

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE

Saturday, October 15, 2022

(USPS-6)

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Board to add student members

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

Members of the Henry County School Board unanimously approved a policy and outlined a procedure to elect student board members.

Monica Hatchett, director of communications, presented the proposed policy, procedure, and timeline to include student members, after Ben Gravely, of the Iriswood District made the proposal in September.

"Recently, as a board, you all asked that we look at getting some information gath-

ered for you of a model policy," Hatchett said. "We have some information to share with you about the potential for bringing on student school board members."

Hatchett said the topic was discussed with school districts that have student board members and ideas were sought to craft a similar policy. Student board members would act only in an advisory position and would not have voting power.

"In looking over model policy and then talking with other school divisions who do have student school board members, the student representa-

tive participates in an advisory capacity. That student is not a voting member of the board," Hatchett explained.

There also would be other restrictions, she said. For instance, student board members would not participate in closed session meetings or have access to confidential information, such as student and personnel records.

"They don't attend closed sessions in most of the school divisions that we spoke to," Hatchett said. "In Virginia, we have about 42 school divi-

See **Board**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONICA HATCHETT

Board members Teddy Martin, Tom Auker, Cherie Whitlow, Ben Gravely, and Elizabeth Durden (Not pictured) received awards from the Virginia School Board Association.



Jennifer Bowles is seeking reelection to Martinsville City Council in the November contest.

Accomplishments, record cited in Bowles' re-election bid

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

In her bid for a third term on Martinsville City Council, incumbent Jennifer Bowles discusses her accomplishments and her record.

Bowles, 33, who currently serves as the vice mayor, said that one of the biggest issues Martinsville is facing right now is transparency and communication.

"One of our biggest challenges is transparency and communication, and I hear this from our citizens at our neighborhood meetings, when citizens call me, when I see them out in the community," she said. "One thing to address that was hiring Kendall Davis as our Public Information Officer. We're going to continue to think of innovative ways in which we can improve our transparency and communication."

Another solution that Bowles proposed is using a variety of avenues to reach residents.

She also wants to focus on making Martinsville an attractive and enjoyable place to live.

"Another one of my issues and top priorities is the revitalization of our neighborhoods and commercial buildings," she said. "One thing we're doing is because of the one-time ARPA funding we received from COVID, we are now able to allocate a half a million dollars to work on some dilapidated housing and properties. This can have a very huge impact on the livability and the way our city looks, and that's a very exciting

thing that we're able to do that."

She wants to keep taxes low and protect those with low income who may struggle with a tax increase.

"I also want to keep our taxes low and our community affordable. During my tenure on council, we have not raised taxes, which means so much to me and it means a lot to our citizens who live paycheck to paycheck, who don't have a lot of flexible income to spend," Bowles said.

In fact, keeping taxes low throughout her time on council has been one of her greatest accomplishments in the position, she said.

"I found ways to not increase the tax burden on our citizens. I'm really excited and thankful that I'm able to do that," she said.

Other accomplishments include her support "for the solar energy project, and we have the battery project, to keep power costs low and reduce costs for our citizens," she said.

She also discussed the new Martinsville Seven marker recently put in front of the Historic Henry County Courthouse.

The marker memorializes seven Black men, Francis DeSales Grayson, Frank Hairston Jr., Howard Hairston, James Luther Hairston, Joe Henry Hampton, Booker T. Millner, and John Clabon Taylor who were put to death for the rape of a white woman in 1951. In the Commonwealth, every person put to death for the crime of rape has been Black.

"I'm excited about

See **Bowles**, page 5

'Integrity, transparency, and legitimacy,' pillars of Jones' bid for city council post



LC Jones, 41, is seeking election to Martinsville City Council in November.

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

LC Jones is seeking election to Martinsville City Council in the November election, running on his motto of "integrity, transparency, and legitimacy."

Jones, 41, said one of the biggest issues Martinsville is facing right now is the "trifecta" of homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse.

"We have to, especially in the city, we have to figure out a place for our homeless to go. We're approaching wintertime, there are a lot of homeless out there, and they're not going to really have any-

where to go," he said.

In his capacity as an officer with the Martinsville Police Department, Jones said he has oftentimes had to send homeless people out of the city to find shelter, because Martinsville does not have one. Many of the homeless in the area also have mental health issues, and may sometimes turn to drugs or alcohol.

"At the same time, while we're working on the issue, we also need to be focusing on and addressing the mental health, because this all runs together. A lot of the homeless people ... have mental health issues."

See **Jones**, page 5

'If not me, then who?' Answer prompted Rawls to seek post

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

Aaron Rawls said he asked himself 'If not me, then who,' before deciding to throw his hat in the ring and seek election to the Martinsville City Council in November, spurred on by what he calls a lack in the status quo - a "lack of vision, lack of leadership."

While Rawls, 40, is convinced Martinsville officials lack vision, it doesn't really matter, because his vision includes long and short term goals, what he calls "both a future state and a current state goal."

"The current is to bring my management and leadership experience to the council," Rawls said, adding that he believes he is the only council member or candidate with any significant organizational leadership experience, which feeds into his 'future state' goal.

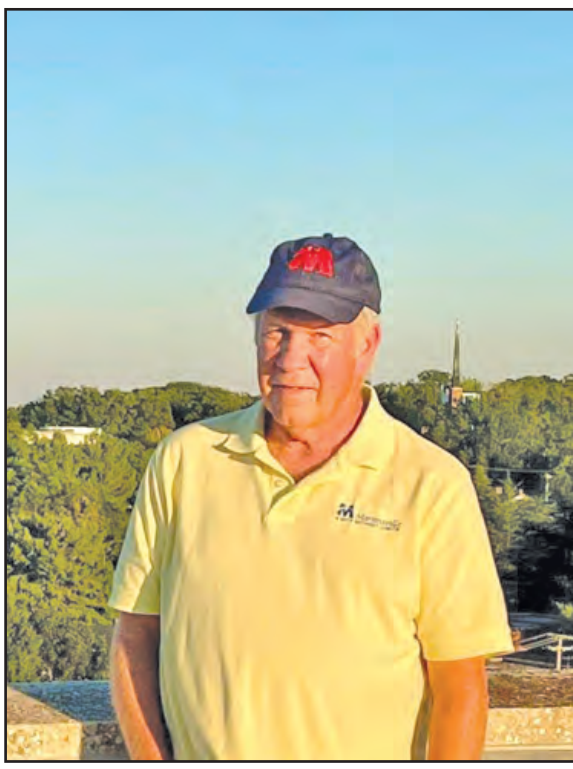
"For the future state, it is my sincere hope that I'll be the first of many reinvigorated professionals who wish to participate on council. At some point, we once had a professional council and that fell away somehow over the past couple decades."

See **Rawls**, page 6



Aaron Rawls is seeking election to Martinsville City Council in the November Election.

Longtime council member vies for re-election



Danny Turner is seeking re-election in the November election.

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

Danny Turner, an incumbent member of Martinsville City Council, is seeking reelection in the November election. Turner, 66, has served on council for 12-years, two of which he spent as mayor.

Currently, he said housing is one of the biggest issues the city is facing, but he takes a different approach than some other council members as Turner wants the city to focus on revitalizing houses in the West End and Southside areas of Martinsville.

"I held a Housing Summit where I brought the director of housing for Virginia and two oth-

ers with him. We rode around looking at housing. My goal was to save as many houses as we could in Martinsville, and we got some pretty good feedback from the"

See **Turner**, page 7

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FOR MORE UPDATES



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Friday, October 14- Saturday, October 15

The Friends of the Blue Ridge Library will host a Book Sale in the basement of the Martinsville Branch, 310 East Church Street from 1 to 5 p.m. Interested parties can become a member at the door. The book sale features a variety of used books. Hard covers are \$1, and paperbacks are 50-cents.

Saturday, October 15

The final Bassett Highway 57 Cruise In of the year will be held in Downtown Bassett, sponsored by Papa's Pizza. Admission is free. Food vendors will be onsite. The American Legion Homer Dillard Post # 78

will hold a Fish Fry at the Post Home, 139 Creekside Dr., Martinsville, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This even is a drive thru event with limited dine in. Fish sandwiches are \$7 and homemade desserts are \$2. To place an order, call (276) 340-5169.

The Spencer-Penn Centre's Fall Festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be games, children's activities, vendors, and more.

Sunday, October 16

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society presents "Behind Brothel Doors," a socially acceptable program explaining the impact of prostitution on American history. Researcher Jan Mackell Collins will present the free lecture that begins at 3 p.m.

Tuesday, October 18

The Blue Ridge Regional Library will host a "Beat Saber" VR game night at

the Martinsville Branch, 310 East Church Street, Martinsville from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Registration because Oct. 13. To register, call (276) 403-5430

Wednesday, October 19

Piedmont Arts will host a meet and greet with the Virginia Commissioner for the Arts at 10 a.m.

Thursday, October 20

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society is hosting Breast Cancer Awareness Yoga at the Historic Henry County Courthouse plaza at 6 p.m. A few loaner yoga mats will be available, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own.

Saturday, October 22

The 25th annual Great Goblin Gallop 5k will be

held around Lake Lanier. Onsite registration begins at 9 a.m. at 746 Indian Trail, Martinsville and the race begins at 10 a.m. Early online registration is \$20 and onsite registration is \$25.

The Matthew Wayne Wade Foundation will host the 8th annual Wine by the River festival at the Smith River Sports Complex from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. with food and artisan vendors, live music, and wine and beer distributors.

Sunday, October 23

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society will sponsor "Local History Challenge SH" at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 23, at Scuffle Hill Brewing Company, 2620 Virginia Avenue, Collinsville. Joshua Duncan, Historical Society board member and local history teacher, will serve as game show host. The winning team and runner-up will receive cool prizes – but most importantly, bragging rights. Enjoy a cold one from a special tap, and the Historical Society will receive 10% of the designated tap sales. Scuffle Hill Brewing Company will be open 2-7 p.m. Musician Forrest Taylor will perform beginning at 4 p.m.

Thursday, October 27

The City of Martinsville will host Uptown Trick or Treat beginning at 4 p.m. Businesses can sign up to distribute candy. The event is for ages 12 and under and will take place along Church and Main Streets.

Saturday, October 29

The Virginia Museum

of Natural History will host "Boos and Bones" from 4 to 10 p.m., with fire performances, stilt walkers, magic shows, carnival games, a beer garden, live music, and more. Costumes are encouraged. Admission is \$5 for ages 3-17, \$10 for ages 18-59, \$5 for seniors age 60+, and free for children under three and VMNH members. Parking will take place off site.

Friday, November 4

Piedmont Arts will host an Exhibit Opening Reception at 5:30 p.m. for their upcoming exhibit The Art of the Quilt and Virginia Foothills Quilters Guild. Admission is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

Saturday, November 5

A Veterans Day Banquet will be held at the Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department, 17815 A L Philpott Hwy, Ridgeway, at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and may be obtained from any member of American Legion Homer Dillard Post # 78.

ONGOING

The Coats for Kids Coat Drive is accepting donations at Hollywood Cinema and One Hour Martinizing on Rives Road until Nov. 30. For more information, call Debra Buchanan at (276) 358-1463.

Grace Network's Pumpkin Patch is located at First Baptist Church Martinsville, 23 Starling Ave, Martinsville, through Oct. 31. It is open Monday-Friday from 1 to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Martinsville Farmers' Market is open every

Saturday 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.

The Louise R. Lester Spay/Neuter Clinic is hosting wellness clinics every second and fourth Tuesday. Clinics are by appointment only—no walk-ins will be accepted. Call (276) 638-7297 to schedule your appointment.

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 brl.lib.va.us.

The Blue Ridge Regional Library hosts a new book club, "Books and Brews," at Mountain Valley Brewing, 4220 Mountain Valley Road, Axton. Talk about the month's books while sipping on a good beer. The club meets the first Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. The book for October is The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah.

MHCCHW's specially trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate can answer questions about existing coverage or help you apply for new coverage by phone Monday - Friday, 8a.m. to 5p.m. In-person application help is available on Wednesdays at Community Storehouse's new location UPTOWN at 128 East Church Street LOWER LEVEL from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call or text Ann Walker today at (276)732-0509 to see if you may qualify and get help applying.

New College Foundation

October 15, 2022

Dear Community Friends,

Over the next several weeks, the New College Foundation (NCF) will be sharing important information through this publication. In a recent article, it was noted that NCF provided eight area scholarships for students enrolled in one of NCI's affiliated degree programs. Even with NCF recently increasing individual award amounts up to 50%, it still left \$25,000 of unspent scholarship money, which is far below expected results.

NCF's Scholarship Program Highlights:

- ✓ Twelve individuals, families or institutions have created scholarship endowment funds. These funds have received \$600,000 in contributions and have grown to \$1.0 million dollars!
- ✓ As is the customary case with endowments, a percent of the fund balance is eligible to be paid out.
- ✓ Students enrolled in one of NCI's degree programs are only required to submit one application to be eligible for the twelve scholarship funds.
- ✓ During the past decade NCF has paid out approximately \$330,000 in scholarships.
- ✓ Students seeking a bachelor's degree have an opportunity to receive an award up to \$3,500 while those seeking a graduate degree the amount is less.
- ✓ The scholarship application process takes place each spring.

Kevin DeKoninck
Executive Director
New College Foundation (NCF)

PO Box 492, Martinsville, VA 24114
276.403.4445 www.ncfmhc.org

Blood Drive to be held Uptown

Be Part of History
American Red Cross
BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, October 28, 2022
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Historic Henry County Courthouse
1 East Main Street, Martinsville, Virginia
Schedule your appointment at www.redcrossblood.org
or call/text John Phillips at 276-806-5022
Sponsored by the **Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society**

Celebrate October as Local History Month in Virginia

"Be Part of History" with the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society at its American Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, October 28,

10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Historic Henry County Courthouse, 1 East Church Street, Uptown Martinsville.

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are preferred. Schedule yours today at www.redcrossblood.org. If necessary, you may call or text John Phillips at (276) 806- 5022. Individuals donating for the first time and those reaching blood donor milestones are especially welcome to participate.

According to the American Red Cross, "In the wake of Hurricane Ian, dangerous weather conditions and floodwaters have canceled dozens of blood drives, resulting in about 1,000 uncollected blood and platelet donations. We're urging people in unaffected areas to make and keep blood and platelet donation appointments to help ensure

blood remains available for patients affected by this awful disaster as well as patients in their local community. Platelets and type O blood donations are especially needed."

Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: Accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U. S. needs blood. Each year 4.5 million lives are saved by blood transfusions.

General Guidelines for Blood Donation: Be in good general health and feeling well; be at least 16 years old (16-17 years old require parental consent), weigh at least 110 lbs., and have not donated in the last 56 days. More information is available at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/how-to-donate/eligibility-requirements.html>.

SANDI MCGUIRE

OCTOBER 30
10:30AM

NEW DAY MARTINSVILLE
705 LIBERTY STREET
MARTINSVILLE, VA

Donations sought for annual Coat Drive for Kids

Maddy Oliver
Staff writer

The 27th annual Coat Drive for Kids, created by Horsepasture District Board of Supervisors member Debra Buchanan, is accepting donations until Nov. 30. Donations can be brought to One Hour Martinizing on Rives Road or Hollywood Cinema.

The coat drive began in 1996 when Buchanan saw a need in the community.

"This is the 27th annual Coat Drive for Kids. When I got elected, I took office January of 1996, and I was in one of the schools and I was getting a little bit cold, chilly, and of course, some of the kids didn't have coats on. I wasn't sure if they needed them or not, but I felt that there was a need. So, I started" the drive in 1996, she said.

Buchanan said the drive started small, encompassing the Horsepasture District. Eventually she was able to expand it, to help provide coats to more and more children.

"As it grew, I was able to reach out to more schools outside of

the Horsepasture District, and each year it grew more and more. Finally, I was able to reach out to all of Henry County," she said.

The school division provides Buchanan with a list of needed sizes. The coats are collected and then cleaned for free by One Hour Martinizing. They are then delivered to the schools.

"I would take them to the different schools and drop them off," Buchanan said.

However, she also said the coat drive is not just for Henry County schools. She also works with the Salvation Army, Social Services, and Martinsville City Public Schools to make sure that every child who needs a coat can receive one.

"Some people might think it's only for Henry County, no. We have social services workers call us needing a coat or coats for some of their clients, and certainly it's open to them," Buchanan said. "Martinsville City, I've had Martinsville City (school) teachers call and ask about coats. We're always willing to help wherever we can there because children are children, and they cannot help their cir-

cumstances."

Because a child attends a school in Martinsville does not mean they are not able to receive a coat.

"If there is a school that is outside of Henry County, which would be the City of Martinsville, if there are children that need a coat, they can certainly come by One Hour Martinizing and get coats," Buchanan said. "There shouldn't be any child in the Martinsville and Henry County area that goes without a coat now."

Since it began, the coat drive has brought in thousands of donations, with hundreds collected each year.

"Since we've started, it's been thousands and thousands of coats. There's been years, with the downturn in the economy, we were always able to fill the needs in the Henry County School System," she said. "Typically, we might get five or six hundred coats, or more at times. It just depends on the economy."

"If there were years that, for some reason, we didn't have enough, I went out and bought

enough to make sure that we were able to fill those needs," Buchanan said. "Over the years, through the generosity of the people of our community, they have opened their hearts and opened their wallets to either buy coats or to donate coats that they no longer need."

Buchanan also encourages donations of adult sized coats to help the students in middle and high schools.

"Once you get to middle school and high school, those children wear adult sized coats. So, when we call it Coat Drive for Kids, sure they're still in school and they're children, but they're wearing adult sized coats," she said.

Any adult sized coats that are not distributed to youngsters, or coats not suitable for children, are donated to the Salvation Army.

Buchanan said that the drive is a group effort from people and organizations all over the community, and it would not be possible without all of the support.

"It's only through the generosity of people in the churches, people at Carlisle School,

banks that were willing to put out boxes, of course One Hour Martinizing, the Matthew Wade Foundation has been a big help," she said. "And just individuals, caring individuals that are willing to help donate."

Through the years, Buchanan has seen the impact the drive has had on the children of the community. She has heard from teachers who have seen children light up when they receive coats.

"Teachers have talked to me about children that come from a home that might not be able to afford a coat or a new coat, they have hand me downs and when they get a new coat. They're just happy," she said. "One teacher told me she was able to give a child a coat and the child just did not want to let go of it."

But again, Buchanan said helping children in need would not be possible without community support.

"I just appreciate all the outpouring of support from so many generous people in our community to put a smile on a child's face," she said. "Putting a smile on a child's face makes all the difference."

The 3-D Shop to bring new technology to Uptown storefront



The 3-D Shop Uptown, located at 20 Walnut Street, Martinsville, will host its grand opening on Saturday, October 15.



Duncan Monroe is pictured with two of the printers inside The 3-D Shop Uptown.



A printer tower located inside The 3-D Shop Uptown.

A unique new store is opening up in Uptown Martinsville this week. The 3-D Shop Uptown, founded by aerospace and design engineers, seeks to make the magic of 3-D printing accessible to the masses through retail, design, production, and education.

The 3-D Shop Uptown, located at 20 Walnut Street, Martinsville, will host its grand opening on Saturday, October 15. Doors will open at 9 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. Free 3-D printed Halloween ghosts will be available to visitors while supplies last. Shop co-founder Duncan Monroe envisions his business as a one-stop shop for all things 3-D related.

"The 3-D shop is a

place for makers—people of any age who want to explore their creativity or are just curious about what they can make with this technology, people who want to know what the power of 3-D printing can do, even on a small scale," Monroe said. "It is a place for businesses to find help improving their manufacturing processes, their branding processes, or even help reduce costs by exploring alternative manufacturing methods."

Monroe, a design engineer by trade, decided to open up the storefront for his new endeavor in Uptown Martinsville after relocating to the area because of family connections—his wife, Jessie, is the daughter of Lee and Linda

Prillaman. He and Jessie, who are both able to work their regular jobs remotely, recently purchased a home in Axton and have spent many months working to renovate the Walnut Street storefront in preparation for Saturday's grand opening. It now houses a print farm with 18 3-D printers of various types, including resin printers, a type of 3-D printing technology which allows for extraordinary detail in the finished products.

Earlier this year, Monroe participated in The Advancement Foundation's Gauntlet program, brought to the area by Uptown Partnership, where he received a Platinum Award and prize package. He is currently enrolled in a course

offered through M.I.T., which also counts engineers at Boeing and Ford among its students, in order to ensure he remains at the cutting edge of the industry.

Monroe is committed to helping other local businesses thrive in the area as well. "We grow when the community grows," he said. As a demonstration of that commitment, Monroe is offering 3 free design hours and 1 free basic prototype to any local or regional business owner.

In addition, he plans to offer classes so that groups of all ages can have easy access to explore the technology housed in his shop, whether they want to learn how to operate the machines or are already familiar with the process and just want to try out a new idea. "I want to make this technology accessible for anyone, from those who are already familiar to those who are just curious and want to explore," he said.

Ultimately, Monroe hopes that the business will bring something new to the Martinsville area, serving those who already are aware of what high-end 3-D printing can do, curious customers, and other local small business owners like himself. With 3-D printing, Monroe said, "you can make almost anything, do almost anything. The possibilities are almost endless."

For more information online, visit <https://c3dp.me/>.

Submit your community news and photos to newsreporter@theenterprise.net



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS
 EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website:
www.springlakeauctions.com.

Please feel free to call us at
(540) 297-1707.
We appreciate your business!

1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Flat-topped hill	36. Science-based students organization (abbr.)	4. Genus of clams
5. Move upward	39. Feels ill	5. Fear of heights
11. Admiration	41. Indicates position	6. What some tell their dog
14. It's useful for serving food	42. Beverage containers	7. The Golden State
15. Kidnap	44. Assists	8. When you expect to get there
18. One of the Greek Muses	46. Science accreditation organization (abbr.)	9. Pointed ends
19. A type of media	47. Purpose	10. Extinct flightless bird
21. Sunscreen rating	49. Group of elected officials	12. Feeds
23. Former Michigan coach Brady	52. Hebrew prophet	13. Nape of neck
24. German town devastated in WW2	56. They help you drink	16. Descendant
28. Gasteyer and Ortiz are two	58. Lawmaker	17. Small boats found in Turkey
29. Leave	60. Charitable	20. To avoid the risk of children's author (abbr.)
30. Forearm bone	62. Doctrines	22. Athlete with no contract (abbr.)
32. Very fast airplane	63. Footwear	25. 13th letter of the Greek alphabet
33. Helps little firms		26. Brew
35. Defunct economic organization		27. Feeling of anxiety

CLUES DOWN

1. Where wrestlers work	27. Perform on stage	34. White clerical vestment
2. Dueling sword	31. Perform on stage	36. Popular musical awards show
3. Practice fight		37. Bumpkins
		38. One who acts on another's behalf
		40. Direction
		43. Look at with fixed eyes
		45. One who helps professors (abbr.)
		48. A large number of
		51. Type of powder
		53. ___ Christian Anderson, children's author
		54. American state
		55. Muslim inhabitant of the Philippines
		57. Witness
		58. Landscapers lay it
		59. Type of bread
		61. Of I

OPINION

An open letter to the motorcycle guy

Dear motorcycle guy I saw the other weekend,

It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon. There I was, driving along State Route 57 on my way to see my buddy Brian at Old's Cool in Rocky Mount and drop off a couple of items I'd repaired for him (by the way, check out Old's Cool, it's like an antique store for people who like stuff from the '70s and '80s, and he also has an amazing selection of records).

Without warning, you roared up behind me on your red crotch rocket; had I needed to hit the brakes suddenly, you would have been catapulted through my rear window, probably landing on the vintage Virginia Tech clock I'd just repaired. I watched as you swerved around me the minute we hit the broken yellow line, despite the fact that there was

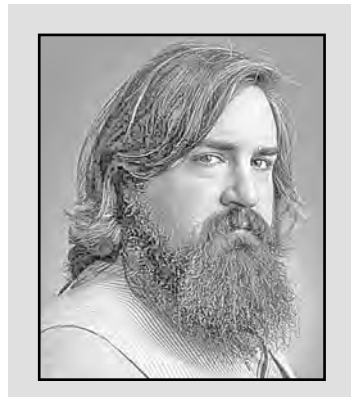
a car in the oncoming lane. I braked so that you would have room to pass, and then I watched as you zipped around three other cars ahead of me, roaring off at easily 120 mph.

I was concerned, motorcycle guy. Deeply concerned. As I watched you speed off around the bend, there was only one thought in my mind:

If this guy wrecks, it's going to ruin my afternoon.

Listen, motorcycle guy, I'm a fundamentally decent person. If I see you go into a death wobble, wreck your bike, and fly screaming into a ditch, I'm going to stop. It's the neighborly thing to do.

But man, what a time-consuming task. First off, I'll have to pull over and call 911, so that's a few minutes right there. Then I'll have to walk down into the ditch and find your



By Ben R. Williams

shattered, ruined body. And THEN I'll have to get down and cradle you in my arms as you die, and I'll have to come up with some comforting words.

That's a lot of pressure on me, motorcycle guy. I'm not great at small talk under the best of circumstances. Now I've

got to comfort a dying man in his final moments? What do I look like, Father Mulcahy? What am I supposed to say? "Hang in there, baby?"

And let's be honest, this isn't the last face that anyone should see as they rage against the dying of the light. I'm not exactly a beauty contest winner. I guess I could pull up a picture of Scarlett Johansson on my phone or something, but it's not going to be the same.

And then at some point, the deputies and the ambulance will arrive, and I'll have to make a statement about your idiot driving. I've never made a statement before, but it sounds like a lengthy process, and I try to live a life that involves talking to law enforcement as little as possible. We're easily looking at 45 minutes to an hour of my Saturday afternoon just GONE.

And THEN, after the ambulance carts off your tattered remains, I've got to go home and change, because your life-

blood is going to be all kinds of soaked into my clothes. And if the stains set before I can treat them with hydrogen peroxide, I'm going to have to get NEW clothes. I'm not going into work with blood-stained clothes, not after last time.

Who's going to pay for those clothes, motorcycle guy? Your widow? That would be a real fun conversation.

And by the way, Old's Cool closes at 6, so there's no way I'm making it before close. I'll have to wait until next weekend. Pretty inconsiderate, if you ask me.

Listen, motorcycle guy, don't want to tell you how to live and/or end your life. That's on you. But please, think of the people your death will affect. People like me, a guy just wanting to get from point A to point B without having to talk to the cops while standing next to a corpse.

Remember: the day you ruin could be my own.

'A Pink Event - Breast Cancer Wellness Symposium & Fundraiser' to be held Oct. 22 at NCI

In celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the MLC Cancer Foundation hosts "A Pink Event - Wellness Symposium & Fundraiser," honoring the lives of cancer survivors. Patricia Via founded the organization in 2012 to give back to cancer patients and survivors. Since its inception, she has raised over \$180,000 in funds for cancer patients.

The event is at 3 p.m. on Oct. 22 at the New College Institute, 191 Fayette Street, Martinsville, and helps to save lives, educate and honor those that have succumbed to can-

cer. Funds raised will help to provide mammographic breast screening and diagnostics to uninsured women, provide financial assistance to cover medical cost for treatments and to cover costs for genetic testing.

Donations to MLC can be made before, during and after they event by clicking here (mlccancerfoundation.org/donate.html).

Destination DC, EH Hodge Automotive Group, and Donohoe Hospitality are sponsors of MLC Cancer Foundation and the Pink

Event. Martinsville Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness, Martinsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc-Upsilon Delta Zeta Chapter Martinsville, Martinsville City Police Department and VCU Cancer Massey Center are 2022 MLC Cancer Foundation Community Partners.

In October, MLC kicks off its CAN [Take Control And Navigate Your Health] marketing campaign on Facebook (@MLCCancerFoundation),

Instagram (@MLCCancerFoundation) and Twitter (@THEMLCCF). Those in the Martinsville and surrounding areas are encouraged to help save lives and decrease the death rate after cancer diagnosis. Learn how to turn 'can't' to 'can' with Genetic Testing, How talk with your doctor, balance faith and facts with your health. The foundation also hosts the "I CAN" panel with community members to have frank conversations around navigating your health. Early detection saves lives and the marketing cam-

campaign will promote the benefits of health screenings. All attendees will take home resources to help them in their health journey. Two cancer patients will be awarded \$2,500 toward their cancer medical journey at the event.

Speakers will include Indira Lindsay Roberts, Regional Manager in Oncology and Women's Health

Invitae Genetics; Nayo Wills, MD, IFMCP Nava Health & Vitality Center; and Tiffany D. Morris, DNP, MS Ed. MSN, RN CNE, Associate Professor of Nursing/Elon University.

Board

from page 1

school board members. We did not speak with all of them, but the information we received said they don't typically attend closed meetings."

Expectations of student members include attending all open meetings and performing research/data collection assignments as requested by the board.

According to the policy, the principal of each county high school would nominate students for consideration of appointment to the board.

Schools Superintendent Sandy Strayer then would select student representatives, pending final approval by the board.

Hatchett said most school divisions select a

student to serve one year term.

"However, our proposal, especially if you all plan to institute during this school year given the fact that the year is already in progress, would be that one of the schools have a student represent them who is a senior and one of the schools would have a representative who is a junior," she said.

Hatchett said this is to create a sense of experience, flow, and continuity to the student board member position.

"We would always have someone who has experience. So that junior would then actually serve a two-year term because they would serve for their junior and senior year. That's something that's divergent from some of the other school divisions that we spoke with," she said.

Hatchett then presented a proposed timeline to implement the policy, including the first step of adopting the student board member policy.

"Either this month, or in November, you all could adopt a Student Board Member Policy. Typically, we present policies for first reading and then for adoption. Certainly, as a group, if you decided tonight that you would like to go ahead and do that, it's totally up to you," she said.

After adoption, Strayer would request two nominations from the principals of both high schools in November, possibly a junior and a senior. The board members would then select a junior and a senior member for the board positions that same month. The members would be approved in December and start participating in January.

Cherie Whitlow, at-large member, supported the policy.

"I think it's a great idea. I'd like to move forward," she said.

Teddy Martin, II, of

the Reed Creek District, broached having a junior in a two year term.

"That was actually one of the things that, when I was asked to speak to all the student school board members for VSBA (Virginia School Board Association) Conference, that was one of the comments some of them made was, 'I feel like I have this one year term and then I learn everything and then I'm done,'" he said.

Strayer noted the board had time to continue discussions.

"You could choose to wait until the next month and adopt this policy, or the board could choose to make a motion tonight to adopt this policy."

Sidney McClure, of the Ridgeway District, made the motion to adopt the policy. Terri Flanagan, of the Horsepasture District, seconded, and the policy was unanimously adopted by the board.

In other matters, the board:

* Presented VSBA awards to members:

Whitlow, Gravely, and Elizabeth Durden, of the Collinsville District, received Awards of Recognition; Tom Auker, chairman

and of the Blackberry District, received the Award of Excellence, and Martin received the Award of Distinction.

"These awards are earned through board service, but not just traditional board service. There are different activities, workshops, conferences that our members participate in. We appreciate you all going the extra mile," Hatchett said.

* Heard public comment from Ronald James, of Ridgeway, about scheduling, grouping, and the impact it has on bullying in schools, particularly in middle schools.

"It brings bullying to a whole new level that I have never seen in my life. I never experienced grouping teaching in middle school. It brings the mob mentality to it. If you don't have a friend within the first three months, you ain't got a friend for the whole entire semester. You ain't got a friend for most of the year."

James said the current status also allows students to figure out how to push teachers' buttons. He added that four-years of high school does not allow

students enough time to learn maturity.

"When they come out of school, they've only had four years to make their own decisions, to make it to class, be responsible, be on time. That responsibility needs to start earlier," he said.

* Appointed Lisa Gardner as School Nurse Coordinator.

* Heard a presentation by students regarding Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

* Recognized October as Bullying Prevention Month and Disability Awareness Month.

* Heard the 2022 Division Equity Report.

* Approved an additional appropriation of \$220,200 to the School Nutrition Budget for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and agreed to forward the request to the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

* Reappointed Gravely to serve on the Piedmont Governor's School Governing Board and reappointed Flanagan as the alternate.

* Heard Strayer's report.

* Approved the consent agenda as presented.

Durden attended the meeting virtually.

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Weekly Publication

Published Each Saturday

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MONICA HATCHETT

(Left to right) Logan Surber, Karli Barker, Terri-Lynn Bancroft, and Skyler Robertson presented information on cybersecurity to the board.

Bowles

from page 1

the Martinsville Seven Marker. That was a way that we can take the first steps to heal our community and recognize that we had something that happened here that was traumatic. I was excited that I could lead that charge," she said.

Bowles also pushed to add lights to Fayette Street early on in her tenure.

"When I was first on council, I made sure that new lights were installed. Lights weren't extended down Fayette Street, so I was excited that I could say, 'Hey, Fayette Street is part of Uptown too, let's make sure we're inclusive and doing the right thing,'" she said.

Another "thing that I'm excited about is how we highlight our veterans. Martinsville is the first locality in Virginia to have all of its historical African American cemeteries recognized by the state and we have some veterans in those cemeteries. That's House Bill 2406, so that's very exciting that Martinsville is the first locality, and I led those efforts. I was very excited about that," she said.

Bowles said she is particularly excited about the success of the small businesses in Martinsville, especially during the pandemic. She wants to continue to support these small businesses and find more ways to help them thrive.

"I'm excited about what we've done in our small businesses. We had businesses opening up during the pandemic, that's a very exciting thing. During my tenure on council, I made sure that we lowered the spending that we were doing to the EDC (Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp.) because the EDC focused on those larger corporations," she said.

"I was pushing to make sure that we partnered with the Martinsville and Henry County Chamber of Commerce and now we have 40 new businesses that have come in Martinsville alone. We've also diversified the businesses that are in Martinsville and that's such a big thing to have entrepreneurs. We may not have those big spaces

where we can have huge factories, but what we can do is help our small businesses, which are the foundation of our community."

Bowles' overall vision for Martinsville is to make it a place where people love and want to be, especially younger generations and make sure that everyone in the city has opportunities to thrive.

"The vision for Martinsville is to make Martinsville a place that truly is a city without limits. And specifically for our next generation. Of course, I want people my age and older to have a great place, but if we're not pulling people up from behind us to give them opportunities, I believe that's what we need to do is give the people behind us opportunities to be successful," she said.

When it comes to reversion, Bowles said she voted against not allowing citizens to vote on reversion, but has changed her stance.

"Initially, it wasn't even a legality that could occur. Then, there was a push at the General Assembly, and I called some of the people who worked in the General Assembly, and they told me that there was one main person who was pushing for this, and it was this push from Henry County," she said.

Bowles said this initial push did not change her stance on the issue of voting because it was coming from Henry County and not Martinsville citizens.

"My only issue with being against this was I felt that this was a way to stop Black representation from being on the Board of Supervisors," she said.

Over time, however, she has heard more from Martinsville residents on the issue who say they want to vote.

Bowles also commented on the notion that her shift in stance was only for votes.

"I shifted my viewpoint in April of 2022, this year. This was prior to the election, prior to knowing that anybody else was running, so it's not to get votes. It's because when I'm offered additional information from the citizens, I'm going to change my opinion," she said.

She now believes residents should be allowed to vote on the issue, but wants to make sure they have all of the information and know the results of either outcome.

"I believe that we should just let the citizens decide, and if the citizens want to revert then we'll move forward that way. If they don't want to revert then we'll move forward that way," she said. "I just want to make sure that our citizens aren't having to pay high taxes or aren't having to feel this fiscal burden that we have. Martinsville is the third fiscally stressed city in our state, so that shows that we're struggling financially."

Bowles urges citizens to reach out to city council when there is an issue, so that the issue can be addressed. She also wants to bridge the gap between the citizens and the community.

"I believe we need to continue to push for our citizens to reach out to us before something becomes an issue. I want to personally try to be more approachable to the community, even more so than before, to make sure my number is out there so they can call me directly," she said.

Bowles said the city needs leaders who are transparent and not afraid to disagree in a civil manner. She said she wants to help in every way she can.

"I ask for the citizens' vote on November 8th because I truly care about our citizens. I don't have any hidden agenda, I don't have anybody who I'm doing this for other than the citizens. I truly enjoy solving issues for them. I enjoy representing them. I enjoy standing up for them."

Bowles is a graduate of Martinsville High School. She then went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies from University of Virginia and a Master of Business Administration from Averett University.

She enjoys spending time with her friends, family, and two dogs, King and Wiggles. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and watching TV and sports.

Jones

from page 1

They also have drug issues and they've gotten into this slump in their life," he said.

He said a group is needed in the city to go out into the community, figure out who and where the homeless are, and help them get resources and services.

Another of Jones' concerns is the city's issue with communication, both when communicating with residents and giving them an avenue to respond. Jones said he has a few ideas to address this concern.

"An idea that I had, which they utilize it at the schools," is a call system "that's kind of with an automated machine. Whatever information that they want to distribute, they put it on the automated machine, and it goes out to everybody at the same time," he said.

He also mentioned implementing a suggestions box on the city's website for residents to report issues and city officials could post updates.

The "elephant in the room," however, is reversion, Jones said. While he is against reversion, he also "understands that it is not an easy fix. It's not at the snap of a finger fix."

"When I say I would like to stop the reversion, it means that I want to work with the Henry County Board of Supervisors, I want to bring the Martinsville School Board back to the table, along with the Henry County School Board back to the table, and I would like for us to work this thing out together in stopping this reversion," he said, adding that it is important to rebuild relationships with the county and business partners to solve Martinsville's issues and develop contingency plans.

Jones' vision is for the city to continue to grow, but in a way that gives everyone equal opportunity. He noted investments in youngsters with more Career and Technical Education programs in the schools, and believes investments in youth will reap dividends.

"I think that we are definitely growing right now at this point. Enrollment at the schools is up, so that tells me we have people moving to Martinsville," he said.

However, Jones said the growth that Uptown is seeing is not in line with that in the rest of the city.

"I think it's great that we have so many businesses Uptown, but I think our Uptown is starting to outgrow the surrounding community, especially once you cross Fayette" Street. "From the Main Street east side of Uptown, you cross over to Fayette and start heading west, and you start seeing the difference," he said.

"I think that's going to have an effect when we try to encourage people to move here and they like Uptown, but they start getting into the surrounding areas and they don't see a neighborhood that they want to live in," Jones said, and emphasized the importance of making small steps, cleaning up the community, and getting the community involved in the progress.

"That's the vision altogether is bringing us all together, repairing relationships, getting people civically involved, and approaching these things tactfully

at small levels. Just taking very small bites of it ultimately makes the bigger change," Jones said.

While there is much to do, Jones also is proud of Martinsville.

"We have a lot of new businesses Uptown, and I think that is great because when I have family member who comes in from out of town, now they have restaurants that they can go Uptown. You have Uptown Pinball if you want to take the kids somewhere, and these are places that you can park Uptown and just walk to wherever you need to go," he said.

Jones is especially proud of the hard work and big results the school system has produced despite the challenges of COVID.

"They're fully accredited. Enrollment is up across the board. They had some of the highest test scores in the state, and this is all coming off of the year of COVID that we dealt with and the students having to rebound," he said.

Jones encourages residents to carefully consider those seeking a seat on council, ask questions, and do research.

"It's probably a little easier to do a little homework on" the two incumbents seeking reelection, "because they've been on the council for so long," he said of Jennifer Bowles and Danny Turner. "But I think that within itself, you see that they've been on the council for so long that we're standing on the edge of a reversion -- of reverting back to a town. That kind of shows the quality of work that they have done," he said, adding that he welcomes residents questions and tries to ensure all an opportunity to get to know him as a person and a candidate.

"Don't vote for me because I'm Black, don't vote for me because I'm a police officer. Talk to me, learn about me, ask any question. And you can ask me anything: religious questions, personal questions. Get to know me as an individual," Jones said.

And the three pillars of his campaign also are his motto. Each are taken seriously, he said.

For integrity, "I try to carry myself, whether I'm in uniform or not, I always carry myself and remember that I have Martinsville on my chest. And it's not just a badge, it's a community."

Transparency is something for the city to aspire to, he said, and addressed legitimacy.

"Showing, over a period of time, that a person can be trusted. I'm going to put the city and the citizens' best interests before even my own," Jones said. "I'm going to do what right for them and leave the decision, ultimately, up to the majority of the citizens rather than me making a snap judgment decision that's going to affect them and benefit myself."

Jones' currently serves as the School Resource Officer (SRO) in Martinsville Middle School. He has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Liberty University. The father of an 11-year-old son, Jones spends his free time reading, working out, traveling, and spending time with kids in the community, be it through coaching or giving the rides to events.

OBITUARY

Larry Wayne Akers

Larry Wayne Akers, 76, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at Salem VA Medical Center. He was born on July 5, 1946, in Fries, VA to the late Theodore Roosevelt Akers and Ethel Quesenberry Bryant. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his siblings, James Akers, Donna Nelson, Willow Dean

Pack, Lucille Hall, Elva Coe, Lonnie Akers, and Everett Akers.

Mr. Akers served in the United States Air Force and was a member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-one years, Linda Akers of the home; daughter, Arlinda Jones of Boones Mill, VA, son, Chad Akers (Deborah)



of Snow Creek, VA; sister, Mildred Swinney of Axton, VA; brothers, Roy Akers of California and Allen Bryant of Bassett, VA. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Samuel Jones, Chelsea Fitzgerald, Skylar Akers, and Landon Akers; and one great-grandson, Wiley Fitzgerald.

Memorial services were held on Sunday, October

9, 2022, at Norris Funeral Services with Pastor Phillip Wood officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Snow Creek Rescue Squad, 7049 Snow Creek Road, Penhook, VA 24137.

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

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City schools, personnel honored at meeting

The Martinsville City School Board recognized the efforts of several in a series of awards to staff, schools, and students throughout the district.

The first awards - from the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) - were presented by Miyana Smith to board members.

The Award of Honor is "for the school board members who have received more than 66 credits but less than 83 credits in two years. The awardees will receive a certificate for the Award of Honor and a gold pin," Smith said, and presented awards to Donna Dillard and Yvonne Givens.

The Award of Achievement is "for the school board member who's received more than 24 credits but less than 47 in two years. The awardee will receive a certificate for the Award of Achievement and a bronze pin," she said, presenting the award to Schools Superintendent Zebedee Talley Jr.

The Virginia High School League (VHSL) "Stay in the Game" award was presented

by Athletic Director Tommy Golding.

"This award ... is something that we've been after for quite a few years," Golding said, noting the school division last received the award given to school systems that have not received ejections at the varsity level across all sports, in 2009.

"Basically, that means that we had no ejections last year on the varsity level and it's the first time we've had it in a long time," Golding added.

"That's the award I've always wanted," Talley said. "Championships are good, but when people look and say, 'Your young people behave and they don't get kicked out of games,' I love it. I want that every year. Awards follow good leadership. I just want to thank you. It's a very important award."

The board then recognized the Virginia Naturally Recognized School accolade received by Albert Harris Elementary School for its commitment to environmental education.

STEM teacher Laurie Witt

discussed the award and the steps required to obtain it.

"Working with our community partner, the Dan River Basin Association, our students are learning how they can have a positive impact on the natural world around them," Witt said, and cited examples of the ways students incorporated the lessons into actions.

"Students have worked to create solutions to problems they see on their campus such as the vegetable garden, which reduces erosion on campus. Our second graders created and maintain a monarch butterfly waystation, which benefits not only monarch butterflies, but all the pollinators in our community," she said.

Witt said the lessons align with Virginia's Standards of Learning, along with giving students real work applications for lessons learned.

"Environmental education lessons align with the scientific and engineering practices found in our Virginia Science Standards of Learning and they benefit all of the students at

Albert Harris," she said. "We were very excited to win this and we're very excited to share what our students are doing at Albert Harris."

In other matters, the board:

* Heard a presentation from Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Angilee Downing, who recently presented her dissertation research work at the Virginia Educational Research Association's annual conference.

Her research focused on "disproportionality in office discipline referrals for disruptive behaviors" and how gender, race, academic ability, and more correlate to these trends.

"The reasoning behind that, why it's such an issue, when you look at the research on suspensions: students who get suspended are three times more likely to drop out of school, which causes them to be three times more likely to be incarcerated," Downing said, adding that over 50% of inmates do not have a high school diploma, indicating the school to prison pipeline.

She said suspension leads to

a lack of social and educational development, which is not what the school system wants.

"When it comes to school, there's a social curriculum and an academic curriculum, and if we are pulling students out of school, we're limiting their access to both," Downing said.

Commenting on the dissertation and how it relates to the school system's six-year plan, Talley said "this is why the 10 percent reduction in suspension is always in our plan, which is connected to our six-year plan, because in fact you just don't only lose days. You lose the social status and the teaching of young people, because I believe behavior can be taught, too," he said.

* Heard an update from STEAM Coordinator Shauna Hines on student internships, the upcoming CTE Expo, CTE programs, and the Performing Arts Academy.

* Appointed the list of members to the Special Education Advisory Committee.

* Approved the consent agenda as presented.



Coach Tommy Golding presented the VHSL "Stay in the Game" award.



Assistant Superintendent of Education Angilee Downing discussed her dissertation.

Rawls from page 1

Rawls said. Rawls, who has lived in Martinsville for 10 years, expressed his love for the city.

"I believe I have a pretty good notion of the charm and value of Martinsville. It's the perfect place for people who are looking for a good, affordable, simple life," he said. "I want to orient our efforts and our resources towards growing Martinsville slightly, to revitalize our homes, and bring some new people to our community who can help grow our tax base and support our local businesses."

Rawls also is interested in building the population to its former state. It is his hope that in doing this, the city can support a wider variety of attractions and activities.

"I would really like to see us return to about 1990s level population, which is about 16,000 people," he said. "That's roughly

2,000 more people than we have today, and I think that returns us to a point in time where we could support a diversity of restaurants, boutiques, shopping experiences, and also group growth community opportunities. Things like faith-based groups, churches, and so forth. Daycares, playgroups, those sorts of things."

Rawls believes the first step to that is attracting those who really care about Martinsville to serve on council. It is his hope to have five qualified members in those roles by 2024.

"With a really hard push and some really smart, energetic people behind it, we can get to that 16,000 number and really take Martinsville to the next level," he said.

Another issue Rawls noted is that residents seem to have grown "apathetic" because they do not believe their council

listens to them. He said those considering campaigning face a similar struggle because they do not want to serve with the people on council. If elected, he plans to listen just as he is now during the campaign, and he wants to encourage others to run in the future.

"I've noticed going door to door, speaking at events, a lot of people have just checked out, and for the first time are finally feeling like they can talk to someone who will listen, that they will actually have a voice," Rawls said. "My goal is to continue reaching out, encouraging people to participate, going to people who I know have expressed interest and have the skill set that we're looking for and basically putting them on the spot and saying, 'Hey, we need you.'"

Regarding reversion, Rawls wants to stop it "immediately," but he

believes the only fair way to decide is a referendum to let residents decide.

"If we allow a referendum, not only do we have a direct way of hearing those voices, but I also think it puts us through the process that we should have done to begin with, which is publicly present our case. The city did not do that. The city hid far too much from the public, it presented misinformation, and tried to counter what they called 'misinformation,' but never provided clarifying statistics or figures," he said.

A group of five people is not qualified to make a decision of this size or magnitude of reversion, he said. That decision should be put into the hands of the people.

"The five people up who are up there now, who really are in no way, shape, or form qualified to make a decision like this, sets the wrong approach,"

Rawls said. "I think it would be just as wrong an approach for new people to come in there and make the same big decision, just in the opposite way. I think a referendum is the only legitimate way out of here at this point."

Martinsville also is excelling in many areas, which Rawls credits to its residents, who have "done an amazing job showcasing Martinsville on their own."

"We've had a number of businesses that started up within the last few years or not long thereafter. A really good example is Uptown Pinball. That is a business that started with a vision, a purpose, and they pursued it abso-

lutely relentlessly, and now it's bringing people from about a two hour radius," Rawls said.

He hopes to return Martinsville to a destination that will attract visitors from all over to enjoy the things the city has to offer. "There's a little bit of nostalgia here, even for me who's only lived here 10 years. People used to come to Martinsville to do things," Rawls said. "They would come from Greensboro, they would come from Roanoke, and so forth. I really like just the notion of people coming from these areas ... I love the idea of bringing

that back." Rawls decided to run after he was encouraged by member of city government, after he spoke out during a council meeting about \$4.5 million of ARPA money being dedicated to Uptown Partnership.

"That's how I got involved. People engaged me from our government. They kind of warmed me up to the idea of that "if not me, then who?" And if I don't start this thing, no one ever will."

Rawls hopes his momentum will inspire residents to pick up the gauntlet and once again get involved in city government.

"Martinsville is an amazing place to live, so let's elect people who act like it. I'd like to ask people to help me bring back competence, bring back dignity, and let's have a government that we can be proud of," he said.

Rawls is the Chief Information Officer for Madison Taylor Marketing and a local business owner. He has a bachelor's degree in Management and Marketing from University of South Carolina and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. In his free time, he enjoys dog rescue and remodeling historic homes.

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CLASSIFIEDS



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.

SERVICES

Woodwrx, Inc.
Est. since 1988
Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc.
Originally based in Palm Beach County- References. Bob Morehouse Phone: 276-930-1703 Cell: 561-881-8292
E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net Website: Woodwrx.net.

WANTED

Wanted to buy: Craftsman 19.2-volt Hedge Trimmer (I have batteries and charger). Must work! 276-629-7722

FOR SALE

Four rolls of animal fencing. \$100.
Call 276-229-9373 for more information.

3 western saddles. \$200 per saddle. Call 276-692-8776 for more information.

Brand new RTV-X900 Kubota diesel side-by-side utility vehicle.
Hydraulic dump bed, spray-in bed liner.
\$18,500
Call 276-229-9373 for more information.

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Hoyer patient electric body lift. Never used.
Lists for over \$1900. Asking \$999 or best offer.
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Upright Frigidaire Freezer manual defrost 9 cubic ft \$175
Call 276-694-4300 for more information.

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

Notice of Unsafe Structure

To All Owners and Parties in Interest of the Following Property:
201 First Street - condemned 12/13/2021
Owner: Josephine Niblett

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

201 First Street

- PM-106.0 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage due to fire and neglect.
- PM-301.3 - Vacant structure, not maintained safe and weather tight.
- PM-304.1 - Exterior not maintained in state of good repair.
- PM-304.4 - Exterior wall structural members deteriorated.
- PM-304.6 - Exterior walls not maintained free from holes or breaks.
- PM-305.2 - Structural members not capable of supporting the imposed loads.
- PM-501.1 - Plumbing and water service not maintained as approved.
- PM-601.1 - Electrical system not maintained as approved.

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.

Turner from page 1

state officials. The director "was excited that we could save a number of the houses," Turner said.

"I think that was very positive. We found a bunch of places to apply for money and different programs that weren't utilized at this time, and I think it's going to pay big dividends down the road for housing in Martinsville," he said.

However, despite being one of the areas where he believes Martinsville needs work, Turner also believes housing is booming in the city.

"I think housing is booming. The apartment complex I live in, the rents have doubled in one year, and there's a couple other apartment complexes where the rent's doubled," he said. "It's tough on the people living there, but it's obvious that there's a lot of people willing to invest in Martinsville."

Turner said the biggest issue Martinsville is facing right now is reversion, which he supports.

"I plan to support reversion in any manner that it comes out of the three judge panel. There's a number of things they can do. I guess we basically have to wait until they get through doing their work to see if they approve it," he said. "I'm sure that it's in the best interest of the Commonwealth, best interest of Henry County, best interest to Martinsville, and hopefully they will try to resolve it."

Turner said if the panel does not make a decision on reversion, it will go to a referendum next November. Either way, he is confident reversion will happen.

"When we vote on reversion next year, I feel like it's going to become obvious that we need to revert. If not, then we'll do the best we can with the resources that we have," he said.

Turner's vision is for the city to continue to grow, especially financially. He said the city's "better years are in front of us."

To that end, Turner said the city needs to continue working with Uptown Martinsville. He also said there is a deal in the making that he cannot yet announce.

"I've got an international company, I feel certain will commit to Martinsville and hopefully we'll have an announcement in November. That will be manufacturing based and it's going to locate here," he said.

The potential deal is only one of what he considers to be some of his biggest accomplishments in office, including

many accomplishments that were the result of how he helped the city during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Sharon Sleeper had some material, she runs Mollie's Originals, she had material and everything to make out and you couldn't get mask. She had a crew working and then I distributed them for her. I think something like 2,500 to 3,000 masks that we got out," he said.

Turner also helped businesses in the city to stay afloat by helping to identify any revenues that were available to them and how to apply.

"I worked with Congressman Griffith to get the COVID relief money to businesses around Martinsville," Turner said. "I probably did more than the rest of the council put together as far as getting the information to the people, getting to the right banks, and that facilitates everyone getting their money quicker. And then, when the City of Martinsville had its grant money to pass out to businesses, I went door to door, business to business."

Turner is proud of the way he pushes the city to recognize those in the area who have done good things, especially veterans.

"I've got 14-years of community service. I was off two years, but I think that when I

became mayor, I told my vice mayor, Jennifer Bowles, that we were going to recognize anybody that had any accomplishments. We did that and I have continued to do that," he said.

Turner works with other organizations, businesses, churches, pretty much any outside agency to bring recognition and respect to veterans, particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"I think all total, I'd brought 29 flags out and had them flown over the United States Capitol and given them to veterans in Martinsville-Henry County to thank them for their service," he said. "We also participate in the Wreaths Across America, where I'd go to Arlington and make sure everybody's got money to put a wreath on everybody that buried in Arlington from Martinsville and Henry County."

"And then it progressed from there, I think last year we had maybe 50 more that we placed on, wreaths around Martinsville and Henry County and Franklin County, and actually we got into Patrick County to remember these people that served in the military," Turner said.

He also seeks to be a voice for the people and represent them the best he can since voters

trusted him to be their representative.

"I said, 'There needs to be somebody up here willing to speak for the people,'" Turner said. "So, I took the challenge there and ran. After a number of snafus, I think city council has made to get there and at least let the people know what they were doing, what they were buying into," he said.

Turner, who is retired, completed many classes through Patrick & Henry Community College. He has no children, but has several family members, including grand nieces and nephews. In his free time, he enjoys playing golf, photography, and collecting old paper money.

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 **October 26, 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 Permit for the following case.

Case S-22-13 Justin B. and Sandi D. Hite

A request for a Special Use Permit has been received under Section 21-302 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the operation of a wedding venue and event center. The property is located at 350 Charlton Drive, in the Horsepasture District and shown on Tax Map 60.1(6)/10; 50.7(38)/1.2. The property is zoned Agricultural District A-1.

The application for this request 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



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Stop by during the times listed to get answers to your questions from a Medicare Plan Expert.

Legacy Insurance
3959 Virginia Ave
Collinsville, VA 24078

Oct 18th- Dec 7th

Tuesdays- 9AM-12PM
Thursdays- 2PM- 4:30PM

Quality Inn Dutch Inn
2360 Virginia Ave
Collinsville, VA 24078

Community Meeting
10/19 & 10/26
10AM-12PM

Legacy Insurance
103 B Stonewall Court
Stuart, VA 24171

Oct 18th- Dec 7th

Tuesdays- 9AM-12PM
Thursdays- 2PM-4:30PM

Franklin County Library
355 Franklin Street
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Community Meeting
10/15 & 10/21
10AM-12PM

It's time to take advantage

To search for meetings and find agents in your area, visit myuhcagent.com

For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings call 1-540-283-7852, TTY 711. Plans are insured through UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company or one of its affiliated companies, a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract. Benefits, features and/or devices vary by plan/area. Limitations and exclusions apply. Enrollment in the plan depends on the plan's contract renewal with Medicare.

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SPRJ77461



**Route 220 Business
(Virginia Avenue) and
Route 609
(Daniels Creek Road)
Pedestrian Improvements
Henry County**

Find out about plans to improve safety by installing pedestrian signals and ramps at all four corners of the signaled intersection at Route 220 Business (Virginia Avenue) and Route 609 (Daniels Creek Road) in the Collinsville area of Henry County. Three crosswalks also would be installed at the intersection.

Review the project information and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Ave. in Salem, 540-387-5353, 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623), TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Mark McKissick, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153 on or prior to **October 27, 2022**. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights in regards to this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Mark McKissick at the phone numbers listed above.

From: 0.016 mile south of intersection of Route 609
To: 0.014 mile north of intersection of Route 609
State Project: 0220-044-061, M501
Federal Project: HSP-0442(069) UPC: 113946

Bank donates to Red Cross

As part of its continued commitment to caring for communities, Carter Bank & Trust donated \$18,000 to the American Red Cross on behalf of its

more than 650 associates and 132,000 customers to help with disaster relief in the wake of Hurricane Ian.

The \$18,000 will sup-

port 10 American Red Cross Disaster Relief Agents for 12 days, by helping cover the costs of their travel, lodging, food and supplies, so they can

focus on helping communities start to heal.

“At Carter Bank & Trust, our associates volunteer their time, talents and money to support

organizations throughout our footprint, in an effort to carry out our mission statement of ‘Caring is what we’ll always do best,’ Chief Executive Officer Litz Van Dyke said. “By making this donation, we’re not only helping others in a time of need, but also recognizing those contributions our associates make every day.”

In addition to providing disaster relief for areas impacted by Hurricane Ian, Carter Bank & Trust supports the American Red Cross in many ways, including supporting the annual Help Can’t Wait campaign, along with donating \$10 to the Red Cross for every new checking account opened online, through the Bank’s CARE Forward program.

“Carter Bank & Trust truly lives out its values

of compassion and care through its investment in local communities and beyond,” Adam Spencer, American Red Cross regional philanthropy senior officer said. “The American Red Cross is proud to have Carter Bank & Trust as a valued partner in carrying out our mission of alleviating human suffering in the face of emergencies.”

“Thank you, Carter Bank & Trust, for the many ways you advance the Red Cross mission by rolling up your sleeves, volunteering, showing care to veterans, and giving financially to disaster relief.”

For more information on how to support the Red Cross’ Hurricane Relief efforts visit <https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html/>.



Submit your community news and photos to newsreporter@theenterprise.net



www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus