts annual Food for Fines Food Drive

The Blue Ridge Regional Library is hosting its third annual Food for Fines Food Drive October 29-December 10. Library patrons may pay off part or all of their unpaid library fines by bringing in boxed or canned food items to be donated to the Martinsville & Henry County Salvation Army and the Patrick County Community Food Bank to help fight hunger in the area.

Donated items are welcomed from all, even if there are no fines to be paid off.

One dollar will be deducted from overdue fees for each food item brought in. The maximum fine limit is \$5 and food credits can only be applied to overdue fees. For more information, contact your local branch of the library. Contact information can be found at [brll.lib.va.us](http://brll.lib.va.us).

**3RD ANNUAL FOOD FOR FINES FOOD DRIVE**

**OCTOBER 29-DECEMBER 10**

**GOT FINES? GIVE FOOD.**

Food items collected will be donated to the Martinsville & Henry County Salvation Army and Patrick County Community Food Bank

The maximum fine limit is \$5.00. Food for Fines credits will ONLY be applied to overdue fees. One dollar will be deducted for each boxed or canned item donated. No fines? No problem. Your donation will help fight hunger in our community.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH FOR DETAILS.

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All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

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2 spaces of Plot 114 for sale in Section 27 near Praying Hands of Roselawn Cemetery \$4,000  
Call 276-638-7087

## COUNTY OF HENRY REZONING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a series of public hearings has been scheduled for **November 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. Following these public hearings, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on each application to the Board of Supervisors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings on the following applications on **November 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia.

The purpose of these public hearings is to receive input into the possible rezoning of property. Following are the specifics of the public hearings.

**Case R-21-18 Lisa Lancaster**  
The property is located at 246 Meadow Ln in the Collinsville District. The Tax Map number is 29.4(41)/1. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of this property from Suburban Residential District S-R to Office and Professional District B-3. The owner wishes to convert the existing residence into an office/counseling business.

**Case R-21-19 Jason E. and Pamela K. Mabry**  
The property is located at 2541 Bassett Heights Rd., just north of its intersection with Homewood Dr., in the Reed Creek District. The Tax Map number is 15.3(46)/75X. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2.559-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Mixed Residential District M-R. The applicant wishes to place a double wide manufactured home on the property with a permanent masonry foundation.

**Case R-21-20 Carver Memorial Gardens, Inc.**  
The property is located in the south east corner of the intersection of Carver Rd and Parkway Dr. in the Horsepasture District. The Tax Map number is 40.8(49)/A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2.85-acres from Commercial District B-1 to Agricultural District A-I. The applicant wishes to expand the adjacent cemetery into this property. Once rezoned, an approved Special Use Permit is also required.

**Case R-21-21 Dana S. Wade**  
The property is located at the former 107 Carson Dr. in the Reed Creek District. The Tax Map number is 15.7(18)/5. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 0.3-acre from Suburban Residential District S-R to Rural Residential District R-R. The applicant wishes to allow for the placement of a single wide manufactured home.

The applications for these requests may be viewed in the Department of Planning, Zoning & Inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Lee H. Clark, AICP  
Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection

See more at

[www.henrycountyenterprise.com](http://www.henrycountyenterprise.com)



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In addition to Henry County Enterprise, which covers Martinsville and Henry County, our other Virginia publications include: The Enterprise (which covers Patrick County/Stuart - including Meadows of Dan and other communities near the Blue Ridge Parkway); Salem Times Register; Fincastle Herald; New Castle Record; News Messenger; News Journal; Vinton Messenger. Our publications in West Virginia are: Pocahontas Times; Parsons Advocate; Calhoun Chronicle; Clay County Free Press; Shinnston News; Harrison County Journal, and our flagship paper, Mountain Messenger.

Whether in or out of state, most of our coverage area is within a comfortable driving distance to Martinsville and Henry County.

Visit <https://theenterprise.net/advertise/> to view the available sizes/placement of online ads.





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An exhibit of artwork by 20 area elementary school students will be on display in Piedmont Arts' Foster Gallery through November 5.

# New student work on display at Piedmont Arts

An exhibit of artwork by 20 elementary school students will be on display in Piedmont Arts' Foster Gallery through November 5.

The exhibit features work by students in grades K-5 who attend Mt. Olivet Elementary.

Director of Programs Sarah Short said exhibits in the Foster Gallery are an important part of the museum's community programming.

"The Foster Gallery is for the display of work by young artists," she said. "By showing student work at Piedmont Arts, we encourage young people to participate in the arts and give students' friends and families the opportunity to experience the wealth of young talent we have in our area."

For more than 25 years, Piedmont Arts' Foster Gallery has been generously curated by

Charity League. Piedmont Arts and Charity League believe that fostering an early exposure to the arts is critical for a well-rounded educational experience.

Piedmont Arts is open Tuesday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission to the museum is always free of charge.

Learn more at [www.PiedmontArts.org](http://www.PiedmontArts.org).

# Elementary school gets donation



Recently, Ray Martin (left), president of the Fontaine Ruritan Club presented Meadow View Elementary School's Assistant Principal Kathryn Rowe with a donation of \$300 from the club to support the school's Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. The program focuses on incentivizing positive behaviors and relationships in students and views student discipline as an opportunity to teach or re-teach behavioral expectations.

# Public-private broadband investment announced



PHOTO BY JOHN SCHNOBRICH

Virginia has received a record number of local and private sector applications to match state broadband investments, putting the Commonwealth on track to become one of the first states to achieve universal broadband access by 2024, according to Gov. Ralph Northam.

Virginia anticipates more than \$2 billion in total broadband funding, thanks to local and private sector matching funds that go beyond the \$874 million in state appropriations since Northam took office in 2018.

"Broadband is as critical today as electricity was in the last century," said Northam. "Making sure more Virginians can get access to it has been a priority since I took office, and the pandemic pushed us all to move even faster. Virginia is now on track to achieve universal broadband by 2024, which means more connections, more investments, easier online learning, and expanded telehealth options, especially in rural Virginia."

The Virginia Telecommunication Initiative is the Commonwealth's broadband program. It was started in 2017 to fund public-private partnerships to extend broadband service to areas unserved by an internet service provider. When the most recent application round closed last month, the program received 57 applications from 84 localities, requesting \$943 million to connect more than 250,000 Virginia homes and businesses. These applications leverage \$1.15 billion in

private and local matching funds. The Department of Housing and Community Development is reviewing applications and expects to award the funds by the end of the year.

Virginia has taken dramatic steps on broadband since Northam took office in 2018, according to a release. He set out a clear goal: achieve universal access to broadband within 10 years. The goal was bold, as Virginia's broadband program was investing just \$4 million a year and 660,000 Virginians did not have access to high-speed internet.

Since then, Northam and the General Assembly have awarded \$124 million in grants to connect more than 140,000 homes, businesses, and community organizations. The Virginia Telecommunication Initiative has awarded 39 projects in 41 different counties, supported by over \$94 million in matching private and local funds. Along with private investment and federal broadband grants, the Commonwealth has reduced the digital divide by 65 percent. Plans accelerated further in August, when Northam and the General Assembly allocated \$700 million in American Rescue Plan funding to broadband, moving the original goal for achieving universal access to 2024.

The overwhelming response to this year's Virginia Telecommunication Initiative grant round demonstrates that Virginia has built an innovative and successful model for bridging the digital divide.



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