



The property at 210 Park Street in Martinsville is one of eight that is currently out to bid for demolition.

Properties slated for demolition

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Eight structures in Martinsville are currently being advertised for demolition bids, a building and zoning official told Martinsville City Council at its regular meeting Tuesday. The structures currently out for bid are 403 Clearview Drive, 326 Clift Street, 538 Dillard Street, 550 Dillard Street, 17 High Street, 210 Holt Street, 127 North Beaver Street, and 210 Park Street.

Chris Bridges also showed council members his office's master list for demolition candidates, which includes an estimated 113 structures, both commercial and residential, though Bridges said the work of his office is primarily residential. He said the list changes as properties are either taken care of or demolished.

"This is just to show that these buildings are out there and we know it," he explained.

Bridges said his office has implemented a priority rating system for structures on

the watch list. Structures are rated A, B, C, or D, with A being the highest priority for demolition and D being the lowest.

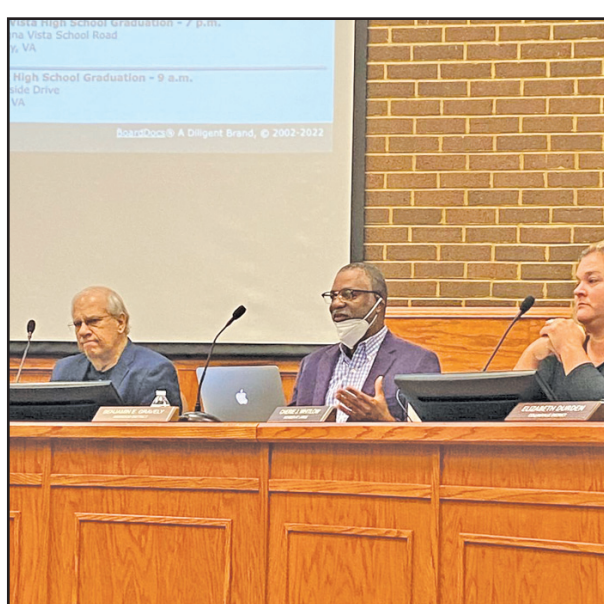
'A' candidates are structures with one or more issues including fire damage (with no insurance), open and unsecured against public entry, structural failure with possible danger of collapse, and/or unlikely to be economically feasible to repair.

'B' candidates are those with a history of complaints, fire damage (with insurance), are vacant and boarded, and/or exterior repair issues.

'C' and 'D' candidates have a history of complaints, 5-years or more of decline and trending downward, value to neighborhood if lost, and/or are currently reasonable to repair.

He listed several commercial structures with A, A+, and B ratings: Gibraltar Lodge at 1129 Chatham Heights Road (A), a tractor shop at 3 Railroad Street (B), two garages at 103 and 105 Railroad Street (A+ and A, respectively), a fish mar-

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Board member Ben Gravely, of the Iriswood District, raised concerns about the pressures and stresses teachers face and how it could affect their mental health and wellbeing.

School board members express concern for teacher mental health

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Several members of the Henry County School Board expressed concern for the mental health and welfare of the county's teachers in comments that came near the end of the board's April 7 meeting.

"I am very pleased to see what we're doing to meet the needs of our students," said board member Ben Gravely, of the Iriswood District, "however, having conversations with teachers and staff, I'm deeply concerned about the welfare of our teachers

and staff."

Nationwide, "our teachers are being used as scapegoats for political reasons, the pressures, it's almost like they can't do anything right and that bothers me. It really bothers me," Gravely said, adding he does not have an answer to the ongoing issue. He invited teachers to continue to speak up.

"Years ago, this board approved a resolution to invite and have the teachers come and feel comfortable expressing their concerns to us without any pushback," he said, and implored teachers to talk

See **Mental Health**, page 5

Martinsville woman runs a-fowl of city code, appeals verdict in poultry case

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

A Martinsville woman earlier this month was found guilty in Martinsville General District Court of one charge of keeping poultry and one charge of keeping livestock and poultry. The latter charge is being appealed to the Martinsville Circuit Court.

Online court records indicate that Amanda Lynn Davis was charged with the class 1 misdemeanors in February and found guilty in general district court on April 4.

Davis was charged a \$45 fine and \$101 in court costs and was sentenced to 6 months with 5 months and 28 days suspended.

Her appeal to the circuit court is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19.

The charges stem from section

5-18 of the Martinsville City Code which states that "It shall be unlawful for any person to keep within the city any horse, mule, cow, donkey, chicken, turkey, duck, or other like animal classified as livestock or fowl."

Officer Jayme Clark, of Martinsville Animal Control, said he filed the charges against Davis.

"It is totally prohibited to have any kind of livestock in the city of Martinsville," he explained. "A lot of that is because it's more of an urban setting and there are hygiene issues when we talk about chickens and ducks and things like that. That's the reason, I believe, that those laws are on the books."

Clark said Davis had several chickens, several ducks, and a guinea and was notified in December of last year by a patrolman that she was prohibited from keeping the animals

in the city.

He said his office responded to a later complaint from a neighbor who said the chickens were coming into their yard. "We made contact with her husband on a Tuesday (Davis, because of her work schedule, was asleep), he was informed the chickens needed to be gone" by Thursday of that same week.

"I went back two days later, they were still there, therefore she was cited for still having those chickens."

Clark said that, that same day, the couple told him the animals would be gone by 9 p.m. that evening, but over that weekend, officers received multiple calls from neighbors complaining that the chickens were still present and roaming free in their yards.

See **Poultry Case**, page 7

Community speaks out on uptown revitalization



UP board member Rob King spoke to the crowd of around 60 who participated in the organization's first in a series of four community engagement conversations about uptown's revitalization effort. The talks are focused on gathering input from the community about the recommendations made by consulting group Downtown Economics on a path forward for improvements to the uptown area. King was one of several who spoke to the need for more diversity in community gathering places.

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Martinsville Uptown Partnership (UP) held the first in a series of community engagement conversations on Monday to start discussions and gather input on the many recommendations made by Chuck D'Aprix and his company, Downtown Economics, on revitalization efforts.

The meeting, held at the TAD Space in uptown, drew a crowd of around 60 people. The conversations around a revitalization effort mobilized a diverse cross-section of the

community. Chairs were filled with people of varying backgrounds, age ranges, and ethnicities, as well as business owners, several city council members, and representatives from Patrick & Henry Community College, the Dan River Basin Association, Harvest, the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society, and other institutions.

The discussion ranged widely over the course of about an hour and a half, touching on both positives and negatives of the revitalization and of Martinsville itself.

UP Board President Liz Harris

welcomed the crowd and discussed the steps UP has taken thus far, including reviewing the four main tenants of the Main Street approach, which, she said, guides the work of the organization.

UP's Executive Director, Kathy Deacon, then reviewed some of the recommendations, continually emphasizing that nothing is set in stone. "Anything you'll see tonight are just ideas of what could be possible," she told the crowd.

In addition to the committees that

See **Revitalization**, page 4

Understanding the war in Ukraine

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

Janet Demiray, a Patrick County native and former counselor for public affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, recently visited the Patrick County and Martinsville branches of the Blue Ridge Regional Library system to discuss Ukraine's long history and answer questions.

The ongoing Russian invasion began on Feb. 24 and has already resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and the displacement of millions of people.

Demiray lived in Moscow for several years in the late 1970s and early

1980s, in Poland from 1982-1985, and worked at the embassy from 2001 until 2005. She has returned almost every year between then and 2019, either as a speaker or as an election observer.

"I don't think we can overstate the impact, the shock, of a massive military invasion of a sovereign nation in Europe in the 21st century," Demiray said to about 20 people gathered in the Martinsville library on Saturday. "Nothing on this scale has happened since World War II. This is a fight for the survival of the Ukrainian nation."

Demiray spent much of her presentation discussing the history of Ukraine, which she described as an

"old nation in a young state," having only gained full independence in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

As Russian President Vladimir Putin "has put forth the idea that Ukraine is really not a country, it really doesn't have a history or identity except as part of Russia, I think this is something that needs examining and emphasizing that Ukraine does have its own story," she said.

"Their story is one of trying to find their own place in a region with more powerful neighbors. While many parts of their history are tragic and bloody, the Ukrainian nation has largely not

See **Ukraine**, page 3



Janet Demiray, a Patrick County native and former counselor for public affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, who also has lived in Moscow, spoke at two branches of the Blue Ridge Regional Library last week on the history of Ukraine and answered questions about the current Russian invasion of the country.



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)

Saturday, April 16
The Bassett Volunteer Fire Department will host a benefit breakfast from 6:30-10:30 a.m. All proceeds will benefit Brenner Children's Hospital.

First Baptist Church of Martinsville is hosting an Easter egg hunt beginning at 10:15 a.m. in the church parking lot and adjacent lawn for FBCKids and FBC ELC students and families.

Sunday, April 17
First Baptist Church of Martinsville will celebrate an Easter Sunday service beginning at 11 a.m. in the First Baptist Church sanctuary. The service will also be streamed on Facebook, YouTube, and via Zoom call-in.

Tuesday, April 19
Bluegrass jam night at the Spencer-Penn Centre. These open jam sessions will take place every first and third Thursday from 7-10 p.m. at the centre, and are free to all musicians. Donations to the Centre are welcome.

Tuesday, April 19 through Saturday, April 23

The Blue Ridge Regional Library is hosting a Pastels & Mocktails art class. Participants will enjoy a mocktail as they learn how to replicate a tropical escape scene. The class will be at the Ridgeway branch library on April 19 at 3:30 p.m., Collinsville branch April 20 at 2:30 p.m., Patrick County branch April 21 at 3:30 p.m., Bassett branch April 22 at 2:30 p.m., and at the main Martinsville library April 23 at 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20
Victory Baptist Church (1300 Dillons Fork Road, Fieldale) will host special singing featuring The Cooper Sisters beginning at 7 p.m. All are invited.

Patrick & Henry Community

College hosts card-making at the Fab Lab beginning at 6:30 p.m.! In this crafty class, participants will learn about embossing, leaving the class with a handmade card. The cost is \$15.

Thursday, April 21
The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext., Martinsville) from 12-6 p.m. To schedule a donation, visit redcrossblood.org.

The Kiwanis Club will host its popular Pancake Day from 7 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. in the Broad Street parking lot (100 East Church Street, Martinsville.) Pancakes, sausage, and a beverage will be available for \$7. Pancakes are all you can eat! Advance tickets are \$6 each and available at a number of locations, which can be found on the Kiwanis Pancake Day event page on Facebook.

Saturday, April 23
Piedmont Arts is hosting Earth Day Family Day from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Gravelly-Lester Art Garden, 207 Starling Avenue, Martinsville. Celebrate Earth Day with this fun family day for all ages. Visitors will create crafts using recycled materials and complimentary snacks will be provided.

Join the Virginia Museum of Natural History from 6:30-10 p.m. for its annual Grapes and Grains fundraiser. The evening will include wine and whiskey tastings, a menu of heavy hors d'oeuvres, music, and a silent auction.

Infinity Acres Ranch, 136 Joppa Road, Ridgeway, is hosting the Infinity 5K Ranch Run. Participants will race around the ranch. There is also a 1-mile and done run for those who want to spend more time visiting with animals on the ranch. For more information or to register, visit InfinityAcres.org or call (276) 358-2378.

The Spencer-Penn Centre is hosting its 11th annual Pig Cookin' Competition from 10

a.m. until 4 p.m. This free event includes a barnival, vendors, cruise-in, silent auction, and more. BBQ will be available for purchase. Contact the Centre at (276) 957-5757 with any questions.

Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. at 2285 Fairystone Park Highway. This service is free to all residents of Martinsville and Henry County. Items to bring include solvents (paint thinner, turpentine, etc.), paints, fuels, lead acid batteries, cell phones, printer cartridges, and similar items.

The Martinsville-Henry County SPCA (132 Joseph Martin Highway, Martinsville) will host a Kitten Shower from 12-4 p.m. The SPCA conference room will be open for donation drop-off. Those interested in helping also can visit the SPCA's Amazon wishlist for easy online shopping: <https://www.spcamhc.org/donate/spca-wish-list>.

Wednesday, April 27
The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the Martinsville Elks Lodge (300 Fairy Street Ext., Martinsville) from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. To schedule a donation, visit redcrossblood.org.

Friday, April 29
Patrick & Henry Community College will host a diversity, equity, and inclusion forum in the Frith Exhibit Hall on the P&HCC campus. Participants will engage in healthy dialogue in a facilitated discussion about diversity, equity, and inclusion. The forum will take place from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. and lunch is included. The cost is \$100. To register, visit ph.augustof.net or call (276) 656-0260.

Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1

Tickets are available at the SPCA for the Belk Charity Sale. Tickets are \$5 each and are redeemable at Belk for \$5 off your purchase with an extra 25 percent off April 29-May 1

only. The \$5 purchase is given directly to the SPCA.

Saturday, April 30
The Blackberry Baptist Church, 3241 Stones Dairy Road, Bassett, is hosting a cruise in from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. Breakfast will be provided at the church.

Saturday, May 21
The Martinsville-Henry County SPCA will be at Petsense in Martinsville from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. for an adoption event. Come meet some of the furry friends available for adoption from the shelter!

ONGOING
The Magna Vista Horticulture Spring Plant Sale is underway. Weekdays 9-3 p.m., and some additional hours will be scheduled. For complete information, sales, and additional hours, visit the Magna Vista Horticulture Facebook page.

The Louise R. Lester Spay/Neuter Clinic is hosting wellness clinics every Tuesday. Clinics are by appointment only—no walk-ins will be accepted. Call (276) 638-7297 to schedule your appointment. Beginning in April, the clinics will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, rather than weekly.

The Martinsville-Henry County SPCA is hosting an adoption special through April 16. Adoption fees for all dogs 40 pounds and over are \$50. Come by Tuesday through Friday from 12-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 2-4 p.m. to find your furever friend.

Henry County Parks & Recreation invites you out for a trek along the trail. Meet as a group and walk along a different trail each week. Explore the trails of Martinsville-Henry County, make new friends, and get some fresh air and exercise. Call the HCPR Senior Services office at (276) 634-4644 to

find out where the week's trek is happening! Trail Trekkers meet Thursday of each week (weather permitting) at 1 p.m. in the fall and winter and 9:15 a.m. in spring and summer.

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 brlib.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. Money from Bingo supports community service awards, scholarships, and other community efforts.

MHC Coalition for Health and Wellness offers no contact Medicaid application assistance for eligible Virginia residents 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 at (276) 647-9585.

Adams appointed to commission

Del. Les Adams, R-Chatham, was appointed to the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission by C. Todd Gilbert, Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Gilbert said, "Les

Adams is one of the smartest and best legislators I've had the privilege of working with. Adding him to the Tobacco Commission will ensure that Southside Virginia has strong, thoughtful representation in everything they do."

Comprised of 28 total members, the Commission promotes the economic growth and development in formerly tobacco-dependent communities, using proceeds from the national tobacco settle-

"I am grateful to the Speaker for this appointment and appreciate the trust he has placed in me." Adams said. "As a son of Southside Virginia whose family farmed tobacco for generations, I understand well the significance of the Tobacco

Commission and respect its work. I am excited to contribute as a member and look forward to help improve the opportunities in our communities with investments the Commission can provide," he added.

Adams represents the

16th House District, which includes parts of Henry, Pittsylvania and the City of Martinsville. Currently serving his fifth term in the Virginia House of Delegates, Adams was re-elected to the General Assembly in 2021.

Pearson suggests putting brakes on reversion process as Youngkin signs legislation

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

On April 8, Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed two

bills requiring a voter referendum in the City of Martinsville before the city is granted town status by a special court.

At a Tuesday meeting, city council member Tammy Pearson suggested the passage could present an opportunity for council

to "tap the brakes" on the reversion process.

The companion bills, introduced by Del. Danny Marshall, R-Danville, and State Senator Bill Stanley, R-Moneta, require the question, "Shall the City of Martinsville become a town?" to appear on the ballot for voter approval before the city is granted town status.

Stanley previously said that his bill would not stop reversion, but rather put the issue "to the people, because it's their right to determine their fate and their form of government, not have it determined for them."

Even before both bills were passed by the General Assembly, the city made a final effort to combat the measure in the form of a letter to Youngkin, sent by attorney Stephen Piepgrass, who is representing the city in its reversion proceedings, asking him to veto the legislation should

it reach his desk.

In the letter, dated March 3, Piepgrass called the legislation a "last-ditch attempt" to stop the reversion and pointed out that there is no precedent for such a referendum within the current reversion process.

Eric Phillips, chairman of the Henry County-Martinsville Republican Committee, said he attended an event at which Youngkin was the keynote speaker just hours after the legislation was signed.

When he approached Youngkin to thank him on behalf of the area, Phillips said the governor responded, "I really took a long, hard look at that. I wanted to make sure I was doing the right thing. In the end, I felt like it was the most fair thing. I felt like it was the best thing for the area to give the people a chance to vote on that legislation."

Pearson said Tuesday, "I am so excited and thank-

ful" that the legislation "giving Martinsville citizens the opportunity to vote on whether we should revert from a city to a town" was signed by the governor. "I truly believe this will give our citizens the opportunity to let their voices be heard."

Pearson said she did not know "how this bill will play out in regards to the reversion process, I do know that we are now under litigation," but she noted that "this may be a great time to tap the brakes before we spend even more than the \$783,000 than we have already spent on legal fees and other reversion costs, and really discuss how we can put this bill into action."

However, as City Attorney Eric Monday was not present at the meeting "and that is really more under his purview, I really look forward to hearing from him regarding that," she added.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| 1. Runs PCs | 30. Marry | 1. Small, purple-black fruit | —Wan |
| 4. An entertaining, eccentric person | 31. Buffer solution | 2. Baltimore ballplayer | 24. Clumsy person |
| 7. Small, faint constellation | 32. Legendary rock band | 3. Highly seasoned sausage | 27. Figures |
| 8. Indigo bush | 39. Recording industry show | 4. Split pulses | 28. Polish Baltic coast peninsula |
| 10. Not excessive | 41. A way to consume | 5. Northwestern Mexico town | 29. Old cloth |
| 12. African antelope | 42. Lake in Botswana | 6. Edible fruit | 31. Explosive |
| 13. A way to fly a glider | 43. Political action committee | 8. Upper-class southern young woman | 32. Automobiles |
| 14. Tough softly | 44. Field force unit (abbr.) | 9. Sums up | 33. 007's creator |
| 16. In the course of | 45. Very eager | 11. The most worthless part | 34. The Volunteer State |
| 17. Early Mesoamerican people | 46. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues | 14. Dash | 35. Old Irish alphabet |
| 19. A way to drop down | 48. Nocturnal insect | 15. Sufferings | 36. Japanese city |
| 20. Mistake! | 49. Challenged to perform | 18. Clearinghouse (abbr.) | 37. Portrayed emotion |
| 21. Housing developments | 50. Thus far | 19. Indian title of respect | 38. Observers |
| 25. Baseball stat | 51. Famed NYC arena | 20. Poems meant to be sung | 39. Mimicked |
| 26. No (Scottish) | 52. Commercials | 22. Actor Cooper | 40. Polite reference to a woman |
| 27. Type of cuisine | | | 44. Male parent |
| 29. British Army infantry- | | | 47. Peter Griffin's daughter |

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Ukraine

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sought conquest, but the right to rule themselves in their own homeland and to define for themselves who are Ukrainians and what is Ukraine.”

Ukraine's long history

That history began, Demiray said, when the first real state centered in Ukrainian lands, Kyivan Rus', was founded by Vikings traveling from Scandinavia to establish trade routes and established power in Kyiv. Kyivan Rus' came to an end on when the city of Kyiv was captured by Mongols in 1240. The ruler at the time, Prince Danylo of Galicia, became a vassal of the Mongols, as did the princes of other cities, including Moscow, which had been established in 1147.

Demiray said the Mongol rulers created the office of the grand prince of Rus to help them collect tribute from their subjects. Eventually, Moscow won the struggle for that office and moved the seat of the Orthodox Church, which originated in Kyivan Rus', to Moscow. That, Demiray explained, is the basis for Russia's claim that the Russians and Ukrainians are one people, with Russia taking on the role of the dominant “older brother.”

Eventually, the Mongols withdrew from Eastern Europe and the area they had conquered was divided between the kingdom of Poland and the grand duchy

of Lithuania.

In 1476, Grand Prince Ivan III, the first ruler of Moscow to call himself tsar, declared independence from the remaining Mongols still exerting power over the area and began a campaign of “gathering Rus' lands,” during which he took over several city states and even laid claim to lands that were outside of the former Mongol realm, including those in what is now Ukraine.

In 1648, Bohdan Khmelnytsky, a military chief (hetman) of a group of rural Ukrainians known as Cossacks, led a revolt against Polish rule in Ukraine which forced the Polish king to recognize an independent Cossack state in 1649. Just a few years later, in 1651, the Cossacks were abandoned by their Crimean Tartar allies, which resulted in Khmelnytsky signing the Treaty of Pereiaslave with Russian Tsar Aleksei.

According to Demiray, this treaty is “a bone of contention in Russian-Ukrainian history to this day. Russian history regards it a reunification of Ukraine and Russia, but Ukrainian historians believe the Cossacks viewed the treaty as more of a contract in which the Cossacks pledged loyalty and military service in exchange for protection by the tsar, thinking they were not giving up their autonomous state.

“The tsar however, saw the opportunity to gather more

of the historic Rus' lands that he thought belonged by right to Muscovy (Moscow), and this was the first big step of Russia into what is now Ukrainian lands. Future tsars of Russia would enlarge the area controlled by the Russian empire,” Demiray said.

Half a century later, Demiray said, another Cossack hetman, Ivan Mazepa, joined forces with Charles XII of Sweden to fight against Tsar Peter the Great of Russia. The Cossack and Swedish armies were defeated at the Battle of Poltava in Ukraine in July 1709, in part due to the destruction of the Cossack capital, Baturyn, and its military and grain supplies by Russian forces.

“The town's defenders,” Demiray said, “more than 10,000 people, were massacred by Russian forces, including women and children ... In Russian history, Mazepa is a traitor to his tsar. To Ukrainians, (he is) a fighter for a Cossack nation, separate and independent from Moscow.”

Demiray described a number of other historically significant moments in the history of Ukraine/Russia relations—the continued expansion of the Russian empire, including into Ukrainian lands, and the development of a Ukrainian national consciousness through language, literature and culture. The movement

was led in part by a group of Ukrainian intellectuals, most of whom were arrested by officials of the Russian empire and not allowed to return to their country.

In 1917, according to Demiray, the Ukrainian idea suddenly came to fruition when a revolution forced the Russian tsar to abdicate, creating a constitutional state in Russia. A group of politicians and intellectuals formed the Central Rada, a government for an independent Ukraine. The independent state was short-lived, however, Demiray said, giving way to a Ukrainian Soviet state controlled by the Bolsheviks which, after years of civil war, formally joined other Soviet republics to form the United Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) in 1922.

Demiray said the USSR's first leader, Vladimir Lenin, largely allowed Ukraine to remain autonomous, using in-state administration and fostering the development of Ukrainian education and culture. That policy was reversed, however, when Joseph Stalin came to power. Demiray said Ukrainian intellectuals and writers were among the victims of Stalin's Great Terror.

“Stalin's most heinous crime against Ukraine,” she said, was the famine of 1932-33, called the Terror Famine by Ukrainians. It was caused by his policies of rapid collectivization of peasant farms and seizure of grain stocks,

which were exported to earn money for industrialization and feed the cities of the USSR. “At least 4 million Ukrainians perished from starvation,” she said.

Finally, in December 1991, the Soviet Union was dissolved. Demiray said Ukraine's parliament had already declared independence, a decision ratified by 90 percent of voters in a referendum, creating a fully independent Ukraine.

Just over a decade later, in 2004, Ukrainians participated in the Orange Revolution. “Following a clear attempt by pro-Moscow and Putin-backed (presidential) candidate Viktor Yanukovich to falsify the results of the (Ukrainian) presidential election, thousands of Ukrainians rallied across the country and on Independence Square in Kyiv, camping out in freezing weather and demanding a fair election.” Eventually, the election results were thrown out and a new election, held under close observation, was held. Pro-Western candidate Viktor Yushchenko was declared the winner.

In 2010, the Putin-backed Yanukovich won the presidential election, more closely aligning Ukraine with Russia. Under pressure from Moscow, Yanukovich declined to sign a trade agreement with the European Union, sparking protests in Kyiv “which were met with brutal force by riot police.” A large-scale protest movement

once again brought thousands to Kyiv's Independence Square, where they clashed with security forces, who reportedly shot nearly 100 protesters in one month. Yanukovich fled to Russia just before he was impeached by parliament.

“This time, Putin reacted with force,” she said, “occupying and then annexing Crimea and fomenting rebellion in parts of eastern Ukraine. The self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk Peoples Republics, heavily backed by Russian money, weapons, and mar power engaged in war with Ukraine in 2014 and 2015 that, despite a formal ceasefire, has cost over 14,000 lives and displaced about 2 million Ukrainians.”

Demiray said Ukrainians feel that the war that is happening now is a continuation of the war that they've been fighting since 2014.

The war today

Demiray said the anti-Ukraine propaganda campaign launched by Russia began in earnest after the events of 2013 and 2014 that led to President Yanukovich fleeing Ukraine and Russia's subsequent annexation of Crimea.

At the time, Putin was already cracking down in Russia because he had witnessed the events of the Arab Spring and even demonstrations in his own country

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Demolition

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ket at 710 Fayette Street (A+), Ku Wat at 714 Fayette Street (A), and Paradise Inn at 802 Fayette Street (A+).

Information provided in a PowerPoint to council showed that, in 2021, the city conducted 15 demolitions, six of which were due to code enforcement. Of those, none were paid for by the city.

“Typically, about half of all the demolitions that happen in the city, we are involved in in some shape or form due to code enforcement, and about half or less than that the city has to pay for,” he said.

Bridges said that, for his office to get involved with a structure, his team has to be able to see the violation from the right of way, unless they are granted entry to the property. Police or firefighters can call them into a structure. He said his team cannot go to extraordinary measures to see the violations.

Bridges suggested other considerations could be given to how properties slated for demolition are handled, depending on the situation. For example, if a property has delinquent taxes and no payment plan, the city might consider acquiring the property and reuse it for future development rather than placing a lien on it.

Chamber of Commerce Council members

also heard a presentation from Lisa Watkins of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. She said that, since the onset of the pandemic, her staff has helped local businesses access \$4.6 million in funding “and we're continuing to do that,” particularly as COVID relief funds begin to dwindle and the applicant pool becomes more competitive.

The chamber's Startup and Grow MHC programs, two small business development competitions, brought in 62 applicants this year, she said. Of the total, 26 were selected and Startup business plans were recently submitted. In the 6-years since the programs began, there has been an 86 percent success rate. The programs also have generated \$3.5 million in capital investment and created 109 jobs.

The program's audience is diverse, Watkins said, as she distributed a handout breaking down the demographics of the total participation in the Startup program. According to the information provided, 53 percent of Startup participants are Black, 43 percent are white, 51 percent are male and 48 percent are female. Of those participating in the Grow program, 42 percent are Black, 53 percent are white, and 5 percent are Latinx.

Since the pandemic, “we

have had 27 new offerings in the uptown business footprint,” which included three expansions of current businesses and 24 new businesses, she said.

Council member Danny Turner said years ago, “it was obvious that the donation that was made to the EDC (Economic Development Corporation) wasn't benefiting Martinsville in the way that we hoped it would.” The city “redirected the money and you have made great use of it. I think this is a great testament of money well spent ... we've gotten a good return on that money.”

Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles said she was part of the vote to redirect money from the EDC to the chamber during her first term on council. The decision was a difficult and controversial one, “but you put your money where your mouth

is and you've done what you needed to do. You don't just talk the talk, you walk the walk.”

In other matters, the council:

*Approved the minutes from the March 8 and March 22 council meetings.

*Recognized city employees eligible for service awards. They are Joshua Setliff (5 years), Brandon McAlexander (5 years), Margie Woods (5 years), Karen Roberts (10 years), Dina Davis (10 years), Kathryn Dodson (10 years), Amanda Shoup (10 years), Robert Jones (20 years), Cynthia Carson (20 years), Shannon Agee (20 years), Kimberly Boyd (20 years), Michael Scaffidi (30 years), and City Manager Leon Towarnicki (40 years).

*Read and presented a proclamation recognizing April 2022 as Child Abuse

Prevention Month.

*Read a proclamation recognizing April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City of Martinsville

*Read and presented a proclamation recognizing the week of April 10-16, 2022 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

*Approved a resolution celebrating April as Fair Housing Month.

*Heard and update from Next P.L.A.N Athletics (NPA) on the Martinsville Mustangs. The city has contracted with NPA for management services for the 2022 season.

*Authorized city staff to execute an option agreement in the amount of \$5,000 with Martinsville Methodist Properties, Inc. for the possible acquisition of the former American of

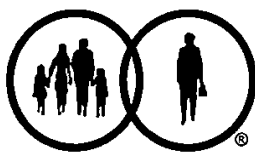
Martinsville

Furniture plant at the corner of Depot and Lester Streets for potential reuse. The agreement provides the Martinsville Redevelopment and Housing Authority with an 18-month option to purchase the property for a cost to be negotiated later.

*Approved the consent agenda.

*Towarnicki told council members that city staff would summarize the results of the city's online survey and email correspondence regarding ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding to present to council, likely at its next meeting. He said the city hoped to provide recommendations on the formation of a committee tasked with determining uses for the funds at that next meeting as well.

PATRICK COUNTY FAMILY PRACTICE, P.C.



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PAMELA WRIGHT, FNP-C
BRITTNEY DILLON, FNP-C
KAITLYN G. COBLER, FNP-C
ELIZABETH SHOCKLEY, FNP-C

April 4, 2022

Dear Patients,

It has been my pleasure to serve our community for the past 24 years, first as an obstetrician/gynecologist with a small amount of family medicine that slowly developed into family medicine full time. I have had the privilege of meeting a great many people and developing lifelong friendships with many patients. But now is the time for me to retire and pass along my patients to the other competent providers here at Patrick County Family Practice.

Please know that your medical records are safely on file here at Patrick County Family Practice and remain confidential as per federal law. If you decide to take on a new physician outside of our practice, then you can follow the traditional routes to have your records transferred.

Over the past 24 years I have watched many families in the area grow and have shared heartache and joy with hundreds of patients. I appreciate your loyalty throughout the years and will take the memories of all that I have experienced with me into my retirement.

If you have any questions, you can contact Patrick County Family Practice at 276-694-4466 or at www.patrickcountyfamilypractice.com.

My retirement is effective April 28, 2022.

If I do not have an appointment to see you before April 28th, I wish you health and happiness.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph L. Kramer, M.D.

Ralph L. Kramer, M.D.

18877 Jeb Stuart Hwy • P.O. Box 1019 • Stuart, Virginia 24171-1019
 Telephone (276) 694-4466 • Fax (276) 694-2909 • www.patrickcountyfamilypractice.com



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OPINION

A visit to Planet Golf

A couple of months ago, my girlfriend Lauren's brother Jacob finally managed to snag two passes to The Masters Tournament after years of trying, and he asked me if I'd like to tag along with him on one of the days. I think I said yes before he had completely finished asking the question.

It may surprise regular readers to know I have an interest in golf. When I was a little kid, my dad did his level best to instill in me a love of the sport. His attempts were at least a partial success; while I enjoy watching golf, my skill at the game doesn't extend much past Putt-Putt and Tiger Woods PGA Tour '14 on the Xbox. Nonetheless, an opportunity to head to Augusta National Country Club and experience The Masters was something I couldn't possibly pass up.

I'll admit, I was a little nervous about the trip. If you're not familiar, Augusta National is a unique place. They have strict rules, and if you don't follow them, you're banned for life, presumably along with your present and future descendants. No cell phones or cameras are allowed at The Masters. There's no run-

ning. There's no loud talking. If someone makes a bad shot, you don't dare cheer.

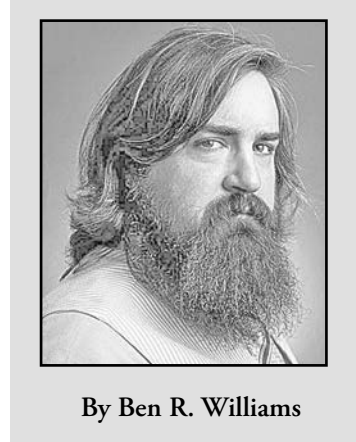
You also can't steal anything, even sand. Just ask Clayton Baker, a Texan who tried to steal a cup of sand from a sand trap back at the 2012 Masters. He was immediately surrounded by security, thrown to the ground, and arrested. The whole incident ended up costing him about \$20,000 in legal fees plus a healthy dose of shame and embarrassment.

As someone who has always had a healthy distrust of authority, Augusta's rules can seem a bit extreme. I was afraid that I might sneeze at the wrong time and end up inside a secret prison beneath the 18th hole, forced to survive off the club's famous pimiento cheese sandwiches until Jacob could post my bond.

And in fact, upon entering Augusta National last Friday, I was called to a second security checkpoint where I had metal detector wands waved over me until it was determined I wasn't a threat. I couldn't blame security, though, since I was at the nation's most prestigious golf course and I look the way I do;

I'm more John Daly than Arnold Palmer.

There are only about 300 members of Augusta



By Ben R. Williams

National at any given time, and it's strictly invitation only. Similarly, getting the opportunity to buy a pass to The Masters is a matter of hard work and sheer chance. All of that is to say that many people never get a chance to witness the tournament except on TV, and getting the opportunity to set foot on the grounds of Augusta National is an honor.

And I am here to tell you, it lived up to all of the hype. Once you set foot in Augusta National, you are no longer in Augusta, Georgia; you are on Planet Golf, a wonderful place where the azaleas are in bloom,

the grass is pristine, any stray litter is swept away within seconds, and everything is as well-planned and efficient as humanly possible. There is no traffic noise in Augusta National. Subterranean vacuums suck the excess moisture from the greens to ensure they play perfectly. No matter how many people are in line at the concessions stand, you can get a sandwich and a drink within five minutes. It's as well-engineered as Disney World, but without all the noise and children.

Jacob and I got to see some amazing sights while at The Masters. We sat in the bleachers at the famous "Amen Corner" where you can get a great vantage point on the 11th, 12th, and 13th holes. We saw Hideki Matsuyama, winner of last year's tournament. We saw Tiger Woods play, and while he played pretty poorly by Tiger Woods standards, he played excellently by the standards of a guy who nearly lost his leg in a car accident a year ago. And while we didn't see any hole-in-ones, we did see Larry Mize, winner of the 1987 Masters, accidentally hit a dude with a golf ball. To paraphrase the late Mitch Hedberg, it was way more satisfying.

My favorite moment, however, came when we were

standing along the 13th fairway. A distant scoreboard (operated by actual people instead of machinery) rolled over to reveal the next three golfers who would be playing the 13th. One of the names was Fred Couples.

A former World No. 1 golfer, Couples won the Masters back in 1992. He was one of the greatest golfers of the '80s and '90s, a figure that I was very familiar with from watching golf with my dad when I was a kid.

Watching Fred Couples play, I was able to understand the magic of The Masters. It was a beautiful, breezy spring day. The azaleas were in full bloom. Most importantly, there wasn't a single cell phone in sight. There were no tablets, no noise-making electronic devices. It was just me and Jacob standing quietly and politely with a bunch of other quiet and polite folks watching Fred Couples fire a 100-yard shot from beneath a pine tree to land a ball within spitting distance of the green, and for a moment, you could almost pretend it was not the hideous year 2022, but the year 1992, a time when politics weren't so polarized, Vladimir Putin was still an unknown KGB thug, and you could own your own home without having to sell your organs.

Of course, it helps that the beer is only five bucks a pint.

Native American speaker, author to present program in Bassett

Renaé 'Spring Morning' Wagoner, a Native American speaker, storyteller, and recently published author of the book titled "The Poems and Stories That Fulfill the Promise," will present a "catch-all" program of legends and stories while attempting to dispel some misconceptions

surrounding Native People on Tuesday, May 10, at 10:30 a.m. at the Bassett Historical Center.

This program is free and open to the public and will be held in the Susan L. Adkins Memorial Meeting Room.

Masks are optional.

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Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

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If you have news about or an upcoming event for your organization, company or church, email dhall@theenterprise.net and/or call (276) 694-3101

Revitalization

from page 1

are currently part of UP, a steering committee will be created to help drive the decision-making process as to what the community wants to see take place as revitalization moves forward, Deacon said.

Aaron Rawls, a local business owner, was among the first to speak. He challenged one of the findings presented in Downtown Economics' study, which determined that there is a need in Martinsville for social connection and places to gather.

"Do we feel like there are opportunities that are lacking for people to gather and have social connection?" he asked. Others spoke about the need they saw for more diversity in the types of gathering spaces in uptown.

Rob King, who is on UP's board of directors, said, "we need people and organizations in the community to create opportunities for engagement, but we need business owners, we need the community to create places that are appropriate for that engagement, like the one we're sitting in right now."

He noted that the city has not recently spent a good deal of money on its parks. "We had community involvement, like the skateboard park when kids raised \$150,000 to build a skateboard park, that is used ... and that was community involvement, not city involvement. And the truth is, the city needs to pony up and spend some money to make this place where people want to come."

Industries that are trying to attract employees to the area are facing difficulty because of a lack of opportunities for social engagement uptown, he said. "I don't have a brewery; I don't have a pool hall. Whatever the social engagement is, whatever the people are looking for, that's what we want uptown."

Martinsville Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles, who said she was attending the meeting as a resident of Martinsville's west end, said one of the focal points of the community-driven revisioning survey (part of Downtown Economics' data collection) for some of those she spoke with and for herself was about the need for more diverse options and opportunities for the community to gather. An event like Rooster Walk, she said, while hugely popular, might not appeal to all music lovers or all parts of the community, some of whom, for example, may prefer R&B to rock music.

"I wrote the need for social connection and places that are more diverse and inclusive," she said.

Cary Smith, who works with Hairston Funeral Home, said that revitalization seems to stop at the corner of Market at Fayette Streets. Just across Market Street, on the other side of Fayette, "we don't see improvement."

Deacon said that one of the bigger recommendations provided was to pay more attention to that corridor.

Heather Blankenbaker said, "I hear you talking a lot about community engagement and I want to know what that looks like specifically, because outside of word of mouth, I wouldn't have even known about this meeting tonight. I hear you talk about surveys and all that, that's great, but how are you really reaching 13,000 residents in Martinsville? Are we utilizing social media to get the word out about these meetings? Are we using social media for these surveys so the community is aware of the decisions being made?"

She added that, particularly with younger crowds that aren't as inclined to pick up a newspaper, alternative

methods must be used to spread the word.

Deacon said UP's Facebook page increased from 50 to 1,800 followers since May of last year. "We are trying to get the word out," she said, and asked those in the room to help spread the word as well.

"It's your responsibility to make sure that every single person that you come in contact with knows there are opportunities for your voices to be heard in this community," Deacon said.

Scott Norman, who noted that his family has been in the area for nearly 200 years, said he "tripped over this meeting." He pointed out that there were only nine business owners he knew of in the audience. "There are dozens of us that have spent our lives trying to make Martinsville a better place," he said, and added that there were many others who have done the same. "We've got to get the word out to those people ... these old guard people who have been here for all of these years, we've got to get it out here to the people who have been breaking a sweat," he said to applause from the crowd.

Brian Gravely, who said he was born and raised locally, referenced previous discussions in city council meetings about whether the city should use some of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to purchase properties in uptown. "A lot of people say that's rewarding bad tenants, but I think it's critical" that the city buy the buildings and "get them in the hands of investors" to help provide some of the diversity of gathering places mentioned previously.

"With the limited buildings, and the old guard controlling who gets in certain things, eliminates certain people wanting to engage in uptown," he said.

Dr. Mervyn King, who said he came to Martinsville in 1964, also took issue with some of uptown's property owners. He said he decided to get into real estate development in the early 2000s.

"Every building I have is ready today. Why can't other developers do this if I can do it? Why can't they be successful," King asked.

He added that, just around courthouse square (which he renovated), "three buildings are basically falling down. No one will do anything with them. You can advertise all you want to get all these people in town. Is there a building ready now for somebody to come to town to start a business? I don't think there is."

He said those property owners who allow buildings to fall into disrepair should be financially penalized for their delinquent care. "Why doesn't the city do anything about it?" he asked.

As an investor, Eric Phillips said he was frustrated at the lack of investment opportunities he found in uptown and suggested the creation of an investors' group.

Referencing earlier comments from those who complained they had not heard about the meeting, he said, "If you care about your community, you put forth a little effort. I make a conscious effort to be involved in the things that I care about."

Tim Martin, a property owner in uptown, said that, though he and his family are "all for the work," he did "have many issues with this overall personally, and my family does as well as a lot of my colleagues."

Deacon noted an issue she was hav-

ing to get property owners engaged. She said that as UP moved forward on renovating the Bridge Street alleyway behind the Holt Building, she reached out many times to the owners who have buildings that abut the alley, "and we get no response. We want to move forward, we know that the property owners have to be included, but you guys have to be engaged as well."

"I think I'm quite engaged," Martin replied. "I want to make it clear, we are open to change and I think we proved it ... we've rented over 30 buildings, and I want to continue to do so. And yes, I run it like a business. I am so sorry if I don't appease everybody."

Jeff Porter, who said he came to Martinsville in 1986 to work at Patrick & Henry Community College and now owns property in uptown, spoke to the need for positivity. "When all the factories closed, you couldn't give away property in uptown," he said. "It's important to know how far we have come. There's work to be done and improvements to be made. I think we have to look at all the hard work that property owners in particular have put in."

DeShanta Hairston, owner of Books and Crannies, said that she feels there is often a certain amount of pushback and even fear in the community when someone tries to do something new, and specifically referenced her shop's recent "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" drive thru event. She said there is a need to make sure the growth in the city was not "growth we've already seen" in Martinsville. "When we're no longer here, we need Martinsville to continue to thrive, so we need things that will keep (people) here" to carry on the work," she said.

Other topics of discussion touched on one person's view that Market Street acting as a divider between "two very different parts of the community," the need for more youth-friendly options in the uptown area, including places for teens and young adults to spend time, the need to make adjacent neighborhoods more connected, and the issue of where funding for the revitalization effort would come from, and in what amount.

Deacon replied that the organization could not come up with a budget until the community decides what to prioritize in terms of revitalization, noting that the night's conversation marked the beginning of the decision-making process.

Despite rumors, "Uptown Partnership has never walked into the city's office and asked or lobbied for any of that ARPA funding. We were invited into a conversation." She added that the Harvest Foundation has funded the organization through the end of December, but that funding does not include money for projects.

The event, Deacon said "is just the beginning of what we will all explore together."

The remaining community conversations are scheduled for Thursday, April 28 from 12-1:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 11 from 6-7:30 p.m., and Saturday, June 4 from 1-2:30 p.m. Locations for the meetings have yet to be determined. In an email to the event attendees, Deacon wrote that the PowerPoint presentation and the full vision plan created by Downtown Economics would be available on UP's website by the end of the week. To stay up to date with the meeting announcements, find Martinsville UP on Facebook or visit MartinsvilleUP.com.

OBITUARIES

James Douglas Soots

James Douglas Soots, 30, of Martinsville VA, passed away Saturday, April 9, 2022. He was born September 17, 1991, in Martinsville, VA.

James was a member of Compassion Church in Axton, VA. He graduated from Hope Center Ministries as a community leader. James volunteered at Axton Rescue Squad. He was an avid guitar player, self-taught pianist, and music lover. He graduated from Martinsville High School with honors and received his associate degree from Patrick Henry Community College in 2009. He attended James Madison University following high school. He loved being outside and being with family. He worked alongside his father and brothers at Soots Construction. He is loved by many friends and family.

James was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Sue Scott; and paternal grandfather, Ralph Soots.



He is survived by his father and mother, Steve & Tammie Soots of Martinsville; his two brothers, Jesse Soots (Kelly) and Jacob Soots; one niece, Olivia Soots; and one nephew, Noah Soots. Also surviving are his paternal grandmother, Sandra Dalton; maternal grandfather, James Scott; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A viewing will be from 10 to 11 a.m. on Friday, April 15, 2022, at Compassion Church, 6871 Irisburg Road, Axton, VA 24054. The funeral follows at 11 a.m. with Travis Byrd officiating. The family will receive friends following the service at the home.

Memorial donations may be made to Hope Center Ministries, 6871 Irisburg Rd., Axton, VA 24054.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Soots family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

Robert "Bobby" Evan Meador

Robert "Bobby" Evan Meador passed away April 6, 2022. He was born in Roanoke, Virginia on November 28, 1964.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ben and Sue Meador. He is survived by his wife, Julie Dillow Meador, sisters Sue (Jim) Haley and Liza (Graham) White; brother Sandy (Tina) Meador; niece Rachel (Aaron) Brown; nephews David (Briana) Haley, Zachary (Kristi Meadows) White, Bennett (Alex Groen) White; great-nephew Sam Brown and great-niece Maevae Brown; sisters-in-law Faith (Mark) Esposito and their family, Nick (Lauren) Esposito and their children, Mia and Murdoch, Chance Esposito, and Reed (Liz) Esposito; Sumer (Doy) Rayburn and their family, Logan (Stephany Campbell) Rayburn and Lincoln Rayburn; Beth Rhinehart and her family, Dalton (Amy Somsen) Rhinehart, Wynston Rhinehart, and McKinley (Desmond) Austin; Noel (Paul) Ware and their family, Holston and Amelia Ware; and brother-in-law Rim (Alyson) Dillow and his family, Muriel and Judge Dillow.

He is also survived by his beloved dogs Lewy and Finley. He never met a stranger; he made many friends during his lifetime.

Bobby graduated from Bassett High School in 1983. He attended Emory



& Henry College and graduated in 1987. In August of 1989, he started Meadorwoods Landscaping and Nursery, Inc. He started another business, Lawn Rescue, in 2020. He loved the outdoors and his dogs. Christmas was his favorite time of year. He began decorating for Christmas in September of each year. He was a diehard fan of the Carolina Tarheels. He enjoyed his life and sharing it with others. He planted seeds both figuratively and literally.

Visitation will be held Friday, April 15, 2022, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Wright Funeral Service & Crematory. A Celebration of Life follows at 3 p.m. Wear your Carolina blue and bring a memory to share.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Robert "Bobby" Meador to the Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation. Contributions may be made online at <http://patrickfoundation.com>, please note "In Memory of Robert 'Bobby' Meador." Checks can also be mailed to: P&HCC Foundation, 645 Patriot Ave, Martinsville, VA 24112. Please make checks payable to 'P&HCC Foundation' and include "In memory of Robert 'Bobby' Meador" in the memo.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

Maurice Dunkle Ruddle

Maurice Dunkle Ruddle, 91, of Bassett, VA passed away Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at Stanleytown Health and Rehab Center. He was born November 26, 1930, in Pendleton, WV to the late Newton Decatur Ruddle and Mary Howard Dunkle Ruddle. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Louise Wright Ruddle; sisters, Helen McGhee, Eloise Richard, and Carolyn Ruddle; and brothers, Newton and Stanley Ruddle.

Mr. Ruddle was a member of Stanleytown United Methodist Church. He retired as the Resource Manager at Philpott Lake. He served in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for 37 years and served honorably in the Korean War.

He is survived by his daughter, Lisa Leigh Ernest (David); step-grandchild-



dren, Nicole Ernest and Drew Ernest (Emily); step-great-grandchildren, Olivia and Charlotte Ernest; and sisters, Mary Lee Ruddle, JoAnn Rinaldi, and Nancy Walker.

A visitation will be held from 12:30 to 1 p.m. on Monday, April 18, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA. The memorial service

will be held at 1 p.m. with Rev. David Westmoreland officiating. Inurnment will be at Roselawn Abbey.

Memorial donations may be made to Stanleytown United Methodist Church, 24 Maplewood Ave., Stanleytown, VA 24168.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Ruddle family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

Marie Akers Davis

Marie Akers Davis, 95, of Collinsville, VA passed away Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at Sovah-Health Martinsville. She was born April 9, 1926, to the late Rice Akers and Josie Brammer Akers. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Lee Davis, Sr.

Mrs. Davis attended National Business College at Ferrum College and was employed for 40 years at Bassett Bank. She made sourdough bread for over 39 years. She loved to travel, loved time with her family and cooking. She was a member of Smith Memorial United Methodist Church and was involved in the Women's Circle.

She is survived by her sons, Charles Lee



Davis (Nancy) and Kevin Lang Davis; granddaughters, Megan McGregor (Scott) and Erica Ennis (Jeff); great-grandchildren, Liam and Davis McGregor, and Emersyn and Adley Ennis.

The funeral was held on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services with David Guenther officiating. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Memorial donations may be made to Smith Memorial United Methodist Church, P. O. Box 1081, Collinsville, VA 24078.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Davis family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

Donald Wayne Fain

Donald Wayne Fain, 74, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Friday, April 8, 2022, at Franklin Health and Rehabilitation Center. He was born on July 22, 1947, in Stuart, VA to the late Edna Lovell Fain and James Fain. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Frank Hall; sister, Martha Sue Hooker; sister-in-law, Diann Haynes and son-in-law, James F. Wheeler, Jr.

Mr. Fain served in the United States Army and was a Vietnam War veteran.

He is survived by his wife, Lena Arrington Fain; daughters, Angie Overton (Craig) and Kim Wheeler (Scott Shytle); siblings, Avery Hall (Sally), Doyle Fain (Martha), Robert H. Fain, Mary Frances "Sis" Bryant, Stanley Fain (Jennifer) and



Phillip Fain; brothers-in-laws, James Arrington, Jr. (Kim) and Donald Haynes. Also surviving is his grandchildren, Christopher Turner, Nathaniel Overton and Hannah Overton, great-grandson, Zane Turner and a host of nieces and nephews.

The funeral was held on Sunday, April 10, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville Chapel. Pastor Dean Ashby officiated. Burial was at Roselawn Burial Park.

Memorials may be made to County Line Christian Church, 12711 Old Chatham Road, Axton, VA 24054.

Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Fain family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

Carol Jeanne Giles

Carol Jeanne Giles, 73, of Martinsville, Virginia passed away Wednesday, April 6, 2022, in Pearisburg, Virginia to the late William McKinley Giles and Margaret Martin Giles. She enjoyed jewelry making, needlepoint and making quilts.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Michael Giles and Ronald Giles.

She is survived by sons, Chris

Cameron, Tim Cameron and Matt Oller; and grandchildren, Caitlyn Cameron, Nicholas Cameron, Christina Cameron, Cassandra Cameron, Laura Cameron and Ronald Oller.

All services will be private.

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

Ukraine from page 3

protesting elections that the populace said were flawed. Putin believed, Demiray said, that such demonstrations were dangerous, especially as one had successfully ejected a Ukrainian leader friendly to Putin.

"So, he (Putin) then cracked down more in Russia and really started pushing that Ukraine was captive of these (Western) forces" who he accused of organizing demonstrations against Russia and against

him personally. He spread information that Ukrainians "couldn't be trusted and they were against him and they were Nazis," and accused them of aggression against those living in Crimea, saying it "was a sign of what they

would do in Russia if they had the chance. They would kill everybody."

Now, she said, "there has been so much propaganda, almost brainwashing" of Russian citizens that, though it is hard to know whether or not the people of Russia agree with this latest act of aggression, "there's so much control now in Russia that you just have to go along with things." She pointed out that many of Russia's younger, more educated population is leaving the country. "There's no opposition left in Russia. Alexei Navalny was the only credible opposition left and he's in prison."

The propaganda campaign has been so successful, she said, that even some families with relatives living in both Russia and Ukraine cannot agree on what is happening. "You see people talking about how, after the invasion, their families back in Russia didn't believe what was going on when they actually spoke to them," she said, adding that the Russian relatives accused their Ukrainian family members of making up the reports they were sharing.

This is a vast change from Russia as it was during the early post-Soviet era, she said, when there were a number of political parties in Russia and

(mostly) freely contested elections. "Nowadays, it seems that Putin has such a hold on things that there is no real opposition and people pretty much do what they're told or leave," Demiray explained.

Ukraine, she said, has been more successful at developing a "civil society" than Russia, including a populace that is concerned with civic engagement and an independent media. "This is something they never had during the Soviet era and something that Russia developed, but now has no longer," she said.

She, like many others, said she does not know how the current conflict might resolve, or when.

"There are lots of things that could happen. I think U.S. and NATO policy looks to be arming Ukraine and supporting Ukraine to the point that Ukrainian forces can push the Russians out or at least stalemate them to the point where Putin stops fighting and then maybe there will be some kind of a peace conference and we'll see whether there have to be territorial concessions."

At the moment, Demiray said, "the most important thing is that Putin is stopped, he gets no further, and if possible is pushed out because right now Ukraine doesn't control its southern

coast at all, and that's one of the real problems for the country and the world." She explained that Ukraine, a major exporter of grain, particularly to Africa and to the United Nations world food program, cannot access its ports, it cannot export its food.

Demiray said that she still has friends in the country, some of whom have fled to Poland, but others who remain in Ukraine. Thus far, no one she knows has been killed in the conflict.

"The thing that I've heard talking with them and seen on their Facebook pages is ... the downright hatred for Russia" from people who have not normally taken strong political stances publicly. "That's going to be something that's going to last for a long time," she said.

The movement of Ukrainian patriotism, which began in earnest more than a century ago, has now taken on a new form, Demiray said. What once was an effort to craft a national identity through language, literature, and culture is now "based on facing a common foe" in Russia.

"We can only hope that Ukraine will prevail," Demiray said. "As its national anthem says, 'Ukraine has not yet perished.'"

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CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad or for more information call (276) 694-3101.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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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HELP WANTED

Fairy Stone State Park
967 Fairstone Lake Drive
Stuart, VA 24171
Natural Resource Specialist
II - 59112
Park Ranger Housekeeping \$31,746 - \$46,355
Closes On: 04/25/2022
Submit Application here: <https://virginiajobs.peopleadmin.com/postings/279820>

The Park Ranger Housekeeping candidate will supervise and/or assist in the general housekeeping, maintenance, and operations of Fairy Stone State Park. DCR is looking for a qualified and professional manager to provide good public relations as well as disseminate information, literature, and directions to the visiting public. The core duties will consist of delivering quality and effective cleaning and servicing standards of park cabins, bathhouses, and restrooms. The Park Ranger may also be responsible for upkeep of vehicles, grounds, equipment, and facilities and possess knowledge and ability to operate vehicles and equipment in a safe and proper manner. Qualified candidates will have extensive knowledge and supervisory experience in the housekeeping or janitorial profession; housekeeping procedures; experience with facility cleaning; ability to plan and organize housekeeping activities; ability to review daily reports, follow up, and ensure timely completion of tasks; and the ability to interact with the general public in a positive way. Must possess ability to work in diverse conditions including exposure to the outdoors, weather in all seasons, dust, animals and insects; ability to lead, direct, and train others; ability to perform heavy manual labor to include standing, bending, pulling, climbing, and frequent lifting up to 50 lbs. Must possess or have the ability to obtain a valid driver's license, certifications in CPR, First Aid, or other certifications as required. High school graduate or equivalent. State applications will only be accepted as submitted online by 11:59 pm on the closing date through the Recruitment Management System (RMS).

DCR is an Equal Opportunity Employer and all qualified applicants will be afforded equal opportunities without regard for race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, veteran status, political affiliation, genetics, or disability.

P&HCC

Patrick & Henry Community College in Martinsville, VA has the following job openings: Physical Therapist Assistant Faculty/Program Director, Assistant Athletic Director for Operations, Janitor, Building and Grounds Technician, Workforce Grants Specialist, Workforce Grants Advisor, Science Lab Assistant, MHC After 3 Program Leader, MHC After 3 After School Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty in Communication Studies (Speech)- Patrick County and Main Campus Sites, English,

Mechatronics, NCCER Plumbing, Nursing, and Welding. For details and application information please visit <http://patrickhenry.edu/>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on Employment Opportunities. Patrick & Henry Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or veteran's status. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Ferrum College - Farm Museum Interpreter (Seasonal)

Ferrum College is seeking outgoing Museum Interpreter's to work with visitors at the Blue Ridge Institute & Museum's (BRIM) living history farm museum. The primary duties of the interpretive staff are to greet visitors; to guide them through the museum facilities; to talk about various aspects of local history and culture; and to assist visitors in hands-on educational activities of the period. BRIM interpreters usually wear period costumes during farm tours and some other museum events. The BRIM provides costumes and training. The Farm Museum Interpreter position is seasonal (primarily April through October). The work schedule varies, and some weekend work is required. A qualified candidate must be able to communicate effectively with visitors of all ages and must have the ability to learn and carry out 1800-period lifestyle tasks such as open-hearth cooking, handcrafts, heirloom gardening, and heritage breed farm animal feeding. Interested candidates should submit an application or resume to Human Resources, Ferrum College, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088 or e-mail to resumes@ferrum.edu. Background check required. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Ferrum College - Financial Aid Counselor

Ferrum College is accepting applications for the entry level position of Financial Aid Counselor. The College seeks an energetic individual to become part of a successful team. Candidates should possess the following qualifications:
Bachelor's Degree required
Strong Oral and written communications
Ability to work effectively with other members of the team and with students and their families
Ability to take initiative, work independently, and be flexible
Proficient with good office practices such as record keeping and telephone etiquette
Knowledge and experience in database functions
Knowledge of financial aid practices is preferred, but not required
Exceptional organizational skills and ability to multitask
This position reports to the Director of Financial Aid. Review of applications will begin immediately. Position open

until filled. Background check is required.

To apply for this position, please submit a cover letter of interest and a resume with names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references to: resumes@ferrum.edu, or Human Resources Office, Ferrum College, PO Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Fairy Stone State Park Now Hiring - Multiple Seasonal Positions!

Beach Maintenance Ranger, Beach Ranger (Lifeguard), Boathouse Ranger, Contact Ranger, Food Service Ranger, Housekeeping Ranger, Maintenance Ranger.

Apply online at www.dcr.virginia.gov/jobs or at the park office, 967 Fairystone Lake Drive Stuart, VA 24171. (276) 930-2424. DCR is EOE.

COUNTY OF HENRY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, a public hearing has been scheduled for **April 27, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, Kings Mountain Rd., Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive citizen input into the possible issuance of Special Use Permits for the following case:
Case S-22-07 Joseph Alvin French
A request for a Special Use Permit was received under Section 21-902 of the Henry County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of an arcade for gaming machines "skill games" inside an existing building. The property is located at 10053-10079 Greensboro Road (aka 10053-10055 Greensboro Road), in the Ridgeway District, and is zoned Commercial District B-1, as shown on Tax Map 71.6(8)/6.7. 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

Poultry Case

from page 1

That Monday morning, Clark returned, and the chickens were still on the property, thus resulting in the second charge.

According to court records, the dates of the offenses were Feb. 10 and 14, 2022.

Clark said that Davis testified in court and told him during his investigation that the animals were being kept as pets. He confirmed that Davis ultimately removed the chickens from her property.

Clark said Davis was not the first case of illegally keeping poultry and likely would not be the last. In fact, he said, since Davis was charged, "she has actually called in several other people that she has seen that may have had a duck or a chicken" in the

south side area of the city, all of whom have been charged accordingly.

"I took this role over a year and a half ago and I have the mindset that education is key. I'd rather educate than have to send somebody to court in reference to these kinds of things."

Clark said that, given that stores like Rural King have live chicks for sale at low costs, people often purchase one and bring it home without educating themselves on local ordinances.

Anyone with questions about the city's animal laws may contact the Martinsville Animal Control Department at (276) 403-5309.



PHOTO BY OBIE FERNANDEZ

Notice of Unsafe Structure

To All Owners and Parties in Interest of the Following Properties:

17 High Street - condemned 11/7/2019

Owners: Tiny W. Wooding, Sole Heir at Law of Charlie Burl Fulton, deceased

127 N. Beaver Street - condemned 7/22/2014

1/3 int. Ernestine Edwards, Sole Heir at Law of Kenneth B. Edwards, Sr., 1/3 int. William W. Edwards, III and 1/3 int. Cheryl S. Edwards

210 Holt Street - condemned 10/7/2009

1/2 int. to Benjamin F. Smith, Heir at Law of Jessica Smith, deceased; 1/2 int. to Dennis F. Grant & Woodrow B. Grant, Jr., Sole Heirs at Law of Mary Smith Grant Matthews, deceased

210 Park Street - condemned 12/12/2018

Ferris M. Hodges & Allie M. Hodges, h/w

403 Clearview Drive - condemned 5/29/2018

Flora Jean Bender Smith

538 Dillard Street - condemned 3/21/2000

Tracy Blaine Dunford, Sole Heir at Law of Robert Eugene Dunford, deceased

550 Dillard Street - condemned 5/12/2009

William Lee Fisher

326 Clift Street - condemned 4/10/2015

Glynda C. Wishnevsky, Roland B. Carter, Gerald L. Carter and Ritchie L. Carter, Sole Heirs at Law of John Thomas Carter, deceased

All unknown/unidentified Heirs, Lien Holders and trustees for the above properties.

The City of Martinsville's Inspections Division inspected the above referenced properties and found them to be in violation of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) for the maintenance of existing structures. Each property listed above has two or more of the violations listed below:

17 High Street

- PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, due to neglect
- PM-304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair.
- PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
- PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
- PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.
- PM-304.13 - Windows and doors not kept weather tight and in good repair.
- PM-305.3 - Interior surfaces not maintained in good condition.
- PM-604.1 - Electrical system not maintained as approved.

127 N. Beaver Street

- PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, due to neglect
- PM-304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair.
- PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
- PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
- PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.
- PM-304.13 - Windows and doors not kept weather tight and in good repair.
- PM-305.3 - Interior surfaces not maintained in good condition.
- PM-604.1 - Electrical system not maintained as approved.

210 Holt Street

- PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, due to neglect
- PM-304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair.
- PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
- PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
- PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.
- PM-304.13 - Windows and doors not kept weather tight and in good repair.
- PM-305.3 - Interior surfaces not maintained in good condition.
- PM-604.1 - Electrical system not maintained as approved.

210 Park Street

- PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to neglect
- PM-302.7 - Accessory structure not maintained structurally sound.
- PM-304.2 - Exterior surfaces not maintained in good repair.
- PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
- PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
- PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.
- PM-304.10 - Porch not maintained structurally sound and in good repair.
- PM-601.1 - Electrical system not maintained as approved.

403 Clearview Drive

- PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to fire and neglect.
- PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and weather tight.
- PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.
- PM-305.3 - Interior surfaces not clean and sanitary.
- PM-504.1 - Water not maintained safe and in functioning condition.
- PM-505.1 - Every plumbing fixture not properly connected to public water.
- PM-505.3 - Water system not maintained to supply water.
- PM-604.1 - Electrical service not in compliance with requirements for occupied building.
- PM-604.3 - Electrical system constitutes hazard.

538 Dillard Street

- PM-106.1 - Unsafe, unsecure structure.
- PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and weather tight.
- PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
- PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
- PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.
- PM-304.13 - Doors not maintained weather tight.
- PM-304.15 - Exterior doors and locks not maintained.
- PM-304.18 - Devices designed to provide security not maintained.
- PM-604.1 - Electrical service not in compliance.

550 Dillard Street

- PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to neglect.
- PM-301.3 - Vacant structure not maintained safe and weather tight.
- PM-304.4 - Structural members not maintained free from deterioration.
- PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
- PM-304.7 - Roof system not sound or tight to deter rain.
- PM-304.10 - Deck and stairway not maintained structurally sound and in good repair.
- PM-304.11 - Chimney not maintained in good repair.
- PM-501.1 - Plumbing and water systems not maintained as approved.
- PM-601.1 - Electrical system not maintained as approved.
- PM-702.1 - Safe and continuous path not maintained to the building.

326 Clift Street

- PM-105.0 - Unsafe structure, unfit for habitation.
- PM-301.3 - Vacant structures not maintained in a clean, safe, secure and sanitary condition.
- PM-304.1 - Exterior of structure not maintained in good repair.
- PM-305.1 - Interior of structure not maintained in good repair.
- PM-504.1 - Plumbing system not maintained in good working order.
- PM-603.1 - Mechanical equipment not maintained in a safe working condition.
- PM-605.1 - Electrical system not maintained in a safe manner.
- PM-704.1 - Fire protection systems not maintained in operable condition.

ORDER

The Building Official has determined that in order to abate the unsafe or dangerous conditions on this property, this building must be razed and removed within (30) days of this notice.

Failure to comply with this order to abate the unsafe and dangerous conditions on this property will result in the City of Martinsville taking action to abate such conditions in accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Section 15.2-906 and or the USBC, as the Building Code Official deems appropriate. This may result in legal action against you, which would subject you to a fine of up to \$2,500.00, or the City may take the necessary action, up to and including the taking down and removal of this building, and charge the costs or expenses thereof to you. Any charges assessed that are unpaid would constitute a lien in that amount against the property.

Right of Appeal

You have the right to appeal this decision of the Building Code Official to the local Board of Building Code Appeals as provided for in Section 108 of the USBC. A written request for such an appeal shall be made on forms provided by the Code Official, and filed with this office within 14 calendar days from receipt of this notice and accompanied by a fee of \$100.00. Applications for appeal may be obtained in the Inspections Office located in Room 217 of the Municipal Building on W. Church St., Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Fans race to Martinsville for NASCAR Cup Series

Callie Hietala
Staff writer

The 75th anniversary year of the Martinsville Speedway last weekend as fans flocked to the area from near and far. Before they endured wind, snow, and rain to watch their favorite drivers compete on the famous Paperclip, NASCAR fans ventured out into the city to check out local amenities.



City Council member Danny Turner continued his race week tradition of going out into the community to greet some of those fans. This year, he gave them free cookies as a thank you for choosing Martinsville. Many of those he met on Friday afternoon were celebrating their first trip to Martinsville.



Many spoke about their love of short track racing and several said that, though it was their first time attending a race in person, the Martinsville Speedway had long been their favorite track.

NEWS | SPORTS | LOCAL PROGRAMS

21 BTW
Your Neighborhood Network

The Southside's
#1 Local TV Station



Jensen and Tim Drawbaugh, of York, PA, were in Martinsville for their first experience at the speedway, and Jensen's first ever NASCAR race. Tim said they had tickets for a race at the speedway 2 years ago, but the race was cancelled due to the pandemic.

See more news at
www.henrycountyenterprise.com

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

Saturday April 23, 2022

9:00 am-12:00 Noon
(Will be held rain or shine)

Location:

Bassett Service Center
2285 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett, Virginia
(Across from Bassett Office Supply)



FREE TO ALL

CITY OF MARTINSVILLE AND HENRY COUNTY RESIDENTS
(Not available to Commercial Businesses)

Items you can bring

- Solvents (mineral spirits, paint thinner, turpentine, acetone, etc.)
- Paints (oil base, polyurethane, tung oil, deck or oil base stains, etc.)
- Fuels (gasoline, #2 fuel oil, kerosene, diesel fuel, small engine fuel, heating oil, etc.)
- Automobile Fluids (motor oil, transmission fluids, antifreeze, etc.)
- Lead acid Batteries, Computer Equipment, cell phones, printer cartridges

Great News! There has been an addition to Household Hazardous Waste Day! We will be accepting 4 boxes of paper (largest size is 8.5 X 11) per car to be shredded.



Items not to bring

Smoke detectors, compressed gas cylinders, explosives, radioactive materials, household cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, drain cleaners, tires, light bulbs, TV's

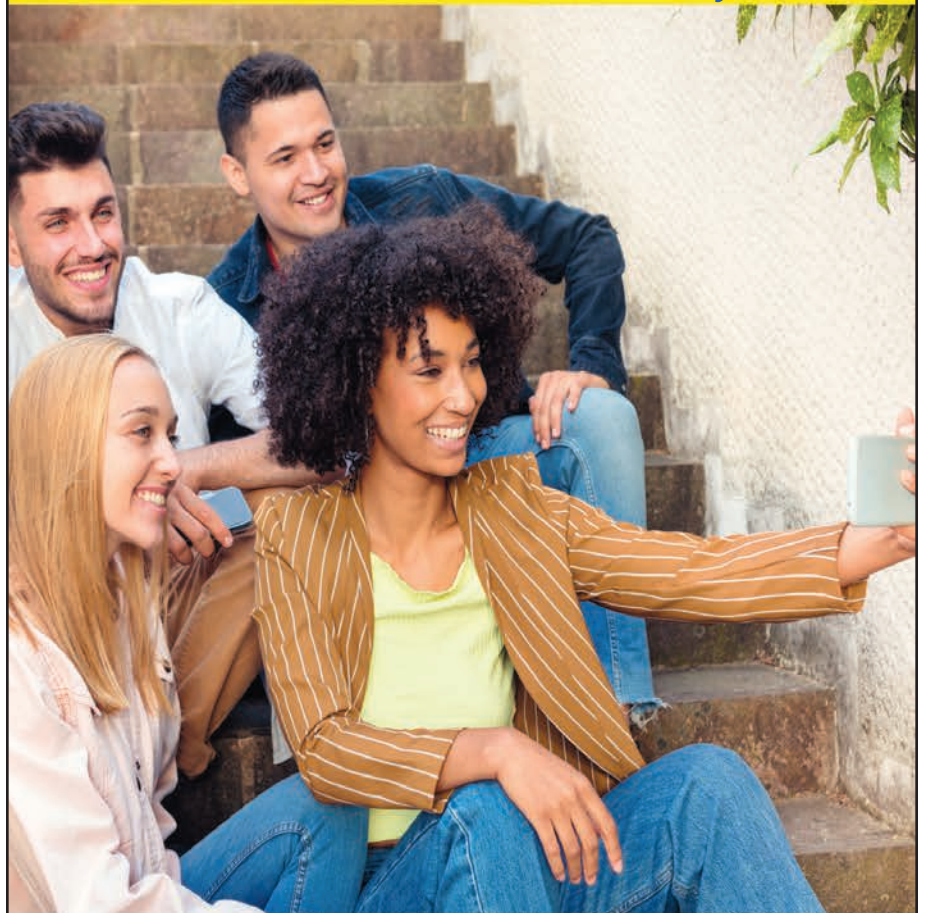
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